

First Presbyterian Church of Naples

*In the Heart of Naples with the Love of God:
we worship, we love, we grow, we serve*



**Second Sunday of Advent
GenWE Sunday
December 7, 2025**

Let us quiet our hearts, minds, and voices for the beginning of worship.
At this time, please silence all cell phones.

The Prelude

Meditation on “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

JOHN R. WATKINSON

THE TIME OF GATHERING

Welcome and Life Together

REV. DR. SCOTT KENEFAKE

SERVICE OF PREPARATION

*Call to Worship and Lighting of the Advent Candle

MADDOX MINK, MIA STURZENEGGER

Leader: A voice cries out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord.”

A choir sings in the silence, “Come, Emmanuel.”

Every valley shall be filled. Every heart shall be made whole, for peace is stronger than turmoil, and love is louder than hate. As we light our second Advent candle,

All: we pray for the holy peace of God.

Leader: Come now, O Child of Mary.

All: Come now, O Prince of Peace.

A TIME FOR PRAISE AND CONFESSION

*Hymn of Praise #87

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

GENEVAN 42

1. *“Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!” So says our God.
“Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow’s load.
To my people now proclaim that my pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare now is over.”*
2. *For the herald’s voice is crying in the desert far and near,
calling us to true repentance, since the reign of God is here.
O, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way.
Let the valleys rise in meeting and the hills bow down in greeting.*
3. *Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God’s holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token that God’s word is never broken.*

Call to Confession

REV. REX CHILDS

Prayer of Confession

God of Grace, we confess that we are not ready for you to come into our world — not quite yet. We cling to the known and familiar, afraid of the transformation your grace will bring. Yet you are always a step ahead of us, a voice crying out in the wilderness, inviting us to bold new ways of being disciples. Humble us, O God, and teach us to do the work of repentance so that, fully reliant on your grace, we may know the richness of restored relationship with you and one another.

A Moment for Silent Personal Confession

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: Hear the good news! The wilderness will rejoice; the dry land will blossom. The people of God will return with joy and singing. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

All: Through Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

*Gloria Patri #581

GREATOREX

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. Amen! Amen!

**Please stand, if able*

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

MIA STURZENEGGER

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 11:1-9

THE MESSAGE

A green Shoot will sprout from Jesse's stump, from his roots a budding Branch. The life-giving Spirit of God will hover over him, the Spirit that brings wisdom and understanding, The Spirit that gives direction and builds strength, the Spirit that instills knowledge and Fear-of-God. Fear-of-God will be all his joy and delight. He won't judge by appearances, won't decide on the basis of hearsay. He'll judge the needy by what is right, render decisions on earth's poor with justice. His words will bring everyone to awed attention. A mere breath from his lips will topple the wicked. Each morning he'll pull on sturdy work clothes and boots, and build righteousness and faithfulness in the land. The wolf will romp with the lamb, the leopard sleep with the kid. Calf and lion will eat from the same trough, and a little child will tend them. Cow and bear will graze the same pasture, their calves and cubs grow up together, and the lion eat straw like the ox. The nursing child will crawl over rattlesnake dens, the toddler stick his hand down the hole of a serpent. Neither animal nor human will hurt or kill on my holy mountain. The whole earth will be brimming with knowing God-Alive, a living knowledge of God ocean-deep, ocean-wide. On that day, Jesse's Root will be raised high, posted as a rallying banner for the peoples. The nations will all come to him. His headquarters will be glorious.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Response

Wait for the Lord

TAIZÉ COMMUNITY

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!

Scripture Reading

Matthew 3:1-12

PEW BIBLE PAGE 784

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" ⁴Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"New Beginnings"

REV. DR. SCOTT KENEFKE

*Affirmation of Faith (adapted from *The Confession of 1967*)

God's redeeming work in Jesus Christ embraces the whole of human life: social and cultural, economic and political, scientific and technological, individual and corporate. It includes our natural environment as exploited and despoiled by sin. God wills that God's purpose for human life shall be fulfilled under the rule of Christ, and all evil be banished from God's creation. Already God's reign is present as a ferment in the world, stirring hope in all people and preparing the world to receive its ultimate judgment and redemption. With an urgency born of this hope, the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world. It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth, nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat. In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement to the final triumph of God.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

The Offertory ***And the Glory of the Lord (Messiah)*** G. F. HANDEL
And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

*The Doxology

***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.***

TIME OF HOLY COMMUNION

*Communion Hymn #347 (vs. 1,2) ***Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*** PICARDY

- 1. Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.*
- 2. King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood,
he will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food.*

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and Lord's Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: *We lift them to the Lord.*

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: *It is right to give our thanks and praise.*

Leader: It is truly right and our greatest joy...Let us pray together as Jesus taught us, saying:

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 and Distribution

Communion Music

***Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland
(Now Come, Savior of the Gentiles)***

J. S. BACH

***Chorale Prelude on 'Es Ist ein Ros' entsprungen'
(Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming)*** JOHANNES BRAHMS

Prayer of Blessing

GOING FORTH

*Hymn of Commitment #96

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

WINCHESTER NEW

1. *On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!*
2. *Then cleansed be every life from sin; make straight the way for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.*
3. *We hail you as our Savior, Lord, our refuge and our great reward;
without your grace we waste away like flowers that wither and decay.*
4. *Stretch forth your hand; our health restore, and make us rise to fall no more.
O let your face upon us shine and fill the world with love divine.*

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Noël Suisse

LOUIS-CLAUDE DAQUIN

Dr. Brice Gerlach on the Julia Thompson Smith Memorial Pipe Organ.

GenWE: Advent Festival

"Embracing the Joy and Hope of Christmas." Join us after the service today in Spencer Hall for crafts, a hot chocolate bar, and Advent calendars for all!

Advent Devotionals

This year our Advent Devotional is by Henri Nouwen, "Jesus—God's Promise." Devotionals are located at the exit doors, in Spencer Hall and in the church office.

Blue Christmas Service

There is a growing attentiveness to the needs of people who are blue at Christmas. Not everyone is cheery for the Christmas holidays. Join us for a service of comfort, hope, wholeness and renewal on Wednesday, December 17 at 5:30 p.m. Following the service Nancy Van Fleet will facilitate a labyrinth walk in the Chapel.

Chancel Flowers

The Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of Julia Thompson Smith, by her family.

Ushers: Jack Marsh (head usher), Dave Burgess, Barbara Davis, Payton Gibbs, Sally Jackson, Sylvia Marsh, Evie Newman, Ali Norris

Greeters: Cindy Esler, Linda and Walter Gadkowski, Cari Rieder, Gay and Tim Stover

Hospitality Table: GenWE

News & Events

Guests and Visitors Welcome: We are so glad you joined us in worship this morning. Please visit our Welcome Table in Spencer Hall for a gift and join us for refreshments.

Today is GenWE Sunday which is held on the first Sunday of each month. We are encouraged to gather across generations to worship together. Nursery care is available for our children (preschool and younger) and there is a Wiggle Room adjacent to the sanctuary for those who want to watch the service while their children have a place to play. We have worship bags for all children to help parents guide their children through the service in an interactive way. Please ask an usher for one.

The Chancel Choir Christmas Concert will be held this afternoon at 4 p.m. Our annual concert showcases the incredible talent of our Chancel Choir accompanied by a chamber orchestra. Enjoy a beautiful concert with some of the most traditional and well-loved Christmas songs ever composed. There is no charge for the concert. A free-will offering will be taken.

Helping Hands Ministry of the PW includes the Sew and Sews and the Prayer Shawlers groups. Join them on the Wednesday, December 10, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Room 203. For more information, please contact Gail Clark at 239.331.3312.

Sacred Habits - An Advent Journey: Tidings of Comfort and Joy

Tuesdays, December 9, and 16 from 6–7 p.m. on Zoom. Join Rev. Rex Childs and Nancy Van Fleet this Advent for a journey. This online experience an invitation to enter deep into a season that is full of mystery and possibility, solace and hope – as we recognize Christ in our midst. Each week, we will contemplate different themes through scripture, song, centering prayer, and blessings. RSVP to Nancy Van Fleet for Zoom information.

Habitat For Humanity Work Day will take place on Thursday, December 11. We will leave the church parking lot at 7:30 a.m. and ride the bus to our worksite, returning by 12:30 p.m. Sign up in Spencer Hall at the Missions table. Contact Dick Hillebrand, rhilleb1955@gmail.com or 330.715.7700.

Church Tour - Join us next Sunday following the service for a behind the scenes tour of our church buildings. Sign up in Spencer Hall.

Wednesday Morning Men: Faith and Fellowship - All men are invited to join us on Wednesday, December 17 at 8 a.m. as we continue our series on Famous Religious Art and Artists. For more information, please contact Bill Kearney at skearney239@comcast.net.

Women of the Way Winter 2026 study: *Luke in the Land*. Join us as we delve into Luke's accounts of Jesus, through teaching videos that take us to locations in Israel including Jerusalem, Gethsemane, Emmaus and more. The dates are Thursdays, January 15 to February 26. Coffee 9 a.m. Study 9:30 a.m. Sign up and learn more in Spencer Hall or call Gay Stover at 417.274.6619.

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) continues to meet weekly as we search for a new Senior Pastor/ Head of Staff. The PNC recently completed the Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP) that is required for posting positions with the Presbyterian Church (USA). You can read the MDP on our website: www.fpcnaples.org/pnc. If you would like to submit a name of a possible candidate to serve as our next pastor or if you have names of individuals you would like to recommend to the PNC, please email the PNC via: MarcMiller2650@gmail.com.

Weekly Bible Studies

Preparing the Way, Adult Sunday School - Join Rev. Rex Childs on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. in the Chapel for sessions based on the New Testament reading on which that day's sermon is based. You can obtain the readings from our Thursday e-blast or by contacting the office.

Women's Ministry Bible Study - All women are welcome to join us on Mondays at 1 p.m. in the Parlor. We are currently studying the *Letters of Peter*. For information, please contact Janeen McClure at jrmc@airmcclure.com.

HUDDLE - A Men's Bible Discussion Group - All men are invited and encouraged to bring their lunch and gather each Thursday at noon in the Parlor. We are studying the book of Nehemiah. If you prefer, please contact the church office for Zoom link.

Missions

Angel Tree gifts and shoes must be returned today. We are delivering the gifts to **Misión Peniel** in Immokalee tomorrow. Thank you so much for your kindness and generosity! All tags were taken off the tree last Sunday.

Thank you to the **Salvation Army Bell Ringers**! We appreciate your participation for this worthy cause.

Reminder: All monies collected at the Christmas Eve Services will be used for our **Meals of Hope** packing party next year.

Prayer List

In an effort to keep the prayer list current, names will remain on the prayer list for four weeks, unless we are notified otherwise. If you wish for a name to be included, please contact the church office.

Marina Anglim	Mary Matvias	Linda Nickerson	The U.S. Military
*Michael Bennett	*Jerry Miller	Charles Rice	Stephen Ministers/Care
John Caldwell & family	Katherine Miller	Austin Schuessler	Receivers
*Sue Dotson	Robert Miller	*Martha Waddell-Gill	All serving Missionaries
*Pam Fisher	*Roger Miller	Carol Ward	Central Presbyterian
Dan Gagliano	Leslie Moore	Nancy Westlund	Reformed Church, Cuba
Edison Martinez	Marilyn Naiman	*church member	

Hospital Ministry - If you will be hospitalized or know of someone in the congregation who is, please contact Coordinator for Membership and Caring Ministries, Susan Pratt, or the church office.

Giving Opportunities

Deacon Fund Sunday

One of the missions of the Deacons is charitable outreach through our Benevolence Fund. We rely solely on contributions from our congregation. Donations can be made through the pink envelopes in the pews or directly online at www.fpcnaples.org/give designating "Deacon Fund."

Feed the 5,000

This month your donations will help The Shelter for Abused Women and Children. Ushers will hand out food lists following the service today. Food contributions will be collected next Sunday. Items may also be dropped off to the church office during regular work hours. Checks may be made payable to "First Presbyterian Church" with the memo marked "Feed the 5,000" and placed in the collection plate.

"The Grace of Giving" is our 2026 Generosity Campaign theme, based on 2 Corinthians 8:7. Thank you so much to all of you who have already submitted your 2026 pledge! We have received 159 pledges totaling \$1.17M, about 67% of our goal. If you have not yet submitted a pledge, you may take a card from the pew or complete one online at www.fpcnaples.org/give.

Year-End Giving

If you wish to make a year-end gift, please remember that we need to receive it or have it postmarked by **noon on Wednesday, December 31** to be counted as a 2025 gift. For those of you arranging contributions through your bank or other financial institution, please allow them extra time to process your gift in order to meet that same deadline. If you wish to make a gift of stock, please contact Joan Congine, Finance Administrator, and she can provide specific instructions for your financial institution.

			vs 2024
Financial Snapshot through Oct 31, 2025	2025	2024	Fav/(Unfav)
Income - Year to date	2,421,439	2,206,406	215,033
Expenses - Year to date	2,519,001	2,353,224	165,778
Net Income (shortfall) - Year to date	(97,563)	(146,818)	49,255

Staff Listing

<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone: 239.262.1311</u>	<u>Ext.</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
Ministers			
Rev. Dr. Scott Kenefake, Interim Senior Pastor		2035	scottk@fpcnaples.org
Rev. Rex Childs, Associate Pastor		2027	rexc@fpcnaples.org
Worship & Music			
Dr. Brice Gerlach, Director of Music Ministries		2039	briceg@fpcnaples.org
Taylor Irvan, Sound and Video Operator			
Barry Krikke, AV and Technology Coordinator		2044	barryk@fpcnaples.org
Christian Education			
Jack Fogelman, Kidz Lab Teacher			
Ashley Henning, Assistant for Children, Youth & Family Ministries		2012	ashley.henning@fpcnaples.org
Samantha Sacristan, Nursery Care			
Nancy Van Fleet, Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries		2029	nancyv@fpcnaples.org
Office			
Joan Congine, Finance Administrator		2041	joanc@fpcaples.org
Sandy Knight, Office Assistant/Receptionist		2000	sandyk@fpcnaples.org
Kathleen Law, Director of Publications and Social Media		2013	kathleenl@fpcnaples.org
Sharman Pfaus, Executive Assistant		2036	sharmanp@fpcnaples.org
Susan Pratt, Coordinator of Membership and Caring Ministries		2037	susanp@fpcnaples.org
Debbie Savage, Executive Director		2042	debbies@fpcnaples.org
Facilities			
Eduardo Martinez, Maintenance		2014	eduardom@fpcnaples.org
Jeff Newman, Director of Facilities		2028	jeffn@fpcnaples.org
Nick Zamagni, Custodian		2016	nickz@fpcnaples.org
Preschool			
Amy Agnew, Preschool Director		2009	amya@fpcnaples.org
Paige Buck, Assistant Preschool Director		2038	paigeb@fpcnaples.org



Please fill out the following form and return it along with payment to the church office. Please note **Poinsettia Dedication** on the payment. All orders must be received no later than TODAY. Please use one form per dedication. Additional forms may be found online at www.fpcnaples.org. The cost is \$25 per poinsettia.

Please PRINT CLEARLY the information you would like to appear in the dedication.

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

Given by _____

Your name _____ Phone _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____

A list of dedications will appear in the Christmas Eve bulletins.
You may pick up your poinsettia following the 7 p.m. service on Christmas Eve.



Scan the QR code
to visit our website.

250 Sixth Street South Naples, FL 34102
239.262.1311 www.fpcnaples.org

