

# Welcome to all who gather here today.

We hope the service enables you to worship God meaningfully.

In your pew are:

✦ Visitor cards - *Welcome!*

✦ A pew envelope for an offering

✦ Joys and Concerns cards for submitting prayer requests  
(all to be placed in the offering plate)

\* = *Please stand as you are able or remain upright in spirit*

*PH = Presbyterian Hymnal; Congregational responses in bold type.*

## MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

## TOLLING THE HOUR

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GREETINGS

## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

### PIANO PRELUDE

**Jubilate**

Bye/Lowden

### CALL TO WORSHIP

It is the season of Christmas, when we celebrate the incarnation:

**Two thousand years ago, God came to Earth in Jesus Christ.**

Our God is not distant. Our God does not disdain this world,  
**for God took on human flesh and lived among us.**

Therefore, all earth and all flesh have been made sacred.

**Therefore, we spread the joy of the Lord wherever we go.**

### \*HYMN

**Joy to the World!**

**PH 40**

## WE CONFESS OUR SINS

### CALL TO CONFESSION

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we have not lived as your faithful children. We have kept silent in the midst of prejudice and hatred. We have been idle in the face of violence and injustice. We have not been a light to the nations, and our lives have not revealed your glory. Forgive us, Merciful God. Restore in us your beautiful grace through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Silent Prayer*

## DECLARATION OF PARDON

### SUNG RESPONSE

PH 145, Refrain

“Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!”

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**FIRST READING:** Galatians 4:4-7 (Pew Bible p. 189 in the New Testament)

### Psalm 148

### Alleluia



Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le -  
lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

**SECOND READING:** Luke 2:22-33 (Pew Bible p. 59 in the New Testament)

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### SERMON

*“Snatching Jesus”*

Rev. William Stell

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

**\*HYMN**

**Our God, Our Help in Ages Past**  
**(vv. 1-5)**

**PH 210**

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*The Apostles Creed*)

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy  
Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was  
crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into Hell; the third day he  
rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the  
right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to  
judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life  
everlasting. Amen.**

**\*THE GLORIA PATRI**

**PH 579**

**THE OFFERING**

**THE OFFERING IN MUSIC** **God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen** Trad Arr. L. Lamb  
*(played by Donna Potts and Bob Lowden on Bell Tree and Piano)*

**\*THE DOXOLOGY**

**PH 592**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,  
for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**GOING FORTH IN GOD’S NAME TO SERVE THE LORD**

**\*HYMN**

**Go, Tell It on the Mountain**

**PH 29**

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

**Voluntary on “Lobe Den Herren”**

**Arr. Lowden**

**\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

The Peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

**SERVING THIS LORD’S DAY**

Pastor ..... Rev. William Stell  
 Reader ..... Donna Potts  
 Director of Music ..... Gwendolyn Huber  
 Accompanist..... Dr. Robert Lowden  
 Deacon of the Month ..... Amy Dallas 259-5498

**Next Sunday, January 7, 2018**

Reader .....

***A BIG thank you to the Congregation for the very generous gifts! We are extremely moved by your generosity and love!***

***Love to ALL with many blessings,  
Pastor William, Guy, Wendy, Bob, Dana, Don and Donna***

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

**From the “Mission Yearbook for Prayer and Study”:** Presbyterian Peace Delegation visits No Gun Massacre Site; Democratic Republic of the Congo; South Korea’s War and Women’s Human Rights Museum; Hands & Feet Initiative; Research Services; Facing Racism; Christian churches in Zimbabwe.

**Joys:** A joy to have the special music ensemble and for Wendy making it happen; Prayers of joy on the 31st birthday of Linda Blackwell's daughter, Ashley; Paul Sootkoos shares his prayers of gratitude for the Christmas cards and letters he's received from our congregants.

**Concerns:** Prayers of comfort for the loved ones of the Maiuro's neighbor, Mark; prayers of comfort for the loved ones of Leslie Conte; prayers of healing and strength for Agnes, Victoria's friend; prayers of comfort for Mr. Ken, our school crossing guard; prayers of hope and healing for Cathy Elliott-Shaw's brother-in-law, Jeff; prayers of healing for a baby named Harper; prayers of hope and healing for a mom preparing for surgery.

***Our church now can accept online giving! Check out the “Give Now” button in the top right corner on our website.***



QR Code for online giving

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**St. Mary's Food Pantry Current Needs: shampoo; toothpaste; body lotion; razors.** Please place items in the basket in the rear of the church. Thank you for your continued support and generosity. To learn more, go to: ***Facebook.com/St.MarysFoodPantry.***

**Please pick up your envelopes for 2018** on the back counter.

**Choir** rehearsals resume on **Thursday, January 11** at the usual time. **Hand Bell Choir** rehearsals resume on **Thursday, January 25** at the usual time. The choir will sing the Anthem on Sunday, January 7th.

**Yoga Church** resumes Sunday, **January 7th at 5pm.**

## CALENDAR

### THIS WEEK

<b>Sun 12/31</b>	Worship .....	10:30 am
<b>Mon 1/1/18</b>	<b><i>Happy New Year!</i></b>	
	Women's AA .....	7:30 pm
<b>Thurs 1/4</b>	AA .....	7:30 pm

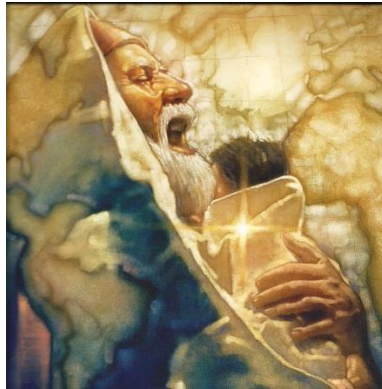
### NEXT WEEK

<b>Sun 1/7</b>	Children's Chime Choir .....	8:55 am
	Church School.....	9:15 am
	Worship and Communion .....	10:30 am
	Deacons' Meeting .....	following Worship
	Youth Group (Pizza Lunch).....	1:00 pm
	Yoga Church .....	5:00-6:00 pm
<b>Mon 1/8</b>	Women's AA .....	7:30 pm
<b>Tues 1/9</b>	Session.....	7:00 pm
<b>Thurs 1/11</b>	Wanderers ( <i>pizza lunch in FH</i> ).....	12:00 pm
	Percussion Ensemble.....	6:00 pm
	Choir .....	7:00 pm
	AA .....	7:30 pm
	Handbells.....	8:15 pm
<b>Sun 1/14</b>	Children's Chime Choir .....	8:55 am
	Church School.....	9:15 am
	Worship.....	10:30 am
	Yoga Church .....	5:00-6:00 pm
	Youth Group.....	6:00 pm

***Rev. Stell's office hours are Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 am to 1 pm. In addition, he hosts "office hours" at Starbucks on Dunns Mill Road from 8:00 am to 10:00 am on Fridays. You may also make an appointment with him on other days. To reach him, please email him at [PastorWilliam@bordentownpresbyterian.org](mailto:PastorWilliam@bordentownpresbyterian.org) or call him at (609) 316-7165.***

# First Presbyterian Church

*Worship on the Lord's Day  
December 31, 2017, 10:30 am*



*Simeon's Moment by Ron DiCianni*

Church Address: 420 Farnsworth Avenue  
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(609) 298 -1243

***Rev. William Stell, Pastor***

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