

Weekly Counter: Margaret Smith
 Pastor: Reverend Dr. Bruce Taylor
 Youth Director: Annette Newcomb
 Interim Choir Director: Ann Salmons

NOTES:

SERVING YOU TODAY IN WORSHIP

The Link...Making Connections for Ministry

FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING SUNDAY, December 20th, 2015

The Welcome mat is out for you!

We are glad to have you here today as a partner in prayer, in song and in the hearing of God's Word.

We hope that you will stay for refreshments and fellowship after worship, so that we may become friends, strangers no longer!

The Congregation of First Presbyterian Church

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday	December 20	8:45 a.m.	Church School - all ages
		10:00 a.m.	Worship Service - Musical Program
Monday	December 21	5:00 p.m.	TOPS
		6:00 p.m.	Cub Scouts
		7:00 p.m.	Bible Study
Tuesday	December 22	5:00 p.m.	Congregational Life Committee
Wednesday	December 23		NO CHURCH ACTIVITIES
Thursday	December 24	8:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Service
Friday	December 25		Merry Christmas to all!!
Sunday	December 27	8:45 a.m.	Church School - all ages
		10:00 a.m.	Worship Service - Rev. Robert Montgomery

"Poinsettias for Hope"

A special tree has been set up in the front of the Sanctuary.

It is the "Poinsettias for Hope Tree".

Rather than purchasing live poinsettias to be used as memorials, we will be accepting \$10.00 donations to put a poinsettia blossom on the tree. These can be made in memory of a family member and/or in honor of a special person in your life or in the life of the church. ALL proceeds will be donated to The Hope Ranch here in Ponca City to be used in their mission to serve children in our community. Please take the opportunity to remember someone special and at the same time help support Hope Ranch during this Christmas season of giving.

Sunday, December 20 Jack & Bonita James; Jane Johnson; Dick & Joan Jones
 Monday, December 21 Stan & Sey Jones; Pat Keast; Nancy & Hank Kruckeberg
 Tuesday, December 22 The Kline Family - John, Sheryl, Ben, Eric, Stephanie

Wednesday, December 23 **NO Midweek Meal & Program this week.** Lisa Lessert, M.G. & Virginia Lessert
 Thursday, December 24 Betty Lowrey, Bill & Rosalie Majors; Candace Mathews
 Friday, December 25 John McNeese, Gary & Laura McVay; Jamie Meadows
 Saturday, December 26 Galen & Donna Miller; Paul & Telle Miner;

.....**December 26. Rick & Gay Norris**.....
 Domestic Violence
 Updated Donation List
 Toiletries - all types Socks - all ages
 Underwear - all ages Paper goods - plates, napkins, utensils, cups
 Additionally when they set up these families in their new lives they frequently have nothing so gently used household items are needed.
 Pots & Pans Tupperware Linens Blankets
 They, also, sometimes need furniture.

Children and youth are encouraged to join us each **Sunday morning at 8:45 am**. We offer classes for nursery/preschool, elementary aged children, and middle school and high school youth. The preschool, elementary children, youth and one adult class use the Faithweaver Bible study curriculum. Each class studies the same scripture in an age appropriate way, and the adults are encouraged to engage the children and youth in conversation about their Bible lesson each week.

September through May the elementary children are invited to GOLD (Giving Our Lives to God Daily) directly following our midweek meal. This is a structured time of interactive activities that are tied to the week's Bible study lesson. **Wednesday 5:30-7:00 pm**

The youth group also meets at this time for fellowship, activities, and Bible study under the direction of fulltime youth director, Annette Newcomb. They are a growing youth group with a focus on building healthy and happy relationships and growing closer to God. **Wednesday 5:30-8:00 pm**

DAILY PRAYER FAMILIES-PLEASE PRAY THIS WEEK FOR:

Prayer List

*Please help us keep this list updated.
 Let us know of additions and/or deletions.*



We pray for those in mourning: Let us remember in prayer those who are mourning the death of loved ones.

We pray for those who are homebound: Doris Ring; Stella Aggers; Betty Throop; Carolyn Bourne; Sandra Gee; Delma Jackson; Eva Roberts; Agnes Hatlelid; Ruth Burrows

We pray for those who are undergoing tests, treatments, rehabilitation and recovering from surgery: Floyd Sherrod; Jolene Ebbert; Shirley Hile; Ava Grace Kelly (granddaughter of Peter & Sharon Uhlig); Pat Tebrinke; Kathy Wimberley; Donna Miller, Barbara Ware; Telle Miner; Pat Keast; Scott Dewey; Clara Thornburgh (Bob Denson's mother)

We pray for those in need of prayer: Sharon Stuemky (friend of the Nanni's); Bill Coddington; Suzan Walsh (daughter of Pat Tebrinke); Bill Majors; Mavis Robison; Peggy Lyon; Andrea Lambert; Cathie Huddleston (daughter of Donna Miller)

We pray for those in military service to our country: Specialist Jason Paynter; Capt. Eric Thomas (son-in-law of Pearl & Bud Farris); A1C Blake Aday, USAF (son of Christy Aday); WO2 Nathan Smith and family, USA (nephew of Mary Ann Holt); Major Keith O'Halloran and family, USAF (nephew of Mary Ann Holt); Capt. Jacob Lynes, USAF,

(grandson of Chip & Jody Whipple); 2nd Lt. Carol & 2nd Lt. Austin Bryant, USAF (daughter and son-in-law of Mark and Laura); Capt. David James (son of Jack and Bonita); Capt. Maren Lowrey (granddaughter of Betty); all the women and men serving our country in the military.

We pray for our community, state, country and world: people all over the U.S. suffering from one disaster or another; our world leaders; for the US congress, unity and cooperation among the churches in our city, our state, and our country.

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1505 East Grand Avenue, Ponca City, Oklahoma 74604

www.fpcponca.org

Office Telephone: (580) 762-2431

YOU ARE WELCOME to First Presbyterian Church, a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Worship is our primary response to God. We hope that you find our worship service inspiring and our time together cordial. Please join us for fellowship and refreshments in the Fellowship Hall.

If you are a visitor, we invite you to provide your name, address, and telephone number on our fellowship register so that we can be in touch to thank you personally for being with us today.

Christ calls us into community. There are many ways of serving God through this community of faith—ushering, teaching, singing in the choir or playing a musical instrument, serving on a committee or task group, or engaging in evangelism and mission outreach.

If you have any questions about our church please contact the church number listed above.

CHANCEL CHOIR

Sopranos

Winnie Barber
Bonita James
Margaret Smith
Iris Peterson
Pat Tebrinke
Linda Vanderburg

Altos

Lisa Lessert
Gay Norris
Marilyn Sherrod
Jacque Salmons
Janet Wehrle

Bass

CW Barber
Joe Lessert
MG Lessert
Rick Norris
Mike Vanderburg

Tenor

Hank Kruckeberg
Ed Nanni
Brad Newcomb

JUBILATION RINGERS

Susan Ernst
Steve Ernst
Bonita James
Sheryl Kline
Joe Lessert

Lisa Lessert
Jacque Salmons
Valerie Smith
Janet Wehrle

Mary: Mary Ann Holt

Pianist: Emma Jones

Conga: Evan Smith

Interim Music Director: Ann Salmons

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PONCA CITY, OKLAHOMA

www.fpcponca.org



ORDER OF WORSHIP

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 20, 2015 – 10:00 A.M.

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

"It Came Upon A Midnight Clear"

arr. Miller

Piano: Ann Salmons

GREETING AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH (Please sign the friendship register and pass it on to those seated beside you. Then, as it is returned, note the names of fellow worshipers in order to offer them a personal greeting at the close of worship.)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

THROUGH THE EYES OF MARY

CHORAL INTROIT

"The People Who Walk in Darkness"

Choplin

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Smith Family

*ADVENT PRAYER

Loving God, we thank you for your gift of love shown to us perfectly in Jesus. You have given us so much, help us to give even a little to those who need our gifts. Help us today and every day to be grateful, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing joy with others. We ask it in the name of the one born for us, Jesus, Emanuel. Amen

"Love Has Come"

Chancel Choir

*HYMN

"It Came Upon The Midnight Clear"

123

(Verses 1,3,5)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God of the still, small voice, when you spoke through the angels so many years ago, you said "Do Not Be Afraid". Sometimes when you call me, I don't feel worthy, and maybe someone else would be better for your will. We confess how quickly and easily we stray from You. Gracious and merciful God, Your love for us knows no bounds. May Your love that casts out all fear, come into our hearts. Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.

"Breath of Heaven"

Grant

Solo: Jacque Salmons

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: My Friends, Believe the Good News.

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*THE PEACE

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

*HYMN

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

#119

(Verses 1,3)

"A Wondrous Birth"

Pote

Chancel Choir, Solo: Lisa Lessert, Jubilation Ringers

TALES OF THE STABLE WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

*HYMN

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

#121

"What Child Is This"

arr. McKechnie

Jubilation Ringers

"Mary Did You Know?"

arr. Schrader

Chancel Choir, Solo: Joe Lessert

"Love Has Come"

Congregation (Verse 2)

#110

"Angels We Have Heard On High"

Pote

Jubilation Ringers

"Rise Up Shepherds"

arr. Schrader

Chancel Choir

"Jesus, What A Wonderful Child"

arr. Dilworth

Chancel Choir

"Love Has Come"

#110

Congregation (Verse 3)

THE OFFERING

Offertory

"God Rest Ye Merry"

arr. McKechnie

Jubilation Ringers

***Congregational Response "As With Gladness Men of Old"**

#150

(Verses 1,3)

*HYMN

"Go Tell It on The Mountain"

#136

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

"Angels We Have Heard On High"

#113

(Verse 3)

POSTLUDE