First Presbyterian Church
5401 South Claiborne Avenue
New Orleans, La. 70125

December 20, 2015

Fourth Sunday of Advent, 2015
First Presbyterian Church

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11:00 am

Gathering Around the Word

Music for Meditation

Welcome

*Please stand as you are able

*Call to Worship (from Isaiah 11:6-9)

Leader: In the days to come, says the prophet Isaiah...

People: “The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie
down with the baby goat; the calf, and the lion and the
lamb together; and a little child shall lead them.”

ALL: For the Earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.
Let us worship the Lord!

Lighting the Advent Candles of
Hope, Peace, Joy and Love

The Schutts family
“We Three Kings”

Light the Advent candle four
Praise the God whom we adore.
Love abiding, life providing,
Good news forevermore.
O--h, hope, peace, joy and love remain,
Rising bright o’er Bethl’em’s plain,
Mary smiling, babe beguiling
Over all the world to reign.

Advent Scripture and Prayer (Psalm 80:10-11, 14)

Leader: Let us say together this psalm that talks about what
Jesus will be like:

ALL: “Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.
Righteousness will go before him,
and will make a path for his steps.”

*Hymn 100 “Canticle of the Turning” Star of the County Down

Call to Confession

Steven Strength
Prayer of Confession

God of Israel, we sing the words Mary said; "may the hungry be filled, may the proud be scattered and the oppressed raised, may Your name be made holy". But we have not lived her song. Lord, we can be scrooge humbugs. Our secret thoughts and deeds do not magnify Your name. Those in need have not seen our faces and oppression is just a meaningless word. We are sometimes the proud who are ripe to be scattered. Hear us now as we confess our deeds. (time for silent confession) God of promise, give us new life and teach us to sing the pure songs of David’s faith, to know the deeds of Judith, and to hold in our hearts the burning words of Isaiah. We make our prayers through Mary’s child, Jesus, who is our powerful savior, forever and ever. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us also forgive one another. God’s peace be with you.

People: And also with you, my sisters and brothers.

*Passing of the Peace

Greet each other in the love & forgiveness of Christ; saying “Peace be with you!” and responding “and also with you!”

* Gloria Patri (638) Gloria (Taizé)

Gloria, Gloria! In Excelsis Deo!
Gloria! Gloria! Alleluia! alleluia!
(Latin and Hebrew for..."Glory, Glory to God in the Highest; Glory! Glory", "Praise ye YHWH, Praise ye YHWH")

Hearing the Word

Time with Our Children

Anthem

Announcements

Prayer of Illumination

Scriptures

Old Testament Lesson
Micah 5:2-5a
Gospel Lesson
Leader: This is the Word of God, for the People of God.
People: Thanks be to God.

Meditation
“The Force Awakens” Rev. Fred J. Powell, III

*Hymn 360 (versus 1, 3 and 4) “Christ is Coming” Unser Herrscher

Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles’ Creed
Glory to God Hymnal pg. 35
Sharing the Word with the World

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

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... (7 x)

HYMN 105 (verses 1, 3 and 5)  “People, Look East”  Besançon

Benediction

(*Communion Sunday elder serving)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>ELDERS</th>
<th>LITURGISTS</th>
<th>DEACONS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 20</td>
<td>Enjoli Mallary</td>
<td>Bruce Robertson</td>
<td>Justin Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 24</td>
<td>Sherri Hutton</td>
<td>Mary Brashears</td>
<td>David Capasso</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 27</td>
<td>Chris Roberts</td>
<td>Justin Wood</td>
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

✈️ Living Nativity - Come at 4:30 pm TONIGHT, get ready to masque and act out the story of Jesus birth in front of the church. We have places for adults, kids and animals of all descriptions! We will have a short run through then put on the spectacle a couple of times for passersby and neighbors at 5pm.

✈️ Advent in Narnia “Advent Study” –. Wander into the heart of love this Advent, exploring Christ through the world of C. S. Lewis's classic story "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe", Dec. 23rd at 6pm, a story set in rich, snowy land that is always winter, but never Christmas...but that is about to change!

✈️ First Presbyterian Christmas CD - “A First Presbyterian Christmas” was recorded and produced by the members of First Presbyterian in 2003. Traditional and original holiday favorites recorded live in the sanctuary and in the studio featuring piano, organ, handbells, flute, and a capella voices. 19 selections including readings and songs by the children of the church. Now available for download on iTunes. 99 cents per song or $9.99 for the whole CD. http://goo.gl/8UdoZ

✈️ Order Your Christmas Poinsettias! - Please place your orders for Christmas poinsettias today using the form enclosed in the bulletin! The deadline is Sunday December 13th and the poinsettias will be available for pick up on Christmas Eve after the Candlelight service. On the form, please let us know who your poinsettia is in honor of (if the person is alive) or in memory of (if the person is deceased).
**Blue Christmas service** - At 7pm on Sunday, December 23rd, we will gather in the sanctuary for a quiet meditative service called a “Blue Christmas Service.” This is not your normal “ho ho ho” sort of Christmas service, but is geared especially to those who need some solace and comfort in the winter darkness of the soul to find the Light of the World. Appropriately enough, this short service takes place on one of the longest nights of the year. Please bring friends and family who may be needing some extra comfort this holiday season.

**WELCOME VISITORS!**

We welcome you to historic, progressive First Presbyterian Church this morning! Here are a few things to get you up to speed...

- Child Care and Children’s Sunday School are available during worship: please ask the usher if s(he) doesn’t mention it.
- A bathroom is available (with a changing table) at the back of the church in the left hand alcove as you face the entrance doors.
- We take the passing of the peace near the beginning of the service seriously, so don’t be surprised if you get offered hugs!
- Please plan to stay after worship for a few minutes to share refreshments at the back of the church; it’s an extension of our understanding of communion and a chance to share God’s hospitality.
- We are the only full “More Light Congregation” in New Orleans which means we welcome not only the membership, but the leadership and talents of all genders, abilities, races, and sexual orientations.
- We appreciate the spiritual and financial support your attendance brings. You may put cash or a check in the offering plate that will be passed towards the end of the service, or give using your smartphone to scan this code--->

- Even if you are just visiting the city, we want you to feel welcome in our community and to involve yourself in the life of this place. Please sign the visitor book in the vestibule before you go and like us on Facebook at facebook.com/fpcno and follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/fpcno! We also have a Yahoo Group (go to www.fpcno.org and click on the Yahoo Group connection) that will keep you up to date on all the fun activities and service opportunities with the church.

**What’s happening at First Presbyterian Church?**

**Weekly Schedule**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>Adult Bible Study in the Session Room.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10:15 am</td>
<td>Sunday School for children begins.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11:00 am</td>
<td>Sunday Worship.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>Program of Hope (worship, with and outreach to, the less fortunate in our neighborhood—all are welcome to volunteer and/or seek help!) in the Sanctuary.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>Evening Prayer and Anointing in the Session room located by the church offices.</td>
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DECEMBER CALENDAR

- Book Study – Wednesday, December 23, 6:30pm. (conference room)
- Blue Christmas Service – Wednesday, December 23, 7:00pm.
- Christmas Eve Service – Thursday, December 24, 6:30pm.
- Church Office (CLOSED) – Thursday, Dec. 24 and Friday, Dec. 25.
- Christmas Day – MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL

SAVE THE DATE

The 21st annual
William Research Center Symposium
Perspectives on
New Orleans Architecture: Past, Present, Future

THE HISTORIC NEW ORLEANS COLLECTION PRESENTS
AN ARCHITECT AND HIS CITY
Henry Howard’s New Orleans
1837-1884
AN EXHIBITION

Friday – Saturday
February 19-20, 2016
at Hotel Monteleone
214 Royal Street
Visit www.hnoc.org or call (504)523-4662 for details

First Presbyterian Church
of New Orleans
Prayer List
Please keep this list with you
this week and pray for...

Hoy Hughes – who is still struggling with ongoing health issues. Keep Hoy and Nicole in your prayers.

May Ball – prayers for her continued healing.

George Koch - a friend of Larry and May Ball died. Keep the Koch family and May and Larry Ball in your prayers.

Don Robertson – brother of Bruce Robertson has COPD is having increasing difficulty breathing, and has almost no strength or stamina left. The Dr. has done just about everything he can for his COPD, so Don is at wit's end.

Patsy Bush – Cathy Strength mother died recently, at her son’s home in Tickfaw. Please keep Cathy, Steve, Rachel, Jennifer and the Bush family in your prayers for God’s strength.

Pat Daigle - Amie’s grandfather was rushed to the hospital recently. Please keep Mr. Daigle in your prayers for healing and comfort prayers for Amie.

Marley Harris - she is 10 years old, the daughter of Amanda’s Humana coach, Naoshia Carroll. Marley was recently diagnosed with a brain tumor and is at St Jude’s Children's hospital in Memphis. Keep her and her family in prayer.

Clyde Posey – Amanda Bennett’s dad, is in Ruston, La. recovering from a stroke he suffered recently. Prayers for healing.

Kelly and Enjoli Mallary – prayers for a successful outcome to a wonderful medical procedure.

Arthur and Etta Myers – Arthur had surgery from cancer and will now have to undergo more chemotherapy. His wife Etta is suffering from health issues and being the caregiver for her husband.

Lisa Hix a longtime friend of David Capasso, community gardener- pet- hemp activist. Suffered a massive head injury-from free fall off bike and is recovering in the hospital.

Heidi Bonds – is battling cancer, she is a friend of Mina Crais.

Noah Adams – continued prayers for Noah as he continue to go through this difficult time.

Our Homebound members and friends.
Please visit them and remember them in Prayer.

Gloria Boling (Randy Boling’s mom)
Adrian (Tudy) Manson;
Joyce Kleinfeldt (Henry Kleinfeldt sister)

Prayers for the homeless
Many people come through the Program of Hope for guidance and help.
Please keep them in your prayers.
Ministers: All the People of First Presbyterian!

Pastor:
Rev. Fred J. Powell, III
pastor@fpcno.org

Office Manager/Wedding Coordinator:
Cheryl A. Roberts
504-866-7409/info@fpcno.org

Musicians:
May Ball; Aya Alvarez; Amanda Wadsworth

Sextons:
Rev. Todd & LaDonna Vandegrift
and members of Redemption Church

The Session
Kristy Ruppel, Treasurer

Class of 2015
Christopher Roberts

Class of 2016
Jonathan Cone

Class of 2017
Sherri Hutton
Enjoli Mallary

The Board of Deacons
David Capasso, Chair

Class of 2015
Kyle Ann Carmichael
Diane Kleinfeldt

Class of 2016
Randy Boling
Carrie Fisher

Class of 2017
David Capasso
Justin Wood

This bulletin and all paper used at FPCNO are recycled