

AAC (Senior Adult Ministry): Bella! A Female Quartet

Thursday, December 15, 11:15am in Fellowship Hall

We are very fortunate to have with us this very talented Quartet who will share their holiday show with us. Chef Kevin is serving Beef Pot Pie, cost is \$9. RSVP to Tricia Young at 954-598-9344 / TriciaY@firstpres.cc.

AAC December Trip: The Wick Theatre and Costume Museum

Wednesday, December 21, Cost \$121 (Could be a great gift for you)

Join us as we tour the Wick's fifth costume installation, enjoy lunch at the Tavern at the Wick, and see "Sister Act", a divine musical comedy.

Christmas Family Night with special guest Santa Claus!

Thursday, December 15, 5:30-7:30pm Cost: \$7 includes a delicious dinner (children under age 2 free). For more information or to RSVP please contact Cindy Vason 954-598-9341. **Reservation deadline TODAY!**

The Annual Christmas Concert will be presented by The Cathedral Choir and members of The Symphony of the Americas NEXT Sunday afternoon, December 18 at 4pm. In addition to favorite Christmas Carols and selections by John Rutter, the choir will perform the *Te Deum* by Franz Joseph Haydn, and a medley of Christmas songs from the movie *Home Alone* composed by John Williams. Plan to come and invite your friends!

2017 Faith Promise Cards

In the month of December, Pledge Cards for 2017 may be found in the pew racks in the Main Sanctuary. They are also available at the rear of Fellowship Hall and Chapel-in-the-Sky. If you would like to make a Faith Promise for giving in 2017, please return your pledge in the offering plate or to the Business Office before January 15, 2017.

The Best of Ireland: Waterford, Killarney, Galway, Dublin, & more!

11 days: June 26-July 6, 2017 • Hosted by Rev. Dr. Richard Anderson \$3599 per person and includes: round-trip air from Fort Lauderdale, first class/select hotels, most meals, professional driver/guide & comprehensive sightseeing. For a brochure and more information contact Rev. Dr. Anderson at 954-598-9330 or RichardA@firstpres.cc.

Christmas Eve

Worship Services

5pm: Family candlelight service featuring the Children's Choirs

6:30pm: Contemporary Worship in Fellowship Hall

8pm & 10pm: Traditional candlelight services, with Communion, featuring the Cathedral Choir and Kirk Singer Choir Alumni.

Christmas Day & New Year's Day

Worship Services

A single worship service for all at 11am.

A CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE!


Every year, we say we're going to **cut back...**
In an effort to refocus our attention on Jesus this Christmas, we are challenging everyone to make a priority of **remembering** that **Christmas is Jesus' birthday** by: **HAVING A SLIM CHRISTMAS**

THE CHALLENGE...

1. **Match or exceed your Christmas giving** to your family and friends **to the Mission of Christ's Church.**
2. Or, **if you are facing** great financial **debt**, we encourage you to **match or exceed your Christmas giving** to your family and friends to **pay down your debt** without incurring any new debt. Then submit the amount paid down (with our without your name attached) as an offering at a Christmas service.
3. Or, if you live on a **fixed income**, are **unemployed or impoverished** then **commit to match or exceed your giving** to your family and friends **in service** hours equivalent to a minimum wage rate **to the Mission of Christ's Church.** Just call the front office at (954) 462-6200 and we are happy to help you get plugged in!

To inspire and support you with this Christmas Challenge, we invite you to join us for a 3-Week Advent Bible Study

"Christmas Is Not Your Birthday" books will be available on Sunday, November 27 between morning services and also after Hanging of the Greens in the evening.



**CHRISTMAS:
IS NOT YOUR
BIRTHDAY**

WHERE: Study & Renewal Center
WHEN: Sundays at 9:30am & 11:00am
Dec 4th / Dec 11th / Dec 18th
OR
Wednesdays at 6:30pm
Dec 7th / Dec 14th / Dec 21st

For more information contact Mona Petersen, Director
Adult Christian Education & Small Groups
954.598.9345 / MonaP@firstpres.cc

**CHRIST WANTS YOU TO FLOURISH IN LIFE!
SO JOIN US THIS ADVENT AND
BE TRANSFORMED!**



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF FORT LAUDERDALE

11 AM

December 11, 2016

Third Sunday in 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

CHORAL INTROIT "The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy" CHAPEL SINGERS — John Leavitt

The Lighting of the Advent candles will be done by Robert Jackson, Rev. Dr. Chris and Jeannelle Benek, David Wallace and Nikki Diefenbach.

CALL TO WORSHIP

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: We are preparing ourselves for the days when nations shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks;

People: nations shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. (Isaiah 2: 4 NRSV)

***HYMN 23** "Angels We Have Heard on High" GLORIA

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** REV. DR. CHRISTOPHER J. BENEK

Leader: Because know that we have failed to live as Christ has taught us, and because we desire to be forgiven, let us ask God to forgive us.

People: Forgive us, loving God, for all that we have done that is wrong. Forgive us for assuming that we have done no wrong. You have loved us, but we have not always loved You, and we have at times neglected to show Your love to others. Wrapped in our own concerns, often we have become blind to the needs of others. Openly now, we admit we do not always do what we know Christ expects us to do. Now in Your gracious mercy, forgive us, and help us to learn how to forgive others, boldly we pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Leader: God's mercy really never ends. Remember and believe it, in Jesus Christ, we are all forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

ANTHEM “Silent Night” KIRK SINGERS
— arr. Johnson/Ricketts
“Emmanuel” KORRION DRAKEWOOD, BRIAN THOMPSON,
— David Lantz III AND QUINTON WOMACK, *soloists*

***APOSTLES’ CREED**

We believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. We believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER TIMOTHY B. DOBBINS

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father who 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.

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 “Christmastime” KIRK SINGERS
— arr. Lloyd Larson AND CHAPEL SINGERS

SCRIPTURE READING

John 4: 1-19, 28-30, 39-42 N.T. PAGE 94
Please feel free to follow today’s scripture reading on your mobile device.
To access WiFi go to fp_guest. Password: fpcguest (case sensitive)

MESSAGE REV. DR. ROBERT W. BOHL
“Does Christ really make a difference in your life?”

***HYMN 38** “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” CAROL

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** “Go Now in Peace” KIRK SINGERS
— arr. Michael Sayers

POSTLUDE ORGAN

WELCOME GUESTS!

- Please join us for a time of fellowship and refreshment outside the Neumann Center (across the street) after worship.
- Restrooms are located through the double doors at the front left side of the Sanctuary.
- For families with young children: in addition to the nursery in the Neumann Center (Room NC 120), we have a “crying room” located in the Spanish Room with a live stream of the service. (Also through the double doors at the front left side of the Sanctuary.)
- Our Sunday School Schedule:
9:30 am: PreK4-5th grade-2nd floor NC-224, PreK3-1st floor Room NC-127 (Held in Neumann Center)
11 am: Children’s Chapel is held in Watts Chapel. Children ages 4 and up will join together in exploring their faith with a Sunday School lesson and fun Bible story activities.

HOSPITALIZED THIS WEEK:

Frank Beasley, Joyce Green – Holy Cross Hospital
John Scott – Kindred Hospital

THE ROSE ON THE CHANCEL is given in honor of the birth of Clayton James Parker, born on November 20, 2016, son of Sarah and Scott Parker, brother of William Scott Parker III, grandson of Estelle and Steve Templeton, and Patti and Scott Parker, great-grandson of Angeline and George O’Grady, Jeanne and James Templeton, Helen and Frank Sellinger, and Faith and Raymond Parker.

THE FLOWERS ON THE CHANCEL are in loving memory of Ruth Nelson McNiel, given by her children, Bill Cranshaw, Cassandra Rodriguez and Lerlyne Garcia.

WORSHIP FLOWERS Please call 954-462-6200. Available dates: January 1, January 15, and January 22

LEADING US IN WORSHIP TODAY: Rev. Dr. Robert W. Bohl, *Temporary Supply Pastor*, Rev. Dr. Christopher J. Benek, *Associate Pastor*, Timothy B. Dobbins, *Pastoral Associate*

PLEASE VISIT <http://firstpres.cc/about-us/staff/> for the full staff listing.

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 letter.

THE PRAYER PAGER MINISTRY enables you to let someone know that you have just prayed for them. It is an easy, anonymous, and effective way of providing encouragement and comfort during a difficult time. Please call the church office if you, or someone you know, could use this means of caring support.

This week, please pray for:
Kristen Berardi – call pager number 954-823-0118
Earl Mogk – call pager number 954-823-0119

JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST! 9:15 am – 11 am in the St. Andrew's Room

A N N O U N C E M E N T S

Join us at First Step TODAY, 10:15 am – 11 am

Come when you can, leave when you must!

Looking to find out more about First Pres and what’s next for you? Join us for a short overview and a great opportunity to meet our staff and some new friends. We will meet in the **Binger Conference Room, S-114** (located in the hallway behind the sanctuary). We hope to see you there!

SERRV International Christmas Sale TODAY

Come by the Spanish Room today for SERRV’s Christmas Sale. We are featuring "Divine" chocolates again that are perfect for gifts, guests, or to give to yourself! This delicious chocolate comes from the Kuapa Kokoo Cocoa Cooperative in Ghana - the first artisan farmer-owned chocolate company in the world. SERRV International has unique foods, cookware, and other handmade items crafted by artisans worldwide who need your support. You can always find something special and remember that your purchase gives the artisans who make these items a means to be a blessing to their families.

THE KIRK SINGERS will be taking orders and selling Christmas Wreaths following the services today in the Neumann Center loggia.

Angel Tree

All volunteers please report to Fellowship Hall **today at noon!**

Tomorrow, December 12, is the last day to submit Christmas Poinsettia forms.

Tea and Table Talk

Tuesday, December 13 at 2 pm, Study and Renewal Center
Women of all ages are invited to come and enjoy an afternoon of companionship, A FUN TEA PARTY, and discussions of many varied subjects, holidays, and memories.
For more information: Contact Petey Buchholz at 954-566-1744.

Bless someone on Christmas Day!

1. Purchase a \$25 (VISA) gift card and place it in the offering plate between now and December 18
2. OR designate a \$25 donation in your offering envelope and we will purchase a gift card for you between now and December 18
3. Pick up a gift that has been wrapped with a special message here on Christmas day and after worship, give it to someone who in your community who has to work on Christmas day.

The gift cards will be wrapped with a special message for you to pick up at the Christmas Day worship at 11am in the Sanctuary.
For more information call the church office at 954-462-6200.

Wednesday Night Live Dinners: 5 pm on December 14

Menu: Beef Pot Pie • \$8 Teens/Adults, \$4 six – twelve yrs, kids under 6 eat free. Volunteer to serve dinner (Choose from 4:45 – 5:30 or 5:30 – 6:15) and your meal is on the house! RSVP by noon Monday to Mona Petersen 954-598-9345 / MonaP@firstpres.cc.