

NEED TO KNOW COLUMN

Sunday, November 30 - 1st Sunday of Advent *Hope*

8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Worship Service - Jubilate Ringers
 9:45 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages
 4:00 p.m. - Decorate the Church for Advent and Christmas

Monday, December 1

7:00 p.m. - Jubilate Ringers rehearsal

Tuesday, December 2

10:00 a.m. - Presbyterian Women's Morning Circle Christmas Luncheon

Wednesday, December 3

7:00 p.m. - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 5

6:00 p.m. - Faith Builders and Youth - Bethlehem Revisited

Sunday, December 7 - 2nd Sunday of Advent *Peace*

8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. - Carter BloodCare Mobile Unit (north parking lot)
 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Worship Service
 9:45 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages
 5:00 p.m. - Children's Christmas Pageant
 6:00 p.m. - Soup with Santa

Monday, December 8

7:00 p.m. - Jubilate Ringers rehearsal

Tuesday, December 9

7:00 p.m. - Presbyterian Women's Christmas Party at Susan Farmer's home

Wednesday, December 10

7:00 p.m. - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, December 13

T/B/D - Faith Builders and Youth Christmas Party (Silly Sock Exchange)

Sunday, December 14 - 3rd Sunday of Advent *Love*

The Chancel Choir presents the Christmas Cantata
 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Worship Service
 9:45 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages

Monday, December 15

7:00 p.m. - Jubilate Ringers rehearsal

Tuesday, December 16

7:15 p.m. - Joint Officer Meeting in the side room of Wilbanks Hall

Wednesday, December 17

7:00 p.m. - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, December 20

T/B/D - Youth Progressive Dinner

Sunday, December 21 - 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

Wednesday, December 24

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

Thursday, December 25

Christmas Day - Office is Closed

Friday, December 26

Boxing Day - Office is Closed

Sunday, December 28 - Guest Preacher, Walter Teter

9:00 a.m. - Sunday School Offered
 10:00 a.m. Worship Service (One Service)
 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. - Youth Gathering at the Church

All Are Welcome, Bring a Friend Sunday, December 7

Plan to spend the day in Worship, Fellowship and Outreach!! Begin this Sunday as you usually do in Worship and Sunday School. Spend your afternoon relaxing or napping, though...rest up for the evening's activities.

This is definitely an All-Church Event!

5:00PM - Children's Program

6:00PM - Soup Supper in Wilbanks Hall with a Visit from Santa



We need volunteers to bring Soup in a Crockpot, Crackers or Cornbread, and Cookies. The C.E. Committee will prepare the drinks.

Help a neighbor by donating blood.

Local donors save local lives: Carter BloodCare donors made the difference for many Texas patients.

Our next Blood Drive is Sunday, December 7, from 8:30am to 12:30pm.

Please roll-up your sleeve and give the gift of life.

26 openings available.
Schedule Your Appointment Now!

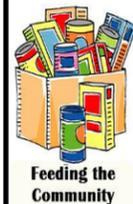


The Antioch Partners

Bob and Kristi Rice



On Sunday, December 7, Missionaries, Rev. Bob and Kristi Rice will be joining us. They will give a brief update during both worship services and during the Sunday School hour they will give us a more in depth look at the work they are going to do in Ghana, West Africa in 2026.



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. Our total items collected thus far in November is **206 items**.

Thank you to all who contribute!

THOSE WHO SERVE

Rev. Dr. E. Jones Doughton, Pastor
 Ryoji Shimpo, Director of Music Ministries/Organist & Pianist
 Renee Stormer, Administrative Assistant
 Rev. Dr. Thomas G. Wilbanks, Pastor Emeritus

GUIDE TO WORSHIP

November 30, 2025

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

About the Cover Picture

"O Little Town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie" ... This is my view from my hotel room in 2022. Today Bethlehem is a bustling community. However, once it was a small community in the Judean hills. In this village Ruth gleaned and met Boaz. The prophet Micah spoke of this place as the birthplace of the Messiah. Today we will consider the voice of the prophet, Malachi and the Gospel of John. We will look again to this village where the hopes and dreams of the years were met.



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 *Gentle Mary Laid Her Child* arr. Douglas Wagner
Jubilate Ringers

INTROIT 106 (v.1) *Prepare the Way, O Zion* arr. American Lutheran
Hymnal

Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley a level way appear.
Greet One Who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.

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.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE - HOPE

(8:45) Aynes Family

(11:00) John and Paula Kusewitt

*HYMN 88 (vs. 1-3) *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

*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 is 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 *God Rest You Merry, Chistians All* arr. Douglas
Jubilate Ringers Wagner

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION #

Thy Word is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. As
Your Word is read and preached may it guide us in the right path,
may it direct our steps, and may it lead us to our hearts true desire
in Jesus Name. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON # *Malachi 1:1*

The oracle of the Word of the LORD to Israel by Malachi. "I
have loved you," says the LORD. But you say, "How hast Thou
loved us?" "Is not Esau Jacob's brother?" says the LORD.

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON # *John 1:1-5*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and
the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things
were made through Him, and without Him was not anything
made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light
of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not
overcome it.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MOMENT FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES (11:00)

The Children and Youth are asked to come forward at this time.

*HYMN 82 *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*

SERMON *The Promise of Light* 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

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.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* arr. Mark Hayes
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 88 (vs. 4-6) *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE 88 (v.7) *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

POSTLUDE *On Christmas Night, All Christians Sing*
Jubilate Ringers arr. Douglas E. Wagner

Please be seated for the Postlude.

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Elder # - Brian Neece (8:45); Brenda Greer (11:00)

Deacon/Ushers † - Amanda Aynes, Adeline Aynes, and Sue
Bohmer (8:45);

Sharon Condarco, Susan Leake, and James Smith (11:00)

