December 7 —
The Second Sunday of Advent
Scripture: Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; Mark 1:1-8
Sermon: “Tidings of Comfort and …?”
Liturgist: John Tonti
Music: Haviland Choir; Carillon Ringers — The Little Drummer Boy and Sheep and Shepherd Medley

A Congregational Meeting for the sole purpose of the election of officers will be held immediately after worship.

Pastor’s Open House: 3-7 p.m.

December 14 —
The Third Sunday in Advent
Music: Haviland Choir — The Mystery and the Majesty, a cantata by Joseph M. Martin

A reception and the Presbyterian Women’s annual Basket Raffle to benefit local mission will be held immediately after worship.

Dear Friends,

In this season of giving, when we very generously support a number of local projects, please remember the Christmas Joy Offering, a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930’s. It is very clear how the donations received for this Offering are used:

• One half of the Offering supports Presbyterian-related racial ethnic school and colleges. Through this support, these schools offer an opportunity to young adults to advance their education and escape the cycle of poverty and prejudice.
  A 1986 graduate of the Presbyterian Pan American School in Texas says, “No matter how big or small the donation, those who contribute should know that they are doing something good. It’s more than an opportunity for education; it’s an opportunity to expose a child to the Christian faith.”

• The other half of the Offering goes to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions where it is used to assist pastors, missionaries, and church workers -- active and retired -- who have special financial needs.
  A retired pastor whose wife developed Alzheimer’s disease was able to move into a Presbyterian senior living community through a Housing Supplement. He says, “The Board of Pensions saved my life. Without their help, I’d be out on the street.”

Please give prayerfully and generously to the Christmas Joy Offering.

AND… please remember that you are invited to my home on Sunday, December 7 for a time of food and friendship. This is my Christmas gift to the congregation, and Steve and I look forward to welcoming you from 3-7 p.m.

Blessings, Meta
Prayer Concerns

Salem Regional Medical Center, Skilled — Jim Laughlin

Others — Darla Allen (Kevin Chumney’s sister), Marianne Barr (Debbie Blair’s mother), Abi and Dan Cotter’s granddaughters, Audrey Crawford (Linda Crawford’s sister in law), Matthew Drake (Jim and Nancy McNeal’s grandson), Lori Dunn (Penny Lippiatt’s friend), Erma Eaton, Pat Eichler, Morgan Fennema and Nicole Fennema (Paul and Barbara Fennema’s granddaughter, daughter-in-law), Bernie Fitch, Dave Garlock (Phyllis’ husband), Debbie Goulish (Meta Cramer’s friend), Sandi Hendricks, Tom Henry (Susan Merry’s brother-in-law), Jack and Rita Hovis, Hayden Johnson, Gary Kekel, Sue Kyser, Jean Leimbach, Guy Edward Lindsay and Kip Lindsay (Phil Tetlow’s cousins), Ellen Matiscik, Ben Miller (Lauren Arnold’s friend), Dolly Millikin, John Peterson (Dawn Vest Peterson’s husband), Sam Pridon, Tracy Rees (Penny Judge’s daughter), Bob Roberts, Jr., Scot and Rory Robertson, Marie Robinson (Kim Double’s mother), Dr. Marilyn Roderick (Juanita Latham’s daughter), Gene Shafer, Gloria Shafer’s step-dad, Lorin Shepard, Sue Sinclair, Julie Smith (Joyce Smith’s daughter-in-law), Jana Stitle (Steve and Kathy Stewart’s daughter), Bob Stroble (Member of Eastminster Presbytery Committee on Ministry), Lana Tonkinson (Ed and Melissa’s daughter), Robert Wheatley (Gloria Shafer’s co-worker), Nelson Works (Lucy Works’ brother)

Special Care Facilities

Auburn: Helen Hum
Blossom: Georgiana Costa, 204B; Mary Smith (Susan Smith’s mother)
Courtyard: Phyllis Lamb, 109
Crandall: Sally Darling; Betsy Johnson, 251 (Tom Johnson’s wife)
Essex III: Libby Dales, 211
Lake Huron Woods: Joyce Smith; 5221 Lakeshore Rd, Fort Gratiot MI 48059
Sterling House: Dorothy Gibson, 303
Weatherwood Manor: Dolores Kynett, 201; 896 Weatherwood Lane, Greensburg PA 15601

Whispering Pines: Rolin Herron, 146; 937 E Park Ave, Columbiana OH 44408

Military

FENNEMA, JOHN T. SGT
fennema33@gmail.com
Paul and Barb Fennema’s son

HARP, ALEX LCPL
alex.j.harp@gmail.com
John and Joetta Tonti’s grandson

The Sympathy and Surrounding Love of Our Congregation are extended to Joan Ferrier and the family on the death of her aunt, Jessie L. (Hall) Conrad.

Special Wishes to Janice Olmstead on celebrating her 90th birthday on December 4.

Congratulations to George and Roberta Bell on celebrating their 60th Wedding Anniversary on December 5.

Pastor’s Open House
Sunday, December 7
3:00-7:00 p.m.
781 S Lincoln Avenue

Envelope Income received November 2 $5,230.00
Envelope Income received November 9 $5,472.00
Envelope Income received November 16 $3,270.00
Envelope Income received November 23 $8,932.22
Envelope Income received November 30 $17,848.00
General Fund Balance, September 30, 2014 ($18,909.70)
October Revenues $16,995.27
October Transfers in $1,883.33
October Expenses $24,933.38
General Fund Balance, October 31, 2014 ($24,964.48)
Per Capita ($32/2014 Goal: $11,104) $2,880.00

Christmas Poinsettias
$7 each or 3 for $20
* No Color Selection *
Orders due Friday, December 5.

Salvation Army “Christmas Angel” Gifts
For those who took a tag from the Christmas tree in Fellowship Hall, gifts should not be wrapped, but instead placed in a garbage bag with the tag affixed to the outside. Do Not Include Gift Receipts. All gifts must be returned to the church by Thursday, December 11.

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers delivered by a Deacon. I appreciate your thoughtfulness.
Pat Eichler

Dear Meta and Session,
Today at our Presbytery staff meeting, we prayed for the Session and Staff of First, Salem. May the peace, power and presence of our Lord Jesus Christ ~

Nancy Kahaian,
Lorraine Jones, Dale Riley

Please provide the Church Office with the names and addresses of our students, both undergraduate and graduate. The Congregational Care wishes to remember them during the holiday season.
Youth News

Sunday School:
9:15 a.m. — Gathering Time / 9:30-10:15 a.m. — Classes

Together Time during Advent: Christmas Timeline

Pres-Bees Youth Club:
Youth age 4 through Grade 5 / Wednesdays, 5:00-6:45 p.m.

December 3
Regular Gathering
(Chicken Nuggets, French Fries, Carrots)

December 10
Regular Gathering
(Walking Tacos, Nachos)

December 17
Dress Rehearsal and Baby Jesus Birthday Party
(Ham, Potatoes, Corn, Birthday Cake)

December 21
Cherub and Praise Choirs sing during Worship

LOGOS:
Youth in Grades 6-12 on Sundays, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

December 6
Olde English Feaste

December 14
Bake Sale — Coffee Hour / after Worship
Monetary Donations needed for supplies.
Call Kim Double at 234-567-1752.
Christmas Party

Your Session at Work
The Session of First Presbyterian Church, meeting on November 20, 2014...

- Received Tricia Wilms Jackson back into membership by Reaffirmation of Faith.
- Approved a communion schedule for 2015.
- Endorsed an outing by LOGOS Youth to Tapestries of Ohio’s Boar’s Head Dinner in Warren on December 6.
- Approved a request from Cub Pack 3 and Boy Scout Troop 3 to hold a LifeBanc Organ Donor Awareness program on the evening of December 19 in Fellowship Hall.
- Heard that the Nominating Committee has secured a slate of candidates for election as Ruling Elders and Deacons, and set a Congregational meeting for the election of officers immediately after worship on December 7.
- Heard that the Personnel Committee would complete annual staff performance reviews on November 23.
- Heard a report from Elder Commissioner Carol Ricciardi on the November meeting of Eastminster Presbytery.
- Decided on the theme of The Ohio State University for their basket for the raffle.
- Engaged in prayers of intercession for members and friends of the congregation.

Recycling

Christmas shopping is well underway. Many of us are now doing our shopping online and most every package delivered comes in a cardboard box. Before you put that box out to be picked up with the trash, please consider the following information.

- Recycling cardboard only takes 75% of the energy needed to make new cardboard.
- Recycling 1 ton of cardboard saves 46 gallons of oil.
- Over 90% of all products shipped in the US are shipped in corrugated boxes, which totals more than 400 billion square feet of cardboard.

So when packages arrive at your house, please break down the boxes and recycle them. And please take the plastic bubble wrap, packing pellets, etc. used inside the box with you because it can also be recycled.

There will be no “Soup to Go” in December. 2015 Soup Dates are January 25 (Vegetable), February 22 (Turkey), and March 22 (Corn Chowder). Please return your “Soup to Go” glass jars and lids to the church kitchen so they can be used again.
December

Happy Birthday!
Janice Olmstead (4), Joyce Smith (10), Jim Gibbs (13),
Rita Hovis (13), Phyllis Lamb (25),
Charles Gibbs (27), Juanita Latham (29)

3 / Weds
12:00 Daytimers (FH) -
“Christmas Fun” with Nancy McNeal
5:00 Pres-Bees Youth Club
6:15 Carillon Ringers (200)
7:00 Men’s Bible Study (110)
7:15 Haviland Choir (S)

4 / Thurs
7:00 Salem Bird Study Club (110)
7:00 Committee Night:
Christian Education (106)
Mission I and S (FH)
Property and Maintenance (107)
Worship, Music, and the Arts (109)

6 / Sat
LOGOS to Olde English Feaste in Warren

7 / Sun
9:00 Adult Bible Study (110)
9:15 Sunday School Together Time (FH)
10:00 Coffee Hour (FH)
10:30 Worship (S) - Carillon Ringers
3:00-7:00 Open House at Meta’s - 781 South Lincoln Avenue
6:00 Cub Scout Pack 3 (B)

8 / Mon
6:30 Boy Scout Troop 3 (B)

9 / Tues
12:00 November Circle – Salem Golf Club
RSVP Kathie Baker or Marilyn Loudon
5:30 September Circle — Ezio’s

10 / Weds
9:00 February Circle — Salem Hills
5:00 Pres-Bees Youth Club
7:00 Men’s Bible Study (110)
7:00 Haviland Choir (S)

11 / Thurs
12:00 Preschool Advisory Board (110)
5:45 April Circle — Ricky’s English Pub
RSVP by December 10 to Carol Ricciardi
7:00 Finance Committee (107)

12 / Fri
9:00-4:00 Quilt Group (107)

14 / Sun
9:00 Adult Bible Study (110)
9:15 Sunday School Together Time:
Christmas Timeline (FH)
10:00 Coffee Hour (FH)
10:30 Worship (S) - Haviland Choir Program
Choir Appreciation Reception
Women’s Association Basket Auction
LOGOS Bake Sale
4:30 LOGOS Christmas Party (FH)
6:00 Cub Scout Pack 3 (B)

15 / Mon
6:30 Boy Scout Troop 3 (B)

16 / Tues
Preschool Christmas Party (107, FH)

17 / Weds
Preschool Christmas Party (107, FH)
5:00 Pres-Bees Youth Club Dress Rehearsal
and Baby Jesus Birthday Party for Families
7:00 Haviland Choir (S)
7:00 Men’s Bible Study (110)

18 / Thurs
7:00 Session (107)

19 / Fri
5:30-8:30 Cub Scout Pack 3 and Troop 3
LifeBanc Organ Donor Awareness Program (FH)

21 / Sun
9:00 Adult Bible Study (110)
9:15 Sunday School Together Time:
Christmas Timeline (FH)
10:00 Coffee Hour (FH)
10:30 Worship (S) - Cherub & Praise Choirs,
and all children who participate in Pres-Bees,
Sunday School, or LOGOS will offer musical
gifts during worship.
6:00 Cub Scout Pack 3 (B)

24 / Weds
Church Office Closes at Noon
7:30 and 11:00 Christmas Eve
Candlelight Communion Services

25 / Thurs

26 / Fri
Church Office Closed

28 / Sun
9:00 Adult Bible Study (110)
10:00 Coffee Hour (FH)
10:30 Worship (S) - Rev. Ray Banner

Worship Schedule on Cable TV Channel 9
Sunday – 1 & 9 am / Monday — 1 am
Tuesday – 3 am, 12 & 4 pm / Wednesday – 1 am, 4 & 9 pm
Friday – 1 am / Saturday – 3 am, 12 & 4 pm
Schedule Subject to Change

Salem Community Pantry
Mon., Fri., 9-11:30 a.m. / Tues., 5-7:30 p.m.
Items needed — canned soup, small jars of peanut butter, personal hygiene items, and plastic bags.
Place items at north entrance.