

Welcome!

We are so glad you are here.

December 10, 2017 - 10:00 a.m.

As best you can, stare the truth in the face.

Richard Von Weizsacker, Politi

The angel came in the night because that is when lights are

best seen and that is when they are most needed.

God comes into the common for the same reason.

Max Lucado

Joy is what happens to us when we allow ourselves

to recognize how good things really are.

Marianne Williamson

Find out where joy resides, and give it a voice far

beyond singing. For to miss the joy is to miss all.

Robert Louis Stevenson, Writer and Christian

The Gifts of Christmas

The Gift of Wisdom

Luke 2:1-10

First Presbyterian Church

1530 Hollywood Boulevard, Hollywood, Florida 33020-5240

2nd Sunday of Advent

Pastor: Rev. Kennedy M. McGowan

Director of Family Ministries: James M. Potts
December 10, 2017
Sanctuary - 10:00 A.M.

Director of Music: Dr. Robert Remek
Church Office: (954) 923-8209
Fax: (954) 923-8200

***Please stand if you are able.**

CCLI #1836693; CRL034941; CVL503735603

WELCOME — Please date, fill out, and pass the red Friendship Register to your neighbor.

PRELUDE – *Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light* arr. Mark Hayes

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF PEACE

***HYMN** – *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* **# 8**

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS - (IN UNISON) Adapted from The Roman Missal

Father in heaven, our hearts desire the warmth of your love and our minds are searching for the light of your Word. Forgive us when our misplaced desires look for warmth where it cannot be found, and where the darkness of our fears obscures the light of your love. Increase our longing for Christ our Savior, and give us the strength to grow in love, that the dawn of Christ's coming may find us rejoicing in his presence and welcoming the light of his truth. In the name of the One who is the Light of the World we pray. Amen.

A TIME OF SILENCE

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

***GLORY BE TO THE FATHER (#577)**

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

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

NEWS OF THE COMMUNITY

ANTHEM - *A Prayer for Advent* Joseph Martin and Douglas Nolan

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

**O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky:
We praise You for the radiance That from the hallowed page,
A lantern to our footsteps, Shines on from age to age.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS – Luke 2:1-10 (New Testament, Page 58 in pew Bible)

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD Rev. Kennedy M. McGowan
The Gifts of Christmas
The Gift of Wisdom

THIS WE BELIEVE (in unison) John 1:1-5, NRSV

**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the
Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into
being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What
has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.
The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.**

***HYMN OF COMMITMENT – Arise, Your Light is Come** # 41

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**Turn your eyes upon Jesus, Look full in his wonderful face And the
things of earth will grow strangely dim In the light of his glory and grace.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER - (Debtors version) (front of Hymnal, pg. 16)

**Response - Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me; Spirit of the living God,
Fall afresh on me; Melt me, mold me, Fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me.**

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

*(Visitors, in the pew rack you will find a Guest Information card.
Please complete the card, then place it in the offering plate.)*

The anthem is a prayer. Please, no applause.

Offertory Anthem - *Hope and Expectation* arr. Joseph Martin

***THE RESPONSE OF PRAISE – DOXOLOGY (#593)**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.
Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.**

***OFFERING OF PRAYER (in unison) Adapted from The Roman Missal**

**God of hope and joy, the day draws near when the glory of your Son will
make radiant the night of the waiting world. Let no vanity hinder us from
the joy which moves the hearts of those who seek him. May the darkness
not blind us to the vision of wisdom which fills the minds of those who find
him. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

***HYMN – Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus # 2**

CHARGE AND BLESSING

Congregational Response:

**God be with you till we meet again; Loving counsels guide, uphold you,
With a Shepherd’s care enfold you; God be with you till we meet again.**

***POSTLUDE – *The Advent Chorale* Felix Mendelssohn**

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Lay Reader – Uwa Alexis

**The flowers in the sanctuary are given by Kay Rasor
in memory of her husband Ed.**

~ ~ ~

WELCOME VISITORS!

**Visitors, following worship, please join us on the patio for juice and coffee. It is
our hope that you will encounter God as you worship with us.** First Presbyterian
Church is a family of faith committed to families, peacemaking, and mission. There are
educational offerings for all ages, as well as fellowship groups for members and friends of
the church. All are welcome. For information, visit us at our web site at: fpcch.org

CHILD CARE for infants is provided in the nursery, located in the Narthex
(Lobby) of the church. Children’s worship kits are also available for younger children.
Please ask an usher for assistance. Our children’s Sunday school, Good News Kidz
(GNK), gathers at 10am in the sanctuary (September through May). **FOR THOSE
WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**, in the narthex we have large print hymnals and a limited
number of pew cushions available.

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— Following worship today —
Presbyterian Women's Gift Fair and Cookie Sale
Do some Christmas shopping and enjoy
delicious home-baked goodies!

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OPPORTUNITIES

The bulletin announcements serve as reminders of church activities.

Please check our website: fpcoh.org
for the monthly newsletter and church calendar; and
our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/fpcoh/>
Church office e-mail: landerson@fpcoh.org

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CHILDREN AND YOUTH —

Good News Kidz (GNK) — (Sunday school for ages 4-10), 10:00 a.m., sanctuary
Boy Scout Troop 420, December 12th, 7:00 p.m., 2nd floor of Education Building
Learning Center chapel — December 13th, 10:30 a.m., sanctuary
Early Learning Center chapel — December 13th, 11:00 a.m., West Wing
After Care Center chapel — December 15th, 10:30 a.m., sanctuary

CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP —

Breakfast and the Bible — Sundays, 9:00 – 9:45 a.m., chapel – A study
focusing on the scripture of the day.

A Time of Prayer, in the chapel

Monday, December 11th: 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Friday, December 15th: 9:00 a.m. – Noon

MEETINGS —

Staff meeting – December 11th, Noon, church office
Worship Committee – December 11th, 6:30 p.m., chapel

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE for January 2018 issue: December 15th

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN (PW) —

Deborah Circle, December 11th, 11:30 a.m., Chapel

WORSHIP —

The Westminster Choir will present the cantata *God With Us!* next Sunday, December 17th at the 10 AM service. *God With Us!* is a compilation of anthems by six arrangers including Pepper Choplin, Mary McDonald, Victor Johnson, Jay Rouse, Lloyd Larson, and Mark Hayes. The cantata delivers the Advent and Christmas message with fresh and highly inventive arrangements. We hope that you can join us for this special event.

LOOKING AHEAD.....

Learning Centers' Christmas Program
December 20th, 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary

Christmas Eve services, December 24th:

Sunday Worship, 10:00 a.m.

Candlelight Service, 5:30 p.m.

Child Care provided at both services.

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DROP BY FOR COFFEE OR TEA WITH KENNEDY THIS WEEK

Here are the unscheduled times this week where
I am available for y'all to come by for a visit!

Sunday –

(Today, worship, Bible study and the service for Ollie take up the day.)

Monday – 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM

(staff mtg., and Bold Justice team meeting take up the rest of the day)

Tuesday – 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 1:30 to 3 PM

(Preschool walk-around, and Rotary take up the remaining time.)

Wednesday – 3 PM to 5:00 PM

chapels, lunch. and mtg. w. James Potts take up the remaining time)

Friday – 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM

(sermon preparation and chapel take up the rest of the day)

Please try to call beforehand so I can put the kettle on, and to make sure that the schedule hasn't unexpectedly changed for a hospital visit or some other concern.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, December 10 – 2nd Sunday of Advent

- Breakfast and the Bible – Chapel 9:00 a.m.
- Worship – Sanctuary 10:00 a.m.
- Good News Kidz (GNK) - Sanctuary/ Education Building/Patio 10:00 a.m.
- Bake Sale & Fair following worship
- Word of God Bible Church – Chapel 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
- Memorial service for Ollie, the pit bull – Sanctuary 2:00 p.m.

Monday, December 11

- A Time of Prayer – Chapel 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.
- Deborah Circle – Chapel 11:30 a.m.
- Staff meeting – Church Office Noon
- Worship Committee – Chapel 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 12

- Boy Scout Troop 420 - 2nd floor of Education Building 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 13

- Learning Center Chapel - Sanctuary 10:30 a.m.

Thursday, December 14

- Westminster Choir 5:15 p.m.
- Westminster Ringers Bell Choir 6:30 p.m.
- Word of God Bible Church – Chapel 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Friday, December 15

- A Time of Prayer – Chapel 9:00 a.m. – Noon
- After Care Chapel - Sanctuary 4:00 p.m.
- Newsletter deadline

Saturday, December 16

- Christ Jesus College and Seminary – Sanctuary & Chapel 7:00 – 10:00 a.m.
- Our Lady of Hope Orthodox Catholic Church – Chapel 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 17 – 3rd Sunday of Advent

- Breakfast and the Bible – Chapel 9:00 a.m.
- Worship – Cantata - Sanctuary 10:00 a.m.
- Good News Kidz (GNK) - Sanctuary/ Education Building/Patio 10:00 a.m.
- Newcomers Seminar Church Office 11:30 a.m.
- Word of God Bible Church – Chapel 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

A WORD FROM KENNEDY

GIVE LIGHT TO THE DARKNESS WITH OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS GIFT CAMPAIGN

This year, your Christmas gift will go to help bring light into the darkness in three ways: 25% of your gift will go to support recovery for Puerto Rico from the hurricanes that devastated the island. Another 25% goes to address places of darkness in our community as we work with our sister churches in Bold Justice to improve assisted living care in Broward, work that the tragedy at Hollywood Hills Nursing Home made even more urgent. Your gifts will support that effort, along with our continued pushes to increase alternatives to arrest for youth that effectively turn them away from crime, and training for law enforcement to deal effectively with the mentally ill.

And finally, the other 50% goes to support the many ways in which we as a church are reaching out to serve our community. For example, our new Director of Family Ministries, James Potts, helped families in our church and Learning Centers literally light up the darkness with an Advent wreath workshop. Families took home a wreath to start the Christian practice of lighting a candle for each Sunday of Advent - a visible way to remember the lesson of that evening, *Jesus is the reason for the season*. And today at 2 PM, we open our doors to our community as we host the memorial service for Ollie, a pit bull who tragically died from abuse only a mile or so from the church, and whose plight literally touched the whole nation. These are only a few of the ways God is enabling us to light up the darkness.

An anonymous donor will match your donation, dollar-for-dollar, up to \$5,000.00, so please give generously to our Christmas giving campaign. Let us together not only let the light of Christ shine into each of our hearts, but through us let that light of Christ's love shine out into the world!

DO YOU WANNA JOIN UP?

If you are new to First Church, or even not so new but ready for the next step, then I hope you join me at our Newcomers' Seminar next Sunday after worship. We'll serve you a nice lunch (and childcare if you need it), give you a tour of the church's campus (including some nooks and crannies that you normally don't see), and give you a full run-down on our church's story, along with a little primer on the Presbyterian tradition. As you go through this experience, you'll get to know not only myself better, but other folks who are going through the seminar at the same time as you. So if you're interested in joining, or simply curious to learn more about First Presbyterian, then this seminar is made for you! Sign up today on the form in the bulletin, or simply drop me an e-mail at kennedym@fpcoh.org.