

First Presbyterian Church
1530 Hollywood Boulevard, Hollywood, Florida 33020-5240

4th Sunday of Advent

Pastor: Rev. Kennedy M. McGowan
Church Office: (954) 923-8209

web: fpcoh.org

Director of Music: Jerry W. Myers
Fax: (954) 923-8200

Child-friendly Family Worship — Sanctuary - 10:00 A.M.
December 23, 2018 - 10:00 a.m.

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

CCLI #1836693; CRL034941; CVL503735603

Welcome to WaumbaLand!
We are so glad you are here.
December 16, 2018 - 10:00 a.m.

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Our WaumbaLand service is on the screen.

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Welcome to WaumbaLand!
He's the King
Jesus Loves It When We Live in Love!
Waumba!
Into the Bible!
Jesus Is Born!!
Jesus Loves It When We Live in Love!
Waumba!
It's Time to go Into WaumbaLand!
The Giving Plate
Give It Away!

Classic Worship — Sanctuary - 11:00 A.M.

Welcome!

We are so glad you are here.

December 23, 2018 - 11:00 a.m.

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WELCOME & CALL TO REFLECTION

PRELUDE – *O Come, All Ye Faithful* arr. Sandra Eithum
Handbell Choir

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF LOVE

***HYMN** – **Hark! The Herald Angels Sing** **# 31**

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS Adapted from Bernard of Clairvaux

Let your goodness, Lord, appear to us, that we, made in your image, conform ourselves to it. In our own strength we cannot imitate your majesty, power and wonder; nor is it fitting for us to try. But your mercy reaches from the heavens, through the clouds, to the earth below. You have come to us as a small child, but you have brought us the greatest of all gifts, the gift of eternal love. Caress us with your tiny hands, embrace us with your tiny arms, and pierce our hearts with your soft, sweet cries. In the name of the One who is with us always, in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

A TIME OF SILENCE

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

***Good Christian Friends, Rejoice (# 28, verse 3)**

Good Christian friends, rejoice, With heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all, To gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

ANTHEM – *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* John Rutter
Westminster Choir

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

THE NEWS OF THE COMMUNITY

SCRIPTURE READING – John 1:19-28 (New Testament, Page 92 in pew Bible)

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD Kennedy M. McGowan

Getting Ready for Jesus
The Power of the Incarnation

THIS WE BELIEVE - (IN UNISON) **John 1:14**

**And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory,
the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.**

***HYMN OF COMMITMENT – Good Christian Friends, Rejoice** **# 28**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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.)***

Offertory Anthem – *Sweet Little Jesus Boy* Robert MacGimsey
Olu Dare, soloist

***THE RESPONSE OF PRAISE – DOXOLOGY (#592)**

**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.**

***OFFERING OF PRAYER (in unison)** Adapted from Clement of Alexandria, c. 150 – c. 215

**Fountain of mercy, Light of truth, Faith without limits, Love without end,
Exemplar of virtue, Proclaimer of justice, Leader of humanity, your foot-
prints show us the way to heaven.... Bridegroom of your people, your
celestial beauty inspires us to sing your praises. You lift our voices with
hymns of everlasting praise. In gratitude for your great love we return
these tithes and gifts, may you use them so that all may experience the
light of your salvation. In the name of Jesus the Christ, we pray. Amen.**

***HYMN – Angels, from the Realms of Glory # 22**

***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 – *Joy to the World* arr. Fred Bock**

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**Visitors and members, following worship,
please join us on the patio for refreshments.**

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Lay Reader – Zak Myers

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**The flowers in the sanctuary are given by Lynn Anderson
in memory of her father, Ray Anderson.**

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web site at: fpcOH.org [facebook.com/fpcOH/](https://www.facebook.com/fpcOH/)

Church office e-mail: landerson@fpcOH.org

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There will be ONE worship service on December 30th: 11:00 a.m.

No WaumbaLand or 10a.m. worship that day.

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**The church and Learning Centers’ offices will be closed
Tuesday, December 25th for Christmas.**

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WELCOME VISITORS!

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: fpcoh.org**

CHILD CARE for infants is provided in the nursery, located in the 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, *WaumbaLand*, gathers at 10am in the sanctuary (September through May). **FOR THOSE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**, in the lobby we have large print hymnals and a limited number of pew cushions available.

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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: facebook.com/fpcoh/

Church office e-mail: landerson@fpcoh.org

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CHILDREN AND YOUTH —

WaumbaLand — (Sunday school for ages 4-10), 10:00 a.m., sanctuary/chapel.

ON DECEMBER 30th, WAUMBALAND WILL NOT MEET.

CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP —

A Time of Prayer, in the chapel —

Monday, December 24th: 9:00 a.m. – Noon

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CALENDAR

Sunday, December 23 – 4th Sunday of Advent

Bell Choir rehearsal 9:30 a.m.
WaumbaLand – Sanctuary / Chapel 10:00 a.m.
WaumbaLand Worship – Sanctuary 10:00 a.m.
Westminster Choir rehearsal. 10:00 a.m.
Worship – Sanctuary 11:00 a.m.
Word of God Bible Church – Sanctuary & Chapel 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Monday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

A Time of Prayer – Chapel 9:00 a.m. – Noon
Christmas Eve rehearsal – Sanctuary 4:15 p.m.
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – Sanctuary 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 25 – Christmas Day

Church and Learning Centers' office closed

Thursday, December 27

Word of God Bible Church – Chapel 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 29

Christ Jesus College and Seminary – Sanctuary & Chapel 8:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 30 – 1st Sunday after Christmas

No Bell Rehearsal today
Westminster Choir rehearsal. 10:00 a.m.
Worship – Sanctuary 11:00 a.m.
Word of God Bible Church – Sanctuary & Chapel 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE HOSPITALITY TEAM

I am interested in helping with the
Christmas Eve Candlelight
Worship service by:

- 9 Welcoming Guests
- 9 Handing Out Bulletins
- 9 Handing Out Candles to Worshippers
- 9 Lighting the Aisle Chimney Candles
- 9 Helping the Children Dress for the Pageant

Name _____

Phone # _____

E-mail _____

Place the completed form in the offering plate.
Someone will be in touch with you.

2018 Holiday Schedule

December 30 One worship service: 11 a.m.

January 6, 2019 WaumbaLand Worship - 10:00 a.m.
Worship - 11:00 a.m. — Communion
Take down Christmas decorations /
Multicultural Christmas lunch following worship

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**Humility is the mother of giants. One sees great things from the valley;
only small things from the peak.**

G. K. Chesterton

**What God does in us always produces humility. All that comes from self,
be it delight or suffering, tends to boost the ego.**

Ruth Burrows

**Life is a constant interchange between human will and divine providence.
We need both the courage to plan and create a life, and piety of the most
profound kind in relation to the mysteries that undergird it....Religion in
the deepest sense takes shape as we learn through pain and loss that the
creativity we exercise over our lives is finite,
a mere participation in a greater creative act.**

Thomas Moore

**The Child that was ere worlds begun
(...We need but walk a little way,
We need but see a latch undone...)
The Child that played with moon and sun
Is playing with a little hay.**

G.K. Chesterton, The Wise Men

He became what we are that he might make us what He is.

St. Athanasius

**Now the Divine Being took upon Himself the seal of humanity,
in order for humanity to be adorned by the seal of Divinity.**

St. Issac of Syria, Christmas Sermon

We are all meant to be mothers of God. What good is to me if this eternal birth of the divine Son takes place unceasingly but does not take place within myself? And what good is it to me if Mary is full of grace if I am not also full of grace? What good is it to me for the Creator to give birth to his Son if I do not also give birth to him in my time and my culture? This, then, is the fullness of time; When the Son of God is begotten in us.

Meister Eckhart

If Jesus is the revelation of the heart of God, it's very good news about the nature of God.

Richard Rohr, Everything Belongs

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A WORD FROM KENNEDY

YOU DID IT!!! YOU SHARED OVER SIXTY GIFTS WITH KIDS IN NEED!

Every year, I am amazed. I am amazed by how so many of you step up, often taking not one child but two or three or even many more to make sure every child receives a gift; and once again, this year, you did it!! Thanks to all of you who joined in this campaign - and to Alice Carlisle and her team who stepped up and took the leadership of this effort and got every gift to where they needed to be. Thanks so much everyone! This church showed once again it's huge heart, in answering Christ's call to care for those in need. I am so proud to serve as your pastor, and so humbled by your generosity and compassion.

AND THE 2018 CHRISTMAS GIVING CAMPAIGN KEEPS MOVING FORWARD, TOO!

We have already gone over a thousand dollars of our Christmas offering, and we haven't even come to Christmas yet! Thank you so much! This year, your Christmas gifts will share God's love in three crucial ways. **A quarter of your gift will support the disaster recovery work** in the Panhandle and California, as they recover from the devastation of Hurricane Michael, and the terrible wild fires. In both places, **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** has already begun their work of engaging in helping with the long-term recovery that the people in these areas will need. **Another quarter will support the work of Bold Justice** to move our local and state leaders to provide protection and better care for vulnerable seniors and to address more effectively the challenges faced by the mentally ill. Every year, with our sister churches, we see things get done that otherwise wouldn't, like how we pushed the State Attorney's office to start spot inspections of nursing homes that were on the state watch list. Those homes are now getting the watchful eye they need to stop their bad acting and to show their patient the simple care and respect every human being should have.

And finally **half of your gift will go to support and sustain our ministries right here**, including not only our children's ministries, but the music ministries that add so much to our worship each week. And don't forget that thanks to a **\$5,000.00 challenge match**, every dollar you give will be doubled! 25 become 50! 50 becomes 100!! 500 becomes a thousand!!! So please give generously, so that in this season of Advent and Christmas, God can shine the light of Jesus' love through us like never before!

HELP US SHINE THE LIGHT ON CHRISTMAS EVE

Please sign up on the insert in the bulletin today and be part of our Christmas Eve welcome team!

NEXT WEEK, WE WELCOME PAT MILLER TO OUR PULPIT!

Normally, in this spot each week, I share my schedule. But this week I have no schedule to share as after Christmas, I will be taking some time to be with family, and rest after the Christmas season. That means next Sunday, you will get the blessing of hearing, Dr. Myron (Pat) Miller, a regular attendee in our worship, and an accomplished teacher and preacher. Pat is in demand as a preacher in many of our local Presbyterian churches, and I feel blessed that we finally get our chance to hear him. So, until I return on Epiphany Sunday (January 6th) for the close of the Christmas season, I wish you all a blessed celebration of this joyous festival of God coming to be with us!