



... among those born of  
women no one has arisen  
greater than John the Baptist;  
yet the least in the kingdom of  
heaven is greater than he.

Matthew 11:11, NRSV

### **First Presbyterian Church**

Service for the Lord's Day  
Third Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2022

10:00 a.m.

*In preparation for worship, please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices.*

#### **ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME**

Gathering Music

Concerns of the Church

Prelude

“Gabriel's Message”

arr. Michael Bedford

Call to Worship

*from Isaiah 35:1-10*

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.***

\* Hymn 362

"Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers"  
*Ushers will collect prayer request cards from the center aisle.*

\* Call to Confession

\* Prayer of Confession

*from Isaiah 35:1-10*

**God of majesty and glory,  
we are thirsty for your grace.  
You made a way for us in the wilderness,  
and still, in our foolishness, we go astray.  
We hide our eyes from your presence.  
We do not listen to your word.  
We are lifeless when we ought to dance  
and speechless when we ought to sing.  
Forgive us, O Lord.  
Speak peace to our fearful hearts,  
strengthen our weak hands and make firm our feeble knees  
as we seek to follow in your holy way.**

\* Silent Confession

\* Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Advent Response (see insert for music)

**Are you the One or should we wait for one to lead the quest?  
Look at the miracles today. They'll put your doubts to rest.  
For hope is born among us as Christ brings light and life.  
The dawn of grace shall set us free from all our pain and strife.**

Reception of New Members

### **PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 11:2-11 (NT, p. 11)

Biblical Song: The Song of Mary (Hymnal 99)

(v. 1, 2 – all, v. 3 – women, v. 4 – men, v. 5 – all)

A Time with Children

Anthem

“Who But the Lord?”

Craig Courtney

Epistle Lesson: James 5:7-10 (NT, p. 231)

Sermon: “Patience for Christmas”

Rev. Carter

### **RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

\* Hymn 97

“Watchman, Tell Us of the Night” (to Hymnal 367)

\* Affirmation of Faith: The Confession of 1967 (9:54-55)

**Already God's reign is present as a ferment in the world,  
stirring hope in people and preparing the world**

**to receive its ultimate judgement and redemption.  
With an urgency born of this hope,  
the church applies itself to present tasks  
and strives for a better world.  
It does not identify limited progress  
with the kingdom of God on earth,  
nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat.  
In steadfast hope,  
the church looks beyond all partial achievement  
to the final triumph of God.**

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Offering

Offertory "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" arr. Kenneth DeJong

\* Doxology (606)

\* Prayer of Dedication

### **GO IN GOD'S NAME**

\* Hymn 123 "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

\* Charge and Benediction

\* Congregational Response (91)

**Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel!** (repeat)

\* Postlude "Rejoice, Rejoice Believers" arr. Harvey Hahn

*All are invited to remain seated to listen to the postlude.  
If you are leaving before it is finished, please do so quietly.*

-----  
\* All who are able shall stand.

### **PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

Pastor	Rev. William G. Carter
Coordinator of Children and Youth	Jana Schillinger
Director of Music	Frank Jones
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck
Liturgist	Meg Hatch
Advent Candlelighters	The Naehar Family

**First Presbyterian Church  
300 School Street  
Clarks Summit, PA 18411  
570/586-6306  
www.fpccs.org**

## Church Family Announcements

*Our congregation worships God, equips God's people for ministry in the world, and serves God in ways that are faithful to the Gospel.*

**Thank you for joining us for Worship.** We worship every Sunday in two ways!

- **Join us in person at 10:00 a.m.**
- **Tune in online** for our service, which is broadcast live on [our video page on YouTube](#) and archived for later viewing on the same site.

**Large-print bulletins** can be found at the rear of the sanctuary. Ask an usher for assistance.

**The Nursery is open** Sunday mornings from 9:40-11:10 a.m. for children ages 3 and younger in room 208. The nursery is staffed by Heather Lyons.

**You can find Advent Bags** on the table in the hall between Rev. Carter's and Jana's offices, and **Advent Devotional Booklets** in the Narthex (Lobby). Please help yourself to one of each for your household.

### Update on The PJ Tree:

- **If you purchased pajamas** for children in Head Start program, please return your gifts today. Thank you.
- **Tags remain on the tree to assist local refugee families.** Please purchase the requested item, wrap and label it, and return to the church by Sunday, December 18. Thank you!

**Tell us your prayer concerns:** Prayer Request Cards are available in the pew racks. Pass them to the center aisle to be collected during the first hymn. Please pray for: Barbara, Hall, Nancy, Ellen, Susannah, Janice, Kate, Leonard, Janet, June, Janet, Donna, Maura, Chuck, Jane, Morse, Dick Maurer and family, Bailey Family, MacDade family.

**Plastic (grocery store) bags are needed to make mats to go with the ugly quilts.** It takes 600-700 clean plastic bags to make a single 3' x 6' mat. Please bring your extra bags to Church; there is a tub in the Narthex for them. Thank you!!

**RINGGOLD CHRISTMAS BRASS BAND  
AT FPCCS ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16**



You are invited to a Christmas Brass Concert and Sing Along with The Ringgold Brass Band at the First Presbyterian Church on **Friday, December 16 at 7 p.m.** The 14-piece brass band, directed by Raymond Stedenfeld, will perform traditional and modern brass Christmas favorites.

Admission to the concert is free of charge. The church is located at 300 School Street in Clarks Summit. This concert is sponsored by a grant from the Lackawanna County Arts and Culture Department. Contact Ray at 570-357-2680 for more information. Hope to see you there!

**Care packages for college students:** We want to send care packages to our college and graduate students. Know of anybody who would enjoy receiving one? Contact Grace Farrell ([glee1124@yahoo.com](mailto:glee1124@yahoo.com) or 570-586-7174) who is coordinating the project for the Deacons. Be sure to include the student's address!

### **Can you help?**

We are seeking volunteers to replenish our committees and assist with brief but important tasks around the church.

- Can you assist with serving meals at one of our funeral luncheons? Let our Deacons know.
- Interested in volunteering in the office on a regular weekday morning? Notify Nancy Owens.
- Can you serve on the Christian Education and Growth committee? Let Jana know.
- Could you serve on the Worship, Music, and Arts committee, or on the Arts planning team? Tell Jan Thyren or Robin Pinches of your interest.

Thanks for considering this invitation. This church depends on volunteers!

We are grateful for the many ways that people support our church's ministry to the community and world. If you wish to contribute by cell phone, scan here.



### **This Week at a Glance**

Today **Third Sunday of Advent**

- **10 a.m.**, Worship in the Sanctuary and online
- **11:15 a.m.**, Advent Program, Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, December 13

- **10 a.m.**, MBK Quilters, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, December 14

- **10:30 a.m.**, Prayer and Share, Room 209
- **6 p.m.**, Adult Bible Study, Room 206
- **7 p.m.**, Adult Choir, Sanctuary
- **8 p.m.**, Bell Choir, Fellowship Hall

Thursday, December 15

- **8:30 a.m.**, Men's Bible Study, Room 206
- **2 p.m.**, Senior Game Group, Fellowship Hall

Friday, December 16

- **7 p.m.**, Concert with The Ringgold Brass Band, Sanctuary

Sunday, December 18 **Third Sunday of Advent**

- **10 a.m.**, Worship in the sanctuary and online
- **11:15 a.m.**, Session Meeting, Room 206

**Be sure to check upcoming events on the back page.**

## Advent and Christmas

### At First Presbyterian Church

- **Advent bags** are available in the upstairs hallway from the Christian Education Committee. Please help yourself to one.
- An Advent **devotional booklet** is available (in print and on our website as a PDF) that features the “best of” the reflections from the past five years.
- Our **Give a Gift to a Stranger mission program** continues on Sundays in Advent.
- On **Wednesday evenings**, our 6:00 p.m. Adult Study will be called “Advent in Narnia,” based on the C.S. Lewis book, “The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.” It will continue on December 7, 14 and 21.
- **Brass Concert and Sing-A-Long** by the Ringgold Band is set for Friday, December 16 at 7:00 p.m.
- **Blue Christmas Service** will be held in person and broadcast online on Tuesday, December 20, 7:00 pm.
- **On Christmas Eve**, there will be a simple Christmas pageant at 4:00 p.m., a choral Lessons and Carols at 8:00 p.m., and a Jazz Communion at 11:00 p.m. All will be in person and broadcast online.
- Worship will be held on **Christmas Day** and **New Year’s Day** at 10:00 a.m. Both are Sundays.
- An **intergenerational lunch/event on the theme of Baptism** will be held after worship on Sunday, January 8.

*300 School Street, Clarks Summit, PA 18411*

*[www.fpccs.org](http://www.fpccs.org)*

## **Matthew 11:2-11**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

## **James 5:7-10**

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.