

JOY

MAY THE GOD OF HOPE FILL
YOU WITH ALL JOY.



ROMANS 15:134 (CEB)

First Presbyterian Church
3rd Sunday of Advent
December 14, 2025

Prelude *“Good King Wenceslaus”* Kevin McChesney
Handbell Choir

Welcome, Greetings and Announcements

Introit..... *“Prepare the Way!”* Don Besig

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Leslie and Shane Hardin
The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined.
Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Christ, Be Our Light!

A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent



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Opening Prayer Ian Poole
God of Glory, we rejoice in the good news of your promises. Through your Spirit remake us into hope-filled disciples, discovering lives attuned to your wonder, and sparking in others a desire to know you more. In the name of the One who comes to us, we pray. **Amen.**

* Hymn of Praise No. 12 *“People, Look East”* BESANÇON

* Call to Confession

* Prayer of Confession (Unison)

God of hope, you promise a new and different way of life, yet we usually prefer to stay on our own path. We put ourselves before others, ignoring the gift of life in each of us. We fill our days with human pessimism, assuming that nothing will ever get better rather than welcoming your deep hope. Forgive us, Lord. Show us your way this Advent, that we might see your branch sprouting in our midst and fill our lives with your joy.

(A moment of silent personal confession)

* Assurance of Forgiveness

* Glory to the Father (Gloria Patri) (Unison) Hymn No. 579

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.

Prayer for Illumination..... Ian Poole

First Scripture Reading Luke 1:67-79 NT Page 58

Time with Young Disciples

Anthem..... *“Prepare Ye the Way”* Allen Pote

Second Scripture Reading..... Isaiah 11:1-9 OT Page 640

Sermon Unwrapped Presents Rev. Leslie Roper

* Hymn No. 13..... *“Prepare the Way”* BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

* Affirmation of Faith (Unison)-Apostle’s Creed Ian Poole

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.

Giving of Our Tithes & Offerings Ian Poole

- Offertory “*Noel for the Third Sunday of Advent*” Alexis Chauvet
- * Doxology – Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow Hymn 592
**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 Ian Poole
- Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer (Unison) Traditional, Hymnal Page 16
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.
- * Closing Hymn No. 411 “*Arise, Your Light Is Come!*” FESTAL SONG
- * Charge & Benediction
- Postlude “*Dialogue on the Magnificat*” Jean-François Dandrieu

*It is the practice of this congregation to sit back down for the postlude.
Please join us in enjoying a few moments of reflection as our service concludes.*

*Congregation Standing (Please remain seated if standing is uncomfortable.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Poinsettia Donation List of those who contributed to the beautiful poinsettias that decorate the sanctuary can be found in your bulletin.

Spa City Youth will meet today at the Farmer's Market (121 Orange St.) from 2:00-4:00 p.m. for Sweets on the Streets! They will distribute cookies and milk, along with warm winter items to those who need them.

Birthday Sunday is next Sunday, December 21, where we will honor our members and friends celebrating birthdays in the month of December. Following worship, we invite members, friends and guests to the Fellowship Hall for birthday cake. Please join us!

Christmas Joy Offering: Fifty-percent of your gifts assist current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs. The other fifty-percent of your gifts make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Christmas Joy Offering will be received Sunday, December 21.

Christmas Eve Service



Presbyterian Women's 5th Wednesday Out will be at the Grand Lagniappe Shoppe (811 W. Grand Ave.) on Wednesday, December 31, **11:30 a.m.** We will enjoy tasty, savory and sweet heavy hors d'oeuvres, cider, and Hugos. The cost is \$25 including tax and tip. Payment is due in advance. Please give your money to Sally Pierce or Tammy Abel. A sign-up sheet is hanging on the "Sign-Up Board" located in the Fellowship Hall right outside the kitchen.

Welcome Visitors! Please take a moment to fill out the visitor information card, located in the pew in front of you. Please drop them in the offering plate or hand them to an usher. We'd love to get to know you better! After Worship, join us for a time of fellowship and beverages in the Fellowship Hall. There, you'll find the Welcome Center, with more information about our church!

Children are always welcome in worship at First Presbyterian Church. Older children are encouraged to participate in worship and are welcome to pick up pre-packed activities on the table in the back of the sanctuary just for them. A nursery is available upstairs for children under 5. Please ask an usher if you need assistance.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

<p><u>December 1</u> Sophia Hardin</p> <p><u>December 3</u> Barbara Helm Cindy Meyers</p> <p><u>December 5</u> Gerald Murders</p> <p><u>December 6</u> Helen Murders</p> <p><u>December 7</u> Jim Matheney Johnnie Roebuck Taylor Simmons</p>	<p><u>December 8</u> Tom Hopkins Brady Leonhard</p> <p><u>December 15</u> Rev. Leslie Roper</p> <p><u>December 17</u> Marilyn Ridge</p> <p><u>December 19</u> John Talpas</p> <p><u>December 21</u> Mark Phillips</p> <p><u>December 26</u> Pam Christian Ann Westbrook Raines</p>	<p><u>December 27</u> Jacob Mills</p> <p><u>December 29</u> Kathy Farrar Cory Leonhard</p> <p><u>December 30</u> Frankie Ochsner</p> <p><u>December 31</u> Mike Muzny</p>
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DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

<p><u>December 10</u> Dus and Steve Spivey</p> <p><u>December 13</u> Candace and Grant Muzny</p>	<p><u>December 19</u> Barbara and Michael Helm</p> <p><u>December 26</u> Karolyn and Dick Mohrman</p>
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We are so very lucky to have a congregation that is willing to invest in our graduating seniors each year. Each month on the 3rd Sunday, members celebrating their birthdays that month are encouraged to make a special "Birthday Blessing" to our scholarship fund. We have been so blessed in the past to be able to contribute to the continuing education of our Youth. We hope that you will consider this month to give in honor of your birthday.



Church Office Hours:

Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Office Lunch Hour:

12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 14 – 3rd Sunday of Advent

9:00 a.m. Handbells
9:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship
2:00 p.m. Spa City Youth Sweets on the Streets

Monday, December 15

9:00 a.m. Bargain Box Marking

Tuesday, December 16

10:00 a.m. PW Morning Circle

Wednesday, December 17

10:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study
12:00 p.m. Bargain Box Open until 3:00 p.m.
12:00 p.m. Food Pantry Open until 2:00 p.m.
5:30 p.m. Finance and Administration Committee Meeting

Sunday, December 21 – 4th Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship
11:30 a.m. Birthday Cake in the Fellowship Hall

Save your Quarters for the Heifer Project! The quarter tube is located just inside the sanctuary doors near the steps leading into the sanctuary. **Save your Dimes!** All dimes put into the offering plates go to the Vera Lloyd Home to purchase Bibles. “Make a joyful noise to the Lord.”

There are many openings on The 2026 Flower Chart! Located on the wall by the 2 large closets in the Fellowship Hall, pick your date, add your name and special dedication. If you do not wish to write it on the board, or if space does not allow, please call, email or visit the office. You may do this at any time well in advance of your day. ***Cost is \$38.50***

Prayer Requests: Anyone who wants prayer from the Prayer Chain should email or call Jamie Williams, jsar43@gmail.com / 276-2852 or Patricia Mills, paulpatmills@yahoo.com / 545-5250 with your request. You may also email the Church Office office@firstpreshotsprings.org. A request can be for yourself, a family member, or a family friend. *You may ask that the request be kept confidential. Only the Prayer Chain members will be notified and they will also be told to keep it confidential.*

Please remember to recycle your bulletins by placing them in the blue recycle container in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you.

First Presbyterian Church
213 Whittington Avenue
Hot Springs, Arkansas, 71901
Church Office: 501.624.5646 - Fax: 501.624.2938
Church Email: office@firstpreshotsprings.org
www.firstpreshotsprings.org

Find us on:

Facebook: First Presbyterian Church of Hot Springs, Arkansas

Instagram: firstpreshs

Worship Leadership

The Rev. Leslie Roper, Pastor revroper@gmail.com
Ms. Deleen Davidson, Choir Director 504.382.3804
Dr. Ian Aipperspach, Organist and Handbell Director

Church Staff

Ms. Tammy Abel, Office Administrator office@firstpreshotsprings.org
Ms. Jessica Rowton, Financial Administrator bookkeeper@firstpreshotsprings.org
Mr. Randall Pierce, Sexton

Church Officers

Ms. Kathy White, Clerk of Session 501.626.4859
Mr. James Matheney, Treasurer 870.866.5242
Ms. Helen Bumpas, Moderator, Presbyterian Women 501.620.0348
Ms. Jackie Edwards, Moderator, Board of Deacons 501.625.2025