
December 1 Volume 21, Issue 23

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First Presbyterian

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

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1st Sunday
December

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Reflections

“Prepare the Way of Christ in Your Heart”

5May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, 6so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 15:5-6

Wake Up!
Make Peace!
Reach Out!
And Make Space in Your Heart!!

The Season of Advent this year will be focusing on our preparation. If we are going to have space in our hearts to receive Christ's love and presence, we need to clean out the debris and garbage that has accumulated over the past year. The residue of living during meaningless conflict, ceaseless fights, and wasted battles has left most of us calloused towards the people near us and calloused towards the voice of God's love surrounding us. We don't even need to participate in the wrangling and noise – it seems to seep into all our pores and coats us with a feeling of alienation and fear. It isn't just the politics of the nation, the fighting of the world, or the issues of the people with whom we spend our time that irritates us. As Isaiah proclaimed, “deep darkness has covered the earth and thick darkness the people” (Isaiah 60:2) but the light of Christ is waiting to shine in our midst. Our challenge is to ready our hearts.

To prepare our hearts means confessing and acknowledging the way we have participated in separation and conflicts in the world around us. We need to renounce the sin of focusing on everyone else's faults and instead see that the world is full of pain, separation, and hostility. So much of the separation and noise comes from frightened wounded people lashing out at others who are equally battered and fearful. What we need is a gift of peace. Christ, the Prince of Peace, longs to provide that healing.

In worship and throughout our time this Advent, we will be preparing our hearts to reach out in love, to receive God's love, to be transformed. Unite in this time of celebration and preparation, as we come together in worship and praise. Let us come together to worship and praise God, so that the light of Christ will shine from our hearts.

Peace,
Pastor Jack

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Coming Up in Worship

12/01/2019

Sermon: "Wake Up!"

Theme: We need to focus on the gift of God's presence and wisdom in order to make the most of this time.

Purpose: To call the congregation to dedication to daily preparation for Christ's presence.

Scriptures: Isaiah 2:1-5 The people seek to come to the wisdom of God.
Romans 13:11-14 Wake up! Put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no room for the flesh.

Questions:

What keeps us from fully appreciating the gift of Christ's love in Advent and Christmas? What are the distractions that rob us of the joy and wonder of the season? How do our grievances, unforgiveness, and fears lead us to denial, distraction, and focus upon things that are meaningless? Why do we focus on the things we cannot control, while neglecting to take time for the growth and wisdom that would become a source of strength?

12/08/2019

Sermon: "Make Peace (Get Over It!)"

Theme: It's time to release our attachment to past wounds, grievances, and complaints so that we may experience the welcome and acceptance that Jesus wants to share with us.

Purpose: The congregation will begin to examine what past issues are being used for self-justification and propping up identity.

Scriptures: Isaiah 11:1-10 The presence of Christ is coming to create reconciliation and healing for all who will open themselves to the knowledge of God.
Romans 15:4-13 Those who welcome others as Christ has welcomed us find joy, forgiveness and healing.

Questions:

What does it take to enable us to make a commitment to releasing our past wounds and complaints? Why do we hold onto and relive hurts, conflicts, and issues from the past? What is it that causes us to make our wounds and hurts central to the way in which we see ourselves? What would it take for us to let go of those things? How can we see ourselves as part of God's love and redeeming work in the world? What do we need to do in order to open our hearts to healing, especially in the places that have long been painful?

12/15/2019 Cantata at 10:30 Service.

Sermon: "Reach Out!!"

Theme: God has given us a time for proclaiming peace both in our own lives and in the lives of the people who are around us.

Purpose: We will participate together in seeking ways we can build and share the peace that is God's will.

Scriptures: Isaiah 35:1-10 God is making a way of healing and reconciliation, inviting all of us to participate in welcoming the renewal.
James 5:7-10 Practice patience and release the grudges that separate us from God.

Questions:

What happens to us when we become part of reaching out in love to others? How are we enabled to grow and see ourselves differently when we are participating in God's love and grace flowing to others? What do we need to do in order to redirect our complaining and grumbling into reaching out in love and celebration of peace? How do we practically begin to work for peace rather than live in defensiveness and hostility? How do we find the place where we can reach out in love and serve Christ?

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Coming Up in Worship (continued)

12/22/2019

Sermon: "Make Space in Your Heart!!"

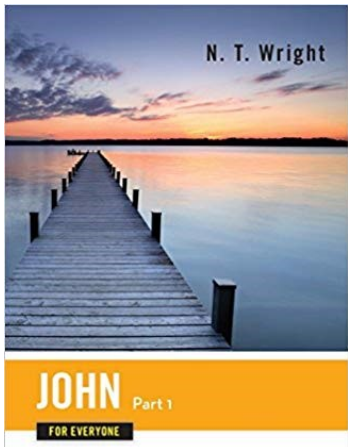
Theme: God's invitation is to clean out the past, to let go of what has been meaningless, and to open our hearts to God doing something new.

Purpose: The congregation will take time in the week to consider what needs to be released in order to move forward in relationship with God and one another.

Scriptures: Isaiah 7:10-16 A son will be born to us, whose name will be "God with us."
Romans 1:1-7 God sent the Apostle Paul to proclaim a declaration of resurrection.

Questions:

What does it mean to make space in our hearts for Christ's love and presence? What do we need to do to be open to God's love? How is it that we become "cluttered" in our holding onto the past and to things that do not matter? What are some practices or activities we can do that will help to move us forward in opening ourselves to God's love and presence? How can we be people live our lives as a declaration of God's love and forgiving peace?



Wednesday Morning Bible Study 10:30 – Noon

For this season of the Wednesday morning Bible Study, we will be examining the Gospel According to John. As a resource we will use the book: "John for Everyone" by N. T. Wright.

Our time together is a joyful gathering of conversation, sharing, prayer, and study.

12/04/2019	John 6:1-25	Feeding the Five Thousand; Jesus Walking on the Water
12/11/2019	John 6:26-71	Bread from Heaven; The Father's Will; Eating and Drinking the Son of Man; Division Among Jesus' Followers
12/18/2019	John 7:1-52	Jesus and His Brothers; Disputes about Jesus; Moses and the Messiah; Rivers of Living Water; Where does the Messiah Come From?

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

PYA = Presbyterian Youth Association

Basic Information PYA is for students in the 5th-12th grade
Purpose To get to know Jesus Christ and have lots of fun!

Sunday	December 1	11:30am-1:30pm	PYA Lunch and Planning Happy Birthday Jesus Party
Saturday	December 7	9:30am-11:30am	Happy Birthday Jesus Party Come and celebrate the birth of Jesus with the children from church and the community. Help with games, crafts, and assortment of other activities for the kids.
Sunday	December 8	1:00pm	Angel Tree Shopping (meet at Walmart)
Saturday	December 14	10:45 -11:45am	PYA at the Woodlands Christmas Jingo and Sing-along
Sunday	December 22	1:00pm-4:00pm	Christmas Party and Baking Cookies (for the 5pm Christmas Eve Worship Service) PYA Christmas Party Bring a dish to pass, Advent Box item and a \$5 gift to exchange.

Music in December

As we look forward to the Advent season we will once again be singing familiar Christmas Carols as we gather for worship. During the service, we sing songs that may not be as familiar due to the season coming but once a year.

The following is a list of some less familiar hymns to listen to and help us prepare for the Reason for the Season. Notice that the tune for "O Lord How Shall I Meet You" is the same melody we use for "All Glory Laud and Honor" often sung on Palm Sunday. How appropriate given Christmas does not mean much without Holy Week and Easter! Enjoy!

#20 Watchman, Tell us of the Night

<https://youtu.be/-TfGHDGW3X4Light>

Light of the World

<https://youtu.be/dCRUnZGYBi4>

#13 Prepare the Way

<https://youtu.be/uORyi9V3B3Q>

Sing, Sing, Sing

https://youtu.be/IV5Vdi_550U

#14 Savior of the Nations, Come

<https://youtu.be/RxWVSmhF4xg>

Christmas Cantata at 10:30am

#22 O Lord How Shall I Meet You?

https://youtu.be/d_up_TRb7GI

Cornerstone

<https://youtu.be/QvLxZEU02uI>

December 8 - Cookie Walk and Raffle

Join us for our annual Cookie Walk

It's not too late to sign up to bake cookies! There's a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center.

Your cookies need to be brought to church Saturday morning, December 7, or by 8:00am Sunday, December 8.

On December 8, between services, the fun part begins! Buy cookies for family, friends or yourself!



Table Runner Raffle

The Deacons' Cookie Walk is coming soon. In addition to all the yummy cookies, this year we are going to have a raffle for a beautiful table runner/wall hanging, handmade by Sally Sleder.



Tickets will be available in the Narthex, on Sunday morning December 8. They can also be purchased in the church office, during regular business hours.

Here is how you can try to be the lucky winner:

1. people who bake cookies to donate to the Cookie Walk will get one free ticket.
2. tickets can also be purchased for \$1each or 6 for \$5.

Proceeds help support the Compassion Fund.

December 24 - Call for Christmas Eve Performers

For our **5:00pm** Christmas Eve Service, we are looking for people willing to play parts in a drama of the Angel's annunciation of the coming of Christ. We will be looking for people to play the parts of:

- Shepherds
- Mary – the mother of Jesus
- Magi
- Zechariah – John the Baptist's father
- and other parts

These parts can be played by any age group. It will be an enjoyable time to take part in a joyful and meaningful worship service. Those who are available and wish to play a part should let Pastor Jack, or Kris Bartelt know. You can also sign up in the office.

Our 7:00 Christmas Eve Service is a powerful and joyful celebration of Christ's coming. With music, candles, and singing Silent Night as we welcome Christ into our midst. We

Angel Tree Gifts

The Angel Tree is once again in the Narthex. We continue to share the Angel Tree with the Open Circle Unitarian Universalist Church, as we have done in the past.



This year, we have requests for 66 children - 38 girls and 28 boys, ranging in age from 3 weeks to fifteen years. We also have 6 family requests - primarily for gas or grocery cards. Once again, wrapping paper, bows and tape are appreciated. (We do have some wrapping paper left over from last year.)

One recently homeless family, with four young daughters, have greater needs, as they lost many of their possessions. They are now living in an apartment and starting over. They would appreciate any household items, especially sturdy dishes, pots and pans, silverware, towels, a broom and a mop. Requests for all the children include clothes, socks, shoes (8 pair), winter boots (6 pair), snow pants and other items. And, of course, toys.

Head Start parents have told us that they really appreciate being able to wrap their children's' gifts. This way, they are sharing in the preparations, as well as, the joys of this amazing project of love.

The instructions are as follows:

- Choose your "slip" with the requested gifts and number on it
- Sign your name and phone number behind the corresponding number on the Sign-up Sheet
- Additional instructions are listed on the poster near the tree
- **Return *unwrapped* gifts to church by Sunday, December 15**

Please remember: The gifts listed on the request slip are a *suggestion* of the gifts you might want to purchase for your recipient. The items are specific things that the children would like. (The Head Start staff gets the requests directly from the parents of the children.) However, you do NOT need to purchase everything that is listed.

Please enjoy your shopping! If you have children or grandchildren, take them with you when you are shopping. It is never too early for them to learn to be generous.

Whenever you possibly can, do good to those who need it. Proverbs 3:27

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

December 7 -
Happy Birthday Jesus!

9:30am-11:30am
First Presbyterian Church
HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS!

Join us to celebrate
the birth of Jesus!

Games, crafts, a variety of
other activities, and a snack!

We have a lot of fun!
Won't you join us?

Registration forms are
available in the bulletins
and in the church office.

Please register by
December 5.

December 8 - Poinsettias

**December 8 is the last
day to order poinsettias.**

You are invited to order poinsettias
to beautify our sanctuary.

Small Poinsettia \$13.00

Large Poinsettia \$25.00

Additional information is available
in the bulletin insert.

Please return
your form and
payment to the
church office.
Both must be
received by
December 8, 2019. **The order will
be placed on December 9.**



December 8 -
Hope Lutheran Christmas
Concert

Hope Lutheran Church (260
Vincent St.) invites the public to
its 60th Annual Christmas
Concerts.

Two performances:
10:40am & 4:00pm
Refreshments will follow the
4:00pm concert.

The concerts will include choirs,
handbells, worship teams, and
brass.

There is no admission charge. A
free-will offering will be taken.

Call 920-922-5130 for more
information.

December 11 -
Women In Faith

5:30pm - 7:30pm...New Time!!!!

Cork Ornaments and Bowl
Cozies.....and Optional Cookie
Exchange

We have many opportunities for
you to express your creativity.
We will make cork ornaments and
bowl cozies. All materials will be
provided.

Also, if you are interested in being
part of a Cookie Exchange, we
will exchange cookies that even-
ing. Please bring 2 dozen cookies,
a copy of your recipe and a
container to take cookies home.

We will be having meatloaf and
baked potatoes, for dinner. If you
can, bring a dish to pass, if not just
bring yourself and join the fun.

Women In Faith meets one even-
ing a month from 5:30-7:30pm.
We share a light supper together
followed by a fun time of fellow-
ship, devotion and crafts or games.

Women In Faith is open to women
of all ages and everyone is
welcome. See you there! Bring
a friend!!

Please contact Jennifer, in the
church office, if you have any
questions.



December 11 &
December 18

Church of Our Saviour Lutheran Church (363 South Main Street) will host two special noon concerts followed by lunch. Each concert will last about 30 minutes.

The concert and lunch are free and open to the community. Seasonal music will be performed. No reservations are necessary.

Bob Martin will present an organ prelude at both concerts, beginning at 11:45.

The **first** concert is Wednesday, December 11 at 12:00pm. It will feature the Brass Menagerie, a brass quintet directed by Jill Wagner.

The **second** concert is Wednesday, December 18 at 12:00pm. The Cardinal Singers from Fond du Lac High School will perform. This auditioned ensemble consists of junior and senior students and is directed by Cory Schneider.

The performances and lunch are open to the public. A free-will donations will be taken.

December 12 -
Ruby's Pantry



Where Grace Christian Church
1596 4th Street
Fond du Lac, WI
920.923.5292

When December 12

Open 4:30pm

Distribution 5:30pm

Donation \$20.00

Preregistration
rubyspantry.org

If you have any questions contact
Grace Christian Church at:
920.923.5292

(ask for Rachel or Brittany) or
rachelrudzik@gccfdl.org
www.gracechristianchurch.org

December 15 -
Christmas Cantata



The Winter Rose
by Joseph M. Martin

Phil Schmahl conductor
Austin Wenker accompanist

Let the words and music of this cantata remind you that even in the deepest winter, we are people of joy and life...children of the garden.
Joseph and Pamela Martin

We are excited to be collaborating with Immanuel-Trinity Lutheran Church this year. We look forward to sharing this wonderful message on December 15th at:

8:30am worship
Immanuel-Trinity Lutheran
(20 Wisconsin American Dr.)

10:30am Worship
First Presbyterian Church

Join us to celebrate the season of Advent!

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Thank you -
from Judy Dassow

I want to thank everyone for your cards, emails, visits, prayers and words of support as I am recovering from my hip fracture.

I am blessed to belong to this church family.

God bless you all,
Judy Dassow

Thank You - From
Versiti Blood Center



Thank you to those who donated at our November blood drive. Because of your willingness to spend an hour donating blood, we were able to collect 21 units. These units can help save up to 51 lives!

If you were unable to donate at First Presbyterian, we urge you to support the Blood Center of Wisconsin/Versiti at another location in Fond du Lac.

More information can be found at their [website](#).

Advent Candle Lighting



December 1

1st Sunday of Advent
8:00am Mellenthien Family
10:30am Anderson Family

December 8

2nd Sunday of Advent
8:00am
10:30am VahlsingFamily

December 15

3rd Sunday of Advent
8:00am
10:30am Hayes Family

December 22

4th Sunday of Advent
8:00am Braatz Family
10:30am Conran Family

December 24 Christmas Eve
5:00pm Polacek Family
7:00pm



Reverse Advent Calendars are supporting:

- Sam's Closet
- Food For Thought
- Family Resource Center
- Fond du Lac Food Pantry

The Alternative Gift Fair is supporting:

- Loaves and Fishes
- Presbyterian Mission Agency
- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
- Habitat for Humanity of FDL County

Coffee Hour

Every Sunday 9:15-10:15

Please volunteer to host.

Coffee Hour hosts
are needed for
December.

Coffee Hour hosts are needed on a weekly basis. Can you help?

Coffee and fruit are provided.

Inclement Weather

Please check one the following sources for weather-related cancellations of Worship Services or church activities.

Church Website

www.fdlpresbyterian.org

Internet

www.kfiz.com (KFIZ Radio)

Radio

97.7 WFDL

TV

Channel 5 WFDL





Christians
SERVING LEARNING LOVING

Growing Connections **9:15am in the Parlor**

Growing Connections is our ministry of learning opportunities for adults. We seek to grow in relationship, wisdom, and understanding – all of the connections that enable us to know Christ more fully and discover our mission in the world. Growing Connections opportunities will focus on learning about our relationships and how we grow in faith, as well as, mission opportunities.

We are “Christians, Serving, Learning and Loving.” This is an opportunity to grow in faith as we learn more about ourselves, how Christ is reaching out to the world, and how we may use our gifts as the Body of Christ.

DECEMBER

1 Touch Communication

When thinking of communication skills, the first thing that comes to mind is oral (talking and listening with and to someone or something), visual (reading something), and then body language (again visually based). The last thing we think of, if we think of it at all, is the sense of touch. Join Jodi Anderson and her son Liam as they share their story and tell you a little bit about the importance of the use of touch in communication not only for Liam and others who have vision and hearing losses but also learn about Haptics communication which can be used by all to aid in communication and understanding in various environments.

8 TBD

15 TBD

22 Session Forum

Monthly a time will be set aside to review recent action by the church session, discuss the work of the church, and share vision for where Christ is taking First Presbyterian Church in the future. The forum will be hosted by the Elder of the Month. These forums are an opportunity to seek to gather as “Christians, Serving, Learning and Loving.”

Talkback - Sunday Mornings at 9:15am (Resource Room)

Talkback is a discussion of the scripture passages and themes for that particular Sunday’s worship. Discussion facilitators help to create an atmosphere where participants can explore their thoughts and feelings about the issues and topics presented by the scriptures of the day. The class is open to anyone who wants to enjoy an open and caring environment for exploring their faith.

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

In December

Deacon

Larry Johnson
sjlj330@gmail.com

Elder

Dave Erickson
djericks975@att.net

First Presbyterian Focus

Please send submissions for the
Newsletter to:

fdloffice@fdlpresbyterian.org.

Church Office Hours

Monday - Wednesday
9:00am - 5:00pm

Thursday
9:00am - 12:00pm

Friday
Closed

Saturday
9:00 - 12:00pm

Fall/Winter Worship
(September - May)
8:00am & 10:30am

Summer Worship
(May - September)
9:00am

Ushers

December 1

8:00 Nancy Hilbert
Lew & Carol Smith
Carol Wetzel
10:30 Debra Spoerke
Barb & Dan Mitchell
Pete Wills

December 8

8:00 Bob & Barb Baumhardt
Dave Erickson
Mike Petersen
10:30 Mary Robotka
Sheryl Brown
2 Ushers Needed

December 15

8:00 Jim & Judy Dassow
Larry Merrill
Jack Hughes
10:30 Lew & Carol Smith
2 Ushers Needed

December 22

8:00 4 Ushers Needed
10:30 Wendy Wilcox
Sue Baker
Jolene Schry
Les Mier

December 24 Christmas Eve

5:00 Carol Wetzel
7:00

Prayers and Praises

Continued Prayers for:

Liam Anderson
Silas Willey
Chastity Geisthardt
Jesse Fisher
Pat Dilling
Mike Frize
Dan Mitchell
Lincoln Deanovich
Paige Clumpner
Rhonda Brewer
Ruth Smith
Jim and Peg Dvorak
John Meyst
Kristina Arellano
JoAnne Klein
Leisa Wagstaff - PCUSA
Mission Co-worker in South
Sudan
Ann Herzig

Prayer Partners

Prayer request cards are in
the pew racks and in the Prayer
Box (on the table in the Nar-
thex). Put your request in the
offering plate or the Prayer Box
and we will partner with you in
prayer.

Rejoice: The gift of growing
together in the body of Christ.

An Usher Sign-up Sheet is
also available in the office.
Being an usher is a great
opportunity to support our
church.

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8a-9a 8:00 Worship 9:15a-10:15a Coffee Hour 9:15a-10:15a Education Hour 9:15a-10:15a Growing Connections - Touch Communications 9:15a-10:15a Talkback 10:30a-11:30a 10:30 Worship 11:30a-1:30p PYA 2p-3p Woodlands Communion 6:30p-8p Boy Scout Troop 702 Meeting	2 10a-11:30a Staff Meeting 6p-7:30p Loving Team	3 1p-2p Ruth Circle 4p-5p Learning Team 6p-7p AA Meeting	4 8a-9a Breakfast - Pump & Pantry 10:30a-12p Bible Study - The Book of John 12p-1p Noon Prayer 6:30p-7:30p Confirmation Class 6:30p-9p Fond du Lac Table Tennis Club	5 6:30p-8p Cantata Rehearsal 6:30p-8p Creative Arts Team	6 Replace Smoke Detectors	7 8a-9a Men of Faith 9a-10a Tech Rehearsal 9:30a-11:30a Happy Birthday Jesus Party
8 Cookie Walk/Raffle 8a-9a 8:00 Worship 9:15a-10:15a Coffee Hour 9:15a-10:15a Education Hour 9:15a-10:15a Talkback 10:30a-11:30a 10:30 Worship 1p-3p AA Conference Planning 1p-2:30p Angel Tree Shopping 6:30p-8p Boy Scout Troop 702 Meeting	9 10a-11:30a Staff Meeting	10 6p-7p AA Meeting	11 8a-9a Breakfast - Pump & Pantry 10:30a-12p Bible Study - The Book of John 12p-1p Noon Prayer 5p-6p Serving Team 5:30p-7:30p Women in Faith 6p-8:30p Just Fare Board Mtg. (Resource Room) 6:30p-9p Fond du Lac Table Tennis Club 6:45p-7:45p Cantata Rehearsal	12 10:30a-11:30a Lakeview Place Communion Service	13	14 9a-10a Tech Rehearsal 9:30a-11a Cantata Rehearsal (1st Church--Sanctuary) 10:45a-11:45a PYA at the Woodlands
15 8a-9a 8:00 Worship 9:15a-10:15a Coffee Hour 9:15a-10:15a Education Hour 9:15a-10:15a Talkback 10:30a-11:30a 10:30 Worship 6:30p-8p Boy Scout Troop 702 Meeting	16 8a-11a Angel Tree Gift Sorting 10a-11:30a Staff Meeting 6:30p-7:30p Session Meeting	17 9a-11a Financial Team Mtg. 6p-7p AA Meeting	18 8a-9a Breakfast - Pump & Pantry 10:30a-12p Bible Study - The Book of John 12p-1p Noon Prayer 6:30p-7:30p Confirmation Class 6:30p-9p Fond du Lac Table Tennis Club	19	20 7p-9p Cribbage	21 9a-10a Tech Rehearsal

December 2019

<p>22 Winter Solstice 8a-9a 8:00 Worship 9:15a-10:15a Coffee Hour 9:15a-10:15a Education Hour 9:15a-10:15a Session Forum 9:15a-10:15a Talkback 10:30a-11:30a 10:30 Worship 1p-4p PYA Cookie Making and Party 6:30p-8p Boy Scout Troop 702 Meeting</p>	<p>23 10a-11:30a Staff Meeting</p>	<p>24 5p-6p 5pm Worship 6p-7p AA Meeting 7p-8p 7pm Worship</p>	<p>25 Christmas Merry Christmas</p>	<p>26 Office Closed</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 9a-10a Tech Rehearsal</p>
<p>29 9a-10a Worship Service 10:15a-11:15a Coffee Hour 6:30p-8p Boy Scout Troop 702 Meeting</p>	<p>30 10a-11:30a Staff Meeting</p>	<p>31 6p-7p AA Meeting</p>	<p>Notes:</p>			

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS!

December 7
9:30am-11:30am
First Presbyterian Church

Join us to celebrate the birth of Jesus!
Games, crafts, an assortment of other activities, and a snack!

Christians Serving, Learning and Loving

Church Staff

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Social Media and Website

