

## 3rd Sunday of Advent and Worship

December 15, 2013

*"In Your will is our peace;  
In Your love is our rest;  
In Your service is our joy."*

### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

#### PRELUDE

#### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Steve Gallaher & Family (8:30)

Sarah Klein (11:00)

We light this third candle of Advent as a sign of the joy Christ brings. Advent means coming. We are preparing ourselves for the days when:

**The wilderness and dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.** Isaiah 35:1

\* HYMN #31 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

#### THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of our salvation, you straighten the winding ways of our hearts and smooth the paths made rough by sin. We confess this morning that we have wandered from your ways, we have wasted your gifts, we have forgotten your love.**

**Forgive and cleanse us of our sins, gracious God. Through the gift of your Holy Spirit, help us to make a new beginning this Advent, to keep our conduct blameless, our hearts watchful in holiness, and bring to perfection the good you have begun in us.**

**We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near, your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Now hear our silent, personal confessions...**

#### SILENT CONFESSION

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\* RESPONSE TO PARDON Hymn #44 (vs. 3) tune St. Louis  
"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

**"O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray.  
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings  
tell; O come to us, abide in us, Our Lord Emmanuel!"**

### PROCLAIMING THE WORD

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Psalm 146:5-10 (page 507)

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.

**The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.**

The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

**The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!**

ANTHEM (11:00) "O Come, All Ye Faithful" arr. Linda Pratt

#### CHILDREN'S MOMENT

(children, ages 4 - 4th grade depart for Children's Worship)

#### ORGAN INTERLUDE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON John 1:11-18 (page 862)

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "The Word Was Made Flesh" (how the birth of a baby changed the course of the world)

### RESPONDING TO THE WORD

\* HYMN #38 "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *Apostles' Creed*, hymnal page #14

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

#### PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

The Offertory Sarah Klein, flute

\* The Doxology, Hymn #592

\* Prayers of Dedication

\* HYMN #56 "The First Noel"

\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\* CHORAL RESPONSE AND POSTLUDE

### WORSHIP NOTES

**Sarah Morgan** is the Elder of the Day. **Sue Reynolds** is the liturgist.

**We welcome guest preacher, Rev. John David Laida** to our worship service today. Rev. Laida was a chaplain in WWII and was the pastor at First Baptist Church, Clarksville, for 28 years. He has had 33 interim pastorates throughout Tennessee and Kentucky. Rev. Laida and his wife Elizabeth are blessed with four daughters and seven grandchildren.

**Next Sunday, Rev. Laida** will preach on "The Latest Word from God" (God spoke in many ways but the greatest and latest was when He sent Jesus), from Hebrews 1:1-8.

‡ **Please sign and pass the Friendship Pad** found at the end of your pew. Write prayer concerns and/or notes to the church office on the cards found in your pew rack and place them in the offering plate.

\* **If you are able, please stand.**

### THIS WEEK AT FIRST

#### Sunday, December 15

10:30 am **Children's Christmas Musical** in the sanctuary. Everyone is invited!

12:10 pm **Advent Craft Fair** in the fellowship hall. There is no cost for the crafts and a light lunch will be available. Some sample crafts are displayed on the table outside the church office.

**Senior High and Middle School Youth Groups** will assist with the craft fair beginning at 12:10 pm. **Youth Groups** will meet from 4-6 pm at the AOC (as usual).

5:00 pm **Committees** meet

6:00 pm **Session** meets

#### Monday, December 16

9:00 am **PW Deborah Circle** meets.

5:00 pm **Theology on Tap** at the Guadalajara Grill.

#### Tuesday, December 17

12:00 noon **Deadline to have memorial poinsettias** listed in next Sunday's bulletin. Names of those in memoriam (or in honor of) along with donors will be listed in the bulletin on Dec. 22. Simply make a donation to the FPC Memorial Garden fund and let the church office know your loved one's name.

5:30 pm **Yoga** in the fellowship hall.

#### Wednesday, December 18

10:00 am **Bible Study group** meets in the library.

**6:30 pm Senior Highs** meet at Chick Fil A on Madison St. Bring \$\$ for dinner.

**Thursday, December 19**  
 5:00 pm **Maplemere Christmas Caroling.** You are invited to join us as we carol around the Maplemere and Glenwood neighborhoods. Meet at C. David & Susan Elliott's home, 115 Maplemere Drive at 5:00 pm. Caroling begins at 5:30.

**Saturday, December 21**  
 9:00 am **Food Baskets** will be packed with delivery around 10 am. Food can be brought to the church until 11:30 am on Friday (church office closes at noon). Monetary donations are gladly welcome!!

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Anyone wishing to host a small group gathering to meet Pastor Greg** in January, February, or March, please contact any member of the Pastor Nominating Committee (Rhonda Banasiak, Don Beck, Kelly Duncan, Steve Griffey, Susan Marks, Sam Mills, Diane Miner, Scott Sitter, Vicki Wallace).

**We will receive the Christmas Joy Offering** during worship on Sunday, Dec. 22. The offering will be distributed to the Board of Pensions for its assistance programs and to the national Ministries Division to fund education at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.

**The PW Luncheon will be Monday, January 27, 12:30 pm.** All women are invited to join us for a devotional, good food, fellowship, and the program, "Dorothy Dix, An American Journalist", presented by Ellen Kanervo. We will be collecting gently used purses and toiletry items which will be donated to SafeHouse, the women's shelter. Please make reservations for lunch (\$10) & child care by signing up on the bulletin board no later than Thurs. Jan. 23. Menu: BBQ pork sandwich, baked beans, Cole slaw, fruit cobbler, coffee, tea, lemonade.

**To listen to recorded worship services,** go to [fpcclarksville.org](http://fpcclarksville.org).

**We need family members' birthdays!** The year of birth is optional for adults. Leave a note in the offering plate or email Neesa Trotter at [fpcclarksville@gmail.com](mailto:fpcclarksville@gmail.com).

**Presbyterian Prayer Chain** - If you want to share a concern or celebration with members of our FPC prayer group, contact Ann Waddle at [waddleiread@gmail.com](mailto:waddleiread@gmail.com).

### ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

**Dec. 15** 10:30 am **Children's Christmas Musical** in the sanctuary.  
 12:10 pm **Advent Craft Fair** in fellowship hall.

**Dec. 17** 12:00 noon **Deadline to have Memorial Poinsettias** listed in the Dec. 22 bulletin.

**Dec. 19** **Maplemere Christmas Caroling.** You are invited to join us as we carol around the Maplemere and Glenwood neighborhoods. Meet at C. David & Susan Elliott's home, 115 Maplemere Drive before 5:30 pm.

**Dec. 21** 9:00 am **Christmas Food Baskets** will be packed

in the fellowship hall with delivery to follow. A list of what you can donate is in the vestibule, on the table outside the church office, and in the Newsletter. Monetary donations are very welcome too!

**Dec. 22** **Christmas Joy Offering** received in worship.  
 10:30 am **Children's Nativity Pageant** in the sanctuary.

**Dec. 24** **Christmas Eve Candlelighting Services at 4:30 and 6:00 pm.** Rev. John David Laida will officiate at both services with his message, "The Cradle That Rocked the World" from Luke 2:8-20.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Classes meet each Sunday from 9:45 am to 10:45 am. Nursery is provided for infants on the 2nd floor.

<u>Children &amp; Youth Classes</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Curriculum</u>
3's & 4's meet in the nursery	on 2nd floor	n/a
K - 12th Graders	4th floor	<i>Grow, Proclaim, Serve!</i>

<u>Adult Classes</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Curriculum</u>
Brotherhood (men)	3rd floor	<i>The Present Word</i>
Explorers (men/women)	2nd floor	<i>Gospel of Mark</i> from Interpretation series
Friendship (women)	3rd floor	<i>The Present Word</i>
Gospel (men/women)	3rd floor	<i>Feasting on the Word</i> and other sources

### LOOKING AHEAD TO JANUARY

Jan. 5 **We will un-decorate** the church immediately following 11:00 worship. Volunteers are needed!

Jan. 7 **Pastor Greg's** first full day in the office.

Jan. 12 **Pastor Greg will be preaching** at both services.  
**2nd Sunday Lunch** after 11:00 worship.

Jan. 19 **Session Exam** for Class of 2016 at 9:45 am.  
**New Elders Ordained & Installed** at 11:00 am worship.

Jan. 25 **Planning Day** begins at 9:00 am - this is a great time to join a committee. In January committee descriptions will be on the table in the vestibule, the table outside the church office, and in the January Newsletter.

Jan. 27 **PW Luncheon** in the fellowship hall at 12:30 pm.

### WINTER SUNDAY SCHOOL APPETIZERS

**Heaven or Hell: What is your final destination? - all taught by Rhonda Banasiak, based on Erasing Hell by F. Chan and Love Wins by R. Bell.** Classes are January 12, 19, and 26.

**A new Preschool Sunday School Class** is beginning in January! The **Explorers Class** will be starting a new study on the Gospel of Mark from the Interpretation Series.



**First  
 Presbyterian  
 Church**

*With Christ as our Savior and Guide,  
 We seek to know God's love and share it  
 With each other, our community, and the world.  
 We invite you to join us in this journey of  
 discipleship!*

Organized May 25, 1822  
 Rev. Greg Glover, Pastor

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