

A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

The First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2017

8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

**All who are able may stand.*

Bold type spoken by the congregation

GATHERING. . .

The Prelude

The Welcome and Announcements

The Introit

The Call To Worship

Lighting of the *Advent Candle*

The Prayer of Praise

O Shepherd of Israel, You open our lips; our mouths give You praise. You shepherd Your flock, gathering us from our wanderings, assembling us in Christ's Name to learn of Your will. Your covenant names us, Your law guides us. The prophets attest to Your promise that we shall not be forsaken. With great expectations we watch for Your unfolding plan of salvation. Be present with us and guide us toward the truth in Christ's Name. Amen.

*The Hymn 83

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

*The Prayer of Confession

Isaiah 64:5b-8

God-with-us, even in Advent, we confess that You can seem far away. You sometimes seem hidden when we need You near. In our hurt, doubt, and fear, we do not try to draw closer to You; instead, we lash out – against You, our neighbor, even those we love. Forgive us, we pray, and come to save us! ... (time for silent confession)... Let Your face shine until our tears are dried, our sins are faded, and our hope is restored. After all, we belong to You, and in Your hands, we can be made new. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

*The Assurance of Pardon

*The Gloria Patri

p. 581 in the Hymnal

*The Peace and Greeting

The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you!**
(Please stand to greet one another in the name of Christ and exchange this ancient greeting with worshipers seated near you.)

The Moment for Mission

TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD. . .

The Prayer for Illumination

The Old Testament Lesson: *Isaiah 64:1-9*

p. 849 in the pew Bible

The Psalter Lesson: *Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19*

p. 665 in the pew Bible

The Anthem

He Comes to Us as One Unknown Parry/Ferguson

*He comes to us as one unknown, a breath unseen, unheard;
as though within a heart of stone, or shriveled seed in darkness sown, a pulse of being stirred.
He comes when souls in silence lie and thoughts of day depart;
half seen upon the inward eye, a falling star across the sky of night within the heart.
He comes to us in sound of seas, the ocean's fume and foam;
yet small and still upon the breeze, a wind that stirs the tops of trees, a voice to call us home.
He comes, in love as once he came by flesh and blood and birth;
to bear within our mortal frame a life, a death, a saving Name, for every child of earth.
He comes in truth when faith is grown; believed, obeyed, adored;
the Christ in all the scriptures shown, as yet unseen, but not unknown, our Savior, our Lord.*

The Epistle Lesson: *I Corinthians 1:3-9*

p. 201 in the pew Bible

A Moment With the Children

*The Hymn 352

My Lord, What a Morning

The Gospel Lesson: *Mark 13:24-37*

p. 61 in the pew Bible

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Communion Meditation

Living Under Threat
Allen H. Fisher, Jr.

TO RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD. . .

*The *Nicene Creed*

p. 34 in the Hymnal

The Prayers of Thanksgiving, Intercession and Dedication

Come quickly, Lord; **our hope is in You.**

The Service of Offering

The Gathering of Our Gifts

The Offertory

TO CELEBRATE THE SACRAMENT. . .

The Presbyterian Church welcomes and invites everyone - children and adults - baptized in the name of Jesus Christ to come to The Table of the Lord and participate in The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

December 3, 2017

*The Hymn of Preparation 347 *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

The Invitation

The Call To Prayer

The Lord be with You. **And also with You.**
Lift up Your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

. . .who forever sing to the glory of Your Name:
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of Power and Might,
Heaven and Earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.
...Praise to You, Lord Jesus:
Dying You destroyed our death, rising You restored our life.
Lord Jesus, come in glory.

The Lord's Prayer

p. 35 in the Hymnal

The Communion

(Worshippers may partake of the bread and the cup as they are offered,
following their own quiet moments of preparation.)

The Prayer After Communion

Loving God, You graciously feed us, who have received these holy mysteries, with the bread of life and the cup of eternal salvation. May we who have received this sacrament, be strengthened in Your service; we who have sung Your praises tell of Your glory and truth; we who have seen the greatness of Your love will see You face to face in Your kingdom. For You have made us Your own people by the death and resurrection of Your Son our Lord and by the life-giving power of Your Spirit. Amen.

TO GO FORTH AND SERVE IN GOD'S NAME. . .

*The Hymn 362

Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers

*The Charge & Benediction

*The Postlude

the
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



The Rev. Allen H. Fisher, Jr., *Pastor*

The Rev. Brittany Tamminga, *Associate Pastor*

E. Bruce Harvey, Jr., *Coordinator of Christian Education*

Mary Ann & Larry Casey, *Choirmasters*

Amy L. Shirk, *Organist*

MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES 12/3-10

Today (12/3)

Worship Services, <i>S</i>	8:30 & 11am
Church School	9:45am
PW Never Ending Circle, <i>Connie Barnes'</i>	2pm
Sacred Dance, <i>U</i>	3:30pm
Youth Fellowship and Dinner	6pm

Monday (12/4)

Food Pantry Forum, <i>MH</i>	10am
PW Circle of Joy, <i>CP</i>	10am
Mission Committee, <i>CF</i>	7pm

Tuesday (12/5)

Men's Breakfast, <i>Bob Evans</i>	7:30am
PWCT Meeting, <i>CF</i>	10am
Dolce Flutes, <i>CR</i>	6pm

Wednesday (12/6)

Prime Timers' Outing, <i>Bravo's</i>	11:45am
Meditation Group, <i>CP</i>	6:30pm
Cong. Retreat Planning Mtg, <i>CF</i>	7pm

Thursday (12/7)

Ladies' Bible Study, <i>MH</i>	9:30am
Handbells, <i>S</i>	6pm
Adult Choir, <i>CR</i>	7:30pm

Saturday (12/9)

Micah Breakfast, <i>FH</i>	6:30am
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Sunday (12/10)

Worship Services, <i>S</i>	8:30 & 11am
Church School	9:45am
Presbytery Youth Council, <i>CF</i>	2pm
Service of Remembrance, <i>S</i>	3pm
Sacred Dance, <i>U</i>	3:30pm
Cantate, <i>UCR</i>	5pm
Covenant Partners, <i>MH</i>	5pm
Youth Fellowship and Dinner Session, <i>MH</i>	6pm
	7pm

Location Key:

CP: Church Parlor
S: Sanctuary
EB: Education Building
U: Undercroft
UCR: Choir Room in Ed. Building

MH: Middle House
CH: Church House
CF: Conference Room
FH: Fellowship Hall
CR: Choir Room

Birthdays this Week

December

- Kathryn Hower, Bill Neely, Linda Spratt, Kathy Stephen
- Heather Eland, Jon Fritz, Monica Fritz, Betty Hume, Bev Newlin
- Dick Ridge
- Heather Carelock, Kaci LeFebre, Heidi Pedersen
- Steve Eckel, Elizabeth Saunders Morris
- Jeb Brough, Barry Hall, Erik Hawley, Shirley Phillips
- Regina Payton, Gwen Woolf
- Laura Chewing, Bob Lang, Milton McNatt

Hospital Visitor 12/3-9

Patricia Parkinson, 785-4709

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Fredericksburg, VA 22401
(540) 373-7057 ~ FAX (540) 370-0210
fredericksburgpc.org

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Printed on 30% post-consumer recycled paper.

December 3, 2017

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

8:30 and 11:00 am

We are delighted to have visitors worship with us!

To aid you in our liturgy, we want to acquaint you with our following custom: In the *Lord's Prayer*, we use the words, "*Forgive us our debts... our debtors.*"

We encourage you to stand for singing, if you are able, as the organ sounds the first note of introduction. When appropriate to the hymn, the organist and choir will lead the congregation in singing "*Amen.*"

Assistive listening devices (amplified earphones and telecoilneckloops), and **large-print bulletins** are available from the ushers.

Child care is provided in the Education Building for infants through kindergarteners.

All worshipers are encouraged to sign the Attendance/Friendship pad, greet your friends, and welcome visitors.

Capsule of Concern: Dora Mae Crooks, Carole Fariss, Nancy Hansen, Charlotte Mims, John Nolan, Bob Snow, Bill Stewart, Susie Techlin, Frank Turnage

Lectionary readings for next Sunday, December 10:

Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13;
2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

Grief is a long and difficult road, especially during the holidays. On Sunday, December 10, at 3:00 p.m., the Board of Deacons will be hosting a **Service of Remembrance** in the Sanctuary. This will be a time when we acknowledge and face the losses and darkness in our lives. We will read scripture, sing hymns, light candles, and pray for one another. It will be a time to seek the Light of God for hope, comfort, and help. Whatever loss you may have and however long you have borne it, we invite you to join us for this time of worship and prayer.

Service Attendants

Liturgist
Jerry Zekert

8:30 AM
Sanctuary Guild
Trudy McNatt

Greeters
Barry & Peg Jones, Tom & Karla Lewis

Ushers
Wayne Hibbeler, Jean Ravinsky, Ellie Crane, Paul Leimer

Elevator Assistant
Lamoine Knefelkamp

11:00 AM
Sanctuary Guild
Maryann Piersall

Greeters
John & Gaye Copley, Carol Johnson

Ushers
John & Nita Deegan, Preston & Lynn Simms

Elevator Assistant
Bridget Harvey

Nursery Attendants
8:30 & 11:00 services
Heidi Pedersen, Robin Joel, Kathryn Rexrode, Rachel Talmadge

Church School will be on regular schedule December 3, December 10, and December 17. We will take a break on December 24 & 31. The Church School brunch is Sunday, January 7, at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

The **2018 Congregational Retreat Planning** committee will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 5, in the Conference Room.

Youth Fellowship - *Middle School group* will look at some of the stories surrounding Jesus' birth through story telling and skits. **This weekend's High School Retreat has, unfortunately, been cancelled.** The *High School Youth* WILL meet this evening for dinner and activities at the regular time. We hope to see you there! Next week: *Middle School & High School Groups* come and take part in *A Hanover Christmas* on **Friday, December 8**. We will be leaving the church parking lot at 4:30 p.m. for an evening at Camp Hanover. This is an outdoor event, so dress accordingly. On **Sunday, December 10**, we are going caroling at Woodmont Center.

Covenant Partners for the 2018 Confirmation Journey are reminded of the meeting NEXT Sunday, December 10, at 5:00 p.m. in the Middle House

Explorers and their parents are reminded of the orientation meeting on Monday, December 11, at 7:00 p.m. in the Middle House. Any 8th-10th grader not signed up for Confirmation, please contact Bruce, 373-7057 or bharvey@fredericksburgpc.org, as soon as possible.

The **Prime Timers** will gather at Bravo's Italian Restaurant (1 Towne Center Blvd.) at 11:45 a.m. on Wednesday, December 6.

How are you going to spend the cold winter and early spring months? The Fellowship Committee invites you to plan for **Suppers for 7**. Suppers for 7 (or sometimes 6 or 8) are small groupings of fellow church members who gather to share a meal and enjoy fellowship with new friends and others they may already know. If you would like to be included in the Suppers for 7 groupings in the New Year, contact Pastor Tamminga, 540-373-7057 (btamminga@fredericksburgpc.org). The groups will be announced the end of January. If you have any questions about Suppers for 7, please contact any member of the Fellowship Committee: Matt Bohmke, Kurt Chewning, Ben Fidler, Patricia Langfitt, Sharon Moser, Adam Nelen, Carole Nelen, Beth Valasko, Sarah Wright, Laura Zeranski, and Pastor Tamminga.

The **December Wednesday fellowship and dinner** will be on December 13, at 6:00 p.m. Felicia Hibbeler will prepare both meat and veggie lasagna. Activities will focus on Advent & Christmas. We will end the evening by decorating the Chrismon and Jesse Trees in the lobby.

Angel Gifts: You may pick up your angel today and help share some of your Christmas Joy with local families. Wrapped gifts will be due back to the church office on Sunday, December 17, with your angel's card attached.

The **Mission Committee** meets on Monday, December 4, at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room.

The **Christmas Joy Offering**, which started in the 1930s, is one of four PC (USA) special offerings. It provides support to retired and disabled church professionals who need supplemented income and assists Presbyterian-related schools and colleges by helping to provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. You will find offering envelopes in the pews during Advent and in your church offering envelope box. Please pray for this offering and we encourage you to give to it.

Order forms for **Equal Exchange/Fair Trade** coffee, tea, chocolate, cocoa, and more are available on the table outside the sanctuary. You may put a check in the offering plate made out to the church with Equal Exchange in the memo. Turn the order form into the church office. Make sure your name is on the form. We will place the order on December 4.

This at the December 16th Community Dinner, we will have **the Great Cookie Give-Away**. Please donate 2 dozen family favorite Christmas cookies. Helpers at the dinner will pack a festive bag of cookies for each dinner guest. Bring your cookies to the Fellowship Hall kitchen before noon on Friday, December 15, or on Saturday between 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Would you like to help with the dinner? Contact Karen Johnson, 540-621-5685, ksjohnson422@msn.com.

Are you looking for the perfect gift for the person who has everything? Check out the **Presbyterian Giving Catalog**. Some ideas: farming tools, \$10; jerry cans, \$25; supplies for displaced students, \$30. Your gift will make a difference to people around the world. Gift cards will be available. Look for catalogs during the coffee time on Sunday mornings or contact Karen Johnson, 540-621-5685, (ksjohnson422@msn.com). Please return your order to Karen or the church office by December 17.

Our church will serve the **Micah breakfast** on Saturday, December 30, as well as host the breakfast in our Fellowship Hall. Kaci LeFebre will prepare the food ahead of time. Volunteers will heat the food, serve, and cleanup. We ask you to be here at 6:45 a.m. to be ready to serve food starting at 7:30 a.m. If you would like to assist, please stop at the table outside the Sanctuary or contact Bruce at bharvey@fredericksburgpc.org.

The Worship and Music Committee will **decorate the Sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas** season on Saturday, December 9, at 8:30 a.m. We appreciate any and all volunteers, so please feel free to join us in the sanctuary for this time of fellowship and celebration. We would also like to add fresh holiday greenery (pine, boxwood, holly, running cedar, magnolia) to our Christmas decorations. If you can help with donating this festive touch, please bring the greenery to the church between December 13 and 15. Please feel free to contact the church office or email Joan Darby at joan.darby64@gmail.com if you would like more information.

Join the churches of Fredericksburg for a **Micah Advent Meal and Service** on Tuesday, December 5, at 11:30 a.m. around the table at Micah's Community Cafe, 1016 Caroline St. In the same way the churches have celebrated Lent in previous years, all are welcome to join us in this special recognition of the advent season.

Some time slots are still open for **Salvation Army Bell Ringing** on December 9. Sign up in the Lobby before and after church or contact Wayne Hibbeler, 220-7542, (hibbelerw@gmail.com).