



# First Presbyterian Church

First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024

Worship Service - 8:15  
Sunday School - 9:15 - 10:00  
Fellowship - 10:00-10:25  
Worship Service - 10:30

# Gathered as God's People

Welcome and Announcements

*Please sign the red friendship pad at the end of each pew, so we will know who is worshipping with us today.*

Prelude                                      Awake! Hear the Call of the Watchmen                                      Marcel Dupré

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**                                      Terri Thompson and Ed Harlan (8:15)  
Dawn and Anna Grace Taylor (10:30)

First Scripture Reading                                      Isaiah 9:2,6-7                                      OT p. 638

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Sung Response                                      Wait for the Lord                                      WAIT FOR THE LORD  
**Wait for the Lord whose day is near.**  
**Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart.**

Prayer of HOPE

\*Hymn 82                                      Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus                                      HYFRYDOL

## Call to Confession

### Corporate Prayer of Confession

**God of grace and truth, long ago prophets spoke your promises of restoration and salvation. We confess that we have not believed; we have preferred brokenness to restoration; we have lingered with dis-ease rather than welcomed your healing. Forgive our stiff necks, and renew our strength, so that we may receive the fullness of your promises, and live into your joy offered through Jesus Christ, our coming King. (Silent Prayer)**

### Assurance of Pardon

One: Friends, this is the good news of the gospel.

**Many: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.**

\*Gloria 113

**Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

GLORIA

### \*Passing of the Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you!

**Many: And also with you.**

### Children's Conversation (10:30)

*(Children through age five may leave the sanctuary for Children's Activity Time, and they may be picked up in the nursery after the 10:30 worship service)*

## Proclaiming God's Word

Anthem (10:30)

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

Paul Manz

*Peace be to you and grace from Him who freed us from our sins,  
Who loved us all and shed His blood that we might saved be  
Sing Holy, Holy to our Lord, the Lord, Almighty God,  
Who was and is and is to come: Sing Holy, Holy, Lord!  
Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein; rejoice on earth, ye saints below.  
For Christ is coming soon!  
E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more.  
They need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their All.*

Prayer for Illumination

Second Scripture Reading

Luke 1:67-79

NT p. 58

Sermon

Zechariah's Song

Rev. Sarah Bird Kneff

## Responding to God's Word

\*Hymn 92

While We Are Waiting, Come

WAITING

\*Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' 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 Ghost, 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 sitteth  
on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He  
shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion  
of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body;  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Offertory

O Come Quickly, Sweetest Lord

Richard Shephard

\*Doxology 607

OLD 100TH

*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.*

\*Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People and 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 and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

\*Hymn 104

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

VALET WILL ICH GEBEN

\*Benediction

\*Sending Hymn 748

Go with Us, Lord

TALLIS' CANON

*(please remain standing as we sing together)*

***Go with us, Lord, and guide the way through this and every coming day,  
that in your Spirit strong and true our lives may be our gift to you.***

Postlude

Savior of the Nations, Come

A. Vetter

Acolytes: Knox Allred & Oaklee Odom

\*Please stand as able

## Music Notes:

*Awake! Hear the Call of the Watchmen (WACHET AUF) by Marcel Dupré ©1932 H.W. Gray*

*E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come by Paul Manz ©1954 Concordia*

*O Come Quickly, Sweetest Lord (Never Weather-beaten Sail) by Richard Shephard ©1984 Royal School of Church Music*

*Savior of the Nations, Come by A. Vetter © 1937 C.F. Peters*

## Wonderful Wednesday Schedule

5:30-6:00 Dinner for all -  
Call the church office by 12pm on Tuesday to make a reservation for dinner or scan the **QR Code**.

6:00-7:00 Adult Bible Study  
(K-5) FPC Chorister Rehearsal 6:00 - 6:30pm  
(K-5) Bible study 6:30 - 7:00pm  
(grades 6 - 12) Youth Group



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**JOY (just older youth) Fellowship** is taking a road trip to the **Christmas at Belmont Mansion guided tour on Friday, December 13th. Cost is \$20 plus lunch afterwards.** The tour begins at 10:00 am so **departure** from the church will be at **8:30 am**. Belmont advises one week's notice. **Deadline to sign-up is Thursday, December 5th. Call the church office for reservations.** Road trips are the best!

**Special Offering to support Outreach Foundation Partners in Mozambique** - Many of you heard Ms. Sebber Banda several weeks ago as she shared the good news about the Holistic Evangelism project in Tete Province, Mozambique. The Outreach Foundation has been working with this group for more than 25 years and during that time 80 churches have been built and many people brought to Christ. Schools and clinics have been built and staffed, midwives have been trained, and wells have been dug in many villages. During the month of December, we will have an opportunity to contribute to this ministry. Donations can be made out to First Presbyterian Church with Mozambique on the memo line of your donation.

**Stewardship 2025 THANK YOU** to all who have submitted pledges during our 2025 Stewardship campaign "For the Next Generation." Our goal is to reach 110 pledges. Thus far we have received **96** pledges. 100% of our officers, elders and deacons, have pledged as we anticipate another year of meaningful ministry together. If you have not yet submitted a pledge, please consider doing so as we seek to plan for the exciting things God will do here at FPC next year!

**FPC Handbell Choir** - Monday, December 2, 5:30-6:30pm

**Committees** - will meet Tuesday, December 3, 6:00

**Open Prayer Gathering** – Join us Wednesday, December 4, from 5 – 5:30pm before Wonderful Wednesday dinner for a service of prayer. The sanctuary will be open for folks to come and pray silently, sit in reflection, or come forward for prayer with Pastor Sarah. As we wrestle with illness, loss and difficulty in our church family, you are welcome to come to this holy space to bring your prayers for others and yourself before God.

**Christmas program** - Whether you enjoy singing, acting, helping with set design, costuming, or being involved in other ways, there's a place for everyone to contribute to our annual Christmas program. We will practice on December 4 and 11 at 6:30 immediately after the 6:00 choristers' rehearsal until the program on December 18 at 6:00. We look forward to celebrating the true meaning of Christmas with you!

**Gingerbread House Contest, Cookie Decorating and Pizza** - Saturday, December 7 at 4:00 pm.

Prior to the Columbia Main Street Christmas parade, our children and youth will gather in the Fellowship Hall for pizza, cookie decorating, and a Gingerbread House competition. Our children will be decorating cookies to hand out to parade goers along with hot chocolate provided by the Congregational Life Committee and our youth will be competing in our annual gingerbread house competition. To make sure we have enough pizza and supplies, we need to know if you will be joining us.



**Please RSVP by scanning the QR code.**

**Intergenerational Summer Mission Trip** -Sign-ups for the FPC Mission Trip (July 13-19, 2025) to Rapid City, SD are underway! All ages are welcome. There will be a table set up in the Gathering Space Dec 1, 8 and 15. Come by before or after the 10:30 service to get more information and ask questions. The registration deadline is January 12th.

**Angel Tree** - The Family Center's Angel Tree Program provides a perfect opportunity to spread much needed Christmas love. The Angel Tree is set up in the Gathering Space. Each tag represents a child's information and their Christmas wish. Presents must be **unwrapped** with tag attached and taken to the **Family Center** by **December 13th**.

### Prayer List

John Chiles, Frank Bellamy, Lorella Kuestersteffan (mother of Terry Hendrickson), Pat Junkin, Joe Kilgore, Sally Menning (friend of Martha Jones), Marie Stephens, Wanda Morris (sister of Mary McClanahan), Nancy Dick (friend of Linda Mayfield), Paul Ludwig, Will Dale, Betty Sloan, McKenzie Baxter, Sam Duncan, Ray Messick and family, Sue Chiles, Barbara Barlar (mother of Janet McAlister), Joe Pugh (brother of Ann Lewis), Bob Sweeney, Imogene Nelson, Joe Graham III, Steve, Roger, and Gary Rampley (brothers of Betty Sloan), Kristin Gwaltney (niece of Jennie Grace Jewell).

## DECEMBER BENEVOLENCE SPOTLIGHT

It's hard to get out of poverty if you can't make it to work. That's where Maury United Ministries (**MUMS**) can help those who need an extra hand. MUMS operates solely by volunteers who transport people anywhere from the pharmacy, grocery, work, to doctor's appointments....you name it. "The goal is to show the love of Christ as we provide for the transportation needs of our new-found friends—and we cannot help but look for opportunities to share the gospel message with them whenever it seems appropriate," said Randy Nichols, owner and operator of MUMS. MUMS is always looking for VOLUNTEERS to make this ministry happen. "I asked them for a half day a month, morning or afternoon, and I would coordinate and dispatch and do fill in's. ...At first we just gave six or seven rides a week. Next thing you know people start hearing about it." The ministry grew: "We let the churches know, the social service organizations know. Didn't put up a big old billboard because people would think we're a taxi service. We recruited drivers from all denominations and many different churches." SO, how can First Presbyterian Church help? They are looking for 1 morning driver and 1 evening driver per month! Please consider volunteering your time to help an organization that helps so many in our community.

### Ministers of the Church

#### **Ruling Elders**

<u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>
Mary Beth Cotham	Andy Crichton	Jeff Baxter
Tony Khim	Lorie Fisher	Matt Campbell
Ed Lancaster	John Hill	Dwight Fox
Craig Lorch	Amy Overton	Tonjia Potts
Terry Hendrickson	Argie Satterwhite	Teresa Smith

#### **Board of Deacons**

<u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>
Brian Allred	Jennie Harlan	Frank Bellamy
Jessica Elam	Mary Marshall Jewell	Lee Brown
Bill Handy	Martha Kelley	Cindy Fox
Lynne Hendrickson	Brent Perry	Marianne Harrell
Katie Ledbetter	Debbie Sherman	Andrew Hickman

### Staff

**Rev. Sarah Bird Kneff**  
Pastor

**Susie Baxter**  
Director of Christian Education

**Renea Foster**  
Administrative Assistant

**Carroll Kilgore**  
Business Administrator

**James Marshall**  
Sexton

**Ashton Garman Prince**  
Communications Assistant

**Nancy G. Reiser**  
Director of Music