



## December 2016

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## From the Pastor:

It is the December Newsletter, so you'll be expecting me to encourage you to attend our special services and participate in our special activities. You're not wrong; please participate as much as you can.

There is a special worship service that I want to make you aware of and encourage you to attend. On Sunday, December 18, at 4:00, at the First Presbyterian of Sunbury Lisa Kraus will be ordained as a Minister of the

Word and Sacrament. We have had Lisa and Ryan, Isaac, Hannah, and Ruth be a part of our congregation for two years now. They will continue to be active in our congregation.

For nearly two decades Lisa and been preparing to be a minister, participating actively in ministry, and looking for the right opportunity for an ordained position. That opportunity has arrived at the Sunbury church, it is a part-time position, so Lisa will still be with us regularly, and the

children will still be fully active.

In Advent we talk about expectation, preparation, declaration, and celebration. The service on the 18<sup>th</sup> will be the celebration of all that God has been doing in Lisa's life leading up to this time of Ordination. Please join me, our sisters and brothers across the river and throughout the presbytery in celebrating Lisa's gifts for and call to ministry with the Sunbury church.

-Jim King

### New Beginnings When It Come to How We Communicate!

First Presbyterian would like to message you with updates to our groups and activities, but we want you to be in control of what comes into your email and phone.

Starting now you can sign up for what you would like in your inbox, or text message. We would like to effectively communicate with all of our worshipers! Please go to this link and sign up for what interests you! We look forward to growing in faith together through real relationships!

## December Birthdays and Anniversaries

1-Maggie Storm  
 3-Peggie Ulp, Erik Temple  
 4-David Han, Addison Weaver  
 5 - Marcia Aikey  
 6-Cole Temple  
 8-Jackie Wottrich  
 9-Hannah Jones  
 10-Katie Young  
 12 - Kirsten Winner  
 18-Carol Crago, Don Dobbs, 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  
 28-Betty Comerer, Sharon Dittmar

5 - Ellis & Jane Harley celebrating their 57th  
 8-Jim & Pauline King celebrating their 21st  
 12-Kirk & Paige Kerstetter celebrating their 17th  
 13-Brad & Heidi Zimmerman celebrating their 15th  
 28 - Drew & Anna Griffith celebrating their 2nd  
 29 - Rich & Amy Cooper celebrating their 32nd  
 29 - Dale & Mindy Lind celebrating their 32nd  
 29- Rob & Karen Guissanie celebrating their 26th



## Christmas Dinner

The Paul Miller family will be hosting the Christmas dinner for the community on Christmas day from 12-2. Please sign up to donate items or time on the clipboards located at the welcome center.



A photo taken of the items awaiting boxes during Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Madness

## Operation Christmas Child:

1069 packed at Shoebox Madness  
 331 shoeboxes packed by the congregation  
 22,156 shoeboxes rolled out on four tractor trailers, one trailer and the church van!

## “Mary’s Song for Our Day”

“My soul glorifies the Lord  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has been mindful  
of the humble state of his servant.  
From now on all generations will call me blessed,  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me—  
holy is his name.  
His mercy extends to those who fear him,  
from generation to generation.  
He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;  
he has scattered those who are proud in their  
inmost thoughts.  
He has brought down rulers from their thrones  
but has lifted up the humble.  
He has filled the hungry with good things  
but has sent the rich away empty.  
He has helped his servant Israel,  
remembering to be merciful  
to Abraham and his descendants forever,  
just as he promised our ancestors [Luke 1:46-55].



ing culture. That our parties could select and our people support (a) a woman whose relationship to the truth is suspect or (b) a man for whom truth is a shifting convenience is only the most recent and most outrageous manifestation of our cultural descent.

To our moral confusion about truth, God answers in the tender, joyful song of the peasant girl, Mary. Overwhelmed as she must have been, Mary is quietly exhilarated that God has chosen her, in her “humble state,” to

bear His Son, a gift for all people and for all time, the gift of God’s truth. Jesus is both the bearer of truth and truth itself! Think of it. This simple girl, singing praises to God, knows Him as Lord and Savior even as she feels that divine life pulsing in her womb! What does it mean to understand Jesus as truth? Pastor and commentator John McArthur says it this way: “Truth is that which is consistent with the mind, will, character, glory, and being of God. Jesus, ‘the brightness of God’s glory and the express image of His person’ [Hebrews 1:3], is truth incarnate—the perfect expression of God and therefore the absolute embodiment of all that is true.”

The message of Mary’s song is clear: God is a “mindful” God to us as individuals and as a nation. He remembers His promises made through the generations, and He is merciful to those who fear (stand in awe of) Him. He looks to our hearts, our minds, and to our circumstances, blessing the humble and filling the hungry but rejecting those in whose hearts and minds pride and wealth are central.

May we accept the gift of the Christ Child in a deeper, more reverent, and more joyful way this season. May we, with the help of the Holy Spirit, embrace Him not only as our Way and our Life but also as our Truth.

-Bob Kribbs

Advent is here, and how desperately we need the promised arrival of the Christ Child! We have endured a hideous political season climaxed by our casting votes for the person we disliked the least. Now we struggle to mend relationships—personal, cultural, and ethnic—shredded during the campaign, and mount a post-mortem effort to rediscover Election 2016’s primary victim, truth. Please know that I am not a disgruntled partisan using newsletter space to air my gripes; I am a politically unaffiliated Christian sharing my sadness over the most recent and most obscene example of what happens when a culture loses its belief in absolute truth.

The descent from truth has moved from (a) “there are absolute truths to guide us” to (b) “my truths are mine and yours are yours” to (c) “truth is an irrelevant concept” We see the nadir of this process in campaign fact-checking. Those experts researching the truth behind the candidates’ statements found that showing the difference between statements and truth mattered little or not at all to partisan voters. Truth was largely irrelevant. Such an attitude didn’t suddenly crop up in this election; it has been devolving for decades in a culture where faith in God is no longer central and where even the faithful have often adjusted their beliefs to those of the surround-

## A Patient from the Guatemalan Village

Juan Gabriel Aldana Amador is a 21 year old male who resides in the village of Tierra Blanca in Camotan, Chiquimula in the country of Guatemala. Juan suffered an electrocution injury several years ago resulting in the amputation of both of his arms at the shoulders. The exit wound from the injury left him with chronic osteomyelitis of his left femur. We have visited and examined Juan multiple times and have determined

that without definitive treatment he will likely die of overwhelming sepsis or, at a minimum, lose his left leg as well. Currently, Juan is fully weight bearing on both legs. The Geisinger Health System has committed to providing him the needed care for this condition including hospitalization, antibiotic, surgical and rehabilitative therapy. We estimate that it will take approximately 6 months to treat this condition

fully at a minimum.

Mark Speake MD, our church and Kairos Ministries based in Guatemala City, are partnering to provide Juan and his father, Manuel Amador Ramirez with transportation, living quarters and living expenses for the duration of Juan's treatment.

If you have any questions you may reach Mark Speake MD at 570-490-3681 or [markspeake58@gmail.com](mailto:markspeake58@gmail.com).

## Clothes Box

The Deacons have set up a receptacle in the office hallway to accept gently used clothing for the Eastern Union County Clothes Share Program. Each month they will

highlight an item that is in need. This month the focus is on Men's or children's jeans. If you have gently used or new jeans, please place your donation in the box outside of the office.

*A special thank you to Chris Zellmann for making the box to collect the clothes.*



## "Mitten Tree"

The Eastern Union County Clothes Share Program will once again be providing pajamas, hats, gloves and sweatshirts to the children enrolled in the food bank program. We are looking for either

monetary donations; cash, checks or Walmart/Target gift cards, or donations of **new pajamas, hats gloves and sweatshirts**. Our mitten tree will be set up by the welcome center for donations. Monetary

donations can be given to the church office. Please feel free to contact Lisa Bernard [570-713-8479](tel:570-713-8479) or Karen Graber [570-768-2585](tel:570-768-2585) for more information.

# December 2016

## First Presby KIDS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sunday School 9-10am Worship @ 10:30 Christmas Program and Dinner 5pm			JAM 5:30-7pm			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Sunday School 9-10am Worship @ 10:30			JAM 5:30-7pm			Choir Cantata Rehearsal 10am
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Sunday School 9-10am Choir Cantata 10:30am			JAM 5:30-7pm			7:00 and 9:00 Christmas Eve Services
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
CHRISTMAS DAY No Sunday School Worship @ 10:30						



## Caroling

Do you have a child interested in Christmas caroling this season? Lauren is organizing a group of kid carolers. See her if your child is interested.



# December 2016

## First Presby Youth

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
		Girl Talk 2:30-4pm	Breakfast 6:30am	Guys Games 3-4pm		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sunday School 9-10am Worship @ 10:30 Christmas Program and Dinner 5pm		Girl Talk 2:30-4pm	Breakfast 6:30am	Guys Games 3-4pm		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Sunday School 9-10am Worship @ 10:30 Fuel 5-6:30pm Refuge 7-8:30pm		Girl Talk 2:30-4pm	Breakfast 6:30am	Guys Games 3-4pm Riverwoods Service Project & Dinner 4pm		Choir Cantata Rehearsal 10am
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Sunday School 9-10am Choir Cantata 10:30am Fuel 5-6:30pm Refuge 7-8:30pm		Girl Talk 2:30-4pm	Breakfast 6:30am	Guys Games 3-4pm		Christmas Eve Services 7 & 9
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
CHRISTMAS DAY No Sunday School Worship @ 10:30						







# December 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>4:00 Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 Worship</p> <p>2:00 NA</p> <p>5:00 Christmas Dinner and Program</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:00 Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 Worship</p> <p>2:00 NA</p> <p>5:00 Christmas Dinner and Program</p>	<p>6:00 OCC Mission Trip Leaves</p> <p>3:00 Girl Talk</p> <p>7:00 NA</p> <p>7:00 Session &amp; Trustees</p>	<p>7:10:00 Staff Mtg</p> <p>5:00 Chimes</p> <p>5:30 JAM</p> <p>6:00 Bells</p> <p>7:00 NA</p>	<p>1</p> <p>6:00 DBR</p> <p>7:30 NA</p>	<p>2</p> <p>12:00 NA</p> <p>7:00 NA</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:00 NA</p>
<p>11:00 Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 Worship</p> <p>5:00 Fuel</p> <p>7:00 Refuge</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:15 Trainers</p> <p>7:30 Choir</p>	<p>13 10:00 Staff Mtg.</p> <p>3:00 Girl Talk</p> <p>6:30 Adult Ed</p> <p>7:00 NA</p>	<p>14 10:00 Staff Mtg</p> <p>5:00 Chimes</p> <p>5:30 JAM</p> <p>6:00 Bells</p> <p>7:00 NA</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6:00 DBR</p> <p>7:30 NA</p>	<p>16</p> <p>12:00 NA</p> <p>7:00 NA</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10:00 Choir</p> <p>7:00 NA</p>
<p>18:00 Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 Worship</p> <p>5:00 Fuel</p> <p>7:00 Refuge</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:15 Trainers</p> <p>7:00 Session, Deacons &amp; Trustees</p>	<p>20</p> <p>10:00 Staff Mtg</p> <p>3:00 Girl Talk</p> <p>7:00 NA</p>	<p>21</p> <p>5:00 Chimes</p> <p>5:30 JAM</p> <p>6:00 Bells</p> <p>7:00 NA</p>	<p>22</p> <p>7:30 NA</p>	<p>23</p> <p>12:00 NA</p> <p>7:00 NA</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7:00 Worship</p> <p>7:00 NA</p> <p>9:00 Worship</p>
<p>25 Christmas Day</p> <p>10:30 Worship</p> <p>12-2 Christmas Dinner</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>27</p> <p>10:00 Staff Mtg</p> <p>7:00 NA</p>	<p>28</p> <p>10:00 Unhanging of Greens</p>	<p>29</p> <p>7:30 NA</p>	<p>30</p> <p>12:00 NA</p> <p>7:00 NA</p>	<p>31 New Years Eve</p> <p>7:00 NA</p>



*"Living fully in Christ, through His Word, community and*

**First Presbyterian Church**

18 Market St  
Lewisburg PA 17837

Phone: 570-524-4419  
Web: [www.first-presby.org](http://www.first-presby.org)  
Email: [info@first-presby.org](mailto:info@first-presby.org)

*Pastor:*

Dr. James C. King

*Adult & Youth Ministries:*

Tim Halteman

*Children & Youth Ministries:*

Lauren Halteman

*Visitation Pastor:*

Bob Kribbs

**Ushers:** Clint Shurtliffe, Dave Nicholson, Dave Young, Joe Santorine, Mark Reif, Mike and Jackson Matukaitis, Peg Bouton, Sharon Pearce

<b>Nursery:</b>	<b>Coffee Social:</b>	<b>Greeters:</b>	<b>Advent Candlelighting:</b>
4 Heid, Chiboroski	Steve & Alesia Foster	Dan & Kim Wagner	Stancavage family
11 McSween, Harder	Natalie Van Fleet	Aaron & Molly Roussell	Gresh family
18 <i>Need Coverage</i>	John & Bonnie Troxell	Rob & Lisa Black	Bernard family
24 <b>7:00 p.m.</b>		Chris & Joyce Zellmann	TBA
9:00 p.m.		Leshner Family	TBA
25 <i>None</i>		Jim & Marilyn Zaiser	

**Dinner By the River Teams (and Devotion Leaders) :** 1 - Keiser/Bruckhart (B. Troxell) 8 - Temple/Torretti (J. King) 15 - Sacred Heart (D. Reid)

**Taking Down the Greens:** Carol Thomas, Richard Erdley, Wayne & Pat Samuelson, Jack & Rebecca Mignot, Alice Marquart, Keay Hathaway, Keith & Dianna Kunkel

**December 4 at 5:00 p.m. All Church Christmas Dinner and Program**

**December 18 at 10:30 a.m. Christmas Cantata Worship Service**

**December 24 at 7:00 p.m. Family Candlelight Service**

**December 24 at 9:00 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Service**

**December 25 at 10:30 a.m. Christmas Sunday Worship Service**

**December 25 from 12-2p.m. Free Community Christmas Dinner**

