

**To Our Guests:** 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 in the offering plate, talk to the ushers or call the church office at 850-526-2430. www.firstpresmarianna.org

**Nursery Care** is available for children Kindergarten and below during our Worship Service each Sunday morning.

**THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH**  
**FOOD PANTRY OFFERING TODAY**

**Today, December 11<sup>th</sup> – 3rd Sunday of Advent**  
8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. – Coffee, Juice and Fellowship  
Mission & Service 8:45 a.m.  
9:45 a.m. – Sunday School  
10:00 a.m. – Choir Rehearsal  
11:00 a.m. – Worship Service  
12:00 p.m. – Pageant Practice – Lunch Provided  
5:30 p.m. Youth Meeting tonight

**Monday, December 12th**  
9:00 a.m. - Ladies Exercise Class  
6:00 p.m. – Good News Women

**Tuesday, December 13th**  
3:30 p.m.- Food Pantry Bagging  
5:30 p.m. – Session Meeting

**Wednesday, December 14th**  
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. –Food Pantry  
5:00 p.m. – Children at church to get ready  
6:00p.m. – Children's Christmas Pageant  
Followed with Pizza Dinner

**Thursday, December 15th**  
7:00 p.m. NA Meeting

**Friday, December 16th**  
9:00 a.m.-Ladies Exercise Class

**Saturday, December 17th**

**Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> – Joy Gift Offering**  
Christian Ed Committee Meet 8:30a.m.  
8:30 a.m. – 9:30 – Coffee, Juice and Fellowship  
9:45 a.m. – Sunday School  
10:00 a.m. – Choir Rehearsal  
11:00 a.m. – Worship  
12:00 p.m. – **Montreat Luncheon**  
5:30 p.m.- Youth Meeting

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**“How Great Our Joy!”**

**Christmas Cantata**

**Presented by**

**First Presbyterian Church & First United Methodist Church**

**Wesley Center**

**December 18, 2016 6:00 p.m.**

**Reception Following In Wesley Center**

**First Presbyterian Prays for: (new requests in bold!)**

**Debbie Reed, Surgery on 12/16(requested by Mary Weirman)**

**Dustin Reidesel (requested by Betty Joyce Hand)**

**Joyce Ward (requested by Beth Westmoreland)**

Barry Stafford

Mary Bevis Schmidt,

Julie Stadskev

Louise Pumphrey

Linda Bevis, (requested by Mary Bevis Schmidt),

Kathy Roberts,

Louise Daffin,

Gil Lowe,

Emmy Lou Brown Granger, (requested by Beverly Hinson)

Matt Goold, (requested by family)

Jackie Spivey,

Don Morris,

Savannah McCroan Merrifield

Shelley Fite (requested by Donna Moore, aunt)

Suzanne Payne in nursing home

Bobbie Harris (requested by Kathy Roberts)

Sybil Schmidt King (requested by Mary B. Schmidt)

Melanie Turner McCroan

Shelby Kandle (requested by family)

Gina Stuart

Gail Stearn (Guy Green's Sister)

Jeff Allen (requested by Hazel Nelson)

Destry Burch (requested by Mary B. Schmidt)

Bob Ward (requested by Mary Wierman)

Kena Nelson (requested by Hazel Nelson)

Marie Lanier (requested by Joy Lewis)

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Children's Christmas Pageant

“Twas the Light before Christmas”

Directed by Larrian Bedini & Amanda Hinson

December 14<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm, sanctuary

Following the pageant, we will have dinner in the fellowship hall.

Pizza will be provided and we will need some volunteers to provide salads and desserts.

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**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS**

During the Advent Season, Poinsettias will be gracing the sanctuary to the Glory of God and the Coming of the Christ Child. Poinsettias are still available for purchase (\$12.95 each) should you want to give as a memorial, or in honor of a loved one. The names of those donating the flowers will be listed in the bulletin. You may drop your check and information in the offering plate, or drop by the office no later than December 11th.

First  
Presbyterian  
Church  
*of*  
Marianna  
*Serving*  
**GOD**  
with  
Faith  
Hope  
Love  
Since 1835

# Celebration of Worship

Third Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2016

11:00 a.m.

## Gather - Assemble in God's Name

### Prelude

### The Chiming of the Hour

### Welcome and Sharing of Community Life

The Third Sunday of Advent **Brent Bedini Family**

**Sarah:** Today is the third Sunday of Advent, the Sunday of Joy.

**Brent:** Our Joy is in God, and in his Son, Jesus Christ. Like peace, joy is a gift from God. It overtakes us and fills us when we remember what God has done and what he has promised to do.

**Larrian:** We light this candle today to remind us that Christ came, and is coming, so that all people might have a rich and abundant life. We thank God for the hope he gives us, for the peace he bestows, and for the joy he pours into our hearts.

### *Light the First, Second, and Third Candle*

**ALL:** Let us pray:

O God of Joy, Emmanuel, send your light into our hearts at this time. Help us to be ready for the time of Christ's appearing. Fix our hearts and our minds upon those things you have done and those you have promised to do that we may have the joy you have promised. As we worship you, strengthen us so that we may always do your will and so bless you and the world you have made. Amen

**\*Hymn of Praise** "Joy to the World!" Page #40, Hymnal

### **\*Prayer of Confession (In Unison)**

During this season of Advent we confess that in our Christmas preparations there is more of culture than of Christ. We allow the noise and confusion of the season to obscure the peace we have with you. We allow the raucous

*(Continued)*

jingles of commerce to distract us from the profound mystery of Bethlehem. We allow material and financial considerations to overpower spiritual realities. Forgive us, we pray and draw us back to the quiet presence of the living Christ.

### **\*A time for Silent Confession**

### **\*Assurance of Forgiveness**

Friends believe the Good News of the Gospel!

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

### **\*The Response of Praise and Gratitude**

"Gloria"

(Chorus)

Gloria in excelsis Deo;

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

## Grow - Proclaim God's Word

### Children's Message

### Old Testament Lesson

Psalm 98:1-9

*Pew Bible, Page #480*

### Choral Anthem

"Prepare the Way, O Zion"

Text: Frans Mikael Franzen

Music: Then Svenska Psalmbroken

Arr. Jesse Benton

Prepare the way, O Zion; your Christ is drawing near!  
Let ev'ry hill and valley a level way appear.  
Greet One who comes in glory, fore told in sacred story.  
Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

He brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heav'n above.  
His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, peace, and love.  
Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding  
Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Saviour's rule embrace.  
His tidings of salvation proclaim in ev'ry place.  
All lands will bow before him, their voices will adore him.  
Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

### New Testament Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

*Pew Bible, Page #832*

### Message

"Joy to the World!"

John T. Wamsley

### **\*Statement of Christian Beliefs (In Unison)**

We affirm that Jesus was born of woman  
as is every child, yet born of God's power  
as was no other child.

In the person and work of Jesus, God himself and  
a human life are united but not confused,  
distinguished but not separated.

The coming of Jesus was itself the coming of  
God's promised rule.

Through his birth, life, death, and resurrection,  
he brings about the relationship between  
God and humanity that God always intended.

**\*Hymn** "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Page #48,  
Hymnal

### Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

("debts and debtors")

### Offertory

### Doxology & Prayer of Dedication

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Page #9, Hymnal

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And Ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel Shall come to thee,  
O Israel!

## Go - In God's Name

**\*Hymn** "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" Page #376,  
Hymnal

### **\*Benediction and Congregational Response**

"Seek Ye First"

Page #333, Hymnal

\*Postlude

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**\*Those who are able, please stand.**

**\*\*Please silence cell phones.**