

NEED TO KNOW COLUMN

Sunday, December 24 - 4th Sunday of Advent - *Joy*

8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. - Worship Service

9:45 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages

6:00 p.m. - Candlelight Service - **Christ Candle**

Monday and Tuesday, December 25 & 26

The Church Office will be closed in celebration of Christ's Birth

Wednesday through Friday, December 27 - 29

Office hours will be abbreviated, if you need to make an end of year contribution, please make an appointment.

Sunday, December 31

9:45 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages

11:00 a.m. - Worship Service (Ordination and Installation Service)

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS - 2023

We want to thank the following people who provided Christmas flowers for our Advent services

Debbie and Adeline Aynes in honor of Jesus

Debbie and Adeline Aynes in memory of Papa James

Mackenzie Aynes in memory of Papa James Aynes

Ronnie and Amanda Aynes in honor of our mothers – Debbie Aynes and DiAnna Greer and Bonus Mom Brenda Greer

Ronnie and Amanda Aynes in memory of our grandparents, James and Clara Aynes, Hose and Margaret Simpson, Clarence and Mary Greer, and Ernie and Jess Ann Tolle

John and Sue Bohmer in honor of Renee Stormer for all that she does

Mary E Boyce in memory of Tom Lehman Barnard

Mary E Boyce in memory of Mary Elizabeth Barnard

John and Lynda Brown in memory of Kelly Brown Jennings

Eddie Brunson in honor and admiration of Hope Sheppard and fond memories of Jim Sheppard

Ross and Sharon Condarco in memory of Sharon's son, Christopher Petton

Kirk Dixon and Susan Farmer in loving memory R.J. Farmer, D.D.S., Karen Dixon and our parents

Kirk Dixon and Susan Farmer in memory of Nickie Wilbanks and Marjorie Akin

Kirk Dixon in honor of my lovely wife, Susan

Kirk Dixon and Susan Farmer in honor of our children and grandchildren

Kirk Dixon and Susan Farmer in honor of Tom Wilbanks

Kirk Dixon and Susan Farmer in honor of Jones and Mary Lee Doughton and family

Kirk Dixon and Susan Farmer in honor of Renee Stormer and FPC staff

Mary Lee and Jones Doughton in honor of Lynda and Dallas Ward, and Lelia Doughton.

Mary Lee and Jones Doughton in honor of our children, Bennett Doughton and Mary Claire Doughton

Mary Lee and Jones Doughton in memory of Erastus B. J. Doughton and Jack Mac-Millan

Roger Foltz in honor of my children, Scott and Amanda Foltz

Roger Foltz in honor of my children, Emily and Thomas Shoots

Roger Foltz in honor of my children, David and Wendy Foltz

Doug and Jan Fort in memory of our son, Adam D. Fort.

Linda Fricke in loving memory of Dan Fricke and Lisa Fricke

Linda Fricke in memory of Billie Hill, Carolyn Hill, and Hazel Gates

Sheila Hammer in memory of my mom, Christy Portillo

Sheila Hammer in memory of my dad, Roger Rich

Gerald and Cindy Jenkins in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Smith

Phil and Celeste Johnson in honor of the ministry of Tom and Nicki Wilbanks

Phil and Celeste Johnson in honor of the ministry of the Doughton Family

Phil and Celeste Johnson in memory of Jim Sheppard

Patricia Kim in memory of Stephen K. Kim

Sarah Kitchens in memory of my sister, Martha Dye

John and Paula Kusewitt in memory of Jerry Woodard, Paula's daddy – with love and precious memories

John and Paula Kusewitt in memory of Jim Kusewitt, John's dad – with our love

John and Paula Kusewitt in memory of our Grandparents – with our love

John and Paula Kusewitt in honor of our mothers – you are a gift from God.

John and Paula Kusewitt in honor of our Pastor Emeritus, Dr. Tom Wilbanks and in memory of his wife, Nickie – Thank you for your many years of faithful, selfless service.

John and Paula Kusewitt in honor of Ryoji Shimpō and the Music Department

Paula Kusewitt in honor of the FPC Safety Team – thank you for your dedication to us!

Ann Kyle as a gift to the church

Stephen and Susan Leake in memory of Pat Smith

Stephen and Susan Leake in memory of Loncy and Bettye Leake

Stephen and Susan Leake in memory of Leroy and Pauline Tanner

Michael and Robbie Lee in honor of Robbie's mom, Estalene Marshall

Paul and Sue Luce in memory of Edwin and Agnes Carr

Paul and Sue Luce in memory of Robert and Peg Luce

Michael McGee in memory of Aileen and James Tucker

Sheryl Miller in honor of my grandson, Truett

Sheryl Miller in memory of my parents, Ben and Mary Williams

Brian Neece in honor of my dad, Don Neece

Brian Neece in memory of my mom, Sue Neece

Evelyn Parker in memory of Toliver Jordan Hutchinson

William and Gail Richardson as a gift to the Church

Bob and Maurine Robinson in memory of Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Hanby

Bob and Maurine Robinson in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Winston Robinson

Bob and Maurine Robinson in honor of Robbie, Janice and Ben Robinson

Roger Samuels in loving memory of Joy

John and Susan Scholl in memory of our parents

Hope L. Sheppard in loving memory of my beloved husband and dearest friend for 70 years, the Rev. James "Jim" R. Sheppard, Jr.

Hope L. Sheppard in honor of the Faith and Life Sunday School Class

Hope L. Sheppard in honor of my church family, for your outreach, prayers and cards

Hope L. Sheppard in memory of a beautiful lady, Sheila Bauer

Hope L. Sheppard in honor of My family, Psalm 133:1

Ann Smith in honor of my children, Brianne and Jeremy Davis, and Megan and Justin Rains

Ann Smith in honor of my grandchildren, Smith & Dylan Rains

Ann Smith in honor of those who teach here at FPC

Ann Smith in memory of Pat Smith

Ann Smith in memory of Nick Seth

Paul F. Snyder in memory of my mother and father

Carol Stephenson in memory of Roger Stephenson, Ray and Kathryn Stephenson

George Venner in memory of Pat Venner

Lynda and Dallas Ward in memory of Dallas' parents, the Wards

Lynda and Dallas Ward in memory of Lynda's parents, the Carlsons

Nelda Williams in honor of Carol Stephenson

Beverlee Witty in memory of Mel Witty

Beverlee Witty in honor of Jack and Hannah

THOSE WHO SERVE

Rev. Dr. E. Jones Doughton, Pastor

Ryoji Shimpō, Organist

Renee Stormer, Administrative Assistant

Rev. Dr. Thomas G. Wilbanks, Pastor Emeritus

GUIDE TO WORSHIP

December 24, 2023

8:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Above the traditional site of the Manger, one can find The Church of the Nativity. Here we see a side altar to the sanctuary's main altar. Come, let us adore Him!



Welcome to First Presbyterian Church! We hope you find a welcome here worthy of the gracious God we serve. Conventions in this bulletin include: an asterisk () invites you to stand, as health allows, material printed in **bold** is for the congregation to sing or say, and material printed in italics may provide some helpful information. Let us worship God!*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

STRIKING OF THE HOUR FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE *The First Noël* arr. Alan Simon

INTROIT 147 (vs1) *The First Nowell* English Carol

**The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.**

CALL TO WORSHIP *Philippians 1:2*
Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

And also to you.

A voice cries: In the Wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. For the days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise: I will cause a righteous branch to spring up for David; and He shall execute justice and righteousness.

*HYMN 106 *Prepare the Way, O Zion*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE - JOY

(8:45) Paul Snyder and Wallace Berry

(11:00) The Villafana Family

HYMN 85 (vs 4) *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*

**Light four candles to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He is coming; tell the glad tidings.
Let your lights be shining.**

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, You sent a star to guide the wise men to the child Jesus. We confess that we have not searched for signs of Your love in the world, or trusted Your Good News to be good. We have failed to praise Your Son's birth, and refused His peace on earth. We have expected little, and hoped for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew in us all fine desires, that we may watch and wait and once more hear the glad story of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the Lord. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*RESPONSE (*Hymn 581*)

**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. A—men. A—men.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS #

ANTHEM *O Little Town of Bethlehem* arr. Dennis Allen
(Sussex Carol)
Chancel Choir

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION #

Almighty and All-Knowing God—as we seek Your light at this time of Advent, give us strength that we may find Your joy as Your Word is read and preached in Jesus' name, Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON # *Malachi 4:1-3*

See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the Lord of hosts.

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON # *Mark 1:35*

In the morning, while it was still very dark, He got up and went out to a deserted place, and there He prayed.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*HYMN 118 *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks*

SERMON *Christmas Quiet* Rev. Doughton

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

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, forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY *Bring a Torch, Jeannette Isabella* arr. Phil Ella Penn
Ryoji Shimpo, Pianist

*DOXOLOGY (*Hymn 606*)

**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 †

*HYMN 110

Love Has Come

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE 136 *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* arr. John W Work III


**Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!
While shepherds keep their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

POSTLUDE *O Little Town of Bethlehem* arr. Chip Davis

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP


Elder # - Clarence Greer (8:45); Martha Sheppard-Mahaffey (11:00)

Deacon/Ushers † - Taylor Hammer, Madison Villafana,
Schyler Marin, and Sheila Hammer



THE CHALLENGE

The 100 Can Challenge continues as we collect can goods and other non-perishable items. The donated items will be given to Sharing Life, as they feed those in need in our community. In December we have collected **211 items**. **Thank You!**



The Presbyterian Women are collecting gift cards for women who are escaping "Trafficking." An organization, *New Friends, New Life*, assist them with counseling and financial help. Thru them the gift cards can be distributed. Please purchase them redeemable to Wal-Mart, Target, Amazon and/or Dollar Store.

There will be a basket for them in the Welcome Center. The amount should not exceed \$25. Please write the amount on the back of the card.

The last day to contribution will be Sunday, January 14, 2024.