



First Presbyterian Church, Lancaster, PA | Sunday, December 21, 2025 | 10:30 a.m.

FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION

We see God in each other

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Leading in Worship Today

The Rev. Dan Snyder | The Rev. Claire George-Drumheller
The Kirk Family, Candle Lighters

MUSIC

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

** Please stand in body or in spirit.*

PRELUDE *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

Arr. Mark Hayes

WELCOME

*HYMN #88 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (verses 1, 3, 5, 6, 7)

VENI EMMANUEL

CANDLE LIGHTING *What makes you feel connected and loved?*

ONE: Today we light the candle of love as a reminder that from the very first generation, God has surrounded us with love.

ALL: **From generation to generation, God's love shines bright. Let us worship God.**

CANDLE LIGHTING RESPONSE *Advent Carol*

Music: Matthew Weaver
Lyrics: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

The candle of love tells what we are worth: God loves us so much that God came to earth!
An angel brought news of a child who would be the one who would save us and set us all free!

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: One of the greatest gifts and challenges of faith is that we cannot be Christian alone. We need one another—we need one another to grow, to love, and to see God more clearly. Let us lean into the ties that bind us and pray to our merciful God

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL: God of love, when Mary was pregnant and afraid, she ran to her cousin's house. Elizabeth threw open the door with joy and showered blessings upon her. How often do we have that same opportunity? How often do we leave the door locked, the curtains drawn, and the lights off? How often do we shower critique or judgment instead of blessings and joy? Gracious God, forgive us for our wrongs. Help us to see you when we see our neighbor.

(silent confession)

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

ONE: Just like Elizabeth, God welcomes us in with love and joy. God forgives us and showers us with blessings.

ALL: From generation to generation, we are saved by God's grace. 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

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.

SCRIPTURE READING: **Luke 1:39-58** (pg 43 NT in the pew Bible)

ONE: The word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

*HYMN #87 *Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Adapted from the PC(USA) Declaration of Faith (1.4), 1985

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 ***Magnificat: My Soul Proclaims with Wonder***

Michael Connolly

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.

REFRAIN

My soul proclaims with wonder the greatness of the Lord;
rejoicing in God's goodness my spirit is restored.

1. To me has God shown favor; to one the world thought frail,
And every age will echo the angel's first "All hail."

REFRAIN

2. God's mercy shields the faithful and saves them from defeat,
With strength that turns to scatter the proud in their conceit.

REFRAIN

3. The mighty have been vanquished, the lowly lifted up,
The hungry find abundance; the rich an empty cup.

REFRAIN

4. To Abraham's descendants the Lord will steadfast prove,
For God has made with Israel a covenant of love.

REFRAIN

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 #121 ***O Little Town of Bethlehem***

ST. LOUIS

*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.

This Benediction Response was composed almost exactly a hundred years ago by William Wright's grandfather, who for many years was organist and choirmaster at First Presbyterian Church in Glens Falls, NY.

POSTLUDE ***Toccata on "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"***

Joel Raney

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

*Today's flowers are dedicated in loving memory of
Dorothy Schleck by her sons, Kent, Scott, and Jon.*

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)



The FPC youth group held their Christmas party & scavenger hunt this last Sunday, December 7. The event included the study of the Christmas story in our beautiful Sanctuary.

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



SPECIAL OFFERINGS

**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.



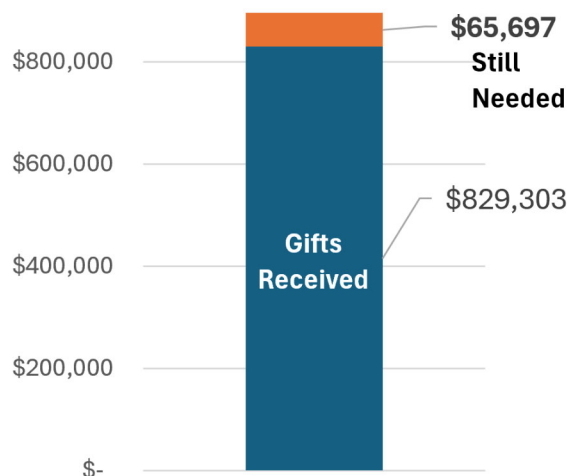
It's Not Too Late!

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

FPC Gratitude Giving

Weekly Update

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



Advent Dedications

*The wreaths in the back of the Sanctuary are 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 S. Reist, husband, father, and grandfather, and Gregory Reist, son, 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.*



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.



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 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