

NEED TO KNOW COLUMN

Tuesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve "Christ"

6:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Wednesday, December 25 - Christmas

The Church Office will be closed in celebration of Christmas Day

Sunday, December 29 - One worship service will be offered

9:45 a.m. - Sunday School is optional

11:00 a.m. - Worship Service Church Officer Installation and Ordination

Sunday, January 5

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper to be observed at both worship services

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

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

Tuesday, January 7

9:15 a.m. - Presbyterian Women Morning Circle

7:00 p.m. - Presbyterian Women Evening Circle

Wednesday, January 8

7:00 p.m. - Service of Healing and Wholeness

7:30 p.m. - Board of Deacon's Meeting

7:30 p.m. - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, January 12

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

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

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS - 2024

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

Debbie Aynes in memory of James Aynes

Sue Bohmer in honor of my pew mate, Carol Stephenson

Sue Bohmer in honor of my pew mate, Nelda Williams

Sue Bohmer in honor of my pew mate, Evelyn Parker

Sue Bohmer in honor of my pew mate, Santina DeMartini

Sue Bohmer in honor of my pew mate, Bruce Buswell

Marye Boyce in memory of Tom L. Barnard

Marye Boyce in memory of Mary Elizabeth Barnard

John and Lynda Brown in memory of our daughter, Kelly Brown Jennings

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

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

Jones and Mary Lee Doughton in honor of Bennett Doughton and Mary Claire Doughton

Jones and Mary Lee Doughton in memory of Erastus B. J. Doughton and Jack MacMillan

Roger Foltz in honor of my children, Scott, Emily, and David

Roger Foltz in memory of my parents, Marshall B and Theresa Marie Foltz

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

Linda Fricke in loving memory of Dan Fricke

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

Carol and Rod Graham in memory of Clifford Graham & Roger Graham

Carol and Rod Graham in memory of Carmen and Frank Bernal

Anne Grills in memory of Guy Smith

Anne Grills in memory of Myrt Smith

Anne Grills in memory of Mike Roark

Anne Grills in memory of Greg Hough

Sheila Hammer in memory of my mom, Christy Portillo

Sheila Hammer in memory of my dad, Roger Rich

David and Joan Hammons in memory of our parents O.K. and Edith Stovall, and Don and Dot Hammons

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 Jones Doughton and Family

Sarah Kitchens in memory of my sister, Martha Dye

John and Paula Kusewitt in memory of our dads, Jerry Woodard and Jim Kusewitt

John and Paula Kusewitt in memory of our grandparents

John and Paula Kusewitt in honor of our moms and families, with our love

John and Paula Kusewitt in honor of our Dr. and Mrs. Tom Wilbanks with love and gratitude for your ministry

John and Paula Kusewitt in honor of Ryoji Shimpō and his leadership of our Music Program

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

Ann Kyle in honor of our church staff, members, and friends.

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

Michael and Robbie Lee in honor of Michael's mom, Carmelita Acock

Paul and Sue Luce in memory of Edwin and Agnes Carr

Paul and Sue Luce in memory of Robert and Margaret Luce

Brian Neece in honor of Don Neece

Brian Neece in memory of 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 and Mr. and Mrs. Winston Robinson

Eric and Lori Schwartz in memory and honor of our parents, Dan and Linda Fricke and Robert and Shirley Schwartz

Eric and Lori Schwartz in memory of our grandmothers, Billie Hill and Jeanette Schwartz

Ann Smith in honor of our Pastor and his family

Ann Smith in honor of Renee Stormer for all she does

Ann Smith in honor of my children and grandchildren

Ann Smith in honor of Ryoji Shimpō for the beautiful music he provides

Ann Smith in memory of my husband, Pat, my parents, and my in-laws

Paul F. Snyder in memory of my mother Lillie Larsen Snyder

Carol Stephenson in memory of Roger Stephenson and Pat Elliott

Rodney and Celisa VanSickle in honor of LaQueita Durdin, mother of Celisa

Rodney and Celisa VanSickle in honor of Dorothy VanSickle, mother of Rodney

Rodney and Celisa VanSickle in memory of Dewey Durdin, father of Celisa

Rodney and Celisa VanSickle in memory of Bill VanSickle, father of Rodney

Rodney and Celisa VanSickle in memory of Ron Bartel, stepfather of Rodney

George Venner in memory of Pat Venner

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

Lynda and Dallas Ward in memory of our parents, the Carlsons

Diane Weatherford in honor of Amy Surls

Diane Weatherford in memory of Scott, Muriel, and Scott Weatherford, Jr.

Terri White in memory of Verlie Bowling and Martha Bowling

Nelda Williams in honor of David and Renee Stormer

Beverlee Witty in memory of Mel Witty

Beverlee Witty in honor of Jack and Hannah

Beverlee Witty in honor of David and Arista Witty

Beverlee Witty in honor of Ryan and July Witty

THOSE WHO SERVE

E. Jones Doughton, Pastor

Ryoji Shimpō, Director of Music/Organist/Pianist

Renee Stormer, Administrative Assistant

Thomas G. Wilbanks, Pastor Emeritus

GUIDE TO WORSHIP

December 24, 2024

6:00 p.m.



The Star on the bulletin cover is from The Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. It marks the traditional site where Jesus was born. One can see that the Star is in light and shadow. Jesus brings us out of the shadows into the light. As we ponder the birth of Christ, may we remember His lowly birth. May we remember that He came to Earth to be with us, to be among us, and to show us the way to live. May this star lead us to humility, mystery, and worship.

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. Large print hymnals or hymn sheets are available from an usher. Let us worship God!*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

STRIKING OF THE HOUR FOR WORSHIP

VOLUNTARY *Away in a Manger* arr. Steve Calderone

INTROIT 133 (vs 1 & 3) *O Come, All Ye Faithful* John Francis Wade
Chancel Choir

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold Him, born the King of angels!
(Refrain) O come, let us adore Him; O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.
Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizen of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! (Refrain)

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

And also with you.

I bring you good news of great joy which will come to all the people; for unto you is born this day a Savior, Who is Christ the Lord.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

6:00 p.m. - Madison and Schyler Villafana

Rev Doughton: The Christ candle is lit. We have watched; we have waited in hope, for peace, for love, and for joy. Now our redemption draws near!

Congregation: **Glory to God in the highest! Alleluia! Amen!**

*CAROL #134 *Joy to the World*

WELCOME

ANTHEM *Noel Nouvelet* arr. Richard Zgodava
(*Sing We Now of Christmas*)
Chancel Choir

Sing We Now of Christmas, Sing We here Noel!
Of our Lord and Savior We the tidings tell.

Chorus: Sing We Noel!

For Christ the King is born, Noel!

Sing We Now of Christmas, Sing We here Noel!
Angels did say, O Shepherds come and see,
Born in Bethlehem, A blessed Lamb for Thee.

Chorus

In the Manger bed, The shepherds found the Child.
Joseph was there, And Mother, Mary mild.

Chorus

Magi oriental Journeyed from afar.
They did come to greet Him 'Neath the shining star.

Chorus

Now together sing, Let our voices ring,
Thanks to God on High. Sing We here Noel!

SCRIPTURE LESSON *Luke 2:1-7*

CAROL #121 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

SCRIPTURE LESSON *Luke 2:8-14*

CAROL #145 *What Child Is This*

SCRIPTURE LESSON *Luke 2:15-20*

CAROL #124 *Still, Still, Still*

ANTHEM *Glory to God* G.F. Handel

String Quartet Members:
Eileen MacNaughton, violin, Emma Beaty, violin,
Olivia Beaty, viola, and Stella Beaty, cello

SERMON *Song of Songs*
Reverend Dr. E. Jones Doughton

CAROL #115 *Away in a Manger*

A PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

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, forever. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Christmas Lullaby - J. Brahms String Quartet

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Great God of power, we praise you for Jesus Christ, Who came to save us from our sins. We thank You for the hope of the prophets, the song of the angels, and the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. We thank You that in Jesus You became flesh and dwelt among us, sharing human hurts and pleasures. Glory to You for Your grace-filled love. Glory to You, eternal God; through Jesus Christ, Lord of lords, and King of kings, now and forever. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

CAROL *Silent Night*
Stephen Leake, guitarist

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child!

Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,

Heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born."

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,

With dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord, at thy birth, Jesus Lord, at thy birth.

(continued)

Please stand* for the last verse.

Silent night! Holy night!
Wondrous Star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

CHARGE

Please be seated as the Postlude begins. You may use this Postlude as part of the worship service. Some of you may pause and then leave. If so, we ask that you depart in a worshipful way. Others may wish to remain seated for the full Postlude. Following the Postlude those who have purchased poinsettias may take them home.

POSTLUDE *Silent Night* arr. Preston Keys

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Deacon/Ushers

Nick Scholl, Alberto Villafana,
and Parker Villafana