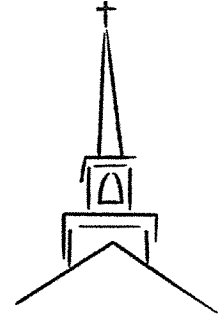


# *The Weekly Chimera*

*1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church of Franklin*  
*December 14, 2014*



## *A Note from the Pastor*

That all Church power, whether exercised by the body in general or in the way of representation by delegated authority, is only ministerial and declarative; that is to say, that the Holy Scriptures are the only rule of faith and manners; that no Church judicatory ought to pretend to make laws to bind the conscience in virtue of their own authority; and that all their decisions should be founded upon the revealed will of God. Now though it will easily be admitted that all synods and councils may err, through the frailty inseparable from humanity, yet there is much greater danger from the usurped claim of making laws than from the right of judging upon laws already made, and common to all who profess the gospel, although this right, as necessity requires in the present state, be lodged with fallible men. (*Book of Order*, F-3.0107)

**Scripture is our highest authority, and governing bodies within the church always begin with scripture. Declarative power is limited to that of stating what biblical teachings are in a particular situation or context. Thus the church, after long study of scripture, reliance upon the Holy Spirit and prayer, has changed its views of issues (such as slavery and the status of women) based upon its interpretation of scripture in these particular circumstances.**

**When a properly constituted governing body of the church makes a decision, great care must be taken by those who find it troubling. There is trust that the best discernment of the guiding of the Spirit happens in the assembly of God's people, gathered for prayer, conversation and decision making. Because our system works slowly and carefully, and provides every opportunity for diverse voices to be heard, the possibility of rash decisions is lessened.**

**There is no guarantee that we always make decisions in line with the will of God. Each assembly at every level of the church brings in the contexts, cultures and biases of those who are part of the process. Those who believe decisions have been made in error have rights and duties, and can seek change through the system and process of the church. The church's history is filled with decisions that have been retracted, modified or discarded because there is new understandings and contexts to consider. At the end of the day, we trust that God is in charge and the Holy Spirit is working through the church.**

*Pastor Naray*

*Session meets on Wednesday, December 17, 2014  
7:00 pm in the Hocking Lounge*

### *Christmas Open House*

The congregation is invited to an open house at David and Nancy Young's home on Sunday, December 21, 2:00 – 5:00 pm. The congregation of 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian in Newton is also invited, so come enjoy some refreshments and fellowship. The address is 15 Wantage Ave., Branchville.

### *Christmas Eve Services*

*4:00 pm The Impromptu Christmas Pageant.*

Bring your children to participate in the Nativity story. They may come in costumes for the Nativity (angels, sheep, wise persons, shepherds, stable animals, etc.). Come be a part of the Christmas story!

*7:00 pm Traditional Christmas Eve*

The chancel choir and other musicians will be assisting in leading this service.

*11:00 pm Late Christmas Eve Worship*

The late service will feature Adam and Micah Young on piano and guitar, and special music with Madison Washer.



# Announcements

Amount Needed Every Week: \$2,938.00  
Last Week's Offering: \$4,534.00 (11/30/14 & 12/7/14—2 weeks)



Our USHERS this morning are: Dave Drew, Simon Diffin, Frank Henninger & John Hornstra.

## Weekly Calendar:

Sunday—12/14/14—Sermon Talk Back—After Worship  
Monday—12/15/14—Zumba—6:00 p.m.  
Tuesday—12/16/14—Choir Rehearsal—7:00 p.m.—Zumba—6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday—12/17/14—Session Meeting  
Thursday—12/18/14—Yoga—6:00 p.m.

Please join us for Coffee and Fellowship after worship in the Great Hall hosted by Peter West and Tara Hadowanetz.



## THE GIFTING TREE

Bring in wrapped gifts with tags attached or clearly marked by TODAY, December 14<sup>th</sup>.

Many Thanks!



## From the Deacons

For the month of November, the Deacons are making donations to Karen Ann Quinlan Hospice, Compassion International, and Heifer International.

Our Deacon food collection is ongoing. Please remember to bring items such as tuna, pasta sauce, canned fruit, toothpaste and toothbrushes. Thanksgiving items are also needed such as canned vegetables, mashed potato mix, stuffing mix, gravy, and pie filling.

The Norwescap Diaper Bank is in great need and the Deacons have decided to make this collection ongoing. The entire congregation is invited to continue to participate. The playpen will remain in the West Chancel to collect diapers and baby items such as baby wipes, baby powder, baby shampoo, and baby lotion. Thank you!

## POINSETTIAS

If you would like to purchase a Poinsettia to adorn our sanctuary during Christmas in memory or honor of someone, please get an envelope in the back of the sanctuary. The cost is \$7.50 per 6 inch plant. Deadline is Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. Please make checks payable to the Deacons Fund. Thank You.

## Staff Contact Information

Pastor Nancy Young 989.430.21185  
[davnans2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:davnans2@sbcglobal.net)

Kathie Drew 973-827-2712  
Ruth Hubmaster 973-875-5262

---

---

## STAFF GIFT

It is the custom of this congregation to collect a special offering to provide a Christmas Gift to our staff members in appreciation for their efforts on our behalf throughout the year. This year the gifts will be presented at the 10:00 service on December 21, 2014. If you would like to be a part of this special gift please place the GIFT envelope in the offering plate by December 14. Special GIFT envelopes are available at the service, or by requesting one from an usher. You may also include your gift in your regular envelope, marking on the line provided as "Staff Gift". Please note that the last date for contribution will be Sunday, December 14.

Thank you for helping us as a congregation to give to those who give so much to us during the year.

Personnel Committee

---

### Looking For Volunteers to host Coffee Hour.

Sign-up calendar is in the Great Hall on the sliding door near the coffee urn. All that is asked of you is to make coffee and heat hot water for tea, pour juice into cups which is all supplied by the Deacons. Cups, plates, napkins, and utensils are in the Deacons Cabinet. Milk has to be brought from home as well as any food that you would like to serve. It doesn't have to be anything fancy. Please sign up on the calendar or call Barbara Sparta at 973-827-6648. Thank you!



  
We're  
Searching for  
Volunteers