

December 14, 2025
First Presbyterian Church
3rd Sunday of Advent

We Gather in God's Name

Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude *Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella*

Keith Chapman

Welcome

Rev. Maxwell Michaels

We Worship Together

*Call to Worship (*Luke 1:46b-47, 49*)

My soul magnifies the Lord;
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior
The Mighty One has done great things.
Holy is God's name!

*Hymn 113 *Angels We Have Heard on High*

GLORIA

Lighting of the Advent Candles

The Watson Family

Invitation to Confession

Let the desert rejoice and let the dry land be glad, for God has come to save us. Let us confess our sin:

Prayer of Confession

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. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Now return to the Lord with joy and gladness. Sing a song of redemption! Let sorrow and sighing be no more. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

Sharing the Peace of Christ

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us now greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

*Holy Interruption

*Gloria Patri

Choral Anthem *Alleluia, from For Us a Child is Born, BWV 142*

(Chancel Choir)

J.S. Bach/Khunau

arr. by Gruber/Faber

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory *Silent Night*

Campbell Harris, piano

arr. by Gruber/Faber

*Doxology *O come, let us adore Him; O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.*

ADESTE FIDELIS

We Receive God's Word

Children's Message

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading: *Isaiah 35:1-10*

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 11:2-11*

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

Sermon "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Rev. Maxwell Michaels

THE FIRST NOEL

Hymn 147 *The First Noel* (vs. 1-4)

Holland

Affirmation of Faith (*from A Declaration of Faith*)

What do you believe?

In Christ, God gave us a glimpse of the new creation God has already begun and will surely finish. We do not know when the final day will come. In our time, we see only broken and scattered signs that the renewal of all things is underway. We do not yet see the end of cruelty and suffering in the world, the church, or our own lives. But we see Jesus as Lord. As he stands at the center of our history, we are confident he will stand at its end. He will judge all people and nations. Evil will be condemned and rooted out of God's good creation. There will be no more tears or pain. All things will be made new.

Hymn 132 *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

IN DULCI JUBILO

Announcements

Pastoral Prayer & 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.

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory *Silent Night*

Campbell Harris, piano

arr. by Gruber/Faber

*Doxology *O come, let us adore Him; O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.*

ADESTE FIDELIS

*Prayer of Dedication

Thanks be to you, O God, maker of heaven and earth - giver of justice, lover of righteousness, hope of the afflicted, and friend of the poor. Your faithfulness never fails. Take and use these gifts offer to further your purpose in the world and to fulfill the promise of the world to come; through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

Hymn 147 *The First Noel* (vs. 1-4)

THE FIRST NOEL

Benediction

There's a Song in the Air

*There's a song in the air! There's a star in the sky!
There's a mother's deep prayer and a baby's low cry!
And the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing,
for the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!*

Holland

Postlude *Joy to the World*

Campbell Harris, organ

Traditional

*Those who are able, please stand as directed at the items marked with an asterisk.

*Special thanks to those who contributed coats for our coat drive last Sunday. Because of your help, the people at the New Beginnings shelter are warmer!

Acolytes: Kaiden & Knox Miller

The Church This Week (12/14/2025)

Today	10:00 a.m. Sunday School
	11:00 a.m. Worship
	12:00 p.m. Congregational Meeting
	4:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Cantata "For Unto Us a Child is Born"
Mon.	8:30 a.m. MMO
Wed.	8:30 a.m. MMO
	3:15 p.m. Fun Program
Sun.	10:00 a.m. Sunday School
	11:00 a.m. Worship

Prayer List as of December 14, 2025

Gerry Rogers
Bea Sloop
Benny Moore
Bobbie Jones
For those suffering from chronic mental and emotional illnesses
B.J. Moore
Louise Carpenter
Shirley Brock
Edward Tinsley
Ruth Jackson
Marion Murphy
Nadia Harris
Lesley Jean Watson
Rebecca Harris Ott
Sherri (Ronald) Thurman, Ruby SC
Pam Cook (Alison Chapman's mother)
Wyatt Smith

The sanctuary is equipped with a hearing loop. For individuals with hearing aids, please activate your T-coil to utilize this feature. Spare headsets are also available.

If you would like to place flowers or a plant in the sanctuary for worship service, there is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. You can also call, or email Cathy Chapman and she can sign you up for a date.

Thanks to all who placed poinsettias in the Sanctuary.
See insert for more information.

Chancel Choir Canata

The Chancel Choir will present "For Us a Child is Born," by J.S. Bach and Johann Khunau today at 4 p.m. in the sanctuary. The choir, along with a string quartet, guest conductor, and three organists, will be offering music steeped in the grandeur of the Baroque era. You are invited to a reception in the Fellowship Building immediately following the service. Admission is free and we hope you will come celebrate the season with us this afternoon!

Pledges/Contributions

All **pledges and/or contributions** to First Presbyterian Church must be turned in by **Sunday, December 28th for year ending 2025**.

In addition, any checks that needs to be written for 2025 expenses must be turned in by Sunday, December 28, 2025.

Nursery Volunteer Schedule for October - December

Oct. 5	Heather Tucker
Oct. 12	Cathy Chapman
Oct. 19	Kelli Beck
Oct. 26	Jean Page Watson
Nov. 2	Maggie Barton
Nov. 9	Steve Cook
Nov. 16	Charlene Tillman
Nov. 23	Jessie Baker
Nov. 30	Laura Folger
Dec. 7	Mary Jane Evans
Dec. 14	Lainey Baker
Dec. 21	Kelli Beck
Dec. 28	Marietta Melton Burch

Session of First Presbyterian Church

<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>
Kelli Beck	Mary Anderson	Mike Chapman
Avery Dickson	Andrew McLeod	Christie McLeod
Mary Jane Evans	Kristen Miller	Tracie Phillips
Jean Page Watson	Richard Pierce	Harold Watson

The Church Staff

Rev. Maxwell Michaels, Pastor
Mrs. Danielle Self, Secretary
Mr. James W. Kendall, Sexton
Mrs. Arnetha Kendall, Housekeeper
Miss Eve Nobles, Nursery

Mrs. Mary Louise Baker, Music Director, DCE

Mrs. Gini Eddins, Director MMO



Our Vision

***Rooted by God's Grace,
Growing in the Spirit,
Reaching Out with Christ's Love***

Sunday, December 14, 2025

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