First Presbyterian Church, Lancaster, PA | November 29, 2026 | 10:30 a.m. | Sanctuary



The First Sunday of Advent

Leading in Worship Today

The Rev. Dan Snyder
The Rev. Claire George-Drumheller
Justin, Allison, Finn, & Arlo Droegemueller, Candle Lighters

MUSIC

Dr. William Wright, Director of Music
Matt Weaver, Organist
Michael Cameron, Cellist
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 Chancel flowers are given in love and thanksgiving for the lives of parents, Don and Sue Goldstrom, and brother, Don Goldstrom, by Karen Bennett and family.

Advent Dedications

The wreaths in the back of the sanctuary were given in loving memory of Sue and Don Goldstrom by their grandchildren.

The Chancel Christmas trees were given in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Linn L. Reist and Dr. and Mrs. Donald Smelzer by the Reist family.

The poinsettias at the base of the trees are given in loving memory of Roger and Diana Reist, and their son, Gregory Reist, by the Reist family.

The candles in the sanctuary are given by Rick and Margrethe Faulkner in loving memory of Rick's parents, Richard and Marion Faulkner Sr.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

**Please stand in body or in spirit.*

PRELUDE ***Amazing Grace*** J. Newton (1725-1807) / W. Walker (1809-1875)
arr. Nick Halsey

INTROIT ***Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending*** Thomas Olivers

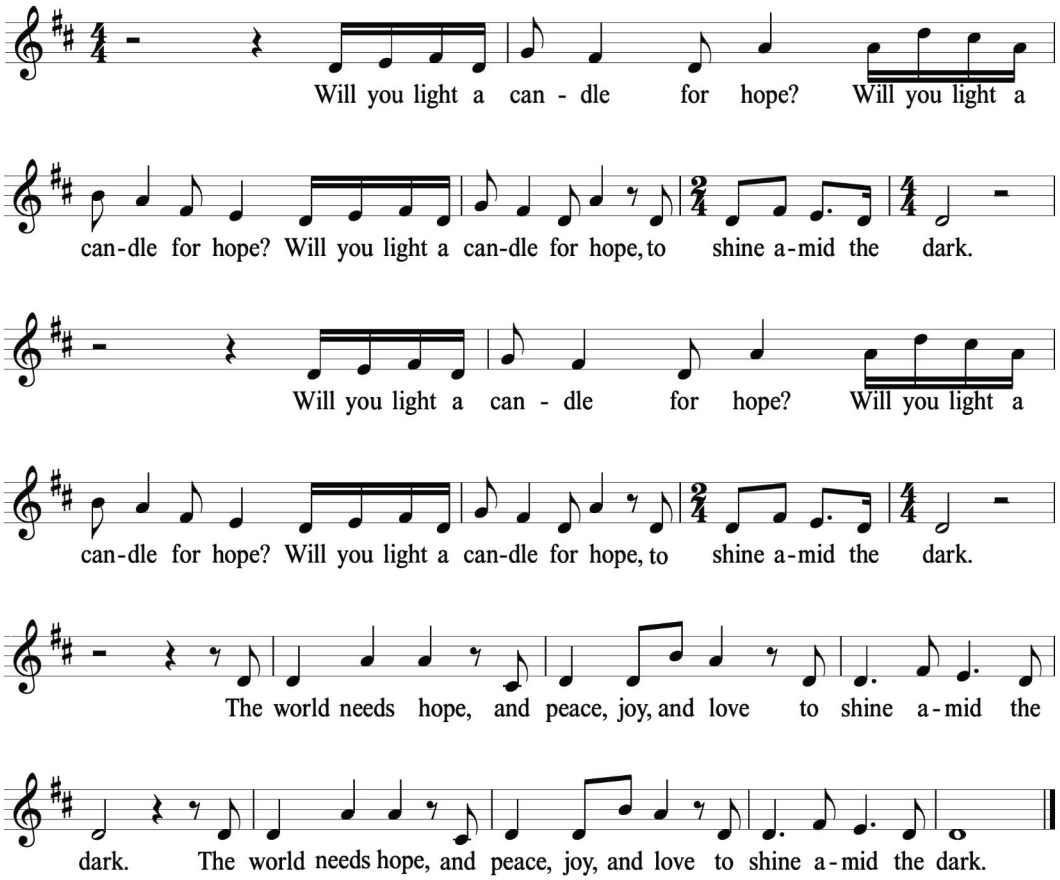
WELCOME

*HYMN #93 ***Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*** TRURO

CANDLE LIGHTING

ONE: We light the candle of hope, a growing light in a season of waiting.
ALL: We wait for the Holy One, Immanuel, to draw near.
ONE: The world says, "Nothing will change."
ALL: The prophet cries, "O that you would tear open the heavens and come down."
ONE: Our hearts say, "Where are you, God?"
ALL: God says, "You are the clay, and I am your potter."
ONE: The night says, "Wait in the darkness."
ALL: Hope says, "Watch for the dawn."
ONE: With one Advent candle burning, we remember that God draws near in our longing.
ALL: Come now, O Child of Mary. Come now, O Prince of Hope.

CANDLE LIGHTING RESPONSE ***Will You Light a Candle?*** Katie Houts



CALL TO CONFESSION (from 1 Corinthians 1:3-9)

ONE: God is faithful, and we have already received God's grace in Jesus Christ. Yet even as we wait for Christ to come again, we are not always faithful in our watching and waiting. Trusting not in our own readiness, but in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL: Faithful God, you call us to watch and wait, yet we confess that we are not always awake to your presence. We look upon the suffering of the world and begin to believe that nothing will change. We grow impatient with your promises, and we become weary of waiting for your justice and peace. We desire certainty more than trust, and we overlook signs of your grace already among us. Forgive us. Awaken us from indifference and renew our hope in Jesus Christ, who has come and will come again.

(silent confession)

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS (from Mark 13:34)

ONE: Hear the good news: God is faithful. Even when we fail to remain watchful, God draws near to us in grace and through Jesus Christ.

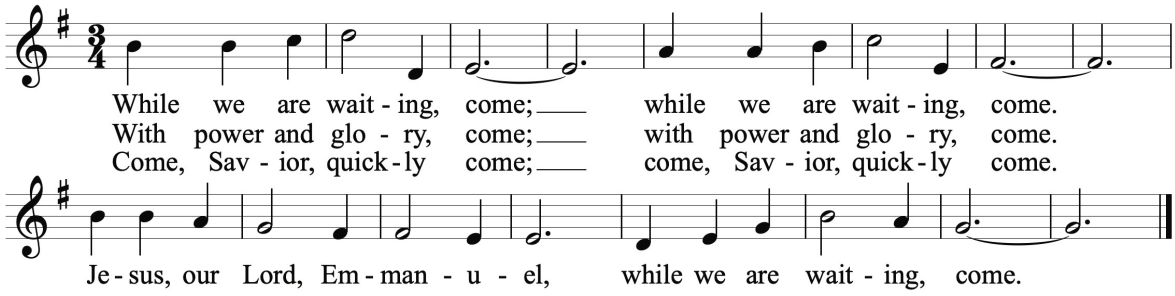
ALL: In Christ, God forgives our sins and strengthens us for the days ahead. Thanks be to God! Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

ONE: The peace of Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE ***While We Are Waiting, Come*** Music: Don Cason



WORSHIP ARTS BLESSING

Children through 7th grade can meet their Worship Arts teachers at the front of the sanctuary.

God be with you here.

God be with you there.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

ALL: Holy God, draw near to us now. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, that as Scripture is read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear your promises anew. Awaken us to your call as we await the fullness of Christ's coming. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: **Isaiah 64:1-9** (pg 528 OT in the pew Bible)

ONE: The word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

*HYMN #756 ***O God of Every Nation*** LLANGLOFFAN

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH **Colossians 1:15–20**

ALL: Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation;
in him all things in heaven and on earth were created,
things visible and invisible.
All things have been created through him and for him.
He himself is before all things,
and in him all things hold together.
He is head of the body, the church;
he is the beginning,
the firstborn of the dead,
so that he might come to have first place in everything.
For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things,
whether on earth or in heaven,
by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.

ANTHEM ***We Wait*** Ruth Elaine Schram

In the flame of the flickering candle, we see a hint of the starry light
That led the shepherds and kings to the Tiny Child.
We wait. We wait.

In the flame of the flickering candle, we see the promise of hope and joy;
The promise of peace, the promise of love in a Baby Boy.
We wait. We wait.

Advent candle, burning bright, gently reflecting heaven's light,
Lead us to the Prince of Peace; O guide us to the Perfect Light.

We long to bow before our Savior; we long to hear His precious voice;
We long to worship the King of kings and at His appearance rejoice!
We wait. We wait.

Advent candle, burning bright, gently reflecting heaven's light,
Lead us to the Prince of Peace; O guide us to the Perfect Light.
We wait. We wait.

During this time of music, you are welcome to come forward to present your offerings, to leave a prayer request, or to light a candle as a symbol of your prayer.

ORISON ***Wait for the Lord*** Jacques Berthier

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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.

*HYMN #99 ***My Soul Gives Glory to My God*** MORNING SONG

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE ***Say He Will Come*** Robert Lau

Say He will come, pray He will come to a sin-filled world with His love.
Chosen One, sent from our God above.

Say He will come, pray He will come and bring peace to all who believe.
Chosen One, sent from our God in love.

POSTLUDE ***Fanfare on "Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending"*** Brenda Portman

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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* 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 Sunday 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.

**Our Potluck theme for December 6 is: "Breakfast for Dinner." Bring a casserole or favorite breakfast food—enough to feed your family. Plates, cutlery, and drinks will be provided. Serving utensils would be helpful to bring.*

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

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

Today is the last day to 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.

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!

Questions can be directed to Beth Horst in the office: beth@fpclancasterpa.org

Thanks so much for your generosity!



Washington Elementary School has over 400 students. Last year, the school provided 250 gifts to students, and we are helping them reach that number with 20 gifts from First Presbyterian this Christmas season.

The Milestones School provides academic and therapeutic support for students aged 5-21 who face social, emotional, educational, and behavioral challenges. We are providing gifts for specific students and gift cards for their families.

The Apartment School at SDOL is a simulated apartment in a classroom that helps special needs students develop independent living skills.

Lafayette Elementary is specifically helping refugee families this season with gift cards from Weis and Walmart.

FIT (Families in Transition) supports students and families experiencing housing insecurity by removing obstacles that prevent them from having a positive educational experience. Services include connection with agencies, transportation, and providing necessities including school supplies. We will provide gift cards to the families.

FPC TOGETHER HOSTED BY FAMILY MINISTRY

ADVENT FUN DAY

Saturday, December 5

Drop in between 10:00 a.m. through Noon 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



2026 CHRISTMAS CHORAL CAMP

FPC Christmas Choral Camp is designed for students pre-K through 12th grade.

Sunday, December 20, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Monday, December 21, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Thursday, December 24, Noon to 4:00 p.m.
4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Service

Students will be led by professional choral teachers and staff as they study the Christmas story through Scripture, song, visual arts, and dramatic play.
Students will study in age-appropriate groups.

Register in Realm beginning December 1.

Christmas Eve Schedule

Thursday, December 24

4:00 p.m.
Family Service, Sanctuary

A family-friendly service for all ages celebrating the gift of Christmas, featuring worship leadership and music by participants in Christmas Choral Camp.

8:00 p.m.
Lessons and Carols, Sanctuary

This service of lessons tells the story of Christ's birth through Scripture and music, featuring our Chancel Choir, special instrumentalists, and of course, the voice of our magnificent organ.

Christmas Eve Online
Lessons and Carols
Available on YouTube and airing on LCTV (Comcast Channel 66).

Sunday, December 27
9:00 a.m., Shirk Hall | 10:30 a.m., Sanctuary
Online Worship on YouTube and LCTV (Comcast Channel 66)

THE BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Sunday, December 13
2:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary of
First Presbyterian Church

For many, Christmas brings both joy and sorrow. The Blue Christmas Service, a partnership between FPC and DeBord Snyder Funeral Home, offers space to honor our losses, name our grief, and trust God's healing presence.

If you would like the name of a loved one who has passed read during the service, please RSVP to DeBord Snyder Funeral Home by Monday, December 7 (info@DeBordSnyder.com or 717-394-4097).

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
LANCASTER, PA

DeBord Snyder
Funeral Home & Crematory, Inc.

Mission Volunteer Opportunities

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

Crispus Attucks Food Pantry

(every second & fourth Wednesday of the month)
(schedule adjusted for the holiday)
Wednesday, December 2 & 16 | 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



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.

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. 29, 5:00-6:30 p.m. Study @ the Lytch family home

Sundays, Dec. 6, 13, & 20, 5:30-7:15 p.m. Dinner & Discipleship in Shirk Hall (please register in advance)

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: