

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

Today, December 17th – 3rd Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m. – Coffee, Juice and Fellowship

9:45 a.m. – Sunday School

10:00 a.m. – Choir Rehearsal

11:00 a.m. – Worship Service

12:15 p.m. – MONTREAT LUNCHEON

1:00 p.m. – CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Monday, December 18th

No Exercise Classes

Tuesday, December 19th

3:30 p.m.- Food Pantry Bagging

Wednesday, December 20th

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. –Food Pantry

NO WWW

4:30 Choir Practice

Thursday, December 21st

7:00 p.m. NA Meeting

Friday, December 22nd

NO Ladies Exercise Class

Saturday, December 23rd

Sunday, December 24th Joy Gift Offering

9:30 – Coffee, Juice and Fellowship

9:45 a.m. – Sunday School

10:00 a.m. – Choir Rehearsal

11:00 a.m. – Worship (Casual Dress)

6:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Please stay after worship for the “Montreat Luncheon” which is a fundraiser for our Youth group. Today’s menu: Ham, mashed potatoes, mac and cheese, green beans, roll and dessert! Please have a seat in the Fellowship Hall and you will be served at your seat! Enjoy a great dining experience.

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

Hanna Lendrum (Chuck Morgan’s Sister)

Tommy Young (requested by Muriel Turner)

Wayne Avery (Larry Spivey’s Nephew)

Hunter & Lu Daffin

Cindy Yant

Avalyn Barber (Requested by Muriel Turner)

Abby Reed(Granddaughter of Mary Wierman)

Charlotte Hunter (Requested by family)

Gina Stuart

Fletcher Dunaway (requested by Mary Bevis Schmidt)

Jean Logan (requested by Glennis Wright, sister)

Emmy Granger (requested by Beverly Hinson)

Jeannine Lueken, (requested by Nancy Arunakul)

Kay Lewis & D A Lewis (parents of John Lewis)

Howard Alig, Cindy Morgan’s brother

Ginny Rose, Brooke Grant and Malaki Grant

(family of Carol and Dennis Maxson)

Heidi Stone (requested by Jennifer Stafford)

Elizabeth Walker and her brother Stanley Littleton

Kim Love (requested by Joan Stadskev)

Linda Sue Bevis (requested by Mary Bevis Schmidt-sister)

Destry Burch (requested by Mary Bevis Schmidt-Nephew)

Doris Irwin

Louise Pumphrey

Louise Daffin,

Bobbie Harris (requested by Kathy Roberts)

Sybil Schmidt King (requested by Mary B. Schmidt)

Melanie Turner McCroan

Shelby Kandle (requested by family)

Gail Stearn (Guy Green’s Sister)

Destry Burch (requested by Mary B. Schmidt)

Kena Nelson (requested by Hazel Nelson)

Marie Lanier (requested by Joy Lewis)

Christmas Caroling Today! Staying for lunch (hopefully) or not – Please join us in CHRISTMAS CAROLING to our special saints at their homes. We will prepare to leave the church at 1pm. We have a 24 passenger mini bus from Eastside Baptist Church and few other vehicles provided for easy caravanning. This will be fun and special and our guests will love our visitation AND singing! Aggie Schack and the WWW group will also have goodie bags to hand out.

Special Offering Today; **The Christmas Joy Offering** has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930’s. The Assistance program provides critical financial support to retired pastors and missionaries and the offering also supports Presbyterian–related schools and colleges –providing education & leadership development While nurturing racial and ethnic heritage.

First
Presbyterian

Church

of
Marianna

Serving

GOD

With

Faith

Hope

Love

Since 1835
2898 Jefferson St.
Marianna, FL 32446

Celebration of Worship

Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2017

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

Today is the third Sunday of Advent, the Sunday of Joy.

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.

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**

"Lord Christ, When First You Came to Earth"

Page #7, 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 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

Isaiah 61:1-4

Pew Bible, Page #603-604

Choral Anthem

"Beautiful Star of Bethlehem"

Words & Har. by Adger M. Pace

R. Fisher Boyce Matt.2:2

Oh, beautiful Star of Bethlehem,
shining afar thru shadows dim,
Giving a light for those who long have gone,
And guiding the wise men on their way unto
the place where Jesus lay,
Beautiful Star of Bethlehem shine on.

Oh, beautiful Star the hope of light,
guiding the pilgrim thru the night,
Over the mountain till the break of dawn,
And into the light of perfect day it will give
out a lovely ray,
Beautiful Star of Bethlehem shine on.

Oh, beautiful Star, the hope of rest, for the redeemed
the good, the blest, Yonder in glory when the crown is won,
For Jesus is now that star divine, brighter He will shine.
Beautiful Star of Bethlehem shine on.

Gospel Lesson

Luke 2:8-20

Pew Bible, Page #833

Message

Rev. John T. Wamsley

**"Let us go to Bethlehem and
Find the Peace of Christmas"**

***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**

"What Child is This"

Page #53, Hymnal

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

("debts and debtors")

Offertory

Doxology & Prayer of Dedication

Page #9 Hymnal, vs 3

"O come, O come, Emmanuel"

O come, Desire of nations, bind

All peoples in one heart and mind;

Bid envy, strife, and discord cease;

Fill the whole world with heaven's peace

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

Go - In God's Name

***Hymn** "That Boy-Child of Mary" Page #55, Hymnal

***Benediction and Congregational Response**

"Seek Ye First"

Page #333, vs 1-2, Hymnal

*Postlude

***Those who are able, please stand. *Please silence cell phones.**