

The Adult Activity Center for Senior Adults (AAC)

11:15 am each Thursday • 12:15 pm Lunch (RSVP please!)

Thursday, December 10: Happyland Day School Christmas Program

Come join us as these adorable kids conduct their dress rehearsal for us. They are preparing to perform for their parents the next day. Afterwards we will have a rep from Avon so you can get some of your holiday shopping completed. Chef Kevin is serving Chicken Parmesan. Please RSVP to Tricia Young at 954-598-9344 or TriciaY@firstpres.cc.

The Women's Ministry Invites You to Our ANNUAL Christmas Luncheon

Thursday, December 10, 11:30am - 1:30pm at the home of Phyllis Thomas. *A Special Guest Speaker from *Women in Distress* will be joining us.* Please bring a Christmas Gift Bag for an adult woman to donate to *Women in Distress* (Gift bags should be \$40-\$50). **RSVP by tomorrow, December 7** (last day) to Laura Ziegler at LauraZ@firstpres.cc or 954-598-9312. (No Bible Study on December 10.)

One Starry Night: A Christmas Family Event

Tuesday, December 15, Journey begins with dinner at 5:30pm We are bringing the Christmas Story to life! Join Mary and Joseph on their journey to the manger... Grandparents, parents and kids will do more than just hear about the birth of Jesus. They'll see, touch, smell, and taste what life was like during this miraculous time! Invite your friends too! Cost is \$7 and includes dinner, salad, dessert & fun crafts for the kids. Reservations are necessary by 12/8, contact CindyV@firstpres.cc or call 954-598-9341.

Annual Christmas Concert

Sunday Afternoon, December 20 at 4 pm in the Sanctuary. This year, we welcome Duo Pianists Jimmy and Kitty Woodle as well as composer Joseph M. Martin for the first part of the program. The Cathedral Choir will present the second portion. The entire concert will be accompanied by members of The Symphony of the Americas.

Divorce Care: Find help, discover hope and experience healing.

Begins Wednesday, January 6, 2016, at 6:30 pm in the Spanish Room Divorce Care is a small group for those who have been or are going through a divorce or separation. It is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. Facilitated by Tricia and Ronnie Young. Book fee: \$20. To order your workbook and find out more information, contact Tricia Young at 954-598-9344 or TriciaY@firstpres.cc OR Mona Petersen at 954-598-9345 or MonaP@firstpres.cc.

AAC January Trip: A Day in Naples, FL

Tuesday, January 19, 8:15 am to 6 pm Join us for a fabulous day in Naples. We will eat lunch on 5th Ave at the Italian Café Luna, visit the Best of Everything shop on 5th Ave and end with a sightseeing cruise on the Naples Princess around historic Naples Bay and majestic Port Royal. Cost is \$78 per person (All tips are included in price.) For more information and to RSVP, contact our Adult Activity Center Director, Tricia Young at 954-598-9344 or TriciaY@firstpres.cc.

Kick-off Rally for Beth Moore Living Proof Live Event

Thursday, January 14, 2016, 7 pm — 9 pm in Fellowship Hall Join us at the Kickoff Rally! Come learn more about the event (which will be held April 1-2) and how you can get involved. There will be refreshments served. Plus, just for attending, you will be entered to win a VIP Package which includes event tickets, hotel room, reserved seats and more! We will have a **special offer** for First Pres family and friends: \$84 for event ticket plus transportation to and from Miami both days. Reservations must be made by January 6. To sign up or for more information, contact Mona Petersen at 954-598-9345 or MonaP@firstpres.cc. Bring some friends and don't miss the fun and excitement!

First Presbyterian Church Staff

Main: 954-462-6200

To reach a staff member's direct line, dial 954-598-9, then the extension.

A full staff listing can be found on our website at www.firstpres.cc.

Rev. Dr. Russell H. Ritchel, Jr., Interim Pastor
RussR@firstpres.cc (ext 310)

Rev. Dr. Christopher J. Benek,
Associate Pastor of Family Ministries and Mission
ChrisB@firstpres.cc (ext 314)

Rev. Dr. Richard B. Anderson, Parish Associate
RichardA@firstpres.cc (ext 330)

Children's Ministry
Cindy Vason, Director
CindyV@firstpres.cc (ext 341)

Happyland Day School
Corey Thiel, Principal
CoreyT@firstpres.cc (ext 351)

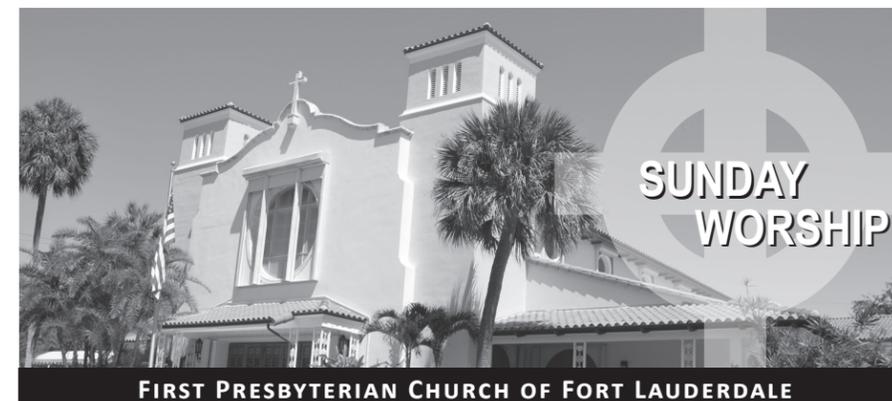
Youth Ministry
Nic Merchant, Director
NicM@firstpres.cc (ext 361)

Music Ministry
Robin L. McEachern,
Minister of Music
RobinM@firstpres.cc (ext 322)

Adult Education Ministry and Small Groups
Mona Petersen, Director
MonaP@firstpres.cc (ext 345)

Congregational Care and Senior Adult Ministry
Tricia Young, Director
TriciaY@firstpres.cc (ext 344)
Timothy Dobbins,
Pastoral Associate
TimD@firstpres.cc (ext 332)

Administration
Steve Wofford,
Church Administrator
SteveW@firstpres.cc (ext. 333)
David Sestrich, Facilities Manager
DaveS@firstpres.cc (ext 348)



11 AM

December 6, 2015

Second Sunday of Advent

Welcome to worship! As a courtesy to others around you, please silence your cell phone. Nursery service is available in the Neumann Center for children aged 3 and younger. Ask an usher for assistance, if needed.

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE "The First Noel" CHARLENE CONNER, *harp*
— arr. Marzuki

CHORAL INTROIT "Prepare the Way of the Lord" KIRK SINGERS
— William Rowan
Wesley Mahon and Alanna Quiton, *soloists*

***CALL TO WORSHIP** MONA PETERSEN

Leader: Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world; the one who follows Me will not walk in darkness but have the light of life."

People: We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

Leader: The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom;

People: like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. (Isaiah 35:1 NSRV)

Leader: **God our Father, the One who comes in Your name comes again with grace and power, with forgiveness and strength, with truth and imagination, with gentleness and love. May the coming One enter the hearts of those who wait with quiet expectation for all that is good and holy and just. Amen.**

The Lighting of the Advent candles will be done by Maggie Eriksson.

***HYMN 31** "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" MENDELSSOHN

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Lord Jesus, if You had not limited all Your majestic greatness into the cramped quarters of the human nature, we could not now know the limitless power and privilege of being Your children.

All: If You had not been blind in the womb, we could never have had the scales drop from our eyes. If You had not come to die, we could never have received endless life. If You had not been torn, we could never have been mended.

Leader: Now forgive us for not loving others as You loved us at Christmas. Forgive us for not quieting the fears of our hearts with the knowledge of how You loved us at Christmas.

All: Now let us adore You for the gift of Your Son, for He is our hope and our health and our life.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

ANTHEM “Emmanuel” KIRK SINGERS
— David Lantz III
Matthew Vason, *soloist*

PASTORAL PRAYER REV. DR. CHRISTOPHER BENEK

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS
Online giving is available by going to www.firstpres.cc, clicking the tab labeled GIVE, and following the prompts.

OFFERTORY “Angels From the Realms of Glory” CATHEDRAL CHOIR
— arr. Dan Forrest
Susan Dodd and Renee LaBonte, *pianists*; Charlene Conner, *harp*

NEW TESTAMENT READING N.T. PAGE 56
Luke 1: 5-25

MESSAGE REV. DR. RUSSELL H. RITCHEL
The Gifts God Gives Us at Christmas: “Believing the Impossible”

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER
Please partake of the elements as they are served to you.

***PRAYER**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** “The Lord’s Prayer” A.H. MALOTTE
Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” SUSAN DODD, *organ*
—arr. Diane Bish



WELCOME GUESTS!

- Thank you for joining us in worship today! Please join us in the Neumann Center Loggia for a time of fellowship afterwards!
- First Presbyterian is also the home of Happyland Day School, a quality preschool for over sixty years.
For more info, call 954-463-6051.

WE WELCOME CHARLENE CONNER as our guest instrumentalist for this morning’s service. The sounds of the harp add a special beauty to our worship at this time of year. Charlene has played here on many occasions both in worship and in concert. She will be a part of the orchestra for our upcoming Christmas Program on December 20.

THE CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY OF THE CONGREGATION IS EXTENDED TO: Jamie, Grace and Matt Ferrelli on the death of Jamie’s grandmother, Annabelle Fowler, on October 21, 2015. A celebration of Annabelle’s life was held on November 29, 2015.

HOSPITALIZED THIS WEEK:
Paul Peck, Joyce Jones – Holy Cross Hospital

THE ROSE ON THE LORD’S TABLE is given in honor of the birth of Taylor Ann Owen, born on November 23, 2015, daughter of Emily and Michael Owen, sister of Katelyn Paige, granddaughter of Connie and Fred Betz, and Karen and Dick Owen, and great-granddaughter of June Owen.

THE FLOWERS ON THE LORD’S TABLE are given in loving memory of Flavia Facella Guida and Mary Bowen Aull Roberts by their children, Dr. Vincent and Caroline Guida; and to the Glory of God.

WORSHIP FLOWERS Please contact Emily Furdock at 954-462-6200 or EmilyF@firstpres.cc. Available dates: December 20, January 3 & 17, 2016.

THE PRAYER PAGER MINISTRY enables you to let people know that you have just prayed for them. Please call Tricia Young at 954-598-9344, if you, or someone you know, could use this means of caring support.

ARE YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW IN NEED OF PRAYER?
The prayer ministry team would like to pray with you. At the end of the service, come to the front of the church, and you will find a team member ready to pray with you. Prayer requests may be noted on the Connect Card inserted in your bulletin, then place it in the offering plate, and your prayer request will be added to our weekly Prayer Chain.

ALL ARE INVITED TO A PRAYER GROUP to pray for our church, pastors, staff and ministries. The prayer group meets in the Bininger Room at 10:30 am each Sunday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Angel Tree needs volunteers!
Your wrapped Angel Tree gifts can be placed in the shopping carts on the patio. If you weren’t able to return yours today, please drop it off at the church office as soon as possible this week during regular office hours. We are also still looking for volunteers to assist our guests at the party **NEXT Sunday, December 13** from 1 – 3 p.m. Please sign up on the Connect Card or at the Angel Tree table on the patio. **COOKIES!** Please bring a few dozen of your favorite Christmas cookies and drop off in the kitchen next Sunday morning. Thank you!

SERRV International Christmas Sale Today!
Christmas is coming and SERRV has that special gift for that someone special! Come by the Spanish Room today and on Sundays, December 13 and 20 and purchase gifts for your loved ones or buy Christmas décor for your home. The SERRV Sale has unique foods, cookware and other handmade items crafted by artisans worldwide who need your help. Your purchase gives them the means to be a blessing to their families. They appreciate your support and wish you a Merry Christmas!

Need a Christmas Wreath???
The Kirk Singers are once again selling Christmas wreaths! Wreaths are on sale after all services. For each wreath a Kirk Singer sells, a portion of that sale will be credited to his or her account to help defray the cost of the summer choir tour. Thank you for your continued support! Decorated wreath is \$35, Undecorated is \$30, Door hangers are \$4, Shipping is \$15-20.

Church-wide Advent Program
“Celebrate! A Small Group Advent Experience” has begun! Join one of our small groups for devotional, readings and activities designed to help you enter more deeply into this season of Advent...and to celebrate through acts of piety and mercy.
Group 1 meeting dates: Dec 2, 9, 16, Group 2 meeting dates: Dec 3, 10, 17
Group 1 meets Wednesdays at 6:30 pm in the Study & Renewal Conference Room SRC-101
Group 2 meets Thursdays at 6:30 pm in Room NC-216 (second floor, follow the hallway off the elevator/stairs all the way down)
Contact Mona Petersen at 954-598-9345 or MonaP@firstpres.cc.

Tea and Table Talk
Tuesday, December 8 at 2pm, in the Study and Renewal Center
All women are invited for a festive Christmas party and spiritual conversation over a cup of tea. Contact Petey Buchholz at 954-566-1744.

First Cares
A group offering mutual support after significant change or loss. (*Spouse, Job, Relationship, etc.*) Meets Tuesday, December 8, at 1 pm in the Spanish Room.

Women in Distress Christmas Caroling Party
(Sponsored by Women’s Ministry) Thursday, December 17, 4 pm – 7 pm
Contact Laura Ziegler at 954-598-9312 if you would like to join us!