



CENTERING MUSIC (8:30)
(10:30)

“Once in Royal David’s City”
“Noel”

arr. T. Keesecker
T. Dubois

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PASTORAL UPDATES ~ *Share prayer needs by placing a pew card in the offering plate*

MINUTE FOR PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE ~ Allen Wright

GATHERING PRAYER

THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE

God is with us forever

Chapel ~ Don and Karen Thompson; Sanctuary ~ FPC College Students

Join when prompted: We light this candle to remind us that God’s love is made flesh in Jesus Christ.

Sung Response: *Be near me Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.*

The Lighting of the Candle of Love

Candle Prayer: God of love, as we light this candle dwell among us and within us.
Shine through our lives, that your love may be known in the world.
Come, Lord Jesus, Come. Amen.

*HYMN OF ADVENT #97 ~ “Watchman, Tell Us of the Night”

INVITATION AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of love, You come to us in unexpected ways—in vulnerability, in humility, in the promise of a child. Yet we confess that we overlook Your presence and resist the demands of Your love, failing to love our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us, O God. Open our hearts to Emmanuel, that Your love may take flesh in our words and actions and shine forth into the world You so love. God, hear our prayers... (silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS

Hear the good news: The God who comes to us in Jesus Christ is faithful and full of mercy.
Even when we fail to love, God’s grace is at work.

In Christ we are forgiven, renewed, and made whole. Thanks be to God!

*HOLY INTERRUPTION ~ *An intentional time to share the peace and fellowship of Christ*

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 1:18-25

SERMON

“God’s House”

Rev. Sharon Amstutz

SPIRITUAL RESPONSE ~ “Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow” (*No. 606, Glory to God*)

CHORAL RESPONSE (10:30)

“Immanuel”

arr. J. Purifoy

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH ~ *The Apostle’s Creed (p. 35, Glory to God)*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER (*p. 35, Glory to God*)

*HYMN OF SENDING (8:30) “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” #123 *verses 1, 3, and 5*
(10:30) Christmas Hymn by Rend Collective (*Lyrics on screen*)

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*GO FORTH IN PEACE

“Glory to God in the Highest”

G.B. Pergolesi

4th Sunday of Advent ~ Love

December 21, 2025

*K-4th Sunday School is upstairs in the Children's Library 10:15am-11:30am
Childcare is available for younger children upstairs in our nursery
Adult Sunday School classes meet between services.*

Opportunities for Connection

Interested in baptism, becoming a member of First Presbyterian Church, or have a pastoral concern?
Please let us know. Talk to our Associate Pastor or call the church.

Celebration

Welcome to new member **Bailee Benton** who joined First Presbyterian Church on Sunday, December 14, 2025.

Christmas Joy Offering

The Christmas Joy Offering will be received **Sunday, December 21** (*One hundred percent goes to PCUSA: 50% to the Presbyterian Program of the Board of Pensions and 50% to leadership and education at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.*)

Note from Finance Office

We are winding down our 2026 Stewardship Campaign. Thank you to all who have responded.
There are still a few people we need to hear from as we finalize the budget.

Offering Invitation

Tithes and Offerings can be given online, placed in the offering plate as you leave, or mailed to the church.

The Chancel Flowers are Dedicated to the Glory of God

and are given in praise and thanksgiving
of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
by Ivey and Sue Redmon.

Ushers: Greeley and Sue Wells, *Sanctuary*

Sound: Dan Dietrich

Birthdays & Prayers of the Week

December 23: Ruth Adams

December 27: Carolyn Collins, Johnnie Stubblefield

December 28: Judy Cox

No Church Night Supper or Vespers until January

Christmas Eve Worship Services

- ◆ 4:00pm ~ Shadow Nativity and Carols in the Fellowship Center
- ◆ 5:30pm ~ Lessons and Carols in the Sanctuary

Holiday Schedule

The church office will be closed on **Wednesday, December 24** and **Thursday, December 25** for the Christmas holiday and on **Thursday, January 1** for New Year's Day. The Clothes Closet will be closed on **Tuesday, December 23** and **Tuesday, December 30**.

Combined Worship

We will have one combined worship service in the sanctuary on **Sunday, December 28** at 10:30 a.m.

History Room Display for Advent

It is Christmas 1981-85 in the History Room at First Pres. We are celebrating the Madrigal Dinners held during that time. We have a coat of armor, a maid's cap and apron, costumes, programs, photographs, and many memories of this community event sponsored by our Church and involving almost every member of our church in some way. Come by and enjoy the exhibit until January. Special thanks to Agnese and Roger Goin for their creativity in developing the exhibit.

Please be aware the 10:30am service is live streamed on Facebook and YouTube

WIFI Network: FPCK-GUEST Password: Genesis 1:3-4

www.firstpresningsport.org

Church office: (423) 245-0104