

December 2018



7PM
Lessons & Carols
@ Flora



December
9th



Oasis
Weds. 5th, 12th
Christmas Party
Dec. 19th



December 31st
Happy New Year
January 1, 2019

Ring in the
Season
Bell Concert
Dec. 9th
3PM





Advent: What does it mean?

ad·vent /'ad,vent/ noun The arrival of a notable person, thing, or event. "the advent of television"

Synonyms: arrival, appearance, emergence, materialization, occurrence, dawn, birth, rise, development.

The first season of the Christian church year, leading up to Christmas and including the four preceding Sundays.

CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY

The coming or second coming of Christ.

I like the definition of "the arrival of a notable person or event". That is what we are to be preparing for even now.

As the Christian Church, we celebrate the birth of Immanuel... God with us.

Yet are we truly preparing for His coming again?

The excitement of children at the prospect of Santa arriving with presents is contagious. Mark 10:15, Jesus tells us that we cannot enter into the

kingdom of God unless we are willing to come as a child. Come with excitement and anticipation of the glory that awaits us.

The stores are filled with holiday symbols and winter celebration decorations to tempt the eye and the billfold of shoppers. How are we as Christians decorating our homes this year? Do they invite a closer look at the Savior who is returning to carry us to His home in Heaven? Are we excited at the very idea of what is in store for us on that blessed Advent of Christ's return?

I pray that each one of us can look beyond the shopping and the exchange of gifts that will tarnish and wear out to the One who gave us the greatest gift of all, Jesus the Christ.

Your sister in Christ,

Pastor Grace



In the hustle and bustle of the

Advent/Christmas

Season let's take some

intentional time to

study what Matthew

and Luke had to say

about the birth of our

Savior. Join Pastor

Grace for nourishing soup for the body and enriching Bible study for the soul.

All are welcome.

Sunday, Dec 2 5:30 - 7:30

404 Washington Blvd., Flora

Christian Education

by Barbara Pearce

FUND RAISER for Campers

The semi-wild herd of pigs have been corralled and are safely hibernating in an undisclosed location. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this fundraiser. We do not have the final tally as yet, but it looks like we raised over \$1,000.

The Oasis team is planning a soup supper fundraiser for January. Details will be announced soon. Please let me know if you are able to contribute to this effort with soup, sandwiches or monetary donation to help cover the expense.

Library will be open on
December 5th for Oasis.



Presbyterian Women

by Jane Bishop

The Mary-Martha Circle will not be meeting until March 19, 2019.

However we still have obligations each month to the Thrift Shop!!

1. Helping each month to work at your chosen tasks. 2. Our donations are so heavy (thankfully so), but it does take a lot of extra hours to unpack boxes and sacks, examine for condition of donations, mark or price, hang or place on shelves. etc. Also during this time for one month we will be responsible weekly for making the shop tidy, removing trash, etc. We are blessed with this chance to earn mission money, but blessings most times come with responsibilities.

December Thrift Shop Schedule

Sat... Dec. 1....Cashier...Barbara Pearce
Thurs. Dec... 6...Sort & Mark...Laraine Mac.
Thurs... Dec. 13...Tags....Libby Sparks
Thurs...Dec.27..Sort & Mark...Libby Sparks
Sat...Dec. 29...Cashier...Barbara Pearce.

Stewardship, Mission, Finance

By Tammy Moss

Please prayerfully consider a donation to the Christmas Joy offering which will be collected on December 2, 9, and 16th. These contributions help in 2 ways: 50% helps students at Presbyterian related schools and colleges learn and grow in faith and 50% helps provide assistance for current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs. Any help you can give will be greatly appreciated.

Worship

By Martha Clark

The Advent Season is upon us and what used to be a time focused on repentance has now evolved into a time of joyful anticipation and reflection. We focus on the hope that Christ brings to the world, the embodiment of Divine Love, and the Joy and Peace that we receive from Him when we are in fellowship with the Prince of Peace. We will be celebrating Communion with the Christian Church and First Presbyterian at the Delphi church on the 30th of December. New elders from both Flora and Delphi will be installed during the worship service. We will end the Advent Season with a communion service in Flora on Christmas Eve. We also celebrate the Baptism of Kolton, Jenesa and Judah Pitts. Shawn Ross and Deloris Pitts and Melvin, Matthew and Michelle Matos were also welcomed into the church on November 18. We are so happy to be part of your church family.



In Christ
Martha Clark, Worship



December brings a time that is filled with music. You are invited and encouraged to share in these special moments happening in our Parrish.

Dec 2, 3 PM @ Flora- **Christmas with 88 Keys**-Piano Recital

Dec 9, 10:30 AM @ Flora- **Children's Christmas Pageant**

Dec 9, 3 PM @ Flora First Christian- **Ring in the Season with Holiday Bells**

Dec 24, 7 PM @ Flora- Parrish **Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols**

Dec 30, 9:30 AM **Ecumenical Celebration Service**

@Delphi Featuring hand bells and singers from Flora and First Christian



Ushers December

December 2 Martha and Kevin Clark
December 9 Laurie Brower, Sally Schmidt
December 16 Barbara Pearce, Marlene Smith
December 23 Joe and Tammy Moss

Scripture Readers for December

December 2 Deloris Pitts, Martha Clark
December 9 Susan Hollis, Tammy Moss
December 16 Gerry Hollis, Jenne McMillin
December 23 Barbara Pearce, Libby Sparks

Audio/ Visual Schedule for December

December 2 Barbara Pearce
December 9 Martha Clark
December 16 Kevin Clark
December 23 Barbara Pearce



Nursery Volunteer for December

Laurie Brower

Acolytes for December

December 2 Koltan Pitts, Gabe Mauer
December 9 Janessa Pitts, Mason Eakins
December 16 Aden Mauer, Shawn Ross
December 23 Judah Pitts, Haylee Randolph
December 24 Autumn Mauer, Gabe Mauer

Session Leaders

Laraine MacLauchlan- Clerk
Sally Schmidt -Congregational Life
Barbara Pearce – Christian Ed.
Tammy Moss- Stewardship/Mission
Martha Clark- Worship
Kent King-Bldg. and Grounds

The account of the candy cane's origins circulates every Christmas season and is more likely a fun story than historical fact. No matter; tales often contain truth. This tasty treat can convey important elements of our Christian faith.

The stripes remind us of the heart of Christmas, our Savior, Jesus: white for his purity; red for his blood shed on the cross. The candy cane resembles the curved staffs of the shepherds — the first people to visit the Christ-Child and worship at the manger. And when the cane is turned upside down, it becomes a letter J, for “Jesus.”

Indeed, Jesus turns our lives upside down and inverts our presumptions: A poor baby born in a stable becomes King of kings and Lord of lords; enemies aren't for hating but loving; blessings aren't for hoarding but sharing; the world works for war, but Jesus calls us to live in peace; giving is better than receiving; sinners are made saints; and death is conquered as God grants us eternal life.




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First Class Mail

DECEMBER
2018

B=Birthdays

DECEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 B=Janis Beck B= Lee Mauer	4 B=Pastor Grace	5 Oasis 6-8 B=Kent King	6	7 B=Libby Sparks	8 B=Jenne McMillin B=Mike Kearns
9	10	11	12 Oasis 6-8 B=Julie Catron	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 Oasis Christmas Party	20	21	22 B=Aden Mauer B=Betty Peterson
23 B=Bill Kearns 30 Joint Worship @ Delphi 9:30 B=Kevin Clark	24 7PM Flora  31	25 Merry Christmas! 	26	27	28	29