



First Presbyterian Church

Announcements and Things to Know

PICK UP AN ADVENT CALENDAR OF EVENTS at the back of the sanctuary.

POINSETTIA ORDERS ARE DUE TODAY. Order forms are available in the bulletin or at the back of the sanctuary.

SQUARE CIRCLE WILL MEET THIS WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, at Ricardo's Restaurant at 6:30 PM for dinner and an evening of fellowship. Please let Deanna Ott know by Tuesday if you are able to attend.

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

BE SURE TO MAKE SOME ORNAMENTS AND HANG IN THE SANCTUARY CHRISTMAS TREE. Simply write your name or family's name on a tag and hang on the tree.

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.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 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"



Christmas Morning Worship Service, 10:30 AM

Pastor Gregg will lead us in a special Christmas Day communion service filled with carols, and concluding his "Heaven Opened: The Coming of Glory" series with "Silence Before Glory."

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.

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.



Second 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.

SENDING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

* CLOSING SONG

“Creator of the Stars of Night”

1. Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, Your peo - ple's e - ver-
2. When this old world drew on toward night. You came, but not in
3. At Your great name, O Je - sus, now All knees must bend, all
4. All praise e - ter - nal Son to Thee, Whose ad - vent sets thy

last - ing light. O Christ, Re - deem - er of us
splen - dor bright. Not as a mon - arch, but the
hearts must bow; All things on earth with one ac -
6. peo - ple free. Whom with the Fa - ther we a -

all. We pray You hear us when we call.
child. Of Ma - ry, blame - less moth - er mild.
cord, Like those in heaven, shall call You Lord.
dore And Spi - rit blest for - e - ver - more.

* OFFERING OUR TENTH AND GIFTS BEYOND

* BENEDICTION AND POSTLUDE

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“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” CCLI Song #2165976 Charles Wesley | William W. Walker © Public Domain | “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” CCLI Song # 154773 Gerard Moultrie © Words: Public Domain Music: Public Domain | “Creator of the Stars at Night” Latin hymn, 9th century | Jane Livingston | “Here I Am to Worship” Tim Hughes CCLI Song #3266032 © 2000 Thankyou Music

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

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.

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**

Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 31 and 32

Why is he called “Christ,” meaning “anointed”?

Because he has been ordained by God the Father and has been anointed with the Holy Spirit to be our chief prophet and teacher who fully reveals to us the secret counsel and will of God concerning deliverance; our only high priest who has delivered us by the one sacrifice of his body, and who continually pleads our cause with the Father, and our eternal king who governs us by his Word and spirit, and who guards us and keeps us in the freedom he has won for us.

But why are you called a Christian?

Because by faith I am a member of Christ and so I share in his anointing. I am anointed to confess his name, to present myself to him as a living sacrifice of thanks, to strive with a free conscience against sin and the devil in this life, and afterward to reign with Christ over all creation for eternity.

First Presbyterian Church

North East, PA

December 7, 2025, 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, 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 “Prepare Him Room” Chancel Choir

WELCOME Pastor Gregg Townsend

*** GREETING**

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP Bell Choir

*** CALL TO WORSHIP** J.B. Salter

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord always.

Congregation: I will say it again: Rejoice!

Let your gentleness be evident to all.

The Lord is near.

We rejoice in the hope of Christ’s coming. Let us worship God!

—based on Philippians 4:4-5, NIV

*** OPENING PRAISE** “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Come Thou long-expected Jesus. Born to set Thy people free.
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel’s strength and consolation. Hope of all the earth Thou art.
Dear desire of every nation. Joy of every longing heart.
Born Thy people to deliver. Born a child and yet a king.

Born to reign in us forever now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit, rule in all our hearts alone.
By Thine all-sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

Lord Christ, we confess our willingness to be loved but also our reluctance to love. We confess our readiness to accept your forgiving love but also our refusal to forgive. We confess our eagerness to grasp your offer of redeeming love but also our resistance to follow you without question.

In this Advent time, forgive us our failure to respond as we should. Come to us anew, and by your grace, assist us to receive you with joy, as the shepherds; with gratitude, as Simeon; with obedience, as Mary; with love, as you have loved us. Even so: come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Your sins are pardoned.
The penalty is paid.
Thanks be to God.

—based on Isaiah 40:1-2

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Jamison, Meghan & Callahan Drab

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.

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

—Isaiah 11:6, NRSV

*** ADVENT HYMN**

“Here I Am to Worship”

Light of the world you stepped down into darkness.

Opened my eyes, let me see.

Beauty that made this heart adore You. Hope of a life spent with You.

Here I am to worship. Here I am to bow down.

Here I am to say that You're my God.

You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,

Altogether wonderful to me.

King of all days, oh so highly exalted. Glorious in heaven above.

Humbly You came to the earth You created.

All for love's sake became poor. **(Chorus)**

CHILDREN'S BLESSING

SPECIAL MUSIC

SCRIPTURE READING

Ezekiel 1:4-21

MESSAGE

“Heaven Opened:

The Coming of Glory – The God Who Comes”

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

*** 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.