

SERVICE OF WORSHIP
December 18, 2011 • 10:00 AM

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "In Dulci Jubilo" Held

STAR CHOIR "Mary's Little Boy Child"

LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH The Fish Family

Unison Prayer: **Risen Christ, Light of the world, shine in our lives
and shine among us now.**

*HYMN "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" No. 09

*CONFESSION OF SIN

Invitation

Unison Prayer

**Slow us down, patient God,
so we may see deeply your truth in these bustling days.
Help us face the ways we cover up our emptiness with fancy gifts.
Hold us gently when we discover how we give presents
when only our presence really matters.
Grant us moments to praise you like the shepherds,
ponder you like Mary
and listen to your dream messages like Joseph.**

Let us begin now. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

Silent Confession

Declaration of Pardon

Sharing God's Peace

Response "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" No. 9
O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
"The Word of the Lord / Thanks be to God!" OT Pew Bible Page 219

ANTHEM "Shepherd, Do You Sleep?" L Shackley

GOSPEL READING Luke 1:26-38
"The Word of the Lord / Thanks be to God!" NT Pew Bible Page 43

*HYMN

"Go Tell It on the Mountain"

No. 29

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

"Cricket on the Pulpit"

Sacred Dance Ensemble "Go Tell It on the Mountain", James Taylor
Star Choir..... "The Baby Savior, Jesus"
Flute Solo, Madison Garcia
Heavenly Choir..... "We Bring His Light"
Recessional..... "O Come All Ye Faithful", No. 41

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from "A 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.**

OFFERING

Song of Praise "Lift Up Your Heads" No. 8
Fling wide the portals of your heart; Make it a temple, set apart
From earthly use for heaven's employ, Adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Invitation

Offertory Music "How Far is it to Bethlehem?" Manz

Prayer of Dedication

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Saying, "Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors")

*HYMN "Good Christian Friends Rejoice" No. 28

*BENEDICTION – concluding with

Pastor: God is good **People: All the time!**

POSTLUDE "Noel Suisse" Daquin

(*) Those who are able, please stand. **Large print hymnals** and **wireless hearing aids** are available; ask an usher. Members, please wear your name tag.

SACRED DANCE CHOIR

Brittney Townsend, Director

*Madison Garcia
Tyriana Jones*

*Emily Lewis
Molly Lewis*

YOUTH CHOIR

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Kimberly and John Nethaway, Directors

*Evan Griffith
Brenden Hatzinger
Tyriana Jones
Claire Kondella
Megan Scaccia
Michael Scaccia
Monica Taylor
Zachary Taylor*

*Dylan Cook
Evie Denton
Jonathan Denton
Meagan Fish
Ryan Fish
Madison Garcia
Molly Lewis
Emily Turner*

Special Thanks...

Roberta Bert for our beautiful Fruit Bat Costumes

Stephanie Cook for designing & creating our Pageant Cactus

Linda Slavin, Robin & Calvin Reed, Cynthia & Sam Pendergrast and everyone who helped with setup and rehearsal

Kim & John Nethaway, Andrea Radesi and Brittney Townsend for their time, talent & leadership

To Everyone Who Came Together to make our Pageant a meaningful & memorable event this year

No Activity Period today. Children meet in Library at end of Pageant for movie & snack! Teachers may pick students up after Worship for classes.

Christmas Cookie Exchange

Today after Worship

In Our Dining Hall



*Christmas Pageant 2010
Photo by Calvin Reed*

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Christmas Pageant - Cast of Characters

Narrator, Jeremiah C. Cricket	John Nethaway
Fruit Bats	Sacred Dance Ensemble
Shepherds	Harold Barry, Paul Barry
Wisemen	Tim Burns, Drew Hinman, Randy Linderman
Angel with Star	Dasey Rizzo
Star Choir	Children's Choir
Heavenly Choir	Teen Choir
Donkey	Grace Engelbert
Travelers	Ginger, Kathryn & Victoria Passalacqua Maryrose Scaccia, Jenna & Vito Rizzo
Innkeepers	Paul & Carol Berger
Holy Family	Amy & Faith Turner, Rick O'Meara
Little Lamb	Isabelle Turner
Malachi H. Cricket	The Golden Cricket

Need Assistance Getting In to the Church on Sunday Morning?

There's a Deacon on duty beginning ½ hr before worship to assist anyone. This allows you to drop someone at the ramp and leave them in the care of a Deacon while you park your car.

Alternative Gifts Market: Many of us chose to select gift items this Christmas season for such places as Alternative Gifts International, Heifer Project, Church World Service and Samaritan's Purse. Because of your interest we will continue to display pamphlets from these sources around our church. Because of your generosity, our Mission Committee was able to purchase a goat from Heifer International in the name of our Church. With profits from such fundraisers as the June Rummage Sale, this goat will be able to provide milk for children in El Salvador

January Communion: Because of the New Year's Day Holiday, we will receive communion on Sunday, January 08. Faith Merrill will also lead a 9:45 Hymn Sing that morning

Are You Missing a bag of purchased goodies from the PW Advent Sale? The bag contains a yellow and black striped hat & mitten set among other cool things. Items are waiting be claimed on Kari's desk



Mission Council. Envelopes are provided in the pew racks for your convenience.

Christmas Poinsettias: As usual our sanctuary is complemented with beautiful arrangements in memory or honor of loved ones. Please feel free to take yours home after Christmas Eve Worship or leave behind to adorn our altar during the holidays or perhaps given to a shut-in. Each River Road Greenhouse ordered is labeled on the back with the name of the person placing the order and the corresponding color & size. Please check the list in the music room hallway to ensure that you are taking yours. Happy Holidays from your Worship & Music Committee and the Nursery School of the 1st Presbyterian Church



SUNDAY · DECEMBER 18, 2011

OUR MISSION STATEMENT: *The First Presbyterian Church exists to improve our understanding of Christ; to spread His word and teachings; and to reach out to our church family, our community, and the world through acts of compassion, kindness, and love.*

WELCOME to this branch of the family of God. **Visitors - please leave us your contact information on the pink card you will find in the pew rack.** We pray that you feel at home here and find guidance and strength for your daily life. We invite you to make this church your home.

A STAFFED NURSERY & Toddler Care is available during our Services. The room is located on the first floor behind the sanctuary. We also offer an optional **Quiet Room** for parents with small children.

Ushers today are led by Armen Roubian. Dec 25 is Dave Scaccia

Weekly Congregation & Presbytery Prayer List: Sandy and Joe Taylor, Kevin, Mikki, Monica & Zachary Taylor, Faith Merrill, Jean & Gene DelNero and The Moderator, Stated Clerk and Staff of the Presbytery of Utica

Our Acolyte is Maegan Fish. Dec 25 is Jon Denton

Our Worship Recorder is Mark Maginn. Dec 25 is John Nethaway

Deacon Ramp Duty is Patty Dunham. Dec 25 is Ron Rhodes

Greeters: Candy Fay, Gage Fay, Sally Hinman. Dec 25 Scaccia Usher Team

After Church Coffee Break is held in our downstairs Dining Hall in conjunction with today's Christmas cookie exchange and the Birthday Party for Fred Barnes. Mary Lou Talley hosts. We serve Fair-Trade Coffee. Dec 25: Cynthia

SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL CLASS LOCATION

Beverage Break for All 11:00–11:15 · Church School 11:15–12:15

(Nursery Available on the First Floor – Room 107)

Multi-Age GroupRoom 205

Grades 4 – 6..... B7 in Basement

Grades 7 - 12Room 201

Christmas Mini with Vera NoxonChoir Room

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Today 10:00 am....Worship Service
11:00 am....Coffee Break & Cookie Exchange in Dining Hall
11:15 am....Church School
12:15 pm....Happy Birthday Fred!
3:00 pm....Caroling to our Friends!
Mon..... 11:00 am....Service for Barbara DeHimer
2:00 pm....Service for Clara Ellis
Tues..... 10:00 am....Prayer Shawl Ministry
6:00 pm....Evening Circle at the Beeches
Wed..... 9:30 am....Rescue Mission Cook (*Mary Lou Talley Captain*)
Noon....Advent Prayer at 1st Baptist Rome
4:20 pm....Rescue Mission Serve
Fri..... Noon....Church Offices close for the Holiday
Sat 7:00 pm....Christmas Eve Service

NEXT SUNDAY:.....Isaiah 52 7-10; Hebrews 1:1-4
Merry Christmas! Coffee Break
No Church School or Choirs

www.shopromefirst.com – ends tomorrow!

Merry Christmas! Thursday Afternoon Bible Study resumes on Dec 29

Christmas Mini Course concludes today. Please join them in the Choir Room even if you couldn't make it last week!

Please ensure the doors are tightly shut behind you when entering and exiting our buildings

Christmas Caroling This Afternoon: Leave church at 3 and return about 5pm for hot chocolate. We'll carpool to shut-ins! See Pastor Sam if you haven't already signed up

Calling Hours for longtime congregation member Barbara DeHimer will be held this afternoon from 1:00pm to 4:00pm at Prince, Boyd and Hyatt, 210 W Court St. Calling hours for good friend and member Clara Ellis are from 2:00pm to 4:00pm at Nunn & Harper. Their Funeral Services will both be held here tomorrow and are listed above.

Christmas Cookie Exchange: Bring a dozen, or several dozen, to the downstairs kitchen before worship. Afterward during Coffee Break in the Dining Hall, select the same number as you brought and your Christmas cookies are done. Our Fellowship Committee has plates & baggies

Come Worship With Us...
Christmas Eve Service at 7pm
CAROLS · CANDLELIGHT · HOLY COMMUNION
All Are Welcome