

GOOD MORNING! We welcome each of you to this service of worship and we are glad you are here. We invite you to fill out the Welcome card found in the pew rack and place the card in the offering plate, so we can welcome you further and start to get to know you better.

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES		
Today (12/01)	9:30a 10:30a	<i>First Sunday of Advent</i> Sunday School Worship Service
Mon (12/02)	9:00a 9:00a 1:00p	Bulletin Information Due Website Information Due Fellowship Committee Meeting
Tue (12/03)	10:00a	W&M Committee Meeting
Wed (12/04)	9:00a 9:30a 7:00p	WW Meeting (Weight Watchers) Bible Study Choir Rehearsal
Sun (12/08)	9:30a 10:30a	<i>Second Sunday of Advent</i> Sunday School Worship Service — <i>Communion</i>

Financial Update can be found on the bulletin board.

Congregational Meeting: On December 8, immediately following worship service, we will hold a congregational meeting to elect two new elders for the class of 2027. The candidates are: Ellen Watts (3-yr term) and Linda Volcek (second 3-yr term).

Christmas Gathering: On December 11, at 6:00 p.m., we will gather to enjoy our annual Christmas meal. The Fellowship Committee will provide Prime Rib and Ham. Please register on the sign-up sheet for your favorite vegetables, sides and deserts. The sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board and the deadline for registering is December 8, 2024.

Christmas Cookies: We will again ask our congregation to bake cookies for our home-bound members. The cookies need to be delivered to the church on Saturday, December 14, at 9:00 a.m. If you would like to participate in this worthwhile activity, please register on the sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board.

Pennies for Hunger: Don't forget to drop your pennies in the "Hunger" pail located in the Narthex.

Dollars-For-Missions: All loose dollar bills placed in the collection plates will be earmarked for mission work—divided between FPC Mission Team and a Salem Presbytery mission.

Blessing Box: Please continue to support the Blessing Box. It is being visited quite frequently and because of this we are in need of the following:

- ◆ Canned Vegetables
 - Green Beans
- ◆ Canned Pasta
- ◆ Canned Soup
- ◆ Canned Meat
 - Tuna, Chicken, Beef Stew, etc.
- ◆ Boxed Pasta
 - Mac & Cheese, Hamburger Helper, etc.
- ◆ Dry Pasta / Pasta Sauce
- ◆ Ramen Noodles
- ◆ Instant Potatoes, Pasta and Rice Mixes
- ◆ Other Non-perishable Foods



First Presbyterian Church

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Rev. John Pruitt, Pastor

Jane Johnson, Secretary

Stan Stigall, Music Director

December 1, 2024 — First Sunday of Advent

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

GATHERING

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Ellen Watts & Linda Volcek

One: As the season of Advent begins we celebrate hope.

All: We know that through the birth of a tiny and helpless child, God is coming to save the world.

One: While we watch and wait for Jesus to arrive, we join in God's mission by bringing grace and mercy to those who need it most.

All: We engage the poor and the poor in spirit, letting Christ's light shine through us.

One: We speak words of comfort and love to a world in need of healing as we share our stories of God's transforming Spirit.

All: Together, we are a sign of God's hope for the world.

(At this time, The Advent Candle will be lit.)

One: Let us pray.

All: God of surprising grace, when we least expect it you bring fresh new life; and where we feel that all is lost, you bring redemption. Give us courage as we share all you have done, all you are doing, and all you will accomplish through Jesus Christ. Amen.

*HYMN NO. 82

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

HYFRYDOL

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of promises and possibilities, we admit that we color the world according to our own limited vision. We are often unjust in our judgments and faithless in our relationships. We are haunted by sins we have not confessed. Hear us as we entrust them to your forgiving care. Help us to let go of our transgressions, to renew our covenant with you, and to live constructively with one another. In the spirit of Jesus Christ, whose coming we await with great expectation. *(The prayer continues in a time of silent, personal confession.)*

Amen.

RESPONSE

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: The mercy of God is new every day. We are free to accept the difference it can make in us. God's steadfast love is waiting to embrace us as whole people, to instruct us, and to lead us in the paths of truth. Put your trust in God, for that is our only security. Friends, believe the good news...

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

*RESPONSE

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: *And also with you.*

(Please share a sign of peace with others.)

ANTHEM

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 25:1-10

Luke 21:25-36

SERMON

"Where Are You Looking?"

Rev. John Pruitt

SENDING

*HYMN NO. 88

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (verses 1-4)

VENI EMMANUEL

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.

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

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

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

*HYMN NO. 93

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

TRURO

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Serving Today (Dec 01)

Greeters/Ushers: Lynda Self, Nancy Bolen

Serving Next Sunday (Dec 08—Communion)

Greeters/Ushers: Nancy Sharp, Ellen Watts
Element Prep: Nancy Bolen, Nancy Sharp
Assisting Elders: Nancy Bolen, Mike Polinsky
Linda Volcek, Lynda Self

*You may stand in body or spirit.

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