



First Presbyterian Church

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

December 9, 2018

11:00 a.m.

Second Sunday of Advent

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The mission of First Presbyterian Church of St. Petersburg is to be and make disciples of Jesus Christ, who know God and, through love, serve the Lord and others. We will accomplish our mission by practicing radical hospitality, passionate worship, intentional faith development, risk-taking mission, and extravagant generosity.

PREPARATION

(Please use the prelude as a time for reflection and preparation for worship.)

**Please stand, if able. Responses are in boldface.*

PRELUDE

"Prelude on *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*" (hymn 88) Hal H. Hopson

(b. 1933)

Jack Rain, organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Listen! Listen for a messenger from God.

The way is being prepared for Christ's coming.

We are here to listen for a word from God. We have gathered to prepare for Christ's advent.

Come with your joys and sorrows, laughter and tears. There is a

place for you in the company of seekers.

We thank God for our acceptance in the church. We rejoice to offer the love of Christ to others. We are partners in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Claim anew today this opportunity and responsibility.

We are glad God is doing great things among us. We want to rejoin ourselves to God's work in the world.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF PEACE

Uneeda Brewer, Elder

INTROIT

**“Creator of the Stars of Night” John M. Neale
Chancel Choir**

*** PROCESSIONAL HYMN 88**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

VENI EMMANUEL

PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Elizabeth Coleman

O God, we have tried to cover up our sins, yet you know the disorder we have caused in our lives. You have witnessed our poor choices and our destructive habits. We have denied our baptism and ignored the responsibilities of discipleship. The good we do is often self-serving, while we avoid the full claims of gospel partnership. Hear our cries of repentance and turn our lives around, that we may know the wonder of your forgiveness. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Elizabeth Coleman

Good news! God has done great things for us. We are loved; we are forgiven; we are claimed by God's grace. The Holy One has begun a good work in us. Even now, the love of God is expanding our knowledge, sharpening our discernment, and equipping us for

excellence. Go and bear fruit.
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Elizabeth Coleman

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

Please exchange signs of reconciliation and peace with those sitting around you.

PROCLAMATION

CHILDREN'S SERMON

(Children are invited to come forward to the pulpit area for the Children's Sermon. Afterward, they may return to their parent or guardian or leave the sanctuary for Godly Play.)

***HYMN 121**

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ST. LOUIS

SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Lesson: Isaiah 40:3-5
(pew Bible, *Old Testament*, page 816)

Elizabeth Coleman

Second Lesson: Matthew 1:18-25
(pew Bible, *New Testament*, page 1)

Dr. Dawn Conti

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON

“Joseph”

Dr. Dawn Conti

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

(concluding with) **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For**

December 9, 2018

FPC NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

A digital copy of each Sunday's **11:00 a.m. order of worship and announcements** can be found on our website: www.fpc-stpete.org. Choose Sunday Bulletins on the left side of the web page. Also online: our **Calendar of Events** is updated as we receive information, and may be accessed from our website's **EVENTS** tab at the top of the page.

CHANCEL FLOWERS

If you would like to honor or memorialize a loved one with chancel flowers, please fill out a green envelope, available in the church pew. Enclose your donation of \$45 with the memo "Chancel flowers." Flower envelopes may be dropped in the offering plate or delivered to the church office.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Please remember in prayer: Millie Bradley, Phoebe Catlin, Kat Cline, Bill Davenport, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Jim and Petra Garnett, James Gonzales, Nancy Grandoff, Ron Hall,



Claire Hoel, Hilman and Ann Holifield, Jean Howie, Barbara Hubbell, Walter Huber, Gary Hunt, Bonnie Jackson, Shirnice Johnson, Jim and Iberia Johnston, Glenice Kelley, Michael Liguori, Dave and Pam Malone, Barbara Mager, Gayle Moore, Camille Moran-Styles, Anne Mulder, Tamara Murphy, Del and Janet Poling, Jane Pruitt, Bob and Jean Reed, Lee Scott, James Sharp, Jane Snoke, Laura Unger, and Rev. Alice Winters.

Please pray for our family and friends serving in the military: James Loeblein, USN; 1st LT. Taina Specie, USA; 2nd LT. Liam Shelton, USA;

2nd LT. Mallory Wasik, USMC; CPT. Robert Wilson, USAF. *Please provide us with mailing addresses for our card ministry.* If you know of others, please contact **Blanche Ganey** (bganey@fpc-stpete.org).

CHRISTMAS GREENS

Christmas is here, and it is time to decorate the church. If you would like to make a donation to help decorate our church in memory of or in honor of a loved one or a friend, please fill out the green envelope in the pews and put it in the offering plate. Be sure to designate the individual to be honored or memorialized on the outside of the envelope. An insert listing the names of those honored or remembered will be compiled for inclusion in the bulletin.

PASTOR'S CHRISTMAS TREE

As you begin writing your Christmas cards this season, please consider bringing a card for the Pastor's Christmas tree and enclosing a donation for the Pastor's Assistance Fund, which provides confidential financial support throughout the year to members of our congregation and others recommended by local social services to pay for utility bills, medical needs, shelter, and other necessities. Each Sunday in December, members of the Mission Ministry will be available at the basket in the fellowship hall

and at the Christmas tree located in the back of the sanctuary following the 9:00 and 11:00 services, respectively, to take your donations and hang your cards. They will also provide a card if you need one.

**CALLED CONGREGATION MEETING
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16 AFTER THE
11:00 SERVICE TO APPROVE THE
CHANGES OF THE PASTOR'S CALL**

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE
DECEMBER 12**

Join us Wednesday night for a special program led by Rev. Allisun Donovan . The topic is A Space for Creation, Expressive Arts as Spiritual Practice. There is no children's music on the 12th. *See insert for addtional information and to sign up for dinner.*

MEDITATION FOR CHRISTIANS

You are invited to experience meditation in a small group. We meet on alternate Tuesday evenings. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, December 18, in the chapel from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Our group leader is **Carlen Maddux**. For more information, please contact **John Sims** (8674032, or simsjr@eckerd.edu). We welcome your inquiries and presence.

**STEPHEN MINISTER FOR BLUE
CHRISTMAS**

*"Stephen Ministry:
Christ caring for people through
people."*



Christmas is a season of joy for most people. But we all have years when it seems more like a Blue

Christmas. If this sounds like you, let us come to visit awhile. Stephen Ministers, male and female, are ready to be with you, one-on-one, in utmost confidentiality. If you or someone you know is going through one of life's challenging times, please speak to Pastor Dawn for a referral, or call Ginger McCoy (727-804-2494) or Terry Schoenberg (727-667-1023), to have a Stephen Minister talk confidentially with you. We all need hope and healing, and no one needs to go through it alone.

END-OF-YEAR GIVING

During December many of us consider steps we can take to reduce our income tax burden due by April 15 of the following year. One effective step is to increase charitable contributions before year end. If you have not yet completed your 2018 stewardship pledge, or if you would like to contribute a designated gift to another need in the church, we hope you will consider giving toward those causes before December 31. To give stocks or other non-monetary gifts, please contact **Linda Champion** (lchampion@fpc-stpete.org) for details. All contributions to the Lord's

mission work through First Presbyterian Church of St. Petersburg are greatly appreciated.

CAROLS AROUND THE TABLE TODAY AT 6:00 P.M.



This is always a nice event to kickstart the holidays. There will be carol singing, entertainment, and great food in fellowship hall.

DON'T FORGET THE FREE CLINIC



Hungry people need to eat after Thanksgiving, too, and we can feed the hungry through donating non-perishable food items to the St. Pete Free Clinic. Place them in the bin or basket in the sanctuary or fellowship hall, where they will be collected and sent to the Free Clinic.

MANY MOODS OF CHRISTMAS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 4:00 P.M.



Make plans to join us as we continue one of the most beloved traditions in our church and community. This concert combines Christmas favorites that you know and love with masterwork selections from

Händel's *Messiah*. The choir and orchestra will be bigger than ever before as we partner with student musicians and singers from the Pinellas County Center for the Arts at Jonathan C. Gibbs High School. *See insert.*

VOLUNTEERS FOR LIVE NATIVITY, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15



We need shepherds, angels, wise men and possibly even a Mary and Joseph. This is a wonderful outreach for our church. If you are willing, and able to serve for 20 minutes, we would need you at the church around 5:00 p.m. on December 15. The 20-minute intervals are at 5:30, 6:00 and 6:30 p.m. We have the costumes. All we need is YOU. If willing, please email **Carol Riley** at criley@fpc-stpete.org.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

Communion Worship 8:15 AM Chapel
Contemporary Worship 9:00 AM F'shp Hall
Contemporary Faith Class 9:45 AM N-218
Faith-Filled Families Class 9:45 AM S-100
Faith Journey Class 9:45 AM S-202
Westminster Class 9:45 AM N-123
FPC Bus-Westminster Shores 9:45 AM Church Bus
Children's Sunday School 10:00 AM S-103
Youth Sunday School 10:00 AM Youth Cntr
FPC Bus-Westminster Suncoast 10:00 AM Church Bus

FPC Bus-Presbyterian Towers 10:15 AM Church Bus
FPC Bus-Westminster Palms 10:30 AM Church Bus
Valet Parking 10:30 AM

Classic Worship with choir 11:00 AM Sanctuary
Special Called Session Meeting 1:30 PM N-123
Yoga with Adam 3:00 PM F'shp Hall
Twas the Night Before Christmas 5:00 PM F'shp Hall

Youth Christmas Lights Walk 5:00 PM Youth Cntr
Carols Around the Table 6:00 PM F'shp Hall
Alcoholics Anonymous 8:00 PM N-123

MONDAY, DECEMBER 10

Parents' Morning Out 9:00 AM Child Care
PW Circle 3 9:30 AM Off-site
PW Circle 6 10:00 AM S-100
PW Circle 4 1:00 PM Off-site
DS Advisory Council Meeting 4:00 PM Day School
Girl Scout Troop 94 6:30 PM S-206

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11

Parents' Morning Out 9:00 AM Child Care
Children's Chapel 9:15 AM F'shp Hall
Faith Development Bible Study 10:00 AM N-123

Church Staff Meeting 2:30 PM N-218
Finance Committee 6:30 PM N-218
Girl Scout Troop 465 6:30 PM S-206
Alcoholics Anonymous 7:30 PM N-121

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12

Parents' Morning Out 9:00 AM Child Care
DS Children's Chapel 9:15 AM F'shp Hall
PW Circle 12 11:30 AM Off-site
WNL Dinner 5:30 PM F'ship Hall
WNL Bible Study 6:00 PM F'ship Hall
AA for Women 7:00 PM N-121
Praise Band Rehearsal 7:00 PM F'ship Hall

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13

Parents' Morning Out 9:00 AM Child Care
Chancel Bells Rehearsal 6:00 PM Choir Room
Girl Scout Troop 560 6:00 PM S-206
BSF Women's Bible Study 6:55 PM F'ship Hall
Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Choir Room

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14

Men's Sunrise Bible Study 7:30 AM N-123
Parents' Morning Out 9:00 AM Child Care
Day School Occupation Thpy 10:30 AM N-123
Bible Study Lunch Bunch 12:00 PM Off-site
Live Nativity Petting Zoo 5:30 PM Front yard
Girl Scout Troop 560 6:30 PM S-206
Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Choir Room

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15

Choir Dress Rehearsal 9:00 AM Sanctuary
Live Nativity Pageant 5:30 PM Front Yard

New Hope Christian F'ship 5:30 PM Offsite
Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00 PM N-121

Rev. Dr. Dawn Conti, Pastor ♦ Matt Clear, Director of Worship Music and the Arts ♦ Jonathan Rine, Contemporary Praise and Worship Leader ♦ Jack Rain, Organist ♦ David Aumack, Youth Coordinator ♦ Susan Key, Parish Associate ♦ Ashley Davis, Day School Director ♦ Carol Riley, Children's Ministry Coordinator ♦ Stacey Ramirez, Director of Child Care ♦ Linda Champion, Staff Accountant ♦ Blanche Ganey, Office Manager ♦ Johnny Miller, Building & Grounds Superintendent ♦ Bob Langley, Custodian
701 Beach Drive NE, St. Petersburg, Florida 33701 ♦ Church Office: (727) 822-2031 ♦ Fax: (727) 894-2971
Day School: (727) 894-5889 ♦ Web site: www.fpc-stpete.org ♦ E-mail: office@fpc-stpete.org