

First Presbyterian Church  
10 Charleston Ave.  
Mattoon, IL 61938  
Phone: (217) 234-6722  
Email: fpchurch@consolidated.net  
Website: www.fpcmattoon.org

Pastor  
Rev. Matthew Froeschle

Treasurer  
John Swick

Administrative Assistant  
Cherry Wishard

Youth Director  
Toby Montgomery

Music  
Scott Hines

Worship AV  
Brandon Barta

Church Custodian  
Rick Plummer

Treasurer  
John Swick

Stated Clerk  
John Jeisy

### Special Events

Barbershoppers Concert  
Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> 7:00 p.m.

Children's Christmas program  
Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> During Worship

Longest Night Service  
Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve. Services  
Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>  
5:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.



### Sunday Worship

Adult Bible Study  
8:30 a.m.

Worship Service  
9:30 a.m.

Children's Church  
9:45 a.m.

(after Children's Chat)

\*Childcare provided

### Wednesday

LOGOS

5:30 p.m.- 7:30 p.m.



There are things we really love about December. It can be fun to decorate the house, bake the cookies, send the cards, play the music, and buy the presents. But, of course, these things are mainly window dressing around the primary scene - the baby Immanuel in a manger.

This Advent season, we as a church are going to talk about what it means for us as Christians to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus. And don't worry: I'm not going to be critical about how people celebrate the holidays. I'm only offering an invitation to the weary to enjoy the spiritual blessings God offers through the Christmas story.

We Christians may miss out on the gifts of Advent and the joy of preparing more room for God in our lives. We get caught up in many things - but are we truly worshipping Jesus. So for 4 weeks, we are going to focus on 4 things:

1. **WORSHIP FULLY** - we want Jesus to mean more to us by the end of the month than He does right now. We want to reach 2019 knowing that we ended 2018 praising our awesome God.
2. **SPEND LESS** - we don't want to go into debt to say "I love you" with gifts. Rather, we want to give the gift of our **PRESENCE**, not just **PRESENTS**. You don't need a credit card to show the people in your life that you treasure them. And instead of spending so much money on trinkets that won't last, why not invest in ministries that can truly change the world?
3. **GIVE MORE** - not material things, but "heart things." This can be a season for offering our words, our time, our hands, and our souls to God and others.
4. **LOVE ALL** - especially those people who are forgotten or marginalized. After all, Jesus came as a poor child in a backwards town to unimpressive parents. To understand the gospel is to treat all people as God treats us - with acceptance and great love.

Rather than dreading the arrival of Christmas, won't it be nice to celebrate Jesus and be intentional in our relationships? Take that friend out for coffee! Rather than buy a gift, make time or give of your talents - from your heart. December doesn't need to stress us out. In fact, God intends for this season to be a gift.

"Unto you a child is born. To you a Son is given." And one of His many names is "Prince of Peace." May the Peace of Christmas be with you. Let's conspire to make this Advent different.

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Matthew*

# DECEMBER EVENTS



## **Saturday, December 1**

Rotary Breakfast 8:00 a.m.

## **Sunday, December 2**

Adult Bible Study 8:30 a.m.  
Worship Service 9:30 a.m.  
Children's Church 9:45 a.m.  
Mission Stitches 2:00 p.m.  
Youth Group 3:00 p.m.  
Barbershoppers Concert 7:00 p.m.

## **Tuesday, December 4**

Prayer Group 10:00 a.m.  
Dulcimers 1:30 p.m.  
Barbershoppers 7:00 p.m.

## **Wednesday, December 5**

Women's Board Meeting 9:00 a.m.  
Membership Committee 10:00 a.m.  
LOGOS 5:30 p.m.

## **Thursday, December 6**

Bible Study 9:00 a.m.  
Men's Prayer Group 10:00 a.m.

## **Sunday, December 9**

Adult Bible Study 8:30 a.m.  
Worship Service 9:30 a.m.  
Children's Christmas Program during Worship  
Worship Committee Meeting after service  
Pre-Pack Food Center 1:00 p.m.  
Youth Group 3:00 p.m.

## **Monday, December 10**

Sarah Circle to lunch 11:00 a.m.  
Priscilla Circle 5:00 p.m.

## **Tuesday, December 11**

Prayer Group 10:00 a.m.  
CCRTA Luncheon 12:00 noon  
Dulcimers 1:30 p.m.  
Personnel Meeting 4:30 p.m.  
Barbershoppers 7:00 p.m.

## **Wednesday, December 12**

Stewardship & Finance 1:15 p.m.  
B & G 2:15 p.m.  
LOGOS 5:30 p.m.

## **Thursday, December 13**

Bible Study 9:00 a.m.  
Men's Prayer Group 10:00 a.m.  
Mystery Book Club 6:00 p.m.

## **Sunday, December 16**

Adult Bible Study 8:30 a.m.  
Worship Service 9:30 a.m.  
Children's Church 9:45 a.m.  
Youth Group 3:00 p.m.  
Longest Night Service 7:00 p.m.

## **Tuesday, December 18**

Prayer Group 10:00 a.m.  
Dulcimers 1:30 p.m.  
6:30 p.m. Mission Committee  
Barbershoppers 7:00 p.m..

## **Wednesday, December 19**

LOGOS 5:30 p.m.

## **Thursday, December 20**

Bible Study 9:00 a.m.  
Men's Prayer Group 10:00 a.m.

## **Sunday, December 23**

Adult Bible Study 8:30 a.m.  
Worship Service 9:30 a.m.  
Children's Church 9:45 a.m.  
Youth Group 3:00 p.m.

## **Monday, December 24**

Christmas Eve. Services 5:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.

## **Tuesday, December 25**



## **Wednesday, December 26**

Church Office Closed

## **Thursday, December 27**

Bible Study 9:00 a.m. Men's Prayer 10:00 a.m.

## **Sunday, December 30**

Adult Bible Study 8:30 a.m.  
Worship Service 9:30 a.m.  
Children's Church 9:45 a.m.



## Snow Alert

Winter Weather Hotline... If you happen to find a winter wonderland on Sunday morning and are concerned or wondering if there will be church services....

our contact person is **Paul Daily** or tune in to **WMCI 101.3** on the radio.

Paul will be in contact with Rev. Froeschle and a determination will be made regarding the weather and our services.

Paul's numbers are: 234-9667 or 232-9667.

### *An Invitation*

Christmas can be a painful time for some. It may be the first Christmas without a loved family member who has recently died; it may be a time that has always been difficult.

The constant refrain on the radio and television, in shopping malls and churches, about the happiness of the season, about getting together with family and friends, reminds many people of what they have lost or have never had. The anguish of broken relationships, the insecurity of unemployment, the weariness of ill health, the pain of isolation – all these can make us feel very alone in the midst of the celebrating and spending. We need the space and time to acknowledge our sadness and concern; we need to know that we are not alone.

Our spirits sink, as the days grow shorter. We feel the darkness growing deeper around us. We need encouragement to live the days ahead of us.

For these reasons, **THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH** in **MATTOON** offers a special ***"Longest Night"*** service on **Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>** at **7:00 pm**.



Come out, and join with us in sharing and hearing prayers, scriptures, and music that acknowledge that God's presence is for those who mourn, for those who struggle – and that God's Word comes to shine light into our darkness. Everyone, regardless of church background (or lack of it) is welcome. The short service will be followed by a brief time for light refreshments and fellowship.

For more information  
call: **234-6722**



**Head Usher List for December**

**December 2**

Frank & Bobbi Kingery

**December 9**

Terry & Joyce Seldomridge

**December 16**

Nancy Plummer

**December 23**

Pam Montgomery

**December 30**

Nancy Plummer



**Food pantry items are being gathered.**

Please keep the food coming to help those in need.

Food may be left in a box in the

Narthex

December: Sugar



Keep saving the Box Tops for Education

for

Kemmerer Village.

Place them in the box in the Fellowship Hall.

**The Rotary Breakfast** will be Saturday, December 1, 2018 at 8:00 a.m. We need four volunteers to help chaperone the food drive at 6:30 a.m. If you have any questions please contact Toby Montgomery.



**1<sup>st</sup>**

A. J Hussong

**6<sup>th</sup>**

Austin Keating

**7<sup>th</sup>**

Michael Grant

**9<sup>th</sup>**

Nick Heller

**10<sup>th</sup>**

Barbara Allen

**12<sup>th</sup>**

Paul Saegesser

Florence Beck

Beth Covington

**16<sup>th</sup>**

Phyllis Phillips

Gayle Patrem

Kayla Patrem

**18<sup>th</sup>**

Suellen Dunlap

**19<sup>th</sup>**

Donald Smitley

**20<sup>th</sup>**

Steve Williams

**23<sup>rd</sup>**

Jim Glenn

**25<sup>th</sup>**

Dennis Gathmann

**26<sup>th</sup>**

Brandon Barta

**27<sup>th</sup>**

George Stone

**29<sup>th</sup>**

Carol Ann Parker

**30<sup>th</sup>**

Carolyn Handshy

Kristofer Heller

**31<sup>st</sup>**

Eric Bollinger



**Continued prayers For those having treatments for medical conditions:**

- Mavis Bagby
- Catherine Beachy
- Kathy Beaver
- Jean Beard
- Earl Bennett
- Joan Dickens
- Evelyn Furry
- Jo & Harlan Heller
- Jeremiah Parker
- Dorothy Phillips
- Betty & Bob Miller
- Betty Martin
- Elnor Oliver
- The Barta family

**For all those who are serving in Armed Forces, including:**

- Matt Gathmann
- Kyle & Kelly Martin
- Hunter S. McRoberts



**December 14**

*Dan & Ann Spitz*

**December 21**

*Tom & Kathy Oakley*

**December 24**

*Nick & Kristie Figgins*

**December 28**

*Frank & Bobbi Kingery*

**December 30**

*Jerry & Roberta McRoberts*



## Children's Christmas Program

**“This is the Son God Gave”**

**December 9th during service**

Come watch the LOGOS children tell the story of the Nativity through poetry and song.

### **First Presbyterian Church please update your general information**

**Member Name** \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_ Baptism Date \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Household Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Household Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Cell numbers \_\_\_\_\_

**Priscilla Circle** will meet Monday, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. at Jan Cornell's home, 1601 Stinson. Elsie Carter has devotions. Please bring a dish to pass at the pot luck, 3 dozen cookies and \$10 for our Christmas gift to Kemmerer Village. New members are always welcome. If you have any question call Alice Jeisy at 644-2625. Please note change of day and time.



### Lessons from a Snowman

- It's okay to wear white well after Labor Day.
- Simply hanging out in your front yard can be fun.
- Accessories don't have to be fancy or expensive.
- We're all made mostly of water.
- You know you've "arrived" when a song is written about you.
- So what if you're a little bottom-heavy?
- Don't get too much sun.

### Flowers for 2019

Would you like to provide flowers for the sanctuary one Sunday during the year?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Second choice/Special date: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of / In Memory of (circle one) \_\_\_\_\_

Do you want the church to order the flowers and charge to you? Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_

After the service please take your flowers.

Please return flower request form to the church office. Thank you!

### Kemmerer Village News

Christmas Wish List. The list will be on the table in the Narthex. If anyone would like to have a child to purchase gifts for call Casey at 226-2130 and she will be glad to assign one to you. There are approximately 26 children in the Village and 100 in foster care from infants to older children. Any gifts purchased may be left in the church office. I will be taking them over on Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to all who support the Village. – Elsie Carter

#### Activities

Car & Plane Models (Non-Toxic Glue)  
3D Puzzles  
Legos  
Sports Balls & Equipment  
Action Figures  
Rubiks Cube, Art and craft kits, Posters

#### Gift Cards

Always a hit and enables us to match a child's wish!  
iTunes Amazon, Best Buy, Pizza Hut, YMCA Taylorville  
Target Old Navy  
Shoe Carnival, Wal-Mart  
White Oaks Mall-Springfield, IL  
Hickory Point Mall-Decatur, IL

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
10 Charleston Ave.  
Mattoon, IL 61938

## THE FIRST ALERT



Return Service Requested