

celebrate the
Reason
 for the season



From the Pastor

There are some years when Advent sneaks up on us, and other years when Advent seems to come late. This year Advent begins on the day that, at least for me, seems to make the most sense and seems to be right on time.

Advent begins on Sunday December 1st, giving us the full 24 days to prepare for the celebration of our Savior's birth. I encourage you to take advantage of the 24 days of Advent.

I will be teaching a Sunday school class on the 8th and 15th that will look at the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, that instruct us on Christmas.

Advent devotionals are a wonderful resource; historically churches have provided a devotional for their congregation; sometimes they are weekly, sometimes they are daily. With the resources available on the Internet I encourage you to go

shopping to find an advent devotional that speaks to you and your situation; a devotional for singles, couples, families, seniors, go looking for a devotional by your favorite Christian author.

Please be intentional in using this Advent season to prepare for the Celebration of Christmas, it will be a blessing to all.

Jim

December 2013

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Christmas Dinner and Program

Artwork by [Bettine deKruifj](http://Bettine.deKruifj.com)
 at creationswap.com

Christmas Activities

- Dec. 1 at 6:00 Hanging of the Greens
- Dec. 6 from 5-10p.m. Summer Mission Trip "Shoppers" Babysitting Fundraiser
- Dec. 8 at 4:00 All Church Christmas Program and Dinner
- Dec. 11 at 11:30 50+ Christmas Luncheon
- Dec. 22 at 10:30 Worship/Christmas Cantata
- Dec. 24 at 7:00 and 9:00 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Services
- Dec. 25 from 11:00-1:00 Christmas Dinner
- Dec. 27 at 10:00 am Taking Down the Greens

December Birthdays and Anniversaries



1-Maggie Storm
3-Peggie Ulp, Erik Temple
4-David Han, Addison Weaver
6-Cole Temple
8-Jackie Wottrich
9-Hannah Jones
10-Katie Young
11-Wesley Sigl
18-Carol Crago, Mike Redding, Calvin Reif, Nate Fox
19-Naomi Gartzke, Kathy Davies
20-Amy Tirpak
21-Ally Weaver
22 - Reese Underkoffler
23 - Marguerite Santorine
24 - David McCord, Nancy Martin, Ed Dame
26-Jean Morgensen
28-Betty Comerer, Sharon Dittmar
30-Greg Speake
31-Libby Robinson

8-Jim & Pauline King celebrating their 18th
12-Kirk & Paige Kerstetter celebrating their 14th
13-Brad & Heidi Zimmerman celebrating their 12th
27-Guy & Jan Temple celebrating their 55th
29 - Rich & Amy Cooper celebrating their 29th
29 - Dale & Mindy Lind celebrating their 29th
29- Rob & Karen Guissanie celebrating their 23rd

Signup sheets are available on the back railing of the church to assist with the Christmas Dinner. Paul Miller 'and company' will be hosting the dinner. Roasted turkeys, hams, and baked pies are especially needed. The Dinner is served from 11-1 in the Great Hall or may be delivered. Please call the church office to arrange for delivery (524-4419).

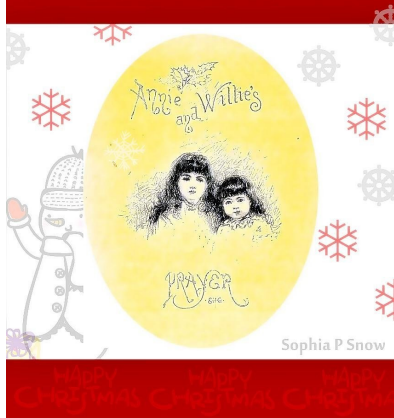
Babysitting Fundraiser

Mark your calendars for a fundraiser for a great cause. Some of our high school youth are going to Puerto Rico on a mission trip this summer! Come support their cause and enjoy a

night out on the town! Drop your kids off at First Presbyterian Church on Dec. 6 from 5 -10 pm and enjoy an evening out, while the high school summer mission trip team takes

great care of your kids. There will be dinner (served from 5-6pm), games, Christmas crafts, movies, snacks and much more!

ANNIE AND WILLIE'S PRAYER



A week ago my wife and I were rewarded for our efforts in cleaning her mother's attic when we uncovered a small treasure trove of Sallie's girlhood books, including a 1915 edition of "The Night Before Christmas" and "Annie and Willie's Prayer." Google the latter title and add this curious but meaningful little companion piece to your collection of Christmas classics.

"Annie and Willie's Prayer," by Sophia P. Snow,

portrays two youngsters victimized by their widower father, a self-made millionaire who regards Santa Claus as a sinful delusion. Sent to bed early on Christmas Eve, the older Annie and her brother Willie cannot sleep. Remembering how Santa had always come when their mother was alive, the two decide that perhaps it was her prayers that drew the portly fellow down their chimney. Kneeling at their bed, they pray, "Bless Papa, dear Jesus, and cause him to see / That Santa Claus loves us as much as does he."

The good news is that Annie's and Willie's prayers are answered when Papa overhears their prayers and, conscience-stricken, regales the tree with virtually everything on their list. As Christmas dawns, Annie exclaims, "Now you'll believe there's a Santa Claus, Papa, I know!" The bad news is that when Willie confides that prayer has brought Santa to the house, his father murmurs privately, "Well, well, let him think so, the dear little elf; /Twould be

cruel to tell him I did it myself." "Blind father!" exclaims the narrator. "Who caused your stern heart to relent /and the hasty words spoken so soon to repent? Twas the Being who bade you steal softly upstairs / And made you His agent to answer their prayers!"

"Annie and Willie's Prayer" is a period piece dripping with sentimentality and closing with a moral stamp. Still, it is also modern in its self-absorbed millionaire father; its memory of a deceased mother's faith; and its children, enacting that faith in their Christmas crisis. The story reminds us of how Jesus regards the young. "Let the little children come to me...for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. ... anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it" [Mark 10:14b-15]. May this be the year that you see Christ with the wonder and faith of a child.

-- Bob Kribbs

50 and Over Senior Christmas Luncheon Wednesday, Dec. 12 at 11:30



Come join your friends for tasty food, good fellowship, and home-grown entertainment, ringing in the season with special presentations of song, story, and image.

For reservations, please complete a bulletin insert or call the church office (570-524-4419) by December 2nd

Hanging of the Greens

The Hanging of the Greens will take place Sunday, December 1st

Needed are a few strong people to erect the trees immediately following the worship service.

Join us at 6:00 to decorate the church with Christmas garland. No reservations are needed, just show up! Enjoy cookies after the church has been decorated.



Tad & Jane Hampton share a Senegalese meal



**Poulet Yassa
Chicken in Yassa Sauce**

First Presby Kids

December is such a magical time of year! We have a lot of fun stuff planned to highlight the holiday magic as well as help our children remember the focus of the season-Jesus' birth.

Sunday School and Big Idea will start to explore the miracle (and necessity) of Jesus' birth. Please note- because of holiday breaks, there will be no Sunday School on Dec. 1, 22 or 29.

Plan on joining us for the Christmas program and dinner on Dec. 8 at 4 PM as well as the early family-friendly Christmas Eve service at 7 PM.

JAM is going strong-we are having fun, making friends and growing closer to God. Anyone in grades K-5 is welcome to join us at 5 in the Great Hall for dinner and activities related to a central activity. In Dec., we will have one meeting on Dec. 4!

Join us for our JAM Christmas Party on Wednesday, Dec. 18. All students grades K-5 (**and their families**) are welcome to join us in the Great Hall. We will have a festive dinner, followed by a special treat, and then we will have a white elephant exchange and play some holiday games as time allows. This year, our theme will be a Christmas ornament or decoration (\$5 spending limit). Every participant should come with a wrapped gift ready to participate!

Movie Night will be held on Friday Dec. 13 from 5:30-8 PM. We will be enjoying two movies to celebrate the holidays "Charlie Brown Christmas" and "The Polar Express"... Plan on meeting in the Great Hall at 5:30 for dinner and don't forget your pajamas and sleeping bag!!!

As always, let Rhiannon know if you have any questions or want to be involved. There are many ways to get involved in working with the children of our church!!!! She is especially interested in cooking volunteers for JAM-Wednesday night children's ministry. If you haven't "liked" us and are on Facebook, it's a great way to keep tabs with what is happening in Children's Ministry.

Mrs. Dame



Straight from the people who brought you "The Ultimate Question Game Show" it's "Nativity Game Night"! Join us at 4:00 pm, December 8th for an afternoon of fun and games! **Charades, Family Feud, Minute to Win it and Are you Smarter than a Sunday Schooler** will delight young and old. See how smart and gifted our kids are while you test *your* skill and knowledge about Christmas. The program will be followed by our annual Christmas Dinner in the Great

Inside Story Headline




Over 45 kids, many from the community had a lot of fun playing games and sharing their Halloween costumes at our Fall Festival.



December 2013

Theme this month: "American Idols: The conflict between culture & Faith"

First Presby Youth

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 No Sunday School FUEL Greeters 10am	2	3 Refuge 7-8:30pm	4 Breakfast 6:30am Fuel 7-8:30pm	5 Girl Talk 3-4pm	6 Baby-sitting Fundraiser for PR Trip 5-9:30pm	7
8 Sunday School 9-10am Christmas Program and Dinner 4-7 Nutcracker 4pm	9	10 Refuge 7-8:30pm	11 Breakfast 6:30am Fuel 7-8:30pm	12 Lighting Candles Service Project @ Riverwoods 4pm Rejoicing Spirits 6:30pm	13	14
15 Sunday School 9-10am	16	17 Refuge 7-8:30pm	18 Breakfast 6:30am Fuel 7-8:30pm	19 Girl Talk 3-4pm	20	21
22 No Sunday School Choir Cantata 10:30am	23	24 Christmas Eve Services	25	26		
29 No Sunday School College greeters 10am	30	31				

COLOR KEY: Green Events - ALL youth event Blue Events - Middle School events
 Red Events - High School events Black Events - College age events

Questions or comments? Feel free to contact us: Lauren and Tim Halteman, Youth Directors
 Office: 570-524-4449, lhalteman@first-presby.org, thalteman@first-presby.org



**NYC Mission Team,
served over 700
people dinner
in 3 hours!**



December Church Calendar

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 10:30 Worship 6:00 Hanging of Greens	2 9:15 Trainers	3 10:00 Staff Mtg.	4 6:30 Y. Breakfast 10:00 Women's Bible 5:00 JAM 6:30 Bell Choir 7:00 Fuel 7:30 Choir	5 3:00 MS Girl Talk 4-7:00 DBR	6 7:00 NA	7 7:00 NA
8 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 4:00 Christmas Dinner/Program	9 9:15 Trainers	10 10:00 Staff Mtg	11 6:30 Y. Breakfast 10:00 Women's Bible 11:30 50+ Luncheon 6:30 Bell Choir 7:00 Fuel 7:30 Choir	12 4-7:00 DBR	13 7:00 NA	14 7:00 NA
15 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship/ Christmas Cantata	16 9:15 Trainers 7:00 Session, Trustees	17 10:00 Staff Mtg	18 6:30 Y. Breakfast 10:00 Women's Bible 5:00 JAM 6:30 Bell Choir 7:00 Fuel 7:30 Choir	19 3:00 MS Girl Talk 4-7:00 DBR	20 7:00 NA	21 7:00 NA
22 10:30 Worship	23	24 <i>Office Closed</i> 7:00 & 9:00 Candlelight Services	25 Christmas <i>Office Closed</i> 11-1:00 Christmas Dinner	26 <i>Office Closed</i>	27 5:00 Wedding Rehearsal 7:00 NA	28 Storm/Griffith Wedding 7:00 NA
29 10:30 Worship	30	31 <i>Office Closed</i>				



First Presbyterian Church

18 Market St
Lewisburg PA 17837
570-524-4419
info@first-presby.org
Dr. James C. King

www.first-presby.org



Pulpit Assistant: Gabrielle Taylor

Ushers: Clint Shurtliffe, Guy Temple, Dave Nicholson, Dave Young, Joe Santorine, Mark and Calvin Reif, Ed and Will Sigl, Mike and Jackson Matukaitis

Nursery;

Dec. 1 Leshner, Justko and Lind families
Dec 8: Bill & Ann Roll, Grimes, Chiboroski families
Dec 15: Taylor, Paul & Karen Miller, Reif families
Dec 22: Redding, Graver families
Christmas Eve: *No Nursery*
No Nursery

Dec. 29: Bruckhart, Bernard and Brown families

Dinner By the River Teams: 5 - Ziegler, 12 - Shady Grove Mennonite, 19 - Beaver United Methodist

Greeters:

Middle School
Mast family
Halteman family
Dame family

7:00: Ann Roll

9:00: Leshner family

College Students

Coffee:

No Coffee Social
Larry & Sue Barnhart
Natalie Grimes
No Coffee Social

No Coffee Social

Christmas Dinner and Program

Join us for the Children's Christmas program at 4:00 in the sanctuary with dinner to follow in the Great Hall.

Ham, beverage, table setting and dessert will be provided.

Please bring the following to feed ten:



A-M salad and rolls
N-Z vegetable or main dish

Reservations need to be made by Dec. 1st either in the bulletin insert or by calling the church office (524-4419).