



Presbyterian Times December, 2017

First Presbyterian Church
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A Message from Our Pastor Rev. Lou Ellen Hartley

“Smile Your Blessing Smile”

For a while I have been reading through the psalms using [The Message](#), a modern paraphrase of the Bible by Eugene Peterson. Recently I read Psalm 80 in which the writer cries out to God pleading for God to stop being angry, to turn back to the people and restore them. Running through the psalm there's a refrain, “God come back! Smile your blessing smile. That will be our salvation.” This image has stuck with me – God smiling a blessing smile. I have integrated that phrase into my daily prayers and tried to integrate blessing smiles into my own interactions. We can go through so much of our lives without a meaningful conversation or pausing to notice the people around us. The grace of a blessing filled smile may go very far to let someone know you are aware s/he exists or that kindness exists, for them to feel blessed.

It is my prayer during this season of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany that God smiles a blessing on us all. I pray we will be aware of God's grace during the time of preparation for Christ's birth, the ultimate blessing smile for all creation. I pray we will be renewed and so full of God's light that we will have no choice but to share a blessing smile with others.

May God bless us all so we may be a blessing, and may Christ's peace, hope, joy, and love surround you during this season.

Peace,

Pastor Lou Ellen

Sermon/Worship Information

December 3 Isaiah 64:1-9 "A Time to See"

December 10 "A Time to Prepare" Mark 1:1-8

December 17 Cantata

December 24 (a.m. worship service) "A Time for Promise Keeping" Luke 1:26-38

December 24 5:30 p.m. Lessons and Carols Candlelight Service

December 31 "The Waiting Was Worth It" Luke 2:22-40

YOU ARE INVITED....

Pastor Lou Ellen and Brett would like to invite everyone for a holiday themed fellowship following worship on December 3. We would like to wish all of you a very healthy and happy Advent and Christmas season. We appreciate the kindness and love you show us throughout the year. Please join us for this small token of our appreciation for you all.

Brett and Pastor Lou Ellen

Nominating Committee Report and Congregational Meeting

Please mark your calendars for December 10 immediately following the worship service for the purpose of electing a new class of officers.

Nominations for Ruling Elders: Leslie Skelton, Jonathan Kimball, Ken Kwantes

Nominations for Deacons: Carrie Aswegan, Bill Neely, Carol Bennett

Nominations for Trustee: Steve Day

Advent Prayer Calendars Available

During the season of Advent we prepare our hearts to welcome the Christ child. We read special passages and pray special prayers. The Presbyterians Today Advent

Calendar is a wonderful tool to help us move through Advent toward Christmas, providing new insights and opening our hearts to receive the good news of the season. The calendars will be on the table in near the doors of the sanctuary.

A Very Special Thank You

There are many people in our congregation who give their time, talent and energy to ensure we have everything from bread and juice for Communion to refreshments for fellowship, a card on our birthday to nicely folded bulletins, words on the screen and batteries in the hearing aid receivers. Thank you to all of the behind the scene ministers who do so much for our congregation.

Christian Education Marcia Brewer

The adult class recently completed a six-week study of the Reformation, based on a video, "This Changed Everything", followed by discussions. It was well received. The next topic is "KJB: The Book That Changed the World", a documentary about the development of the King James Bible, presented during three class periods.

The CE Committee will not meet in December, and the adult class will not meet on December 24th. During other Sundays in December, the adult class will view and discuss documentaries addressing Advent and Christmas, and children may meet for a video as well.

Presbyterian Women Melba Read

WHAT: Annual Cookie Walk and Bazaar; Christmas items will be available as well as lunch being served.

WHEN: Saturday, the 2nd of December from 8 am to 2 pm.

WHERE: Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall

WHO: Hosted by Circle V with the help of many bakers. Cookies and other goodies may be taken to the Fellowship hall on Friday from 9 am to 2 pm. Thank you to all who have baked and those who will purchase goodies.

WHY: The Bazaar and the Rummage Sale benefit our local charities---GRACE, Russell House, Community Partnership, The Mission, Rolla Public Schools Backpack program, and the Presbyterian Manor.

JOY OFFERING
“THE INDESCRIBABLE GIFT”

Frank Jessop

Through the work of the Christmas Joy Offering, we seek the living of the truth; that God’s generosity is the source, the support, and the outcome of our own. We give because God has freely given. We give to support the needs of our church leaders – past, present, and future – and God amplifies and extends those gifts through the ministry of those leaders. Their gifts of ministry extend and amplify as well, “overflowing” in Thanksgiving to God, and the entire environment of generosity bears witness to God’s grace, and truly indescribable gift.

A church worker in a time of need receives the generosity of the church in the same way they have been generous in their service to it – then turn around and make a gift himself to help other church leaders in need. A student at Presbyterian Pan American School receives the generosity of the church and responds by dedicating his life to serving the church. The work of the Offering is compounding generosity, with unending expansion and ceaseless increase.

Thank you for your support of this life-changing Offering. If you make out a check to the Joy Offering please put in the “For” space at the bottom of your check “Joy Offering”. The Joy Offering will end on December 24, Christmas Eve.

Sometimes God makes better choices for us than we could ever have made for ourselves.

Jennifer Hudson Taylor, author

Personnel

Britt Whitaker, Chair

Christmas time is the time to not only celebrate the birth of our Savior, but a time of gratitude for the gift of the Christ child. It is a wonderful time, when in the spirit of generosity, we can show our appreciation for others who daily share their talents with us. If you would like to show your gratitude for any OR ALL of our staff, please feel free to present them with a card/or monetary gift, individually. If you prefer your gift to be anonymous, feel free to give your Christmas gift to one of our Personnel Committee members (Britt Whitaker, Ken Kwantes, Marilyn Schmidt, or Eleanor Van Horn) who will happily pass it on to the designated person. What a delightful opportunity this is to show appreciation to our Pastor, our Office Manager, our Church custodians, our Nursery Attendant, our Accompanist, and our Music Director. Wishing for you a joyous Christmas, *the Personnel Committee.*

Christmas Lunch

JoAnn Anderson, PW Co-moderator

When: December 17th

Time: 12:00 noon

What: Church Christmas Luncheon

Come join us for lunch to celebrate the Christmas season! Presbyterian Women will provide turkey, ham and drinks. Bring along one of your favorite holiday salads, vegetables, or desserts. See you there!

Season's blessings,
Presbyterian Women

How Well Do You Know Our Congregation?

Carol Jessop

This month we get to know Ray Fox a little better.

Ray was born in Charleston, West Virginia, the middle child of three. Ry's older sister lives in Bainbridge Island, Washington and his younger sister lives in Baltimore, Maryland.

Ray attended school in Baltimore where his family moved after leaving West Virginia. He sat behind Judy in class when they were 8th graders and they attended Prom together as Seniors. Ray went to college in Frostburg, MD, where he received a BS in Geography.

Ray and Judy were married his senior year in college. They have two children, Russell and Rebecca, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Ray and Judy moved to Rolla in 1983. They previously lived in Virginia and California.

During high school and college Ray worked as a lifeguard and worked 40 years for USGS, (from July 1, 1974 to July 1, 2014 when he retired.)

He joined the church in 1983 and has served as an Elder, Deacon, and Trustee as well as on various committees. His hobbies and interests are hiking, camping, biking and brewing home beer.

At one time there were four generations of his family attending church here – Ray's parents, Ray and Judy, Russell, Teresa and their children.

Presbyterians Cook

I haven't tried this recipe yet, but Carrie Aswegan, Carol Bennett, and Melba Read assured me that it's very good.

Nobby Apple Cake

Cream together $\frac{1}{4}$ cup oil and 1 cup sugar

Add:

1 egg

1 tsp vanilla

Sift together:

1 c flour

$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp baking soda

$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp baking powder

$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp salt

$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp cinnamon

$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp nutmeg

Add to egg mixture:

Stir in 3 cups diced apples – generous measure.

Pour into greased 8x8 pan. Mixture will be thick.

Bake 40 – 45 minutes in 350 degree oven.

Membership/Fellowship

Bob May, Chair

Please be inviting to guests as you greet them. Invite them to Fellowship / Sunday School after worship.

Refreshments after church service: The Fellowship committee will continue to provide drinks and Doughnut holes. Thanks to those who elect to bring extras like fruit, cheese and pastries. There will be special Sundays when we will have expanded food items (like this coming Sunday, Dec. 3rd – hosted by the Hartley's).

Coming Events include:

1st. Friday Night Out – this Friday, December 1st. 6:00 p.m. Sidney's, Pine St. downtown Rolla.

Caroling – Sunday, December 17th, 6:00 p.m. - Beginning at the church.

Pizza / Game Night – January 14th, 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a favorite game.

Pictorial Directory is still in the making. It's not too late to have pictures taken by Leslie Skelton or bring a picture to her.

From the Office

Betti Jo Pyatt, Office Manager



John Denbo, Brett Hartley, Paden Long, Bill Morgan, Caleb Rose, Dace Murray, Michael Bennett, Bud Pumfrey, Bill Winch, Glenda Knight, Ida Ponzer, Caitlin Bennett, Barbara Ford and Betti Jo Pyatt.



Jim and Mariesa Crow-Drewniak

Upcoming Events for December

- 1 – First Friday Night Out at Sidney's
- 2 – Cookie Walk and Bazaar 8 am – 2 pm
- 9th – RCAS rehearsal at 1 pm / Concert at 7 pm
- 10th – Congregational meeting following worship
 - Yarning for God items dedicated
 - 3 pm RCAS concert
- 15th – Preschool Christmas Program
- 16th – Cantata rehearsal – time to be announced
- 17th – Cantata during worship service 9:45 am
 - Christmas dinner following worship at non
 - Christmas caroling at 6 pm
- 18th – Pastor Lou Ellen out of the office through the 1st except for on Sunday
- 21st – No school through the 2nd of January
- 22nd – January Newsletter deadline
- 24th – Christmas Eve service 5:30 pm
- 25th – Office closed for Christmas

Pastor Lou Ellen will be out of the office on December 18 – 25 except on Sundays.

January 1st – Office closed for New Year's Day

