

# Pres Notes

First Presbyterian Church  
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## "Joyful, Joyful, We Await Thee"

"Good is the Lord to the one who waits for him, to the soul that seeks him."  
--Lamentations

3:25

Advent is the season of waiting for God. Years ago, people waited for the birth of the Savior. Today, we wait for his return to restore all of creation to its original glory--"the new heaven and new earth." Not all Christians agree on how this will happen. Some take literally the biblical passages about Christ's Second Coming in the clouds with a trumpet blast. Others view such

accounts figuratively or symbolically.

No matter what your view on the manner of Christ's second advent is, there's one thing I believe all of the faithful can agree upon, and that is that waiting can be difficult. It's hard to wait when something is so eagerly anticipated. Just watch a child trying to sneak downstairs early on Christmas morning! Such suspense makes it nearly impossible for the child to attend to the important task at hand--getting a good night's sleep so he or she can fully enjoy the pleasures that Christmas Day will bring.

On the other hand, waiting without a worthwhile vision of what you're waiting for can be equally difficult. Such waiting can become passive and apathetic. One ends up simply "marking time" until some vague future event. Both types of waiting--the galloping, anxious kind and the unfocused, inattentive kind--present hazards for the church. Christians too intent on the next, better life, are too preoccupied to be concerned about the issues and challenges of this life we've been called to address. Yet, Christians without an inspiring goal to work toward find their attention divided and diffused among other interests that also erode their mission and identity.

The late Christian writer Henri Nouwen tries to put our waiting in proper perspective in his collection of Advent meditations, "In Joyful Hope":

*"How do we wait for God? We wait with patience. But patience does not mean passivity. Waiting patiently is not like waiting for the bus to come, the rain to stop, or the sun to rise. It is an active waiting in which we live the present moment to the full in order to find there the signs of the One we are waiting for....*

*Waiting for God is an active, alert--yes, joyful--waiting. As we wait remember him for whom we are waiting, and as we remember him we create a community ready to welcome him when he comes."*

In Advent Hope,

Pastor Cheryl Ann

## DECEMBER WORSHIP INFORMATION

*All services will take place in the sanctuary*

- 2 First Sunday of Advent  
Communion  
Hanging of the Greens  
Brunch served by the Deacons and Worship Committees  
(Look for Lori Ann's breakfast pizza)
  
- 9 Second Sunday of Advent  
Guest Speaker  
Final day to turn in Poinsettia orders
  
- 16 Third Sunday of Advent  
Zephaniah 3:14-20; Luke 3:7-18  
"And Now, for the Good News..."
  
- 23 Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Isaiah 7:10-16; Matthew 1:18-25  
"What's a Father to Do?"
  
- 24 **Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 pm**  
Lessons and Carols  
A Christmas Meditation
  
- 30 New Year's Eve at 10:30 am  
Hymn Sing

### **Additional Worship opportunities:**

#### **SPECIAL ECUMENICAL SERVICES OF WORSHIP**

**The 29th Annual Lessons and Carols Ecumenical Worship Service** at First United Methodist Church in Horseheads, New York will take place on **Sunday, December 2, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.**

The service features combined adult choirs, children and youth choirs, instrumentalists and bell choirs and readings from the Bible, leading us from Advent to Epiphany.

## **Friends and members of Horseheads First Presbyterian Church**

Stewardship is not just financial support. It encompasses stewardship of our church building, our members and our community. Stewardship is a year round commitment.

Last year we spent many hours defining who we are and where we would like to go. Our goal and vision is to maintain our mission activities and add even more. However, to keep our many mission activities thriving and active, we need your support both financially and through member participation.

We face another deficit budget this year, which is not sustainable for more than a few years. We are suggesting that you consider increasing your financial support for HFPC and its mission, both this year and in to the future. An additional weekly or monthly pledge amount this year would help offset our 2018 deficit.

You might not be able to make a pledge at this time but there are other ways you can help HFPC:

-The Building Fund has been set up to offset costs of major expenses such as a new roof and parking lot.

-A Utility Fund donation will help with the very expensive cost of heating our church building.

-The Worship Fund uses donations to purchase communion supplies, candles and decorations for special services.

-The Mission Fund helps support our missions. Additional funding will help add more mission outreach programs.

-The Pastoral Care Fund would give our pastor discretionary funds to help with an urgent, specific need in our community.

First Presbyterian Church of Horseheads is over 175 years old and many area residents have been members of this church. Our building has been used for weddings, funerals, celebrations and worship. It has been used by community groups for meetings, concerts and other functions. HFPC is a vital part of this community.

We are currently in a time of transition and our PNC is working diligently to find the pastor who has been chosen by God to lead us in our vision. Potential candidates do look at our financial position and the amount of support we receive from our membership.

Our future story is hopeful and we hope that you can help HFPC make this future story viable.

Yours in Christ,

Jim Ellison, Stewardship committee chair



December	LAY READER	HEAD USHER	Coffee Hour
2nd	Allen Oldfield	Jim McIntosh	Deacons
9th	Judy McIntosh	Doug Day	B&G / Mission
16th	Marty Oldfield	Guy Stillman	Community Meal
23rd	Ellen Benedict	Joe Matejka	Christian Discipleship
Christmas Eve	The Stillman Family		
30th	Jan Stillman	Jim McIntosh	Session

## FREE COMMUNITY DINNER



Friday, December 14th  
4:30 pm

# December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 9:00a Men's Breakfast
2 10:30a Worship Service 1:00p Appleridge Service 5:00p All Service of Lessons & Carols @ the Methodist Church	3 6:30p PNC	4 10:00a Bible Study	5 6:00p Bell Choir 7:15p Choir	6	7	8
9 10:30a Worship Service	10 6:30p PNC	11 10:00a Bible Study 6:30p Administration Meeting	12 6:00p Bell Choir 7:15p Choir	13	14 4:30p Community Dinner	15
16 10:30a Worship Service 11:30a Session Meeting	17 6:30p PNC	18 10:00a Bible Study 1:00p LBA (widow & widower's group)	19 6:00p Bell Choir 7:15p Choir	20	21	22
23 10:30a Worship Service 11:30a Deacon's Meeting	24 7:00p Christmas Eve Service	25 10:00a Bible Study	26 6:00p Bell Choir 7:15p Choir	27	28	29
30 10:30a Worship Service	31 6:30p PNC					

## **POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS**

*Provided by Zeigler Florists*

Once again, Our Sanctuary will be filled with the beauty of pink and red poinsettias in bloom.

If you would like to purchase one of these beautiful, Christmas plants in honor or in memory of a friend or loved one, please fill out the information below & return the form with a check and drop it in the offering plate during the morning worship service. You may also slip it under the church office door.



**Make checks payable to: First Presbyterian Church  
Memo: Poinsettia**

The name of our donors will be acknowledged in our Christmas Eve bulletin. Donors may take the plants home or give them away after the Christmas Eve worship service.

***Orders MUST BE turned in to the office by  
Today, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> by 11:30 am  
(Sorry, no late orders will be accepted...)***



Please detach and return order form

Number of plants (\$15.00 EA):

\_\_\_\_\_ Red

\_\_\_\_\_ Pink

In Honor Of:

\_\_\_\_\_

In Memory Of:

\_\_\_\_\_

Given by:

\_\_\_\_\_