



THIRD SUNDAY OF
ADVENT

First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day

Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025

10:00 a.m.

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

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Hymn 109

Words of Welcome

Prelude "Savior of The Nations, Come" arr. Kenneth Kosche

Call to Worship from Matthew 11:2-16

"Is he the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?"

This is what we hear and see:

***the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the deaf hear,
the dead are raised, the poor have good news brought to them.***

Blessed are those who welcome the kingdom of God!

Hallelujah! Thanks be to God!

* Hymn 97 "Watchman, Tell Us of the Night"
Ushers will collect prayer request cards from the center aisle.

* Call to Confession

* Prayer of Confession

Holy God,

we confess that we cannot imagine a better world.

***We are too weary to welcome sabbath as a sacred commandment,
too alienated from each other to come together in mutual care,
too complicit with wrongdoing to work for justice for all.***

Break through the gloom of this dark day

with light, love, and peace;

and give us the courage to share these gifts with one another.

We pray this through our Lord Jesus Christ,

the Coming One who is already among us.

* Silent Confession

* Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Advent Response (Hymn 85, verse 3)

***Light three candles to watch for Messiah,
let the light banish darkness.***

Lift your heads and lift high the gateway for the King of glory.

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-10 (OT, p. 663)

Psalter: Psalm 146 (OT, p. 581)

A Time with Children

Anthem “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” arr. Barbara Kinyon

Epistle Lesson: Romans 11:33-36

Sermon: “Rejoicing and Abounding”

Rev. Carter

Sermon series: The Verbs of Advent

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* Hymn 88 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (verses 1-4)

* Affirmation of Faith Declaration of Faith (PCUS) 5.2

The Holy Spirit renews the community of faith.

The Spirit came with power to the followers of Jesus.

***Led by the apostles they began to proclaim with boldness
the new thing God had done in Christ.***

***They began to experience in their fellowship
a new quality of common life.***

***We believe that by the power of the same Spirit
the church can be set on its way again,
even when it seems beyond hope of renewal.***

We are grateful heirs of reformations and awakenings.

***We are faithful to the reformers of the past
when we hold ourselves open in the present
to the reforming and renewing work of the Spirit.***

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Offering Bells are Ringing

Offertory “Now The Heavens Start to Whisper” arr. Jefferey Hall

* Doxology (606)

* Prayer of Dedication

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* Hymn 123 “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude “People Look East” arr. Mary McDonald

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

* All who are able shall stand.

The flowers are given for the glory of God by Debra Miller, in honor of her Grandchildren

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
Liturgist	Debbie Miller
Advent Family	Debbie Miller, Tommy Campione and Judy Colon

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

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 gather each Sunday 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.

Adult Education meets on Wednesdays at 6 p.m., Room 206. In December, the topic is "Theology of the Arts." The Gospel of John presents Jesus as the Visible Word and the Audible Light. Michael Thompson will explain how this has implications for the impact of the arts in our daily lives. In addition to sharing insights into how the arts are woven throughout Scripture, Caryn Thompson will lead some fun, hands-on exercises in creative expression. Whether you are "artistic" or not, we'd love to have you join us for this meaningful and interactive exploration at 6:00 pm.

Special Advent Class: "That's What Christmas is All About, Charlie Brown!" Rev. Carter will lead a lively conversation about the well-known holiday special. We will explore the background of the show, as well as its timeless themes. All are welcome to join us on two Sundays, December 14 and 21, from 11:00 a.m. to 12 noon in Room 111, right down the hall from Fellowship Hall. Bring your goodies and coffee with you.

Visit our "Give a Gift to a Stranger" tables in the narthex during Advent. You'll find meaningful ways to support people in need as you give a gift to family and friends. There is handmade candy sold by Appalachian Service Project. There are opportunities to buy basic needs for Pygmy families in Uganda, to offer monetary support for Haitian students, and

to buy gifts for local refugee families. Thank you for supporting these ministries over the years, and we look forward to seeing you beginning November 30.

Offering Envelopes are available to pick up in the Narthex

Blue Christmas – This year's theme is "Of what shall we be afraid?" This is the theme of this year's Blue Christmas service, set for **Monday, December 15, at 7:00 p.m.** Held in the sanctuary, this meditative worship service is an invitation to engage compassionately with the full range of emotions that surface during the holiday season. Through prayerful songs, Christmas carols, candlelight, and carefully chosen readings, we will confront a dark world with deep faith, bold courage, and resilient hope. Is this season a hard time for you? Are there losses and challenges that surface at this time of year? There is no reason to suffer alone. Come and share this service with others who understand. There is strength to be found when we worship together in the presence of the Christ.

Ice Festival Art Show

First Presbyterian is happy to host a juried photographic exhibit, as well as the fine artwork of its talented parishioners at the 2026 Clarks Summit Ice Festival, to be held January 30 through February 1. 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, 2025. You can contact Elaine via her cell at 570-575-1705 or email: elainetweedy@gmail.com. All participants must be registered by that date. There will be no late entries accepted.
- Four pieces of art, photography, or sculpture may be submitted. Photography work, participating in the Juried part of the show, must be framed and backed with wire for hanging. Size limit is 20 x 30.
- Drop off artwork and photography will be Thursday, January 29 between 4:00 and 5:00 p.m. Pick up of your work will be Sunday, February 1 between Noon and 1:00 p.m. Photography work will be juried, with first place, second place and best of show awards. On the artist side of the event, there will be a first and second place award. Attendees will also get to vote on a People's Choice Award as part of the show!

For more information and to receive future updated emails with a schedule of the event, contact Elaine.

Pajama Tree

The Pajama Tree pick up will be later this week, if you have a tag, please drop off wrapped or gift bag packaged items no later than Tuesday, December 16.

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: Terry B., Shirley, Ryan's Family, Peggy, Debbie, Molly, Ellen S., Jeff, Jean, Nancy, Sarah, Carol, Leslie, Kim, Stuart, Kathy, Timothy, Claire, Craig K., Gary K., Judy S., AJ, Lee, Sally, Terry, Estelle, Nate, Len, Millie, Faith, Erin, Katie, Mary, Sue and family, Renee, Wendy, Margaret, Jim L., Robyn, K.J., Christine, Rachel and family, Theresa, Cindy, Bob, Dick, Kate, Shirley, Peg, Dorina and Len, Denise.

This Week at a Glance

Sunday, December 14

- 10 a.m., Worship in the sanctuary and online
- 10:00 a.m., Bells
- 11 a.m., "That's What Christmas is All About, Charlie Brown!"
- 11 a.m., Confirmation, Room 206
- 1 p.m., Piano Recital
- 3 p.m., OA, Room 210
- 6:30 p.m., Piano Recital

Monday, December 15

- 7 p.m., Blue Christmas
- 7 p.m., AA

Tuesday, December 16

- 9:30 a.m., Yoga, Room 111
- 10:00 a.m., Woman's Bible Study
- 7 p.m., AA, Room 111

Wednesday, December 17

- 10:30 a.m., Prayer and Share, Room 209
- 6 p.m., Wednesday Night Study, Room 206
- 7 p.m., Choir rehearsal, sanctuary
- 7:30 p.m., AlAnon, Room 206
- 8:00 p.m., Bell Choir rehearsal, Fellowship Hall

Thursday, December 18

- 8:30 a.m., Men's Breakfast
- 2 p.m., Senior Games

Friday, December 19

Saturday, December 20

- 9:45 a.m., OA

Sunday, December 21

- 10 a.m., Worship in the sanctuary and online
- 11 a.m., Confirmation
- 3 p.m., OA, Room 210
- 5:30 p.m., Girl Scouts, Room 111

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