



FOURTH SUNDAY OF  
**ADVENT**

# First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 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 140 (verses 1-2)

Words of Welcome

Prelude "The Crown of Roses" Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Call to Worship from Matthew 1:21-23

Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son.

***They shall name him Emmanuel, which means, "God is with us."***

His name will be Jesus,

***for he will save his people from their sins.***

\* Hymn 145 "What Child is This"

*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 4)

***Light four candles to watch for Messiah,***

***let the light banish darkness.***

***He is coming, tell the glad tidings. Let your lights be shining.***

## **PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Isaiah 7:10-16 (OT, p. 636)

Psalter: Psalm 80 (Hymnal 355)

## A Time with Children

Anthem

“Canticle of the Turning”

Rory Cooney

Epistle Lesson: Romans 1:1-7 (NT, p. 152)

Sermon: “Promising and Receiving”

Rev. Carter

*Sermon series: The Verbs of Advent*

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

\* Hymn 110

“Love Has Come”

\* Affirmation of Faith

Declaration of Faith (PCUS) 4.1

***Jesus, the long-expected Savior, came into the world as a child,  
descended from David, conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of Mary, a virgin. He lived as a Jew among Jews.***

***We affirm that Jesus was born of woman as is every child,  
yet born of God's power as was no other child.***

***In the person and work of Jesus,***

***God himself and a human life are united but not confused, distinguished but  
not separated.***

***The coming of Jesus was itself the coming of God's promised rule. Through his  
birth, life, death, and resurrection,***

***he brings about the relationship between God and humanity  
that God always intended.***

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Minute for the Christmas Joy Offering

Offering

Offertory

“Shepherds' Farewell”

Berlioz

\* Doxology (606)

\* Prayer of Dedication

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

\* Hymn 105

“People, Look East”

\* Charge and Benediction

\* Postlude

“While By My Sheep”

Jungst

*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 to the glory of God by John Conklin and Diane Cosner with joyful Christmas wishes to the entire congregation,

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

Pastor

Coordinator of Children and Youth

Director of Music

Rev. William Carter

Jana Schillinger

Frank Jones

Piano  
Oboe  
Cello  
Liturgist  
Advent Wreath

Kay Ten Eyck  
Connie Weiss  
John Weiss  
Jacklyn DelPrete  
The DelPrete Family

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

**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 today from 11:00 a.m. to 12 noon in Room 206. Bring your goodies and coffee with you.

**Adult Education** meets on Wednesdays at 6 p.m., Room 206. There will be no meeting on December 24 and December 31. We will return to regular meetings on January 7.

### Join us on Christmas Eve, December 24

- 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve for All Ages
- 8:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols with the Adult Choir
- 11:00 p.m. Jazz Christmas Service with the Lord's Supper and the Presbybop Quartet, celebrating the 60th anniversary of "A Charlie Brown Christmas."
- All worship services will be live-streamed (and recorded) on our YouTube page. Visit [www.fpccs.org](http://www.fpccs.org)

### Presbyter January 2026

All articles are due by Monday, December 22, 2025. Please have all items submitted no later than noon. We currently have the weekly e-mail and the monthly Presbyter to stay up to date on all Church Community happenings. Do you have happenings to share? Deadline for weekly newsletter 3 p.m. Monday for the same week. The Presbyter will be mid-month for the next month publication. E-mail Joy at [office@fpccs.org](mailto:office@fpccs.org).

**2026 Offering Envelopes** are available to pick up in the Narthex

### 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](mailto: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 of 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!

**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:** 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

## **Our Church Officers**

### **Elders**

**Rev. William Carter, moderator**

**Beverly Bright, clerk**

#### **Class of 2026**

Kim Barrows  
Liam Farrell  
Jeff McLaughlin  
David Naehar  
Jan Thyren  
John Young

#### **Class of 2027**

Brad Campbell  
Robin Pinches  
Michael Thompson  
Karen White

#### **Class of 2028**

Grace Farrel  
Frank Garnecki  
JoAnn Hall  
Meg Hatch  
Peter Moore  
Diane Scheuer  
Dick White

### **Deacons**

#### **Class of 2026**

Erika Adams  
Judy Cutler  
Betsy Ellis  
Susan Flynn  
Gwynne Gilbert  
Chris Jeske  
Debbie Miller  
Barbara Norton

#### **Class of 2027**

Diane Cosner  
Bill Farrell  
Jack Pittman  
Diana Pope-Albright  
Debbie Shane

#### **Class of 2028**

Myrna Diven  
Cass Morgan  
Jamie Strong  
Cindy White

## **This Week at a Glance**

Sunday, December 21

- 10 a.m., Worship in the sanctuary and online
- 11 a.m., “Charlie Brown Christmas,” Room 206
- 11 a.m., Confirmation, Room 210
- 3 p.m., OA, Room 210

Monday, December 22

7 p.m., AA

Tuesday, December 23

- 9:30 a.m., Yoga, Room 111
- 10:00 a.m., My Brothers’ Keeper Quilts, Fellowship Hall
- 6 p.m., OA, Room 210
- 7 p.m., AA, Room 111

Wednesday, December 24

- 10:30 a.m., Prayer and Share, Room 209
- 4 p.m., Christmas Eve for All Ages
- 8 p.m., Lessons and Carols with the Adult Choir
- 11 p.m., Jazz Christmas Service with the Lord’s, celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of “A Charlie Brown Christmas.”

Thursday, December 25

- Christmas Day

Friday, December 26

Saturday, December 27

- 9:45 a.m., OA

Sunday, December 28

- 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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