



POINSETTIAS will once again fill the sanctuary beginning December 11<sup>th</sup>. If you wish to purchase one in honor or memory of a loved one (or for any other reason of the season) please fill in the order blank below and return it to the church office or place in the offering plate during Sunday worship by December 5th. The cost of the poinsettias will be \$8.00 each.

I/We would like to place a poinsettia in the church sanctuary.

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Qty	Amt
_____	_____

From \_\_\_\_\_

**Welcome in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ**

We are pleased you have joined us for worship this Sunday morning. We are a faithful congregation of the Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA) and within the bounds of the Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery. Worship is one of the many ministries that are facilitated by this historic and active congregation. A small group of Presbyterians began this ministry in 1835 and we are called by God to continue their faithful witness of Jesus Christ to our community and world. Bible studies and mission projects punctuate our weekly activities. If you would like more information about our ministries and/or becoming a new member, please call our church office during the week or talk to our pastor after worship. *Visitors and members alike are encouraged to complete the registration pad located on the main aisle of each pew.* Your contact information is never shared with any other identity.



**Lay Leader** is Ruth Needle.

**Visitors last Sunday** were Janice & Ron Kirk, Tommy, Julia & Charlotte Epling, Jean Rausa, Pat Rowland



**Ushers for this morning** are John & Jeanne Hirsch and Paul & Donna Farris.



**Pastoral Care:** Donne Williams, Ray Ritter, Jack Wyant, Barbara Calvin, Donna Robert (friend of Donna Farris), Ruth Jean Field Lange,



**In the Military:** Michelle Bryan, CA; David Parkinson, Travis Air Force Base, CA; Jeff Parkinson, Elgin Air Force Base, FL. (Bob & Ann Parkinson's nephew); John Raimondo, Camp LeJeune, N. Carolina (Sharon Metcalfe's grandson); Ryan Bloomingdale, Ft. Campbell, Ky (grandson of Sharon Metcalfe) Eric Yocom, Air Force, Mountain Home, Idaho (Ray & Sandy Wilhelm's grandson)

**CHILDREN AND YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL:** The Children's and Youth Classes meet in their classrooms directly after the "Kid's Message" in the worship service. The Elementary Class (Kindergarten through Fourth Grade) will meet in the classroom next to the Nursery. Cherie Herbst and Kathy Woodfin will be teaching this class. The curriculum will continue to focus on "The Stories of the Old Testament" based on the *Read and Learn Bible*. The Middle School/Junior High Class will meet in their classroom upstairs on the second floor. Their lessons are focusing on a study of the 66 books of the Bible and on how to use the Bible as a part of their everyday lives. This class is taught by Kathy Brown, Melissa Harris, Sandy Wilhelm, and Laura Brown.

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS:** Please join us on Sunday mornings from 9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. in the adult library. The Christian Outreach committee met in August with Sam Roethemeyer and he talked about the book "Pray Like Jesus" by John R. Brokoff. This is a great opportunity for us to learn to pray like Jesus. We will read a chapter on our own time and return on the next Sunday to discuss it. There are books available in the church office if you are interested. This is a study that will conclude by Christmas. We hope to see you there! If you have any questions please contact Nancy Bray or Melissa Harris.

## CALENDAR

Sunday 12/4	10:30 am	Worship Service (Terry Epling)
Monday 12/5	Pray for 7:00 pm	Randy Flowers (birthday) Property Meeting
Wednesday 12/7	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
Thursday 12/8	Pray for	Dr. Harold Buxton (birthday)
Friday 12/9	Pray for	Carol Miller (birthday)
Sunday 12/11	Pray for 10:30 am	Rob Ross (birthday) Worship Service (Terry Epling)
	Noon	Gather, Share & Eat
	5:00 pm	Christmas Craft Party



**Flowers for Worship:** Flowers for worship may be shared to celebrate your anniversary, someone's birthday, or in memory of a loved one or friend. They can also just say "Thanks, God!" Please call the church office (335-2579) to sign up for flowers.



**In support of our local FISH Food Pantry, the December Meal a Month-** 2 cans white beans, 2 package Jiffy type cornbread mix, Can of fruit of choice. Please put in the box in the Narthex.



**The Second Tuesday at the Chateau** will NOT meet in December. We will resume after New Year's, meeting on Tuesday, January 10, 2017. More details will be available in the January newsletter.



**The Book Club will not meet in December.** The January gathering will be on January 12, 2017 at the home of Ruth Needle. The book for discussion is "*The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*" by Rachel Joyce.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL VACATION DAYS--** Our Sunday School classes will be taking a break on the following Sundays: Dec. 18th, Dec. 25th, and Jan. 1st. Classes will resume on Sunday, Jan. 8th.



**You are all invited to the December Gather, Share, and Eat on December 11, 2016 after church services. We will be serving chicken casserole, green salad, jello salad, hot rolls and dessert! Please call Shirley and let her know that you will attend! Just bring your appetites! See you there! Donations are always welcome to help pay for the food!!!**



**Fellowship & Christian Outreach** are asking members who bake to donate 2 dozen homemade cookies to be brought to the church Fellowship Hall Sunday, December 11. After Gather, Share and Eat that day the cookies will be packaged into gift containers for delivery the next week to our members who are unable to get out. If you want to bring your cookies to the church during the week, just take them to the church secretary and tell her they are for our shut-ins. Thank you for helping and sharing your cookies.

**CHRISTMAS FAMILY ACTIVITY--**The Christian Education Committee is planning a "**Christmas Craft Party**" for our children and families on **Sunday, December 11th from 5:00p.m. to 7:00p.m.** on the third floor of our church. Everyone will enjoy pizza together and then will be able to participate in 5 different craft activities. One of the crafts will be to make gifts for our church's "shut-ins". Each family is encouraged to bring friends! Please contact Melissa Harris (579-4977) by **Thursday, December 8th** to let us know that you are coming so that we can plan enough materials.

It would be helpful if church members could donate some of these items for us: red and green m&ms, regular small pretzels (not sticks), small marshmallows (holiday colors if possible), goldfish crackers, raisins, animal crackers, and empty toilet paper rolls. Please contact Melissa Harris if you are able to provide any of these things.

**THE FARMINGTON CHILDREN'S HOME CHRISTMAS PROJECT--**This year all of our donations for the Farmington Children's Home will be used to provide Walmart gift cards. When we contacted them they said that they only have 6 cards left to use for the children's needs. The cards are always needed to provide shoes and clothing for new children entering the home all year round. At this time of year they are needed to provide Christmas presents for new children that come to the home after their list of children's needs are sent out to churches. Since these children were not on the lists they would not receive any gifts. The gift cards will provide Christmas gifts for these children. Please mark "Farmington" on any donations whether it is cash or a check made out to the church.



**Prayer Emphasis for December** The Christian Outreach Committee continues to encourage us in prayer. For December we hope you'll remember these things in your prayers:

**The week of December 4<sup>th</sup>** the emphasis is on Hope. Please pray for the congregation's discernment regarding its future and for the pastoral search expected to begin in earnest early next year.

**The week of December 11<sup>th</sup>** the theme is Joy. On this Sunday we'll receive the Christmas Joy Offering. Please pray for those who serve the church as missionaries, pastors, educators, and administrators. Their work is not financially rewarding but their service makes the reign of God visible in the world.

**The week of December 18<sup>th</sup>** we focus on Love, often translated in the church as Charity. Please pray for those in need. Many in our community are in need of physical and spiritual nourishment. Pray about how you can help meet the needs of those less fortunate than yourself.

**The week of December 25<sup>th</sup>** the emphasis is on Peace. This week recount your blessings in 2016 and give thanks to God. Then consider how God is calling you to spread hope, joy, love, and peace in the new year.