



The Presbyter

November 2017

The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit

Making a Difference:

The Goal of Worship Through Service Day

Thank you notes have been received from the community work that was performed on September 24, 2017. Here is a sample:

I want to thank you for your wonderful contribution to our efforts to serve the poor and elderly in our community. Your recent donation of kitchen items including pots, pans, dishes, glassware and utensils along with toiletries makes a difference in the lives of the poor. I thank you especially in the name of those who benefit from your goodness.

Every day is a challenge for those who struggle to provide the basic necessities for themselves and their families. The lines have been long with those seeking food for their families, assistance with utility bills, and requests for clothing. Your assistance and cooperation with the mission of **Friends of the Poor** is greatly appreciated and allows us to meet those needs.

May the God who loves each of us unconditionally bless you abundantly for your kindness. Be assured of the prayers of the Sisters of IHM for you and your loved ones. Thank you for being a friend of the poor!

With heartfelt gratitude,
Meghan Loftus, Chief Executive Officer



Turn your clocks back
one hour on Saturday
night, November 4.

(It's a good time to
check the batteries in
your smoke detectors,
as well.)

A Wake-up Call

The good God permits such small evils to befall us merely in order to arouse us snorers from our deep sleep and to make us recognize, on the other hand, the incomparable and innumerable benefits we still have. ...

With [our misfortunes], God gives us a light by which we may see and understand his goodness and kindness in countless other ways. Then we conclude that such small misfortunes are barely a drop of water on a big fire or a little spark in the ocean. Then we understand and love the words: "O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!"

—Martin Luther

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Notes from October Session Meeting

Notes from the Session Meeting, October 17, 2017

1. Session discussed the Worship Through Service Day project and watched many of our church members working that day with photos the Rev. Carter showed.
2. There is a need for a new or gently used couch and area rug for our youth room. Please let our office know if you have one of these items available.
3. Building & Grounds committee is working on bids for the improvement of our handicapped parking areas.



FROM YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR THE MONTH ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

REVENUE

Budget	\$ 264,376
Actual Received	<u>242,948</u>
Difference	\$ (21,428)
	=====

EXPENSES

Budget	\$ 274,911
Actual Expenses	<u>266,656</u>
Difference	\$ 8,255
	=====

BUDGET VARIANCE \$ (13,173)

PLEDGE INCOME

Budget	\$ 240,000
Received	<u>221,341</u>
Difference	\$ (18,659)

Per Capita 2017 is \$32 per member. As of the end of September, \$3,059 has been contributed.

The Presbyter deadline for
the December issue is
November 17, 2017

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
Coordinator of Children & Youth	Jana Schillinger
Treasurer	Wayne Griffiths
Editor	
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



Our annual Thanksgiving Offering, collected the Sunday prior to Thanksgiving, is designated for the Norton Fund.

This fund is to be used to minister to the special needs of church members and attending non-members who have hit a bump in the road. By providing confidential, financial aid and Christian love, it is hoped that the recipient will be able to work through their difficulties, feeling supported by church family.

²To the church of God that is in Clarks Summit, 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: ³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus.

(1 Clarks Summit:2-4)



When I returned last month to preach in the church where I grew up, I was reminded of a small detail that had shaped the formation of my faith. In each of the stained glass windows, there is the inscription of a name or two. In between the windows, there are a number of marble plaques with other names and a few more details inscribed.

I don't know who most of those people were. For the most part, the dates of their lives are not written. But the listing of their names is important. We know that somehow they were instrumental in shaping the witness to Christ within that congregation.

A friend in our own church had a similar situation recently. She was volunteering in the church office. Between answering the phone calls, she had a few minutes to spare. So she pulled a couple of old church photo directories off the shelf and began to peruse the pages. "Who are these people?" She wondered. A lot of them have come and gone, long before she arrived. Then she asked the same question to me, and I simply said, "These are people that Christ has loved and claimed as his own, and we were privileged to provide a spiritual home for them as they were passing through.

The Bible calls them saints, not too because of their virtues, nor due to their moral superiority, but simply because they heard the invitation of Jesus and they joined up with his faithful. Some of them have now transferred to the Church Triumphant in heaven, others have moved to a different zip code on Earth, and a few may have drifted away and spend their Sunday mornings in other pursuits. But all of them are loved by God and redeemed by Christ. And for those still with us, we pray for one thing more: for the quickening of the Holy Spirit.

On Sunday we often mention "the quick and the dead," without stopping to think who they might be. One of my Sunday school teachers once explained with a twinkle in his eye, "The quick are the people who are too fast to be dead." But the old phrase actually comes from the birthing process, when the Olde English midwives would sense the stirring in the womb, and affirm that God's Spirit was bringing life alive.

That is my continuing prayer for all of us saints, that the Word and witness of our congregation would be the means by which God brings more and more people alive. By that, I mean "alive" in the deepest sense: vitality of compassion, fullness of mental and physical well-being, clear-eyed justice, and an ever-growing faith

It is such a privilege to work among you as your pastor, and to take note of the continuing ways that Christ makes saints of all of us. See you on Sunday.

To God Alone Be the Glory,

Rev. Bill Carter

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"

IMPORTANT DATE:**Wednesday, November 22** - No WAY Classes. Have a great Thanksgiving!**Classes for Children and Youth**

Spark (Newborn - 3 year old) enjoy Bible stories, songs and games in the nursery. In November the kids will be learning about the Battle of Jericho, David and Goliath, Elijah, and Jonah.

Power Xpress (4 year old - Grade 5) experience Bible stories through interactive rotation classes. November's units will be about Jonah and Elijah.

We Believe (Grades 6-8) Using *We Believe: The Story of God's Faithfulness*, the class will spend the year digging deeper into the Old Testament, learning and experiencing how God revealed himself to the Hebrew people. In November, we'll dig into the book of Exodus.

PresbyYouth (Grades 9-12 and college-age adults) are encouraged to either join an adult class or participate in the middle school class.

Our Wednesday Evening Schedule

5:00-6:10 pm	Light supper begins
5:30-6:10	Chapel Choir Rehearsal
6:15-7:10	Christian Education classes for All Ages
7:15-8:25	Adult Choir
8:30-9:15	Bell Choir

Wednesday Classes for Adults

"Reading Jeremiah in Uncertain Times" with John Lawlor (November 1 only)

"Revolutionary Patience of Jesus" with Rev. Bill Carter in Room 206. Join us for a Bible study of Jesus' enigmatic parables in Matthew 25. (November 8 and 15)

"The Protestant Reformation(s)" with Tabbi Miller-Scandle in room 210. The religious and political tone of the 16th century inspired Luther and others across Europe to rebel against the Roman Catholic Church. We will explore the series of Reformations that became the basis for the founding of Protestantism, and reflect on their impact on our theology today. (November 1, 8, 15, 29)

**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.

Adventures in the Bible



Who was Martin Luther? What does it mean to be saved by Grace? Who was John Calvin? What does TULIP stand for? Attend our "Adventures in the Bible" for the next few Sunday mornings from 9:00-9:45 and find out! Our focus will be on the Protestant Reformation and the children will be working on their own list of questions and "theses" to post on Rev. Bill's door! We will then be joined by Rev. Bill on Sunday, November 12th for what is sure to be a lively discussion with our Adventures students! Don't miss out on all the fun! Please consider joining us! Contact Tabbi Miller-Scandle at tabbi.miller-scandle@scranton.edu or Karis Naeher at klnaeher@outlook.com if you have any questions.



Helpers Needed!

The W.A.Y. is looking for people to help with our meals. You are welcome to help once in a while, once a month, or whenever you are able!

You can help by:

Cooking or helping to cook a main dish
 Providing a salad Providing a dessert
 Helping with setup Helping with cleanup

Contact Karen White or Nancy Dennen to volunteer!



All youth grades 4-12 are invited to join us

On Saturday, November 11

6:30-8:30 p.m.

and

Sunday, November 19

12:00-2:00 p.m.

Calling all teachers!

The Wednesday Adults and Youth Christian Education Program (**the WAY**), offers classes for all ages every week.

Christian Education is an important part of who we are and what we do — and you can be a part of it! Help us all to grow in Christ by volunteering to teach at any grade level for any amount of time that you have available.

Please prayerfully consider helping with this important ministry.

Contact Nancy Dennen at (570) 407-1037 for more information.



HOLIDAY PAJAMA DRIVE

Once again we will work with The Scranton Lackawanna Human Development Agency to provide PJs for approximately 90 children in surrounding HeadStart Centers. Kick off should be mid month so please look for more information in our weekly bulletins and emails.

Christian Education and Growth Committee



2017-18 Arts at First Presbyterian concert series

Sunday, November 19, 2017 4:00 pm
All-church Recital

The second concert in the 2017-2018 Arts at First Presbyterian concert series will be held on Sunday, November 19 at 4 pm. This event will feature all the musical ensembles at the church along with vocal and instrumental soloists and ensembles. The FPC Adult Choir will perform two movements of John Rutter's *Requiem* and other selections under the direction of Frank Jones, Director of Music at the church. Frank is an elementary music teacher in the Scranton School District, and director of children's and youth programs for the Choral Society of Northeast Pennsylvania. Other participants in the concert include the Bell Choir, directed by Richard Cochrane, and the Children's Choirs, led by Kay Ten Eyck, who is church organist and accompanist for the choirs.

This event is open to the public, free of charge; a free-will offering will be taken. The concert series receives support from the Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts Program (administered by the Pocono Arts Council), a Lackawanna County Arts & Cultural Grant, and numerous individual donors.

For more information or directions, please call the church at 570-586-6306 or visit www.fpccs.org.



First Presbyterian Church Bell Choir



Music Ministry

Choir Notes

Submitted Kay Ten Eyck and Frank Jones

The true beauty of music is that it connects people.

It carries a message, and we, the musicians, are the messengers. Roy Ayers

From Kay, "**The Alleluia Choir and the Chapel Choir** are getting ready for our November singing dates. We'll sing for worship on Sunday, November 12th and again for The Arts concert on Sunday, November 19th.

Do you have a child that enjoys singing? Our Chapel Choir members are in Kindergarten through 6th grade and meet Wednesday evenings from 5:30 to 6:10. Our Alleluia Choir members are in middle school and high school. We meet every other Thursday.

Meanwhile, Frank, speaking for the adult program says, "The Music Department of the Church is always looking for singers and ringers throughout the year. If you like to sing, please consider joining the choir. If you can read music, please consider joining the bell choir. During the winter months, we are always in need of a few more musicians for our groups as our snowbirds leave for the winter."

For more information regarding our music program, please contact Frank Jones at fjones217@gmail.com, Kay Ten Eyck at kayt1085@gmail.com or [570-313-0146](tel:570-313-0146), or the church office at [570-586-6306](tel:570-586-6306).



The next Adopt-a-Highway date is November 11th.

We meet at the parking lot of the Clarks Summit Methodist Church at 9:00 a.m. to clean up our stretch of the Morgan Highway. Gloves, trash bags, and reflective vest are provided and it usually only takes an hour!

Please plan to attend our annual **Alternative Gift Market on Sunday, November 19** after the church service and again after the All Church Concert that afternoon. There will be plenty of good gift ideas for your Christmas lists—gifts that bring joy to the recipient and joy to the giver, as your purchase helps others in need. Come and check it out!



Thank you for your generous contributions to the Peace and Global Witness offering. We collected \$829.00, of which 25% will stay in our local area. Our Mission and Justice committee determined that our portion, plus an added donation, would go to the NEPA Youth Shelter that has just opened in Scranton. This new venture is located on Wyoming Ave. in Scranton. It is a safe after school place for kids, offering shelter, snacks, study rooms and areas for art, games and relaxing, all with adult supervision. Thanks for your part in supporting this new shelter.

Order Your Poinsettias Now.

Price is \$8 per plant.

Deadline is November 21.



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 plate.



Add fall décor to your family's Thanksgiving table by making these festive place mats.

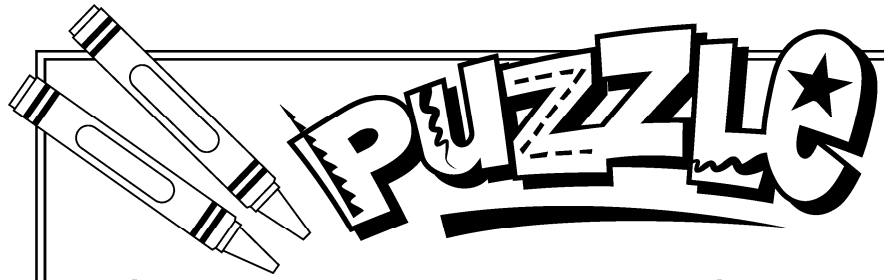


What you need:

- Large pieces of paper
- Several large leaves
- Crayons (fall colors)
- Fine-tip permanent marker

What you do:

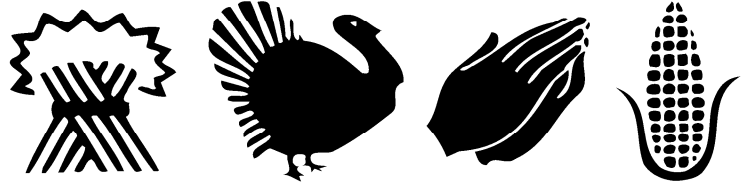
1. Working on a flat surface, place the leaves underneath the paper.
2. Peel the wrappers off the crayons. Rub crayons sideways over the paper so the details of the leaves become visible.
3. Use other crayons to add additional details, if desired. With the marker, list what you're thankful for and add a Bible verse about thankfulness.
4. Optional: Laminate the place mats so they're reusable.



GIVE THANKS TO GOD

God gives us many blessings every day. How can we thank him?

Directions: To complete the Bible verse below, follow the code and fill in the blanks.



A=1, B=2, C=3, D=4, E=5, F=6, G=7, H=8, I=9, J=10,
 K=11, L=12, M=13, N=14, O=15, P=16, Q=17, R=18,
 S=19, T=20, U=21, V=22, W=23, X=24, Y=25, Z=26.

Puzzle answers are on page 11.

“ _____ will _____
 9 16 18 1 9 19 5
 _____ , _____ name in _____
 7 15 4 19 19 15 14 7
 and _____ with
 7 12 15 18 9 6 25 8 9 13
 _____.”
 20 8 1 14 11 19 7 9 22 9 14 7

BIBLE QUIZ

After Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were thrown, bound, into a blazing furnace for refusing to worship false gods, how many men did King Nebuchadnezzar see walking around in the fire?

- A. None — they were all dead
- B. Three — unbound and unharmed
- C. Four — and the fourth looked like a divine being
- D. Too many to count

Quiz answer is on page 11.



What Is a Stephen Minister?

Stephen Ministers are laypeople—Christian men and women—trained to provide one-to-one care to people experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, relocation, or separation due to military deployment.

Stephen Ministers come from all walks of life. Their commonality? A passion for bringing Christ's love and care to people during a time of need.

Since 1975, more than 650,000 people from more than 12,000 congregations and other organizations have been trained as Stephen Ministers.

Presbyterian Women



THANK YOU to everyone who supported our recent Fall State Hospital Luncheon by joining us on October 3rd. Fellowship was enjoyed by all and our guests went home with tons of socks.

Our next luncheon will be April 3, 2018.

Women's BIBLE STUDY

Hebrews is teaching us about an early Christian community looking for hope and a sense of security. Can that be true for us too?

This month we will continue building our foundation wall. *Jesus Christ* was our first stone, then *the living God*, and this month *the living Word*. God's word challenges, supports and encourages us to *look inward* and *live outward* our faith.

At our October circle meetings we had 27 ladies studying and fellowshiping together. Won't you join us at 10 a.m. for the Dorcas and Priscilla Circles or at 7 p.m. for the Eunice Circle on November 21?

All ladies are invited. If you need a ride, a book, or have any questions, please call Lee Wirth at 570-587-3767 or Barbara Pittman at 570-587-2050.

See you for a time of Thanksgiving.



When Breath Becomes Air

by Paul Kalanighi

At the age of thirty-six, on the verge of completing a decade's worth of training as a neurosurgeon, Paul Kalanithi was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer. One day he was a doctor treating the dying, and the next he was a patient struggling to live. Just like that, the future he and his wife had imagined evaporated.

When Breath Becomes Air chronicles Kalanithi's transformation from a naïve medical student "possessed," as he wrote, "by the question of what, given that all organisms die, makes a virtuous and meaningful life" into a neurosurgeon at Stanford working in the brain, the most critical place for human identity, and finally into a patient and new father confronting his own mortality.

What makes life worth living in the face of death? What do you do when the future, no longer a ladder toward your goals in life, flattens out into a perpetual present? What does it mean to have a child, to nurture a new life as another fades away? These are some of the questions Kalanithi wrestles with in this profoundly moving, exquisitely observed memoir.

Paul Kalanithi died in March 2015, while working on this book, yet his words live on as a guide and a gift to us all. "I began to realize that coming face to face with my own mortality, in a sense, had changed nothing and everything," he wrote. "Seven words from Samuel Beckett began to repeat in my head: 'I can't go on. I'll go on.'" *When Breath Becomes Air* is an unforgettable, life-affirming reflection on the challenge of facing death and on the relationship between doctor and patient, from a brilliant writer who became both.

Joys and Sorrows



November 2	Ned Connell	November 14	Robin Pinches
November 6	Charlie Pinches	November 22	Leelah Farrell
November 8	Mary C. Parry	November 25	Sarah Maurer
November 12	Christine Jeske	November 26	Max Earl
November 13	Meg Hatch		

Lectionary Readings

November 5

Joshua 3:7-17; Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37;
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:1-12

November 12

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25; Psalm 78:1-7;
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13

November 19

Judges 4:1-7; Psalm 123;
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30

November 26

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 100;
Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46



Blessings and Best Wishes to Charlie Swisher and Rose Menzies who were united in marriage on October 14 in Grove City, Pennsylvania with Rev. Carter officiating.



These saints joined the Church Triumphant in October

June Sanford—October 9, 2017
William A. Lees, Jr.—October 13, 2017
EmmaJean Pittman—October 14, 2017
Nancy Hill—October 26, 2017
JoAnne Shepherd—October 28, 2017
Doris Dempsey—October 29, 2017
Our love and deepest sympathy to their families and friends.



Memorial Services will take place in the sanctuary of our church as follows:

Doris Dempsey—Thursday, November 2, 10:00 a.m.
JoAnne Shepherd—Sunday, November 5, 2:00 p.m.
Nancy Hill—Saturday, November 11, 11:00 a.m.

Communion Servers



Laura Moore, Captain
Jana Schillinger Wayne Griffiths
Nancy London Dave Brown

November Welcomers

5 Lee and Mick Wirth
12 Lee and Mick Wirth
19 Sandra and Steuart Bailey
26 John Conklin

Ushers

John Diven
Ryan Flynn

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday 1	Thursday 2	Friday 3	Saturday 4
First Presbyterian Church			7am-AA 9am—Presbyter 11am-Prayer/Share 5pm-The W.A.Y. Light supper 5:30-Chapel Ch. 6:15-Christian Ed. 7:15-Adult Choir 8pm-AIAnon/AA 8:30-Bell Choir	7am-AA 10am-Memorial Service for Doris Dempsey 6pm-Alleluia Choir 7pm-Building & Grounds 7pm-Christian Ed. 7pm-Finance	7am-AA	 7am-AA Turn clocks back tonight
7am-AA 9am-Adventures in the Bible 10am-Worship 2pm-Memorial service for JoAnne Shepherd 3pm-OA	7am-AA 6pm-Weight Watchers 7pm-Mission and Justice	7am-AA 10am-PW Board Mtg. 7pm-Big Book 7pm-OA	7am-AA 11am-Prayer/Share 5pm-The W.A.Y. Light supper 5:30-Chapel Ch. 6:15-Christian Ed. 7:15-Adult Choir 8pm-AIAnon/AA 8:30-Bell Choir	7am-AA 8:30-Men's Breakfast 4:30-Staff 6:30pm-Cooking (Community Classroom)	7am-AA	7am-AA 9am-Adopt-a Highway Cleanup 11am-Memorial service for Nancy Hill 6:30pm-Youth Fellowship
7am-AA 9am-Adventures in the Bible 10am-Worship 3pm-OA	7am-AA 6pm-Weight Watchers	7am-AA 10am-MBK Quilts 6pm-OA 7pm-Session 7pm-Big Book	7am-AA 11am-Prayer/Share 5pm-The W.A.Y. Light supper 5:30-Chapel Ch. 6:15-Christian Ed. 7:15-Adult Choir 8pm-AIAnon/AA 8:30-Bell Choir Deadline for Advent Devotional Submis- sions	7am-AA 8:30-Men's Breakfast 7pm-FPC Book Group	7am-AA Presbyter Deadline	7am-AA
7am-AA 9am-Adventures in the Bible 10am-Worship 11:15-Fellowship 12pm-Youth Fellowship 3pm-OA 4pm-All-Church Recital	7am-AA 6pm-Weight Watchers	7am-AA 10am-PW Morning Circle 7pm-Big Book 7pm-OA 7pm-Eunice Circle Poinsettia orders are due	7am-AA 11am-Prayer/Share 8pm-AIAnon/AA (There is no "WAY" program this evening.)	7am-AA  Church Office is closed.	7am-AA	7am-AA Quiz
7am-AA 9am-Adventures in the Bible 10am-Worship 3pm-OA	7am-AA 6pm-Weight Watchers	7am-AA 10am-MBK Quilts 6pm-OA 7pm-Deacons 7pm-Big Book	7am-AA 9am-Presbyter Mailing 11am-Prayer/Share 5pm-The W.A.Y. Light supper 5:30-Chapel Ch. 6:15-Christian Ed. 7:15-Adult Choir 8pm-AIAnon/AA 8:30-Bell Choir	7am-AA		

Quiz Answer: C (See Daniel 3:25.)
 Puzzle Answer: "I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving." Psalm 69:30, NIV



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

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Clarks Summit PA

DATED MATERIAL

Return Service Requested



Dates to remember:

Sunday, November 19—Alternative Gift Market

All-Church Recital at 4 PM

Tuesday, November 21—deadline for Poinsettia orders

Sunday, December 3—A “Hanging of the Greens” party
for all ages

Sunday, December 24—Worship with us

- in the morning at 10 AM, and
- in the evening at 6:30, 9, and 11 PM

**AND, we’re open EVERY SUNDAY MORNING for
WORSHIP at 10:00 a.m. All are welcome.**
