

A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

The Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2017

8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

**All who are able may stand.*

Bold type spoken by the congregation

GATHERING. . .

The Prelude *In the Bleak Midwinter* Hoist/Moklebust
Cantate Bells, & Jubilate Ringers

The Welcome and Announcements

The Introit *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People* Howard Helvey

The Call To Worship Lighting of the *Advent Candle*

The Prayer of Adoration

O God of Peace, Your way is sure and leads to salvation. You sent Your prophet John to prepare your way among us, to call us to repentance and make our pathways straight. You send Your son, the promise of life eternal; Your Holy Spirit guides us to truth. We hear Your heralds proclaim the path of obedience, receive Your abounding grace, and are strengthened to live lives of steadfast love and faithfulness. Make firm our footsteps as we await the Messiah's return, that all may see Your reign of peace through Your just and gracious rule. All praise be to You, O Loving God! Amen.

*The Hymn 106 *Prepare the Way, O Zion*

The Prayer of Confession

The Choral Response *Creator of the Stars of Night*
Cantate

The Assurance of Pardon

Sisters and Brothers, by the mercy of Christ,
your sins are forgiven,
for salvation is at hand for all who turn to God.
Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen.

*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.)

TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD. . .

The Prayer for Illumination

Mighty God, send Your Holy Spirit to speak peace, that the Good News of this age may be proclaimed through Your Word, which stands forever. Amen.

The Old Testament Lesson: *Isaiah 40:1-11* p. 816 in the pew Bible

The Psalter Lesson: *Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13* p. 668 in the pew Bible

The Anthem *Every Valley* Joseph P. Martin
Tina Christie and Paul Leimer, flute

*Every valley shall be lifted, every mountain be made low.
Every valley shall be lifted, and the crooked be made whole.
Sound the trumpet, for the glory of the Lord shall be revealed.
Come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lowly exile here. Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice, give thanks and sing! Emmanuel shall come to Thee, O Israel.*

The Epistle Lesson: *2 Peter 3:8-15a* p. 288 in the pew Bible

A Moment With the Children

*The Hymn 357 *The Days Are Surely Coming*

The Gospel Lesson: *Mark 1:1-8* p. 42 in the pew Bible
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Sermon *Prophetic Proclamation*
Brittany Tamminga

TO RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD. . .

*The *Apostles' Creed* p. 35 in the Hymnal

The Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The Lord's Prayer

p. 35 in the Hymnal

The Service of Offering

The Gathering of Our Gifts

The Offertory

Madonna Lilies from *Flutes in the Garden*

Gary Schocker

Dolce Flutes

*The Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

Doxology, p. 606 in the Hymnal

Comfort of the ages, You come: so You can fill our empty places with Your hope; so You can level our pride with Your call to serve the vulnerable; so You can smooth our toughened hearts with Your tenderness. May the gifts we offer this day lift up those in need and prepare the way of Your salvation, for we offer the fruit of our labors and our very selves to Your praise and glory, through Jesus our Lord. Amen.

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

*The Hymn 187

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

*The Charge and Benediction

*The Postlude

A Hymn Medley

arr. John Davis

Dolce Flutes

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 12/10-17

Today (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
Covenant Partners, <i>MH</i>	5pm
Cantate, <i>UCR</i>	5pm
Youth Fellowship and Dinner Session, <i>MH</i>	6pm
	7pm

Monday (12/11)

Newsletter Item Deadline	
PW Faith Circle, <i>CP</i>	1pm
Confirmation Orientation, <i>MH</i>	7pm

Tuesday (12/12)

Men's Breakfast, <i>Bob Evans</i>	7:30am
PW Friendship Circle, <i>Chancellor's Village</i>	10:30am

Wednesday (12/13)

Deacons, <i>CF</i>	5:15pm
2nd Wednesday Fellowship, <i>FH</i>	6pm
Meditation Group, <i>CP</i>	6:30pm

Thursday (12/14)

Handbells, <i>S</i>	6pm
Adult Choir, <i>CR</i>	7:30pm

Saturday (12/16)

Micah Breakfast, <i>FH</i>	6:30am
Community Dinner, <i>FH</i>	6pm

Sunday (12/17)

Worship Services, <i>S</i>	8:30 & 11am
Church School	9:45am
Sacred Dance, <i>U</i>	3:30pm
Cantate Party & Rehearsal, <i>The Caseys</i>	5pm
Youth Fellowship and Dinner	6pm

Location Key:

<i>CP</i> : Church Parlor	<i>MH</i> : Middle House
<i>S</i> : Sanctuary	<i>CH</i> : Church House
<i>EB</i> : Education Building	<i>CF</i> : Conference Room
<i>U</i> : Undercroft	<i>FH</i> : Fellowship Hall
<i>UCR</i> : Choir Room in Ed. Building	<i>CR</i> : Choir Room

Birthdays this Week

December

- Laura Chewning, Bob Lang, Milton McNatt
- Jim Carelock, Florencia Medina, Graham Schattgen
- Nicole Fritz, David Hancock, Cecily Whalen
- Tristin Fidler, Susie Gillespie, Kay Lanceley, JoAnn Robinson
- Joe Cralle, Elizabeth Piersall
- Barbara Atkinson, Chrissy Conway, Carol Johnson, Cayden Jones
- Gray Dameron, Mitchell Spinnanger

Hospital Visitor 12/10-16

Eleanor McCord, 710-1159

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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 fredericksburgpc.org

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 Printed on 30% post-consumer recycled paper.

December 10, 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.

The flowers today are given by Milton and Trudy McNatt to the glory of God in honor of their daughters and grandchildren.

Capsule of Concern: Ed Allison, Carole Fariss, Kin Glover, Nancy Hansen, Mary Jane King, Charlotte Mims, John Nolan, Bob Snow, Dick Szymanski, Susie Techlin, Frank Turnage

Lectionary readings for next Sunday, December 17:

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126 *or* Luke 1:46b-55;
 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

Thanks to today's Advent readers and candle lighter, members of the 6th, 7th and 8th grade Church School classes, and to last week's readers and lighter, members of the 4th and 5th Church School class.

Service Attendants

Liturgist
 John Howe

8:30 AM
Sanctuary Guild
 Trudy McNatt

Greeters
 Pete & Jane Kolakowski

Ushers
 Harry & Joanne Farley,
 Lamoine Knefelkamp, Mary
 Raye Cox

Elevator Assistant
 Porter Blakemore

11:00 AM
Sanctuary Guild
 Maryann Piersall

Greeters
 Ralph & Betsy Lewis, Coy &
 Becky Franklin

Ushers
 Rod & Judi Hughes, Linda
 Sweet, Gina Whitticar

Elevator Assistant
 Dave Bohmke

Nursery Attendants
8:30 & 11:00 services
 Linda Benn, Stacy Whalen,
 Patty Toler, Patricia Langfitt

The **Women's Bible study** is no on Christmas break and will resume on January 4, 2018

The **December Wednesday fellowship and dinner** will be this Wednesday, December 13, at 6:00 p.m. Felicia Hibbler will prepare both meat and veggie lasagna. There is no charge for dinner. Activities will focus on Advent & Christmas. We will end the evening by decorating the Chrismon and Jesse Trees in the Lobby.

Church School will be on regular schedule December 10, and 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.

Youth Fellowship - Middle School and High School groups are going caroling at Woodmont Center. Next week: . *Middle School and High School groups* will have their annual White Elephant gift exchange. Spend no more than \$5, or bring something from around the house. Wrap the gift and come ready for fun!

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

The **Covenant Choir** will sing at both services on December 17, and Carol Choir will sing at the 11:00 a.m. service.

Explorers and their parents are reminded of the orientation meeting tomorrow, 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 Fellowship Committee invites you to plan for **Suppers for 7** (or sometimes 6 or 8). These small groupings of fellow church members gather to share a meal and enjoy fellowship with old and new friends. 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.

Wrapped Angel Gifts are due back to the church next Sunday, with the angel card attached.

The **Empty Nesters** fellowship group will put together the **lunches for Micah** NEXT Sunday, December 17, following the 11:00 a.m. worship service.

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.

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 clean up. 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@ferdericksburgpc.org.

Homeless Memorial Day - Join us on December 21, at 7:00 p.m. in Market Square on the first day of winter and longest night of the year to remember our neighbors in need who have passed away in 2017. Many have gone without funerals or family to grieve. The Service is sponsored by Micah Ministries and Fredericksburg Interfaith Leaders.

The churches of Fredericksburg have a great need for members to **volunteer** through their collaborative ministry, **Micah**. You can choose to work at the front desk in the Housing Stabilization Center, bus tables, serve or host/hostess in the new Micah Café, pick up and deliver household items for the Furniture "Bank," provide Respite dinners, or be on call to help with various maintenance projects. To learn more about any of these volunteer opportunities, visit the table outside the Sanctuary after church or call the Micah Hospitality Center at 540-479-4116. With your help, *neighbors find a home here*.

The Worship and Music Committee would 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.

Grief is a long and difficult road, especially during the holidays. Today, 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.