



**First Presbyterian Church
300 School Street
Clarks Summit, PA 18411
570/586-6306
www.fpccs.org**

First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day

Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 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 "Lone and Wild the Prophet's Voice" arr. Lyndell Leatherman

Call to Worship

Isaiah 40:3, 5

A voice cries out, "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord!"

Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed.

All people shall see it together, for the Lord has spoken.

* Hymn 93 "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

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)

The prophet points us to our sins, inviting us to turn.

The worthless deeds that we have done, the Spirit's fire will burn.

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: Luke 1:5-25 (NT, p. 56)

Psalter: Psalm 85 (Hymnal 449)

verse 1 – choir, verses. 2-3 - all

A Time with Children

Anthem

“Waiting for a King”

Joseph Martin

Gospel Lesson: Mark 1:1-8 (NT, p. 34)

Sermon: “The Man With the Pointy Finger”

Rev. Carter

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* Hymn 96 “On Jordan’s Bank, the Baptist’s Cry”

* Affirmation of Faith: A Declaration of Faith (PCUS), 5.3

***The Spirit enabled people of all races, classes, and nations
to accept the good news of what God had done in Christ,
repent of their sins, and enter the community of faith.***

***We testify that today this same Holy Spirit
makes us able to respond in faith to the gospel
and leads us into the Christian community.***

***The Spirit brings us out of death into life,
out of separation into fellowship.***

***The Spirit makes us aware of our sinfulness and need,
moves us to abandon our old way of life,
persuades us to trust in Christ and adopt his way.***

In all these things we are responsible for our decisions.

But after we have trusted and repented

we recognize that the Spirit enabled us to hear and act.

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer (Hymnal, p. 35)

Offering

Offertory “On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry” arr. Malcom Archer

* Doxology 609

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known; Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

* Prayer of Dedication

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* Hymn 106 "Prepare the Way, O Zion"

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude “Now the Heavens Start to Whisper” arr. Robert Powell

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

* All who are able shall stand.

The Poinsettias have been given in honor and memory of loved ones.

An insert is being prepared naming our family members and friends.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor	Rev. William G. Carter
Coordinator of Children and Youth	Jana Schillinger
Director of Music	Frank Jones
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck
Liturgist	John Young
Lighting the Advent Wreath	Debbie Miller, Tommy Campione, Judy Colon

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 Bible Time (lasting about 20 minutes). They will return to the sanctuary for the Prayers and the end of service.

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., Kate, Jon, Trina, Wayne, Ray, Steve, June MacDade.

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) or the church office (office@fpccs.org / 570-586-6306), we'll be happy to make that happen.



Pajama Tree: Please return (to the Narthex/entry of the church) the purchased PJs by **TOMORROW**, December 11, wrapped or in gift bags.



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

We are grateful for the many ways that people support our church's ministry to the community and world. If you wish to contribute by cell phone, scan here.



This Week at a Glance

Sunday, December 10

- **10 a.m.**, Worship in the Sanctuary and online
 - **Bible Time**

Tuesday, December 12

- **5 p.m.**, Session, room 206

Wednesday, December 13

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

Thursday, December 14

- **8:30 a.m.**, Men's Breakfast, room 206

Sunday, December 17 Third 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

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 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 25th between 4:00 and 5:00 p.m. Pick up of your work will be Sunday, January 28th 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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