

# First Presbyterian News

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**Office Hours**  
M-F 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



Dear First Folks,

As we enter Advent this year, our prayer is that God will enter into our hearts in a new and deeper way. Let his thoughts be ours, his actions be ours as we discover what it means to walk through life with Jesus first in all things. May this Christmas be the best ever for you and yours, as we grow to depend not on earthly circumstances but heavenly. Thank you for the love you show to one another, and as it emanates from heaven to those all around us. Be in prayer for, and a part of, as many events and ministries as you can during the end of the year and moving into 2019.

We are so blessed that God has sent Jesus into our lives! The places of Bethlehem, Jerusalem, and the places we live, visit, and travel through are blessed to have churches and people who know the Lord Christ. May Jesus have the preeminent place in your heart, mind, and soul as we journey toward the manger, and as we see the future that is bright and clear because of God's action in Christmas.

In Him,

~Russell



**December 2 - 1st Sunday of Advent**  
Sermon: "Full of Grace and Truth"  
Scriptures: Isaiah 11:1-10; John 1:1-14

**December 9 - 2nd Sunday in Advent**  
Sermon: "Blessed are You"  
Scriptures: Isaiah 9:6-7; John 1:39-45

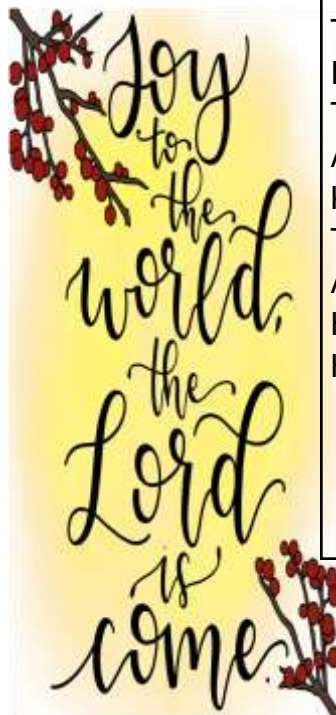
**December 16 - 3rd Sunday in Advent**  
Sermon: "The Name Jesus"  
Scriptures: Micah 5:1-4; Matthew 1:18-25

**December 23 - 4th Sunday in Advent**  
Sermon: "The Glory of the Lord"  
Scriptures: Titus 3:3-7; Luke 2:10-20

**December 30 -**  
Sermon: "My Father's House"  
Scriptures: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26;  
Luke 2: 41-52

**January 6 - Epiphany of the Lord**  
Sermon: "Where Is The Child?"  
Scriptures: Isaiah 60:1-6; Matthew 2:1-12

**January 13 - Baptism of the Lord**  
Sermon: "This Is My Son"  
Scriptures: Psalm 29; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22



## Christmas 2018

God sent a Gift, a treasure rare,  
Born on Christmas night.  
A lowly stable, cold and bare  
His Countenance, the Light.  
A Savior for a fallen world  
Our sin, profound and huge  
His Love, forgiveness, gentleness  
Became our own refuge.  
His parents, humble, strong and  
brave Beheld the Son of God  
Emerge in tiny wonderment  
They gazed with love and awe.  
In thankfulness, with joyful heart  
They gazed upon the Lamb  
A manger held the tiny King  
Known as "the Great I Am."  
Take His hand with confidence  
And grasp with all your might  
He is your savior, off'ring life,  
His name is Jesus Christ.

Amen  
Christmas 2018  
Pattie Grubs



Though they are now on home assignment, here is the info from before their return home:

(October news) We visited one of the most beautiful places on Earth in October, in the heart of the Appalachian Mountains.

A New family joined our capital team, having already served in another area. Please continue to pray for them and their family.

(November news) There is nothing like Autumn. And nothing resembles Autumn better than here. We continue to be surprised at the wonderful colors the cooler weather is bringing us.

A family we know has decided to move, to an area where they have never been before, they have no family or friends, they don't know what they would do or where they would live. But made the choice in hopes of finding new blessings.

Please pray for this area, those who have professed their faith, those who would, and those of us doing His work.

For His glory and our good, Dave, and family



**Virtual Poinsettia Ministry** - Each year we decorate the sanctuary with poinsettia flowers, and folks are given the opportunity to donate them in honor, or in memory of, loved ones. We will purchase a certain number, but any number of virtual poinsettias may be given. The cost this year is \$25 per poinsettia. Dollars above the actual cost will be used to help buy wreaths and garlands for outside the church, and the rest will be given to a local charity. Forms are below and available at Church during December.

**Virtual Poinsettias** will be offered again this year. You have the opportunity to give gifts in honor or in memory of loved ones with the majority of the money helping the needy in our community. A small portion will be used to help decorate the sanctuary and the outside of the church. The list of honorees will be printed in the bulletins throughout December. The price will be \$25 for each poinsettia. Contact Carole Woodward or the church if you have any questions.

IN HONOR of \_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY of \_\_\_\_\_

GIVEN BY \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make checks payable to:  
First Presbyterian Church.*

**Deadline: Friday, December 14th**



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**Ladies Circle** – Our next Circle group will meet on Tuesday, December 6 at 10:30 am in the Philathea Room. Our study this year is taken from the book *Attitude is Your Paintbrush. It colors every situation* by James W. Moore. We will be honored to have Dr. Russell Lee come speak to us. Come, enjoy and learn what he has to share. Bring friends! We will have a covered dish, so bring something to share. See you all there!

**Bible Study** – will resume in January. We will be studying *Spiritual Simplicity* by Chip Ingram. The class really enjoyed the last book by the same author, and wanted to continue to study his works. We will begin our study on January 10th at 10:30 am in the Philathea Room. Books and study guides are available in the office at a cost \$20, (\$12 for books, \$8 for study guide). Tell your friends! We'd love to have a large class.



We want to express our gratitude for the officers that have been serving. We elected new officers and will have to say good bye to others. We welcome: Elders: Robert Guthrie (2019); Carol Foster, Carter Henderson, and Mike Koch (2021). Deacons: Joanna Hughes, Paige Powell, and Terri Smith (2021). New Trustee will be Mike Rand (2021). Thanks for your years of service: Elders: Steven Crutchfield, Nancy Pool, and Mike Koch. Deacons: Tricia Burton, Mike Long, and Terri Smith. Trustee: Mike Rand.

**Good Samaritan** – We are collecting for The Good Samaritan. As Fall and Winter approach their needs increase. They have more people coming in needing help with electricity, food, etc. So we'd like to help fund their support of the needs in the community. Donations should be marked "Good Samaritan" with your offerings. Thank you! We appreciate all your help in contributing to this worthy cause.



Our Choir will present their annual **Christmas Cantata** during 11 am worship on December 9. This work is titled "Come Now to Bethlehem" by Dale Wood. The age-old story of our Lord's birth, retold each year around the world, through beloved carols. We may associate some nostalgia as we remember happy times of Christmases past, but let not these feelings obscure our primary view as we strive to tread the true path this blessed time of year, refocusing our hearts and minds, as we each in our own way make our pilgrimage to the Babe lying in a manger, and Come to Bethlehem.

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** - We will gather for our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight service on Monday, December 24 at 5:00 pm. It will be a blessed time for all of us. Invite family, friends, and all you know for this time of music, Christmas carols, and worship. Jesus Christ our Savior was born in Bethlehem. Glory to God in the highest!



**Joy Gift Pageant** - Our Joy Gift Pageant will happen on December 16th during our 11 am service. Make plans to be a part of this very special service. The offering will go to a fund for retired pastors and spouses of the Presbyterian Church.



**Young Adult Ministry**- We are planning a time for our Young Adults to gather with others who can be examples of faith and love to us. God has much to do through and in all of us, and changes lives every day. Let us be much in prayer for the right people, the right time, and the right results for this time in history.





Now that elections are over and Christmas is drawing near, my thoughts turn to more joyous concepts. Joy to the World. What a wonderful thought. Wouldn't it be great if the world could find joy? I just heard a great acronym for Joy. "Jesus, Others, Yourself". If we can remember to think in this order we will have Joy.

It seems the world is determined to push Christ out of our thoughts and homes. It has succeeded in getting Him out of schools. If we can, as Christians, take back this great country and bring Christ into the center of our lives, we can and will be blessed and find joy.

True joy is more than mere happiness. We can be happy in the moment, but true joy is peace of mind and a content heart. I found this quote by Jean Bingham "Lasting joy is found in focusing on our Savior, Jesus Christ, and living the gospel as demonstrated and taught by Him. The more we *learn about, have faith in, and emulate* Jesus Christ, the more we come to understand that He is the source of all healing, peace, ...as you center your life on Jesus Christ, you will find joy in your circumstances, whatever they may be." Another quote "The joy we experience in this life will be in direct proportion to how well our lives are centered on the teachings, example and atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ" ~ Richard Maynes.

We can read in scripture "This is the promise of the Lord unto you, O ye my servants, be of good cheer, and do not fear, for I the Lord am with you, and will stand by you". What a comfort this is! To know that we can and do have the Lord at our sides when we are doing what He asks us to do and we are serving Him and our neighbors.

Soon we will be singing and listening to Christmas songs and hymns. Joy to the World the Lord [will] come. Let earth receive her king! Let every heart prepare him room, and saints and angels sing. I love the Christmas season. I love the songs we sing. I love that the world turns more toward Christ. I love that the Christmas story is told in many homes. But we need to keep the spirit of Christmas alive throughout the year. May we re-center our lives on Christ and be comforted by His guidance in our lives. He is always near, it is we who turn away. I pray that as Christmas season approaches, we will look more toward the true meaning, turn toward Christ and following His teachings, and find that true joy that only He can provide. ~ Sherolyn



**PUZZLE**

Joy to the **WORLD**

In Luke 2:10, the angels share good news that continues to bring great joy today.

*Directions: Circle all the complete small "joy" words — forward only. Count the total. Bonus: See if you can find "Jesus" amid all the joy!*

TOTAL JOY= \_\_\_\_\_

**Stewardship Update** - It is a blessing to see how the congregation supports the work of the church through stewardship of all the resources God has given them. We look forward to a successful conclusion of the stewardship campaign this year as all of us complete the pledge process. If you did not get a pledge card, please let us know. Pledges for the coming year will be received until Jan 1. We were a little tight this year, so think about that as you contemplate your blessings and consider over and above gifts.

So far we have received pledges totaling **140,040** which is **55%** of our budget for 2019.

Answer: 36 (10 in the J, 15 in the O, 11 in the Y); Jesus is at the bottom of the large O



# December 2018




Sun                      Mon                      Tue                      Wed                      Thu                      Fri                      Sat

25 <b>5 cents a meal</b> 9 am Worship 10 am Sun. School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA	26 10:00 Prayer Group 6pm NA	27 12 noon NA	28 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA <b>6pm Praise Team</b> <b>7:30 pm Choir</b>	29 <b>10:30 Women's Bible Study</b> 11 Moms in Prayer <b>17 pm Men of the Church</b> 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	30 <b>9 am Bulletins</b> 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	December 1 NA12—1
2 <b>1st Sunday in Advent</b> 9 am Worship 10 am Sun. School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA	3 10:00 Prayer Group 6pm NA	4 12 noon NA	5 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA <b>6pm Praise Team</b> <b>7:30 pm Choir</b>	6 11 Moms in Prayer <b>7 pm Men of the Church</b> 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	7 <b>9 am Bulletins</b> 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	8 NA 12-1 GS Troop 796 meets 2-4
9 <b>2nd Sunday of Advent</b> 9 am Worship 10 am Sun. School <b>11 am Worship/ Cantata</b> 6 pm NA	10 10:00 Prayer Group 6pm NA	11 12 noon NA	12 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA <b>6pm Praise Team</b> <b>7:30 pm Choir</b>	13 11 Moms in Prayer <b>7 pm Men of the Church</b> 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	14 <b>9 am Bulletins</b> 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	15 NA 12—1
16 <b>3rd Sunday of Advent</b> 9 am Worship 10 am Sun. School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA	17 10:00 Prayer Group 6pm NA <b>7:00 pm Deacons</b> <b>7:30 pm Elders</b>	18 12 noon NA <b>Newsletter DEADLINE</b>	19 12 noon AA 6 pm NA <b>6pm Praise Team</b> <b>7:30 pm Choir</b>	20 11 Moms in Prayer <b>7 pm Men of the Church</b> 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	21 <b>9 am Bulletins &amp; Newsletters</b> 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	22 NA 12—1
23 <b>4th Sunday of Advent</b> 9 am Worship 10 am Sun. School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA	24 Office Closed	25 Office Closed	26 12 noon AA 6 pm NA <b>6pm Praise Team</b> <b>7:30 pm Choir</b>	27 11 Moms in Prayer <b>7 pm Men of the Church</b> 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	28 <b>9 am Bulletins</b> 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	29 NA12—1
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## December BIRTHDAYS

1 Alice Irby*	17 Taylor Raney	24 Patrick Cherry
1 Johnny Watkins	18 Erin Thackston	24 Michael Owens
4 Joann Newland	19 Martha Thompson*	25 Carroll Seat*
6 Jamie Albert	19 Donna Carter	26 Wayne Adams
6 Gary Bain	20 Colter Wickemeyer	28 Betty Plaster
10 Connie Troy	20 David McCollum	
11 Diana Shields	20 Nancy Pool	
11 Sherolyn Barnett (Secretary)	20 Eloise Wilder	
15 Frosty Owens	20 Glola Osborne	
		31 Frank McKinney*



## November Session Report

Session Notes: Among other matters, the Session:

1. Prepared to serve communion.
2. Noted and prayed for sick, including Bob and Marge Nelson, Chuck and Rowena Van Duser, and Frances Anne Thackston.
3. Heard devotional on Being a Servant.
4. Noted plans for Advent.
5. Approved new missionary support recommendations for 2019.
6. Approved proposed budget.
7. Approved session and diaconate minutes.
8. Heard updates on property matters.
9. Next Communion on December 2.
10. Approved financials for October.



### December 17

7:00 pm - Deacons Meeting

7:30 pm - Elders Meeting

First Presbyterian Church  
800 North Main Street  
South Boston, VA 24592

### Weekly Happenings

**Praise Team Rehearsal:** Wednesday at 6 pm

**Choir Rehearsal:** Wednesday at 7:30 pm

**Men of the Church:** Thursdays at 7 pm

Women's Bible Study will resume January 10

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