



# PresbEnews

December 21, 2016

A mid-week newsletter of First Presbyterian Church - Jody McDevitt & Dan Krebill, co-pastors  
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*PresbEnews will be taking off next week. See you in 2017  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*

## Special Services for Advent and Christmas



Advent is a time when people who don't have a church home often gravitate toward a church. Invite a friend who may be seeking, and remember to be a welcoming presence at any of these special services this month!

### Saturday, December 24

5 pm Christmas Eve Family Service, led by children & youth

8 pm Christmas Eve Traditional Service, Worship Choir & First Bells

11 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

Sunday, December 25 10:30 am Christmas Day Blessing of the Animals (10:30 only)

Sunday, January 1 10:30 am Worship God as the New Year begins (10:30 only)

## Christmas Day Worship Welcomes Animal Friends

The sixth annual Blessing of the Animals service will be on Sunday, December 25, at 10:30 am. Remembering the animals who welcomed Jesus at his birth, we welcome pets (on leashes or in cages) to a special service where they will receive a blessing along with their human families. Because it's Christmas morning, you might want to come in your pajamas and slippers. That would be fine! If your pet is not suited to social events, consider bringing a photo or a stuffed animal to represent him or her.



## Enhancing Our Conversation With God

*"In Advent we anticipate the Good Shepherd who fulfills all our needs and desires. Let there be peace, O Lord, and let it begin with Jesus' birth. In Christ. Amen."*

*from Paul Krebill 's*

*"Words For Thinking and Thoughts for Meditation" - Dec.7th and 8th*



*The church staff would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Thank you all for a blessed year!*

*The church building and office will be closed on December 26 and 27 for Christmas Holiday and on January 2 for New Years Day Holiday.*

*Birthdays this week*

*12/21 Judy Arkwright  
12/23 Rhoda McCormick  
Ed Sedivy  
Mike Roser  
Debbie Ernst  
12/24 Paul Visscher  
12/29 Joanna Ellison  
Kelly Meredith  
12/30 Jim Hall  
12/31 Sammylu Parsons*

**Special Announcement**



Christine and Dan Holland are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Katie, to George Lehman. Katie and George are both elementary school teachers in the Billings area and plan a wedding sometime in 2018 (although not at Lambeau Field.) Many of you fervently prayed for Katie after her accident nearly ten years ago. It warms our hearts to share the positive results of your prayers.

The fall Church Directories are hot off the press, please pick one up at the church office or in the back of the sanctuary.

**FIRST FRIDAY - JANUARY 6, 2017**

Join us at 5:30 for a spaghetti dinner - movie – popcorn – and ice cream for dessert as we discuss the implications in our lives from a Christian viewpoint of the movie for the month, **SPOTLIGHT**. “*Spotlight* tells the riveting true story of the Pulitzer Prize-winning Boston Globe investigation that would rock the city and cause a crisis in one of the world's oldest and most trusted institutions... team of reporters delves into allegations of abuse in the Catholic Church, their year-long investigation uncovers a decades-long cover-up at the highest levels of Boston's religious, legal, and government establishment ..” Questions that we will consider are: Who’s at fault when institutions are broken? Who is responsible when the weak and vulnerable are exploited? If you will be bringing children, please call the church office to arrange for a sitter and allow us to provide appropriate movies for the younger set.



## Holland-days...

by Dan Holland

You don't have to be much of a sports fan to be familiar with the name of LeBron James. I would suspect his name recognition these days might approach that of Mohammad Ali or Michael Jordan. Recently he was named Sportsman of the Year, in part because of the role he played in bringing a championship to his hometown of Cleveland. The story unveiling this award documented all of the different places Mr. James lived during his formative years in northeast Ohio. Like many inner-city youth he was raised by a single parent (his mother was sixteen when he was born, and no mention is made of his father.) They bounced from relative to relative, among various public housing projects, always in a state of abject poverty. His early family life reads much like the stories of people we see in Family Promise.

Last week I performed my first work for Family Promise. I know that many of you have long been involved in this life-affirming ministry and have given countless hours on its behalf. My first foray didn't require a lot of effort; I simply had to eat a meal (alongside my wife) with two families we had not previously met. I have to admit, though, I was quite apprehensive. Here it was just nine days before Christmas, in the midst of a dreadful cold snap, and I would be breaking bread with people so down on their luck they were moving every week to a new temporary shelter. As it turned out the evening was a perfectly pleasant affair.

The two families couldn't have been nicer. They welcomed us into their midst as if we were, well, family. There was a one-year-old girl in particular that wiggled her way into my heart. I have changed her name below, but if you had occasion to interact with her last week, you know who I am talking about.

### Yolanda's Promise

I see you there,  
 running through our fellowship hall  
 in your pajamas like you own the place.  
 Laughing joyously.  
 Grabbing ornaments off  
 the Christmas tree  
 and pretending we couldn't  
 see you. Eating Edie's casserole like  
 there was no tomorrow. Crying after  
 you bumped your head, and checking  
 every so often to make sure we  
 knew you were crying.

You are a child of God,  
 and like Jesus before you,  
 there was no room in the inn.  
 Room abounds, however,  
 in the hearts of God's people.  
 Your people.