



First Presbyterian Church

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

December 31, 2017

11:00 a.m.

First Sunday after Christmas

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The mission of First Presbyterian Church of St. Petersburg is to be and make disciples of Jesus Christ, who know God and, through love, serve the Lord and others. We will accomplish our mission by practicing radical hospitality, passionate worship, intentional faith development, risk-taking mission, and extravagant generosity.

PREPARATION

(Please use the prelude as a time for reflection and preparation for worship.)

**Please stand, if able. Responses are in boldface.*

PRELUDE

“Trumpet Fanfare on *Adeste Fideles*”

Sharon Elery Rogers

“Away in a Manger”

(b. 1929)

Jack Rain, Organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 132

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

IN DULCI JUBILO

PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Susan Schlecht

Lord of hope and love, you created us to feel the deep joy of your presence, yet we can become so wrapped up in the struggles of life that we shut you and your joy out of our lives. You created us to be people of prayer, yet we can become so busy that we never pray, let alone discover you in our prayers. You created us to be people of awe and wonder, yet we can become so focused on trivial concerns that we never discover the mystery which surrounds us. Touch our hearts this morning, Lord, so that we can become people of joy, prayer and gratitude who shine with your presence. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Susan Schlecht

Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ and Christ died for us, Christ prays for us, Christ reigns in glory for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone, the new life has begun. Friends, believe the Good News:
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI

hymn 581

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.*

PROCLAMATION

CHILDREN'S SERMON

(Children are invited to come forward to the pulpit area for the Children's Sermon. Afterward, they may return to their parent or guardian or leave the sanctuary for Godly Play.)

***HYMN 135**

“There's a Star in the East”

FOLLOW

SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Lesson: Isaiah 35: 1-10
(pew Bible, *Old Testament*, page 811)

Susan Schlecht

Second Lesson: Luke 1: 39-45
(pew Bible, *New Testament*, page 68)

Rev. Larry Duncan

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON “Awakening the Child Within” Rev. Larry Duncan

PASSING OF THE PEACE

RESPONSE

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM “O Come All Ye Faithful” arr. Robert Shaw and
from *Many Moods of Christmas, Suite* / Robert Russell Bennett
Chancel Choir

Text - (sung in Latin) O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant; O
come ye to Bethlehem. Come and behold him, born the king of angels. O
come let us adore him, Christ the Lord. (sung in English) Sing choirs of
angels; sing in exultation; sing all ye citizens of heaven above: Glory to
God in the highest: O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

*DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him, all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

SENDING

*RECESSIONAL HYMN 136 "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" GO TELL IT

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Vom Himmel hoch da komm' ich her" BWV 700 J. S. Bach
(From Heaven above to Earth I Come--hymn 111) (1685-
1750)

The congregation is invited to come forward and stand by the organ console.
The minister is available at the door as you leave.

A Prayer Minister, wearing a white stole, will be available for private and confidential prayer following the service.

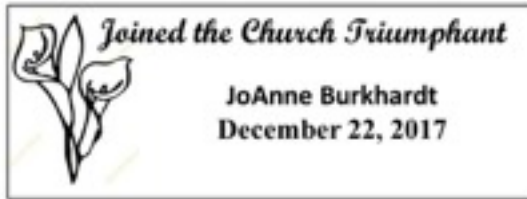
Reverend Lawrence "Larry" Duncan, our visiting preacher today, is no stranger to First Presbyterian Church of St. Petersburg, having served as interim pastor between 2006 and 2008. Rev. Duncan is a native of North Carolina. He is a graduate of Davidson College and Union Theological Seminary. He has served churches in South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Louisiana and Mississippi. He and his wife Licia reside in St. Petersburg in the winter and South Carolina in the summer since his retirement.

FPC NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

DECEMBER PRAYER

Eternal, everlasting Lord, who are mortals that you are mindful of us? Yet in never ending, immeasurable love, you entered into the human condition as a helpless infant of humble birth and through the witness of your Son's earthly life, set humankind and your world on the path of redemption. This Advent season, as we wait with anticipation to celebrate His birth and look forward to the promised second coming, keep us alert. Awaken our senses, our minds, and our hearts to the in-breaking of your Holy Spirit in our lives. Help us to notice the miracles of the ordinary. Help us to tune in to your love song that serenades us in the beauty of the sunrise, the whisper of the breeze, and the laughter of children. Help us to catch glimpses of you in the eyes of a stranger, the opportunities for growth presented by obstacles, and the blessings of the interruptions in life. Thank you for bringing new life to every

moment of every day. Fill our days of waiting with the wonder of your presence. Come, Lord Jesus, come!



CHANCEL FLOWERS

The flowers in the sanctuary today were given to the glory of God and in loving memory of our son Bryan Clark by his parents Bob & Jan Clark.

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the entire McClure family on the death of their loved one, Lynne McClure on December 14, 2017.

If you would like to honor or memorialize a loved one with chancel flowers, please fill out a green envelope, available in the church pew.

Enclose your donation of \$45 with the memo "Chancel flowers." Flower envelopes may be dropped

in the offering plate or delivered to the church office.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Please remember in prayer:

LuElla Ames, Millie Bradley, Rev. Bob Burkhardt, Kat Cline, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Jim and Petra Garnett, Jacquelyn Georges, Nancy Grandoff, Martha Ann Haile, Dave Herzik, Claire Hoel, Hilman Holifield, Dwight Holshouser, Jean Howie, David and Barbara Hubbell, Bonnie Jackson, Jim and Iberia Johnston, Glenice Kelley, Michael Liguori, Tom Lippert, Ilda Hall Littell, Dave and Pam Malone, Barbara Mauger, Kathie Mayhall, Nancy McLaughlin, M.D. Miller, Tamara Murphy, Col. Dick Newton, Janet Poling, Bob Reed, Joy Russak, Marge Siebert, Jane Snoke, Laura Unger, Philip Ware, Rev. Alice Winters, and Dennis Zuercher.

Please pray for our family and friends serving overseas in the military: Brian Herzik, USA; ADM James Loeblein, USN; CPT Robert Wilson, USAF. *Please provide us with mailing addresses for our card ministry.*

If you know of others, please let us know. Contact **Blanche Ganey** (bganey@fpc-stpete.org).

DINING WITH DAWN

The next scheduled “Dining with Dawn” is Sunday, January 7, in the youth center at 12:30 p.m. If you signed up for this time slot, please make your way to the youth center after church.

ST. PETE FREE CLINIC

There is never a greater need for donations of food than at the holiday season. This year has become especially important since the need is greater than ever. First Presbyterian has food collection bins in fellowship hall and the main sanctuary (under the north steps to the balcony). The St. Petersburg Free Clinic picks up the donations and distributes the food to those in need and other charitable organizations.

MEDITATION FOR CHRISTIANS

You are invited to experience meditation and a new small group. We meet on alternate Tuesday evenings. Next meeting will be January 9 in the chapel from 7:00

to 8:00 p.m. Our group leader is **Carlen Maddux**. For more information, please contact **John Sims** (867-4032, or simsjr@eckerd.edu). We welcome your inquiries and presence.

BETH MOORE BIBLE STUDY! “QUEST”

AN EXCURSION WITH INTIMACY TOWARD GOD

For 6 weeks, we will seek a deeper intimacy with God as we ask and discuss questions of faith. We’ll also foster a sojourner mentality as we understand that we are only passing through this world. Join us either on Tuesday mornings at 9:15 a.m. or Tuesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. in the youth center (a light supper will be served) January 16th - February 20, 2018. Everyone is welcome—no previous Bible study experience is required. The Quest-Study Journal will be available for \$20. Free childcare is available by reservation. E-mail childcare@fpc-stpete.org or call/leave a message with childcare at 828-3971 (sign up for all 6 weeks or let childcare know if you are

unable to come for specific dates). Any questions, call **April Hussung**: 420-1758 or stapler39@aol.com or **Marie Huber**: 515-8355 or mariethuber@aol.com **30th**.

END-OF-YEAR GIVING



During December, many of us consider steps we can take to reduce our income tax burden due by April 15 of the following year. One effective step is to increase charitable contributions before year end. If you have not yet completed your 2017 Stewardship pledge, or if you would like to contribute a designated gift to another need in the church (e.g., new chairs for the Fellowship Hall), we hope you will consider giving toward those causes before midnight tonight.

YEAR-END CONTRIBUTIONS

Please note that all contributions for the year 2017 must be received by today, **December 31st** unless they were mailed to the church, postmarked by **December**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31
NEW YEARS EVE**

Communion Worship 8:15 AM Chapel
Contemporary Worship 9:00 AM F'ship Hall
Contemporary Faith Class 9:45 AM N-120
Faith-Filled Families Class 9:45 AM S-100
Faith Journey Class 9:45 AM S-202
Westminster Class 9:45 AM N-123
FPC Bus Transportation from
Westminster Shores 9:45 AM Church Bus
Children's Sunday School 10:00 AM
Youth Sunday School 10:00 AM Youth Cntr
FPC Bus Transportation from
Westminster Suncoast 10:00 AM Church Bus
FPC Bus Transportation from
Presbyterian Towers 10:15 AM Church Bus
FPC Bus Transportation from
Westminster Palms 10:30 AM Church Bus
Valet Parking 10:30 AM
Classic Worship with Choir 11:00 AM Sanctuary
Alcoholics Anonymous 8:00 PM N-121

**MONDAY, JANUARY 1
Happy New Year!
Church Office Closed**

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 2
Church Office Closed
ANNEXES FUMIGATED**

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3
Church Office Closed
ANNEXES FUMIGATED**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 4
Church Office Closed**

Pastor's Lunch Bunch at Gigi's 12:00 PM Off-site
Men's Community Bible Study 6:30 PM Youth Cntr

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5

Men's Sunrise Bible Study 7:30 AM N-123
Parents' Morning Out (PMO) 9:00 AM Child Care
Girl Scout Troop 570 6:30 PM S-206

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

New Hope Christian
Fellowship 5:30 PM Offsite
Kids' Night Out 5:00 PM Youth Cntr
Al-Anon Family Group 7:00 PM N-121

Rev. Dr. Dawn Conti, Pastor ♦ Matt Caine, Director of Music ♦ Jack Rain, Organist
Susan Key, Parish Associate ♦ Ashley Davis, Day School Director ♦ Carol Riley, Children's Ministry
Coordinator Stacey Ramirez, Director of Child Care ♦ Jessica Rentschlar, Youth Ministry Coordinator ♦
Carole Igney, Bookkeeper ♦ Johnny Miller, Building & Grounds Superintendent ♦ Bob Langley,
Custodian ♦ Blanche Ganey, Office Manager

701 Beach Drive NE, St. Petersburg, Florida 33701 ♦ Church Office: (727) 822-2031 ♦ Fax: (727)
894-2971

Day School: (727) 894-5889 ♦ Web site: www.fpc-stpete.org ♦ E-mail: office@fpc-stpete.org