

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 Janna Tuck.

Visitors Last Sunday Were: Laura Brown, Emma Wolfe, Wayne & Karen Wilde

Pastoral Care: Myra Peo, Dixie Hopkins, Becky Parkinson, Donne Williams, Bill Stover, Ray Ritter, Barbara Taylor, Paul Rice, DaNece (friend of Dusti & Tami Miller)

In the Military: Michelle Bryan, CA; 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); Ryan Bloomingdale, Ft. Campbell, Ky (nephew of Sharon Metcalfe) 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.

Sunday School. The adult Sunday School resumed meeting today, Sunday, Jan 3, 2016. The children's Sunday School will resume on January 10, 2016.

 **In support of our local FISH, the January Meal a Month-** 2 boxes of macaroni and cheese mix, can of evaporated milk, can of green beans, can of peaches. Please put in the box in the Narthex.

 **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.

TODAY: We are "un-decorating" the church. The Worship and Arts team would be most grateful for your assistance after the service to help take down the Christmas trees, lights, wreaths, and more. Thanks!

CALENDAR	Sunday 1/3	10:00 am	Coffee & fellowship
		10:30 am	Worship Service
		Noon	"un-decorating" the church
	Monday 1/4	7:00 pm	Property Meeting
	Wednesday 1/6	7:30 pm	Choir Practice
	Thursday 1/7	Pray for	Bill Port (birthday)
	Saturday 1/9	Pray for	Georganne Syler (Birthday)
			Oliver & Caroline Manuel (anniversary)
	Sunday 1/10	10:00 am	Coffee & fellowship
		10:30 am	Worship Service

The Daytime Circle will meet in the Chateau dining room at 11:00 A.M. on Tuesday, January 12, 2016. We will order off the menu and each person will be responsible for their own lunch. Please call Sharon Metcalfe at 651-5274 or Ruth Needle at 334-4515 to let one of them know you plan to attend. The discussion will be on Lesson 7 from our study book, PSALMS by Sue Edwards. Or - read Psalm 103 and you will be ready to participate.

The Bible passages for next Sunday are:

Isaiah 43:1-7, Psalm 29, Acts 8:14-17, Luke 3:15-17, 21-22.

Did you know that you can hear these readings in a podcast version? Check it out at the National Presbyterian Church website: www.pcusa.org/devotions/podcast. You also may want to look them up at: www.biblegateway.com

Epiphany Reflection--

When the song of the angels is stilled
 When the kings and princes are home
 The work of Christmas begins:
 To heal the broken
 To release the prisoner
 To bring peace among the people

When the star in the sky is gone
 When the shepherds are back with their flocks
 To find the lost
 To feed the hungry
 To rebuild the nations
 To make music in the heart.

From the *Seekers Church*

Did you realize that our **worship** is a dialogue with God? God speaks to us through the Holy Word and Spirit, and we respond. Our Call to Worship and our Psalm Readings often model the type of dialogue we should have with God—God speaking to us, and our response. We are made in the image of God and long to be in relationship with God. And so we gather, we listen to the Word, we share with one another, and we go forth. Let us continue to be renewed by this merciful and gracious God, and may we respond with joy, as redeemed Christians!

🎵 Music Notes

Today we celebrate the Epiphany, a Greek word meaning “manifestation.” Traditionally this day is observed on January 6, the closing for the twelve days of Christmas. Many churches now honor the visit of the Magi, or the Wise Men, on the first Sunday in January. We do not know how many wise men journeyed to Bethlehem, but Matthew’s Gospel does mention three gifts of considerable wealth. Imagine their surprise when they stumbled upon the carpenter father, the servant girl mother, and the new baby in an animal stable, of all places! They were then told in a dream to leave by another way. And so, we must also encounter Jesus in the poor, the disadvantaged and the marginalized. As we are changed, we too, cannot continue on the same road.



We Three Kings is an Epiphany Carol written in 1857 by the Rev. John H. Hopkins, Jr. (1820-1891), son of an Episcopal Bishop. It was originally composed for a Christmas pageant at the General Theological Seminary in New York City. Tradition and folklore says that the names of the three wise men were Balthazar, Gaspar, and Melchior. The Bible does not mention their names nor even how many Magi were present. The symbolic three gifts mentioned in Matthew 2:11 indicate gifts of significant wealth.

Psalm 72 is ascribed as a Psalm of Solomon and a vision of a Messiah’s kingdom. Most likely originally set to music we are using a choral reading style in our worship today. This format models a dialogue with God that can be used in our daily devotions.

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 Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany seasons we are using the fourth verse of “All Praise to Thee, My God.” 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 English royalty, including Henry VIII, and Elizabeth I. He was also the organist at the Canterbury Cathedral.

We Gather Here in Jesus’ Name/Come, Share the Lord (#510) was written by Bryan Jeffrey Leech (b.1931) who was born and raised in England. He is an ordained minister in the Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC) and has served parishes on both the east and west coasts. Take notice of the text—“everyone belongs; finding forgiveness here, we in turn forgive all wrongs . . . We are now a family of which the Lord is head.” May these powerful words be ever so true about our own community of faith.

As with Gladness was authored by William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898). He also wrote the texts for “Alleulia! Sing to Jesus” and “What Child is This?” Several sources said that he wrote this hymn on the day of the Epiphany, while sick in bed; it was first published in his *Hymns of Love and Joy* (1860). The tune, “Dix,” is by Conrad Kocher (1786-1872), a German who studied in Russia and Italy. Another setting is “For the Beauty of the Earth.”

Make a New Year's Resolution to join our Music Ministry team!
 Our Adult Choir begins rehearsals again on Wednesday, January 6, at 7:30 pm. Join us in the Music Room on the 2nd Floor for fun and fellowship. Call the church office at 573.335.2579 for more information, if needed.

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

Singing daily for at least ten minutes reduces stress, clears sinuses, improves posture and can even help you live longer.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 235 Broadway, P. O. Box 477
 Cape Girardeau, Missouri 63702-0477
 Phone: (573) 335-2579 Fax: (573) 335-5639
 E-mail: fpresbyt@sbcglobal.net
 World Wide Web: www.firstpccape.org

Ruth Pautler, Clerk of Session
 Shirley Sullivan, Church Secretary
 Jean Cairns, Treasurer
 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 2016
 Nancy Bray
 John Broeckling
 Caroline Manuel
 Joanna Shaver

CLASS OF 2017
 Paul Farris
 Melissa Harris
 Janna Tuck
 Dale Watkins

CLASS OF 2018
 Barbara Calvin
 Scott Harrison
 Harvey Hecht
 Jeanne Hirsch

SERVICE AND CHURCH SCHOOL

9:30 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 Sunday 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

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Thanks to Nadine Fafard (See Luke 2:1-16) 12-24-2001

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