

MIDWEEK MESSAGE



**Midweek E-mail from First Presbyterian Church of Jamestown, New York
December 12, 2018
Bob Hagel, Pastor**

This Sunday we light the candle for JOY. This is a time when we are supposed to feel great joy and hope, but some of us can't help but feel blue. Not everyone is up and cheery for the Christmas holidays. Dealing with the death of a loved one, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with the loss of a job, living with cancer or some other issue that puts a question mark over the future make parties and joviality painful for many people in our congregations and communities. Here is a poem for those who are feeling the sadness of loss and the ache of longing. Know that First Pres is here to love and support you.

A Blue Christmas Poem

*There's no room at Christmas for sadness,
There's no place for hearts that are blue.
All the world wants to hear
Is a word full of cheer,
Not a sigh, not a tear, not from you.*

*There's no room at Christmas for loneliness,
There's no place for your emptiness and grief.
All the world wants is peace,
Mistletoe and Christmas trees,
Not a heartache that mars its beliefs.
There's no room at Christmas for sickness,*

*There's no place or time to be ill,
All the world wants is health,
Prosperity and wealth,
Not a pain that can spoil its goodwill.*

*There's no room at Christmas for Jesus,
There's no place for His family, too,
All the world would not share,
No one seems to really care,
A stable will just have to do.*

*Yes, there's room at Christmas for sadness,
There's a place in God's heart for you.
For He knows pain and loss,
Which He felt on the cross,
So this candle is lit here for you...*

For Christ knows what it's like to be blue.

John Stuart <traqair@aol.com>
Knoxville, Tennessee, USA

REMEMBERING YOU IN OUR PRAYERS:

Peggy Ambrose and her family on the death of her son Alex; Lucy Miller's son Paul; Catherine Willard's sister Nancy; Lois Strickler's daughter-in-law; Lynda Howards' niece Sarah; Russ Thompson's brother Jim; Emylia Hallberg; Robert Johnson; Liz Harris; Mick Yates; Barb Schuckers; Verna Krudys; Julie Dudgeon; Marion Johnson; Tony and Sara.

ACP Family for October: Lillian and Landon and their Grandma and Grandpa

Staff Member: Danielle Kent

If you need a ride to church or a doctor's appointment, would like a visit from the Pastor, could use support from our Casserole and Cookie Crew, or would like to let us know about a prayer concern, please let the church office know. The Member Care Committee is ready to help you out.

The Mission Committee has started a new mission opportunity for members. Monday we hosted the first of what we hope will be monthly breakfasts for the guests of the UCan City Mission. Bob Battaglin, Bruce Archibald and Jim Kullberg were the hosts. We provided a scrambled egg and sausage meal for about 20 people and they were very grateful to have something other than cold cereal and day old bread. We plan to continue this in the new year and will be providing an opportunity for men to sign up to help. It takes only a couple hours and finishes up by 8 am. If you are interested in helping out talk with Jim Kullberg.

Sunday, December 16th

Sunday School Breakfast at 9:00 am
Pastor's Storytime at 9:15, then classes at 9:30 am
This week the children will be learning about Isaiah 42
Confirmation will continue its discussion on the Bible
Adult Education will cover this week's video series
"Advent as Poetic Imagination"

Worship in the Sanctuary at 10:30 am

Worship Leaders for Sunday, December 16th

Liturgist: Linda Barber

Greeter: CK Hennon

Ushers: Beth and Bruce Archibald, Greg Kellogg and Jane Lockwood

Coming Soon!

Homecoming Breakfast – Youth Group Fundraiser December 23, 9:30 am

*The youth are raising money for this summer's
Presbyterian Church (USA) Youth Trienium*

Bring you family! Bring your friends!

Menu – Breakfast sandwiches, Hashbrowns, Fruit,
Milk, Coffee, Juice

Suggested Donation of \$5.00

It's Almost Here!

*Last rehearsals are beginning, all together now. . . This Thursday, December 13, from **5:30 to 6:15, the Children's Choir will rehearse,** and then the **Youth Choir will join the Chancel Choir at 7:00** for a quick run through, then be dismissed early while the others continue rehearsing.*

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Join the Youth Group on **Sunday, December 16th at 4:30** for an evening of Carols, Cocoa and Cookies! We will meet in the Cloister.

Christmas Trees, Poinsettias and...

There are two **Christmas Gift Trees** waiting for your attention. The tree in Sandra J. Merwin Fellowship Hall will contain ornaments that have gift ideas for **A Children's Place** pasted on the back. Take down the ornament, then attach it to your unwrapped gift by **Sunday, December 16**.

The **Dove Tree** is located in the Cloister. This tree is sponsored by the Mission Committee and is for donations of *anything that warms*, such as mittens, hats, socks, etc. You may take a dove ornament, make or purchase the item, then bring it back unwrapped with the dove attached, and place it under the tree. These also need to be placed under the tree by **December 16**, so they can be packed up after church and delivered to the area schools before Christmas break.

We will be putting **Poinsettias** in the church again this year to decorate for Christmas and then give to our home-bound members. If you would like to purchase a poinsettia in memory/honor of a loved one, the cost is \$10. Please contact the Church office stating who your poinsettia is in memory/honor of, along with your check. An Email sent to Coordinator@firstpresjamestown.com will also work. All this information is needed by **December 16**.

Offerings:

The Christmas Joy offering will be collected during the Worship Service on **December 23**. There will be envelopes in the Sanctuary at that time, and we have some in the office if you would like to pick one up earlier. Also, we still have pledge cards available. It's not too late to put those in too.



Casting Call for The ABC's of Christmas

The Christmas story is dramatic; a remarkable cast of characters, lush scenery, lots of movement, heroes and villains, visions and dreams. What more could you ask for? No wonder generations of congregations, big and small, have been creating Christmas pageants and plays. That is why over the four Sundays of

Advent, with the help of the children, we will be *setting the Christmas Stage*, getting ready for our Christmas drama on December 23, **The ABC's of Christmas**.

So parents, we need your **HELP**. Please listen to the Carol of the Day at home during the week before we meet Sunday morning. The children will be leading it in worship. You can find them on most streaming services.

Worshipping With Kids - **December 16, 2018**

CAROL OF THE DAY: *What Child Is This?*

This Sunday we will be **Casting the Main Characters**, so bring a baby doll to church with you. Really, any doll will do.

"What Child is This?" emphasizes the surprise that God would come to us as a child born in a manger, to humble parents. This child is not the "King-Messiah" you would expect. The verses ask the question and chorus rings out:

This, this is Christ, the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

This song reminds us and our children that God works through all kinds of packages.

See you Sunday as we continue to **Set the Christmas Stage**.

DATES TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR

Church Business Hours:

Monday – Friday, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

December 13 – TON 3:15 pm

December 14 – Aging and Saging 12:00 pm

December 14 – Children's Choir 5:30 pm

December 14 – Chancel Choir 7:00 pm

December 16 – Community Breakfast 9:00 am

December 16 – Sharing God's Story 9:15 am

December 16 – Sunday School for All Ages 9:30 am

December 16 – Alex Ambrose Celebration of Life Reception 2:00 – 5:30 pm

Fellowship Hall

December 16 – Youth and Cong. Neighborhood Caroling 4:30 – 6:00 pm

Meet in the Cloister

December 16 – Choir Christmas Party 6:00 pm

December 13 – Aging and Saging 12:00 pm

December 13 – Chancel Choir 7:00 pm

December 16 – Communication Committee 11:45 am

December 16 – Youth Group Christmas Caroling 5:30 pm

December 19 – TON Christmas Party 3:15 pm

December 20 – Aging and Saging 12:00 pm

December 20 – Chancel Choir 7:00 pm

December 23 – Homecoming Breakfast 9:30 am

December 24 – Christmas Eve Service 8:45 pm Prelude 9:00 pm Service

December 30 – Worship in the Chapel 10:30 am

December 30 – Youth Group New Year's Eve, Eve game night

Church Office Will Be Closed on December 25, 26, and January 1