

PCPH Calendar

Sunday, December 18

- 9:30a Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
- 10:15a Family Worship (Sanctuary) – **Pastor Penny**
Fourth Sunday of Advent
- 10:30a Children's Sunday School (4's & 5's Rm 114; 1st to 5th Lib)
- 11:45a Coffee, Cookies and Conversation (FH)
- 7:00p High School Youth Group "Alive" – Christmas Party

Monday, December 19

- 7:30p PNC (FH)

Tuesday, December 20

- 9:30a Quilting for Comfort (FH)
- 10:00a Staff Meeting
- 1:00p Bridge Club (FH)

Wednesday, December 21

- 10:00a Metropolitan Ministry Tent Event – Middle and High School
- 12:00p Office Closed – half day
- 12:00p Harbor Light Deadline
- 7:00p Boy Scout Court of Honor (FH)

Thursday, December 22 – Office Closed

- 9:00a Property Ministry (Ongoing Projects)
- 10:00a Covenant Women (LIB)
- 6:00p Brownie Troop (FH)
- 7:00p Choir Practice (Choir Room)

Friday, December 23

- 10:00a Christmas Eve Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Saturday, December 24

- 4:00p Family Christmas Eve Service and Live Nativity (Sanctuary)
- 6:00p Traditional Christmas Eve Service (Sanctuary)

Sunday, December 25

- 10:15a Family Worship (Sanctuary) – **Malissa Garcia**
- 11:45a Coffee, Cookies and Conversation (FH)

| Worship Attendance | Nov. 20 | Nov. 27 | Dec. 4 | Dec. 11 |
|--------------------|---------|---------|--------|---------|
| | 143 | 160 | 160 | 145 |

Worship

Welcome worship guests! You are special because God brought you into our presence. Together, we rejoice and celebrate God's blessings in our lives.

Thanks to all who donated poinsettias. Your generosity results in a full tree of gorgeous poinsettias. Thanks to all who erected the tree and placed the plants.

The Florida Fanfare Brass will be with us on Christmas Eve at the 6:00 p.m. service only.

A Live Nativity will be held on the courtyard grass from 3:30 – 5:45 on Christmas Eve. See Mary, Joseph, the Shepherds, and live animals. Both services can enjoy this nativity scene.

The staff prays that you will have a memorable Christmas celebration. For those who are traveling this Christmas season, we hope you will be safe.

The congregation is invited to the **Coffee, Cookies and Conversation** time held in the Fellowship Hall after worship. Be a friend, and make a friend as you enjoy the treats provided by the Fellowship Ministry.

Pray

Members and Friends: Dick and Iris Thomas, Ray and Marilyn Inman, Mike Craig, Phil O., Gail K., Diane L., Michael S., Kathy B., Robert P., Mike B., Jean S., Judith M., Davis K., Denise, Patti W., Ariana, Mike S., Ray & Deloris H., Doug H., Lee L., Lynn M., Lynn L., Greg & Gail Ashe & Family, Jim & Joan, Deena W., Randy W., Steve, Lorraine P., Nancy D., Dubois Family, Norman, Cathy K., Mark, Heidi R., Ciera O., Emily, The Masten Family, Laura, Lynn M., Bob W., Joann K., Chris P., Delores G., Harris & Clara S., Tyler H., Arden B., Bruce, Margie, Pam

Military men and women: Brian Jacobson, Bryson Boyd, David Wallingford, Georgette Encinia, Patrick Bannon, Chris Hargis, Rosie Mundhenk, Adam Armstrong, Ashley Miller, Alex Durstein, John Albright, Gary Leonard, Jr., Tom Whissel, Nick Lozar, Hillary and Richard Durstein, Samuel Leyford, Tyler Meade

Church Life

F.E.A.S.T.: The food for December is Jell-O, regular or sugar free.

Women's Mission Project for F.E.A.S.T.: December items are dish soap and toilet paper. Thank you!

Attention: What goes up must come down!!! We need help undecorating the Sanctuary Monday, January 9th at 9:30am. We hope to see you there. We do need a few good strong men to help carry the tree up to the attic. Thank you in advance for your help.

Bulletin Reminder: Please submit all of your announcements for the Sunday bulletin by **1pm on Tuesday**.

Angel Tree gifts are to be returned gift wrapped **today, December 18th**. Please make sure you attach the angel to the package. This will ensure that the child gets the correct gift. There will be a sign in the front of the Sanctuary to place your gifts.

Church Office Closed: The church office will be closed ½ day December 21st and all day December 22nd, 23rd and the week of December 26th – December 30th. There will be someone available the week of Dec. 26th from 9am - noon to accept pledges.

Increase Your Tax Savings: Giving to a charity that benefits a cause that's close to your heart is rewarding. Getting a tax break for your generosity can make it even more gratifying – even more so than you may realize. What if you could add more than 20% to your charitable contribution and maximize your tax savings by taking advantage of an often overlooked tax provision?

Here's how: The federal tax code allows you to contribute appreciated securities, such as stocks, bonds, mutual fund shares, directly to a charity without paying capital gains tax, as you would if you sold it first and then contributed cash to the charity. And that's not all. When you add up your itemized deductions for the year, you can generally deduct the fair market value of the long-term security at the time of the donation, not the lower amount you paid for it originally.

This is one of the most advantageous tax strategies available to people who make charitable giving part of their financial plan. It allows you to get a "bigger bang for your buck".

Giving: Giving the gift of **stock** to PCPH this holiday season or for end of year tax deduction? We no longer use Merrill Lynch, but Synovus Securities. Please contact the office for more information. Thank you!

2016 Pledges: Please keep in mind that 2016 is quickly coming to an end and pledges should be paid in full by year-end. Even though the church office is closed the week of Dec. 26th – Dec. 30th, there will be someone to accept 2016 contributions from 9:00am - noon each day that week. If you have any questions please contact Linda Burton.

2017 Pledges: If you have not turned in your pledge card for 2017, please do so. Pledge cards are available in the Narthex or the church office. The cards may be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church office. Even if you do not pledge and would like envelopes, please call the office.

Envelopes will be available on Sunday, December 18th in the Narthex.

Create and Share: Our December meeting will be the Tuesday after Christmas, on Dec. 27th. We will meet at 11:00am for a luncheon. Please bring a dish to share.

Christmas Eve Services

Christmas Eve Family Service December 24, 4:00pm: Family Oriented Christmas Eve service will be filled with traditional worship songs, a family filled message, a live nativity, and the kid's ministry of PCPH will perform songs along with the children of the Growing Tree.

Live Nativity, December 24, Between Services: Come experience the evening of the nativity with live animals.

Christmas Eve Traditional Service, December 24, 6:00pm: This service is filled with performances from the Florida Fanfare Brass and Chancel Choir. A Silent Night candle lighting, Christmas carols, and a special Christmas message are also featured.

Chili Cook Off: Fellowship would like to start the New Year with a fun Wonder Wednesday Event - a Chili Cook Off and game night. So, get your recipes perfected for a night of food and fun. It will be on Wednesday, January 11th. We will need a few people to sign up to be our tasters and judges as well. If you have a chili recipe that you think is a winner, or if you want to be one to taste all the winning recipes, please let us know! You can call the church office or contact Jan Harding. It will be a fun night!

Blue Christmas Service: St. Andrews Presbyterian Church is having a Blue Christmas Communion Service that is hosted by their Stephen Ministry **this afternoon** at 4:00pm. This is a healing service with the opportunity for comfort, hope, wholeness, and renewal to anyone who is experiencing a "Blue Christmas". St. Andrews is located at 705 Michigan Blvd, Dunedin, FL.

Children

Nursery (Birth - Age 3) "Frolic": A curriculum created for babies and toddlers that was developed by early childhood experts, Frolic resources introduce little ones to faith concepts in age-appropriate ways. Our hope at PCPH is to equip all families with children of any age with the right materials to start their faith journey at a young age.

Sunday School: Each week our elementary age children have the privilege of participating in Sunday School which takes place during the same time as worship. *Immediately following the Children's Message, children between the ages of 4 and 11 leave the Sanctuary with our Sunday School Teachers to continue with their age-appropriate curriculum.* Our hope is that children will learn God's Word and have a strong Christian foundation for their future as they grow up in His Word.

Little Ones (Age 4 – 6) SparkHouse Lectionary Curriculum: Each week, kids and their leaders gather together to explore their Bibles, enjoy fun activities, pray, and grow in faith. The curriculum follows the church lectionary in a fun and exciting way to create a faith that is grounded in truth. *Little ones may be picked up after worship in the Old Narthex.*

Older Ones (Age 7 - 11) "Connect": Connect takes children on a journey through the Old Testament and into the New Testament exploring the connections between several stories each week. The curriculum includes a video, lesson, and hands on projects for our children. *Older ones may be picked up after worship in Fellowship Hall.*

Youth **Middle School Ministry (Thrive 6th – 8th):** Will meet regularly throughout the school year on Wednesday nights from 6:30pm - 8:00pm. Come meet new friends, join a small group, and play wacky games that you really couldn't play anywhere else. We are dedicated to getting to know and love God as we form a Christian foundation that can last a lifetime. This Fall our middle school youth group will journey together through "Echo The Story Experience". Our hope is that this study will help you as a student discover your self-worth, and your identity through Biblical truth via DVD, and Sketch Journal!

High School Ministry (Alive 9th – 12th): Will meet regularly throughout the school year on Sunday nights from 7:00pm - 8:30pm. During this time, we will learn, eat, fellowship, play games, and support one another in a Christian atmosphere. This Fall our group will be taking a look at the hard questions of life with the book, "Can I Ask That?" We will look at both Biblical principles as well as a world view. Our hope is that as a student you will form an anchor in Christ as you transition to your young adult life.

Upcoming Events:

- December 18th - High School Ministry Christmas Party
- December 21st - Metropolitan Ministry Holiday Tent Service Project (High School and Middle School)
- December 24th – Christmas Eve Family Service & Live Nativity, 4:00pm



RESPONSE

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

29

GO TELL IT 7.6.7.6 with refrain

Stanzas, John W. Work II (1872–1925)

African-American spiritual
Arr. John W. Work III, 1940
Harm. and adapt. Melva Wilson Costen, 1987

Refrain

Go, tell it on the moun - tain O-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;

Go, tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!

Fine

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son of the Father.” *John 1:4*

GATHER JOYFULLY

Welcome, Announcements, Quiet Time

Melanie Haslam

*Call to Worship *(Please rise for the Call to Worship)* Liturgist: Heather Murphy

Leader: Out of Bethlehem comes one who is to rule in Israel.

People: He shall be great to the ends of the earth.

Leader: Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.

People: God’s mercy extends from generation to generation.

Leader: Nothing will be impossible for God, but when and where we least expect it, look among the straw and the stars:

People: The Messiah is coming.

*Song (insert/wall) “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” Hymn 28

*Prayer of Confession (together)

Faithful God, we know that you are always there to guide us, yet we often make plans without listening to you and discover that our human agendas can drown out our ability to hear your will for us. We repent of these faults and turn to you in love. Forgive our offenses and pardon our sins that our lives may magnify your holy name forever. Amen.

*Words of Assurance

Sisters and brothers, by the faith of Christ, your sins are forgiven. Blessed be the God of our salvation, whose mercy is everlasting.

*Praise Response (all sing) “We Are Forgiven”

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

PCPH Christmas Traditions

Melanie Haslam

(Christmas Greenery and Poinsettia Plants)

GROW SPIRITUALLY

Lighting of the Fourth Candle in the Advent Wreath

Fann Family

(Children are invited forward to watch the lighting of the fourth candle in the Advent Wreath)

All: Let us pray together. God of hope, God of love, God of peace, God of joy, you are our salvation; we trust in you and are not afraid. God of promise, God of joy, into our darkness come. Amen.

Children’s Message

Pastor Penny

(Children will go to Sunday School after the Children’s Message.)

*Song (insert/wall) “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” Hymn 38 (Verses 1, 2 & 4)

Prayer of God’s People, Lord’s Prayer, Choral Response

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.

Call for Offering

*Doxology (together)

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

Prayer of Dedication

Anthem

Scripture Luke 2:8 - 18 The Message

Message “First Christmas: Shepherds’ Story” Rev. Penny Pitts

*Song (insert/wall) “Joy to the World!” Hymn 40 (Verses 1, 2 & 4)

GO FAITHFULLY

*Blessing

*Response (all sing) “Go Tell It on The Mountain” Hymn 29 (Refrain Only - See Insert for Music)

**Congregation stands. If standing is difficult, please remain seated.*

Large print bulletins are provided for those with compromised sight. Please speak with an usher for assistance.

Listening devices are available for those with hearing issues. Devices are located in the center entryway to the Sanctuary. A small step-by-step instruction page is there to help you to use the device effectively.