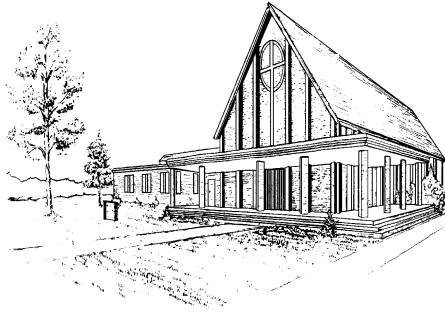


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



**Sunday Service of Worship
December 18, 2011 10:30 am
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Special Music Sunday**

The Reverend Frederick H. Woodward, Pastor
Debbie Eitel, Youth Director
Catherine Mahler, Director of Music
Michele Roberts, Bookkeeper

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Pastor Fred Woodward may be reached by cell phone at 631-626-3702.

**Sunday Service of Worship
December 18, 2011 10:30 A.M.
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Special Music Sunday**

CHIMES Bill D'Andrea

PRELUDE Franz Gruber
Silent Night
Kelly Seims and Catherine Mahler Arr. Norman Dello Joio

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT Acolytes Briana Raxon and Jennifer Matos

PRAYER OF PREPARATION Amanda Segale
God of grace, your eternal Word took flesh among us when Mary placed her life at the service of your will. By the power of your Spirit, prepare our hearts for his coming again. Keep us faithful in doing your will, and steadfast to watch with hope, that we may receive the coming of his kingdom, for the sake of Jesus Christ, the ruler of all.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Pastor Fred Woodward
Please fill out "Ritual of Friendship & "Concerns of Our Church Family"

INTROIT Chancel Choir
Shout, Ye Shepherds / Gordon Young

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE Janice, Weyhi, Julie & Tyler Hago
In the Gospel according to Luke, Mary greets her relative Elizabeth with these words:
"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant...he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty."

Imagine Mary and Elizabeth's joy as they discuss the meaning of their pregnancies for themselves and for the world. And what do they talk about first? Baby clothes? New furniture? No. Mary declares the greatness of God and recognizes the unique calling she has received.

As with so many other mothers before and after her, Mary does not know what joys or sorrows may follow the birth, but she is ready to rejoice in God, her Savior. And she is ready to let the holy break into her life, and into our world.

It is for Mary that we light this fourth candle. Mary, the Lord's lowly servant, favored among women; Mary, who recognized that not only her own life, but the life of the world was about to be rearranged; Mary, who trusted that God was about to fulfill the promises made to Abraham and David.

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 86**

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 89)

Amanda Segale

Leader: I will sing of the LORD's great love forever;

People: **With my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all the generations.**

Leader: I will declare that your love stands firm forever, that you established your faithfulness in heaven itself.

People: **You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to David my servant, I will establish your line forever and make your throne firm through all generations."**All: **Let us worship God.****SPECIAL MUSIC***Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*
Andrew Segale, SaxophoneJ.S. Bach
Arr. Bruce A. Evens**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Pastor Fred Woodward

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

Gracious God, in whom all things are possible, forgive us, we pray, that we are easily impressed by status, and do not have an eye for mangers tucked away in dirty stables, nor an ear for truth that speaks to us in a still small voice.

In these last days before Christmas, we confess that our lives have become so crowded and puffed up that we are barely able to make room for the Christ child.

Lord, have mercy upon us, and open our hearts to the one who comes to save us. May our souls take their rest in your joy. (*Silent prayer*).

ASSURANCE OF PARDON**RESPONSE***Gloria Patri*

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

ANTHEM*Christmas Day / Gustav Holst*

Chancel Choir

Soloists: Christine Tomek, Soprano; Nancy Kirchoff, Soprano; Robert Murphy, Tenor;
Fred Woodward, Baritone; Wm. Mahler, Bass**SCRIPTURE READING****2 Sam 7:1-13, 16****pg. 322, lg. print pg. 480**
Elder June Spence**HYMN No. 117***Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming***TITHES AND OFFERINGS****ANTHEM***Alleluia, Sing Noel / Alec Tempelton*

Chancel Choir

RESPONSE*Doxology*

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above the heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Elder June Spence

SCRIPTURE READING **Luke 1:26-38 (The Annunciation)**
pg. 1070, lg. print pg. 1588

Pastor Fred Woodward

SERMON **“Habitat for Humanity”**

Pastor Fred Woodward

ANTHEM *Christmas Tidings* / Mark Hayes

Chancel Choir

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Elder Roger Kaufmann

Worshippers briefly share joys and concerns as part of their offering to God of their prayers of supplication, intercession, and thanksgiving.

PASTORAL PRAYER

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, the power, and the glory—forever. Amen

* **CLOSING HYMN No. 93**

Angels We Have Heard on High

* **CHALLENGE AND BLESSING**

POSTLUDE *Once in Royal David's City*

H. J. Gauntlett
Arr. John Innes

Christmas Week Worship Scheduling

Our church will celebrate Christmas Eve worship services at our usual time, 7:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. But as most of you all know by now, Christmas Day falls this year on a Sunday. So what’s a church to do? Cancel worship on Christmas Sunday? Heaven forbid!

Since many of our church families will be out late on Saturday night to attend our Christmas Eve service, and will be sharing gifts on Christmas morning, your Session thought it best to change our Sunday worship hour from 10:30 to 12:00 noon, and we hope to see you there.

New Year’s Day also falls on a Sunday. So what’s a church to do? Cancel worship? Heaven forbid!

Your Session decided instead to broaden the conversation about New Year’s Day worship to include other nearby churches who also expect light attendance that day. As a result of those conversations, three area Presbyterian Churches have decided to start a new tradition of shared worship on New Year’s Day. Those churches are the First Presbyterian Church of Greenlawn, Bethany Presbyterian Church, and the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow.

This year, nearby Bethany Presbyterian Church, located at the corner of Park Avenue and Maplewood Road, will host our joint New Year’s Day worship at 11:00 a.m. Pastor Fred Woodward will preach, and communion will be served by intinction.

So come out to worship at Bethany on New Year’s Day, and start out the New Year right.
Pastor Fred

Christmas Eve Services, Saturday, December 24, 2011

7:00 pm Family Service
11:00 pm Candlelight Service

Christmas Day Service, Sunday, December 25, 2011

12 Noon Christmas Service

Calendar for the Week of 12 / 18 / 11

Today, Sunday 12/18, 4th Sunday of Advent, Special Music Sunday

9 AM EBENEZER WESLEYAN CHURCH
 WORSHIP SERVICE CE
10:30 am **Worship Service**
12 pm **Adult Bible Study**
3 pm **Living Nativity Rehearsal**
5 pm **Living Nativity**
7 PM EBENEZER WESLEYAN CHURCH
 WORSHIP SERVICE CE

Monday 12/19

Tuesday 12/20

Wednesday 12/21 2 pm **Pastor Fred's Lectionary Bible Study**
 5 pm Treasure Cove Holiday Party- CE and Sanctuary

Thursday 12/22 7 PM EBENEZER WESLEYAN BIBLE STUDY CE
 8 pm **Choir**

Friday 12/23

Saturday 12/24, Christmas Eve

 7 pm **Family Christmas Service**
 11 pm **Candlelight Service**
 8 PM - 12 AM EBENEZER WESLEYAN
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE CE

Next Sunday 12/25, Merry Christmas!

9 AM EBENEZER WESLEYAN CHURCH

WORSHIP SERVICE CE
12 Noon Christmas Worship Service
7 PM EBENEZER WESLEYAN CHURCH
WORSHIP SERVICE CE

Announcements for the week of 12 / 18 / 11

- ◆ **The flowers on the Lord's table** are given to the glory of God.
- ◆ **Today- Special Music Sunday** This year, in place of a Christmas Concert, the choir will be offering a Special Music Sunday. There will be several inspirational Christmas anthems in addition to other music offerings.
- ◆ **Today-The Giving Tree** Let us bring joy to residents at Carillon Nursing Home and others in the community, by showing them they're not forgotten – GOD LOVES THEM AND SO DO WE!
- ◆ **Today -The Living Nativity rehearsal, 3:00 pm. The Living Nativity performance, 5:00 pm.** We will also be looking for people who will be able to bake cookies or cakes to be served to the audience after the performance. Gary Prentiss will also be preparing a community dinner for all the people who show up.
- ◆ **Men's Bible Study to Begin** We are starting a Men's Bible Study Group on Thursday, January 12, 2012, from 7pm-8pm. We will continue meeting every Thursday at the same time. This is open to any men who would like to study the Bible and share their thoughts and experiences with others. Any questions call Roger Kaufmann at 631-651-9091.
- ◆ **Deacons on Call** If you would like our church to send a card to someone who is ill, facing an operation or just in need of a few encouraging words – please give the name and address to one of the Deacons on Call for this week. They can be found at the Deacons' table in the Narthex each Sunday.
- ◆ **The Friday Morning Bible Study group** meets at 10:30 am in the Parlor. During this time we share ideas and discuss what the Bible says to each of us. All are welcome to join us.
- ◆ **Pastor Fred's Office Hours** You can find Pastor Fred at the church between 11 am and 5 pm Monday through Thursday, though he can be contacted outside those hours for appointments and consultations (631-626-3702). It is still a good idea though to call ahead to make sure that the pastor is not out making visits or attending a meeting.
- ◆ **Come Grow In Christ** The Sunday Adult Bible Study meets at 12:00 Noon.
- ◆ **Friendships of Women** Womens' Bible Study meets Sunday 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm in the Parlor. All women welcome!

MINISTRIES WEEK OF 12 / 18 / 11

GREETERS: Greeting us today before the service are Alex and Trisha Ames.

ASSISTING IN THE PULPIT this morning is Elder June Spence.

SESSION LISTENING POST: Elder Meg Lawrence will be available after Worship in the hall by the office for any who would like to share their ideas or insights about the ministry of the Church.

COFFEE HOUR: Assisting with Coffee Hour are Mildred Bachmann and Dottie Harris.

ELDER ON CALL: Elder Betty Chatfield, 261-8104, will be available during the week to respond to questions or concerns you might have related to the ministry of this church.

DEACONS ON CALL: Deacon Becky Dodge, 261-2087, and Deacon Trisha Ames, 273-4061, are here to serve you. If you or someone you know has a spiritual, physical, or financial need, the Deacon on Call will try to help you! Just call the Deacon or call the church office. All information will be kept confidential.

THERE IS AN ACTIVE PRAYER MINISTRY IN GREENLAWN CHURCH. Please feel free to call with your request for loved ones, friends, neighbors or yourself. Call Betty Chatfield at 261-8104 or email her at bbcny22@aol.com.

NEEDS REQUESTS If you know of someone in need, please fill out the blue form & place in the box located by the food pantry.

FLOWERS FOR THE CHANCEL—Each Sunday flowers beautify the Chancel of our church. We would encourage any and all to donate flowers for birthdays, anniversaries, “in memory of”, etc. Please call Becky Dodge to order flowers, 261-2087. A check for **\$30 (please note the change in price)** should be made to Greenlawn Presbyterian Church.

Prayers of the People

Your prayers make a difference!

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Kayla Marine
Maria Hottinger
The Dodge Family
Troops Worldwide

