

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN NEWS

Rev. Alan Jeffries, Minister, First Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 472, 1000 Third Street, Moundsville, WV 26041 Phone (845-7155)
COME AND WORSHIP WITH US EACH SUNDAY
Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship at 10:45 a.m.

DECEMBER 2025

AN ADVENT ACROSTIC

A nnouncing his coming, the angel from heaven
D escended to bring his good tidings to earth.
V ictorious, triumphant, the message is given:
E ach penitent sinner, come, view Jesus' birth.
N ow come we! Our King draweth near!
T o Bethlehem hasten! He casts out our fear!

CANDLE

The candle symbolizes Jesus being the light of the world (John 8:12), as well as his call for Christians to be lights (Matthew 5:14). Candles play a prominent role in the Christmas season. Each candle on an Advent wreath has a special meaning. Many churches have a candlelight worship service on Christmas Eve, often at midnight.

HOLY COMMUNION

Holy Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, November 30 (*First Sunday of Advent*). The Elders serving that morning will be Bill Groft, Sharon Burke, Jane McNinch, and Janet Marchlenski.

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study is held on Mondays at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

LOOSE OFFERING

The loose offering collected on Sunday, December 14 will be given to the Deacons to help with their projects.

DEACONS MEETING

The Deacons will meet following worship on Sunday, December 14.

OPUS

The annual Christmas Opus Concert will be held on Sunday, Dec. 7th at 2:00 p.m. at the First Christian Church. The public is invited.

SESSION MEETING

The Session meeting will be held on Sunday, December 21 following worship.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

The Joy Offering will be collected on Sunday, December 21st during worship service.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Our Candlelight Christmas Eve Service will be held at 7:00 p.m.

PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS

**Welcome, Jesus,
Light of the World!**

Light up my heart and my life.

Enlighten all of us who celebrate
Christmas with the grace to testify to
your Light, your presence among us.

You are the Mighty God who
banishes all darkness, illumine every
seeking heart that yearns for you.

AMEN

OFFICE CLOSED

The office will be closed on Thursday, December 25 and Friday, December 26 in observance of Christmas.

A SONG WITH A MESSAGE?

According to folklore, the song "The 12 Days of Christmas" was written to help young believers learn about their faith. Although no evidence proves that claim, some say the popular carol contains these codes:

- The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ.
- Two turtle doves are the Old and New Testaments.
- Three French hens stand for faith, hope and love.
- The four calling birds are the four gospels.
- The five golden rings are the Law: the first five books of the Old Testament.
- The six geese a-laying represents the six days of creation.

- Seven swans a-swimming represent the gifts of the Holy Spirit: prophecy, serving, teaching, exhortation, contribution, leadership and mercy.
- The eight maids a-milking are Jesus' eight Beatitudes.
- Nine ladies dancing are the fruits of the holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.
- The 10 lords a-leaping are the Ten Commandments.
- The 11 pipers piping stands for the 11 faithful disciples.
- The 12 drummers drumming symbolize the 12 statements of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

"A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE"

Christmas holds the mystery
Of how God touched the earth
By giving us the Christ child
In a newborn baby's birth.

Great awe was in young Mary's heart,
And in the shepherds' pace
As they ran quickly to the town
And found that special place.

These humble shepherds knelt before
This tiny newborn king;
And as they did so, they could hear
The lovely angels sing:

"Fear not, for unto you this day,
The Prince of Peace has come
To share God's love throughout the world.
Rejoice now, everyone!"
--Peggy Ferrell

SWEET CHRISTMASTIME

It's Christmas 'round the countryside--
There's goodwill everywhere;
Sleigh bells jingle loudly and
Sweet carols fill the air.

Gay shoppers, with their packages
Bedecked in ribbons bright,
Exchange the season's greetings.
Snow drapes the earth in white.

Smoke spirals lazily upward
From Yule logs burning low;

There's a secret special atmosphere
And hearts are all aglow.

Sweet Christmastime is here again,
The day we pause to remember
Whose birth it is we celebrate
At this lovely time in December.

--Lucille King
Mifflinburg, Pennsylvania

WHAT IS CHRISTMAS?

"Christmas is for children,"
We oft hear people say,
Ignorant, apparently
Of the meaning of the day.

Christmas isn't Santa Claus
And all his many toys,
Nor is it decorated trees
And gifts of every size.

Christmas isn't ornaments,
Which, once a year, are seen.
Or candles on the table top
With colors red and green.

Christmas isn't singing carols
Or seeing cards are sent,
And though these are
Important too
A deeper meaning is meant.

So in the season's busyness
Let's stop and think a minute;
"Why is this called Christmas time
If Christ is not shared in it?"

Christmas is to celebrate
The blessed Christ-child's birth,
"Twas on that day in human form
That God came to this earth.

Christmas is (at least should be)
A day for everyone,
To praise the Father for His gift
Of Jesus Christ, His Son.

Yes, Christmas is for everyone
Let's all keep that in mind,
It isn't just for children
For Christ came to save mankind.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!