

# *First Presbyterian Church*

## **Rostraver Township, PA**



### **OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

We live and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ through worship, service, and witness. As a Christ-centered church empowered by the Holy Spirit, we seek God's plan for each of us and all of us. We welcome everyone to journey with us as we strive to grow in love, faith, trust, and discipleship. (Adopted October 10, 1998; revised February 2, 2013)

# First Presbyterian Church

December 19, 2021- 4th Sunday in Advent

\*You are invited to stand if able\*

Personal Prayer of Preparation:

*Holy God, whose coming to us in Jesus Christ we celebrate with joy and whose mercy is from generation to generation, visit us today to restore our memory of all your goodness to us. Trample our vanities and lift our crushed and timid spirits so we all can participate fully and equally in the inheritance we have received from your hand. Amen.*

– ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME –

WELCOME Pastor

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH, ANNOUNCEMENTS Liturgist

JOYS AND CONCERNS Pastor

INTROIT

THIRD SUNDAY – **Light of Joy** Bobbi Jo Huebner &  
Judy Latchem

## Responsive Litany

Leader: Advent is a time to celebrate the joy of living.

**People: Lord of light, we thank you for the gift of life.**

Leader: Advent is a time to celebrate the joy of relationships.

**People: Lord of light, we thank you for our friends and family.**

Leader: Advent is a time to celebrate the earth we all share.

**People: Lord of light, we thank you for providing for our needs.**

Leader: Advent is a time to celebrate eternal life.

**People: Lord of light, we thank you for sending a Savior.**

## Candle Lighting Of Joy

Today we light four candles - the candle of hope, of peace, of love, and the candle of joy. This fourth candle reminds us that because of our Lord, we have reasons to be truly joyful. The world around us is

filled with surprise and beauty. Our cups overflow with goodness and grace, and we can rejoice in the promise of eternal life.

### Congregational Response

**God of light, we thank you for the many gifts you have given us, and we pray today that you will teach us to be truly joyful. Help us remember that you supply our needs and fill our lives with meaning. Fill our days with keen awareness of your presence and fill our hearts with praise as we celebrate this joyful Advent season. Amen.**

### Light of Light Congregational Part JOEL RANEY

Voi - ces cry out from a world in grief:  
prayers of those who seek re - lief.  
End their dark - ness, hear their call for  
peace on earth, good will for all.

### INVOCATION

Liturgist

Let your face shine on us, mighty God. Break through the obstacles that keep us from seeing your way. Melt down the barriers that keep us from knowing the embrace of your love. Remove from us the low self-esteem that keeps us from valuing the overwhelming gift of life that you entrust to us. Speak to us here in life-changing accents. Amen.

**HYMN:**

**“The Desert Shall Rejoice”**

**#18 BLUE**

## CALL TO CONFESSION:

Pastor

We do not like to think that God might be angry with us. Yet, we know the emptiness of our prayers, the greed of our consumption, the limits of our compassion. God understands more profoundly than we our failure to become the people God intends us to be. In this time of shared and silent reflection, be open to the wisdom and forgiveness of the Creator.

## UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God, when we sense who you are, we are ashamed. How do you tolerate our pettiness? The abundance you have given us often makes us proud more than thankful. We act as if our accomplishments were all our own doing. We seldom acknowledge your generosity or let you rule our lives. We go through the forms of worship, but we try to keep you at a safe distance. We fill our lives with status-producing activity that blocks out your call and limits our response. O God, we need to change. Will you help us? Amen.**

*Silence is kept*

## \*SILENT CONFESSION

**\*KYRIE:    *Lord have mercy upon us;  
                  Christ have mercy upon us;  
                  Lord have mercy upon us.***

## \*WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

Those who allow themselves to know God are already in touch with God's mercy. God's mercy is new every day. It is available to the least of us and the greatest. All whose spirits hunger for God will discover how richly they have been fed. God has been doing great things for us. By our confession and the mercy of God, your sins are forgiven.

**Let us commit the bodies God has given us to doing God's will.  
May our spirits rejoice as we magnify our God together.**

**\*GLORIA PATRI:**

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Ghost,  
As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen. Amen*

**\*SHARING THE PEACE: (Social Distancing)**

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Let us show one another a sign of God's peace.

**– PROCLAIM THE WORD OF GOD –**

**UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Liturgist

**Speak to us, Lord. Speak to us in the waiting, the watching, the hoping, the longing, the sorrow, the sighing, the rejoicing. Speak to us by your Word in these Advent days and walk with us until the day of your coming. Amen.**

**RESPONSIVE READING:** Luke 1:46-55 Led by Liturgist

Leader: Mary said,

**People: "My soul gives glory to the Lord. My spirit delights in God my Savior.**

Leader: He has taken note of me even though I am not considered important.

**People: From now on all people will call me blessed. The Mighty One has done great things for me. His name is holy.**

Leader: He shows his mercy to those who have respect for him, from parent to child down through the years.

**People: He has done mighty things with his powerful arm. He has scattered those who are proud in their deepest thoughts.**

Leader: He has brought down rulers from their thrones. But he has lifted up people who are not considered important.

**People: He has filled with good things those who are hungry. But he has sent away empty those who are rich.**

Leader: He has helped the people of Israel, who serve him.

**People: He has always remembered to be kind to Abraham and his children down through the years. He has done it just as he promised to our people of long ago.”**

OLD TESTAMENT: Micah 5:2-5a Liturgist

ANTHEM: **“Who Shall Appear”** (12/7/2014)  
(Words and music by John Purifory)

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-45 Pastor

SERMON: “The Real Story” Pastor

**\*HYMN “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (vs.1,3,4) # 44 BLUE**

\*APOSTLES CREED (Ecumenical Version) Blue p.14

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER** Pastor  
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH** Liturgist  
**Day by day, dear Lord, of Thee three things we pray:  
to see Thee more clearly, love Thee more dearly,  
follow Thee more nearly, day by day.**

**INVITATION TO STEWARDSHIP** Liturgist  
In this season, we remember the greatest offering of all time, God's gift of salvation in Jesus Christ. The only appropriate response is our giving of ourselves. What we place on the altar today symbolizes the depth of our commitment. May we show how thankful we are.

*The offering plates are located at the front of the Chancel, or you can drop your offerings and tithes in the mail slot of the Parish House door. Thank you for your support of the mission of First Presbyterian Church.*

**OFFERTORY**

**\*DOXOLOGY:**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise Him, all creatures here below.  
Praise Him, above ye heavenly host.  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen*

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION** Led by Liturgist  
**Thank you, God, for your mercy and protection, for feeding us physically and spiritually, for caring for us like a shepherd. We present our offerings as an act of gratitude. What we can never repay we pause to appreciate. In the name of generosity that we**

cannot match, we seek to be generous toward others. May these offerings do far more than support our church. We dedicate ourselves and these gifts to honor Christ through ministry in the world. Amen.

**\*HYMN            “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”            #38 BLUE**

**\*RESPONSIVE COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

Leader: Depart from this place to do God's will.  
Carry your discipleship and service into the world.

**People: Our spirits rejoice in God's saving grace.  
Our lives have been equipped to meet the world.**

Leader: Greet strangers as you have been greeted here.  
Feed them as you have been fed by a living God.

**People: Our estrangement has been overcome.  
We want to welcome neighbors into God's family.**

Leader: God's mercy continues from generation to generation.  
You are accepted and loved and sent forth.

**People: In gratitude and joy, we accept our commission.  
Our spirits rejoice to share good news. Amen.**

**\*BENEDICTION**

Pastor

**\*POSTLUDE**

**– GO OUT TO SHARE THE WORD OF GOD –**

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## **Those Serving Among Us Today**

Liturgist today is Jane Bonari.

Greeter today was Janet Garlits.

Chancel flowers are given to the Glory of God in and honor of Zack Brewer's 9<sup>th</sup> birthday on December 18<sup>th</sup> from mom, Natalie Brewer and big brother Tyler.

### **PRAYER LIST**

Please remember the following people in your thoughts and prayers. Please call the office with prayer needs, updates, and questions or e-mail the church at [office@fpresbv.org](mailto:office@fpresbv.org).

† John & Marlene Amoroso † Susan Aten †  
Kaiden Bane † Nuncio Battista † Bill Behrens † Michele Betz † † Garret  
Brigs † Frank Britton † Angel Burnsworth † Joe Burnsworth † Sally  
Callaway † Sally Campbell † Frank Caristo † Milana (Berish) Cerniga † Ann  
Cochran † Lou Comadina † Glenn Crownover † Louis Dewar † Sandy  
Elder † MaryAnn Faulk † Norm Floyd † Ed Friedenberger † Carol Gillon †  
Patti Huyck † Jeff † Diane Johnston † Zoey Johnson † Earlene  
Kalakewich † Janet † June Kefover † Robert Korff † Howard & Sally  
Forsyth † Ed Friedenberger † Irene Leyda † Mike Lemley † Kathy Lipari †  
Joyce Livingstone † Taylor McGee † Bruce Merritt † Mrs. Munsen † Tim  
and Melissa Nagelreiter † Mary Caroline Nicholas † Bob Palfrey † June  
Palfrey † Nora Pelezar † Helen Raicos † Colleen Ray † Dorothy Rogers †  
Gordon Rutherford † Noah Schwartz † Alina Shaw † Chris Sicora † Toi  
Smith † Gianna Smoyer † Laura Stopka † Patty Strychalski † Joseph  
Waywood † Yauger Family †

**Pray for the safety and protection of  
First Responders (police, fire, EMTS), military, and Medical  
Personnel**

*(If you have a prayer concern or to update the list,  
please call the office at 724-929-7616)*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN:

TODAY: Worship at 10 am; Youth group at 6:30 pm

TUESDAY: Food & Fellowship from 11-1 pm; Bible study at 2 pm or  
Zoom at 6 pm

FRIDAY: Christmas Eve Services: 5:30 pm and 11 pm

NEXT SUNDAY: Worship at 10 am; 2 cents a meal offering

### This Week's Birthdays

Dec. 20 <sup>th</sup>	Terri Rubosky
Dec. 24 <sup>th</sup>	Bobbi Jo Huebner Frank Garofalo Carol Tragesser

**COVID SAFETY GUIDELINES:** We are still observing social distancing guidelines. **For the safety of us all, everyone, vaccinated or not, must wear a mask to enter the facility.** Thank you for helping us all stay safe. Session will review these guidelines in an ongoing manner.

**WORSHIP ONLINE:** Our worship streams live at Facebook.com/FirstPresBV and on YouTube.com, First Presbyterian Belle Vernon. We are on Zoom, too! Please, if you have a Facebook account, why not “check in” to let us and others know you were here or online with us?

**OFFERINGS:** To keep from spreading illness, we are not passing the offering plate, but we still need your support. The offering plates are located on the windowsills at the front. Please help us finish 2021 strong. Thank you for your faithfulness. Feel free to bring them up during the offertory or drop them off as you arrive or exit.

**ANGEL TREE:** Thank you to everyone who took a child and bought gifts for the Angel Tree. This will make a Christmas a little brighter for 35 local children on Christmas morning.

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES:** Our Christmas Eve services will be at 5:30 pm and 11 pm. Readers are needed for the Christmas Eve services. Please sign up at the front of the church.

**TWO CENTS A MEAL OFFERING:** Is next Sunday and is a strategy for raising awareness – and funds – for the fight against hunger. It is an opportunity to invite every member to contribute a few cents. It is a simple activity, but many pennies, nickels, and dimes add up to thousands of dollars per year and help those in need.

**BIBLE STUDY:** Join us on Tuesdays, at 2 pm, beginning Tuesday, December 7th for a four-week Bible study by Max Lucado called “Because of Bethlehem.” This four-session video-based study reveals that “because of Bethlehem, we have the promise that God is always near us, always for us, and always with us.” For those who are unable to join us in the afternoon, the class will be available at 6 pm via Zoom, Meeting ID: 837 6244 9900, Passcode: 123456. More information on our website.

**ADVENT CALENDAR OFFERINGS:** Please bring your offerings to the church on Christmas Eve or Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup>.

**NEED A BOOK?** Beginning January 4<sup>th</sup> our Tuesday Bible study (2 pm in person, 6 pm Zoom) will be studying *Twelve Women Of The Bible: Life Changing Stories For Women Today*. The study guide is \$8.99. You can order on Amazon.com or Christianbook.com. If you want the office to order your copy, please let us know by December 21<sup>st</sup> so we can get them in time for the first session. See Pastor Mary Kay for more information. All are invited. Invite your friends!



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

501 Fayette Avenue, Rostraver Twp., PA 15012

**Church Offices:** 511 Fayette Avenue

**Office Hours:** M - F: 9:00 to 1:00

**Church Phone:** 724- 929-7616    **Fax:** 724-929-0209

**Pastor's Cell Phone:** 724-243-2871

**Web:** [www.fpresbv.org](http://www.fpresbv.org) **e-mail:** [office@fpresbv.org](mailto:office@fpresbv.org)

<b>Pastor:</b>	Mary Kay Glunt	243-2871
<b>Clerk of Session:</b>	Sharon Zunic	929-4463
<b>Church Secretary:</b>	Natalie Brewer	929-7616
<b>Chairman of Deacons:</b>	Susan Aten	929-6406
<b>Head Usher:</b>	Bill Callaway	929-5176
<b>Organist/Choir Director:</b>	Donna Santoro	929-9401
<b>Custodian:</b>	Patty Gillon	929-7616
<b>H. O. A:</b>	Linda Aten	929-6406

## E L D E R S

### **Class of 2021**

Ray Helster\*  
Nancy Komlos\*

### **Class of 2022**

Natalie Brewer  
Dee Hepple  
Mike Moravec

### **Class of 2023**

Sharon Zunic  
Jane Bonari  
Mary Beth Burkley

## D E A C O N S

### **Class of 2021**

Diane Boatman\*  
Janet Garlits  
Judy Latchem

### **Class of 2022**

Susan Aten  
Anne McCorkle  
Kerry McCorkle  
Barb Peters

### **Class of 2023**

Marguerite Patterson  
Dennis Peters  
Patty Gillon  
Eileen Kunca