

First Presbyterian Church, 721 Church St., Jefferson City, TN 37760  
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Rev. Andrew C. Whaley, Pastor

## Announcements

### WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY



The Thursday night Women's Bible Study will meet December 5<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m. at The Creek. If you have any questions, please contact Rebecca Whaley (404-520-4544).

### YOUTH GROUP

A Christmas Carol—On Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, we will leave immediately following worship to attend the 2:00 p.m. showing of the Clarence Brown Theatre's production of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. Please bring money for lunch.



### DECEMBER GOING-ON GROUP



Christmas Lunch

We will be having a Christmas luncheon on Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, at 11:30 a.m. at the Finley Farm (365 Cave Rd., Rutledge). The Finley's will furnish soup and chili and drinks. There is a sign up sheet for side dishes on the table next to the Church Office in the back hallway, as well as, directions to the Finley's. Please let Judy (865-828-4559 or 865-292-5338) or Harry (865-292-3066) know by Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, if you plan on attending.

### SAMARITAN HOUSE DINNER



On Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, we will be hosting a Christmas dinner for the residents and staff of Samaritan House. If you have signed up to bring food, please have it to the church no later than 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. The kitchen door of the church will be unlocked starting at 9:00 a.m. If you have any questions, please contact Juanita Dykstra.

### MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

The next Men's Breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, at 8 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. If you enjoy biscuits, bacon, and the Bible, join us at 8:00 a.m. for a new year of study and fellowship. We hope to see you here!



### From the Pastor's Desk...

*Be still my love  
Keep holding on beneath the cold December gray.  
We will have faith  
'cause there's a savior on the way.*

This refrain from Danny Mitchell's song "Savior on the Way" is our theme for this Advent season. I first learned of Danny when I accompanied our youth to the Montreat Youth Conference this summer. Danny was one of the worship leaders for music, and he's a singer/songwriter from Nashville. I purchased his Christmas album from the Montreat Store, and the more I listened to this piece, the more I wanted to use it to focus our attention in the Advent season.

In this darkest of seasons, when the sun is often hidden from our sight, when we huddle indoors, and when our neighbors become strangers in the midst of our isolation, we need a word to keep us looking forward toward our salvation. It is into this dark season that the incarnate Lord comes unnoticed, laid in a feeding trough, sung to sleep by the lullabies of adoring angels.

The great promise of Christmas, however, is that it is not simply the commemoration of a one-time event in the past, relived in pageant and carol. Christmas is the celebration of God's hallowing of creation. It is the radical notion that God's desire for us is so great that God would become enfleshed both as our guide but also as our fellow traveler. God opens up to the pain and injustice, the joy and heartbreak of human living.

And in God's act of becoming one of us in Jesus we come to see our very plain and ordinary lives as sacred. God hallows our routines. God sympathizes with our daily frustrations. God weeps in our grief. God laughs with us in our joy. God cares about skinned knees and broken hearts. God understands hurt feelings and long-held grudges. God offers forgiveness and grace not just as hypothetical platitudes but as hard-won and difficult-to-offer gifts.

In this dark season, therefore, let us look for the light- the lights on our trees and wrapped around our front porches; the lights from the Advent wreath in our sanctuary bringing forth hope, peace, joy, and love; the light of the stars who align themselves for the savior's birth; and the light of the moon that makes sure we can see the Lord's arrival.

Be still. Have faith. There's a savior on the way.

Gratefully,  
Andrew

Jefferson City, TN 37760  
721 Church St.  
First Presbyterian Church

### CHRISTMAS GIFT BAGS

Again this year during the holidays we would like to remember friends/family of the congregation who are elderly, sick, or homebound. We currently have 5 on our list. If you know of anyone else you would like to add, please sign them up on the sheet on the bulletin board. We need everyone's help to fill the gift bags with items such as candy, sugar free candy (2 with diabetes), nuts, lotions, hot tea bags, cocoa, crossword books, lip balm, socks, pens, note cards, stamps, or other small items that are useful and fun! Please plan on having all items to the Church by **Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>**. If you have any questions, please contact JoAnne Vest or call Heather in the Church Office.



### SAVE THE DATE! FAMILY/SKI RETREAT FEBRUARY 6-FEBRUARY 8, 2014

Now is the time to mark your calendars and make plans to attend our Family/Ski Retreat weekend at Holston Camp & Retreat Center in Banner Elk, North Carolina. The retreat will begin on Friday evening and go through Sunday worship. Look for sign-up sheets and more information in the Sunday bulletins beginning in December. For more information, call the church office at (865) 475-2761.

**ANNUAL CHILDREN/YOUTH  
GINGERBREAD HOUSE  
DECORATING**



Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, at 12:00 p. m. for the annual Christmas gingerbread house decorating and pizza party at the Juroff's. This year Lyle and I are including any youth, first-timers or those who have expressed their desire to come back for the fun, to join us at our home, 1250 Groseclose Rd. Jefferson City. You may bring your own kit or pick from ones that we have provided. If you plan to come, please sign up on the sheet provided in the library or email me at [jkjuroff@gmail.com](mailto:jkjuroff@gmail.com) or call us at 475-8634. Looking forward to seeing you in December, Lyle and Kathy Juroff.



**A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS  
FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY**

As Christmas rapidly approaches the members of the Fellowship and Evangelism committee would like to thank Juanita Dykstra for over twenty years of being in charge of the "Christmas Fellowship Sunday"! Juanita has worked tirelessly each year to make this annual event special for the First Presbyterian Church Family.

Please plan to attend this year's Christmas Fellowship Sunday on Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, immediately following Worship. Everyone is invited and asked to bring your favorite sweet or savory finger food to share. Beverages will be provided. It will be held in the Fellowship Hall. Please see JoAnne Vest, if you have any questions.

**CHRISTMAS FAMILY  
NIGHT SUPPER**



**Children's  
Christmas Program**

Our traditional Christmas Family Night Supper is scheduled for Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Following dinner, our young people will present "Where Is Jesus?". We have a wonderful and talented group of young people - you don't want to miss this! Bring a dish or two and join us for an evening of fun!

**SIT 'N KNIT GROUP**

The Sit 'n Knit group will be meeting on Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Libby Moser (217 Fieldcrest Dr., Jefferson City). If you have any questions, please see Libby.



**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**

Our Annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service is scheduled for **5:00 p.m.** on Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to be here for this special service! *Please note that this is an earlier time that we have met in year's past.*

**SMOKY MOUNTAIN HIKING GROUP**



The Smoky Mountain Hiking Group will meet on Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>, at 8:00 a.m. We will be hiking to **Sutton Ridge**: Once again, we will end the year with a easy trail. We will leave the Cosby Campground and make a 3 mile round trip on the *Lower Mount Cammerer Trail* to the Sutton Ridge Lookout. Elevation gain is 370 feet over 1.5 miles. Don't forget to pack a lunch and some water, and plan to join us!

**PRAYER CONCERNS**

**SPECIAL CONCERNS:**

Those struggling with addiction  
All members of the military and their families, especially those stationed overseas  
The unemployed

**ILL AND RECOVERING:**

Dave Foulk, friend of Phil Williams, who has Stage 4 colon cancer  
Rhonda McClanahan, Donna Jenkins' daughter, as she undergoes chemotherapy  
Ava Swilley, Sue's mother, who has been moved to a nursing home  
Mark Knisley, Former Pastor of Hopewell Presbyterian Church, who has been diagnosed with liver disease

THOSE UNABLE TO BE WITH US: Lucille Tinsley

**IN RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES:**

JEFFERSON COUNTY NURSING HOME: Celeste Reneau  
CHANDLER HOUSE: Argie Saylor  
DARBY HOUSE: Betty Wolfe; Rachel McCurley  
HERITAGE CENTER: Bonnie Young

| Sunday   | Monday  | Tuesday               | Wednesday  | Thursday                                    | Friday                              | Saturday  |
|--|---|-----------------------|--|---|-------------------------------------|---|
|  | 1<br>Finance Committee<br>6:30 p.m.<br>Mala Skeen<br>Jarret Moser | 2<br>Evan Kirkpatrick | 3<br>Session<br>6:30 p.m.  | 4<br>Women's Bible Study<br>7:00 p.m.       | 5                                   | 6<br>Women's Christmas Tea<br>2:00 p.m.   |
| 7<br>Communion<br>Sunday School<br>9:30-10:30 a.m.<br>Worship Service<br>10:45-11:45 a.m.<br>Youth Group<br>12:00 p.m.         | 8   | 9                     | 10<br>Samaritan House Dinner<br>6:00 p.m.  | 11<br>Session Christmas Dinner<br>6:30 p.m. | 12<br>Marianne Reese<br>Terry Jaros | 13<br>Men's Breakfast<br>8:00 a.m.<br>Children's Gingerbread House Decorating<br>12-2 p.m.<br>John & Deborah Scarlett |
| 14<br>Sunday School<br>9:30-10:30 a.m.<br>Worship Service<br>10:45-11:45 a.m.<br>Christmas Fellowship Sunday<br>Bill Vest, Sr. | 15  | 16<br>Carol Bergman   | 17<br>Family Night Supper/ Christmas Program<br>6:30 p.m.                          | 18<br>Libby Moser<br>Doug & Juanita Dykstra | 19                                  | 20<br>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE<br>Larry Musick<br>George & Gail Twine  |
| 21<br>Sunday School<br>9:30-10:30 a.m.<br>Worship Service<br>10:45-11:45 a.m.<br>Rich & Connie Harlan                          | 22  | 23                    | 24<br>Christmas Eve Worship<br>Christmas Eve Service<br>5:00 p.m.<br>OFFICE CLOSED | 25<br>CHRISTMAS DAY<br>OFFICE CLOSED        | 26<br>OFFICE CLOSED                 | 27  |
| 28<br>Sunday School<br>9:30-10:30 a.m.<br>Worship Service<br>10:45-11:45 a.m.<br>Debby Rinehart                                | 29  | 30                    | 31<br>Hiking Club<br>8:00 a.m.<br>Frances Wolf<br>Vicki Garabcik                   |   |                                     |   |