

First Presbyterian Church



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 11, 2022 – 3rd Sunday in Advent

You are invited to stand if able

Items in **bold** are congregational response

Personal Prayer of Preparation:

God of healing presence, you claim on us is strong enough to change our direction. Look with favor on us as we have gathered to worship you, that we may not go astray but may respond with joy to your promises. Amen.

– ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME –

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

JOYS AND SORROWS

Pastor

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Sharon Zunic

PRELUDE AND PRAYER OF PREPARATION

ADVENT MEDITATION—Hope for God's Joy

Leader: In this season of Advent, we celebrate with joyful hearts.

People: Christ is our light and the source of our joy.

Leader: We count our blessings, and give thanks for God's goodness and grace.

People: Christ is our light and the source of our joy.

Leader: We strive to search for the good in neighbors near and far.

People: Christ is our light and the source of our joy.

Leader: We remember that God has promised us full and joyful lives.

People: Christ is our light and the source of our joy.

CANDLE LIGHTING

This morning we light three candles -the candles of hope, peace, and today, joy. This candle reminds us that we have reason to be joyful, even in the midst of strife. We remember that the angel proclaimed Christ's birth as "Good news of great joy, to all people." We celebrate today with joyful hearts and commit ourselves to spreading that joy to the world around us.

O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and end this gloom of night. Bring
 hope to the world, bring peace to the earth, and fill us with love's pure light.

Love's Pure Light (Congregational Response) "Gesu Bambino" - Music: Pietro Yon - Words and arrangement Joel Raney

OPENING PRAYER:

Liturgist

Gracious God, as we continue our Advent journey, we ask that you open our eyes to the beauty and goodness around us, and fill our hearts with grateful joy. Remind us that Christ is our light and the source of all joy, and that we are here to serve you and to spread that joy to others. Amen.

HYMN:

“Joy to the World”

Blue 40

CALL TO CONFESSION

To all whose lives seem like a desert wasteland, God invites: Come to the living waters. To all who feel they are wrestling with lions, God offers a refuge. The Judge who is standing before us awaits our confession with compassion and the promise of healing. Let us confess our sins.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Come into our emptiness, gracious God. We feel empty because we have shut you out of our lives. Break through our pretensions, Holy One. We pretend to be powerful because we have not claimed the peace that is available deep within when you dwell with us. Quiet our grumbling and complaining. We have been impatient because we have focused on things, not on you. Enter our lives with the forgiveness you promise to all who are truly sorry for their unfaithfulness. Release us from our self-created prisons. Amen

*SILENT CONFESSION

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: God speaks to fearful hearts: Be strong. Do not fear. I will come to save you. Joy and gladness are yours.

People: We are forgiven and redeemed! Alleluia, Amen.

*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 Led by 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.

OLD TESTAMENT: James 5:7-10 Liturgist

SPECIAL MUSIC:

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11 Pastor

SERMON: "Joy in the Waiting" Pastor

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Apostles Creed

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 AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

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, now and forever. Amen

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**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

God judges us, not by worldly standards of greatness, but according to the genuineness of our compassion and the extent of our faithfulness. Our offerings are a sign of our faith.

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:

Joe Balogh

*** DOXOLOGY:**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures here below.

Praise God, above ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Majestic God, thank you for inviting us to share the blessings you pour out on us. Use our resources to heal attitudes as well as bodies, to bring wholeness, not just cures. Lead us into your realm in the midst of our daily living. Amen.

HYMN

“Open My Eyes, That I May See”

Blue 324

COMMISSION & BENEDICTION

Pastor: Let us journey into the world with our God,

People: to rebuild shattered hearts with hope.

Pastor: Let us spend each day with Jesus,

People: mending brokenness with love.

Pastor: Let us share our hearts with the Spirit,

People: so we may be with those who are waiting for peace.

Pastor: And now, as God's people, the ransomed of the Lord, may everlasting joy be upon your heads, and may you know God's joy and gladness and all sorrow and sighing flee away as you continue on the journey of faith.

Response

"Amen, Amen"
(from "See the Little Baby")

– GO OUT TO SHARE THE WORD OF GOD –

Music on screen and streaming covered under
CCLI licenses 20664520 and 20664537
CVLI license 50439969

Liturgy from Lavon Bayler, "Taught by Love"; Lectionary Liturgies (Shuman),
and "Love's Pure Light" advent ceremony.

Those Serving Among Us Today

Liturgist today is Dave Neel.

Greeter today was Susan Aten.

Advent Wreath will be Bobbi Jo Huebner.

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Dec. 11- Tommy Rodriguez	Dec. 20- Terri Rubosky
Dec. 12- Melissa Zeli	Dec. 24- Bobbi Jo Huebner
Dec. 13- Janice Jupin	Carol Tragesser
Dec. 16- Dennis Lynn	Frank Garofalo
Dec. 18- Zack Brewer	
Anne McCorkle	
Eric Zunic	

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN:

TODAY: Worship at 10 am; Congregational Meeting after worship

THURSDAY: Food Bank at FMC

NEXT SUNDAY: Worship at 10 am; Session Meeting after worship

(NOTE: Bible Study will reconvene in January)

Next Week's Lectionary Readings:

Isaiah 7:10-16

Ps. 80:1-7,17-19

Romans 1:1-7

Matt. 1:18-25

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERINGS: Thank you for your faithful support of the church and its ministries. The offering plates are located on the windowsills at the front.

HOAGIES: Emma Burkley is taking orders each month for fresh hoagies for the high school band. The order form is at the front of the church.

Session is looking for a new **VOLUNTEER FINANCIAL SECRETARY**. If you are interested, or to get more information, please contact the office.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: There will be a Congregational today right after worship to elect officers and present the budget. Please plan to attend.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CANTATA: Will be performed at the First Christian Church, 61 Walnut Ridge Rd. Charleroi, PA 15022 today at 3 pm. There will be a Tasting Party in the church's fellowship hall after the show. For any questions, please call 724-489-9014.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: We will celebrate the coming of our Savior on Christmas Eve at 11 pm with scripture, song, and candlelight worship. Pastor is seeking volunteers to read and/or sing. Please call the church office if you're interested. Everyone is welcome to attend.

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE: We will have worship at 10 am on Christmas Day.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING: Each year, PCUSA churches receive a special offering at Christmas—the Christmas Joy Offering. This Offering addresses the support needed by some of our leaders, including supporting leadership development for marginalized communities and providing support for Presbyterian church workers in their time of need. In our congregation the Christmas Joy Offering is traditionally received on Christmas Eve. For more information, see Sharon Zunic or Pastor Mary Kay.



To make a onetime gift or to sign up for our online giving program, scan this QR code with your mobile device. All donations are processed through the Presbyterian Foundation and VANCO Giving Services and is secure and protected.

	December (1/12th of budget)
Budget Amounts	\$ 12,713.58
Giving as of 12/5/22	\$ 1,126.00
Investment Income	
Manse Rental	
Fundraisers income	
Month/Year to Date	\$ 1,126.00
	-\$11,587.58

PLAN AHEAD: Come to our New Year’s Eve Potluck Party on December 31st from 5-8 pm!

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.

† John Amoroso † Kaiden Bane † Brian Barkby †
Nuncio Battista † Bill Behrens † Joann Bellora † Mary Lou Berish †
Nadine Brewer † Garret Brigs † Frank Britton † Kathy Buckalew
† Angel Burnsworth † Joe Burnsworth † Colin † Sally Callaway †
Sally Campbell † Jim Caristo † Milana (Berish) Cerniga † Rev. Ian
Chikoti † Michael Colla † Lou Comadina † Nancy Craig † Glenn
Crownover † Marge Denitti † Dorothy Dodroskey † Dale Dominic †
Carol Driver † Sandy Elder † MaryAnn Falk † Norm Floyd † Howard
Forsyth † Ed Friedenberger † Wyatt Fitzgibbons † Patti Huyck †
JoeyLynn Johns † Diane Johnston † Zoey Johnson † Earlene
Kalakewich † Janet † June Kefover † Donna Kearns † Cameron
Kennedy † Robert Korff † Irene Leyda † Mike Lemley † J.T. Mateka
† Taylor McGee † Bruce Merritt † Dean Migliori † Stephen Minetta †
Bob Mohn † Phil & Lea Morrow † Mrs. Munsen † Lynette Murray †
Tim and Melissa Nagelreiter † Mary Caroline Nicholas † Bob Palfrey
† Dick Palfrey † June Palfrey † Nora Pelezar † Darlene Perrotta †
Patty Pooley † Helen Pulgina † Dennis Raymer † Dorothy Rogers †
Clare Sartori † Sandy Seeley † Alina Shaw † Linda Shuler † Chris
Sicora † Toi Smith † Walter Smith † Gianna Smoyer † Loretta
Sterner † Laura Stopka † Patty Strychalski † Sandy Walters †
Joseph Waywood † Yauger Family † Kim Zunic †

**Pray for the safety and protection of First Responders (police, fire,
EMTS), Military Personnel, Medical Personnel, and those affected
by senseless violence and war.**

*(If you have a prayer concern or to update the list,
please call the office at 724-929-7616 or fill out a prayer card and place in the
offering plate)*



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 and Fellowship Hall Phone: 724-929-0209

Pastor's Cell Phone: 724-243-2871

Web: www.fpresbv.org **e-mail:** office@fpresbv.org

Pastor:	Mary Kay Glunt	243-2871
Clerk of Session:	Sharon Zunic	929-4463
Church Secretary:	Natalie Brewer	929-7616
Organist:	Joe Balogh	
Chairman of Deacons:	Susan Aten	929-6406
Head Usher:	Bill Callaway	929-5176
Custodian:	Patty Gillon	929-7616
H. O. A.:	Linda Aten	929-6406

ELDER S

Class of 2022

Natalie Brewer
Dee Hepple
Mike Moravec
Judy Latchem

Class of 2023

Sharon Zunic
Jane Bonari
Mary Beth Burkley

Class of 2024

BJ Thomas
Lori Lamberski
Carol Tragesser
David Burdis

DEACONS

Class of 2022

Susan Aten
Anne McCorkle
Kerry McCorkle
Barb Peters

Class of 2023

Marguerite Patterson
Dennis Peters
Patty Gillon
Eileen Kunca

Class of 2024

Jessica Phillabaum
Dave Neel