



**First Presbyterian Church**  
**300 School Street**  
**Clarks Summit, PA 18411**  
**570/586-6306**  
[www.fpccs.org](http://www.fpccs.org)

# First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day

First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023

10:00 a.m.

*In preparation for worship, please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices.*

## **ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME**

Gathering Music

Concerns of the Church

Prelude "Prepare the Royal Highway" arr. Wilbur Held

Call to Worship *from Psalm 80:1-3*

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!

***You who are enthroned upon the cherubim,  
shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.***

Stir up your might, and come to save us!

***Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.***

\* Hymn 82 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"  
*Ushers will collect prayer request cards from the center aisle.*

\* Call to Confession

\* Prayer of Confession

***Draw near to us, O God, and shake us awake.***

***We close our eyes to signs of your hand at work among us.***

***We close our ears to words that point out our sin.***

***We close our minds to the possibility of new life.***

***We close our hearts to the amazing grace Christ brings.***

***As you draw near to forgive and to heal,***

***awaken us to follow and serve as the Spirit leads.***

***Through Christ, we pray.***

\* Silent Confession

\* Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Advent Response (see insert for music)

***When heav'n and earth have passed away, God's Word will still resound.***

***Keep watch! The Master's on the way. Awake, we must be found.***

***For Christ is coming nearer, redeeming us from sin.***

***Our broken lives will soon be healed. God's kingdom now breaks in.***

## **PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Isaiah 64:1-9 (OT, p. 694)

A Time with Children

Anthem

"The Yearning"

Craig Courtney

**RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

\* Hymn 107 "Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"

\* Affirmation of Faith: Declaration of Faith (PCUS)

***In Christ God gave us a glimpse***

***of the new creation he has already begun and will surely finish.***

***We do not know when the final day will come.***

***In our time we see only broken and scattered signs  
that the renewal of all things is under way.***

***We do not yet see the end of cruelty and suffering in the world,  
the church, or our own lives. But we see Jesus as Lord.***

***As he stands at the center of our history,  
we are confident he will stand at its end.***

***He will judge all people and nations.***

***Evil will be condemned and rooted out of God's good creation. There will be no  
more tears or pain. All things will be made new.***

***The fellowship of human beings with God and each other  
will be perfected.***

Offering

Offertory Variations on "The Days Are Surely Coming" arr. Austin Lovelace

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer (Hymnal, p. 35)

The Words of Institution

Communion of the People

*Please hold the bread until all are served, so that we might share it as a sign  
of our unity in Christ. As a sign of individual devotion and commitment, you  
may drink the cup as you are served.*

Prayers of the People

**GO IN GOD'S NAME**

\* Hymn 357 "The Days Are Surely Coming"

\* Charge and Benediction

\* Postlude "Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending" arr. Wilbur Held

*All are invited to remain seated to listen to the postlude.  
If you are leaving before it is finished, please do so quietly.*

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\* All who are able shall stand.

***The flowers this morning have been given in loving memory of Anna Marsh by her family.***

## Participants in Today's Service

Pastor	Rev. William Carter
Coordinator of Children and Youth	Jana Schillinger
Director of Music	Frank Jones
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck
Bell Ringers	Leelah & Liam Farrell
Liturgist	Chris Sekol
Advent Wreath	Chris, Jennifer and Crosby Sekol
Ushers	John Conklin and Gwynne Gilbert

## Church Family Announcements

*Our congregation worships God, equips God's people for ministry in the world, and serves God in ways that are faithful to the Gospel.*

**Thank you for joining us for Worship.** We worship in two ways!

- **Join us in person at 10:00 a.m.**
  - **Tune in online** for our service, which is broadcast live on [our video page on YouTube](#) and archived for later viewing on the same site.
- **Large-print bulletins** can be found at the rear of the sanctuary.
- **Please** use the red attendance pads to record your presence today.

**The Nursery is open** Sunday mornings from 9:40-11:10 a.m. for children ages 3 and younger in room 208. The nursery is staffed by Heather Lyons.

**Bible Time** is our program for children (age 4 to approx. grade 4) to hear Bible stories told in a fun and engaging way. Each Sunday following the anthem, children are invited to go (with adult leadership) for Bible Time (lasting about 20 minutes) and return for the Prayers and the end of service.

### **LIFT: Living In Faith Together**

Join us after worship **TODAY** for a meal and intergenerational program. Families with children as well as congregants of all ages are invited. Enjoy a meal, Bible reading and discussion, and activity as we welcome and celebrate the season of **Advent**. It's a great opportunity to share fellowship and faith with our friends and family.

**Make some music with us.** Every Wednesday, **the Adult Choir** rehearses at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary, and **the Bell Choir** rehearses at 8 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. New singers and ringers are welcome for these ensembles.

**Adult Education** continues this coming Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. in room 206. The next study, led by Rev. Carter, will be about Advent. All are welcome!

**Tell us your prayer concerns.** Prayer Request Cards are in the pew racks. Pass them to the center aisle to be collected during the first hymn.

**Please pray for:** Hall, Bob, Bonnie, Betty, Lisa, Janet, Patty, Sharon, Jim, Sonny, Ralph, Linzy, Sue, Dillon, Tony, Aiden, Margaret, Colleen M., Bill, LeAnne, Wayne, Dennis V., the family of Janet Taylor, Thank you, Lord.

**Do you have a college student or military person far from home?** The Deacons would like to send a goodie box to brighten the gray of winter. If you will forward the person's name and complete mailing address to Grace Farrell (570-878-7396 / [glee1124@yahoo.com](mailto:glee1124@yahoo.com)) or the church office ([office@fpccs.org](mailto:office@fpccs.org) / 570-586-6306), we'll be happy to make that happen.



Families, be sure to take home an **Advent Bag** filled with an Advent calendar, devotions, activity suggestions, supplies for a craft, and more. All ages and everyone in the church is welcome and encouraged to participate, so bags will be available both for families with children and for those without. The Advent Bags can be found on the table located between Rev. Carter's and Jana Schillinger's office.

**Pajama Tree:** There are still some tags on the tree if you want to a child in the Scranton Head Start program. All gifts must be church by December 11, wrapped or in a holiday gift bag. extra. All the gifts must be the same.)



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**Give A Gift to a Stranger:** For the third year, during Advent, Mission and Justice invites you to make a gift to a stranger. Look for us in the Narthex from Sunday, December 3, through Sunday, December 17, for our tables with displays and information about the recipients of our gifts. You will have the opportunity to buy gifts for individual refugee family members (look for the paper angels and paper pine trees on the tree), support ASP by buying chocolates, and support the education of Haitian students. "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in. " Matthew 25:35



WHAT SHALL WE GIVE HIM?

## This Week at a Glance

Sunday, December 3

- **10 a.m.**, Worship in the Sanctuary and online
  - **Bible Time**
- **After worship**, Live in Faith Together Program (LIFT), Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, December 5

Wednesday, December 6

- **6 p.m.**, Adult Education, room 206
- **7 p.m.**, Adult Choir, Sanctuary
- **8 p.m.**, Adult Bell Choir, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 10 Second Sunday of Advent

- **10 a.m.**, Worship. Sermon: "The Man with the Pointy Finger"
  - **Bible Time** for young children following anthem

## Looking ahead in Advent

December 17 Third Sunday of Advent

- 10 a.m. Worship. Sermon: “Not Me, It’s Him”
  - Bible Time

Monday, December 18

- 7:00 p.m. Blue Christmas service, featuring music from Taize

Sunday, December 24 – Fourth Sunday of Advent / Christmas Eve

- 10:00 a.m. Christmas Pageant for the whole church family!
- 8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols
- 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Jazz Communion

Sunday, December 31 – First Sunday of Christmas

- 10:00 a.m. The Christmas story continues with more carols!
- Contact Elaine Tweedy **by TODAY** if you want to show your art work or photos at the FPCCS Art Festival during the Clarks Summit Ice Festival. (See information on reverse side of this sheet.)

## Looking to the New Year!

### ICE FESTIVAL ART SHOW AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

First Presbyterian is happy to once again host a juried photographic exhibit, as well as the fine artwork of its talented parishioners at the 2024 Clarks Summit Ice Festival. If you would like to be a part of the event, here’s what you need to know.

Elaine Tweedy will coordinate the Art Show again in January. If you are interested in participating, you will need to let her know by **December 31, 2023**. You can contact Elaine via her email [elainetweedy@gmail.com](mailto:elainetweedy@gmail.com) or cell 570-575-1705. All participants must be registered by that date. There will be no late entries accepted this year. Drop off of artwork and photo-graphy will be Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup> between 4:00 and 5:00 p.m. Pick up of your work will be Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup> between Noon and 1:30 p.m. Photography work will be juried, with first, second and best of show awards. On the artist side of the event, there will be a People’s Choice Award as part of the show! For more information and a schedule of the event, contact Elaine.

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