

# THE GOOD NEWS

## December 2014

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WAITING...

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We live in a world that expects instant results. You work on your computer and get frustrated if what you're looking for doesn't come up immediately. You get a medical test and you expect the results now. You order something on line and are willing to pay exorbitant prices so it can be there tomorrow instead of the day after tomorrow.

The same thing happens with Christmas. We talk about "the Christmas rush". We run around getting everything ready for the one day. It's there before you know it. Then the day happens and there's nothing left but crumpled wrapping paper.

Observing Advent allows you to do something different. Advent is a waiting season, a pregnant season. It is a pause as we wait for something wonderful that's on the way, something whose timing is out of our hands but in God's hands. This waiting time isn't just about the outward preparations we make for Christmas. It's about God preparing us from the inside out as we await the birth of God's son and the coming of God's kingdom. This preparation can't be rushed.

So this Advent, our theme will be "Waiting..." In worship, we will wait for Christ's coming as we light the Advent candle and offer our prayers. You are invited to wait and worship and pray with this year's Advent devotional. But don't just wait in your formal spiritual life. I encourage you to practice waiting as a spiritual discipline this Advent. If you're in line in a store, don't just glare and shift your weight from one foot to the other, wondering how long this is going to take. Take a deep breath, think of this as a God-given moment, smile and maybe even strike up a conversation. If you're stuck in traffic, put relaxing music on the radio and use the pause to pray. If there's too much to do, figure out something to not-do, and wait, wait, wait for the coming of the Lord.

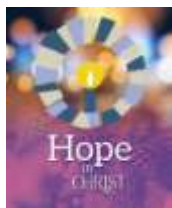
For Christ is coming, bringing hope and peace and joy and love. Christ is coming, not according to our timing, but in God's time. Christ is coming to make all things, including you, new. Isn't that worth waiting for?

Peace,  
Pam



# Advent schedule

## 2014 Advent Schedule



Sunday, November 30 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent “Waiting With Hope”

Worship with Communion

9:30 Chambers, 11:00 Princeton

Scriptures: Isaiah 64:1-9; Mark 13:24-37

*Chancel Choir*

12:30 – 2:00 p.m. Advent Afternoon (see article p. 4)

Saturday, December 6

10:00 a.m. Hanging of the Greens – Princeton

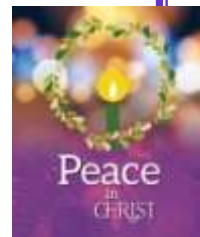
Sunday, December 7 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent “Waiting For Peace”

9:30 Chambers, 11:00 Princeton

Scripture: Isaiah 40:1-11; Mark 1:1-8

*Guitar Led Worship*

10:30 a.m. – Hanging of the Greens - Chambers



Sunday, December 14– 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent “Waiting for Joy”

11:00 Joint Worship at Chambers

Choir Cantata - “Bethlehem’s Child”

12 Noon – Christmas Lunch (see article p. 4)

Pack food baskets

Sunday, December 21 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

“Waiting for Love”

9:30 Chambers, 11:00 Princeton

Scripture: Luke 1:26-48; Luke 1:45b – 55

12 noon – Birthday Party for Jesus - Princeton



Monday, December 22

7:30 p.m. – Longest Night Worship Service at Princeton



Wednesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

“Comfort and Joy”

6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship at Chambers

8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship at Princeton

Sunday, December 28– 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas

“The Wait is Ended!”

9:30 Chambers

11:00 Princeton

Scripture: Luke 2:22-40

Sunday, January 4 – Epiphany Sunday

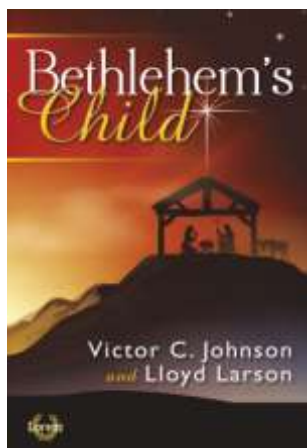
NOTE NEW TIME FOR THE NEW YEAR!!!

9:30 Princeton, 11:00 Chambers

Worship with Communion

# Worship

## CHRISTMAS CANTATA



For the first time in many years, our choir under the direction of John Kampmeyer, Jr. will lead us in worship with a cantata this Advent-Christmas season. On Sunday, December 14 at our combined Advent worship service (11:00 a.m. at Chambers), the choir will sing “Bethlehem’s Child”, a cantata which includes new music and familiar tunes to tell the Christmas story. The Chambers-Princeton chancel choir will be joined by several additional gifted singers for this special performance. This would be a great time to invite a friend to come to church with you to share the good news embodied in Bethlehem’s Child.

## Longest Night Worship

Some silent nights don’t seem so holy. They are dark and lonely. We wonder if God is there at all, or if God cares. But it is into those empty, silent nights, those times of grief, loss and pain, that God comes at Christmas, bringing light and hope, filling the darkness with love in the shape of a child.



The Longest Night Service will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, December 22 at Princeton. In a beautiful, simple service with silence, song and prayer, God meets us in our pain, offers healing and leads us from darkness into light. The silent night becomes holy once again. Please come yourself and bring anyone you know who needs to be there too. The service will be followed by light refreshments in the church library.

## Christmas Eve Services

### CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

On Christmas Eve, we celebrate Jesus’ birth with “glad tidings of comfort and joy”. In our churches, there will be worship filled with songs, space for children, beloved scriptures read by readers of many ages, a short meditations and, of course, candlelight as we celebrate the coming of God to earth in the birth of Jesus. There will be two similar services at different times and places. Choose the one that works best for you and your family. Worship at Chambers will be at 6:30 p.m. Worship at Princeton will be at 8:00 p.m. Childcare will be provided at the service at Princeton.

## HANGING OF THE GREENS

You are invited to help make our churches festive for the Christmas season. Princeton folks will be “hanging the greens” on Saturday, December 6 at 10 a.m. Chambers will be decorating on Sunday, December 7 following worship. Many hands make light work, and besides, it’s fun. Hope you can lend a hand!



## “Wait for the Lord”

For the last several years, we’ve written our own Advent devotional. This year, we’re taking a break. We will be using a published devotional, “Wait for the Lord”, which goes with our theme for the season. The readings are written by Henri Nouwen, who also wrote the book we read together a couple of years ago, “Life of the Beloved”. The editor of the devotional says “It is doubtful that there is a more appropriate author than Henri Nouwen to accompany us during Advent....Few people can reach down and touch our deepest doubts, anxieties and joys as Henri Nouwen seems to do so effortlessly. It is because he shares these same emotional highs and lows that he is able to uncover the intimate, spiritual dimension within them that can help enliven our faith life....Let Nouwen’s words seep into your heart and make your Advent a rich and rewarding experience, bringing you closer to God and to God’s people.” Print editions will be available starting Sunday, November 23. If you are interested in receiving a daily email devotional through the season, please email the church office at [Princeton.chambers@gmail.com](mailto:Princeton.chambers@gmail.com) or sign up in the church library.

## Advent Afternoon

Advent begins on Sunday, November 30. Turn your mind away from Thanksgiving, away from the Christmas rush and toward the season of waiting and preparing for the Christ child by coming to Advent Afternoon at Princeton from 12:30 – 2:00 on November 30. This is a time to make your own Advent wreath to use at home throughout the season, make gifts to give to others, and do some fun crafts as well. The afternoon will begin at 12:15 with pizza lunch, followed by the activities of the day. Frames and candles will be available for Advent wreaths. Please bring evergreen branches or holly from your yard to help us decorate them. This is a fun afternoon with for everyone, no matter what your age.



## Annual Advent Combined Worship and Pageant

The Chambers and Princeton congregations will celebrate the Advent-Christmas season together on Sunday, December 14. The day will begin with a joint worship service at Chambers at 11 a.m., which will include a cantata performed by our choir. Following worship, both congregations will gather for a festive lunch in Macrone Hall. Turkey, ham and drinks will be supplied. Chambers members are asked to bring a favorite holiday side dish to share. Princeton is asked to bring festive desserts.



The afternoon will end as we pack holiday food baskets together to be delivered to families in need for the Christmas season.

This day of worship, food and fellowship has become a highlight of the season for our churches. Let’s celebrate together



## SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADS IN HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE!

During Advent, the Sunday school at Princeton will be leading the rest of the congregation as they wait for Jesus with hope, peace, joy and love. Each week, they'll talk about the key word associated with one of the candles on the Advent wreath so they can lead the discussion around lighting the Advent candle in worship the following Sunday. Thanks to our creative teachers who help our kids understand the big words we use in worship!



## BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS

On Sunday, December 21, the Sunday school children at Princeton will be having a birthday party for Jesus. To help celebrate (and for something fun), kids are encouraged to come to church in their PJ's that week. They'll talk about Jesus' birthday, and prepare a party for everyone else as they are in charge of Fellowship Hour that week. Even Jesus (or especially Jesus) deserves a party. Come help celebrate the birth of the newborn king.

## Community Mission Outreach News



Thanks to all that in some small way help make a child Christmas a little better. Three elves delivered 140 Christmas gifts to the Village with joy! We also sent 25 gifts down to Chester Eastside for the Children in the Eastside.

## *Connect By Night*

January is just around the corner and that means Connect by Night time. We are still working on gift sacks for the homeless. Could everyone consider bringing in a tooth brush or toothpaste which is really needed to help fill these bags.

### Chambers November Session Notes

The Session of Chambers Church met on Wednesday, November 5. The following items were discussed:

- The Stewardship Campaign has begun, along with preliminary work on the 2015 budget.
- The Rutledge Borough Zoning Committee heard Chambers' proposal to sell the manse. All requests were granted, with the understanding that some yardage from the parking lot (6 ½ or 7 ½ feet) will need to be included in the manse property to standardize the size of the lot. Also, at settlement some funds might need to be allotted which would be used to install a driveway on the manse property. The proposal will now be presented to Borough Council.
- Nineteen people wrapped 138 gifts during the wrapping party on November 1. Those gifts will go to the children at the Village. An additional 25 gifts will be donated to Chester Eastside.
- The Mission and Outreach Team will sponsor a yard sale on November 22, from 8AM – noon, for the purpose of selling the furniture that remains in the garage. Proceeds will be split between Chambers and Chester Eastside.
- Planning has begun for the Advent Season. The joint service and Advent luncheon will be held on December 14 at Chambers.
- The Shared Ministry Council is finalizing job descriptions for the Pastor, Music Director, and Church Administrator. Job performance reviews for staff members will be conducted in January.
- Volunteers are being sought to contribute snacks and to help with hospitality at the Community Thanksgiving Service on November 26 at Princeton.
- Jim Wurster and Tom Reinke, directors of the New Avenue Foundation, introduced themselves to the Session. Their foundation is interested in using church space for programs for young adults with disabilities. They have proposed using the multi-purpose room one or two nights a week for a coffeehouse, which would provide a place for these young adults to socialize. They may also be interested in leasing office space in the future. It is hoped that, when the program is up and running, members of the church might also become involved.

### Princeton November Session Notes

- **Clerk's Report** – Minutes of October 7<sup>th</sup> stated meeting approved as presented.
- **Treasurer's Report** – It was noted that the October financials showed that year to date regular giving is behind budget and rental income is above budget.
- **Nurture Faith Team** – Key dates were reviewed for the Advent and Christmas season.
- **Building Community Team** – Session did not approve recommendation from the team to become a Congregational Partner with Heeding God's Call. 25% of Peacemaking offering will be sent to support the mission of Heeding God's Call. Plans will be made to display the "Memorial to the Lost" in 2015.
- **Report of the Pastor** – As requested, the Session will meet with Helen Williams before worship on November 23<sup>rd</sup> to accept her into membership of our church.
- **Other Business** – Discussion took place regarding the need for a task force to be in place at Princeton to organize special events such as the Covenant luncheon, Christmas luncheon, Lenten suppers, picnic, and the upcoming reception after the Thanksgiving Eve community service. **With unanimous approval, the Princeton Party People was formed and Diane Denk was named as the convener.** Several names were suggested to be part of the task force.

**Session unanimously approved to give a \$15.00 voucher per space to dealers who reserved spaces for October flea market to be used as credit for our next flea market and to raise the fee to \$30.00 per space.** June 6<sup>th</sup> was set as tentative date for spring flea market.

Elder Carolyn Jeffrey was elected to serve as commissioner to November 18<sup>th</sup> Presbytery meeting at Carmel Presbyterian Church.

# Christmas Giving

## GIFTS FOR THE MANGER

When Jesus was born, his family was poor and far from home. They depended on strangers for a safe place to stay and clothes to wrap their newborn baby in. Many babies in our time are born to people with few resources to make the world a welcoming place for their child. During Advent, you are invited to bring gifts for a baby to Chambers and place them in the manger in the sanctuary. Diapers, baby blankets, clothes are all needed. After Christmas, the items will be taken to the Village to be distributed to babies they support.



## CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS

Sponsored by Presbyterian Women and Princeton Deacons

Starting in November, we begin a new mission season at Princeton and Chambers, focusing on providing food for the hungry in our area. We will fill baskets that are distributed by the Delaware County Youth and Family Services to needy families throughout the county. Our goal is 20 baskets. We will begin collecting on Sunday, November 9th, which is Feeding Others Sunday. The following items are needed to make up each basket, the essentials for a holiday dinner.

|                           |                    |                             |
|---------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Turkey (gift certificate) | Coffee, tea, juice | Macaroni and cheese         |
| Canned yams or potatoes   | Stuffing mix       | Cranberry sauce             |
| Peanut butter             | Grape jelly        | Canned vegetables and gravy |

The following is a list of the canned and non-perishable items that can also be included:

|                 |       |                         |                    |             |
|-----------------|-------|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Fruit           | Rice  | Canned meats (tuna)     | Pasta              | Ice tea mix |
| Jello           | Flour | Hot chocolate           | 5 lb. bag of sugar |             |
| Tomato sauce    |       | Shake and bake          | Beans (all kinds)  |             |
| Stews and Soups |       | Broth (beef or chicken) | Syrup              | Cereal      |
| Pancake mix     |       | Rice-a-roni             |                    |             |

All excess is distributed evenly among the baskets. Monetary contributions would also be appreciated to purchase the turkey gift certificates and to defray the cost of the laundry baskets we put the food in. Cash donations or checks made payable to Princeton Presbyterian Church, annotating "Christmas Basket," can be given to Lin Buchta or Carolyn Jeffrey, or placed in a marked envelope in the offering plate. The deadline for food collection and cash or checks will be Sunday, December 7th. Help us to be a blessing by contributing items for the Christmas Food baskets!

## Christmas Giving

As you consider your year-end charitable giving this year, we encourage you to consider a special gift to your church. Whether you think of it as a birthday present to Jesus or an investment in God's kingdom, your gift will go a long way to making sure the gospel continues to be proclaimed and the good news shared through our church in the year ahead.



### *The Giving Tree*

In most homes at this season, there is a Christmas tree with a pile of gifts for the kids. Imagine what it would be like if there were no gifts and no tree because you had no home to put them in. For 700 children in homeless shelters and transitional housing in Delaware County this year, that's what Christmas will be like. The Princeton Deacons are trying to make their Christmases a little brighter this year. Starting November 30, the first Sunday in Advent, a tree with tags for gift suggestions will be up in Boggs Hall. Please take a tag, purchase the gift, and return the unwrapped gift to Boggs Hall by Friday, December 19. There are children of every age in the system, but gifts and gift cards for older children are especially needed. As you shop, remember that Jesus was homeless when he was born. In his name, make his birthday brighter for another homeless child.



### **CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING** *“O send out your light and your truth”*

One of four special offerings of our denomination, gifts to this offering create new opportunities, possibilities and experiences through the love of Christ. It helps fund the Assistance program of the Board of Pensions which provides current and retired church workers with the help they need to get through life's unexpected challenges. The Offering also supports education at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges, promoting higher learning and leadership development for all students regardless of race or economic standing. Life changing stories of those who have received grants will be shared in bulletin inserts during the Advent season. Envelopes will be available during worship on December 21<sup>st</sup>. ***The offering will be dedicated on January 4<sup>th</sup>, Three Kings Sunday.*** As the Wise Men brought gifts to Jesus, let us follow in the tradition of meaningful gift giving by supporting the Christmas Joy Offering!

### **WORSHIP TIME CHANGE!**

Remember the worship time change that starts with the new year!  
Beginning Sunday, January 4,

**9:30 a.m. – Worship at Princeton**

**11:00 a.m. – Worship at Chambers**

The service is the same most Sundays. Choose the time that works for you!



#### **Holiday Hours**

We will not have regular office hours between Christmas Eve and New Years Day.

Pam will be working, if you need her please feel free to email her at [mcshanepam@gmail.com](mailto:mcshanepam@gmail.com) or call her at 610-742-0879.



## DECEMBER:

4 ~ James Bramwell  
 4 ~ Mildred Clark  
 4 ~ Mimi Smith  
 8 ~ Diane Denk  
 8 ~ George Jeynes  
 12 ~ Marissa Kalinowsky  
 12 ~ Dylan Kalinowsky  
 12 ~ Tyler Kalinowsky  
 12 ~ Elizabeth Alburger  
 19 ~ Pam McShane  
 22 ~ Bill Myers  
 23 ~ Carol MacCrone

*Birthdays  
of the Month*



30 ~ Danny McShane  
 30 ~ Kyle Kalinowsky

## Baptism of Amelia Elizabeth McShane

## POINSETTIAS

As in years past, we will be decorating our Sanctuary for Christmas Eve, with the Poinsettias you order in loving memory of, or in honor of, someone special.

All orders must be in by December 7th. This is a firm deadline.



Cost is \$6.00 for a 6-1/2" pot  
 Choice of Red, White or Pink

Given by (your name):

\_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of:

\_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of :

\_\_\_\_\_

Number of

Red    White    Pink    Total Poinsettias:

\_\_\_\_\_



# *Wrapping Party*



# *Covenant Lunch*





### Those Serving at CHAMBERS for the Month of December

| Date    | Liturgist     | Ushers  | Coffee and Conversation |
|---------|---------------|---|-------------------------|
| Dec. 7  | Debbie Walsh  | Gay Wilbank, Mary McDowell, Sheila Buzza        | Deb Walsh               |
| Dec. 14 |               | Bette & George Alburger<br>And Marilynne Hinkel | Luncheon                |
| Dec. 21 | Leslie Kirsch | Mary Waltz, Bobbie Morrison, Marge Aungst       | Ginny Warmerdam         |
| Dec. 28 |               | Mary Ann & Jim Bramwell and Bill McLean         |                         |
|         |               |   |                         |

### Those Serving at PRINCETON for the Month of December

| Date    | Lay Liturgist   | Ushers                 | Fellowship Hour                      |
|---------|-----------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Dec. 7  | Carolyn Jeffrey |                        | Angela Piech                         |
| Dec. 14 | Kate McShane    | Advent Svc at Chambers | Luncheon                             |
| Dec. 21 | Shaun Eyring    |                        | Happy Birthday Jesus - Sunday School |
| Dec. 28 | Brian McShane   |                        |                                      |
|         |                 |                        |                                      |