



First Presbyterian Church

149 Broad Street

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CCLI" License # 2839486

Pastor: The Rev. Leslie Latham
Ministers: All Members of the Church
Clerk of Session: Nancy Burns
Church Treasurer: Tom Dugan
Finance Secretary: Nancy Burns
Minister of Music: Kurt Ebsary

Administrative Assistant:
Judy Winters
Sexton: Kevin Donovan
Office Director of Christian Education:
Shirley Hagle
Youth Director: William Welch IV

Come, Worship the Lord, Our God

January 6, 2019

11:00am

Epiphany of the Lord

DRAWN INTO GOD'S PRESENCE

Welcome and Greeting

(Please complete Prayer Concerns)

Gathering Prayer:

The word *epiphany* means an appearance or manifestation, particularly of a divine being — or an illuminating discovery, especially one that comes unexpectedly.... It is a celebration of the breaking down of dividing walls — the end of hostilities between groups of people (Ephesians 2:14). Epiphany challenges us to reconsider all the people whom we see as outside the pale — outside the boundaries of God's love. It challenges us to abandon our tribalism (racially, nationally, denominationally, etc.) and to expand our tents to welcome even those whom we would prefer not to love. It is a burning issue, because loving those outside our tribe is difficult—but Christ makes it possible. That is the Epiphany message. ~Dick Donovan, from *SermonWriter*

Prelude:

Call to Worship:

Let us sing with gladness,

For the love of God has come to dwell on earth.

Let us shout with joy,

For the grace of God is at work in our lives.

Let us praise God, the giver of all blessings,

For the very heart of God is given to us.

Let us call out to God,

For redemption is God's gift to us.

Let us worship the Newborn King!

***Opening Song of Praise:** "We Three Kings"
(Prayer Concerns Collected)

#151

AWARE OF GOD'S PRESENCE

*Call to Confession

Because we have passed through the waters of baptism, we dare to bare our souls before God and reveal the bitterness that dwells in our hearts. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

***Prayer of Confession**

Unison

God of perfect light, lead us as we proceed through life. Forgive us when, like Herod, selfish ambition makes us willing to hurt others. Forgive us when, unlike the magi, we refuse to follow the light you give us. Shine in our lives through the light of your Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

*Time of Silent Confession

***Declaration of Forgiveness**

Unison

Beloveds of God, the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting—it cannot be contained, but must be poured out. Believe this good news: in Jesus Christ, our sin is forgiven. Let us live as a people set free.

Gloria Patri: “Glory Be to the Father”

#579

Our Faithful Response: “Bring We the Frankincense of Our Love”
(Blue Hymnal)

#62

Time With Young Disciples**LISTENING IN GOD'S PRESENCE****Prayer for Illumination****Scripture Lessons:****Matthew 2:1-12**

2 In 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; ⁴and 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.

Ephesians 1:3-14

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Sermon: "Star Words"

The Rev. Leslie Latham

RESPONDING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

***Affirmation of Faith: Apostles' Creed**

Unison

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the

Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn of Response: "What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright"

#152

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

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.

Invitation to the Offering

God intends to unite all creation, so that all may share in the promises of God's new reign. Therefore, with gratitude and joy, let us render tributes and bring gifts, for we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in Christ.

Offertory:

***Praising God's Goodness - Doxology**

#592

***Prayer of Dedication:**

Unison

Glorious God, you led three men of wisdom to seek Jesus, your Holy Child, born of Mary. Overjoyed in the presence of his radiant light, the men knelt down at the infant's crib and offered him precious gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. We, too, offer our gifts in gratitude, reverence, and thanksgiving for the birth of your child, whom you called to lead the world into fullness of life. Receive and bless this offering as a joyful sign of the boundless love and abundant life we are called to share in Christ. Amen.

ABIDING IN GOD'S PRESENCE IN THE WORLD

***Hymn of Sending:** "As with Gladness Men of Old"

#150

***Benediction:**

***Postlude:**

* Those who are able, please stand

WORSHIP AIDS:

Large Print Bulletins, Hymnals & Hearing Devices – available from ushers.

Children's Sanctuary - at the rear of the church

Baby Changing Tables - in both rest rooms of Church School Building.

Deacon's Prayer Chain - To activate Prayer Chain call Judy in the church office @ 692-1319.

New Prayer Concerns or Joys

1. Joey – 4 week old infant in hospital with breathing problems (friend of Sue Schurr)

2.

3.

Prayer Concerns or Joys Last Week:

Continuing Prayers: Scott Greenawalt, Tim, Pat & Bob Erisman, Alvin Marohn, and Kris Yettra. Ruth Gebera, Paul Card, refugees at the Mexican Border, and Nadia.

Prayers and caring for our homebound: Marge Klinger; Georgia Anson; Fay Tag; Doris Carlson; J. Robert Weber; Ruth Weber; Richard Weber; Alice Weber; Bob Palfi; Lillian Simon; Joy Welch; Wilma Bender; Margaret McBride; and Sue Strasser

Because God's love is for all - everyone is always welcome.

We pray that God may bless you with peace, inspiration, and strength. We are a community, seeking to learn what it means to follow Jesus. No matter what you may be going through, no matter where you may be on your faith journey – you are most welcome here! If you would like more information, please call Judy in the church office @ 692-1319

LITURGIST: Sue Schurr

GREETERS: Laura Marohn and Nathan Harrington

USHERS: Team 4

STEPHEN MINISTERS: are always available to provide confidential support in times of need. Simply call Janet Haacker @ 694-4290.

REMINDER: Please call Pastor Leslie @ 490-0420 or Judy in the office @ 692-1319 if you or a loved one are ill, hospitalized or in need of a visit.

Annual Epiphany Concert: Please join us on Sunday, January 6 at 6pm at St. Francis Church for a wonderful night of music featuring our own choir and hand bell choir along with other local church choirs and musical ensembles. This year's concert will be dedicated to the memory of Marla Maertin.

Memory Lane: The next Memory Lane will meet on January 15. There are many opportunities for you to help in volunteering and no monthly commitment. Monetary donations are greatly appreciated. If you know someone that may benefit from this program, please contact one of the Respite Committee members.

Service of Blessing and Healing: Wednesday, January 16 @ 6:30pm at First Presbyterian Church 149 Broad Street, Tonawanda, will hold an evening service devoted to healing and wholeness, which will include communion. This is a "come as you are" service, open and welcoming to all who seek wholeness for their lives, Presbyterian or otherwise. Please join us in the sanctuary.

Memorial Flowers: Starting on January 1, 2019, the cost of the memorial flower arrangements has increased to \$35.00. This is due to the rising cost of materials. Contact Laura Marohn for details or to schedule a date for your memorial flower arrangement.

Distinguished Speaker Series: Mission and Outreach Committee are restarting this program on Wednesday, January 23 at 7pm in the Parlor. Come and meet Amy Betros from St. Luke's Mission. She will talk about her faith journey and how she came to start her mission at St. Luke's Church in Buffalo.

Church Directories are available: If you had your picture taken for our directory, you are entitled to a copy of the church directory. You can pick up your copy in the church office. If there is no one there to give you a copy, please make sure that you cross off your name on the list that is located in the box.

Adopt-A-Chair: The church is collecting funds to purchase new, comfortable folding chairs to be used in the parlor with the round tables. The cost is \$20.00 each and checks can be made payable to 1st Presbyterian Church and indicate on the memo line, "chairs." Tom and Leslie Dugan have graciously offered to pick up the chairs at Sam's Club. Any questions, see Laura Marohn or Leslie Dugan.

Presbyterian Women's Winter Gathering: February 2 from 10:30am-1pm
The topic is "When We are Powerless" – A Look at Gun Violence and Schools. This will be held at Orchard Park Presbyterian Church. The cost is \$7.00 for lunch. Sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. See Jane Crossan for more information.

January 2019						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
6 Sunday School 9:30a New Beginnings Worship in Parlor Worship 11a Epiphany Concert 6p at St. Francis Church	7 AA 9a TOPS 6:30p	8 Deacons 1p	9	10 AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p Worship 6p H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p	11 UFO 7P	12
13 Sunday School 9:30a Worship/Communion 11a	14 AA 9a TOPS 6:30p	15 Memory Lane 10:30a	16 Healing Service 6:30p	17 AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p	18 UFO 7P	19
20 Sunday School 9:30a Worship 11a	21 AA 9a TOPS 6:30p Office Closed	22	23 Distinguished Speakers Series 7p Amy Betros from St. Luke's Mission	24 AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p	25 UFO 7P	26
27 Sunday School 9:30a Worship 11a Bible Study 12:15p	28 AA 9a TOPS 6:30p CE Mtg 6p Session Mtg 7p	29	30	31 AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p	1	2