



STREAMER

Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle

7300 Belvidere Road

Caledonia, Illinois 61011

815-885-3455

November 2017

If someone asked you about the one most important ingredient for making life enjoyable, what would it be? Or, to ask it a slightly different way—if a genie in a bottle popped out right now and granted you one wish to make life better, for what would you wish?

Be careful; take time to think about this. If you only get one wish, or need to figure out the foundational element for a good life, careful consideration rather than wishing for the first thing that pops into your mind is probably best. As a kid, I used to dream about wishing for more wishes, or an everlasting candy, or later, money tree. At times, I might have wished for a certain relationship or healing from a certain illness. But now, thankfully, I am much more aware of what I really need, of what gives me the most joy, of where the true center of my being is. Today, I am much more focused on God-in-Christ—my calling, my giftedness, my need, and my joy. Today, I am grateful for my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

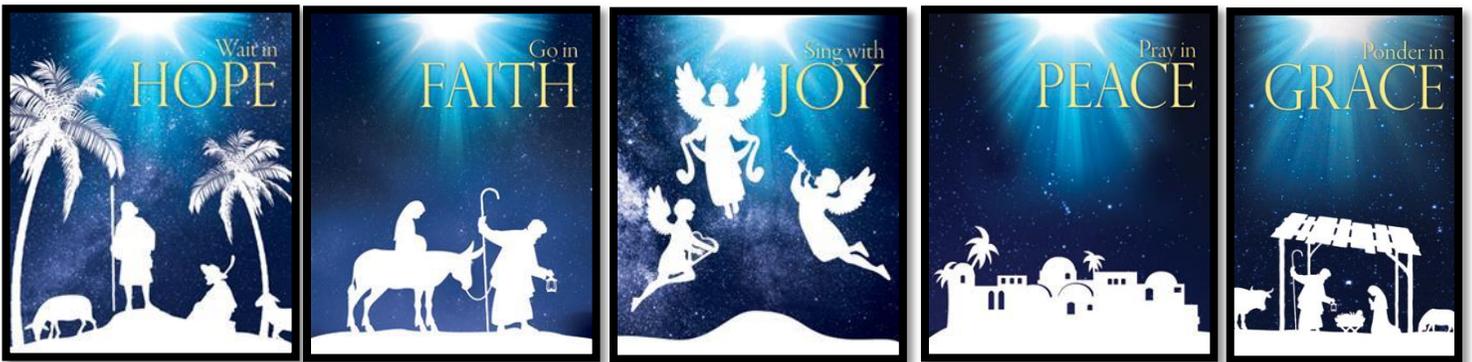
The one, most beneficial, foundational, basic ingredient we have is a special way to relate to God, to draw closer to God through Jesus Christ. This is the one thing we have as Christians that can truly benefit others by providing a peace and joy that the world might not otherwise know. Simple, right? To make the world a better place, we only need tell the Good News, we only need share the Gospel message. The only problem is, we can't give it away if we don't have it, and we can't keep it for ourselves if we don't give it away. Keeping God at the center of our lives, and sharing out of this relationship in all our intentions, thoughts, words and deeds (OK, there is no such thing as perfection even possible, but...) will surely keep us centered in the joy of this community and help us to better care for all that God has given us.

Caring for the world and all that God has given us is our duty as God's stewards. Many times, people hear the word steward or stewardship and immediately think of *one's own* money, finances and investments. CS Lewis said in Mere Christianity, "*Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to God's service, you could not give God anything that was not in a sense God's own already.*" As I remarked in a recent Sermon, that sure makes us antsy, to start thinking of *our* stuff as belonging or being governed by someone else—I mean I *earned* that stuff—it's *mine*!

So, the question becomes, not what do you need to be happy, not what is the first ingredient for joy, but who is your God? Who do you put first in your life? Do you have a close, personal relationship with God? (It's okay to be honest, to realize that believing and having a close, personal relationship are two different things.) And more importantly, do you know *how* to draw closer to God and begin to truly enjoy living, no matter the situation....do you *want* to?

In a few short weeks, we will be coming into The Holiday Season. We will be buttoning up 2017 and preparing to step into 2018. Let's begin the preparations. In just a couple of weeks, at the Hamball Potluck, there will be a little devotional booklet AND a new picture directory for our church community (don't forget to bring or email a picture to the office by Halloween if we didn't get one of you at church) to help us renew our faith community, growing together and sharing the love of Christ! Let us keep moving forward as we watch for the Advent of Christ, (Wait in HOPE, Go in FAITH, Sing with JOY, Pray in PEACE, and Ponder in GRACE).

Grace and Peace, Pastor Judith



Dear Willow Creek Family,
We wanted to let you know how much you mean to us and to thank you for the love and support you gave to Meagan and Jake on their wedding day. Thank you for your hardworking hands, your well wishes, your love, and your prayers.

We are truly blessed to have you in our lives.

Blessing of love to all of you,
April and Ed Rottman



I want to thank the "Gods Angels: of the Willow Creek Presbyterian Church for the wonderful things they have done for me while I was unable to do for myself. They came to visit, bring food and to let me know I am loved. Some have brought food and stayed to eat with me, some took me "out" to eat. One brought food ate with me and took me (via pictures) on a trip to Italy, another brought food, ate with me while we talked about her mother and what a good friend she had been to me. Another gave me rides to church and kept me informed of all the activities there. Yes those were "Gods Angels" and I thank you all so much.

In God's Love,
Pat Bindenagel

Don't forget the homemade soup we shared.



This group gave Willow Creek a donation of \$200 for use of the church.

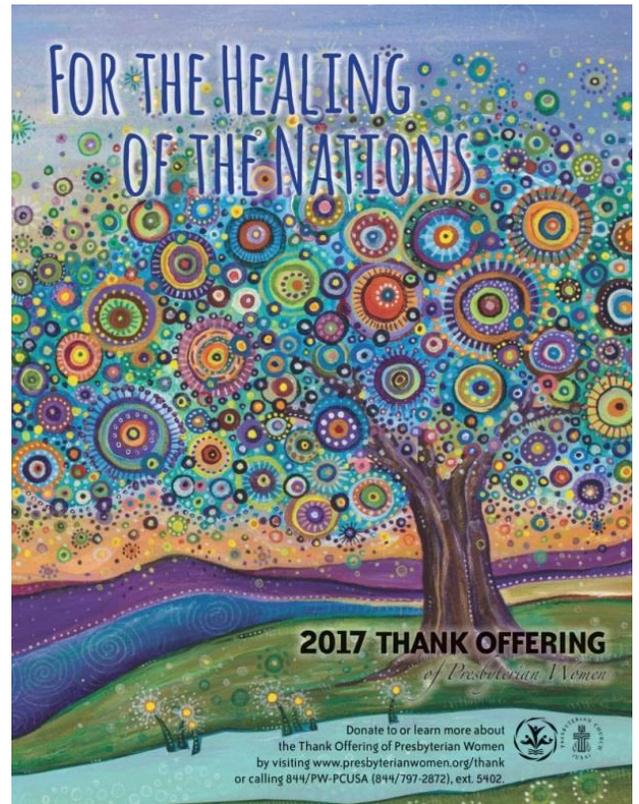
Oct. 5, 2017

Dear Pastor Gubith,

The grateful members of the N.I.A.F.G (Northern Illinois Area Family Groups) wish to extend to you and your congregation our deepest appreciation for opening your church to us for our assembly. Over 120 people attended! Knowing you were celebrating the beginning of your "back to school" Sunday the next day, we endeavored to return things to the way we found them and hope we accomplished that. Thank-you for your generosity & trust! Sincerely, Sue Ellen & the N.I.A.F.G

**Give to the Presbyterian Thank Offering
on Sunday, November 19th**

The Thank Offering has long been a tradition of Presbyterian Women. It has provided and continues to provide much-needed financial assistance to numerous worthwhile programs not included in ongoing General Assembly mission support. Each year, domestic and international projects are carefully and prayerfully selected by the Creative Ministries Offering Committee to help meet a crucial need. Forty percent (40%) of this offering is used to support hospitals and community health programs that place priority in helping the most needy members of God’s community. The remaining sixty percent (60%) is used for new creative ideas for mission, undesignated in advance. The generosity of Presbyterian women and their families and congregations as demonstrated through their Thank Offering gifts help chosen recipients find real solutions for projects related to health, education, economic development, and needs of women and children. Donations can be made at church on November 19th or by sending a check to the church noting in the Memo line “Thank Offering.”



Recent Thanks Offering Grant Recipients include:

SYNOD OF LIVING WATERS
Blue Monarch
 Parenting Sober
 Hillsboro, Tennessee
 \$20,873
 Blue Monarch helps mothers who are recovering from drug addiction learn how to manage the stress of parenting without using drugs. The Thank Offering grant will help provide effective parenting tools to mothers who have likely never observed healthy parenting in the home. The ultimate goal is to build a stronger bond and better relationship between mother and child and decrease the likelihood of abuse or neglect.
www.blumonarch.org

SYNOD OF MID-AMERICA
First Presbyterian Church of Liberal
 First Presbyterian Child Care Center
 Liberal, Kansas
 \$7,580
 First Presbyterian Child Care Center is the only commercial daycare center in the Liberal, Kansas area. Thank Offering funds will be used to erect a fence around the outdoor play area and purchase equipment and educational supplies for the children. www.fpcliberal.org/about-the-daycare-2

SYNOD OF THE SUN
Presbyterian Village, Inc.
 Improving Accessibility in Residential Care
 Little Rock, Arkansas
 \$50,000
 Presbyterian Village will use their Thank Offering grant to renovate ten residential care bathrooms by converting traditional bathtubs to accessible, walk-in showers.
www.presbyvillage.org

International Grants are also awarded.



STEWARDSHIP RECOGNITION

ABOVE and BEYOND the CALL of DUTY recognizes individuals, couples or groups that serve God through Willow Creek Presbyterian Church.

Nominations forms can be obtained on the welcome stand outside Fellowship Hall near the Education Wing. Completed nominations can be deposited in the box on the welcome stand. Nominations can also be made directly to Pastor Judith.

Fellowship is an important part of our gathering. Sign-up is available in the Kitchen Window. Help us welcome newcomers with light refreshments and warm hearts. If you need any assistance setting up or serving for Fellowship, please call Sandy Bell cell # 815-871-6301.



Habitat for Humanity - Boone County

If you are interested in putting together a work crew, contact Beth @ Habitat (phone 815-980-6247). There are ongoing builds in both the Belvidere and South Rockford areas.

Want to help out at Northern IL Food Bank?

Go to website www.SolveHungerToday.org
or call 815-639-1257 to sign up.



Faith Explorers

No November Meeting

December Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 5th @ 9:30 am at the Stockholm Inn, 2420 Charles St., Rockford. Pastor Judith will facilitate a discussion of Lesson 4 on Angels in our community.

Please join us!



November Choir Schedule:

Nov. 5, 12, 19, and 26 Chancel and Young People's Choir rehearse at 8:30 am and sing for Worship.



DECORATE the Church

Sunday, November 12 after Fellowship

All hands and bodies are welcome and encouraged to join the Music & Worship Committee to decorate the church for the Christmas holidays. With enough participation, the job will take about an hour.



November Mariners

Mariners will meet on November the 14th at Ciao Bella Restaurant at 11:30 am located at 6500 E. Riverside. Our guest speaker will be Sue Cram who will present a program on Patient Advocacy with Jan & Dave Ensminger hosting. Anyone is welcome to join us.

The Hat and Mitten Tree

The Mission Committee has expanded the tree to include Adults and Children. Donations will go to the needy children of God at local schools, nursing homes, and homeless shelters.

Please donate hats, mittens, and scarves to this worthy cause!



Beginning November 19, there will be a bag for each staff member down in Fellowship Hall. Please take a moment to write a note and express your appreciation for all of their hard work and dedication to our church and church family. These will be given to our staff members on Sunday, December 10th at our Christmas Fellowship.

Thank you! The Music & Worship Committee

Upcoming Calendar/Streamer Deadlines

Monday, November 13 For the December Calendar & Streamer
Wednesday, December 13 For the January Calendar & Streamer



Annual Congregational Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting of the Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle, will be held on Sunday, November 19, 2017 @ 11:00 am for the purpose of electing Officers and approving the pastor's 2018 Terms of Call.



The meeting will be followed by a Ham-ball Potluck. Families bring a hamball or turkey main dish and a side, salad or dessert; singles/couples bring one dish to pass. Drinks, cups, plates, and table service will be provided.

Some recipes you may want to try out:

Easy Chicken and Rice Casserole

1. Mix 1 can of cream of mushroom or celery soup with 1 can cream of chicken soup.
2. Add ½ cup of cooking sherry.
3. Spread mixture into the bottom of a 9" x 13" pan.
4. Pour into soup mixture 1 cup Minute Rice, uncooked.
5. Layer pieces of chicken on top of this mixture. (I use chicken breasts, but any raw chicken works.)
6. Pour over this 1 package of Onion Soup Mix.
7. Cover and bake at 350 degrees for 2 ½ hours.

Easy and yummy!

Recipe courtesy of Brenda Benning

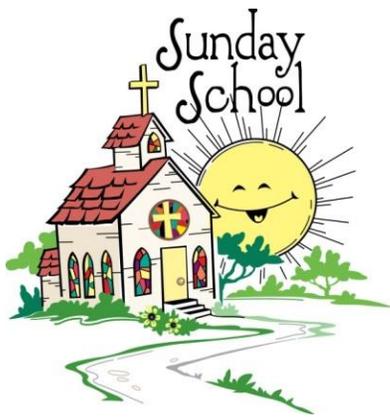
Ham Balls

- 1 lb ground lean smoked ham
- 1-1/2 lb ground lean pork
- 2 cups bread crumbs
- 2 beaten eggs
- 1 cup milk

Make into balls, mix 1/2 cup water, 1 cup brown sugar, 1 teaspoon dry mustard and 1/2 cup vinegar to make sauce to pour over. Place in a shallow pan and bake 1 hour or more. Baste occasionally.

Mrs. Carol Norem

Recipe from the *1956 Women's Auxiliary Willow Creek Pres. Church Cook Book*



Children's Sunday School (geared for children in grades PreK-5th) will take place every other Sunday.

Nov. 12 10:30-11:00

Nov. 26 11:15-11:45

Adult Education Class

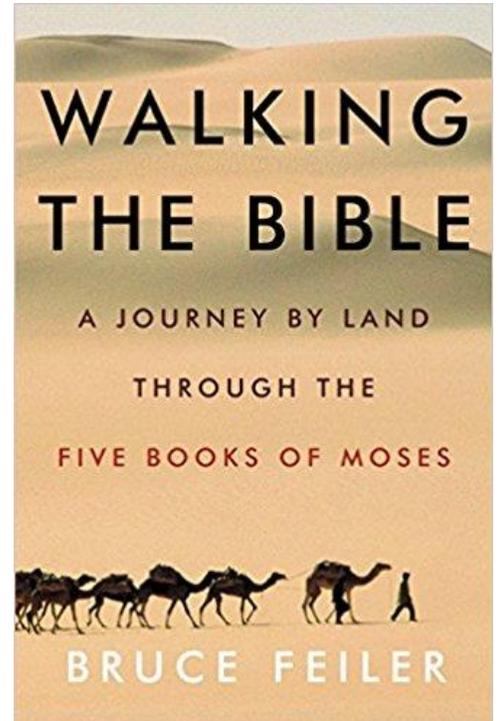
The Adult Education class will be watching and discussing another video series: Bruce Feiler's Walking the Bible. A journey by land through the 5 books of Moses. Both a heart-racing adventure and an uplifting quest, Walking the Bible presents one man's epic journey - by foot, jeep, rowboat, and camel - through the greatest stories ever told. From crossing the Red Sea to climbing Mount Sinai to touching the burning bush, Bruce Feiler's inspiring odyssey will forever change your view of history's most legendary events.

This same weekly class will be offered at three times during the week to accommodate different schedules. We hope to see you at one of the times!

Sunday mornings at 9:00-9:45 am

Wednesday evenings at 6:00-6:45 pm

Thursday mornings at 9:30-10:30 am



NO classes Sunday, Nov. 19 (Hamball Potluck) or Thursday, Nov. 23 (Thanksgiving).

Youth Group Dates



Sun, Nov. 12, 11:15 am-1:30 pm-Decorate Church & Games @ WC

Sat/Sun, Nov 18-19, time TBD, Lock-in!! @ WC. Traveling to Williams Bay to see Katie, Kylie and Hailey Monroe, who has the lead role of Eliza Doolittle in her school musical (more information to follow)

Sun, Dec. 10, 11:15 am-12:30 pm-Games with younger children while waiting for Santa

Sun, Dec.17, 11:30 am-1:30 pm-Christmas Party @ WC

November 2017 All Church Calendar

Wed 11/1	6:00 - 6:45 pm	<i>Walking the Bible, Week 7 (Library)</i>
	7:00 - 9:00 pm	Session Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
Thur 11/2	9:30 - 10:30 am	<i>Walking the Bible, Week 7 (Library)</i>
	5:30 - 8:30 pm	Argyle Room Reserved-Jodi Henderson
Sun 11/5	8:30 am	Chancel & Young People's Choir Rehearsal
	9:00 - 9:45 am	<i>Walking the Bible-Moses: Let My People Go (Library)</i>
	10:00 am	Worship with Traditional Communion; Chancel & Young People's Choir Sing
	11:00 am	Fellowship Hour
	5:00 - 6:00 pm	AA Meeting (Sold on Sobriety)
Tue 11/7	7:50 - 8:50 am	Pastor @ Washington Academy in Belvidere
Wed 11/8	12:15 pm	Preschool Board Meeting
	6:00 - 6:45 pm	<i>Walking the Bible-Moses: Let My People Go (Library)</i>
Thur 10/9	9:30 - 10:30 am	<i>Walking the Bible-Moses: Let My People Go (Library)</i>
	1:30 pm	Deacon Meeting
	5:30 - 8:30 pm	Argyle Room Reserved-Jodi Henderson
Fri 11/10	---	No Preschool Veteran's Day
Sat 11/11	7:00 - 9:00 pm	Painting Party
Sun 11/12	8:30 am	Chancel & Young People's Choir Rehearsal
	9:00 - 9:45 am	<i>Walking the Bible-Surviving in the Sinai (Library)</i>
	10:00 am	Worship; Chancel & Young People's Choir Sing
	10:30 - 11:00 am	<i>Children's Sunday School</i>
	11:00 am	Fellowship Hour
	11:15 am	Decorate the Church
	11:15 - 1:30 pm	Youth Group Help Decorate the Church
	5:00 - 6:00 pm	AA Meeting (Sold on Sobriety)
Mon 11/13	---	Streamer Deadline
	9:00 am	Mission TEAM Meeting
Tue 11/14	---	Presbytery Meeting @ Stronghold
	11:30 am	Mariners @ Ciao Bella, 6500 E. Riverside, Rockford; Guest Speaker Sue Cram program on Patient Advocacy (Ensmingers Hosting)
Wed 11/15	6:00 - 6:45 pm	<i>Walking the Bible-Surviving in the Sinai (Library)</i>
Thur 11/16	9:30 - 10:30 am	<i>Walking the Bible-Surviving in the Sinai (Library)</i>
	5:30 - 8:30 pm	Argyle Room Reserved-Jodi Henderson
Sat 11/18-19	TBD	<i>Youth Group Lock-in; Group will travel to Williams Bay to see Hailey take the lead role of Eliza Doolittle in her school musical</i>
Sun 11/19	8:30 am	Chancel & Young People's Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am	Worship; Chancel & Young People's Choir Sing; Thank Offering; Congregational Meeting follows worship
	11:00 am	Hamball Potluck (follows Congregational Meeting)
	5:00 - 6:00 pm	AA Meeting (Sold on Sobriety)
Mon 11/20	---	December Calendar/Streamer Input Deadline
Tue 11/21	7:50 - 8:50 am	Pastor @ Washington Academy in Belvidere
	8:00 am	Buildings & Grounds Meeting
	7:00 pm	Community Thanksgiving Worship Service, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 2336 Freeport Rd, Rockton
Wed 11/22-11/24	----	No Preschool - Church Office Closed

November 2017 All Church Calendar Continued

- Sun 11/26
 - 8:30 am Chancel & Young People’s Choir Rehearsal
 - 9:00 - 9:45 am *Walking the Bible-The Basilica & Library at St. Catherine, Mt of the Burning Bush (Library)*
 - 10:00 am Worship; Chancel & Young People’s Choir Sing
 - 11:00 am Fellowship Hour
 - 5:00 - 6:00 pm AA Meeting (Sold on Sobriety)
- Tue 11/28
 - Poinsettia Order Deadline
 - 7:50 - 8:50 am Pastor @ Washington Academy in Belvidere
- Wed 11/29
 - 6:00-6:45 pm *Walking the Bible-The Basilica & Library at St. Catherine, Mt of the Burning Bush (Library)*
- Thur 11/30
 - 9:30 - 10:30 am *Walking the Bible-The Basilica & Library at St. Catherine, Mt of the Burning Bush (Library)*
 - 5:30 – 8:30 pm Argyle Room Reserved-Jodi Henderson



WCPC Operating Statistics

September is the second month in a row, and the fourth month overall for the year, with offerings totaling less than \$10,000 for the month. Our staff



expense runs at an average of \$9,235.36 a month through September,

which leaves little to meet all other monthly expenses of the Church.

Thanks again for your continued support.

	WCPC Operating Statistics	
	September 2017	Year-to-Date
Income	11,262.20	108,244.83
Expenses	13,773.49	126,856.54
	(2,511.29)	(18,611.71)



Church Office Closed

Wednesday, November 22 – Friday, November 24
for the Thanksgiving Holiday

WILLOW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
STATEMENT OF INCOME and EXPENSE
 Actual vs Budget
 FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

	Budget	Actual	Variance
REVENUES:			
Contributions - General	97,575	93,700	(3,875)
Contributions - Special	450	340	(110)
Other Income	3,713	7,023	3,310
Endowment	2,700	6,207	3,507
School & Event	375	975	600
Total Revenue	104,813	108,245	3,432
EXPENSES:			
MINISTRY OF:			
Personnel	83,186	81,153	2,033
Christian Ed & Youth	3,863	1,898	1,965
Music & Worship	2,201	2,190	11
Member & Stewardship	413	441	(28)
Building & Grounds	34,500	33,779	721
Session	3,536	2,503	1,033
Deacons	150	-	150
Missions - Denominational	525	-	525
- Endowment Supported	2,700	2,700	-
Designated	1,725	2,193	(468)
Other	-	-	-
Total Expense	132,799	126,857	5,942
Change in cash from operations	(27,986)	(18,612)	9,374
OTHER:			
Dedicated Accounts, Pre-School & Liabilities	-	(3,018)	3,018
Net Cash Transfers To/(From) Investments	-	-	-
Change in cash since January 1, 2017	(27,986)	(15,594)	12,392

Community Thanksgiving Worship Service

Tuesday November 21, 2017
7pm

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
2336 Freeport Road
Rockton, IL 61072

Dessert reception following worship

An offering, of both money and food, will be collected for the
Old Stone Church Food Pantry

Rockton United
Methodist Church



Prince of Peace
Faith, Family, Community

Old Stone Church

101 E. Union St., Rockton, IL 61072



CROSS & CROWN
LUTHERAN CHURCH



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
CELEBRATING
75 YEARS
IN 2017!



Willow Creek
Presbyterian Church of Argyle

Painting Party



Saturday, November 11

7-9 pm

Willow Creek Presbyterian Church
(corner of 173 and Belvidere Rd)

Refreshments & Fun will be served!

Instructor, Angie Scardoto

Apron & ALL art supplies provided

Tickets \$35

To register: call 815-885-3455

Email willowcreekchrch@aol.com

Or find us on facebook@ willowcreekpc

Poinsettia Order Form

Would you like to order a Poinsettia in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special person? The cost is \$10.00 each, and they are available in white, pink or red. You may take your poinsettia home, or donate it for the Deacons to deliver to the elderly and infirm.



Please fill out this form and drop it in the collection plate on Sunday morning or mail it to the church.

The deadline to order is Tuesday, November 28.

Color _____ Number _____

In Loving Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Donor Name as you wish it to appear in the bulletin: _____

Please make checks payable to Willow Creek Presbyterian Church, with memo: Poinsettia

Flowers not picked up prior to Tuesday, January 2nd will be delivered
by the Church Deacons to the elderly and infirmed.