

## ADVENT NEWS

**JOIN US THIS AFTERNOON AT 4:00 PM FOR OUR ANNUAL ADVENT PROGRAM AND RECEPTION.** Kick off the month by remembering the reason for the season!

**THERE WILL BE A MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION** to elect officers on December 11 in the sanctuary, immediately following the worship service.

**SHARE THE LOVE OF CHRIST THIS CHRISTMAS** to those in need by donating to this year's Community Christmas Boxes sponsored by the North East Council of Churches. To contribute, please make your donation payable to "Community Christmas Boxes" and mail to: Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross, c/o Anne Bardol, 51 West Main Street, North East PA 16428. Applications are available at the back of the sanctuary and need to be submitted to Pastor Gregg for signature. Recipients will receive a gift certificate to Sanders Market. Applications are due to the Episcopal Church by December 7.

**EVERYONE IS INVITED TO A BELLS & CAROLS SING-A-LONG ON DECEMBER 10 AT 3:00 PM.** Come on out, invite some friends, and get in the holiday spirit by singing all your favorite Christmas carols accompanied by the Bell Choir and piano. Stay for holiday refreshments and fellowship.

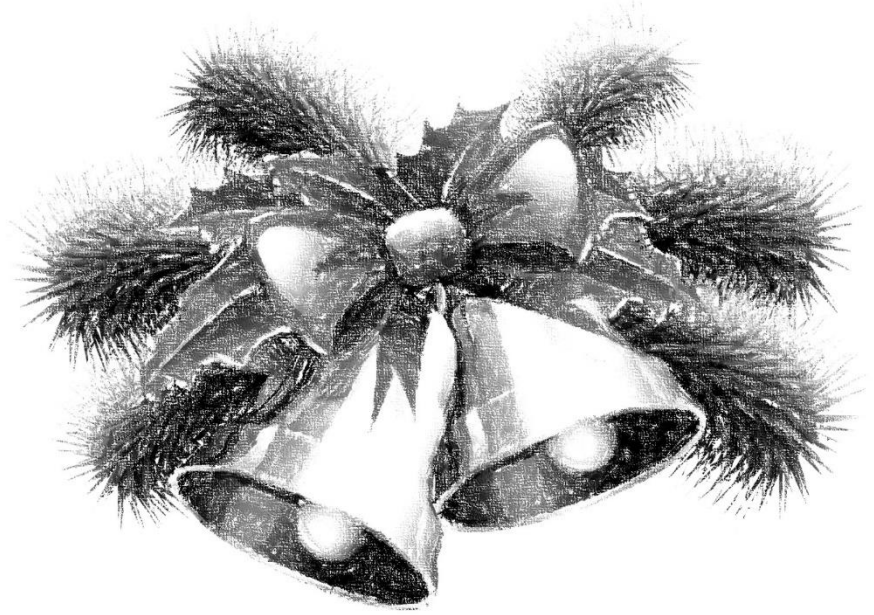
**PICK UP A COMPLETE CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR ADVENT** at the back of the sanctuary.

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### SPECIAL ADVENT EVENTS

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- December 4, 4:00 PM – Advent Program and Reception
- December 10, 3:00 PM – Bells & Carols Sing-a-long
- December 24, 7:30 PM – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- December 25, 10:30 AM – Christmas Day Worship Service



# It's a Hopeful Life

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## SUNDAY SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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### First Presbyterian Church

25 West Main Street | North East, PA 16428  
(814) 725-8641 | [FPCNE.ORG](http://FPCNE.ORG) | Follow us on Facebook

## 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 during the time of Offering. We are glad you joined us today.

**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. An usher will be happy to direct you to the Nursery-Crib Room. Sunday School is available for grade school ages following the Children's Blessing.

**ASSISTANCE FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED** is available. Please contact a member of the media team to use the assisted listening devices.

**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 on nights and 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 LIVE 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](mailto:pastortownsend@yahoo.com).
- Contact music director Jane Livingston at (814) 504-1135 (call or text) and [jlivingston@neo.rr.com](mailto:jlivingston@neo.rr.com).

Christ brings God's rule O Zion He comes from heaven above  
His rule is peace and freedom and justice truth and love  
Lift high your praise resounding for grace and joy abounding  
O blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name

Fling wide your gates O Zion Your Savior's rule embrace  
And tidings of salvation proclaim in every place  
All lands will bow rejoicing their adoration voicing  
O blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name

**\* OFFERING OUR TENTH AND GIFTS BEYOND**

**\* BENEDICTION AND POSTLUDE**

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## OFFERING OUR TENTH AND GIFTS BEYOND

1. For in-person worshippers, place your envelopes in the plates at the back of the sanctuary.
2. Send in your financial support via the **USPS to 25 West Main Street, North East PA 16428.**
3. Contact the church office (814-725-8641) to set up **direct deposit.**
4. You can also now give through **PayPal**. Just click on the link: [paypal.me/fpcne](https://paypal.me/fpcne).

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"We Wait in Hope" CCLI Song #5194463 Joel Raney © 2008 Hope Publishing Company | "When Love Came Down" CCLI Song #3359138 Stuart Townend © 2001 Thankyou Music (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing) | "Prepare the Way" CCLI Song # 1210135 Augustus Nelson | Charles P. Price | Frans Mikael Franzen © 1982, 1985 Adaptation Charles P. Price. Assigned to Hope Publishing Company

## HOLY COMMUNION

*Invitation*

*Prayer of Thanksgiving*

**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.**

*Words of Institution*

*Sharing the Bread and Cup (Please eat the bread and then drink the cup.)*

*Prayer*

**\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: THE CONFESSION OF 1967**  
(Book of Confessions, 9.10,11)

**The risen Christ is the Savior for all people. Those joined to him by faith are set right with God and commissioned to serve as his reconciling community. Christ is the head of this community, the church, which began with the apostles and continues through all generations.**

**The same Jesus Christ is the judge of all people. His judgment discloses the ultimate seriousness of life and gives promise of God's final victory over the power of sin and death. To receive life from the risen Lord is to have life eternal; to refuse life from him is to choose the death which is separation from God. All who put their trust in Christ face divine judgment without fear, for the judge is their redeemer.**

## SENDING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

**\* CLOSING SONG** "Prepare the Way" #13

Prepare the way O Zion Your Christ is drawing near  
Let every hill and valley a level way appear  
Greet One who comes in glory foretold in sacred story  
O blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name

## First Presbyterian Church

North East, PA

December 4, 2022, 10:30 A.M.

Second Sunday of Advent

Jane M. Livingston, Director of Music

Gregg D. Townsend, Pastor

*\*Indicates to stand if you are able*

*SHARING OUR JOYS AND PRAYER REQUESTS. Please fill out one of the Prayer Cards located in the pew racks to share your joys, concerns, and prayer requests with your church family. The ushers will collect them during the first hymn.*

## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

### GATHERING MUSIC

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Pastor Gregg Townsend

**\* ADVENT HYMN** "We Wait In Hope"

All cre - a - tion lies in wait - ing, in the still - ness of the night, with  
6  
hope an - ti - ci - pat - ing the Ad - vent of E - ter - nal Light.

**\* RESPONSIVE LITANY** The Hartner Family  
Leader: Advent is a time to watch.  
**Congregation: We watch in hope for the Lord; O come, Emmanuel.**  
During Advent we watch for hope in the midst of despair.  
**We watch in hope for the Lord; O come, Emmanuel.**  
During Advent we watch for forgiveness in the midst of rebellion.  
**We watch in hope for the Lord; O come, Emmanuel.**  
During Advent we watch for peace in the midst of conflict.  
**We watch in hope for the Lord; O come, Emmanuel.**

During Advent we watch for the presence of God in the midst of a fallen world.

**We watch in hope for the Lord; O come, Emmanuel.**

*The Lighting of the Second Advent Candle*

**\* CONGREGATIONAL REFRAIN**

11 We watch in hope for the morn - ing Light,  
15 for the love of Christ to il - lu - mi - nate the night.  
19 We watch with joy for His re - turn;  
23 we watch in hope for peace on earth. peace on earth.

**PRAYER**

God in heaven, as we learn to wait in faith, help us now to watch in expectation. Open our eyes that we might see the ways you are at work around us, within us and through us. Amen.

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

Chancel Choir

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**O promised Christ: We are a world at war. Our peace depends on your coming. We are a sinful people. Our pardon depends on your coming. We are full of good intentions but weak at keeping promises; our only hope of doing God's will is that you should come and help us do it. Lord Christ, Word made flesh, our world waits for your peace, for your pardon, and for your grace. Even so: come, Lord Jesus. 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**

**CHILDREN'S BLESSING**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

II Thessalonians 2:1-12

**MESSAGE**

**THE LORD'S SUPPER**

**\* RESPONDING IN SONG**

“When Love Came Down”

When Love came down to earth and made His home with men.  
The hopeless found a hope. The sinner found a friend.  
Not to the powerful but to the poor He came.  
And humble hungry hearts were satisfied again.

**What joy, what peace has come to us.  
What hope, what help, what love.**

When ev'ry unclean thought and every sinful deed.  
Was scourged upon His back and hammered through His feet.  
The innocent is cursed. The guilty are released.  
The punishment of God bought me peace. **(Chorus)**

Come lay your heavy load down at the Master's feet.  
Your shame will be removed. Your joy will be complete.  
Come crucify your pride and enter as a child.  
For those who bow down low, He'll lift up to His side. **(Chorus)**