

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday Night Live Dinner

WNL dinner will not be held December 27 and January 3. We will resume on Wednesday, January 10.

AAC Adult Activity Center [Senior Adult Ministry]

No AAC this week. Merry Christmas to all!

No Women's Bible Study this week

Have a blessed Christmas!

Merry Christmas from the First Pres Staff!

Please note: Our church offices will be closed on Monday, December 25 and will reopen on Tuesday, December 26 at 9am.

College Students Listening Prayer Workshop

Join us at the Harbor on January 3 at 2pm for a half day of exploring and practicing listening prayer, then an exciting time of activation afterward. Dinner will be provided. See you there!

"I See You" High School Youth Retreat:

Join us at the Harbor from January 12 – 14 for a home-grown discipleship experience as we delve into what it looks like to give our very best to our community as a youth group. There will be special guests, worship, not-your-average-lock-in, and more. We have never done something like this, so come be a part of something new and exciting. You won't want to miss this! Cost is \$50, and signup deadline is January 1.

AAC Trip: Frost Museum of Science in Miami and Lunch at Perricone's

Tuesday, January 16 at 10am

Join us as we visit The Phillip and Patricia Frost Museum of Science located in Downtown Miami's Waterfront Park. We will see the museum exhibits, explore the aquarium, enjoy live science demonstrations and experience the Frost Planetarium show. Prior to the museum visit we will enjoy lunch at the beautiful Italian restaurant in the heart of Downtown Miami, Perricone's. Perricone's is unique because it's not just a restaurant and gourmet market - it's a destination! Cost: \$73 per person, RSVP to Tricia Young at 954-598-9344 or TriciaY@firstpres.cc.

Christmas Eve

Worship Services

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

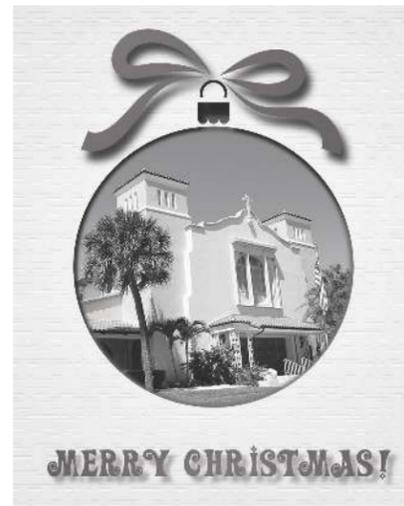
6:30pm: Contemporary Worship in Fellowship Hall

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

New Year's Eve

Worship Service

A single worship service in our Sanctuary for all at 11am.



The mission of First Presbyterian Church of Fort Lauderdale is to make disciples of Jesus Christ by:

--Leading people to Jesus Christ.

--Learning about our faith.

--Living a Christ-centered life.

--Loving our neighbor through ministries of service and compassion.



WHERE FAITH COMES ALIVE

401 SE 15th Avenue • Fort Lauderdale, FL • 33301
ph: 954-462-6200 • fax: 954-764-1081 • www.firstpres.cc



11 AM

December 24, 2017
Fourth 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.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION (to be read silently by each worshiper)
Gracious God, You have given to each one of us the gift of life, and we come today to give You thanks, not only for life but for Your ever present love for us. But above all on this day, Christmas Eve, we give You our special thanks for Your profound love in sending Your Son, Jesus Christ to us. We remember he was born of Mary and through his life and death You have opened to us Your eternal kingdom in heaven. Help us now to rekindle our love for Him and renew our determination to serve Him as our Lord and Savior. Amen.

WELCOME

Leader: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REV. DR. CHRISTOPHER J. BENEK

PRELUDE

"What Is This Lovely Fragrance?"

– Eugene Butler

MICHAEL SAYERS,
organ

CALL TO WORSHIP (remain seated)

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)

The Lighting of the Advent candles will be done by Mary-Alice Denny, Jennifer, Zachary and Jake Dudas.

***PRAYER OF ADORATION** *(in unison)* REV. DR. CHRISTOPHER J. BENEK
 God of the past, the present and above all, our God for our future. On this day before Christmas, the day when we celebrate the birth of Jesus, help us once again to welcome His birth. You have demonstrated Your profound love for us by sending Your Son Jesus to live among us. By His ever present Spirit You are bringing light and hope to each one of us, and to the whole world. Almighty God, whose glory the angels sang when Christ was born, may our hearts and lives be filled with joy as we come to worship the Christ You sent to live among us. Amen.

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

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Leader: In the quiet moments of our worship, let us all admit to God what we have done and failed to do for which we are ashamed.

All: Almighty God, who went a star to guide people to the holy child Jesus, we confess, that we have not followed the light of Your word. We have not searched for signs of Your love in the world; or trusted Your good news to be good. We have failed to praise Your Son's birth, and have refused His peace on earth. We have expected little, and often have hoped for less than You offer to us. Forgive our doubts and renew within us the desire to watch once more for the coming of Christ into our world. Help us to rekindle our love for Him and leave here forgiven, and with a new determination to serve Him as our Lord and Savior. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Leader: Friends, accept the forgiveness which God offers to us in Jesus Christ, and go forth from this place remembering God's love and mercy never ends.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to Thee, O Israel.

ANTHEM "Do You Hear What I Hear?" ELLIOT MAHON,
 – Regney and Shayne NATHAN MAHON
 WESLEY MAHON

***PROFESSION OF FAITH**

From the Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving His life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating His sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

ANTHEM "Night of Silence/Silent Night" ELLIOT MAHON,
 – Daniel Kantor NATHAN MAHON
 WESLEY MAHON

PASTORAL PRAYER

TRICIA YOUNG

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(in unison)*

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 NIC MERCHANT

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

OFFERTORY "O Holy Night" ELLIOT MAHON,
 – Adolphe Adam NATHAN MAHON
 WESLEY MAHON

***AT THE PRESENTATION** *(all sing)*

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
 If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
 If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
 Yet what can I give Him, give him my heart.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

SCRIPTURE READING

Gospel Reading: Luke 1: 5-23 N.T. PAGE 56
*Please feel free to follow today's scripture readings on your mobile device.
 To access WiFi go to fp_guest. Password: fpcguest (case sensitive)*

SERMON REV. DR. ROBERT W. BOHL

"Christmas is coming....ready or not!"

***HYMN 27** "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child" TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE "Angels We Have Heard on High" MICHAEL SAYERS,
 – arr. Smith & Hustad 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.)
- **No Sunday School or Children's Chapel on December 24 and December 31.**

THE CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY OF THE CONGREGATION IS EXTENDED TO:

Kim and Jay Flynn and family on the death of Jay's father, Keith "Jack" Flynn on December 14, 2017 in North Carolina.

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.

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:

Michelle and John Pidgeon – call pager number 954-823-0115

WORSHIP FLOWERS Please call 954-462-6200.

Available dates: January 21, January 28, February 4

BIRTHDAYS CELEBRATED THIS WEEK:

Jay Richardson	12/24	Jan Sheppard	12/27	*Annette Yarborough	12/29
*Oleta Krause	12/25	Jordanne Sims	12/27	Tristan Akers	12/30
Hunter Sims	12/25	Jason Hyotte	12/28	Sue Brandon	12/30
Madison Moore	12/26	Edward Koppen	12/28	Jim Goldsmith	12/30
Gina Goldsmith	12/27	Beth Provenzano	12/28	Alex Johnson	12/30
Sarah Parker	12/27	Jaclyn Duma	12/29	Elliott Upp	12/30

**Member - Endowment Birthday Club*

NEWEST BIRTHDAY CLUB MEMBERS JANUARY – DECEMBER:

Stuart Pocock	12/19	Susana Pocock	12/19	Chris Dirato	12/23
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ENDOWMENT FUND TO DATE: \$14,819

Birthday Club Members give one dollar for each year of their life to celebrate their special day! The earnings will benefit youth activities. It is a fun way to count the blessings of life! *Simply designate "Birthday Club" on a check or join online at www.firstpres.cc/GIVE and designate in the box marked "Other".*

NO FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST ON DECEMBER 24 OR DECEMBER 31

Breakfast will resume on Sunday, January 7, 2018.