First Presbyterian Church, Lancaster, PA
November 8, 2026 | 10:30 a.m. | Sanctuary

Leading in Worship Today

The Rev. Dr. Dan Snyder
The Rev. Claire George-Drumheller

MUSIC
Mark Williams, Guest Choir Director
Matt Weaver, Organist
The Chancel Choir

Welcome Visitors!

We would love to reach out and say hello!
Write your contact information on the back of an orange prayer card and place it in the offering plate or hand it to any volunteer with a nametag. We are grateful you have joined us for worship and hope you will come back again soon and often.

Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers are given in loving memory of wife and mother, Diane;
daughter, Elizabeth; Diane's father, Harold Shaffner;
and Diane's brother, Gary Shaffner,
by Ed, Adam, and Matthew Woge.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

**Please stand in body or in spirit.*

PRELUDE ***Variations on St. Anne*** Robert F. Swift

WELCOME

INTROIT ***Keep Your Lamps!*** Spiritual, arr. André Thomas

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.
Children don't get weary 'till your work is done.
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Amos 5:18, Joshua 24:15, and Psalm 78:4, 6)

ONE: The day of the Lord is coming. Whom will you serve?

ALL: As for me and my family, we will serve the Lord.

ONE: What has God done for you?

ALL: Wondrous works and unforgettable deeds. Strength in the wilderness and paths of liberation.

ONE: In faith and with hope, we will keep telling our story.

ALL: The next generation will hear it, and children not yet born will know it.

ONE: Our hope is in the Lord, whose story will never end.

ALL: Forever we will praise the Lord! Let us worship.

*HYMN #329 ***God Is Our Refuge and Our Strength*** WINCHESTER OLD

*CALL TO CONFESSION (from Psalm 27:7)

ONE: Our God is a God of glorious deeds, of wondrous works. Our hope is in the Lord. But we do not always keep God's commandments. Let us confess our sins before our merciful and mighty God.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL: Everlasting God, we say we want to see you, we say we want to know you, and we say we want to serve you, but we do not want to put in the work. We do not want to prepare for your coming by working for your kingdom on this earth. We do not keep alert for signs of you among us, so we squeeze you into our busy schedules. Forgive us. Inspire us to put our faith to action. Surprise us with your presence so we might learn to be ready for you to arrive.

(silent confession)

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS (from Psalm 70:4)

ONE: All who seek God will rejoice and be glad. We proclaim that God is great because of this good news:

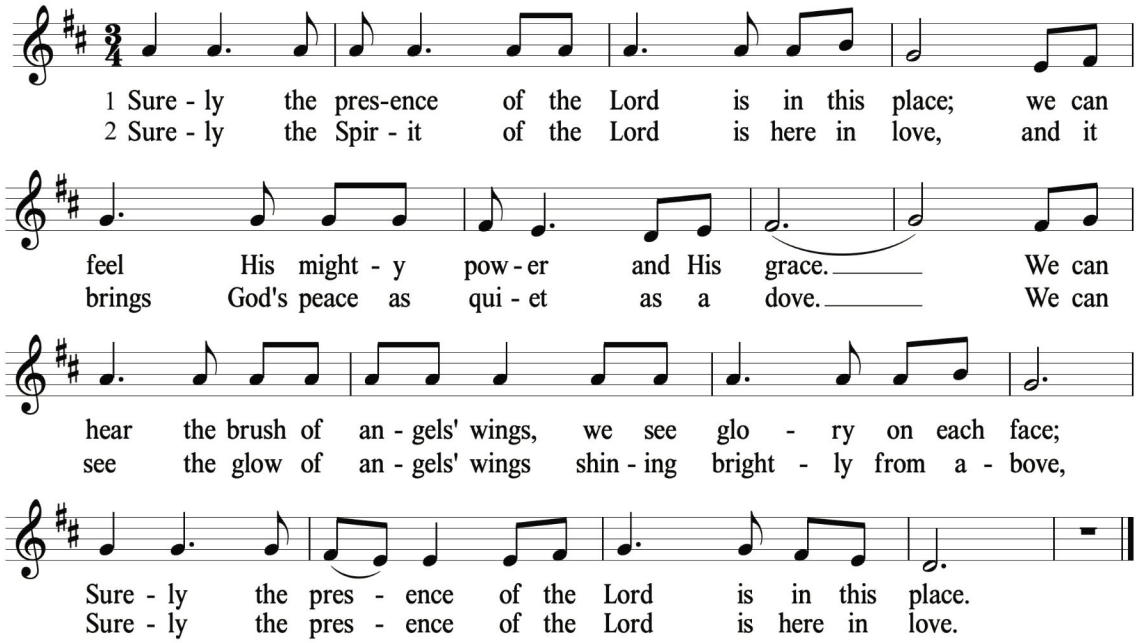
ALL: We are forgiven! Thanks be to God. Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

ONE: The peace of Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE ***Surely the Presence of the Lord Is in This Place*** Lanny Wolfe



PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

ALL: Holy God, in your word, lead us to abundant life. By your Spirit, teach us your truth. Through Christ, the Living Word, show us your love. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: **Matthew 25:1-13** (pg 22 NT in the pew Bible)

ONE: The word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

ANTHEM ***I Want to Be Ready*** Spiritual, arr. Howard Helvey

I want to be ready, I want to be ready
To walk in Jerusalem just like John.

John said the city was just foursquare. And he declared he'd meet me there.
Walk in Jerusalem just like John.

Oh, John, oh, John, what do you say? That I'll be there at the coming day.
Walk in Jerusalem just like John.

I want to be ready,
I want to be ready to walk in Jerusalem just like John.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Apostles' Creed

ALL: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.

THE EUCHARIST

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

ONE: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

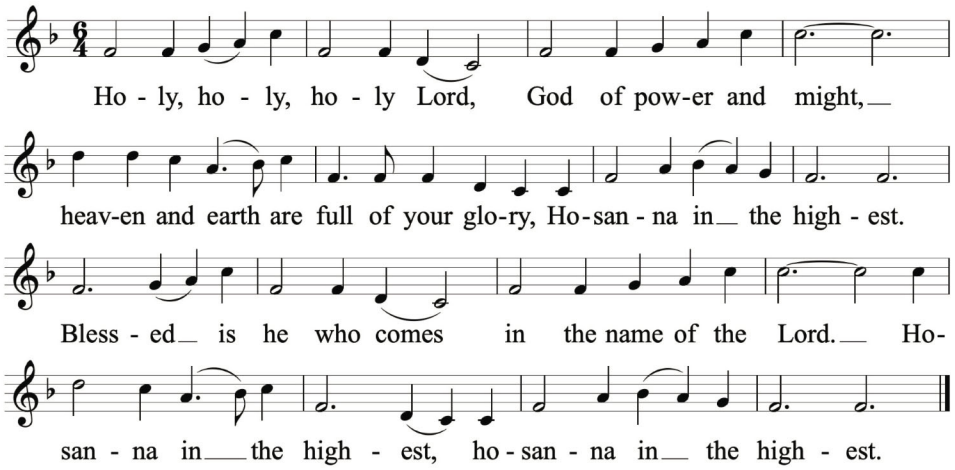
ONE: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them to the Lord.

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

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Sanctus ***Holy, Holy, Holy*** arr. Richard Proulx



The Lord's Prayer

ALL: 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.

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Come forward to receive communion elements; the server at the center has gluten-free bread. Let ushers know if you prefer to remain seated, and communion will be brought to you. You may take communion as soon as you have received the elements.

Music during Communion

Prayer after Communion

*HYMN #362 ***Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers*** LLANGLOFFAN

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE ***Day by Day*** Arthur Henry Biggs

Day by day, dear Lord, of thee three things I pray:
To see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly,
Follow thee more nearly, day by day.

POSTLUDE ***Ricercare on St. Anne*** Gordon Young

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Congregational Meeting
Sunday, November 15

Call to elect officers

The meeting will be held at the end of each in-person worship service.

SLATE OF NOMINEES FOR THE CLASS OF 2027-2029

ELDERS

Louise Feroe (1st term)
Justin Inners (1st term)
Doug Phillips (1st term)

DEACONS

Carol Aastad (2nd term)
David Bennett (2nd term)
Marsha Bowen (1st term)
Michelle Brubaker (1st term)
Elaine Fisher (1st term)
Peter Fisher (1st term)
Carol Good (1st term)
Carol Hargan (1st term)
Ray Kennedy (1st term)
Susan Kirk (1st term)
Lisa Murray (1st term)
Sandy Reed (1st term)
Jacquelyn Strybos (1st term)

TRUSTEES

Tom Falk (2nd term)
Lexie Rutt (1st term)
Brian Rutter (1st term)
Allen Tate (2nd term)
Janet White (1st term)

CLASS OF 2027 NOMINATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS AT LARGE

Jon Hess
Ryan Stadel

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
Lancaster, PA

First Presbyterian Church, Lancaster 2026 Officer Roster

ELDERS

Martha Barry
Ruthie Blazer
Tim Brendler
Dan Brubaker
Linda Cushman-Baugh
Alyssa Feather
Josh Glacken
Debbie Kirk
Ginny Landis, Clerk of Session
Tim Mekeel
John Myers
Cody Smith
Mark Williams

DEACONS

Carol Aastad
Ellen Altdoerffer
Sarah Barton
David Bennett
Karen Bennett
Nancy Butler
Annie Carmitchell, Moderator
Andrew Cross
Stephany & John Davidson
Linda Frederiksen
Beth Manners
Tom & Connie Paisley
Maureen Quinlan
Julia Snyder

TRUSTEES

Brian Rutter, Acting President
Greg Allison
Barry Bosley
Tom Falk
Bob Hallinger
Kasey Jendras
Megan Kiel
Matt Kirk
Theo Krappels
Mark Mooneyhan
Nolan Myers, Treasurer
Nathan Poglein
Allen Tate
Tom Zigoris

Mission Volunteer Opportunities

Those interested in volunteering, please email: info@fpclancasterpa.org

Crispus Attucks Food Pantry

(every second & fourth Wednesday of the month)
Please note, dates in November are adjusted for the holidays:
Wednesday, November 18 | 12:45-3:45 p.m.
Volunteer parking lot-412 Locust Street or Carpool from Wegman's lot

A free choice food distribution pantry at 404 S. Duke St.
Neighbors register for a scheduled shopping time.

Volunteers needed to stock shelves and serve as shopping assistants to those visiting the pantry.

Mission Giving

Supports our Mission Partners and the services they provide to the local Community

Our fourth quarter mission giving supports non-profit organizations in our community that serve youth and education.

The Mix offers a structured after-school program for children and youth in first through twelfth grades—addressing their social, academic, spiritual, and physical needs, plus summer programs. Located at 520 North St., The Mix serves 200 to 250 students per year.
www.themixlancaster.org

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) recruits, trains, and supports volunteers to advocate for neglected and abused children in the foster care system. CASA, 120 N. Shippen St., serves more than 200 youngsters in Lancaster County annually through more than 100 volunteers.
www.casalancleb.org

Milagro House is the only residential program in the county that is focused on helping mothers experiencing homelessness attain education so they can get jobs that pay family-sustaining wages. Based at 669 W. Chestnut St., it houses up to nine women with up to three children each.
www.milagrohouse.org

On communion Sundays, the loose offering plate collections go to the Deacons' Emergency Relief Fund, which is used to support at-risk individuals in our church and community.



Advent Dinner & Discipleship

Sundays, December 6, 13, & 20
5:30–7:15 p.m. in Shirk Hall

This Advent, join us for Dinner & Discipleship, a new Sunday evening opportunity for all ages to gather around the table, share a meal, and grow in faith. Each evening begins with a potluck dinner. Bring a dish to share that fits the evening's menu (stay tuned!) and come ready to enjoy good food and even better company. After dinner children and youth will head to age-appropriate activities, led by Katie Kindig and Family Ministry volunteers, while adults remain around the tables for an Advent study led by Pastor Dan and Pastor Claire. Nursery care will also be available.

There is something for every age, and everyone is welcome. Please sign up in advance so we know how many to expect. Come for one Wednesday or join us for all three as we make space in the midst of Advent to eat, connect, learn, and grow together.

If you can't be with us in person, we hope you will engage Scripture and build community with the Advent Zoom Connect Small Group.

Advent Zoom Connect Small Group

Wednesdays, December 2, 9, & 16, 7:00 p.m.

Advent is a season of waiting for the God who comes to us—remembering Christ's birth in Bethlehem, anticipating Christ's coming again, and learning to recognize Christ's presence among us now. This Advent, the Zoom Connect Group will meet for three weeks to engage Scripture and to build community. Use the QR code to register or email the church office (info@fpclancasterpa.org). Join us!

The Giving Tree



Begins November 22

The Giving Tree will once again provide Christmas gifts for students served by five organizations within the School District of Lancaster.

Beginning Sunday, November 22, stop by the Giving Tree in the foyer outside the sanctuary and select a gift tag. Instructions and gift information will be provided when you pick up your tag.



Gift tags will be available on November 22 and November 29, with gifts due by Sunday, December 6.

Thank you for helping bring joy to local students during the Christmas season through this much-loved FPC tradition!

Christmas Eve Poinsettia Dedications

Poinsettias will be displayed on Christmas Eve.
You can take your plant(s) home with you following the 8:00 p.m. service.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Given By: _____

In Memory of _____

OR

In Honor of: _____

Cost: $20

Deadline November 21

Make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church "Poinsettias" in the note section.
Or order/pay online via Realm - Select "Flower Fund" in the drop-down list, write "poinsettias" in the memo space, and email your dedication to laura@fpclancasterpa.org.

FPC TOGETHER HOSTED BY FAMILY MINISTRY

ADVENT FUN DAY

Saturday, December 5

Drop in between 10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. in Shirk Hall

(parking is available in both the church lot and the Cherry Street lot)

Friends and neighbors are welcome to come celebrate the season of Advent.
We will have special live Christmas music, Christmas crafts, and a photo booth.
Live greens and candles will be provided so you can make an Advent wreath to take home,
and we will have apple cider, coffee, and doughnuts for you to enjoy.

This is a peanut free event. Vegan & gluten free options will be available.

katie@fpclancasterpa.org





Family Ministry

Katie Kindig
Director of Family Ministry

Celebrating Children at FPC

Dear parents of young children,

Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house! All are welcome!

Sit toward the front where it is easier for little ones to see and hear what's going on. They tire of seeing the backs of others' heads.

Quietly explain the parts of the service and actions of the pastor, ushers, musicians, etc.

Sing the hymns, pray, and voice the responses. Children learn liturgical behavior by copying you.

If you have to leave the service with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me."

Remember, the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to the church, to God, and to one another. Let them know they are at home in this house of worship.

Dear church members,

The presence of children is a gift to the church and they are a reminder that our congregation is growing.

Please welcome our children and give a smile of encouragement to their parents.

Sunday Mornings

The Nursery

Suggested for 6wks up to 4yrs
Second Floor, open 9:00-11:30 a.m. / Professional Staff

Nursery students engage in free-play, a short Scripture lesson and organized activity time.

We ask that you assist with your student's hand-washing upon arrival. We have hand sanitizer stations as well.

A nut-free snack is provided. Please bring a labeled water bottle and alternative snacks if needed. A changing table, with quiet room are also available.

No Worship Arts today. Students are encouraged to worship with their families on communion Sundays.

Worship Arts Faith Formation

Suggested for 4yrs through grade 7

Worship Arts begins with a combined lesson and then splits to separate age-appropriate groups to study. A peanut free snack is offered.

Taught by FPC volunteer teachers, we study Scripture through reading, dramatic play, storytelling, and song.

Students begin worship in Shirk Hall (9:00 a.m.) OR the sanctuary (10:30 a.m.) with their families.
Teachers will escort students who wish to participate in Worship Arts to the upper level following the "Worship Arts Blessing."

Parents attending the 9:00 a.m. service - Students will be escorted back to you before the end of the service.

Parents attending the 10:30 a.m. service - Students will return to the sanctuary at the end of worship or can be picked up in the lobby.

Youth Ministry

Designed for grades 6-12 (unless otherwise noted) and led by Family Ministry staff and volunteers. Direct questions to katie@fpclancasterpa.org

Sunday, Nov. 8, 5:00-6:30 p.m. Senior Dinner @ Crazy Pupusas for all HS seniors. Suggested donation is $15.

Sunday, Nov. 15, 5:00-6:30 p.m. Service project & games @ FPC for all 6-12th grade students and youth volunteers.

Sunday, Nov. 22, 5:00-6:30 p.m. Study @ the Habitat ReStore for all 6-12th grade students and youth volunteers.

Sunday, Nov. 29, 5:00-6:30 p.m. Study @ the Lytch family home for all 6-12th grade students and youth volunteers.

Guest WIFI Password:
Welcome2FPC

Large-print hymnals are available. Please alert an usher or greeter if you would like one for today's service.

Online prayer request here: