

# **“YOU WILL FIND A BABY**

*wrapped in swaddling cloths  
and lying in a manger.”*

*Luke 2:12*



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

# First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day  
Fourth Sunday of Advent / Christmas Pageant

December 24, 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 "Trumpet Tune on O Come, All Ye Faithful" arr. David Lasky

Call to Worship

Isaiah 7:16, 25:9

The Lord will give you a sign.

**Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son,  
and shall name him Immanuel.**

This is the Lord for whom we have waited;

**let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.**

\* Hymn 143

"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

*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

**Let all draw near to see the Child who rules in power and grace.**

**He now unites the earth with heav'n and shows God's human face.**

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

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

## **SEEING AND HEARING THE GOOD NEWS**

Introduction

The Angel speaks to Mary

The Angel speaks to Joseph

Hymn 121 "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (verses 1, 3)

Traveling to Bethlehem

Hymn 115 "Away in a Manger" (verses 1, 2)

The Shepherds are visited

The Angels appear

Hymn 113 "Angels, We Have Heard on High" (verses 1, 2)

The Shepherds find the baby Jesus

Hymn 147 "The First Nowell" (verses 1, 2, 3)

The Wise Men arrive

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

\* Hymn 134 "Joy to the World!"

\* Affirmation of Faith: The Nicene Creed (Hymnal p. 34)

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Offering

Offertory "Ding, Dong, Merrily On High" arr. Christopher Tambling

\* Doxology (606)

\* Prayer of Dedication

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

\* Candlelighting Hymn 122 "Silent Night, Holy Night"



*Please be careful in lighting candles, assisting children as needed.  
For safety, hold lit candles upright. Unlit candles are tipped toward flame.*

\* Charge and Benediction

\* Postlude "Toccata on In Dulci Jubilo" arr. James Vivian

*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.

**Flowers** have been given to the glory of God

- in loving memory of Shirley McLaughlin by her family, and
- in loving memory of Johanna Conklin and Paul Cosner by John Conklin and Diane Cosner Conklin.
- An insert is provided with Poinsettia dedications.

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

Pastor	Rev. William G. Carter
Coordinator of Children and Youth	Jana Schillinger
Director of Music	Frank Jones
Director of Bells	Richard Cochrane
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck
Liturgist	Linda Woodley
Advent Candlelighters	The Shane 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.*

**We worship each Sunday morning at 10 a.m. For those unable to attend in person,** our services are live-streamed on our YouTube page FPCCS.

**We welcome our visitors and are glad you are here!** Please take a moment to sign a guest card in the pews and place it in the offering plate.

**Interested in discovering more** about our church? Visit our website at [www.fpccs.org](http://www.fpccs.org).

**Large print bulletins** are available from ushers.

**2024 offering envelopes** for adults are available in the hall outside the sanctuary.

**As the year concludes,** we want you to know of our gratitude for your support for our church's ministry and mission. Thank you for your consistent support and generosity. It helps you bring the Gospel alive in our faith community. If you wish to contribute by cell phone, scan here.

**Next week,** you may want to call before you stop by because the church staff will be visiting family members, catching up on sleep, or simply taking some breathing room after a very busy month.

**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,** our program for children (age 4 to approx. grade 4) will return January 7. Children are participating in this morning's service.

**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.

### **This Week at a Glance**

Sunday, December 24

- **10 a.m.**, Christmas pageant for all ages
- **8 p.m.**, Service of Lessons and Carols, with music by our Adult Choir
- **11 p.m.**, Christmas Eve Jazz Communion Service
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Monday, December 25

**Christmas Day!**

Tuesday, December 26

Church Office remains closed today.

**Next week**, you may want to call before you stop by because the church staff will be visiting family members, catching up on sleep, or simply taking some breathing room after a very busy month.

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 below.

Monday, January 1, 2024 – New Year's Day

The Church Office will be closed.

### 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 photo-graphy 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.