

FLOWERS

Today's sanctuary flowers are presented to the glory of God, by Jan Sloan, in loving memory of my mother and in honor of my son and daughter, all celebrating December birthdays in this blessed season.

NEED TO KNOW COLUMN

Sunday, December 7 - 2nd Sunday of Advent Peace

The Lord's Supper will be observed at both Worship Services

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 Supper 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

Monday, December 29 through Wednesday, December 31

The Church will be on abbreviated hours in order to close the books for 2025 and prepare for 2026. Please call for an appointment if you would like to give an end of the year contribution.

Thursday, January 1, 2026

The Church office will be closed.

Sunday, January 4 - Incoming Church Officers will be Ordained and Installed at 10:00 a.m.

The Lord's Supper will be observed at both Worship Services

9:00 a.m. - Sunday School Offered

10:00 a.m. - Worship Service (One Service)

4:00 p.m. - Dismantle and store the Decorations

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 Today, Dec. 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 in November was 212 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

December 7, 2025

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

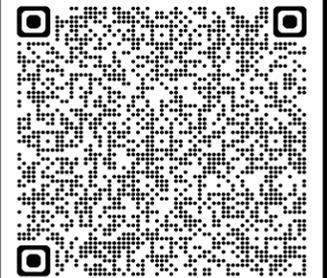
About the Cover Picture

This church is outside of Bethlehem in a recreated Shepherds' Field. This is not presented as The Field. It is there to give the Pilgrims an idea of what The Field was like. The church acoustics are wonderful. When we gathered there in 2022 we sang some carols. When I look at this picture, "sleep in heavenly peace" comes to mind. Today we will light the Peace Candle as we celebrate the Prince of Peace.



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 *Still, Still, Still* arr. Chip Davis

INTROIT 124 (v.1) *Still, Still, Still* arr. Walter Ehret
Still, still, still, He sleeps this night so chill!
The virgin's tender arms enfolding,
warm and safe the Child are holding.
Still, still, still, He sleeps this night so chill.

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 - PEACE

(8:45) Steven and Carolyn Yaden
(11:00) Eric and Lori Schwartz

*HYMN 119 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

*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

MOMENT FOR MISSION Rev. Bob & Kristi Rice

ANTHEM (11:00) *Advent Prayer* William Sisson
Chancel Choir

[Refrain] How will we know Him, Lord?
How will we know, how will we know?
We will seek in the night,
We will watch for a sign,
But how will we know Him, Lord?

(continued)

Seek in the radiance of hope and of peace,
Seek in the bright flame of joy,
Seek in the light and the goodness of love,
But seek Him first in your heart. [Refrain]
Know Him in the radiance of hope and of peace,
Know Him in the bright flame of joy.
know Him in the light and the goodness of love,
But know Him first in your heart.
Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
Joy of every longing heart.
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus:
There's room in my heart for Thee.

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 3:1*

See, I am sending My messenger to prepare the way before Me, and the Lord Whom you seek will suddenly come to His temple. The messenger of the covenant in Whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts.

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON # *John 1:6-8*

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

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 123 *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

SERMON *Witness to the Light* Rev. Doughton

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* arr. Noreen
Ryoji Shimpo, pianist Lienhard

*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 †

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and 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.**

Words of Institution

Reception of the Sacrament

Prayer after Communion

*HYMN 121 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE 124 (v.2) *Still, Still, Still*

Sleep, sleep, sleep,
He lies in slumber deep while angel hosts from heaven
come winging, sweetest songs of joy are singing.
Sleep, sleep, sleep, He lies in slumber deep.

POSTLUDE *O Little Town of Bethlehem* arr. Preston Keys

Please be seated for the Postlude.

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Elder # - Dr. Carol Stephenson (8:45); Susan Leake (11:00)

Deacon/Ushers † - Rodney VanSickle, Bryan Sanders,

Taylor Hammer, Sheila Hammer (8:45);

David Hammons, Bryan Sanders,

Taylor Hammer, and Sheila Hammer (11:00)



The Ladies Who Love the Lord (LWLTL) have started their next mission project. They will be collecting new or gently used hoodies and jackets. All sizes are welcomed. These donations will be given to *Inspired Vision Compassion Center* for disbursement. The last day to donate will be Saturday, January 17, 2026.

