



The Presbyter

November 2015

The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit

All the Saints support God's Church!

This Sunday, November 1, is the day when we dedicate ourselves and our financial gifts to God. It will be a big day, as we celebrate All Saints Day with the Lord's Supper. As we remember how Christ has given himself to us, we return our thanks by offering ourselves - and our gifts - to him.

We thank you for your financial support, which makes so much ministry possible in Christ's name. We teach the Christian faith, serve those in need, welcome all who need a spiritual home, provide support to those in difficulty, and express the love of God in praise and acts of compassion.

This year, the Session is challenging us to make a **ten percent (10%) increase in our weekly support of the church**. And if you have never made a financial pledge to the church, we encourage you to do so this year. Our Session wants to be able to count on you!

There are two ways to make a pledge to First Presbyterian. The first is by completing and returning the pledge cards sent to all church households.

You can also pledge electronically through our website (www.fpccs.org). It is safe and secure.

Thank you in advance for keeping our church vital and strong. Together we can make a difference!



Mending Service

Sunday, November 1 @ 4:00 p.m.

Are you feeling a little blue? Has some event in your life brought you down a bit? Are you missing a loved one? Do you just need a little time for meditation and calmness? Join us for the first "Mending" service of the year.

On this Sunday, November 1 at 4:00 pm, we will have a service of communion, healing music, and Scripture to give solace and comfort to those in need. To mark All Saints' Day, we especially invite those who have lost a loved one to come and remember those they have lost.

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Notes from the Session & Deacons Meeting on October 6, 2015

1. Session congratulated Rev. William G. Carter on his 30th Year in the Ministry.
2. Session learned that the floor in Fellowship Hall is being worked on and will be completed soon.
3. Session worked on the tentative budget for 2016 and were updated on the finances from Finance Chair, Jim McLaughlin; The Stewardship campaign was discussed by Heather Acker, Chair.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION FROM YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR THE MONTH ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

REVENUE

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Budget | \$ 296,025 |
| Actual Received | <u>277,146</u> |
| Difference | \$ (18,879) |

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EXPENSES

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Budget | \$ 308,818 |
| Actual Expenses | <u>288,498</u> |
| Difference | \$ (20,320) |

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| | |
|------------------------|-------------|
| <u>BUDGET VARIANCE</u> | \$ (11,352) |
|------------------------|-------------|

PLEDGE INCOME

| | |
|------------|----------------|
| Budget | \$ 240,000 |
| Received | <u>218,617</u> |
| Difference | \$ (21,383) |

Per Capita Update 2015:

Total Received to date - \$3,835

The Presbyterian deadline for
The December issue is
November 13, 2015

The Presbyter is a monthly newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church, 300 School Street, Clarks Summit, PA 18411.

All visitors are welcome to worship with us.

Worship services are held on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. Child care is available. Communion is observed the first Sunday of every month.

If you do not attend a church in this area, we invite you to any and all of the events, programs, and worship services described in this newsletter. Please call the church office to arrange child care. Our sanctuary and Fellowship Hall are both handicapped accessible.

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Church Office | (570) 586-6306 |
| Fax | (570) 587-3784 |
| Web Page | www.fpccs.org |
| Pastor | William G. Carter |
| Administrative Assistant | Nancy Owens |
| Treasurer | Wayne Griffiths |
| Editor | Lindsey Hardy |
| Clerk of Session | Beverly Bright |
| Director of Music | Frank Jones |
| Director of Bells | Richard Cochrane |
| Director of Chapel Choir | Kay Ten Eyck |
| Organist | Kay Ten Eyck |
| Sexton | John Conklin |



Summer Picnic

It is never too early to start planning for the next church picnic and the church Fellowship Committee is already hard at work making plans. 2016 will again find us going to Camp Lackawanna for this event. It will be held the weekend of August 13-14. Church service will be at the outdoor chapel at Camp Lackawanna on Sunday morning at 10:00 with a guest preacher providing a service in Clarks Summit for those who do not wish to go out to the camp. Following the service at Camp Lackawanna, there will be opportunities for hiking, canoeing, and just having a great time enjoying a beautiful spot in God's creation followed by a picnic provided by the church for all who would like to come. Anyone who stayed in Clarks Summit for church is invited to come out for the picnic. In the past, we have reserved cabin and tent spaces for anyone who would like to come out Saturday evening. We would have a simple supper of sandwiches and such and a camp fire with lots of singing and s'mores. The Fellowship Committee is now looking for a show of interest in the Saturday night activities. We will have to make reservations for the cabins/tent spaces in the near future. We do not need you to make a firm commitment at this time, just a show of interest to give us a rough idea of how many to expect. There will be a small fee to those using the cabins/tent sites and canoe rentals. More on that in the future. Please contact Judy Cutler at 570-446-9310 or jdragonflyc@hotmail.com if you think you might be interested in the Friday night activities and staying over night at the camp.



From the Pastor

William G. Carter

I grew up in a church that had names inscribed on the stained glass windows. When my mind would drift, as it still does, I would look around the sanctuary and remember people that I never met.

There were plaques on the walls, too, noting the names of people who had served the congregation for a long stretch of time. One plaque bore the name of someone I had known in childhood, the Rev. Edgar Frank, who served as pastor for a tremendously long time. One of our youth group leaders joked that it was his headstone and he was buried somewhere in the walls. I could almost believe it!

If our walls could talk, what names would they remember? Over the 103 years of our Presbyterian history in Clarks Summit, a number of people have come to live and work among us, and then some of them have moved on. All of them have left a footprint among our fellowship. We continue to hear their voices, remember their values, and thank them for their gifts.

Christian faith is not an individual faith. A church is a tribe. As with any such fellowship, we sit around the proverbial campfire to share the stories of how we began and what we are called to do. A church changes whenever a baby is born or a wise one dies. For those who were here first, the essential value is hospitality. We welcome the newcomers and the strangers, in the same way we were welcomed by Christ. We say, "God has brought you here somehow, and while we are here together, we regard you as kin."

Of course the signs of this communal approach to the faith are all around us. There aren't a lot of memorial plaques on our walls, nor many windows with names inscribed. But open the front cover of a purple hymnal and discover who is remembered. You will find there the name of someone cherished by God, the name of someone who has shaped the life and work of this congregation, if only because she or he affected the life of the person who remembers.

Paul addressed one of his letters this way: "To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours" (1 Corinthians 1:2). Within a few paragraphs, we discover what a feisty, imperfect congregation they were. They had doubts and inconsistencies. They squabbled over rank and entitlement. The Corinthian church debated the issues of the day, disagreed on the names of their favorite preachers, and doubted the resurrection . . . Yet Paul refers to them as "saints," made holy, not by their own excellence, but by the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

God works out the saving of the world through a company of unfinished saints. That's the truth of the Christian faith. It has been going on for many generations. If some of us are strangely awakened in faith by the power of the Holy Spirit, we are not the first ones. Nor will we be the last. That is the promise of the Lord Jesus Christ, "both their Lord and ours."

Happy All Saints Day, brothers and sisters. Pause some time today to thank God for the people who have pointed you toward Jesus, their Lord and ours.

With you on the journey,

Rev. Bill

Board of Deacons

Care Team Ministry **Coordinators are:**

Independent & Assisted Living: Sara Ann Hosier 587-0371

Deacon Meals: Donna Kepler 587-2729

Time of Loss:

Emergency Home Repair/Maintenance:

Joe Waters 586-7233 Greg Matthews 587-2644

Please let the Board of Deacons Care Team Coordinators or the church office know if anyone is in need of care.

We're here to care for FPC members and friends and we count on all of you to let us know when help is needed. This is our ministry and our Christian privilege to care for you.



The Stephen Ministry team held a two-session class during the Way in October. We appreciate the interest shown by those who attended and participated in learning more about this ministry. We hope it sparked some interest and you will continue to reach out to the Stephen Ministers and Leaders to either seek some assistance with an issue you are dealing with or to consider joining our team. Feel free to speak to us any time.



We will be meeting early this month due to Thanksgiving. Please join us on November 19th at Linda Schuller's home for a discussion of **The Beach House** by Mary Alice Monroe. Caretta Rutledge thought she'd left her Southern roots and troubled family far behind. But an unusual request from her mother—coming just as her own life is spinning out of control—has Cara heading back to the scenic Lowcountry of her childhood summers. Before long, the rhythms of the island open her heart in wonderful ways as she repairs the family beach house, becomes a bona fide "turtle lady" and renews old acquaintances long thought lost. But it is in reconnecting with her mother that she will learn life's most precious lessons—true love involves sacrifice, family is forever and the mistakes of the past can be forgiven.



It's that time again!

Fall clean up – Sat. Nov. 14

Volunteers are needed for inside and outside clean up. There are about 15 tables in Fellowship Hall that need a good scrubbing, and our pews are begging for polish. Outside help is needed for leaves, gravel, and debris cleanup.

This year it would be great if we could get some volunteers who are under the age of 80! Let's give the old guys a break for a change.

Parents, this is a great opportunity to get your child involved in a helpful project that teaches service and teamwork. 1 or 2 hours between 9 and 12 Saturday morning is all we ask. Pizza will be delivered at noon. We hope to see you all there.

B&G Committee



Ready...set...BAKE! Nothing says the holidays like a batch of freshly baked Christmas cookies. Add some variety to your cookie jar by joining us on Sunday, December 13th at 3:00PM in Fellowship Hall for a cookie exchange. We'll have hot cider as we sample the baked goods, chat, share recipes, and of course -- swap cookies! Want to join us? Please bring 3 dozen cookies and a few copies of your recipe to share. Happy baking!



HOLIDAY PAJAMA DRIVE

Once again we will be working with The Scranton-Lackawanna Human Development Agency to provide PJ's for several local Head Start Centers. More information will be available in our weekly bulletins.

Christian Education and Growth Committee

FIFTH QUARTER-WHAT'S THAT?



A gathering at the church parking lot after home football games for middle and high school students. There will be wings, soda, a little music, a couple of games and just plain fun. The remaining date is Nov 7. So talk it up and if you would like to help call Fred Lyon at 222-5966 or email at flyon@nep.net



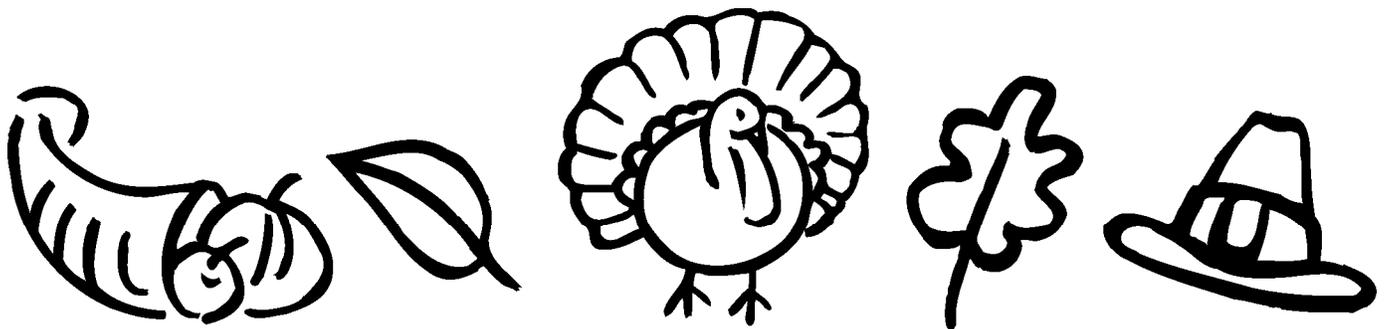
The second event of the 2015-2016 Arts at First Presbyterian concert series will be an All-Church Recital, to be held on Sunday, November 22 at 4 pm. It will feature performances by the Adult, Handbell, and Children's Choirs of the church and vocal and instrumental soloists. Soloists include Jeff Leas, trumpet; the Ash-Jones-Weiss Quartet; and the piano-organ duo of Beverly Bright and Kay Ten Eyck.

This program is being organized by **Frank Jones**, our new Director of Music. Frank is also a music teacher in the Scranton School District and the Director of Children's and Youth Programs of The Choral Society of NEPA. He will direct the Adult Choir, and will be assisted by **Richard Cochrane**, who leads the Bell Choir, and by **Kay Ten Eyck**, who is the church organist, director of the Children's Choir, and accompanist for the choirs.

This event is open to the public, free of charge, but a free-will offering will be taken to help defray our costs. We receive some financial support from state and county grants, but rely heavily on the support of individual donors to produce the series. Donations may be made payable to the church, and either mailed to the church or dropped in the offering plate on Sunday. Please write "Arts Series" in the memo block of your check. For more information about our concert series, please pick up a brochure from the rack in the narthex or visit www.fpccs.org. Please support our church musicians on November 22!



John Weiss, Chair



SO MANY BLESSINGS

Christian Education



It's for life!

THE W.A.Y.

The Wednesday Aadults and Youth Christian Education

“I am the WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE”

Supper, 5:00 * Classes for all ages, 6:15

IMPORTANT DATES**Wednesday, November 25** - No W.A.Y. Classes. Have a great Thanksgiving!**Sunday, December 6** - Advent Special, 11:15 Potluck with program to follow.

Join us as we break from Christmas chaos and dwell in the Advent themes of love, hope, joy, peace and Christ.

- ◆ **Spark (Newborn - 3 year old)** - This class enjoy Bible stories, songs and games in the nursery. Stories this month are Battle of Jericho (Joshua 6:1-20), David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17:4-11, 32-50) and Elijah and the Widow (1 Kings 17:8-16).
- ◆ **Power Xpress (4 year old - Grade 5)** - This group is divided into two age groups and experience Bible stories through interactive rotation classes. In November we will learn about Samuel (1 Samuel 1:9-27; 3:1-20) and Ruth (The book of Ruth).
- ◆ **We Believe: With All Boldness and Freedom (Grades 6-8)** Room 209. This year students will work through the New Testament to gain the overall picture of the life of Jesus and the early church. This month's lessons focus on Assembling the Disciples (Luke 5:1-32; John 1:43-51; Mark 10:46-52), Teaching by Word and Deed (Luke 14; Matthew 5:3-12; Mark 4:23-5:2), Jesus as Healer (Mark 6:53-56; Matthew 17:14-21; Mark 8:22-26;).
- ◆ **PresbyYouth: Prophetic Calls For Justice (Grades 9-12; college age adults)** Room 111. This course looks at the prophets' words of judgment and hope and their relevance to today's world. November's lessons look at The Exile (Psalm 137; 146; 149; Jeremiah 29), Ezekiel (Ezekiel 1-3; 8-11; 37) and Joel (Joel 1-3).
- ◆ **Talking About God Stuff (T.A.G.S.)** Room 206. October 14-November 18: *Esther*. Esther's story shows God's deliverance and care for his people amid risky twists, turns, happy and fearful moments and dangerous and deadly outcomes. As we venture through the book of Esther, we are reminded that God keeps his age-old promises even in today's world. Char Lyon is the leader.
- ◆ **Faith and Life** Room 210. October 28-November 18: *See You on Sunday*. Rev. Bill Carter leads a four-week conversation about worship. What are we doing on Sunday mornings? What does it have to do with the rest of our week—and the rest of our lives? We will be guided by the Presbyterian Church's proposed revisions to the “Directory of Worship” in our Book of Order.

Wednesday Supper Reservations

Light Supper is served before The Way classes from 5:00-6:10 for those with **reservations**.
Suggested donation: \$3 per person.

Please return reservation slips no later than **Monday**. Slips can be placed in the **basket near the phone in the kitchen** or in the **offering plate**. You may also **call the church office** to make reservations.



Reservations slips can be found in the church office, in the kitchen, or in pews.



"The fact that children can make beautiful music is less significant than the fact the music can make children beautiful."
Cheryl Lavender

The Chapel Choir is off and running with their fall schedule. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings from 5:30 pm to 6:10 pm. We look forward to singing for worship November 15th and for the concert November 22nd. We also plan to have an outing in November to get to know each other better.



Thank you to the parents, Connie Weiss, Frank Jones and Janet Dobson for their help on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings. If you have a child interested in singing with us, please contact Kay at kayt1085@gmail.com or contact the church office.

Advent Special

Sunday, December 6
 Potluck lunch 11:15
 Program to follow

Join us as we break from Christmas chaos and dwell in the Advent themes of love, hope, joy, peace and Christ.



Youth Fellowship

Youth Fellowship time is back!

We will meet during Fridays from **6:30-8:30 p.m.** for fun, fellowship and lessons on living faith. **All youth in grades 5-12 are invited.** Friends are welcome also!

Mark your calendars for the following Fridays:

November 6 and 20
 December 4 and 18.



MISSION AND JUSTICE

Earth Care Task Force

The Mission and Justice Committee would like to thank you for your generous contributions to the Peace and Global Witness Offering. You contributed \$1,219.00, which surpassed our goal of \$1000.00. One quarter of that, or \$304.75, is pledged to the Catherine McAuley Center in Scranton. Our committee decided we would add a mission gift of \$695.25, so that \$1000.00 will be given to the Center from our church.

Jacques Williamson, whose nickname is Yaya, is a 29 year old Haitian friend of several members of our church. He has been awarded the prestigious and new Keystone College International Education and Peace (full-tuition) Scholarship by President David Coppola. He has received his student visa and is planning to arrive in Clarks Summit the week after Christmas, and begin classes on January 18, 2016. He will be studying education and will return to Haiti after obtaining his degree to improve education in his home country. Dave and Donna Porter will supply his room and board, as he will be part of their family. We can all expect to meet and welcome him after his arrival. The Mission and Justice Committee plans to help support him with love, kindness, respect, and with financial assistance for some of his additional expenses. We encourage you all to welcome him to our church family, as well as to the Porter family.

Some of you may have noticed the Mission and Justice bulletin board in the narthex. During September it displayed information about peacemaking and the Catherine McAuley Center. It has been changed to inform everyone about special days in October. For example, World Food Day and Domestic Violence Awareness Sunday are explained. Please stop to read and pray for all the highlights described in the Presbyterian Calendar that we're sharing on that bulletin board each month.

The Alternative Gift Market will take place on November 22, 2015. You will be able to purchase meaningful gifts from the same projects represented last year, plus, perhaps, a new one. Come and enrich your Christmas giving after the service on November 22.

Thank you,
Diane Scheuer

Adopt-a-Highway Clean-up

The next road clean-up for First Presbyterian's stretch of the Morgan Highway will be Saturday, November 14th. We meet at 9 AM at the Clarks Summit Methodist Church parking lot. All are welcome. For more information contact Donna Porter at 585-4006.

Water Safety as Related to Prescription Medication (www.health.harvard.edu/newsletter)

We often take clean, safe water for granted, as our public water systems are monitored for nearly eighty harmful substances. Environmental experts, though, are becoming concerned with the disposal of prescription drugs that make their way into lakes, ponds, and streams. The typical American medicine cabinet is full of unused and expired drugs, which are often disposed of improperly, and sewage and water treatment plants are not currently designed to remove pharmaceuticals from water.

4 ways to reduce pharmaceutical footprint

- ◆ Limit bulk purchases (reduces waste)
- ◆ Use drug take-back programs
- ◆ Do not flush unused medications or pour them down the drain
- ◆ Be careful how you throw medications in the trash

Local Prescription Drug Take-back Location

South Abington Police Department
100 Shady Lane Road, Chinchilla, PS 18410
(570-586-2111) Hours of Availability: M-F 8am-4pm

Upcoming Table Talk

On November 8th during Fellowship Hour, Dr. Charles Pinches will be leading a Table Talk on **[the Pope's Encyclical on Environment and Climate Change](#)**. Pope Francis has made concern for the environment a priority.

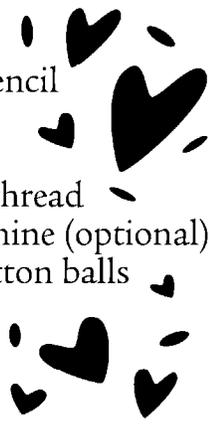
Come learn more about this teaching document.

Thankful Hearts

Make table decorations that serve as Thanksgiving conversation-starters.

What you need:

- Paper and pencil
- Scissors
- Cloth or felt
- Needle and thread
- Sewing machine (optional)
- Fiber fill, cotton balls or rice
- Adult help



What you do:

1. Cut out a heart pattern (any size) on paper. Allow 1/4" for a seam if you'll be using a sewing machine.
2. Cut out material hearts, placing pieces right sides out if sewing by hand and right sides together if using a machine.
3. For hand-sewing, use a running stitch or an overcast stitch. Leave an opening for stuffing.
4. With a machine, sew along a 1/4" seam, allowing a 1" opening so you can turn the heart inside out and insert stuffing. Trim close to seam but don't cut stitching.
5. Fill with stuffing. Sew the opening shut by hand.
6. Put a heart at each place setting. Before dinner, have guests pick theirs up and say why they have a thankful heart.



With all my heart

This Thanksgiving — and every day — let's thank our heavenly Father for all he has done.

Directions: Write the capital letters in order on the lines below to complete Psalm 9:1, NIV.

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| I | a | W | I | d | L | d | L | G | e |
| I | f | V | g | h | E | c | T | H | y |
| A | a | g | N | K | c | m | S | n | T |
| h | O | q | Y | O | b | U | c | L | O |
| p | R | e | D | W | a | I | T | H | A |
| h | L | L | t | M | b | Y | d | H | E |
| A | R | b | T | d | I | W | I | f | L |
| g | L | T | E | b | L | c | L | O | j |
| F | z | A | L | Y | L | Y | O | g | U |
| R | W | d | O | N | t | D | E | f | R |
| F | U | s | L | D | f | E | E | D | S |

“ _____
 _____,
 _____;
 _____.”

PSALM 9:1, NIV

Answer: "I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds." Psalm 9:1, NIV

Joys and Sorrows



Corey Wall and Melany Weissinger were united in marriage on October 3, 2015 in Covenant Presbyterian Church, Scranton, with Rev. Carter officiating. Best wishes and congratulations to the happy couple!

On October 11, we celebrated two Baptisms! Robert John McCann, son of Bethany and Robert McCann, and Norah Patterson, daughter of Mallory Mailen & Ryan Patterson, were baptized by Rev. Carter.



Robert is the grandson of JoAnne Shepherd and Norah is the granddaughter of Susan Mailen. Blessings to all of these young people.



We extend our best wishes to Tina Ide. Tina has left our staff as our Director of Educational Ministries. We wish her well in all her future endeavors.



State Hospital Luncheon

Lunch and fellowship were enjoyed by everyone with our guests on October 6th. **THANK YOU** to all that helped that afternoon.

Our next luncheon is scheduled next spring.

Lectionary Readings

Lectionary for November

November 1

All Saints' Day

Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 24; Revelation 21:1-6a; John 11:32-44

November 8

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17; Psalm 127; Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44

November 15

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Samuel 1:4-20; 1 Samuel 2:1-10; Hebrews 10:11-14 (15-18) 19-25; Mark 13:1-8

November 22

Christ the King

2 Samuel 23:1-7; Psalm 132:1-12 (13-18); Revelation 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37

November 29

1st Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36



Remember to set your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday, October 31.



The Church office will be closed, Thursday, November 26th (Thanksgiving) & Friday, November 27th.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
300 School Street
Clarks Summit, PA 18411-1536

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
Permit No. 30
P A I D
Clarks Summit PA

DATED MATERIAL

Return Service Requested



Order Your Poinsettias Now
Price is \$8 per plant.
Deadline: November 24



Name: _____

Phone number: _____

Number of Flowers _____ @ \$8.00 each Total Amount Enclosed _____

I will pick up my flowers _____ Please give to a shut-in _____

Dedication: In honor of/In memory of _____

Please drop off at church office or in collection basket

