

Life in Faith

*Faith Immanuel Presbyterian Church is a welcoming community
committed to worshipping God,
growing in Christ, and, emboldened by the Holy Spirit,
extending Christ's love, grace and mercy to all.*

December 2017

WORSHIP at
10:30 am

Church Staff

**Reverend Allison
Spooner**

Roz Presby
Pastoral Associate

Caleb Flick
Director of Music
Ministries

Wanda Beaver
Associate of Music
Ministries

Debbie Kissinger
Office Administrator

Carolyn Frischkorn
Financial Secretary

Virginia Henning
Treasurer

Joe Sponaugle
Custodian

**Faith Immanuel
Presbyterian Church**
1801 Colonial Road
Harrisburg, PA 17112
717-545-4631
www.lifeinfaith.org

*“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.”
-Ecclesiastes 3:1*

Marking and measuring time has always been important. Even now when the everyday person no longer relies on the keeping of seasons in order to know when to plant and when to harvest we live in the rhythms and patterns of our culture year in and year out. The same is true of the life of the church. The church seasons tie the story of Christ to our own stories by linking our worship of Christ to the rhythms and seasons of our lives.

We begin with the season of Advent, a season where we in the Northern Hemisphere experience shorter days and longer nights. This is a season of waiting and anticipation. It is a season of preparation for the mystery of Christmas. An awareness of the church season can make worship more meaningful and enriching.

For instance, Advent is more than just a countdown to Christmas. It is a season of intentional waiting and preparation. In this season we look towards the celebration of Christ's coming in the past. But it is also a season when we acknowledge the troubles of the present. We acknowledge that our world longs for peace and love now in the present. We know that Christ is with us always, yet when we pray and sing the words “Come, Lord Jesus” we renew the trust in the culmination of God's work in Christ for all creation. We live into hope for the day when peace, joy and love describe the lived reality of all the world.

When we take time to recognize our need for Christ's coming in the season of Advent, it enriches our understanding of Christmas and gives deeper meaning to our celebration of that day!

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Allison Spooner

SESSION**Class of 2018**

Linda Graham
Bub Manning
Joe Stimmel

Class of 2019

Shirley Cleaver
Terry Hack
George Hope

Class of 2020

Bill Hawk
Rose Jewell-Jordan
Jackie Webb

Clerk of Session
Norm Diefenderfer

DEACONS**Class of 2018**

Carol Gangwish
Ken Shatto
SuAnn Tucci

Class of 2019

Bonnie Hack
Wendell Jordan
Sherri Linn

Class of 2020

Bob Dash
Barb Hablett
Anita Klaboe

“I can’t wait until Christmas!”

What child (or adult) hasn’t said this at some point? We look forward to the holiday with eager anticipation. The frenzied festivities surrounding the season make the waiting seem harder. In some parts of the retail world, you can begin spotting Christmas items as early as September. The minute Halloween is over, Christmas decorations appear in stores and shoppers hear carols over the mall’s sound system. We find ourselves being sucked into the race through December . . . shopping for gifts, baking cookies, attending school programs, sending cards, going to parties, visiting friends and relatives.

Seasonal impatience happens at church, too. We love singing Christmas carols, and sometimes wish we could cut to the chase and skip the Advent hymns. But waiting is not a bad thing. Advent gives us time to prepare for Christ’s coming. During Advent, we slow down and remember the Old Testament promises of a Messiah, we look forward to hearing again the story of the birth of Jesus, and we celebrate the promise of Christ’s return.

Advent hymns are less familiar to us than our favorite Christmas carols, and are often overlooked in our rush to Christmas. But they contain words of beauty, hope, and encouragement that are worth our consideration. During December the adult Sunday School class will be studying four seasonal hymns: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (Dec. 3); Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent (Dec. 10); O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Dec. 17); and In the Bleak Midwinter (Dec. 24).

Each week a link to the study materials will be included in Debbie’s email. You can download the documents and read them before class. For those who do not use computers, I will have paper copies available as well.

We meet at 9:00 am in the Nevada Room. See you there!

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

MUSIC NOTES *Caleb Flick*

Year after year it seems that the commercial elements of Christmas crop up earlier and earlier! Halloween candy disappeared from the CVS Pharmacy near my house and with the pumpkins and fall themed items in the discount bin, hints of red and green began to appear. Spotify Radio, an internet based music provider, told me on Black Friday that “Christmas Begins Now” and began offering up a steady diet of Christmas favorites secular and sacred. In the midst of all of this, which strikes me a little bit like celebrating Independence Day in June, we as Christians prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ in Christmas in Advent. At Faith Immanuel we will have a particularly special way this year to delve a little more deeply into Advent all without missing out on some early Christmas celebrations at the same time!

Starting on December 3, Advent I, Roz Presby begins a four-week Sunday School class running until December 24, Advent IV. Each week the class will take an in-depth look at an Advent Carol. After learning more about the hymn and its relation to Advent, the piece will again be featured as a prelude, and sung by the congregation! While this is an old Lutheran organist’s strategy for introducing new hymns, you will be happy to find familiar “Christmas” hymns in the line up, which will be honored from week to week as a sort of “Hymn of the Day”!

Starting on December 10, Advent II, Ellie Boyer and Bob MacIntyre will lead a short informal hymn sing from 10:10 – 10:25. This will be an opportunity to get to sing your favorite Christmas Hymns a little early in the season. Is there a favorite in the hymnal that doesn’t seem to get chosen each year? This is your chance to sing it and enjoy a fun time of fellowship!

On December 17, Advent III, the Bell Choir will return to performing in worship with some Advent favorites. Then, on Sunday, December 24, Christmas Eve, please plan to arrive a little early to enjoy an extended prelude and glorious celebration of Christ’s coming to earth!

Caleb

SECOND SUNDAY HYMN SING
Will not be held this month.

COME SING ON SUNDAY MORNINGS!

**Music
At
Faith
Immanuel
Church**

Chancel Choir
Wednesday evenings
At 6:30 pm

Bell Choir
Wednesday evenings
at 8:00 pm

WORSHIP SCHEDULES

COFFEE HOUR

DECEMBER

3—Deacons
10—Properties
17—Mission
24—Congregational Life
31—Worship

JANUARY

7—Stewardship
14—Outreach
21—Nurture
28—Deacons

FEBRUARY

4—Properties
11—Mission
18—Congregational Life
25—Worship

MARCH

4—Stewardship
11—Outreach
18—Nurture
25—Deacons

LAY LEADERS FOR DECEMBER

3—Randy Knapp
10—Linda Graham
17—Bill Hawk
24—Kelly Berry
31—Shirley Cleaver

USHERS FOR DECEMBER

3—Wendell and Rose Jewell Jordan
10—Stewart Robinson and Paulina Marshall
17—Marge Barner and Holly Dash
24—Fred and Jean Muncert
31—Joe and Ginny Stimmel

Christmas Eve Services at Faith Immanuel

Morning Worship at 10:30 am

Candlelight Worship at 8:00 pm

We will not hold a Christmas Day Service.



LAY LEADERS FOR JANUARY

7—Carolyn Souders
14—Terry Hack
21—Cheryl Caplan
28—Jack Andren

USHERS FOR JANUARY

7—Gary Souders and Terry Hack
14—George Hope and Beulah Givens
21—Mike and Barb Legg
28—Randy Knapp and Sue Skelly

WEDNESDAY FAITHFUL

“All Meals Seasoned with Love!”

WOW! What a great “Wednesday Faithful” Thanksgiving feast on November 15. We served 92 people! Everyone enjoyed all the great food and many lingered after the meal, enjoying fellowship with family and friends.

A special thank you to Carolyn and Gary Souders for supplying the beautiful flowers that decorated the tables. It really added a nice touch!

Ladies Afternoon Tea—December 6

Ladies, we hope you will join us for our annual Ladies Christmas Tea to be held on Wednesday, December 6 at 2 pm in Shaffer Hall. You will be treated to finger sandwiches, scones, cookies, pastries, tea, and coffee. Please make your reservation by Sunday, December 3.

PROGRESSIVE DINNER, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

The progressive dinner will be Saturday, December 9, 2017 at 5:00 pm. You will begin the evening’s festivities at the home of Sue and Larry Dinges (6244 Warren Avenue, Harrisburg). The hors d’oeuvres will be from 5:00 to 6:30 pm.

Next you will proceed to the Squires Restaurant (Blue Ridge Golf and Tennis Club) 4901 Linglestown, Road 717-657-3212 for the dinner buffet (\$30 per person - checks payable to Bob Dash). This will last from 7:00 to 8:30 pm.

You will return to Shaffer Hall by 8:45 pm for dessert, coffee and the gift exchange. The evening should end by 10:00 pm.

Here is some general information about the evening:

- 1. Bring hors d’oeuvres with you when you come to Sue and Larry’s home. Also bring your dessert with you for the dessert time in Shaffer Hall.*
- 2. Desserts may be brought to Shaffer Hall on Saturday between 2-4 pm. The Northwood door will be open during this time.*
- 3. The price of the gift for the gift exchange should be around \$10.00. The gift you buy should be wrapped and appropriate for either a man or a woman. Each family should bring one gift for the exchange.*
- 4. After the gift exchange, would you please help with the clean-up of Shaffer Hall and the kitchen. This should only take about 20 minutes.*

We hope you thoroughly enjoy the progressive dinner and gift exchange!

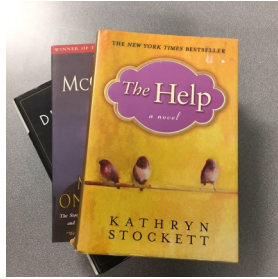
HAVE A JOYOUS HOLIDAY! The Congregational Life Committee

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Faithful Stitches
led by Jackie Webb
meets the 2nd and 4th
Tuesdays of each
month at 1:00 pm in
the library.

FAITH IMMANUEL BOOK CLUB



The book club will not meet in December.

New meeting day and time in January....

We will be discussing The Whip by Karen Kondazian and meeting on Wednesday, January 17 at 10:45 AM in the parlor. Questions, contact the church office at 717-545-4631,

THE "GIVING TREE"

HELP MAKE A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS A LITTLE BRIGHTER THIS YEAR. A "Giving Tree" to benefit Delta Housing families is located in the Gathering Area. On the tree are cards that have the names of children living in single parent families at Delta Housing. Each card will indicate the name and sex of a child, and the item on their wish list for Christmas.



Gifts can be wrapped or unwrapped. Please remember to attach the information with your gift and return it by Sunday, December 17. Questions, contact Randy Knapp or the church office at 717-545-4631.

IMPORTANT NOTE. If you would like to donate any used toys in good repair, they may be included as well. The families we are serving literally have nothing. They are single parents with kids coming from desperate circumstances like shelters to this transitional housing program. For many of them, this is their first real home.

OFFERING ENVELOPES 2018

The 2018 offering envelopes are available for pick-up in the Welcome Center.

Questions, contact Carolyn Frischkorn at financialsecretary@lifeinfaith.org or the church office at 717-545-4631.

THREE SCORE PRESENTS
AN AFTERNOON SHOWCASE OF CENTRAL
PENNSYLVANIA'S MUSICAL TALENT FOR THE BENEFIT
OF DOWNTOWN DAILY BREAD

Saturday, January 6, 2018 at 4:00 p.m.

at

Faith Immanuel Presbyterian Church
1801 Colonial Road, Harrisburg, PA

NO ADMISSION FEE – A goodwill offering will be taken for Downtown Daily Bread, a Harrisburg soup kitchen and emergency shelter for the homeless. Please visit www.downtowndailybread.org/ for more information.

Artists scheduled to appear (subject to change)

Tammy Black	Glenn Miller	Rachel Potteiger	Chris Sorensen
Jim Fearn	Steve Christ	Barry Buckingham	Olivia Sorensen
Amanda Heineman	Caleb Flick	Nicolette Sorensen	Joe Trojcek

Business card size advertisements are available for placement in the program for a donation of \$25.

Half-page and whole page are available if requested. Any larger business sponsorships may be possible.

For any advertising information, please contact spartan22@comcast.net

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WINTER WEATHER CANCELLATIONS
WORSHIP SERVICE/PROGRAMS

Tune into the following Radio/TV Stations for cancellations during inclement weather.

RADIO:

WHP 580
97.3 WRVV
Bob 94.9
KISS 99.3
WLAN FM 96.9

TV:

WGAL 8
WHTM-ABC 27
WHP-CBS 21
CW 15

**Northwood
Nursery School
Of Faith
Immanuel
Presbyterian Church**

50+ Years of ABCs,
123s and TLC

Northwood Staff

Deb Mercurio
Director

Amanda Ebersole
Office Administrator

Margaret Grobinski
Teacher
Madison Stadler
Assistant

Julie Stadler
Teacher

Anita Klaboe
Assistant

Cathy Lyons
Teacher

Melissa Gaiski
Assistant

717-657-0715

northwoodnursery
@live.com

www.northwood
nurseryschool.com

Northwood Notes

Christmas

It's hard to think of anything
But Christmas in December.
There's so much to look forward to
And so much to remember.



I always feel November sets the table for December. Ending the month with everything we are thankful for is a wonderful prelude to the Christmas season.

I enjoyed celebrating Wednesday Faithful with my staff and so many members of Faith Immanuel. Thank you to all who helped prepare this “most delicious” meal.

Thank you to Anita Klaboe for organizing a Thanksgiving Food Drive. Northwood collected 200 lbs. of food.

December is a quick month for us but will be filled with many activities. Santa will be visiting and we will have a special breakfast. All of the classes will be decorating and making gifts for their families.

Our Christmas program will be Thursday, December 21st at 10:00am. If you are in the neighborhood please stop in. All 72 of our children will join together for this wonderful performance. It will definitely warm your hearts to hear their beautiful voices.

Northwood will be closed for the holiday from December 22nd to Jan 2nd.

We wish everyone a blessed Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. Please keep us in your prayers as together we move into the New Year.

Deb Mercurio and Staff

December Birthdays

Dec 4	Kyle Bowerman	Dec 22	Kyle Klaboe
Dec 6	Pat Bivens	Dec 24	Beckey Hahn
	Claire Aston		Chris Pollack
Dec 8	Wendy Coad	Dec 26	Fred Muncert
	Virginia Geiger	Dec 29	Thomas Jordan
Dec 9	Robin Snyder	Dec 31	Arlene Fry
	Jeanne Wilders		
Dec 10	Marjorie Barner		
Dec 13	Andrea Linn		
	Cherie Pepperman		
Dec 14	Claire Durand		
	Janet Kreiser		
Dec 15	John Burd		
	Shirley Ruch		
Dec 17	Virginia Stimmel		
Dec 18	Wythe Keever		
	Phyllis Moran		

January Birthdays

Jan 1	Claire Hetzel	Jan 22	Jan Bowerman
	Jennifer Gillette		Heather Kaneda
	Stark Weiler	Jan 24	Richard Reidell
Jan 2	Madeline Gillette	Jan 25	Stephen Bertsch
	Gunnar Sorensen		Letitia Schubauer
Jan 3	Charlotte Edenfield	Jan 26	Paulina Marshall
	Alexander Schubauer		Pat Reidell
Jan 4	Robert Brightbill		Bryan Snyder
Jan 5	Rod Tunno		Christine Snyder
Jan 7	Joan Hoffman	Jan 28	Christopher Key
	Bob MacIntyre	Jan 29	Dillon Linville
Jan 8	Larry Hahn		
Jan 9	Penny Luckenbaugh		
	Jill Cowen		
Jan 10	Azure Graham		
Jan 11	Patti Sites		
Jan 12	Audrey Allen		
Jan 13	Catilyn Klaboe		
Jan 17	Stewart Robinson		
Jan 18	Kristine Linville		
Jan 20	Michael Bertsch		

***Happy
Birthday!***

We're sorry if we
missed your birthday.

Please notify the office
at 717-545-4631.