

# *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**  
November 28, 2021- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent  
\*You are invited to stand if able\*

Personal Prayer of Preparation:

*Gracious God, keeper of the secrets of creation, visit us through the cry of need, the unforeseen stranger, and the unexpected guest, that we may be ready for the coming of Christ in the midst of life, at the end of life, and at the end of time.*  
*Amen*

**– ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME –**

WELCOME

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH, ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

JOYS AND CONCERNS

INTROIT

FIRST SUNDAY - Light of Hope

**Responsive Litany**

Leader: Advent is a time of reflection and renewal.

**People: God of light, shine in our hearts and renew our hope.**

Leader: Advent is a time of self-examination.

**People: God of light, shine in our hearts and strengthen our resolve.**

Leader: Advent is a time of joyful expectation.

**People: God of light, shine in our hearts and renew our faith.**

Leader: Advent is a time of service and searching.

**People: God of light, shine in our hearts and ignite our compassion.**

**Candle Lighting**

Today we light the first candle - the candle of hope - reminding us that in sending Christ, God sent hope to the earth. Hope for a world

free from war and pain, hope for a sense of purpose and belonging, and hope for peace and prosperity for our children and our children's children. When Christ came, he brought us the Light of Lights. Light that fills us with hope, illuminates our lives, and shines in our hearts.

## Congregational Response

**God of light, we pray today that you will fill us with hopeful expectation, and that you will cause us to become your children of light. Help us to spread your light into the world around us. Help us to recognize our opportunities to brighten the lives of others. Help us to live each day as beacons of love filled with joy, peace, and hope. 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

Almighty God, as we begin this season of Advent remind us again that in the midst of our darkness you are bringing us peace, to calm our anxious spirits and hectic lives. Turn our hearts again toward you. Make us ready to receive your Son our Savior. Slow our pace and give us the blessing of your peace and hope as we wait in expectation. For we ask this in Emmanuel's precious Name. Amen.

## HYMN:

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

# 9 BLUE

## CALL TO CONFESSION:

Liturgist

Friends, the season of Advent is a time of preparation, preparing to welcome Emmanuel to our midst. Part of that preparation is the honest practice of confessing our sins before God and one another. Together, let us confess our need for forgiveness.

## UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Loving and Merciful God, today we light the candle of hope, a beacon of light that shines in the darkness. Today, we confess the ways we have caused others to feel hopeless. Some feel the hopelessness of hunger because of our greed. Others feel the hopelessness of violence because of our apathy. Still others feel the hopelessness of racism because of our ignorance. Forgive us, gracious God. Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. This we pray in the name of your son, Jesus Christ. 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:

The promise of the season of Advent is the promise of Emmanuel, God with us. Jesus calls us to keep awake so that we are ready for God's arrival. Therefore, let us lay aside all those things that distract us from faithful watching for God. Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel:

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. 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.*

\*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

**Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Spirit  
prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so  
that we may see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**RESPONSIVE READING:** Psalm 122 Led by Liturgist

Leader: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of  
the Lord!"

**People: Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

Leader: Jerusalem—built as a city that is bound firmly together.

**People: To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, as was  
decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the  
Lord,**

Leader: For there the thrones for judgment were set up, the thrones  
of the house of David.

**People: Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who  
love you.**

Leader: Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers."

**People: For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say,  
"Peace be within you."**

Leader: For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek  
your good.

OLD TESTAMENT:                      Isaiah 2:1-5    Liturgist

SPECIAL MUSIC:    Renee Bonari

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL:    Matthew 24:36-44    Pastor

SERMON:    "Are You Jesus Ready?"    Lynn Mance- Pastor

**\*HYMN    "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"    # 48 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

**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

We give in grateful thanksgiving for all that God has given us in the upside-down world we live in. We measure our wealth not by what we have but what we can give away. Let us give generously in this offering to bless your church, your people, and your creation. Amen.

*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

We may not know the day or time of your coming, but we know that it is time to wake from sleep and to put on the armor of light. In gratefulness for calling us as your own, we offer you our thanks and praise. Receive the gifts of our hands, and use them to bring light to the darkness and hope to places of despair, through your son, the Prince of Peace. Amen

### \*HYMN

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

**#2 RED**

**\*RESPONSIVE COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these?  
**He calls them all by name because he is great in strength,  
mighty in power,**  
Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
**The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends  
of the earth, He does not faint or grow weary.**

**\*BENEDICTION**

Pastor

**\*POSTLUDE**

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



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**This Weeks Birthdays**

Dec. 1 <sup>st</sup>	Maxine Brownlee David Neel
Dec. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Judy Latchem
Dec. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Jacob Davis

## 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 † Sandy Elder † MaryAnn Fauk † Norm Floyd  
† Ed Friedenberger † 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 † Frank  
Scollate † 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)*

## Those Serving Among Us Today

Liturgist today is Becky Mutich Moore.

Greeter today was Diane Boatman.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN:

TODAY: Commissioned Pastor: Lynn Mance

WEDNESDAY: Plarn Making from 9 till 1 pm

SATURDAY: Grieving Through the Holidays from 2-4 pm

NEXT SUNDAY: Communion

**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:** Due to the pandemic, we are not passing the offering plate, but we still need your support. The offering plates are located on the windowsills at the front. 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:** Due to pandemic guidelines this year, gifts are NOT to be wrapped. Please mark clearly on the gifts the child's ID number, name and family number. The deadline for the gifts will be Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>.

**PLASTIC BAGS AND CROCHETERS NEEDED:** Our plastic mat project is moving forward. Please continue saving plastic shopping bags and consider helping on Wednesdays from 9-1 pm or at home. Contact BJ Thomas at 412-953-4852 with any questions.

**GRIEVING THROUGH THE HOLIDAYS WORKSHOP:** Invite your friends and neighbors to this special seminar that offers help and hope for enduring the holidays after loss and suffering through holiday grief. Grieving Through the Holidays will be this Saturday, December 4, 2021, from 2-4 p.m. in the fellowship hall. All are welcome to attend. Please contact Pastor Mary Kay if you are willing to assist with refreshments for our guests.

**BECAUSE OF BETHLEHEM:** On Tuesday, December 7th, and throughout the month of December, Tuesday Bible study will be doing a Max Lucado study 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. Join us at 2 p.m. each Tuesday as we study God's Word and draw closer to the kingdom.

**LESSONS & CAROLS:** Sunday evening, December 12th, at 6 pm, First United Methodist Church Belle Vernon, 200 State Street, will be the site of this service, and it will also be available on Zoom Meetings through the First UMC. For more information, please call First UMC at 724-929-4696 for more information.



# 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