



SECOND SUNDAY OF  
**ADVENT**

# First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day

Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 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 350

Words of Welcome

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

Call to Worship from Matthew 3:1-12

The kingdom of heaven has come near.

***We turn from the old ways to welcome the One who is at hand.***

God calls us to bear fruit worthy of repentance.

***God believes we are worthy to be forgiven, rescued, and loved.***

\* Hymn 106 "Prepare the Way, O Zion"  
*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 2)

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

***He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gently lead them homeward.***

## **PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-10 (OT, p. 640)

Psalter: Psalm 72 (Hymnal 149)

A Time with Children

Anthem "Who Would Think That What Was Needed"

John Bell

Epistle Lesson: Romans 15:4-13 (NT, p. 163)

Sermon: "Hoping and Watching"

Rev. Carter

*Sermon series: The Verbs of Advent*

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

\* Hymn 104

"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"

\* Affirmation of Faith

Declaration of Faith (PCUS) 10.1

***In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus***

***God kept his promises.***

***All that we can ever hope for was present in Christ.***

***But the work of God in Christ is not over.***

***God calls us to hope for more than we have yet seen.***

***The hope God gives us is ultimate confidence***

***that supports us when lesser hopes fail us.***

***In Christ God gives hope for a new heaven and earth,***

***certainty of victory over death,***

***assurance of mercy and judgment beyond death.***

***This hope gives us courage for the present struggle.***

Offering

Offertory

"Comfort, Comfort These My People" arr. Michael Burkhardt

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 96

"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

\* Charge and Benediction

\* Postlude

"Prepare the Royal Highway"

arr. Winston Cassier

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

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\* All who are able shall stand.

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

Pastor

Coordinator of Children and Youth

Director of Music

Organist

Rev. William Carter

Jana Schillinger

Frank Jones

Kay Ten Eyck

Liturgist  
Advent Family

Chris Cieszkowski  
Chris & Jodi Cieszkowski  
Christopher, Mya and Noah Bejeski

**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.

**All are invited to join us after worship** for a L.I.F.T. program (Living in Faith Together) in Fellowship Hall. There will be a light luncheon and a program with an Advent theme.

**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.

**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](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 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.

**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.

## **This Week at a Glance**

Sunday, December 7

- 10 a.m., Worship in the sanctuary and online
- 11 a.m., Confirmation, Room 206
- 11 a.m. LIFT Program for Advent, Fellowship Hall
- 3 p.m., OA, Room 210

Monday, December 8

7 p.m., AA

Tuesday, December 9

- 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 10

- 10:30 a.m., Prayer and Share, Room 209
- 12:15 p.m., Bridge, Room 111
- 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 11

- 4 p.m., Mobile Food Pantry

Friday, December 12

- 12:15p.m., Bridge, room 111

Saturday, December 13

- 9:45 a.m., OA

Sunday, December 14

- 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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