

ORDER OF SERVICE

**(All who are able, please stand)*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

(To prepare our hearts for worship)

CHORAL INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Because of you, righteous God, we begin our journey to Bethlehem,

All: trusting that you will lead us down the paths of faithfulness.

One: For you, child Jesus, we wait,

All: on this day of anticipation and hope, in the days of doubt and worry.

One: With you, Spirit of Advent, we serve,

All: those for whom this season is not one of joy; those whose lives are empty of family and friends.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE The Warren Family

PRAYER

All: Loving God, as we enter this Advent season, we open all the dark places in our lives and memories to the healing light of Christ. Show us the creative power of hope. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ.

(Silence for Reflection and Preparation)

*HYMN 88, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” VENI EMMANUEL
Verses 1, 2, and 3

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Holy God, you are always coming near to us, yet we continue to seal our hearts with indifference to a suffering world. Tear open our hearts, and make us more compassionate. You approach us with bundles of mercy to kindle our hope, but we continue to build our lives with the bricks of bitterness. Tear open our anger, so we might become more forgiving. Holy God, have mercy. Jesus, fill us with your grace. Holy Spirit, shine through our lives. Amen.

(Silent prayer and private confession)

KYRIE

*Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.*

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*ALLELUIA Hymnal, 587

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

A TIME WITH CHILDREN KC Warren

THE WORD OF GOD READ AND PROCLAIMED

Prayer for Illumination: Jamie Evans

Scripture: Jamie Evans

Old Testament Lesson, Jeremiah 33:14-16

Responsive Reading, Psalm 25:1-10

Gospel Lesson, Luke 21:5-19

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Julie Bailey

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Apostles’ Creed

All: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

*HYMN 347, “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” PICARDY

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

(using debts/debtors)

OFFERING

OFFERTORY “Come Down, O Love Divine” Vaughan Williams

Come down, O love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,

And visit it with thine own ardor glowing;

O comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,

And kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn

To dust and ashes in its heat consuming;

And let thy glorious light shine ever on my sight,

And clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long,

Shall far outpass the power of human telling;

For none can guess its grace, till he become the place

Wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling. Amen.

*DOXOLOGY Hymnal, 606

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*HYMN 97, “Watchman, Tell Us of the Night” ABERYSTWYTH

*BENEDICTION

* CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

(To ponder how we will take God’s love out to the world)

PLEASE PRAY FOR . . .

THE PRAYER FAMILY OF THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 29: KAREN AND HOWARD MCDANIEL. Each person in the congregation is asked to pray for them during the coming week.

THE CONCERNS OF OUR CONGREGATION:

Ruth Bauer Starla Emery & baby son
Karen McDaniel Don Nunlee
Chuck Polinski Carol Worthington
Kristina Yarbrough & baby son
Our homebound members
Our neighbors who are homeless

THE CONCERNS OF OUR SOUP KITCHEN GUESTS:

- Cibyl prays for God to keep her and her child safe.
- Tanya prays for each and every homeless person.
- Maudie prays for Rodney and for obedience.
- Riki prays for healing and to stay with her boyfriend.
- Antwan prays for a new home and to see his children.
- Carl prays for a place to stay.
- John prays for his family and for financial security.
- Augusta prays for her daughter and for forgiveness.
- Luwegi prays for his family and to be reunited with his sister.
- Terrence prays for a job.
- Bobby prays for the ladies and guys who worked in the soup kitchen and for everyone’s family members.
- Odell prays for strength, courage and stress relief, and for someone special after a bad relationship.
- Rico thanks God for Jesus Christ and prays for lodging.
- Terrence prays for his mother, dad, girlfriend, and son, and for himself.

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2015:

Malachi 3:1-4 Luke 1:68-79

Philippians 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND CONSIDERATION

TO OUR VISITORS – Welcome to this service of worship! We hope you experience God’s presence among us today. To learn more about First Pres., speak to any member after today’s worship service or contact the church office during the week at 525-5619. Come back soon!

COPIES OF OUR WEEKLY EMAIL UPDATE are available on the round table in the chapel. If you would like to receive an emailed copy of this weekly update, please contact the church office.

ADVENT CHORAL CONCERT, TODAY AT 5:00 PM - Once again, the choirs of First United Methodist, First Presbyterian, and Evergreen Presbyterian will join together to perform Pachelbel’s “Magnificat in D” and Bach’s Cantata 140 “Wachet Auf.” Soloists include Carole Blankenship, Matthew Hayner, and Scott Sadler. Short organ works performed by Carol Craig, Phil Brown, and Robert Klingbeil. ALL are welcome and a nursery will be available. There will be a reception in the chapel following the concert.

BE AN ORGAN DONOR! For First Presbyterian’s pipe organ, that is. There will be a basket in the narthex at this afternoon’s Advent Concert for gifts to the church’s organ fund for which approximately \$30,000 is needed to restore to its original glory the 28-rank, 3-manual Wicks pipes organ originally installed in 1949. And if you can’t make it to the concert, your tax-deductible gifts may be dropped in the offering plate or sent to the church office. Your generosity is deeply appreciated.

BECAUSE YOU GIVE we worship, we grow in faith and we serve God and neighbor in the heart of downtown Memphis. In 2016, we want to continue to enhance our ministries and much, much more here at First Pres! Together we are working to lay new foundations, and to spark spiritual renewal, enthusiasm and faith in the future of our church. We hope you will prayerfully consider a generous pledge for 2016 to help us achieve our mission of bearing fruit for the Kingdom of God. Pledge cards are available on the round table in the chapel.

YOU ARE INVITED! Put on your best party hat and join us in celebrating the marriage of longtime church member Betsy Williford to Lou Reiss! The fun will take place on Saturday, December 5, from 7-9 p.m. at the home of KC and Jeff Warren. Please contact the Warrens TODAY and let them know you’re coming!

TODAY IS PENNIES FOR HUNGER SUNDAY. You may place your offerings in the box in the narthex, the area just outside the sanctuary doors.

DATES AND MEETINGS

Today		FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT PENNIES FOR HUNGER
	2:30 pm	Soup Kitchen, Clothes Closet
	5:00 pm	Advent Choral Concert
Mon., Nov. 30	9:00 am	NO Food Stamps Outreach
Tue., Dec. 1	8:30 pm	NO State ID’s
	6:30 pm	Session Meeting and Potluck Dinner at the Baileys’
Wed., Dec. 2	9:00 am	Food Stamps Outreach
	12:00 pm	Finance Committee Meeting
	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Fri., Dec. 4	5:00 pm	Caruthersville Presbyterian Youth Group
Sun., Dec. 6		SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT COMMUNION, “UNDIE SUNDAY”
	9:30 am	Elder Training 3
	10:30 am	Coffee & Fellowship, Choir Rehearsal
	11:00 am	Worship
	1:00 pm	Hope Circle at the home of Diana Veazey
	2:00 pm	Birth Certificates
	2:30 pm	Soup Kitchen, Clothes Closet



Pastor: The Reverend Julie Bailey
Spiritual Director: The Reverend Dr. Stephanie Bussey-Spencer Patton
Pastor Emeritus: The Reverend C. V. “Bo” Scarborough
Director of Music and Organist: Robert Klingbeil
Children’s Sermon: KC Warren
Lay Reader: Jamie Evans

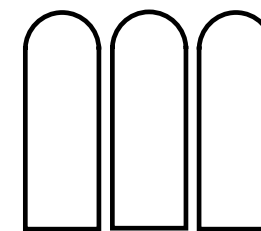
SESSION MEMBERS

Tony Botto	Vicki Freutel	Sally Heinz
Robert Klingbeil	Carol Rakestraw	Martha Shepard
Nate Vander Linde	Milton Ward	KC Warren
Misti Weaver	Bill York	

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First Presbyterian Church is a congregation of
 The Presbytery of the Mid-South, Synod of Living Waters
 of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)



First Presbyterian Church

SERVICE FOR THE LORD’S DAY

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday, November 29, 2015

WE WARMLY WELCOME YOU TO FIRST.

We are a caring community of all kinds of people from all over Memphis who believe that we are all God’s children. With joyful hearts and open arms we welcome everyone to our church regardless of age, race, gender, sexual orientation or economic or family status.

166 Poplar Avenue • Memphis, Tennessee 38103 • 901-525-5619
 Established 1828