



FIRST THINGS FIRST

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

FROM THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF OIL CITY, PA

Volume X – Issue #1

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2017

Happy New Year!!

Please join us for worship and fellowship!

11:00 A.M. – Morning Worship

Worship Assistant: Gordon Johnson

Greeter/Usher Team: Dick Gipe, Captain; Carl Hohmann,
John and Trudy Hammerschmidt



JANUARY ASSIGNMENTS

COUNTING TEAM - Carl Hohmann, Captain; Kay Daugherty, and Melody McFate

FLOWER DELIVERY - Sandy Kellner,
Sallie Johnson on January 22

C.D. MINISTRY – Michael Haney

TAXI – *If you need a ride to church, just call* Deacon
Jerry Black (676-2624)-- *any time before 9:00 p.m.*
on Saturday.

Dawn Kerna (676-0968) on January 1

The Sacrament of Communion will be January 8.

COMMUNION SET-UP – Sallie Johnson and Sandy Kellner

COMMUNION CLEAN-UP – Sharon Haney and Allan and
Toni Ann Sallade

JANUARY FLOWERS

1 – No flowers – Service in Adult Wing

8 – In loving memory of **Al and Florence Johnstone**

15 – OPEN

22 – OPEN

29 – OPEN

*(Please call the church office – 676-2769 – or sign the flower chart in
the Church Planning Center, next to the office, if you would be
willing to donate flowers. The cost is \$15 and you will be billed directly
by the florist.)*

- “Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves.”

—J.M. Barrie

- Remember and never doubt it: With God’s help you can do incredible things. Never think down; always think up.
—Norman Vincent Peale

A winning pattern for the New Year

Some anonymous wise person penned the following directions for living without bringing pain to others or oneself:

“You will never be sorry — for thinking before acting, for hearing before judging, for forgiving your enemies, for being candid and frank, for helping a fallen brother, for being honest in business, for thinking before speaking, for being loyal to God and the church, for standing by your principles, for refusing to participate in gossip, for holding your words when tempted to demean another, for not entertaining impure or hateful thoughts, for sympathizing with the afflicted, for being courteous and kind to all.”

Coming Up...

Officer & Staff Retreat

This year the Rev. Ralph Hawkins will lead the officers’ and staff retreat which will be held at First Church on Saturday, January 28, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

All elders, deacons, and staff are expected to attend for this special time of reflection and planning for the new year.

Undaunted

The year just past was wracked with violence, racism and political rancor. We long to fix these problems, but how? We may feel as frustrated as the church board member who spouted, “We’ve already tried prayer. It didn’t work!”

Those words might resonate today, yet things aren’t always what they seem. We can’t see God behind the scenes crafting a new reality, but Scripture promises it. And though our prayers won’t undo earthly death, they surround the grieving with strength and love. We can’t “solve” sin, but our prayers can bring communities together and spur us to look out for one another.

The Jewish Talmud states, “Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world’s grief. Do justly now. Love mercy now. Walk humbly now. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it.” In this new year, may we be undaunted in doing what we can. It might not seem like much, but things aren’t always what they seem.

