



First Presbyterian Church, Lancaster, PA | Sunday, December 14, 2025 | 10:30 a.m.

FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION

We can choose a better way

The Third Sunday of Advent

Leading in Worship Today

The Rev. Dan Snyder | The Rev. Claire George-Drumheller
John & Anne Meeder, Candle Lighters

MUSIC

Dr. William Wright, Director of Music
Matt Weaver, Organist
The Chancel Choir

** Please stand in body or in spirit.*

PRELUDE *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

arr. T. Frederick Candlyn

WELCOME

*HYMN #107 *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*

REJOICE, REJOICE

CANDLE LIGHTING *What brings you joy?*

ONE: Today we light the candle of joy. This light reminds us of all the good news this season brings; it reminds us of all the joy in our lives.

ALL: From generation to generation, joy draws us closer to one another and closer to God. Let us worship God.

CANDLE LIGHTING RESPONSE *Advent Carol*

Music: Matthew Weaver
Lyrics: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

The candle of joy reminds us to sing, for God is at work to do a new thing.
The proud will be humbled; the lowly will rise. God's kingdom is one of delight and surprise!

Children

Candlelight, watch it grow; candlelight, feel its glow.
Come to us in this place. Show to us the goodness of God's grace,

Choir

The candlelight that shines for us here tells out the good news: Immanuel is near,
To come as a baby in such a time and place and show to all creation the goodness of God's grace.

Congregation

The can - dle light that shines for us here tells out the good news: Im -
man - u - el is near to come as a ba - by in such a time and place and
show to all cre - a - tion the good - ness of God's grace.

CALL TO CONFESSION

ONE: The prayer of confession is an opportunity to slow down. The world moves quickly, but in our confession, we reflect on the news of the world and the decisions that we have made, and we ask for God's mercy to be in all of them. Confident in God's love for us, let us pray together.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL: God of joy, each day we have countless opportunities to be gracious, to be compassionate, and to be understanding. Each day, we can choose the better way, but so often we do not. Fear and greed kick in. Assumptions and insecurities take the wheel. Comparison and critique lead the charge. Forgive us for forgetting that we are descendants of Joseph. Forgive us for forgetting your grace and mercy. Forgive us for forgetting that everyone belongs to you. Give us the courage and wisdom to choose a better way.

(silent confession)

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

ONE: Family of faith, hear this good news: we who have chosen wrong are given another chance. We who have lost our way, are welcomed into community. We who feel alone are seen, held, and known. This is the good news of the gospel:

ALL: From generation to generation, our God continues to be a God of grace, forgiveness, and love. 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
Text: Claire Cloninger

The musical notation is written on two staves in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words split across lines. The first staff contains the first two lines of the hymn, and the second staff contains the last line. The hymn ends with a double bar line.

While we are wait - ing, come; — while we are wait - ing, come.
With power and glo - ry, come; — with power and glo - ry, come.
Come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come; — come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come.

Je - sus, our Lord, Em - man - u - el, while we are wait - ing, come.

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: Faithful God, your Word endures from generation to generation. By your Spirit, open our hearts and minds to hear what you are saying to the church today, that your love may take root in us and bear fruit in every generation. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 35:1-10 (pg 505 OT in the pew Bible)

After each reading:

ONE: The word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: **Matthew 1:18-25** (pg 1 NT in the pew Bible)

SERMON

*HYMN #102 *Savior of the Nations, Come*

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from the PC(USA) Declaration of Faith)

ALL: Jesus Christ stands at the center of the biblical record.

The Bible is the account of God's word and action in history, together with the faithful response of God's people. It tells how the Lord has moved with God's covenant people and the church towards the kingdom of God, his just and loving rule over all. It is the story of the one God, who is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

That story is still unfolding, and in faith, we make it our own. It forms our memory and our hope. From generation to generation, it tells us who we are and what we are to do. To retell God's story is to declare what we believe. Amen.

ANTHEM *Every Valley*

John Ness Beck

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.

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain made low;
And the crooked made straight, and the rough places plain.
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. Amen.

Orison: *Wait for the Lord*

Jacques Bertheir

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

TRURO

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

And His Truth Endureth from Generation to Generation (from "Jubilate")

Cecil Wright

And his truth endureth from generation to generation.
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.

POSTLUDE *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

arr. Aaron David Miller

Liturgy adapted from a prayer by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed / A Sanctified Art LLC / sanctifiedart.org.

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Welcome, Visitors!

We would love to reach out and say hello! Write your contact information on the back of the orange prayer cards or leave your email address at the Visitor's Table. We are grateful you have joined us for worship and hope you will come back again soon and often.

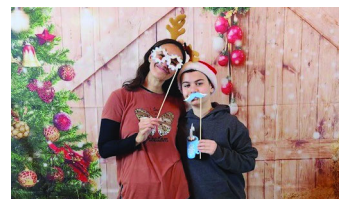
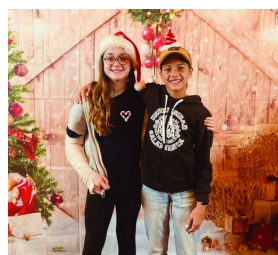
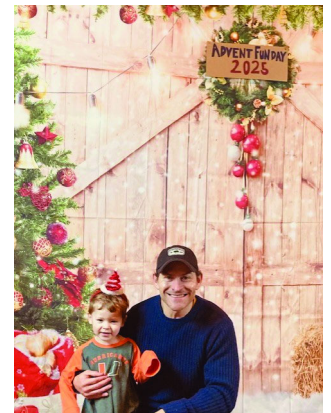
Chancel Flower Dedication

*The pulpit poinsettia is given in loving memory of Imre J. and Helen I. Barsy
by their daughter and son-in-law, Louise and Sean Colgan*

Fun photos from Family Ministry's

Advent Fun Day

Held here at FPC on December 6





THE
BLUE CHRISTMAS
SERVICE



Sunday, December 14
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.



Christmas Eve Schedule

**Wednesday,
December 24**

4:00 p.m.

**Family Ministry 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
(7:40 p.m. Prelude Music)**

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 28

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

Ways to Give: Mission Giving

Our Mission Partners in the fourth quarter are nonprofits that support women and vulnerable populations.



Church World Service, based in Lancaster, helps refugees and asylum seekers from around the world get resettled in the U.S. www.cwsglobal.org

North Star Initiative, based in Lititz, helps survivors of human trafficking make the transition to a healthy, sustainable, and independent life. www.northstarinitiative.org

Lancaster YWCA, based in Lancaster, strives to eliminate racism, empower women, and promote peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all. www.ywcalancaster.org



Christmas Joy Offering December 24

The Christmas Joy Offering, to be collected on Christmas Eve, is a special collection of the Presbyterian Church (USA) which provides assistance to current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need and supports leadership development for communities of color. Scan the QR code to learn more about this special way to lift up past, present, and future leaders of the church.



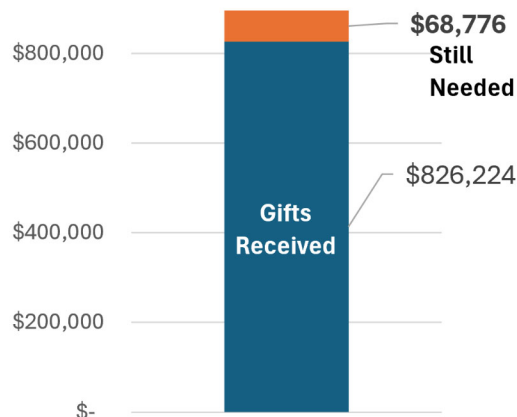
It's Not Too Late!

to make your "best guess" estimate
of giving for 2026

FPC Gratitude Giving

Weekly Update

2025 Goal: **\$895,000**





2026 Per Capita

Each year, FPC participates in Shared Proportional Giving (known as “Per Capita”) with the Presbytery of Donegal. Per Capita is how Presbyterians mutually share the costs of ministry.

Our participation in this part of our Presbytery’s ministry provides the often unseen and crucial support for congregations and ministries—like ours at First Presbyterian—to flourish. Per Capita participation (\$37 per member) funds the backbone operations of the Presbytery, from which all of us at FPC benefit. And we need you to help. If each of us gives our share of Per Capita (\$37 per member), we collectively save FPC money from FPC’s budget that can instead be used to fund important elements of the church’s mission. Write “Per Capita” on your check or choose Per Capita when you give online or via Realm.

Thanks for supporting your share with your contribution.

2025 CHRISTMAS CHORAL CAMP

FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION...

FPC Christmas Choral Camp is designed for students ages 4 through 12th grade. Students will study the story of Christmas as they join their voices in song, make music with instruments, and bring stories to life through dramatic play. They will also discover how families, friends, and neighbors have celebrated this story through the generations. The camp is led by experienced choral professionals, caring support staff, and dedicated volunteers, along with our Director of Family Ministry. Choral campers will share the music they have learned as they lead the 4:00 p.m. Family Ministry Christmas Eve service in the sanctuary. Family and friends are warmly invited to attend!

DECEMBER 20, 21, 24

Details & Registration Here



Registration is required
by December 15

Suggested donation is \$20 per student.

Scholarships available, contact
Katie Kindig, Director of Family Ministry:
katie@fpclancasterpa.org





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.

Family Ministry

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

Suggested for grades 7-12

December 14–Study & Party at FPC, 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Scavenger hunts, white elephant gift exchange, snacks, study, and prayer. Come dressed for a walk outside.

December 21–Study & Choral Camp at FPC, 2:00-6:00 p.m.

Students can sing in the choir, assist teachers, and act as storytellers as we study the Christmas story together. Registration is required through Realm.

December 28–Bowling at Leisure Lanes, 3440 Columbia Ave., 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Pizza and drinks provided, and friends are welcome. Suggested donation is \$10 dollars.

Online prayer request here:



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

Guest WIFI Password:
Welcome2FPC