

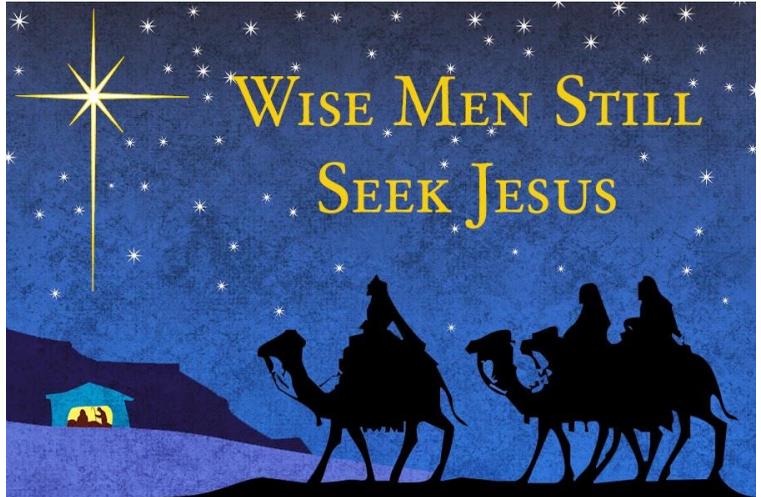
First Presbyterian Church

Second Sunday of Christmas

January 2, 2022 -- 11:30am

The Visit of the Wise Men

2 ¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴



and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
The Second Sunday of Christmas
January 2, 2022

Gathering

THE CHIMES CALL US TO WORSHIP

WELCOME – THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

"Christmastide 2"

-arr. by N. David Stern

OPENING OURSELVES TO GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The Magi had a dream.

People: They dreamed of a Messiah.

They dreamed of just rulers.

They dreamed of a new day for all people.

Leader: The Magi had a dream, and this dream led them to action.

People: They journeyed to unknown places.

They followed a star.

They walked for days to get to Jesus.

Leader: So may we be like the Magi,

People: May our dreams inspire action. May we worship the one true God. Amen.

* PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of hope and light, your good news has been emblazoned across the skies, the great starry night of Jesus' birth, sung by angels, celebrated by shepherds, witnessed by animals. You have given us a new chance, a reminder of your continual love for us. Be with us as we worship, we pray. Guide our thoughts, our lives, our spirits. Heal and restore us. For we ask this in Jesus' name. Amen

* **OPENING HYMN #28**

"Good Christian Friends Rejoice"

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

God, I love to worship you when the stars are bright above me.

I love to worship you when the sky is clear, and the breeze just right.

I love to worship you when the journey to Bethlehem is an easy one.
Unfortunately, as you know, this journey of life, love, and faith is rarely easy.
Now and again, the stars disappear.
My feet get blisters, and the journey is far too long and lonely.
On these days, forgive me for giving up quickly.
Forgive me for allowing the dream to die and for taking the shortcut home.
I want to be as brave as the Magi.
I want to persevere.
Guide my feet. Show me the stars. Amen.

(A moment of personal reflection)
And all of God's people say, **Amen.**

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

RESPONSE #577

Glory be to the Father, to the Son and the Holy Ghost!
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

PASSING THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you
And also with you

Please greet your brothers and sisters with the peace of Christ.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Rev. Sharon Gearing

* HYMN #68

"What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright"

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER and LORD'S PRAYER

Almighty God, we come to you today in confidence, for this world in which we live is your world, brought into being through your love for all your people. And as we bring all our concerns before you, we know that you are waiting to hear us and to respond to us.

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Listening to the Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *(Prayer by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org)*

God of the Milky Way,
We, like the Magi, are walking toward you.
One foot in front of the other, we are walking toward you.
It is our very prayer to move your way.
So if you can, leave the light on and the front door unlocked.
Leave a fire in the hearth and food on the stove.
And when we start to get lost or doubt our dreams,
Give us the will to persevere.
We are walking toward you, O God.
So like the parent that throws open the door,
Open the door to us through this text. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 2: 1-12 *Bible Page 835*

SERMON “Watching for God” *Rev. Sharon Gearing*

Responding to God

SOLO “Lo How A Rose E’re Blooming” *Collin Nelson*

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe in God,
Who came to this earth as a child,
Was born to unmarried teenage parents,
And was quickly made a refugee.
We believe that this child grew up to heal the sick,
See the poor,
Dine with outcasts,
Welcome foreigners,
Wash the feet of sinners,
Offer second chances,
And bless the children.
And so we believe that Christmas is only the beginning.
The dream does not end with a manger.
The dream ends with God’s promised day.
So until all God’s children are home,**

**We will follow the Magi's lead –
Walking, seeking, and looking up.
May it be so, for this we believe. Amen.**

* HYMN #66

"We Three Kings"

The Lord's Supper

INVITATION

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to our God.

All glory and honor are yours, Almighty creator. We praise you for forming this magnificent world from nothing, for creating us in your image, breathing life into us and placing us in this world.

As a parent you gather us to you, teaching us how to live in your love.

When we turned away from your way, you sent the prophets to call us back.
You have called leaders in every time to bring us back into your loving embrace.

In Jesus you came to live among us. On earth he was living bread to feed our hunger and living water to quench our thirst for you. He showed us how you want us to live: eating with sinners, healing the sick, reaching out to the unloved.

He called followers to learn his way to carry your Word to the world.

He suffered persecution, torture, and death, but then he rose to new life that we might know your eternal love and hope.

Merciful God, by your Spirit, bless us and make us holy. Be present in your gifts of wine and bread so that we are all united with each other and with you. In communion with all the faithful in heaven and on earth, fulfill in us and in all creation the purpose of your redeeming love. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

DEDICATION OF OUR LIVES

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Going Forth to Serve

* WORDS OF DISMISSAL

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Amen.

* POSTLUDE

"Christmas Celebration"

-arr. by N. David Stern

This morning we welcome to our worship service
Guest Musician, **N. David Stern.**
We are happy to have him with us
during the month of January.



Our Christian Sympathy and Support to

Betsy Greer & Family

upon the death of Betsy's Father,

Coach Paul Greer

We rejoice in the assurance of eternal life that is ours in Jesus Christ!

NUTURING FAITH IDEAS **from the Presbytery of West Virginia**

Please use these suggested scriptures, questions, and activities to help you explore your faith.

January 2 – Second Sunday of Christmas: Read John 1: 10-18

"The Word was in the world. And the world was made through him. But the world did not recognize him." As you go through our days, do your words and actions reflect a recognition of Jesus?



Please Note...

A **Congregational Meeting** will be held at the close of the worship service on Sunday, January 16, 2022, for the purpose of voting to terminate the Terms of Call for Rev. Sharon R. Gearing.

2022 Offering Envelope Boxes

If you would like a box of 2022 Offering Envelopes, please call the church office and Becky will mail them to you.

Weather Policy

All meetings are automatically cancelled/postponed if Kanawha County Schools are close or dismissed early due to weather.

2022 Per Capita

As a part of our church's membership in the Presbytery of West Virginia, we have a financial commitment to the Presbytery of \$30.05 per member. A per capita envelope is included in your box of offering envelopes. Your generous contributions are greatly appreciated.

With Our Heartfelt Thanks!

We would like to thank all those who contributed to this year's staff Christmas Gift. We greatly appreciate your thoughtful generosity and look forward to serving you in the New Year.

--Sharon Gearing, Collin Nelson, Becky Smith, Charles Yancy, Jr.

First Presbyterian Church of South Charleston Website: www.fpcscwv.org makes available Sunday morning live-stream worship services, worship bulletins, newsletters, Session information, and youth group videos. Also, posted are the Announcements for the Month, as well as information about upcoming mission projects and many fellowship opportunities.

**REMEMBER IN YOUR
PRAYERS & DEEDS OF LOVE**

Church Family

Nancy Alert
Sandy Bays
Nancy Bennett
George Brown
Ron Bryant
Von Carter
Helen Cobb
Bob Field
Custer Holliday
Kathy McClure
Drew McIlwain
Marsha McIlwain
Barbara Snyder

Care Facilities

Tom Haines
Ray Hoppe
Jean Sibold

Presbyterian Connections

Child Development Center
Bluestone Camp & Retreat Center
Lineweaver Cottage, Davis-Stuart
Fort Liberté, Haiti
Clifton Presbyterian Church, Maxwelton
Hughes River Presbyterian Church, Cairo
Kangaita Church (+Youth Polytech)
Gaaki Parish, Kenya

First Presbyterian Church

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South Charleston, WV 25303
PHONE: 744-2333
FAX: 746-9948

Ministers:

EVERY MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION

Sharon Gearing, *Pastor*
Collin Nelson, *Worship Assistant*
Becky Smith, *Office Manager*
Charles Yancy, *Custodian*

Office Hours:

7:00 AM - 3:00 PM
(Monday through Thursday; closed Friday)

E-Mail Addresses:

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becky@fpcscwv.org

Web Address: fpcscwv.org

WIFI Network: 1stPresby SC – Guest

WIFI Password: PresbyGuest

Elders on Session:

Carol Bryan Bob Kent
Cheryl Eary Rick Smith
Joe Fuller Tom Titus