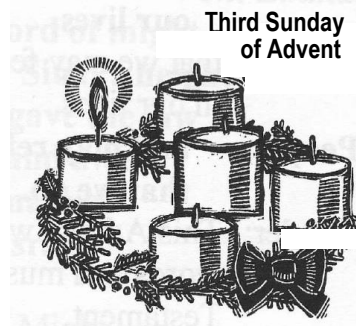


**A Celebration of the Coming of
Christ, Bringing Joy to the
World!
Sunday, December 15, 2013
at 11a.m.**



THE CHURCH GATHERS...

PRELUDE

With the first notes of the organ please silently prepare yourself for worship.

THE CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND SHARING OF COMMUNITY LIFE

INTROIT No. 53 "What Child Is This" Verse 1

**THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: THE
CANDLE OF JOY!**

Leaders: Danielle and Matt Payne

Leader: Jesus is coming, as God's joy for us.

People: The promise of God is sure: "Sing aloud, O Zion;
Shout, O Israel! Rejoice with all your heart! The
King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst."

Leader: In this season of Advent, we celebrate the coming of
Jesus as God's joy among us. A day is coming when
God will gather all. Even the oppressed and the outcast
will come home, and we shall rejoice.

People: Until that day, we serve an aching world in the power
of the Spirit, exchanging fear for gladness, and worry
for prayer.

Leader: As the candle of joy is lit, set anxiety aside, rejoice in the Lord, pray with thanks, and make every need known to God.

People: We pray for the day when God's salvation is fully come and the whole world rejoices.

The candle of JOY is lit...

UNISON PRAYER:

Lord Jesus Christ, your joy we already know and celebrate, but we long for our weary world to know the joy of a new beginning. Help us to share your joy with all who are hungry or weighed down by sorrow, both those we meet every day, and those around the globe we will never meet. Amen.

***HYMN OF PRAISE No. 56**

“The First Noel”

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We claim to believe in your power and your great glory, oh God, but our actions indicate that too often we doubt and fail to feel the great joy and peace of your presence in our midst. Forgive us, we pray, and strengthen us as we strive to follow Thee, and to be your servants in this hostile world. Amen.

PERSONAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION IN SILENCE

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***THE RESPONSE OF PRAISE AND GRATITUDE**

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

TO HEAR AND REFLECT ON GOD'S WORD . . .

A TIME FOR OUR CHILDREN

(Children age 5 and under are excused to go downstairs after our Children's Time)

FOOD PANTRY OFFERING FOR DECEMBER

OLD TESTAMENT READING

**Isaiah 35: 8-10
Pew Bible Pg.#855**

The Response: Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God!**

HYMN OF PREPARATION No. 38

"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

NEW TESTAMENT READING

**Matthew 11: 2-11
Pew Bible Pg.#15**

The Response: Leader: This is the Word of the Lord
People: **Thanks be to God!**

THE SERMON

"JOHN THE MESSENGER"

Rev. Dr. Ted Land

TO RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD...

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

The Apostles' Creed

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 OF AFFIRMATION No. 29**

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

THE FELLOWSHIP OF SILENT PRAYER

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND SUPPLICATION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be the name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is
in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and
forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and
lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.**

THE PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE OFFERTORY

*** THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*** PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

TO GO OUT AND SERVE . . .

*** HYMN No. 23 “Angels We Have Heard on High”**

*** THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

*** THE RESPONSE FOR CHOIR AND CONGREGATION No. 53**

“What Child Is This” – vs. 3 only

*** POSTLUDE**

*** All who can do so comfortably will please stand**

To Our Guests – Welcome to the First Presbyterian Church of Marianna. We are happy to have you worship with us today. We invite you to join us each Sunday, as we worship and study God’s word. If you would like more information concerning our church, you may fill out one of the *Welcome* cards in the pews and place it on the offering plate, talk to the ushers or call the church office.

Nursery care is available for children Kindergarten and below during our Worship Service each Sunday morning. Children may be taken to the nursery before the service begins, or after the Time with Our Children.

During the Advent Season **Poinsettias** are gracing the sanctuary to the Glory of God and the Coming of the Christ Child.

Our Prayer Calendar: : Charlene Garraway, JoAnn Rountree, Burton Fite (requested by Donna Moore), Linda and David Stewart (requested by Jake Gunter), Sherry Stone (requested by Susie Stevens), Larry Stevens (requested by Kathy Milton), Peggy Keaton (requested by Joy Lewis), Stanley Littleton, Dr. Wade Crankshaw (requested by Rev. Ted Land), Kena Nelson (requested by Larry and Hazel Nelson), Piper Montana Smith (niece of Polly Land), Millie Sica and Sue Land.

The **Sympathy** of the Church is extended to Ernie and Fran McNeill on the death of his father Ernest McNeill on Monday, December 9, at St. Petersburg, Florida.

Every Sunday morning there are **Sunday School Classes** for all age groups between 9:45 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. There are three classes for Adults. Next Sunday the Adults in the parlor will be studying: Jesus is Born *Luke 2:1-17* Upstairs the Adult Class in Room 4 will be studying the texts and the Adult class in Room 2 will be praying the texts to be used in our Worship Service.

The **Food Pantry Offering** for December will be received this morning. During the month of November, we served 547 families consisting of the following age groups (0-18), 483 (19-59), 600 and (60+) 293 for a total of **1376** individuals.

The **newsletter and calendar** for the month of January 2014 will be collated this Thursday, December 19. Please have all announcements and articles e-mailed to firstpresmarianna@earthlink.net by 12 noon on Wednesday, December 18.

The **Christmas Joy Offering** of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) is divided equally between the Board of Pensions, to offer supplemental retirement income, and medical insurance for retired ministers, missionaries, church workers, and their families, and the Racial Ethnic Schools and Colleges of our denomination. Special envelopes for this offering will be included in the bulletin next Sunday, December 22.

The **Second Harvest Mobile Pantry** will be at First Presbyterian Church on Wednesday morning during our normal pantry hours to give out free produce, and clothing articles. We appreciate their participation in our Food Pantry Mission this Christmas Season.

This week in the life of the church . .

- Monday Ladies Exercise Class at 9:00 a.m.
- Tuesday Bagging for Food Pantry at 1:30 p.m. The volunteers are Bob Pitman, Ray Litteral, Marsha Rodgers and Bill Boyenton
- Wednesday Food pantry is open from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.
Second Harvest Mobile Pantry 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
The volunteers are Ron and Willie Mae Goold, Sharon Bannerman, Mary Ann Gibbs, Marianne Lonsinger, Marsha Rodgers and Ray Litteral.
Administration Committee meets in the parlor at 5:15 p.m.
- Thursday Newsletter Collated at 1:30 p.m.
- Friday Ladies Exercise Class at 9 a.m.
- Sunday (22nd) Fourth Sunday in Advent
Coffee and Juice at 9:15 a.m. in the fellowship hall
Sunday School for all Ages at 9:45 a.m.
Worship at 11:00 a.m. Christmas Joy Offering

Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Ted Land
Ruling Elder of the Month: Joy Gilbert
Church Administrator: Valerie Marlow
Director of Music Emeritus: Lawrence R. Nelson
Guest Organist: Lou Wilkinson
Organist: Stanley Littleton
Custodian: Melissa Krebeck
Pantry Coordinator: Melissa Krebeck
Nursery Assistants: Mary Skipper and Trey Weeks

First Presbyterian Church
Serving God with Faith, Hope and Love since 1835
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