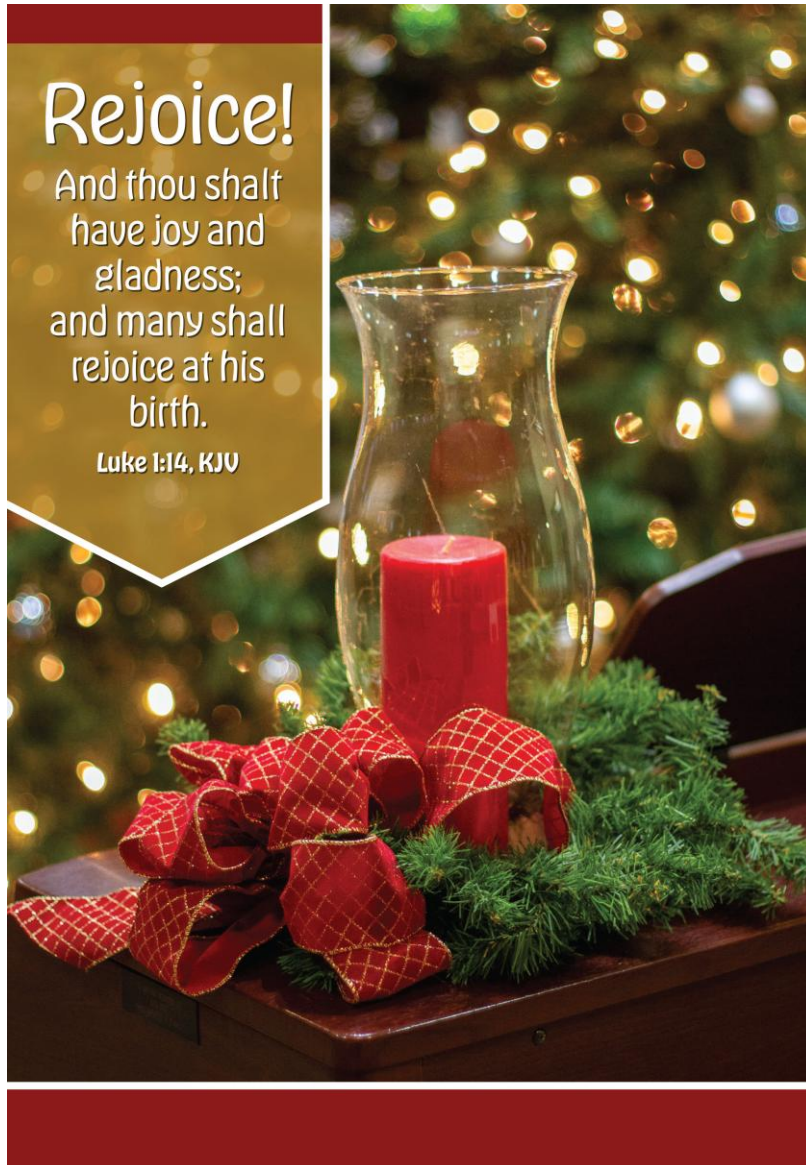


**Rejoice!**

And thou shalt  
have joy and  
gladness;  
and many shall  
rejoice at his  
birth.

Luke 1:14, KJV



**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  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024

10:00 a.m.

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

**ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME**

Gathering Music  
Words of Welcome

Prelude "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" arr. Jason Payne

Call to Worship from Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming when the Lord will fulfil his promises.

**God will cause a righteous Branch who will execute justice.**

In those days God's people will be saved and live in safety.

**All shall declare, "The LORD is our righteousness."**

\* Hymn 83 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"  
*Ushers will collect prayer request cards from the center aisle.*

\* Call to Confession

\* Prayer of Confession

**Lord Christ,**

**we confess our willingness to be loved**

**but also our reluctance to love.**

**We confess our readiness to accept your forgiving love**

**but also our refusal to forgive.**

**We confess our eagerness to grasp your offer of redeeming love**

**but also our resistance to follow you without question.**

**In this Advent season, forgive our failure to respond as we could.**

**Come to us anew, and by your grace,**

**assist us to receive you with joy, gratitude, obedience, and love.**

**Even so: come, Lord Jesus.**

\* Silent Confession

\* Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace

Lighting the Advent Wreath Advent Wreath Heather & Warren Acker,  
Laura Acker, Jonathan & Naomi Keller

Response (to Hymn 150)

**Light a candle bright and tall for the Hope within our world.**

**Hope that heard the ages' call as the stars and planets whirled.**

**Shine within our hearts today. Come, O Hope, to us, we pray.**

## **PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 (NT, p. 204)

Psalter: Psalm 25 (OT, p. 502)

A Time with Children

Anthem "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" arr. Husted

Gospel Lesson: Luke 1:13-17 (NT, p. 56)

Sermon: "On Getting What You Ask" Rev. Carter

*Series: Luke's Christmas Carols*

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

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

\* Affirmation of Faith: A Brief Statement of Faith

***In life and in death we belong to God.***

***Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,  
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,  
whom alone we worship and serve.***

***We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.***

***Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:***

***preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word  
and deed and blessing the children,  
healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,  
eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,  
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.***

A Minute for Generosity

Offering

Offertory “Partita on Savior of the Nations, Come” arr. Peter Crisafulli

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 93 “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

\* Charge and Benediction

\* Postlude “Toccatina on O Come, O Come Emmanuel” arr. David Pickering

*If you are leaving before the postlude is finished, please do so quietly.*

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\* All who are able shall stand.

**The flowers** are given by the O’Brien family to the glory of God with joyous blessings and wishes for peace to all.

## **PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

Pastor

Coordinator of Children and Youth

Director of Music

Organist

Liturgist

Ushers

Rev. William Carter

Jana Schillinger

Frank Jones

Kay Ten Eyck

Heather Acker

Bill Farrell and Betsy Ellis

**The communion elements now include a gluten-free bread option**, that is placed in the middle of each bread plate. Also, individually sealed, gluten-free “communion packs” can be found in a basket at the back of the sanctuary.

## 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.

- Join us at 10:00 a.m. in person or on our YouTube channel, (or stream the service on YouTube at a later time).
- Please use the red attendance pads to record your presence today.
- Large-print bulletins are located at the rear of the sanctuary.

This morning for our children:

- The Nursery is staffed regularly on Sunday mornings from 9:40 to 11:10 a.m. Located in room 208 (sanctuary level), it is furnished with a changing table, and age-appropriate toys and books for children ages 3 and younger.
- Bible Time leaders will be sharing about God's promise of peace, God's gift of love, and stories of Jesus and John the Baptist.

**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, Judy, Renee, Clyde, Emily, Denise, Sawyer, Marion, Nancy J., Debbie S., Jerry, Dawn, Chris, JoAnne, Sue, Jeanette, Rob, Lucy, Dennis V., Marlene, Yaya and Fedeline, Ann, Tim, Hooper family, Bill, Mike, our country, Jason, Bobby, Craig K., Gary K., Phil, the Garnecki family, Tucker, Frank, Cheryl, Kathy, Tim, Wayne.

**We welcome back the Marywood Guitar Ensemble** for a free concert in our sanctuary on December 6 at 7:00 p.m. The Ensemble warmly invites you to a program that features a diverse repertoire, including timeless carols, Viennese waltzes, and contemporary music, celebrating the spirit of the season. They will be joined by Dr. Melinda Krokus, who will enrich the event with poetry and spiritual reflections, guiding the audience on a musical journey that captures the magic of the year's end. Please share this special evening with an outstanding musical group.

### **Celebrating Advent: Immanuel, God With Us**

The season of Advent is a time to reflect on our many blessings, remember God's promises, practice patience (hopefully slowing down our busy-ness), and prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

**Advent Bags** are ready to be taken home by our households. Get yours in the hallway outside the sanctuary.

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## Please join us on Wednesday evenings!

**For adults**, we begin a Wednesday Advent Bible study titled, "*Hallelujah: The Bible in Handel's Messiah*." It will meet at 5:45 p.m. in Room 206.

Feel free to bring a sandwich or salad to enjoy while we meet. This short series will reflect on Handel's Messiah and how it proclaims scripture. Enrich your Christmas season with a deeper appreciation of this well-loved oratorio. Themes include:

- December 4: Comfort, Comfort My People
- December 11: Who May Abide the Day of His Coming
- December 18: For Unto Us a Child Is Born



**Bell Choir Rehearsal** is 8 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

**Adult Choir will have an extra rehearsal this week:** Please come both Monday at 6 p.m. **AND** Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Sunday, December 8, following worship, **Living Faith Together (LIFT) program** takes place in Fellowship Hall. Join us for a meal and an intergenerational program where we will celebrate the season of Advent.

**The Mobile Food Pantry** serves several families in the area. If you know of someone needing assistance with food insecurity in their home, invite them to contact [fpccsfoodpantry@gmail.com](mailto:fpccsfoodpantry@gmail.com) or church office at 570-586-6306 to pre-register (which is required). Next distribution is December 12, 4-6 p.m.

**Our deacons are sponsoring a Grief Support group** for the community. It meets at the Gathering Place, 304 S. State St., Clarks Summit the third Thursday of the month, the next being December 19, 6 p.m. It is open to all.

**Thanks for all who are taking part in our annual Pajama Drive** for children in Head Start programs. All PJ's, wrapped or in a gift bag along with the attached tag, must be returned to the Narthex by **December 10**.

Please do not include anything extra. The gifts need to be the same as children will be opening them together at the Head Start Center.

**Give A Gift to a Stranger** is our invitation to you from Sunday December 1 through Sunday December 22. There will be tables in the Narthex with displays and information about the recipients of our gifts. For each gift, a paper star will be hung on the tree and elsewhere in the Narthex to create a visual of our giving. 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 Appalachian Service Project by buying their chocolates, support the Pygmy Ministry, and continue to help fund 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)

**Can you help?** At the end of October 2024, total pledge receipts were running \$30,000 behind budget. The Session is counting on our generous congregation to help the church catch up during the Advent and Christmas Season. **Thank you.**

**Ice Festival Art Show At First Presbyterian:** we are happy to once again host a juried photographic exhibit, as well as the fine artwork of its talented parishioners at the 2025 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 31st, 2024.** You can contact Elaine via her cell at 570-575-1705 or email: [elainetweedy@gmail.com](mailto:elainetweedy@gmail.com). All participants must be registered by that date. There will be no late entries accepted. Check the December Presbyterian for additional details.

## **This Week at a Glance**

Sunday, December 1

- 10 a.m., Worship in the sanctuary and online
- Following the anthem, Children's Bible Time

Monday, December 2

- 6 p.m., Extra adult choir rehearsal, sanctuary

Tuesday, December 3

- 7 p.m., Mission and Justice, Room 206
- 7 p.m., AA, Room 111

Wednesday, December 4

- 10:30 a.m., Prayer and Share, Room 209
- 7:30 p.m., AlAnon, Room 206

Thursday, December 5

- 8:30 a.m., Men's Breakfast and Bible study, Room 206
- 5 p.m., Finance, Room 209
- 5:30 p.m., Worship, Music and Arts, Room 206
- 5:45 p.m., Girl Scouts, Room 108
- 7 p.m., Christian Ed, Room 206; Building and Grounds, Room 209

Friday, December 6

- 7 p.m., Marywood Guitar Ensemble and Poetry reading

Saturday, December 7

- 9:30 a.m., Sanctuary decorating
- 10 a.m., Reception for friends of Linda Schuller, Fellowship Hall
- 1 p.m., Friends may visit the Garnecki family, Narthex
- 3 p.m., Memorial Service for Joanie Garnecki, Sanctuary

Sunday, December 8    Second Sunday of Advent

- 10 a.m., Worship in the sanctuary and online
- Following the anthem, Children's Bible Time

### **Looking Ahead:**

December 15, 11:15 a.m., Pre-confirmation meeting

December 16, 7 p.m., Blue Christmas Service, Sanctuary

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