



First Presbyterian Church

Announcements and Things to Know

PICK UP AN ADVENT CALENDAR OF EVENTS at the back of the sanctuary. We have a wonderful Advent planned for you!

CHECK OUT THE JOY BULLETIN BOARD next to the kitchenette. Grab a pen and write down things that bring you joy.

PLEASE SUBMIT ALL BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS BY WEDNESDAYS. Please email Pastor Gregg or Jane.

JOIN OUR E-PRAYER CHAIN. Speak with Pastor Gregg or email Jane Livingston at jlivingston@neo.rr.com to be added.

UPCOMING SERVICES

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, December 24 at 7:30 PM

Join us for our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Pastor Gregg will share a special message, "Heaven Opened: The Coming of Glory - The Glory Has Come," as we celebrate the birth of our Savior.



Christmas Morning Worship Service, December 25 at 10:30 AM

We'll sing your favorite carols, and Pastor Gregg will lead us in a special Christmas Day communion service, concluding his "Heaven Opened: The Coming of Glory" series with "Silence Before Glory." A wonderful way to celebrate Christmas morning!

Sunday, December 28 at 10:30 AM

End 2025 and usher in 2026 by joining us for a special Sunday Worship Service filled with readings and carols.

AT HIS FEET THE SIX-WINGED
SERAPH; CHERUBIM WITH
SLEEPLESS EYE. VEIL THEIR FACES
TO THE PRESENCE AS WITH
CEASELESS VOICE THEY CRY.
ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA,
LORD MOST HIGH!



Third Sunday of Advent

WELCOME



WELCOME TO ALL. You enter this church not as a stranger, but as a child of God, joining in worship with our Christian family. Please take a moment to complete a Visitor/Guest Card, located in the pew racks, and place it in the collection plate at the back of the sanctuary or give directly to Pastor Gregg. We are glad you are here.

TO PREPARE FOR WORSHIP, please turn off or silence cell phones, tablets, and all other wireless electronic devices upon entering the sanctuary.

FOR FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN, nursery care is available for infants and young children through pre-K.

RESTROOMS are located across from the office area and down the hallway in the Christian Education wing.

PARKING IS AVAILABLE in the designated church parking spaces on the south and east side of the church, as well as street parking. The municipal building parking lot west of the church is also available during evening hours and on Sunday mornings.

TODAY'S LITURGICAL COLOR IS BLUE, which is used during the penitential and preparation seasons of Advent and Lent.

WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYER AND DEVOTIONAL is held on Facebook on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM (ET). Please contact Pastor Gregg directly to share any prayer requests.

CONTACT INFO YOU MIGHT NEED

- Contact Pastor Gregg anytime at (814) 460-3123 (call or text) and pastortownsend@yahoo.com.
- Contact music director Jane Livingston at (814) 504-1135 (call or text) and jlivingston@neo.rr.com.

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel, God incarnate here to dwell.
Emmanuel, Emmanuel, praise His name Emmanuel.**

.
The Son of God, here born to bleed.
A crown of thorns would pierce His brow.
And we beheld this offering, exalted now the King of kings.
Praise God for the hallowed manger ground!

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel, God incarnate here to dwell.
Emmanuel, Emmanuel, praise His name Emmanuel.**

*** OFFERING OUR TENTH AND GIFTS BEYOND**

*** BENEDICTION**

*** POSTLUDE**

OFFERING OUR TENTH AND GIFTS BEYOND

1. Place your envelopes in the plates at the back of the sanctuary.
2. Give through PayPal at paypal.me/fpcne or FPCNE.ORG. Scan the QR code in the pew pocket to go right to the church's Paypal account.
3. Speak with Pastor Gregg for details on setting up direct deposit.

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"Come and Behold Him" CCLI Song #1322573 George T. Searcy | John Chisum © 1994 Integrity's Hosanna! Music | Integrity's Praise! Music (c/o Integrity Music, Inc.)\c/o Integrity Music, Inc.) | "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" CCLI Song # 154773 Gerard Moultrie © Words: Public Domain Music: Public Domain | "Emmanuel (Hallowed Manger Ground)" CCLI Song #5601640 Chris Tomlin | Ed Cash © 2009 worshiptogether.com songs | et al (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing) | "Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne" Emily Elizabeth Steele Elliott, Timothy Richard Matthews CCLI Song #91977 © Words: Public Domain; Music: Public Domain

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

* RESPONDING IN SONG “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand.
Ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in His hand.
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way.
As the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day.
That the powers of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.

At His feet the six-winged seraph; Cherubim with sleepless eye.
Veil their faces to the presence as with ceaseless voice they cry.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord Most High!

PASTORAL PRAYER 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.

SENDING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

* CLOSING SONG “Emmanuel (Hallowed Manger Ground)”

What hope we hold one starlit night!
A King is born in Bethlehem.
Our journey long we seek the light,
That leads to the hallowed manger ground.

What fear we felt in the silent age,
Four-hundred years can He be found.
But broken by a baby’s cry—
Rejoice in the hallowed manger ground.

First Presbyterian Church

North East, PA

December 14, 2025, 10:30 A.M.

Third Sunday of Advent

Jane M. Livingston, Director of Music

Gregg D. Townsend, Pastor

**Indicates to stand if you are able*

SHARING OUR JOYS, CONCERNS, AND PRAYER REQUESTS. Please fill out a Prayer Card located in the pew racks and give to Pastor Gregg before the service.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

Pastor Gregg Townsend

* GREETING

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Cindy Lilly

Leader: Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy hill.
Congregation: Let all who live in the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming.

It is close at hand.

Come, let us worship God.

—based on Joel 2:1, NIV

* OPENING PRAISE

“Come and Behold Him”

Come and behold Him. Come see His glory.
Come with an honest heart to see all He is.
We will discover all of His beauty.
His light will burn away all the darkness we’ve known.

**Come and behold Him. Come and behold Him.
Come with an honest heart to see all He is.
Come and behold Him. Wait now before Him.**

Come with an honest heart to see all He is.

Come and behold Him. Come see His mercy.

Come find His tenderness reaching to you.

Just as a mirror shows a reflection.

His Word and Spirit come now reflecting His love. **(Chorus)**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Prepare the way of the Lord! Let us make our confession to God.

Lord God, our lives are filled with sin. We forget our neighbor's needs and do not love you above all else. We need a Savior. Help us to be ready for Jesus in our own hearts. O come, O come, Savior of the world. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Surely God's salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky. The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. Righteousness will go before him and will make a path for his steps. **In Christ, God's salvation is at hand, and righteousness has come. Thanks be to God!**

—based on Psalm 85:9-13, NRSV

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Leila, Matthew & Owen Shields

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

Advent means coming. We are preparing for the full coming of God's Kingdom:

“The nations shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.”

—from Isaiah 2:4, NRSV

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

—Isaiah 35:1-2, NRSV

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

—Isaiah 11:6, NRSV

*** ADVENT HYMN**

“Thou Didst Leave the Throne”

Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy kingly crown,
When Thou camest to earth for me.
But in Bethlehem's home was there found no room
For Thy holy nativity.

**O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,
There is room in my heart for Thee.**

Heaven's arches rang when the angels sang,
Proclaiming Thy royal degree.
But in lowly birth didst Thou come to earth
and in great humility. **(Chorus)**

When the heavens shall ring and the angels sing,
At Thy coming to victory.
Let Thy voice call me home saying yet there is room.
There is room at My side for thee. **(Chorus)**

CHILDREN'S BLESSING

SPECIAL MUSIC

SCRIPTURE READING

Ezekiel 1:22-28

MESSAGE

“Heaven Opened:
The Coming of Glory – A Throne and a Man”