

### Men's Ministry Update:

Last week Men's Ministry sponsored a trip to the Dolphins - Cardinals game at Hard Rock Stadium. The game was absolutely incredible with the Dolphins winning on a field goal with :01 second on the clock. We had a great group of 22 men, women and kids that shared a fun day and great fellowship. We will be coordinating another game next season.

Upcoming events include: 1. A one-night Bible study based on a video series by CBS Radio sports host Chris Schneider. 2. A golf outing. 3. A men's breakfast. For more information and to get plugged in to Men's Ministries at First Pres, e-mail Bill Condon at whcondon1023@gmail.com.

### 2017-18 Scholarship Applications are now available online!

Link to application at [www.firstpres.cc](http://www.firstpres.cc). Application deadline: 5pm/ March 1, 2017. A Scholarship Workshop will be held: Sunday, January 29 at 6:30pm in the St. Andrew's Room. The scholarship workshops are geared towards students, but parents are welcomed and encouraged to attend. Attendance by the students is not required, but is encouraged. For more information, please contact the Scholarship Committee at [Scholarship@firstpres.cc](mailto:Scholarship@firstpres.cc).

### Year-End Giving

All contributions received as a part of the January 1 offering will be treated as 2017 contributions, regardless of how the check or envelope is dated. There will be no exceptions to this IRS requirement. However, all contributions **postmarked or received in the church office on or before December 31** will be treated as a 2016 contributions. Transfers of stock ownership to the church, and direct distributions to the church from IRA accounts can sometimes generate greater tax savings than cash contributions. Please call Steve Wofford at 954-598-9333 for assistance.

### 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 card in the offering plate or to the Business Office before January 15, 2017.

### 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!

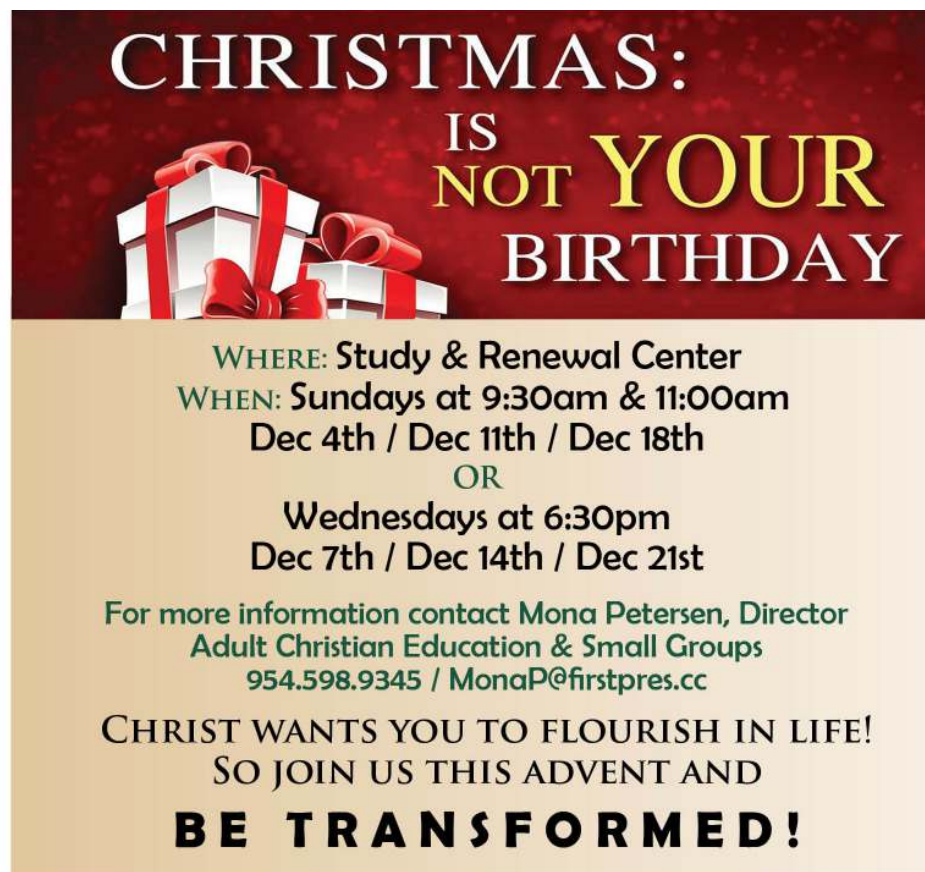
Every year, we say we're going to **cut back...**  
In an effort to refocus our attention on Jesus this Christmas, we are challenging everyone to make a priority of **remembering** that **Christmas is Jesus' birthday** by: **HAVING A SLIM CHRISTMAS**

### 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 still available!  
Contact Mona Petersen at [MonaP@firstpres.cc](mailto:MonaP@firstpres.cc).



**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](mailto: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 18, 2016

Fourth 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 "Jesus Child" CATHEDRAL CHOIR  
— John Rutter

The Lighting of the Advent candles will be done by  
Rev. Dr. Leslie and Rev. Fred Depenbrock.

### 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: The LORD will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name Him Immanuel (God is with us) (Isaiah 7: 14b NRSV)

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

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

Leader: Let us openly confess to God what we have done and failed to do for which we are sorry.

People: **Jesus Christ, You are the Light of the World: forgive us for claiming to follow You while we are walking in the shadows of selfishness, pride and unconcern for those whose needs we know. Jesus Christ, You are the Bread of Life; forgive us for satisfying our physical needs, while failing to care for the needs of those who are hungry in the world. Jesus Christ, You are the Vine and we are the branches: forgive us for trying to bear fruit without drawing our strength from You. Have mercy on us, O God forgive us as Christ has promised. Amen.**

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, remember: "God sent Jesus into our world not to condemn us, but to save us." This is God's good news for us; accept it, believe it, and live it, always being thankful to God for this gift.

People: **Thanks be to God.**



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

**ANTHEM** “Angels From the Realms of Glory” CATHEDRAL CHOIR  
— arr. Dan Forrest

**\*PROFESSION OF FAITH** (*John 1: 1-5, 14*)

**“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and without Him not one thing came into being. What has come in Him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen His glory, the glory of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.” This we do believe.**

**PASTORAL PRAYER** NIC MERCHANT

**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](http://www.firstpres.cc), clicking the tab labeled GIVE, and following the prompts.*

**OFFERTORY** “The Little Drummer Boy” KIRK SINGERS  
— arr. Joel Raney  
“Heaven Everywhere”  
— Glover & Battistelli

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Luke 15: 11-24 N.T. PAGE 78  
Matthew 1: 18-23 N.T. PAGE 1  
*Please feel free to follow today’s scripture reading on your mobile device.  
To access WiFi go to [fp\\_guest](http://fp_guest). Password: [fpcguest](http://fpcguest) (case sensitive)*

**MESSAGE** “Going Home for Christmas” REV. DR. ROBERT W. BOHL

**\*HYMN 44** “O Little Town of Bethlehem” ST. LOUIS

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** “The First Noel” SUSAN DODD,  
— arr. Diane Bish 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:** PreK4-5<sup>th</sup> grade-2<sup>nd</sup> floor NC-224, PreK3-1<sup>st</sup> 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:**

John Scott – Kindred Hospital

**THE FLOWERS ON THE CHANCEL** are in loving memory of Jean Ryder Bohlander, given by her family.

**WORSHIP FLOWERS** Please call 954-462-6200. Available dates:  
January 1, January 8, and January 22

**LEADING US IN WORSHIP TODAY:** Rev. Dr. Robert W. Bohl, *Temporary Supply Pastor*, Rev. Dr. Christopher J. Benek, *Associate Pastor*, Nicholas Merchant, *Director of Youth Ministry*

**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  
Come fellowship with friends, new and old! Cost is \$5 per person. No RSVP needed – first come, first served. Hope to see you there!

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The Annual Christmas Concert TODAY at 4pm**

Presented by The Cathedral Choir and members of The Symphony of the Americas. 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. Come and invite your friends!

**SERRV International Christmas Sale TODAY**

Come by the Spanish Room today for SERRV's Christmas sale featuring "Divine" chocolates that are perfect for gifts, guests, or to give to yourself! 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 selling Christmas Wreaths following the services today in the Neumann Center loggia. Pick yours up today!

**Bless someone on Christmas Day!**

1. The deadline to place a \$25 Visa gift card in the offertory plate is TODAY, Sunday, December 18.
2. OR designate a \$25 donation in your offering envelope TODAY and we will purchase a gift card for you.
3. Pick up a gift card 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.

**PLEASE NOTE:** You may still purchase a \$25 (visa) gift card on your own! Wrap it (feel encouraged to include an uplifting message!) and bring it with you to worship on Christmas morning.

**FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE: \$25 Visa gift cards will be available for purchase at the church until 12pm/noon on Friday, December 23.**

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 21**

Menu: Baked Ham • \$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](mailto:MonaP@firstpres.cc).

**AAC (Senior Adult Ministry): Don Stansfield performs Christmas songs**

Thursday, December 22, 11:15am in Fellowship Hall  
It will be a nostalgic hour of your favorite Christmas songs and fun, filled with joy and jingle bells! Chef Kevin is serving Baked Ham, cost is \$9. RSVP to Tricia Young at 954-598-9344 / [TriciaY@firstpres.cc](mailto:TriciaY@firstpres.cc).

**AAC Trip – Tuesday, January 24: Key Largo, FL and the Coral Castle**

Join us as we head to Key Largo to eat lunch at the waterfront paradise, Skipper’s Dockside. After lunch we will tour the Coral Castle, a sculpture garden in stone built by one man. Cost: \$73, RSVP: [TriciaY@firstpres.cc](mailto:TriciaY@firstpres.cc) or 954-598-9344.