

## RECOGNITION OF NEW TRUSTEE

### PRESENTATION OF THE TRUSTEES

Elder: Mr. Moderator, Kirk Dixon has been elected to serve as a Trustee of the church for the class of 2026. We wish to recognize the responsibility he has accepted.

### ADDRESS TO THE TRUSTEE

Moderator: God has given you special gifts to serve him, and we have chosen you for special work. Under the law of the state, you will conduct business for the church, as authorized by the Session. By your energy, honesty and fairness you will demonstrate Christian faith to those you deal with on our behalf.

### QUESTION TO THE TRUSTEE

Moderator: Do you promise to give the business affairs of this congregation your devoted attention, to encourage generosity and, in all your dealings, work to further our service of Christ in the world?

Trustee: I do.

### QUESTION TO THE PEOPLE

Moderator: Do you receive this person as your Trustee, and do you promise to support her in his work for the church?

People: **We do.**

### THE PRAYER

Holy God: You made the world and called it good, and appointed us to manage things as agents of your love. Guide all Your servants who represent us to be wise children of light, who show Your trust by being trustworthy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### INVITATION TO THE OFFERING & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

#### \*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.**

#### \*HYMN 136

*Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

#### \*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

#### \*RESPONSE 109 (vs. 3) Blest be the God of Israel Hal H. Hopson

On those who sit in darkness the sun begin to rise,  
the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes.  
God guides the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace.  
O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease!

#### VOLUNTARY

*Joy to the World*

arr. Chip Davis

*Following the Response we will have our Postlude. Please be seated.*

### ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Elder # Meg GarverHamilton (11:00)

Deacon/Ushers - Gina Villafana, Rafael Villafana,  
and Bryan Sanders

## FLOWERS

If you provided a **poinsettia** for the sanctuary, please feel free to take it home after this service.

### NEED TO KNOW COLUMN

#### Sunday, December 29 - One worship service will be offered

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

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

#### Wednesday, January 1

*The Church Office will be closed*

#### Sunday, January 5

*The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will 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

4:00 p.m. - Take Down Decorations from Advent and Christmas

#### 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

#### Tuesday, January 14

7:00 p.m. - Christian Education Committee (\*2nd Tuesday)

#### Wednesday, January 15

5:45 p.m. - Wednesday Night Live Begins - Dinner

6:30 p.m. - Classes

7:15 p.m. - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

#### Sunday, January 19

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

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

#### Tuesday, January 21

7:15 p.m. - Session Meeting (\*3rd Tuesday)

#### Wednesday, January 22

5:45 p.m. - Wednesday Night Live Begins - Dinner

6:30 p.m. - Classes

7:15 p.m. - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

#### Sunday, January 26

7:30 a.m. - Men's Council Breakfast

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

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

6:00 p.m. - Annual Congregational Dinner and Meeting

#### Wednesday, January 29

5:45 p.m. - Wednesday Night Live Dinner

6:30 p.m. - Wednesday Night Live Classes

7:15 p.m. - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### THOSE WHO SERVE

Rev. Dr. E. Jones Doughton, Pastor

Ryoji Shimo, Director of Music Ministries/Organist & Pianist

Renee Stormer, Administrative Assistant

Rev. Dr. Thomas G. Wilbanks, Pastor Emeritus

## GUIDE TO WORSHIP

December 29, 2024

11:00 a.m.

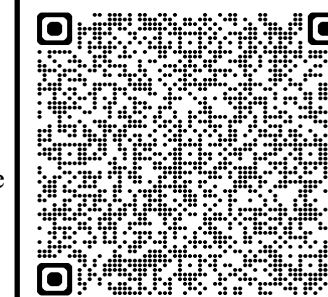
### About the Cover Picture

Look up to the Star. We will acknowledge the Wise Men and the Star they followed on January 5, 2025. Based on the text in Matthew we know it took some time. In a sense, this Sunday, the First Sunday of Christmas, acknowledges that journey. It is a process of discovery. This Sunday we will Ordain and Install new officers. Let us pray for our officers as they give leadership to First Presbyterian for the year ahead.



### ONLINE GIVING OPTION

Have you ever thought of giving online?  
If you would like to give online you may scan the QR Code, this will take you to the giving button on our website.



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

### STRIKING OF THE HOUR FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE *O Come, All Ye Faithful* arr. Preston Keys

INTROIT 106 (vs.3) *Prepare the Way, O Zion* Hope Publishing  
Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior's rule embrace,  
and tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.  
All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing.  
O blest is Christ who came in god's most holy name.

CALL TO WORSHIP *Philippians 1:2; Isaiah 60:1, Titus 2:11*  
Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

#### And also to you.

Arise, shine: for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. The grace of God has dawned upon the world and healing for all humankind.

\*HYMN 133 *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

### \*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 #

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION #

Almighty and All-Knowing God-as we seek Your light at this time, open our minds that we may find Your Hope, open our spirit that we may find Your peace, open our hearts that we might find Your love, open our wills that we might find Your joy as Your Word is read and preached in Jesus Name, Amen.

### FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON # *40:27-31*

Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God"? 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; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

### SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON #

*Luke 2:15-20*

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Word of the Lord.

#### Thanks be to God.

\*HYMN 119 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

SERMON *Song of the Shepherds* Rev. Doughton

## \*ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF ELDERS AND DEACONS

### THE SENTENCES

There are different gifts,

**But it is the same spirit Who gives them.**

There are different ways of serving God,

**But it is the same Lord Who is served.**

God works through different people in different ways,

**But it is the same God Who achieves His purpose through them all.**

Each one is given a gift by the Spirit,

**To use it for the common good.**

Together we are the body of Christ,

**Individually we are members of Him.**

Though we have different gifts, together we are a ministry of reconciliation led by the risen Christ. We work and pray to make the church useful in the world, and we call men and women to faith, so that in the end, every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, in the glory of God the Father. Within our common ministry, some members are chosen for particular work as ministers of the word, Ruling Elders or Deacons. In ordination, we recognize these special ministries, remembering that our Lord Jesus said: "Whoever among you wants to be great must become the servant of all, and if he wants to be first among you, he must be the slave of all!"

**Just as the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve and give His life to set others free.**

### PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES

Elder: Mr. Moderator, speaking for the people of the church, I bring David Stormer, and Steven Campbell Futrell to be ordained and installed as Elders, Ron Smith, and Larry Thomas to be installed to duty on the Session. And, speaking for the people of the church, I bring David Hammons, Schyler Marin, Rodney VanSickle to be ordained and installed as to duty on the Board of Deacons. *Brenda Greer and Phil Johnson as Elder, and John Brown as Deacon will be Ordained/Installed at a later date.*

*(Officers-elect will present themselves - please come forward.)*

*(continued)*

### CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS TO THE CANDIDATES

Moderator: Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge Him Lord of all and Head of the church, and through Him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

Candidate: I do.

Moderator: Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the church universal, and God's Word to you?

Candidate: I do.

Moderator: Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God?

Candidate: I do and I will.

Moderator: Will you fulfill your office in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions?

Candidate: I will.

Moderator: Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit?

Candidate: I will.

Moderator: Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?

Candidate: I will.

Moderator: Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church?

Candidate: I do.

Moderator: Will you seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination and love?

Candidate: I will.

Moderator: *(to Elders)* Will you be a faithful **Elder**, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture, and service? Will you share in government and discipline, serving in the governing bodies of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

*(to Deacons)* Will you be a faithful **Deacon**, teaching charity, urging concern, and directing the people's help to the friendless and those in need, and in your ministry try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ.

Candidate: I will.

### CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS TO THE PEOPLE

Elder: Do we, the members of the church, accept these people as Elders and Deacons, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

People: **We do.**

Elder: Do we agree to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the church?

People: **We do.**

*(continued)*