

AAC [Adult Activity Center]

Thursday, December 20 at 11:15 am in Fellowship Hall

Happening this week: *Happyland School Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal in the Sanctuary.* Sing-a-long in Fellowship Hall, along with celebrating December Birthdays! Cost: \$9, Menu Selection: Baked Ham. RSVP by Monday mornings at 10am to Laura Ziegler, 954-598-9312 / LauraZ@firstpres.cc.

Make your reservation for the January 15 Day Excursion to Flamingo Gardens and Buffet Lunch at Jacaranda Country Club. Call the AAC office TODAY to reserve your spot!

Christian Women Connect:

We will break for the Christmas and New Year holidays and resume January 10. Contact with Mona Petersen 954-598-9345 / MonaP@firstpres.cc.

Pebbles of Faith will not meet December 25. Study resumes January 22.

KIRK SINGER CORNER

Help the Kirk Singers spread the love as they travel in the summer of 2019! All funds raised will help defray the cost of the 2019 Kirk Singer Tour and/or the 2019 High School Mission Trip.

HoneyBaked Gift Cards – LAST CHANCE TODAY!

The Kirk Singers will be selling HoneyBaked gift cards. 20% of the proceeds will benefit the Kirk Singers! Look for the table outside after worship or purchase online at: https://honeybakedfundraising.com/fundraisers/First_Presbyterian_Church_Kirk_Singers (If you order online, shipping is free. For Donation Credit, please put “Kirk Singers”.)

Wreath Sales – LAST CHANCE TODAY!

Beautiful Fraser Fir Christmas Wreaths:
24” Decorated Wreath - \$35, 24” Undecorated Wreath - \$30

For more information please contact ksfundraisers@firstpres.cc
Thank you for supporting the Kirk Singers!



WHERE FAITH COMES ALIVE

401 SE 15th Avenue • Fort Lauderdale, FL • 33301
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CHURCH WIDE ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

WE HAVE PREPARED A SEAT FOR YOU
PREPARE YOUR HEART FOR CHRISTMAS

BECAUSE OF
Bethlehem
LOVE IS BORN, HOPE IS HERE



Continues on
Wednesday evening

December 19
Fellowship Hall

Dinner:
5:00pm

Study:
6:30pm

Connect with Mona Petersen 954-598-9345 /MonaP@firstpres.cc



11 AM

December 16, 2018
Third 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.

SILENT PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Today the Candle of Joy is lit. Consider joy. Happiness is fleeting; joy is enduring. Joy centers us in our worship life where we come again and again claiming the truth that God’s desire is for us to be in relationship with God. Joy manifests itself in vital worship where our hearts sing praise and our respiration sounds the promise of God’s being near in Spirit and Word-made-flesh. The joy of the Lord truly is our strength for the journey. How does joy take shape in your view of what scripture calls us to believe and do?

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS REV. DR. PATRICK H. WRISLEY

OPENING VOLUNTARY “Sussex Carol” SUSAN DODD AND
– arr. Molly Ijames RENEE LABONTE, *pianists*

CANDLE LIGHTING - THE CANDLE OF JOY

One: Companion God, we continue our Advent journey.

All: Illuminate for us a shining path to You.

One: We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

*As the Lord has promised, in days to come...
The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
The desert shall rejoice and blossom;*

**All: Like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
And rejoice with joy and singing.**

(Isaiah 35:1)

The Lighting of the Advent candles will be done by Barb and Jim Sabin.

PRAYER

Holy One, we light this candle, a flicker of starlight,
A sign of belonging, of growth,
Of possibility, of awe and wonder.
May it be a reminder of Your divine spark,
Kindling new beginnings within us.
Joy be born among us!
We wait in hope with all Your people
Through the ages and into tomorrow. Amen.

***HYMN 23**

“Angels, We Have Heard on High”

GLORIA

PRAYER OF CONFESSION THE REV. NICHOLAS B. MERCHANT

The Lord is near.

In Your presence, Holy God, we confess that we need repentance.

We have broken Your commands against idolatry.

We do not live in peace with Your creation or Your people.

We have not trusted Your word, and we are afraid.

Forgive us, restore us, and turn our shame into praise,
for the sake of the One who proclaims the good news and
for the sake of all the world. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM “An Advent Invitation” KIRK SINGERS
– Douglas Nolan

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 12: 2-6 O.T. PAGE 641

ANTHEM “The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy” CATHEDRAL CHOIR
– arr. Mack Wilberg

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE WITH 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.

SHARING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY “Emmanuel” KIRK SINGERS
– David Lantz III
Soloists: Nathan Mahon, Wesley Mahon, Cameron Young

*DOXOLOGY

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND ILLUMINATION

PREACHING TEXT Luke 3:7-8 N.T. PAGE 60

THE MESSAGE REV. DR. PATRICK H. WRISLEY
“What are we to do with only nine days more until Christmas?”

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

*INVITATION AND BLESSING REV. DR. PATRICK H. WRISLEY

POSTLUDE “The First Noel” SUSAN DODD,
– arr. Diane Bish organ

If you would like to pray with someone in person,
there will be a team in front of the steps after the service.

WELCOME GUESTS!

- Please join us for a time of fellowship and refreshment outside the Neumann Center after worship.
- Restrooms are located through the double doors at the front left side of the Sanctuary.
- Please feel free to follow today’s scripture readings on your mobile device. To access WiFi go to fp_guest. Password: fpcguest
- For families with young children: 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. Children’s Sunday School Schedule:
- **9:30am** in the Neumann Center – All children will come together during the Contemporary worship service for a children’s message and then will be led by their teachers to their respective classrooms. • PreK 3 & 4 in Room NC 120 • K-5th grade in Rooms NC 219, 221, 223 (2nd floor)
- **11am** Children’s Chapel in Watts Chapel (PreK4-5th grade)
- Nursery care is available during all 3 services in Room NC 126

THE CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY OF THE CONGREGATION IS EXTENDED:

To Judy Abrams and family on the death of Judy’s mother, Frances Harvey, on November 20, 2018.

To Betty Cobaugh and family on the death of her husband, Eugene (Gene) Cobaugh, on November 27, 2018 in Anchorage, Alaska.

To Becky and Jack St. Claire, Robert Burns, Nikki Diefenbach and family, on the death of daughter and cousin, Jennifer Amy St. Clair on December 7, 2018. A celebration of Jennifer’s life was held on December 15, 2018 at Joseph A. Scarano Funeral Home.

To Judy and Grace Abrams and family on the death of daughter and mother, Lori Abrams, on December 7, 2018 in Ohio.

To Sandra Belben and the Benson family on the death of mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Elva Cowart McDonough, on November 28, 2018.

To Holly Mahon and family on the death of her brother, Andy Harbin, of Homestead, Florida who died December 12, 2018.

LEADING US IN WORSHIP TODAY: Rev. Dr. Patrick H. Wrisley, *Senior Pastor*, Rev. Nicholas B. Merchant, *Associate Pastor*

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

WORSHIP FLOWERS Please call 954-462-6200.

Available dates: December 30, January 6, January 20, January 27
Our Deacons weekly divide the altar flowers that are not taken by the sender and deliver them to our Care Connects and to any others who might need cheering up. If you have any unused bud vases, thank you for bringing them to church for use by our Deacons in this ministry.

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:

Yvonne Bachman – call pager number 954-823-0118

If you or someone you love is in the hospital, please let us know. HIPAA laws do not allow the hospitals to call and inform us, so we rely on you. Thank you in advance.

FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

We offer breakfast in the St. Andrew’s Room Sunday mornings, 9am – 10:45am. So whatever service you attend – you can still join us for a delicious, homemade breakfast before or after church. Come fellowship with friends, new and old! Cost is \$5 per person. No RSVP needed.

Please note: Due to the Christmas and New Year holiday, this will be the last Fellowship Breakfast of 2018. Breakfasts will resume on Sunday, January 6, 2019.

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

Annual Christmas Concert TODAY

Sunday, December 16 at 4pm. The Cathedral Choir and members of the Symphony of the Americas will present an exciting concert of choral Christmas music, including a suite from “The Many Moods of Christmas,” along with other music celebrating Christ’s birth. There is no admission charge. Plan to come and bring a friend!

SERRV Sale TODAY

8:30am - 1pm, in the Spanish Room
Join us at SERRV in our fight against poverty. You have the power to make a positive change in a life with a purchase. Unique handicrafts represent the best in global artistry and traditional craftsmanship. At Christmas, shop with purpose and love.

Ushers Needed for the Christmas Eve Services

It is that time of year when many of us are traveling and unable to attend the wonderful Christmas Eve services. Nonetheless, we need people to greet and welcome as well as “pass the plate” during this special time. If you are available to serve, please contact Bradford Sanders at 910-231-0106 or fpcftl_ushers@yahoo.com.

Confirmation begins January 6, 2019!

Calling all 8th Graders! Sign up for Confirmation by contacting Chandler, 954-232-4378 and/or ChandlerG@firstpres.cc.

Women’s Ministry “UNLEASHED”

January 25 and 26 (Friday night and Saturday)
Two-day multi-church conference for women to empower their spirit find their freedom. Half-price early bird group rate tickets available! Contact Mona Petersen at 954-598-9345 / MonaP@firstpres.cc