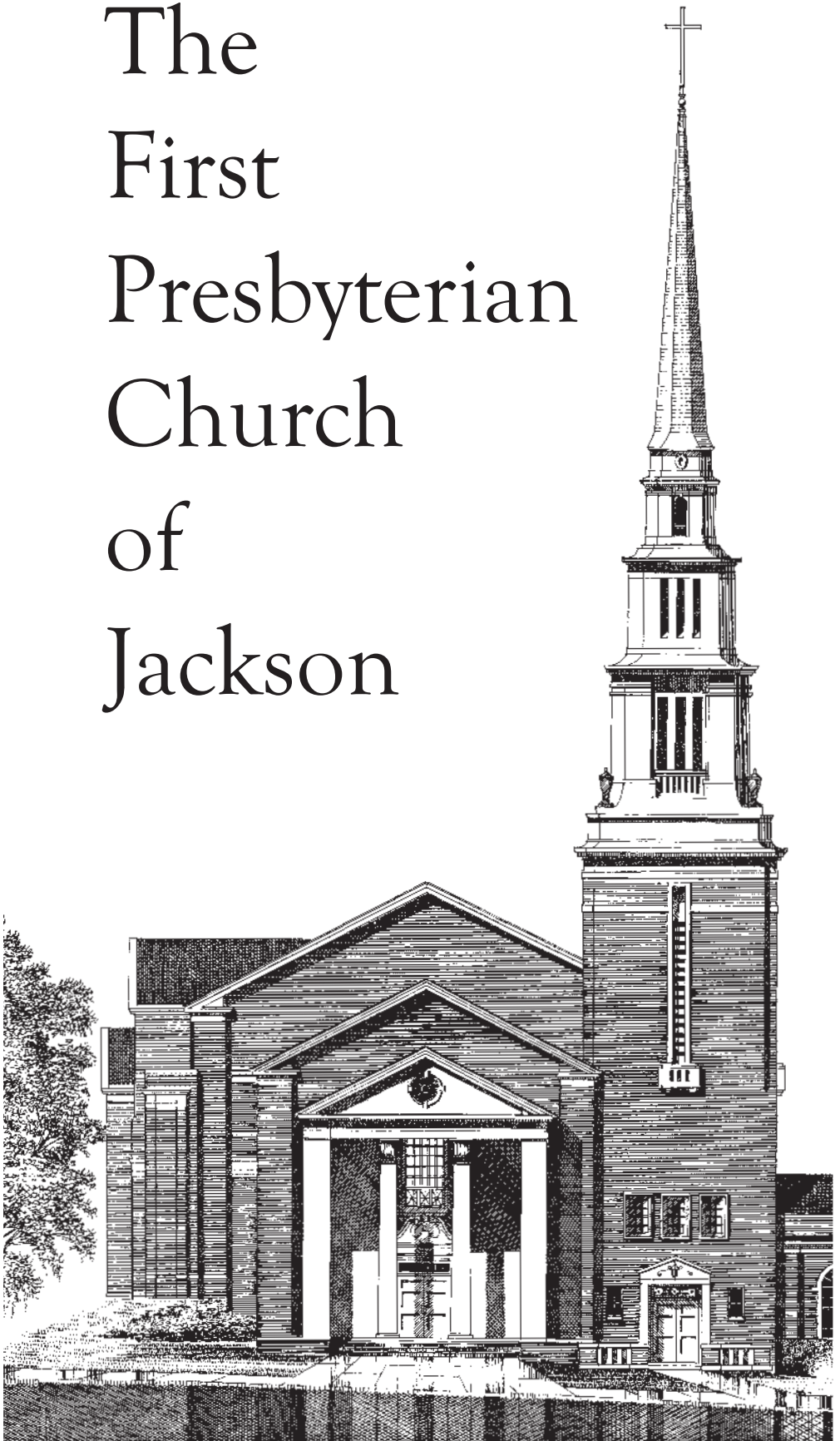


The  
First  
Presbyterian  
Church  
of  
Jackson



*“To Glorify God, And Enjoy Him Forever”*

# THE LORD'S DAY

The Thirteenth Day of December, Two Thousand Fifteen  
MORNING WORSHIP

Eight-Thirty and Eleven O'Clock

Senior Minister — The Reverend Mr. David T. A. Strain  
Assisting Minister — The Reverend Mr. David L. Felker

Minister of Young Adults and College

*At the time of the Greetings and Announcements and during the Prelude, the congregation is invited to a season of silent and reverent preparation for corporate worship.*

**The Greetings and Announcements** (8:25 and 10:55 a.m.)

**The Prelude** — “Andante” (Sonata in G minor) ..... Handel  
John Sinclair and Zachary Horne, Cellos; Connie Wadsworth, Harpsichord

**The Introit** — “O Come, O Come Immanuel” ..... Ancient Latin Hymn  
The Student Choir; Melessa Brenchley, Accompanist

**The Call to Worship**

‡\* **The Hymn of Praise No. 208** — “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

‡ **The Prayer of Adoration and Confession**

‡ **The Assurance of Pardon**

‡ **The Doxology**

“Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.”

**The Scripture Reading** — Isaiah 9:2-7 (Pew Bible page 573)

**The Solo** — “I Wonder as I Wander” ..... J.J. Niles  
Kim Porter, Soloist

**The Morning Prayer**

**The Presentation of God’s Tithes and Our Offerings**

**The Offertory** — “A Joyful Magnificat” ..... Joseph M. Martin  
“My soul doth magnify the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.  
I will magnify the Lord my God.  
With kindness He has regarded me. With tenderness He has exalted me.  
His mercy spans all the ages. His love shall never end.  
O, holy is the Lord. I will magnify the Lord,  
My soul doth magnify the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.  
I will magnify the Lord, my God.”  
CCLI #2891132

**The Prayer of Illumination**

**The Reading of Holy Scripture** — Luke 2:8-20 (Pew Bible page 857)

**The Sermon** — *Advent Songs: “The Gloria”* ..... Mr. Strain

‡ **The Hymn of Response No. 203** — “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

‡ **The Benediction**

‡ **The Congregational Response** — “Gloria in Excelsis Deo”

**The Postlude** — “He Whom Shepherd Men Came Praising” ..... Paul Manz

\*The ushers may seat latecomers

‡Congregation standing

# EVENING WORSHIP

Six O'Clock

Presiding Minister — The Reverend Dr. Gabriel N. E. Fluhrer  
Minister of Discipleship

Assisting Minister — The Reverend Mr. Wiley P. Lowry III  
Minister of Pastoral Care

**The Announcements and Words of Preparation** (5:55 p.m.)

**The Prelude** — “Noel Vosgien” .....Jean Bouvard  
William Wymond, Organ

**The Call to Worship**

‡ **The Psalm of Praise No. 558** — “That Man Is Blest Who, Fearing God”  
(From Psalm 1)

‡ **The Invocation**

‡ **The Hymn No. 225** — “Once in Royal David’s City”

\* **The Greetings**

**The Evening Prayer** — Ruling Elder Craig Flowers

**The Presentation of God’s Tithes and Our Offerings**

**The Offertory** — “Mary, Did You Know?” .....Lowery/Green  
Allen Burrows, Kim Porter, Kristi Jordan, Jeff Brown, and René Young

**The Young Children’s Devotional**

For children currently in 4-year-old through 3rd grade Sunday School

*The Children’s Catechism*

Q 32. What does every sin deserve? A: The wrath and curse of God.

\*\***The Meditation and Prayer** ..... Gabe Fluhrer, Minister of Discipleship

‡ **The Evening Hymn No. 679 (Stz. 1-3)** — “’Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus”

**The Prayer of Illumination**

**The Reading of Holy Scripture** — Matthew 25:1-13 (Pew Bible page 830)

**The Sermon** — “Faith Leading to Feasting” .....Dr. Fluhrer

‡ **The Benediction**

‡ **The Response**

“I’m so glad I learned to trust Thee, precious Jesus, Savior, Friend;  
and I know that thou art with me, wilt be with me to the end.

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him! How I’ve proved Him o’er and o’er!

Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! O for grace to trust Him more!”

**The Postlude** — “Shepherds’ Chorus” ..... Jacque Lemmons

\*The ushers may seat latecomers

‡Congregation standing

\*\*Children dismissed after the prayer

To All Our  
Visitors

We are delighted that you are here with us today. Our hope is that your understanding and love of Jesus Christ will grow because of your visit. To answer any questions you might have, please come by our Greeting Courtyard through the doors on the south side (right side as you face the pulpit) of the sanctuary after the 8:30 a.m. or the 11:00 a.m. worship service. We would love to meet you.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## II THESSALONIANS 3:1

“Finally, brethren, pray for us...” **Coby & Pamela McGinty** – Working in student ministry with Mission to the World at University of Cape Town in South Africa. Mailing address: Mission to the World, Student Y – UCT, 25 Stanley Rd, Rondebosch, WC 7801, South Africa. Email: [coby@mcginty.com](mailto:coby@mcginty.com) **Gateway Rescue Mission** – Gateway Rescue Mission is supported through Mission to Jackson and has offered meals and shelter to the poor and homeless of Jackson since 1948. Mailing address: PO Box 3763, Jackson, MS 39207-3763 Email: [info@gatewaymission.org](mailto:info@gatewaymission.org)

## FLOWERS

The flowers, in the foyer from the wedding of Claire Brabec and Bill Rosenblatt, are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Ashley Sutherland and Lieutenant Colonel Curtis Robert Brabec, Grandparents of the Bride; and Mrs. William Robert Clinton III and Dr. and Mrs. William Harold Rosenblatt, Grandparents of the Groom.

The poinsettia tree for the month of December is given by Dr. and Mrs. J. Lee Owen to the glory of God and in loving memory of Elizabeth Johnson and her service to the church through her art and as a member of the Choir.

For the month of December, the poinsettias in the church foyer are given in loving memory of our brother, Denny Terry, committed servant of Christ, by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Ridgway.

The poinsettias in the Greeting Courtyard for the month of December are given in loving memory of Jim Watts by his family.

## YEAR-END GIVING REMINDERS

If you are planning to donate stock to First Presbyterian Church before the end of the year 2015, please notify Earl Davis in the Business Office at 601-973-9107. **In order for year-end church contributions to be deducted on your 2015 tax return, they must be received at First Presbyterian Church on or before December 31, 2015.** The Business Office will be open from 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., and you may give online until midnight, December 31, 2015. If you mail your contribution, the envelope must be postmarked no later than December 31, 2015. Security will be posted on the south side of the church (Pinehurst Street) to receive any contributions that may be dropped off after hours on December 31, 2015. All gifts received or postmarked after December 31, 2015, will apply to your 2016 Contribution Statement.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY UPDATE

The December children's Sunday School offering will be given to French Camp Academy. This money will help provide art supplies for a girl's dorm and outdoor games for a boy's dorm. Parents, thank you for encouraging your child to earn money at home and bring an offering each week as an act of worship.

## COLLEGE MINISTRY WINTER SCHEDULE

College students, the College Ministry has planned several events for you while you are home from school for winter break. Please make plans to join us at the following events: College Ministry Christmas Party — Monday, December 14, at 4:30 p.m., at the Creekmoors' house (143 McHarris Rd., Madison); Open Gym — Wednesday, December 16, at 8:00 p.m., at the FPC gym; College Sunday School: *Christianity and the Arts* — Sundays in December, at 9:40 a.m., at the College House; Christmas Cookie Decorating for girls — Monday, December 21 at 11:00 a.m. at the Felkers' home (2004 Laurel St., Belhaven); and Dinner and a Movie — Monday, January 4 at 6:00 p.m., meet at Pizza Shack in Madison.

## CONNECT WITH FPC ONLINE

website: [www.fpcjackson.org](http://www.fpcjackson.org)

Follow us on Twitter  
[@FPCJxnMS](https://twitter.com/FPCJxnMS)

Like us on Facebook  
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Download the First Pres App free  
<http://get.theapp.co/d6ed>

# A GUIDE TO THE MORNING SERVICE

## *The Songs We Sing During Christmas*

Every Lord's Day we sing. Singing is important to us because the Bible is important to us, and it is in the pages of Scripture that we find myriad examples of singing and making melody to the Lord. Scripture even commands us to be a singing people (Ps 9:11). The joy of song is such a wonderful gift that God has given to humanity and in our worship we utilize it to channel our praise back to the Giver. Martin Luther heartily affirmed this in saying, "After the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world!" And it is during the Christmas season when the cherished carols, highlighting the incarnation of our Savior, play such a large part in the congregational singing of Christians around the world. Unfortunately, the radical implications of these hymns can easily be eclipsed by the lesser associations many have with the season. So with this in mind, it is helpful to consider afresh what these hymns have to teach us about the glory of the God who became a man. Writing about the "Grand Miracle" of the first advent, C.S. Lewis said, "In the Christian story God descends to re-ascend. He comes down; down from the heights of absolute being into time and space, down into humanity ... down to the very roots and sea-bed of the Nature He has created. But He goes down to come up again and bring the ruined world up with Him." This is the miracle we sing about in the carols of Christmas. Read and reflect on the hymns we sing this Christmas season. Enter into the narrative they tell and consider how they help make sense of our own story as sinners whose Savior comes to rescue His people from all that seeks to destroy them.

## *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

This carol is full of biblical and theological allusions! Savor them as you sing it to God's praise. Here are four stanzas of this carol that we don't often hear. Ponder them: "Come, Desire of nations, come, Fix in us Thy humble home; Rise, the woman's conquering seed, Bruise in us the serpent's head. Now display Thy saving power, Ruined nature now restore; Now in mystic union join Thine to ours, and ours to Thine. Adam's likeness, Lord, efface; Stamp Thy image in its place. Second Adam from above, Reinstatate us in Thy love. Let us Thee, though lost, regain, Thee, the life, the inner Man: O! to all Thyself impart, Form'd in each believing heart."

## *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*

Another of the traditional English Christmas carols. The stanza carries the message that sent the shepherds scurrying into Bethlehem and that now makes the gentlemen merry. The birth of the Savior bring tidings of comfort and joy. The point of the opening refrain is not to exclude all but happy English gentlemen from a Christmas greeting, but to pronounce a benediction, to wish a joyous repose to other Christians at the very thought of the incarnation of Christ. When Scrooge, in Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, heard this cheerful carol, he grabbed a ruler and the singer fled in terror. It is traditional English going back to the 16th or 17th century.

## *O Come All Ye Faithful*

This hymn takes us into the cave of the Nativity in Bethlehem, shows us the Babe, and bids us adore. Next, in a stanza that many hymnals omit or modify, we are given an explanation of what we see: it is not a human infant, but God. Here the language is taken literally from the ancient Greek creeds of the fourth century. The choirs of angels now burst upon us, urged on to further song by our own exuberance. The shepherds enter the cave; they join us as we kneel in adoration. We speak to the child direct and make our offering of love and praise. This is all so simple, so vivid in imagery, so sincere in emotion, that barring a few theological phrases a child can understand it and enter sympathetically into the experience of worship and joy.

# FPC THIS WEEK

**SUNDAY • DECEMBER 13, 2015**

## Sunday

**Pre-Service Announcements** — 8:25 a.m. in the Sanctuary  
**Prayer for Worship Service** — 9:00 a.m. and 10:50 a.m. in M133  
**The Learning Resource Center** — 9:30 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.  
 (Library only)  
**Sunday School** — 9:40 a.m. in various locations  
**Pre-Service Announcements** — 10:55 a.m. in the Sanctuary  
**Children’s Church for 3 and 4-year-olds** — during 11:00 a.m.  
 worship service in M135  
**The Learning Resource Center** — 5:30 p.m. – 5:55 p.m.  
 (Library only)  
**Pre-Service Announcements** — 5:55 p.m. in the Sanctuary  
**Senior High Christmas Party** — 7:30 p.m. at the home of the Duncans  
 (2215 Heritage Hill Drive)

## Monday

**Circle 14** — 12:00 noon in WH202  
**Session Meeting** — 7:00 p.m. in MS

## Tuesday

**“Truth at Dawn” Men’s Bible Study** — 6:30 a.m. in MH  
**Sew and Sow** — 9:00 a.m. in SC211  
**The Learning Resource Center** — 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
**Presbytery Mission Committee Meeting** — 11:30 a.m. in MH  
**Students and Families Committee Meeting** — 11:45 a.m. in MH  
**Young Adults and College Committee Meeting** — 12:00 noon in MH  
**Shepherding Committee Meeting** — 5:30 p.m. in SC215  
**WIC Christmas Dinner** — 6:00 p.m. in MH

## Wednesday

**The Learning Resource Center** — 10:00 a.m. – 6:25 p.m.  
**Family Night Supper** — 5:00 p.m. in MH  
**Children’s Activities** — 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. in the Gym/Playground  
**The Choir** — 5:50 p.m. in MS  
**Mid-week Bible Study and Prayer Meeting** — 6:30 p.m. in PH  
**Young Adults Men’s Basketball** — 8:00 p.m. in the Gym

## Thursday

**The Learning Resource Center** — 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

## Friday

**No Scheduled Activities**

## Saturday

**Men’s Prayer Breakfast** — 7:30 a.m. in MH  
**Adult Choir Rehearsal** — 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon in the Sanctuary  
**Bookstore Open House** — 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
**Jr. High Bonfire** — 5:00 p.m – 8:00 p.m. at the Turners’

**CH** - College House

**LH** - Lowe Hall

**M** - Main Floor

**MCR** - Ministers

Conference Room

**MH** - Miller Hall

**MS** - Music Suite

**PH** - Patterson Hall

**YH** - Youth House

**SC** - Study Center

**WH** - Westminster Hall

**HC** - Hutton Chapel

**LRC** - Learning Resource  
Center

**SR** - Session Room

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CONTINUED

### WOMEN'S MINISTRY CHRISTMAS DINNER — DECEMBER 15

Ladies, join us at the Women's Ministry Christmas Dinner on Tuesday, December 15, from 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. in Miller Hall. *Christ is our Hope* will be our theme, and Lauren Felker will be our devotional speaker. A nursery will be available upon request at the time of registration. The cost of the dinner is \$6.00 (taken at the door). To register, call 601-353-8316 or email [receptionist@fpcjackson.org](mailto:receptionist@fpcjackson.org).

### YOUNG ADULTS CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Young Adults Christmas Party will be held Thursday, December 17, at 6:00 p.m., at the home of the Felkers (2004 Laurel Street in Belhaven). The Felkers have decked their backyard with Christmas lights and will be playing *It's a Wonderful Life* on the big screen. We'll have hot chocolate and good food! Bring \$5 or a side dish. Contact [youngadults@fpcjackson.org](mailto:youngadults@fpcjackson.org) to RSVP and coordinate food. We hope to see you there!

### BOOK STORE HOLIDAY HOURS AND OPEN HOUSE

Our holiday hours for December shopping are Tuesday 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Wednesday 10:00 a.m. – 6:25 p.m., Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Also, be sure to join us for the annual Christmas Open House Saturday, December 19, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Everyone is invited for refreshments and free gift wrapping on all books purchased that day. Please note that the bookstore will be closed December 20 – January 4; however, the Library will continue with regular Sunday hours.

### COMMUNICANTS' CLASS

A new Communicants' Class will be offered to young people 6th grade and older who are interested in joining First Presbyterian Church. The four classes will begin on Sunday, January 10, 2016, and conclude on Sunday, January 31. Senior Minister, David Strain teaches the class which is held in Lowe Hall from 9:40 a.m. – 10:40 a.m. Anyone who would like to participate may contact the Children's Ministry Department at 601-973-9105 or email [kimberlyw@fpcjackson.org](mailto:kimberlyw@fpcjackson.org).

### MOMS BIBLE STUDY - DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER!

MOMS is a weekly Bible study for mothers of children 6th grade and under. It meets on Wednesdays in Patterson Hall from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Starting Wednesday, January 13, MOMS will be led by Emily Hartman in a study entitled, "The Heart of Contentment." Registration for new members begins January 1, 2016. To register, contact Joanna McNeel at 601-807-1596.

### BAPTISM

The next baptism is scheduled for Sunday, January 17, 2016. Space is available for the 8:30 a.m. worship service. To make your reservation, please contact Lisa Walters at 601-973-9102 or [lisaw@fpcjackson.org](mailto:lisaw@fpcjackson.org).

### MID-SOUTH MEN'S RALLY - JANUARY 29, 2016

Men, please mark your calendars and plan to join us for our annual Mid-South Men's Rally. Our speaker this year will be The Reverend Dr. Douglas F. Kelly, Richard Jordan Professor of Theology, Reformed Theological Seminary, Charlotte, NC. No advance registration is necessary. Dinner will be served beginning at 5:15 p.m., with the first session beginning at 6:30 p.m. If you have questions, please contact Lisa Repair at [lisar@fpcjackson.org](mailto:lisar@fpcjackson.org) or 601-326-9243.

### SUPPORT GROUP

If you are struggling with alcohol or other chemical dependence and would like to get together with people who share in the same struggles, we have a small and very safe group that meets regularly for just that purpose. This discreet, monthly meeting is one of friendship, encouragement, and biblical reflection. Personal anonymity is very important at this meeting. For more information, please call or text 601-260-1636. Also, every month a group of those who have family members (spouses, children, siblings, parents) who struggle with addiction meets for a time of mutual encouragement and Christ-centered counsel. Anonymity is required. For more information concerning the place and time of these meetings, call or text 601-260-0388.



# 2015 Holiday Schedule

## **Sunday, December 13**

Senior High Christmas Party (7:30 p.m. at the Duncan home)

## **Monday, December 14**

College Christmas Party (4:30 p.m. at the Creekmore home)

## **Tuesday, December 15**

WIC Christmas Dinner (6:00 p.m. – MH)

## **Thursday, December 17**

Young Adults Christmas Party (6:00 p.m. at the Felker home)

## **Saturday, December 19**

Bookstore Open House (9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.)

## **Sunday, December 20**

Music of Christmas (5:00 p.m.)

## **Wednesday, December 23**

No Supper or Service

## **Thursday, December 24**

Church Offices Closed

Family Carols Service (4:00 p.m. – Sanctuary)

## **Friday, December 25**

Church Offices Closed

## **Wednesday, December 30**

No Supper or Service

## **Friday, January 1**

Church Offices Closed

