

## 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** this morning is Jean Cairns.


**Ushers for this morning** are Bob & Donna Pikey and Sam & Sharon McCune.

**Visitors Last Sunday Were:** Kat Preston, Shanie Smith, Evan Watkins, Dave & Stephanie Bengtson, Ruth Warner, Claudia Preuschoff.

**Pastoral Care:** Myra Peo, Dixie Hopkins, Becky Parkinson, Donne Williams, Bill Stover, Ray Ritter, Barbara Taylor, Paul Rice, Judy Rueseler

**In the Military:** Michelle Bryan, CA; Donald Shaver (brother-in-law of Joanna Shaver), Cape Girardeau; Eric Rueseler, LCPL; David Parkinson, Travis Air Force Base, CA; Col. Richard Parkinson, MacDill Air Force Base, FL; Jeff Parkinson, Elgin Air Force Base, FL. (Bob & Ann Parkinson's nephews); John Raimondo, Camp LeJeune, N. Carolina (Sharon Metcalfe's grandson); Eric Yocom, Air Force, Mountain Home, Idaho (Ray & Sandy Wilhelm's grandson)

**CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES** Both Children's Sunday School Classes will meet after the Kid's Message in worship. The Lower Grade's Class will meet in their classroom next to the Nursery. Kathy Woodfin and Cherie Herbst will be teaching this class. The curriculum will focus on "The Stories of the Old Testament" based on the *Read and Learn Bible*. The Upper Grade's Class will meet in their classroom on the second floor. Their curriculum will focus on studying "The Parables of Jesus". This class will be team taught by Kathy Brown, Melissa Harris, Sandy Wilhelm, Kate Broeckling and Julie Harrison.

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

**Sunday School.** The adult Sunday School will not meet December 20 or 27. It will resume on Sunday, Jan 3, 2016. The children's Sunday School will not meet December 27 or January 3th. It will resume on January 10, 2016.

**You are invited to a reception honoring the Durow family.** They will be moving at the end of December to Minnesota. Peter, Jodi, Jonah and Nadia have been such a blessing to our church. Please take a little time after church this Sunday, December 20th to wish them well and show them how much we appreciated them. There will be cake and punch in the fellowship hall right after the church service.

<b>CALENDAR</b>	Sunday 12/20	10:00 am	Coffee & fellowship
		10:30 am	Worship Service
			Celebrate Birthdays & Anniversaries
	Thursday 12/24	5:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service
	Friday 12/25	Pray for	Vonda Slinkard (Birthday)
	Sunday 12/27	10:00 am	Coffee & fellowship
		10:30 am	Worship Service
		Pray for	Daryl Henry (Birthday)
			Sue Watkins (Birthday)

**The 2016 pledge envelopes are in the Narthex.** If you do not know your envelope number, there is an alphabetical list to help you find which box yours is in. If your number is not on the list and you need envelopes, please call Shirley or Jean at the church 573-335-2579.

**Birthdays, Anniversaries, and the Heifer Project.** Today is our celebration of birthdays and anniversaries. We celebrate these milestones in our church family on the third Sunday of the month. As we acknowledge and honor our church family members, we also support the work of the Heifer International Project. This is a nonprofit charitable organization that provides sustainable farm animals to impoverished people all over the globe. For more information, visit their website at: [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org).

### Worship at First Presbyterian!

Prepare your minds and hearts for Christmas at our upcoming 10:30 am Sunday services—Beautiful music and a great message! Schedule:

- Thurs. Dec. 24--Christmas Eve Service. **5:00 pm**
- Sun. Dec. 27—Special Music
- Sun. Jan. 3—Epiphany.

Bring a friend to church! People are usually very receptive to church invitations at this time of year. Tell your non-attending friends about our services.

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NAUGHTY IS UP 10% THIS YEAR ... NOT THAT IT MATTERS, THEY'RE ALL GETTING LOVE AND FORGIVENESS AFTER ALL

## 🎵 Music Notes

The 15<sup>th</sup> Century German Carol, *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* (*Es ist ein Ros'entsprungen*) introduces us to this fourth Sunday of Advent. Romantic German composer Johannes Brahms (1833-1897) used the melody in his 1896 chorale prelude for organ (Opus 122, No. 8). Previously, in 1609, another German composer, Michael Praetorius (1571-1621) harmonized the melody. Movie buffs may recognize this from the 1971 Academy Award winning movie "Love Story." And indeed, it is a love story that God would give us his son, Jesus.

**Canticle of Mary.** *The Magnificat* (Luke 1:46-55), also known as the "Canticle (Song) of Mary," expresses the joy of expecting a child as Mary visits her elderly cousin, Elizabeth, who is also pregnant. It is one of the three great hymns from the opening Chapters of the Gospel of Luke. The other canticles are "The Song of Zechariah" (Luke 1:68-79) and "The Song of Simeon" (Luke 2:29-32). These canticles, often set to music by composers throughout the centuries, are also known by their Latin names: *Magnificat*, *Benedictus*, and the *Nunc Dimittis*. Mary's song, usually used in Vesper services, echoes the "Song of Hannah" from the Old Testament (1 Samuel 2:1-10). Both are songs of praise giving thanks to God. Our hymnal setting is by Sr. Miriam Therese Winter, a Medical Missionary Sister and a Professor of Liturgy at Hartford Seminary. The tune, "Morning Song" (sometimes known as "Consolation") is an Aeolian melody first published in John Wyeth's 1813 *Repository of Sacred Music*.

The term **Doxology** is derived from the Greek and is usually identified with a short hymn of praise, often to the Triune God. It has its origins from a similar worship practice in the Jewish synagogues. These songs of praise, actually small statements of faith, were frequently added to the last verse of a hymn, psalm or prayer. During this **Advent and Christmas** season we are using the fourth verse of "All Praise to Thee, My God" (#675). An Englishman, Thomas Ken (1637-1711), who was an Anglican priest and later a Bishop, wrote this text in 1674. The tune, "Tallis' Canon" is by Thomas Tallis (1505-1585) who composed for Henry VIII, Elizabeth I, and other English royalty. He was also the organist at Canterbury Cathedral.

Once in Royal David's City (#140) is by Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895), an Irish Bishop's wife, and author of many hymn texts including "All Things Bright and Beautiful" and "Jesus Calls us O'er the Tumult." The tune, "Irby," was composed by Henry John Gauntlett (1805-1876). His father was an English vicar and Henry started playing the organ at his church at a young age. Gauntlett was granted the Doctor of Music degree by the Archbishop of Canterbury in 1842. Since 1919 the King's College *Festival of Lessons and Carols* opens with this carol, usually with a soloist from the Boys' Choir. The carol has been recorded by many popular recording artists including Petula Clark, Jethro Tull, and the Mormon Tabernacle Choir.

*May you be inspired to meditate on the music and texts.*

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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Ruth Pautler, Clerk of Session  
Shirley Sullivan, Church Secretary  
Jean Cairns, Treasurer  
Peter Durow, Choir Director, Music Ministry Team  
Rebecca Nelson, Keyboard, Music Ministry Team  
Kathy Woodfin, Nursery Attendant  
Joanna Shaver, Wedding Coordinator  
Gina Thomas, Maintenance  
Rev. Dr. Kim L Nelson, D. Min. Pastor

**THE SESSION**

**CLASS OF 2015**

Donna Pikey  
Ruth Pautler  
Joyce Rayfield  
Kathy Brown

**CLASS OF 2016**

Nancy Bray  
John Broeckling  
Caroline Manuel  
Joanna Shaver

**CLASS OF 2017**

Paul Farris  
Melissa Harris  
Janna Tuck  
Dale Watkins

**SERVICE AND CHURCH SCHOOL**

9:00 A.M. Adult Education  
10:30 A.M. Worship Service  
10:45-11:30 Children and Youth Sunday School

**GENERAL NOTICES**

Childcare for infants, toddlers and preschoolers is provided during worship.  
The Session meets the third Wednesday of the month.  
The Church Choir rehearses Wednesdays at 7:30 P.M.  
The Church sponsors Boy Scout Troop 4, Marcia Warren Scoutmaster, and  
Cub Scout Pack 15, Brian Hall Cubmaster