

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 18, 2022 – 4th Sunday in Advent

You are invited to stand if able

Items in **bold** are congregational response

Personal Prayer of Preparation:

Lord of all life and all seasons, help me to open my hearts to hear the words of promise and love that you send to us. Like Joseph, may I trust in your abiding love and power. Prepare me to receive your gift of grace and peace. In Jesus' Name, I pray. AMEN.

– ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME –

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

JOYS AND SORROWS

Pastor

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Christmas Joy Offering

PRELUDE AND PRAYER OF PREPARATION

ADVENT MEDITATION—Hope for God's Love

Leader: During Advent we see God's love for us embodied in our Savior's birth.

People: Christ is our light and the source of everlasting love.

Leader: Advent calls us to love others with patience and kindness.

People: Christ is our light and the source of everlasting love.

Leader: Advent calls us to be slow to anger and quick to forgive.

People: Christ is our light and the source of everlasting love.

Leader: Advent reminds us that Christ commanded us to love as he loved.

People: Christ is our light and the source of everlasting love.

CANDLE LIGHTING

This morning we light four candles: the candles of hope, peace, joy, and today's candle—love. This candle reminds us that God so loved the world that he sent his only son, so that whoever believes in him should not perish but have life everlasting. Today we celebrate

God's gift—of love and remember that we have been commanded to love others as God loves 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.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 3/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The music is written in a simple, accessible style with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat).

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 are reminded that "Love came down at Christmas—love amazing, love divine." You loved the world enough to send your Son, and now it's up to us to love others as you loved us. Remind us that Christ is our light, and the true source of infinite, everlasting, pure love. Amen.

HYMN:

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Blue 41

CALL TO CONFESSION

Assured that God sees and hears our repentance, let us turn our minds to the truth, confessing our sins to God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Shepherd of Israel, God of hosts, we have turned away from you, neglecting the welfare of your creation, ignoring the plight of your people, taking what we cannot give back. We have not helped our neighbors in need, kept peace within our families, or tended the vine you have planted in our own lives. Forgive us and lead us to a more gracious life. In your compassion, turn us to your way. Restore us, O Lord, God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. Amen.

*SILENT CONFESSION

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: The light of God's love shines upon each of us in the gift of God's love, Jesus Christ. This is the One whose life was given for you and who gives new life through His death and resurrection.

People: **We will rejoice! We are loved by God, now and forever.
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

As your Holy Spirit spoke to Mary and to Joseph, speak to us now through your Word, that by hearing we, too, may receive faith and be strengthened to do your will. Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT:

Romans 1:1-7

Liturgist

(The Message Version)

SPECIAL MUSIC: "There's a Song in the Air" Bobbi Jo Huebner

GOSPEL:	Matthew 1:18-25	Pastor
SERMON:	“Just Because It’s Right . . . “	Pastor
HYMN	“I Wonder as I Wander”	Red 183

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

All that we have is the Lord's. All that we may become and receive is in God's hands. For the sake of the joy that is ours when our bonds grow deep with others, let us give generously for the well-being of the world, the glory of God, and the increase of God's kingdom.

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

Holy God, you bless us with many gifts, you retrieve us from despair and fear, you visit us with surprising proclamations, and you intend for us good things. We thank you for your steadfast love, for sending signs of assurance, and for the gift of faith. Use our gifts to bring comfort and justice to those in need and to reform the ways of our world for the sake of new life. Amen.

HYMN:

“How Great Our Joy”

Red 182

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Pastor

Pastor: People of God, do not be afraid.

People: We will listen to the Word of the Lord who promises to be with us in every age.

Pastor: Spread this Word to those who live without hope.

People: With God's help, we will live this Word as people who know God-with-us, Immanuel.

Response

“Amen, Amen”
(from “See the Little Baby”)

– GO OUT TO SHARE THE WORD OF GOD –

Music on screen and streaming covered under
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CVLI license 50439969

Liturgy from Feasting on the Word, Ministry Matters,
and “Love’s Pure Light” advent ceremony.

Chancel flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Jack Tillman from his daughter, Nancy Komlos.

Those Serving Among Us Today

Liturgist today is Kay Nelson.

Greeter today was Rosemary Strenske.

Advent Wreath will be Duane & Kay Nelson.

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Dec. 18- Zack Brewer Anne McCorkle Eric Zunic Dec. 20-Terri Rubosky	Dec. 24- Bobbi Jo Huebner Carol Tragesser Frank Garofalo Dec. 25- Ken Day
Dec. 31- Brett & Mary Lou Berish	

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN:

TODAY: Worship at 10 am; Session Meeting after worship

TUESDAY: Food & Fellowship from 11 am – 1pm

SATURDAY: Christmas Eve Service at 11 pm

NEXT SUNDAY: Christmas Day; Worship at 10 am

(NOTE: Bible Study & Plarn will reconvene in January)

Next Week's Lectionary Readings:

Isaiah 62:6-12

Ps. 97; Titus 3:4-7

Luke 2(1-7) 8-20

Isaiah 52:7-10; Ps.98;

Hebrews 1:1-4(5-12); John 1:1-14

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.

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE: Will be Wednesday, December 21, 6 pm. Blue Christmas (also called the Longest Night) in the Western Christian tradition, is a day in the Advent season marking the longest night of the year. On this day, some churches hold a church service that honors people who have lost loved ones and are experiencing grief. Join us Wednesday evening, or bring a friend or family member who is experiencing grief or loss, for a time when we can, with others, acknowledge the "blue" feelings we have at Christmas time, the reasons for them, offer them to God, and receive help and comfort. For more information, please see Pastor Mary Kay.

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.

THANK YOU: Thank you to everyone who did a child's angel tree tag for Christmas. This was a wonderful outreach to our community to support our local children in the Mon Valley for Christmas.

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 12/11/22	\$ 1,703.00
Investment Income	\$ 281.16
Manse Rental	\$ 950.00
Fundraisers income	
Month to Date	\$ 2,934.16

POTLUCK PARTY: Our New Year’s Eve Potluck Party is on December 31st from 5-8 pm! We had a great time last year and we will again. Bring a covered dish! Please contact BJ Thomas at 412-953-4852 to confirm and to let us know what you are bringing. PS: If you will need a ride, please let the office know. Don’t let the winter darkness keep you away!

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 † Tekla Herilla †
Patti Huyck † 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