



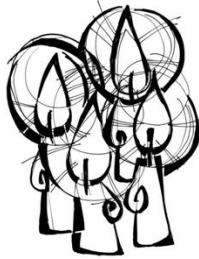
First Presbyterian Church

Announcements and Things to Know

UPCOMING CHRISTMAS 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.

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

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"My Soul Magnifies the Lord" | CCLI Song # 5601671 Chris Tomlin | Daniel Carson © 2009 sixsteps Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Vamos Publishing (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)
| "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" CCLI Song # 154773 Gerard Moultrie © Words: Public Domain Music: Public Domain | "Come, Emmanuel" CCLI Song #3413311 David Moffitt | Sue C. Smith © 2001 New Spring | "Savior of the World" © 2004 Jane Livingston | "Lift Up Your Heads Ye Mighty Gates" Catherine Winkworth, Georg Weissel, T. Williams CCLI Song #629899 © Words and Music: Public Domain

KING OF KINGS YET BORN OF
MARY, AS OF OLD ON EARTH HE
STOOD. LORD OF LORDS IN HUMAN
VESTURE IN THE BODY AND THE
BLOOD. HE WILL GIVE TO ALL THE
FAITHFUL HIS OWN SELF FOR
HEAV'NLY FOOD.



Fourth 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 jmlivingston20@outlook.com.

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** "Lift Up Your Heads Ye Mighty Gates"

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates. Behold the King of glory waits.
The King of kings is drawing near. The Savior of the world is here.

Fling wide the portals of your heart. Make it a temple set apart.
From earthy use, for heaven's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come I open wide. My heart to Thee, here Lord abide.
Let me Thy inner presence feel. Thy grace and love in me reveal.

* **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.

You are the hope, a candle shining bright. You are near, Emmanuel.
God with us You, are the Promised One. You, we worship and adore.
All praise to you, the everlasting Father,
The Prince of Peace, You will reign forever.

Come, Emmanuel! Savior of the world we wait for you.
Holy Son of God, Light of our salvation, love so true.
The child sent from heaven to earth will bring us life anew.
Emmanuel, Savior of the World, we wait for you.

CHILDREN'S BLESSING

SPECIAL MUSIC

Bell Choir

SCRIPTURE READING

Ezekiel 2:1-3:15

MESSAGE

“Heaven Opened:
The Coming of Glory – The Word We Must Swallow”

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!

King of kings yet born of Mary, as of old on earth He stood.
Lord of lords in human vesture in the body and the blood.
He will give to all the faithful His own self for heav'nly food.

First Presbyterian Church

North East, PA

December 21, 2025, 10:30 A.M.

Fourth 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

Bell Choir

WELCOME

Pastor Gregg Townsend

* GREETING

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Chancel Choir

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence.”

J.B. Salter, Clarinet

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Christy Reinsel

Leader: We gather in preparation

Congregation: for good news is about to be proclaimed.

We gather in expectation

for joy is about to explode in our midst.

We gather in celebration

for we are those people who have said

yes to the manger,

yes to love enfleshed,

yes to the one incarnate for others,

yes to the wholeness of God.

With preparation and in expectation, let us celebrate!

*** OPENING PRAISE** “My Soul Magnifies the Lord”

Good news of great joy for every woman, every man.
This will be a sign to you—a baby born in Bethlehem.
Come and worship! Do not be afraid.

A company of angels, glory in the highest.
And on the earth a peace among those on whom His favor rests.
Come and worship! Do not be afraid.

**My soul, my soul magnifies the Lord. My soul magnifies the Lord.
He has done great things for me, great things for me!**

Unto you a child is born. Unto us a Son is given.
Let every heart prepare His throne. Let every nation under Heaven.
Come and worship! Do not be afraid.
Come and worship! Do not be afraid. **(Chorus)**

Wonderful, Counselor. Everlasting Father.
Wonderful, Counselor. Everlasting Father **(Chorus)**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, always with us, always coming: We confess that we do not know how to prepare for your Advent. We have forgotten how to hope in miracles; we have ignored the promise of your kingdom; we get distracted by all the busyness of this season. Forgive us, God.

Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds, the intelligent courage of the Magi, and the patient faith of Mary and Joseph, and assurance that we may journey with them to Bethlehem and find the good news of a child born for us. Now, in the quiet of our hearts, we ask you to make us ready for his coming. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Jesus, the long-expected Savior, was born to set us free. He releases us from our fears and sins and helps us find our rest in him. Jesus delivers us from the way of sin and death. Yet he remains the desire of people in every nation, and he will direct us into the ways of his kingdom. And so, with hopeful hearts, we call to him:

**Come now, long-expected Jesus, come again to rule in our hearts.
Amen.**

—inspired by Charles Wesley (1744)

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

SPECIAL MUSIC “Light of the World” Chancel Choir

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Barb Sweet

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.

—Isaiah 11:6, NRSV

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

Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel (“God is with us”).

—from Isaiah 7:14, NRSV

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

*** ADVENT HYMN** “Savior of the World”

**Come, Emmanuel! Savior of the world we wait for you.
Holy Son of God, Light of our salvation, love so true.
The child sent from heaven to earth will bring us life anew.
Emmanuel, Savior of the World, we wait for you.**