



**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

Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 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 "Savior of the Nations, Come" arr. Michael Burkhardt

Call to Worship

*from Isaiah 35:1-10*

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,

***the desert shall rejoice and blossom;***

like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,

***and rejoice with joy and singing.***

\* Hymn 105

"People, Look East"

*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 away from us toward One who comes to save.***

***We need not fear our life or death, for He defeats the grave.***

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

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

Reception of New Member

## **PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 (OT, p. 691)

Psalter: Psalm 126 (Hymnal 74)

A Time with Children

Anthem "Voluntary on Aberystwyth" arr. Terry Osman

Gospel Lesson: John 1:6-8, 19-28 (NT, p. 91)

Sermon: "Not Me, It's Him"

Rev. Carter

### **RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

\* Hymn 104 "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"

\* Affirmation of Faith: The Confession of 1967 (9:54-55)

***Already God's reign is present as a ferment in the world,  
stirring hope in people and preparing the world  
to receive its ultimate judgement and redemption.***

***With an urgency born of this hope,  
the church applies itself to present tasks  
and strives for a better world.***

***It does not identify limited progress  
with the kingdom of God on earth,  
nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat.***

***In steadfast hope,  
the church looks beyond all partial achievement  
to the final triumph of God.***

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

Offering

Offertory "Ukrainian Bell Carol" arr. Dennis Robert

\* Doxology (606)

\* Prayer of Dedication

### **GO IN GOD'S NAME**

\* Hymn 112 "On Christmas Night All Christians Sing"

\* Charge and Benediction

\* Postlude "Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying" arr. Jacques Berthier

*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.

## PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor	Rev. William G. Carter
Coordinator of Children and Youth	Jana Schillinger
Director of Music	Frank Jones
Director of Bell Choir	Richard Cochrane
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck
Liturgist	Nathaniel Worrell
Advent Candlelighters	Laura and Nathaniel Worrell
Ushers	John Conklin and Gwyne 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 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.



**Feeling down for the holidays?** Missing a loved one? We will host a **Blue Christmas service** on Monday, December 18, at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Please let others know! We offer this as a gift to the community. The service will also be offered online through our YouTube channel

**Adult Education** continues this coming Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. in room 206. This study, led by Rev. Carter, is 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.

**Give A Gift to a Stranger:** During Advent, Mission and Justice invites you to make a gift to a stranger. Today is the last day we will be in the Narthex 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*

**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.

**Boxes of offering envelopes** have been prepared for each family (except electronic contributors). They are arranged alphabetically on the table in the hall. If you didn't find one bearing your name, please contact the church office (570-586-6306).



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 17

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

Monday, December 18

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

Tuesday, December 19

- **10 a.m.**, Women's Bible Study, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, December 20

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

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

**The Church Office** will be closed December 25 and 26, 2023,  
and January 1, 2024.

Sunday, December 31 – First Sunday of Christmas

- 10:00 a.m. The Christmas story continues with more carols!
- Contact Elaine Tweedy **by December 31** 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 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 photography 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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