

Firelands Presbyterian Church

www.firelandschurch.org

December 21, 2025

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Welcome to Firelands Church, a community of believers gathered by the Holy Spirit and committed to serving God and growing together in Jesus Christ.

We invite all of our worshippers to stay for fellowship following the service so that we might become better acquainted.

The Order Of The Liturgy

*Those who are able are invited to stand.

Gathering

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

“Nativity Carol”

Rutter

Born in a stable so bare, Born so long ago.

Born ‘neath the light of star He who loved us so.

Far away, silent he lay, Born today, your homage pay,

For Christ was born for aye, Born on Christmas Day.

*Call to Light

*All sing to the tune of What Child is This? Hymn 145

What child is this, who saves the world,

His love is never fleeting?

He takes away the stain of sin.

His goodness we are greeting.

Save, save us. Lord most dear.

Whom only death and devil fear;

Haste, haste, Grand Miracle,

The babe, the son of Mary!

Christ is not only our king; he is our Savior.
In the grand miracle of his birth, Jesus comes to save us from sin and death.
Like the angels and shepherds before us,
We are called to share the Good News of our salvation in Jesus.
Out of chaos and darkness,
Jesus brings peace and light.

*Why do we come and praise the Lord,
Our joy in him repeating?
Good Christian, shout; the Word is out.
Our Savior we are meeting.
Star Shine into the night
To light the Light, our Lord so bright.
Hail, hail the Word made Flesh,
The babe, the son of Mary!*

The babe Jesus grew up to live a perfect life and die an innocent death on the cross.
In this humble act all believers are saved.
This Child laid in a manger would be laid in a tomb one day to rise again for us.
By his resurrection, we all will have a new life.

*So bring him incense, gold and myrrh;
Come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
The babe, the son of Mary!*

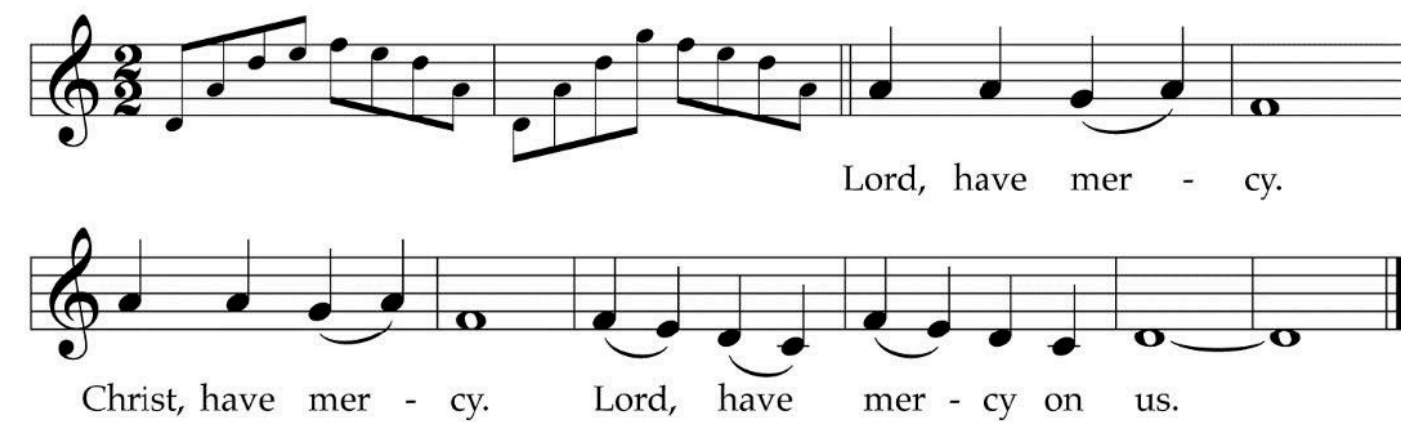
*Hymn	“O Lord, How Shall I meet you”	Hymnal #104
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Call to Confession

Oh, the wondrous power and love of God - poured out for each of us - for the entire world - in Jesus Christ!
Trusting in this good news, let us open our hearts, and confess our sins against God and neighbor.

Prayer of Confession

God of Promise, we so often place our trust in the things we can see, touch and easily believe. But you do not ask us to believe what is easy. You have asked us to believe what is true! Forgive us, Holy One, when we doubt the ways you work. Forgive us when we find it hard to believe an ancient story, when we question how you choose the meek and humble, when we discredit your invasion of normal everyday lives, when we doubt that you might truly come to us, even us, trusting us to carry your Word, embrace your Truth, deliver your Peace, and share your Love with a despairing world. Forgive our lack of faith and trust that you, O God, can do the impossible in our lives, in our homes, in our church, in our time, in our communities. Help us to set aside our doubts, open our hearts, and let you have your way with us, filling us, loving us, growing us to be all we were created to be that we might live lives that make a difference; for the sake of Christ our Lord. Amen.



Words of Assurance

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting! As we were buried with Christ in the waters of baptism, we have been raised with him to new life. This is the good news of the gospel, and it is for you and me and for all. Whatever we have done, whatever we have failed to do, whoever we are, whoever we wish we were but are not: We have been accepted, we have been washed clean, we have been raised up. In the love of Jesus Christ, we have been forgiven, and set free!

This is God’s Glory

Praise and thanks be to God!

*Response:

Angels we have heard on high

Hymnal #113

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Gracious God, you come to us when we are yet far off and you welcome us when we even begin to turn toward you. In the busy-ness of these days, help us not to lose sight of you, your will, your way. Quiet in us any voice but yours so that we might hear the word you have for us this day, and then grant us the faith to go out and live it.

Amen.

First Lesson: Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: ‘Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman^[b] is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Second Lesson: Matthew 11:2-11

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’ All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ‘Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel’, which means, ‘God is with us.’ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son;^[b] and he named him Jesus.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon Rev. Bobbie Bella

Anthem: “Were You There On That Christmas Night?” Sleeth

Affirmation of Faith: (The Apostle’s 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 Spirit, 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 is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offering Our Life and Gifts

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

*Doxology “Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow” Hymnal #609

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.

The Prayers of the Church

Hymn “The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came” Hymnal #16

COMMUNION

Invitation

Great Thanksgiving

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, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Communion Meditation “Away In The Manger” Arr. deSilva

Communion

Post Communion Prayer

SENDING

*Hymn

”In The Bleak Midwinter”

Hymn #144

*Charge

Now go out in joy! Walk in faith. As God’s chosen people be merciful action, kindly of heart, humble of mind, always eager to forgive as freely as you have been forgiven. Above all be loving; and never forget to be thankful for all that Christ has done for you.

*Benediction

May the hand of God protect you; may His holy angels watch over you, and keep you in all God’s ways. And may the true Spirit of Christmas, which is the Spirit of Christ, grow in your heart into an overflowing stream of love, hope, joy, and peace.

*Benediction Response:

“Joy To The World”

Hymnal #134 vs 4

He rules the world with truth and grace,

And makes the nations prove

The glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,

And wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

Postlude

“Born Is He, The Child Divine”

Traditional

It is our tradition to stand or sit quietly until after the postlude is over before greeting old or new friends in the sanctuary or heading over for a time of fellowship in the social hall after the service.

Ministers in This Sunday’s Service	Ministers For Christmas Eve service
Preacher: Rev. Bobbie Bella	Preacher: Bobbie Bella
Reader: Ernie McCullough	Reader: Susan Rogers
Musicians: Susan Larcey, Sometimes Serendipity Singers	Musicians: Susan Larcey and Lillie Rolen, mezzo soprano
Greeter(s) & Usher(s): TBD	Greeter(s)& Usher(s): TBD
Communion Assistants & Ushers:	Advent Wreath Lighters: Karen Coffin and Linda Holcomb
Jay & Karen Viery	
Refreshment Host: Session	
Advent Wreath Lighters: Dave & Janet Gray-Moore	

Ministers in Next Sunday’s Service

Preacher: Bobbie Bella

Reader: Susan Rogers

Musician: Susan Larcey and Lillie Rolen, mezzo

Greeter(s) & Usher(s): TBD

Communion Assistants &

Ushers: Janet Gray-Moore & Shirley Carlson

Refreshment Host: Ed & Shirley Carlson

Advent Wreath Lighters: Karen Coffin and Linda Holcomb

Pastor Bobbie's office hours are variable at this time.

Typically she will be in the office on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

She is always available by cell.

	THIS WEEK AT FIRELANDS
Today	9:30am Adult Class 10:30 am Worship with Communion followed by Fellowship
Monday	OFFICE CLOSED 10:00 am - 1:00 pm Monday Sewing Group 10am Sewing Group
Tuesday	10:30-2:30 Office Hours
Wednesday	OFFICE CLOSED 7pm Christmas Service
Thursday	Merry Christmas!!!
Friday	OFFICE CLOSED
Saturday	
Next Sunday	9:30 Adult Class 10:30 am Worship followed by Fellowship

Feeding The Hungry

Last week our mission committee voted to focus this November on helping to provide food for the Free Shed at the Family Advocacy Center! As we consider those who are food insecure in this season of Thanksgiving, we want to do all we can to help. Some of us might not realize that November first began the loss of SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits because of the government shutdown. (Formerly food stamps)

The Free Shed provides food to those who do not have access to the weekly or monthly food pantries in Ottawa County.

Shopping Suggestions for shelf stable items (NO GLASS CONTAINERS)

Proteins:

Canned Meats
Canned or packets of fish
Nut/Seed Butter
Shelf Stable Cheeses
Jerky
Protein Bars
Assorted mixed nuts
Fruits & Vegetables:
Applesauce
Dried Fruit
Canned Fruit
Fruit strips or gummies
Canned Vegetables

Grains & Carbs:

Pasta
Rice
Beans (canned or dried)
Shelf stable pizza crust
Tortillas
Cereal & Granola
Trail Mix
Crackers
Rice Cakes
Pretzels
Popcorn
Pudding or Jello cups
Boxed Entrees:
be:
Mac & Cheese
Canned Chili
Ready Meals
low
Soups (boxed or canned)
Broth or Stock

Milks & Beverages:

Shelf stable milk
Powdered or Condensed milk
Water Bottles
Jugs of Water
Bottles of juice
Non-Food Items:
Deodorant
Toothpaste & toothbrush
Shampoo & conditioner
Toilet Paper
Feminine hygiene products
Cleaning supplies
All pantry items must
Shelf stable (non-perishable)
Sealed Able to
Able to withstand high &
Temperatures

Prayer Concerns

Anne, Bob, Lisa, Tom, Tom Wade, JoAnn McIntosh, Rob & Cindy Constien, Garrett Holcomb, Bill & Pat Sharp, Vince Decker, Lois Harris, Simon Edwards, Deb, Danny, Kevin Reffitt, Janet Miller, John McLaughlin, Kenny Ambrozy, Jerry Boroff, John Shuman, Susie, Judy, Former Pastor Mark & Jill Cooper, Gene Bailey, The Witkowski Family, Karla Hoffman, Betty & Jim Layton, Chris Brown, Nancy Montagna, Karen Dietz, Mason Fenton & Anne Trombatore

If you have a name to add to the prayer list, please contact the office. Names remain on this list for up to one month unless they are resubmitted.