

second sunday of
ADVENT



*First
Presbyterian
Church*



First Presbyterian Church

Second Sunday in Advent

December 10, 2023

You are invited to stand if able
Items in **bold** are congregational responses

– ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME–

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Christmas Joy

Sharon Zunic

JOYS AND SORROWS

Pastor

PRELUDE AND PREPARATION

Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon us this morning. We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice today. We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming to live among us. We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom. We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence. We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light. To you we say, “Come Lord Jesus!” ~ written by Fr. Henri J. M. Nouwen.

SONG:

“Love’s Pure Light”

RESPONSIVE LITANY

Leader: In this season of Advent, we pray for God's peace.

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

Leader: We witness the hostility between nations and neighbors.

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

Leader: We see a world full of fractured relationships and unforgiving hearts.

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

Leader: We seek relief from our own inner turmoil and restlessness.

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

CANDLE LIGHTING

This morning we light two candles, the candle of hope and the candle of peace. This candle reminds us that Christ came into our world to restore peace, and that only through trust in God's word and his promises can we find our own inner peace. We remember that Christ is the Prince of Peace who taught us that through simple acts of love and forgiveness peace is spread throughout the world.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE



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OPENING PRAYER

Liturgist

Gracious God, as we continue our Advent journey, we thank you for sending the Prince of Peace into a world filled with unrest and strife. We ask that you quiet our restless hearts and instill in each of us the calm assurance that tells us you are in control, and so we need not worry. Give us the tools we need to serve as you would have us serve and make us willing instruments of your peace. Amen.

HYMN: "Angels from the Realms of Glory"

Blue 22

CHORUS

“Spirit of the Living God”

Blue 322

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

We believe that whatever our fine might have been that it has been paid, God of Comfort, yet we still insist on earning our way into your heart. We believe that you are beyond patient with us, but we wish you would act quickly against those who hurt us. We confess that while your word will stand forever, it is our words of pain and anger that cause long term harm to others.

Approaching God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, speak to us and enable us to live as if we truly believe in your atonement, in your love for all, and in your ability to make us new. And we offer our hearts in thanksgiving and hope. Amen.

***SILENT CONFESSION**

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

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Pastor

Hear the Good News God speaks to you, saying: I love you; I forgive you; I restore you to new life. Be at peace in God's presence.

We will not ignore the fact that God comes: not to condemn, but to comfort us; not to scold, but to speak tenderly to us of hope, of love, of joy. Thanks be to God. 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:**

May the peace of God be with you.

And also with you.

FIVE-MINUTE FELLOWSHIP—Greet Your Neighbor.

GATHERING CHORUS “The Family of God” Screen

I’m so glad I’m a part of the family of God.

I’ve been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood.

Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod,

I’m a part of the family, the family of God.

– PROCLAIM THE WORD OF GOD –

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Led by Liturgist

**God of all peace and joy, send your Spirit to this place to bless
this our reading of your word that it may be a lamp to our feet
and a light unto our path. Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT: Psalm 85:1-2; 8-13 Liturgist

SPECIAL MUSIC: “In the Seed There Is a Flower” Bobbi Jo Huebner

GOSPEL READING: Luke 2:10-14 Pastor

SERMON: “A Song of Peace” Pastor

HYMN: “O God of Love, O God of Peace” Blue 295

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Apostles Creed

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Response: Hear us, O Lord, in your mercy.

REMEMBERING OUR BROTHER DON BELCZYK

THE LORD’S PRAYER

INVITATION TO STEWARDSHIP

Liturgist

In this busy season, our most important preparations will happen here in our hearts when we make a way for God to come into our lives, when we prepare the way of the Lord and make space for God's peace within. In the midst of our preparations, let us bring gifts to share so that God's love will shine brightly through the ministry of this church and in our own lives as well.

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

Led by Liturgist

Holy One, this Advent season we wait in peace and we give in peace. A peace deeper than our anxiety and fear. A peace growing from our trust in your loving power. Receive these generous offerings and use them to bring your peace to our world. Amen.

HYMN: "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

Blue 8

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

RESPONSE: "Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen"

– GO OUT TO SHARE THE WORD OF GOD –

Dedication Prayer: Joanna Harader; Worship Ways; Prayers of the People, Rev. Dr. Derek Browning; Commission and Benediction: Nathan Nettleton, Laughing Bird.

THOSE SERVING AMONG US TODAY

Liturgist today is Sharon Zunic

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

TODAY: Worship at 10 am;
Lessons and Carols, 6 pm at St. Sebastian's

SATURDAY: Blue Christmas Service at 4 pm

NEXT SUNDAY: Worship at 10 am

Last Sunday's Attendance: 24

Last Sunday's Offering \$1,093



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 is secure and protected.

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Dec 10- Scott Marklewicz

Dec 11- Tommy Rodriguez

Dec 13- Janice Jupin

Dec 16- Dennis Lynn

Dec 18- Zack Brewer

Anne McCorkle

Eric Zunic

Dec 20- Terri Rubosky

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LESSONS AND CAROLS . . . TONIGHT! Join our community tonight at St. Sebastian's, 6:30 pm, for the return of Lessons and Carols. Need a ride? Call Pastor.

SALVATION ARMY ANGEL TREE: All gifts will need to be at the church by today! We will deliver them to the Salvation Army on Monday, Dec. 11th.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: The congregational meeting is today. Please plan to stay. We will be electing deacons and elders and voting on the pastor's terms of call for 2024.

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE: This Saturday, December 16th at 4 pm, join us to support those in our congregation and in our community who are struggling with loss in many areas of their lives. We will need a greeter and a liturgist.

ALSO, Pastor will be in the fellowship hall at 2:30 pm for a reception and time of discussion with those who need encouragement during this time.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: Our annual Christmas Eve service will be at 11 pm on Sunday, December 24th. If you're interested in helping, please contact Pastor Mary Kay. Note that the 24th is also the fourth Sunday of Advent, and we will have worship that morning.

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.

† Lisa Aten † Kaiden Bane † Nuncio Battista † Dolores Beatty †
Bill Behrens † Joann Bellora † Mary Lou Berish
† Bob & Carol Berish † Carl Boone † Garret Brigs † Frank Britton
† Cameron Burnardza † Joe Burnsworth † Colin † Sally Callaway †
Sally Campbell † Carol Carcella † Milana (Berish) Cerniga †
Chloe Chachaula † Rev. Ian Chikoti † Nancy Craig †
Glenn Crownover † Tena Crutcher † Darla † Rich & Kathy Davies †
Sandy Davis † Carol Driver † Sandy Elder † MaryAnn Falk † Norm
Floyd † Howard Forsyth † Janis Garofalo † Louise Gerber † Glenn
Hart † Sarah Hepple & Baby † Brittany Heckathorn † Wayne Helster †
Frieda Hilman † Patti Huyck † Diane Johnston † Zoey Johnson †
Janet † June Kefover † Donna Kearns † Cameron Kennedy
† Irene Leyda † Mike Lemley † Vivian Grant Lewis † Gordon Lucas
† Ronnie Lynn † Laura Martin † J.T. Mateka † Taylor McGee †
Bruce Merritt † Dean Migliori † Phil Morrow † Lynette Murray
† Betsy Neel † Mary Caroline Nicholas † Jim Palfrey † Scott Palfrey
† Marguerite Patterson † Marge Pawlaski † Nora Pelezar †
Helen Pulgino † Kaylee Rabon † Lucille Rapchak † Dennis Raymer †
Dorothy Rogers † Alina Shaw † Linda Shuler † Chris Sicora † Rose
Smarachek † Toi Smith † Walter Smith † Gianna Smoyer † Ginger
Thorp † Jerry Tregembo † Sandy Walters † Joseph Waywood †

**Pray for the safety and protection of First Responders
(police, fire, EMTs), Military Personnel, Medical Personnel,
Caregivers who deplete themselves caring for others,
those affected by senseless violence and war,
and those affected by natural disasters.**

*(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)*

A SONG OF PEACE

Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13; Luke 2:10-14

“In Hebrew *peace* is never only a _____ state; it never means only the _____ of trouble.

“In the Bible peace means not only _____ from all trouble; it means enjoyment of all _____.” William Barclay

WHERE PEACE COMES FROM

_____ what God has done.

1. God acted _____.
2. God _____ His people.
3. God _____ and _____.

_____ to find peace.

1. Choosing to _____ what God speaks.
2. Choosing to be _____.
3. Choosing to _____ my mind.
4. Choosing _____ to show God's _____.

THE ANGELS' SONG

We are often _____ by things we don't understand. *"An angel stood before them . . . they were terrified"* (Luke 2 9)

Peace comes when we add _____ to what we see. "Do not be afraid, good news of great joy" (v. 10)

The presence of peace is a sign that God's _____ is ours.
14 *"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"*

True _____ comes only from _____, and God sends love, faithfulness, righteousness, and peace to _____ God's purpose.

1. 1 Corinthians 14:33 *"33 for God is a God not of _____ but of _____), as in all the churches of the saints."*
2. Proverbs 12:20 NIV *"Deceit is in the hearts of those who plot evil, but those who _____ peace have joy."*
3. Peace is a product of a right relationship with God.

Romans 5:1: *"Therefore, since we are _____ by faith, we have peace with God _____ our Lord Jesus Christ"*



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of Belle Vernon

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

E L D E R S

Class of 2023	Class of 2024	Class of 2025
Sharon Zunic Jane Bonari Mary Beth Burkley	Lori Lamberski Carol Tragesser David Burdis	

D E A C O N S

Class of 2023	Class of 2024	Class of 2025
Marguerite Patterson Dennis Peters Patty Gillon Eileen Kunca	Jessica Phillabaum Dave Neel	Susan Aten Fred Exley June Exley Barb Moskala

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)