

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 12, 2021- 3rd Sunday in Advent

You are invited to stand if able

Personal Prayer of Preparation:

God of life and love, whose good news often comes in strange packages, open our eyes and ears to see and hear your message. Open our hearts to embrace one another in our caring. Help us to share generously and to receive graciously the gifts we have received from your hand. Guide us to honest, peaceful, joyous relationships, that your will may be done among us. Amen.

– ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME –

WELCOME Pastor

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH, ANNOUNCEMENTS Liturgist

JOYS AND CONCERNS Pastor

INTROIT

THIRD SUNDAY – The Light of Love The Kapolka Family

Responsive Litany

Leader: Advent is a time to let go of anger and fear.

People: God of love, fill our hearts with true compassion.

Leader: Advent is a time to look for the best in others.

People: God of love, help us speak truth with kindness.

Leader: Advent is a time to share with those in need.

People: God of love, remind us that in giving, we receive.

Leader: Advent is a time to notice and appreciate the good around us.

People: God of love, help us see the world through loving eyes.

Candle Lighting

Today, we light three candles - the candles of hope, peace, and the candle representing love. This candle is a symbol of Christ's eternal

love for us, as well as a reminder that we have been instructed to love others as we love ourselves. Because God is love, and because we were created in God's image, we ourselves are the embodiment of God's love here on earth. Love is patient and kind and powerful, and we all share the calling to go into the world and spread that love to others.

Congregational Response

God of love, we open our hearts to you today and ask that you fill us with the power of your love. Take away our bitterness, greed, and jealousy. Remind us that we are brothers and sisters, all sharing the wonderful gift of life. Help us treat others with respect and love and help us care for the world you have given us with loving hearts and gentle hands. 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

God of our baptism, renew in us today the gifts of your Holy Spirit and fire. We have come together, eager for good news. We are here for instructions, ready to do the work you call us to do in the world. Equip us in this time of worship to draw deeply from the waters of salvation. Fill us with your love that we may pass it on. Recall us to truth and excellence and justice in all we say and do. Amen.

HYMN: "Rejoice! The Lord Is King"

#155 BLUE

CALL TO CONFESSION:

Pastor

Every tree that fails to bear good fruit is cut down and thrown in the fire. We cannot flee from our unfaithfulness. But we can reclaim our baptism and seek once more to bear fruits that befit repentance.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

What shall we do, O God? We can never do enough to deserve your love. We confess that we are not always truthful. We have defaced the purity of your love for us. We have embraced ugliness and oppression rather than loveliness and grace. We have distorted your cries for justice in order to benefit ourselves. We have given less than our best to others and to you. Forgive us, we pray. 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:**

God has taken away the judgments against us. The evil we have feared cannot triumph. The enemies we have harbored in our own souls will no longer oppress us. Disasters we have experienced are not the last word. God restores us to the family, welcomes us with open arms, and strengthens us for each day's challenges.

We praise God, give thanks, and will let the world know of God's marvelous deeds.

*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.

(written by Rev. Andy James, First Presbyterian Church of Whitestone, New York)

RESPONSIVE READING: Isaiah 12:2-6 Led by Liturgist

Leader: Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,

**People: for the Lord God is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.**

Leader: With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.
And you will say in that day:

**People: Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known
his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is
exalted.**

Leader: Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.

**People: Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.**

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

Whether we face plenty or hunger, abundance or want, we are in debt to God for all we have and all we are. In these moments of thankfulness, we remember how God has blessed us. We give with joy because we trust the God of our salvation.

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

We rejoice, O God of peace, in the privilege of giving without fear. You come to us daily with blessings too numerous to count. You are the Holy One whose presence relieves our anxieties, feeds our hungers, and stirs our compassion. Through our offerings, we express our gratitude. As we give of ourselves, we respond to your call to bear fruit and to make your name known among the nations. Thank you for accepting all we offer. Amen.

*HYMN

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

#41 BLUE

*RESPONSIVE COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Leader: The whole universe is God's dwelling place.
Find your home with God wherever you go.

**People: Surely God is our salvation;
we will trust and not be afraid.**

Leader: Rejoice, for Christ has come and is coming again,
whose presence brings peace to our hearts and minds.

**People: We can do all things in Christ, who strengthens us.
We have much to share with the world.**

Leader: God, who has blessed you, commissions you for service.
Shout and sing for joy; praise God in all you do.

**People: God has renewed and refreshed us this day.
God's strength will be our song wherever we go. Amen.**

*BENEDICTION

Pastor

*POSTLUDE

– GO OUT TO SHARE THE WORD OF GOD –



Those Serving Among Us Today

Liturgist today is Judy Latchem.

Greeter today was Rosemary Strenske.

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 & 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
Fauk † 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: Lessons & Carols at FUMC at 6:30 pm;
Youth group at 6:30 pm

MONDAY: Deacon's meeting at 7 pm

TUESDAY: Bible study 2 pm

WEDNESDAY: Plarn Making from 9-1 pm

THURSDAY: Food Bank at FMC; Session at 6:30 pm

SATURDAY: Longest Night / Blue Christmas Service at 4 pm

NEXT SUNDAY: Worship at 10 am; Youth group at 6:30 pm

This Week's Birthdays

Dec. 12 th	Melissa Zeli
Dec. 13 th	Janice Jupin
Dec. 15 th	Ken Day
Dec. 16 th	Dennis Lynn Ethan Zeli
Dec. 18 th	Zack Brewer Anne McCorkle Eric Zunic

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. Today is the deadline. Thank you to everyone who will make a Christmas a little brighter for 35 local children.

LESSONS & CAROLS: Tonight, at 6:30 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.

LITTLE THINGS FOR LITTLE PEOPLE: is having a volunteer Christmas party in the Little People's room tomorrow the 13th at 12 pm. We will also wrap the gifts that Santa will hand out as well as get the room ready for our pass out. This will be a potluck kind of deal so everyone can bring an appetizer. Anyone who has volunteered is more than welcome to come. Remember to wear your favorite Christmas outfit.

LONGEST NIGHT / BLUE CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: Will be held this Saturday, December 18th at 4 pm. The longest night service is a time to rest, worship, and find hope even in the midst of the craziness of the holidays. All are welcome to attend.

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.



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

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