



First
Presbyterian
Church *of Ann Arbor*



JOY (HAPPINESS) BY ANNEKE KAAI

The New Testament Greek word for happiness is chara, and for grace, charis. It shows the close connection in meaning between these two words. Happiness in the biblical sense is a life rooted in God's grace. This joyful experience is expressed here as a crucifix-shaped composition surrounded by colorful shapes that symbolize a multitude of lifted arms.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - JOY

December 8, 2024

8:30, 9:30 & 11:30 am Worship



8:30 AM WORSHIP | DECEMBER 8, 2024

Second Sunday of Advent

** Please rise in body or spirit when you see this symbol,
and join in singing or reading aloud text in **bold**.*

GATHERING

Pouring of the Water

Welcome and Announcements

Centering Prayer

Advent Candle Lighting

Call to Worship

One: We gather together on this advent season

All: To celebrate the coming birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

One: To worship, to commemorate, and to hear the story.

All: A story of justice, mission, and service.

One: Great is the faithfulness of our God.

All: The Lord's name is blessed. Amen.

PROCLAMATION

Opening Reading

December 8th

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

[Hymn: Elegy, Movement 2: Lament]

Assurance and Declaration of Pardon

First Scripture Reading

God's word for God's People.

Thanks be to God!

Luke 3:1-6

Second Scripture Reading

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God!

Malachi 3:1-6

Homily

Not Changing

RESPONDING

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

Communion

Prayer after Communion

Blessing and Benediction

Passing of the Peace

(Share a sign of peace with one another.)

✠ ✠ ✠

Please join us in the Welcome Center immediately following this service
for a cup of coffee, a cookie, and good fellowship.



9:30 AM WORSHIP | DECEMBER 8, 2024

Second Sunday of Advent

** Please rise in body or spirit when you see this symbol,
and join in singing or reading aloud text in **bold**.*

GATHERING

Opening Voluntary *Gentle Mary Laid Her Child* Paul Manz

Pouring of the Water

Welcome and Life in the Church

Bell Peal *Christ, Be Our Light*

Advent Candle Lighting Chris Hayes, Megan Wolfe, and Andrew Hayes

One: How can we share joy?

All: When others are weary and broken, we strengthen them.

One: How can we share joy?

**All: When we are weary and tired, we lean on the hope and joy
others provide.**

One: On this second Sunday of Advent, let us light a candle of joy.

*Hymn 82 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* HYFRYDOL

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Approaching God, you witness the sorts of lives we lead. You ask us to share the gospel of hope, yet we place it on our to-do list instead, pushing it further down as we add more items to our list. Given the chance to cry out for justice for others, we fall strangely silent. Invited to pray for joy in every moment, invited to sit in the moments where your love is truly felt, we rush to the next thing, and we prefer to grumble at ‘all the things’ that need to be done.

Have mercy on us, God of grace, and prepare our hearts for your forgiveness to have its way with us. Fill us with your hope, so we might lighten the shadows of others. Help us to join the choirs of children in singing of your joy. Transform us with that tender mercy who is our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

(Continue to offer prayers in silence.)

Kyrie

PICARDY



Come, Lord Je-sus, soon in__ mer - cy, bring us to your sav - ing__ grace;



Light-en all the world a - round us with the rad-iance of your face.



Fill us with your love, re - new _____ us, here and when we leave this place.

Assurance of Forgiveness

*Congregational Response



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark - ness.



Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gath-ered to - day. _____

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

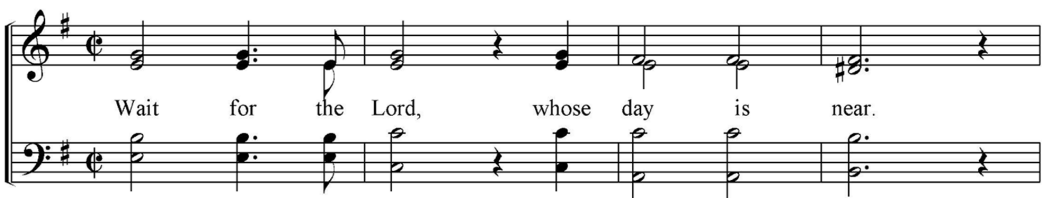
Matthew 1:22-23

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn of Preparation

Wait for the Lord

WAIT FOR THE LORD



Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.



Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

The Nativity

For today's proclamation of the word, the children will present the story of the Nativity. All children are welcome to participate by listening and watching for their role in the story. The narrator will call each part forward at the appropriate time. We ask the congregation to join the children in singing the first stanza of each song at each portion of our journey through the story. The last spoken line before the song is printed below.

...And Mary was worried, too, as they approached the town of Bethlehem.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

...Mary wrapped him up in a blanket and laid him in a manger.

Away in a Manger

MUELLER

**Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

...and the angels and the people sang a great chorus!

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

...They knew from seeing the star that Jesus had been born, so they followed that star to Bethlehem to deliver their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, for baby Jesus—the newborn King, High Priest, and Great physician.

We Three Kings

WE THREE KINGS

**We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star. (refrain)**

**Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign. (refrain)**

**Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a deity nigh; prayer and
praising gladly raising worshiping God most high. (refrain)**

Refrain:

**O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light**

...On this second Sunday of Advent, we come to this moment with joy, centering ourselves as they did that first Christmas, more than two thousand years ago, as we worship with all of creation, the King of Kings, who reigns over all. Please stand or take your posture of reverence and join in this song:

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

RESPONDING

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

Offertory

Nativity Carol

John Rutter

Chancel Choir

Born in a stable so bard, born so long ago;
Born 'neath light of star he who loved us so.

(Refrain)

Far away silent he lay, born today, your homage pay;

For Christ is born for aye, born on Christmas Day.

Cradled by mother so fair, tender her lullaby;

Over her son so dear angel hosts fill the sky. *(Refrain)*

Wise men form distant far land, shepherds from starry hills

Worship this babe so rare, hearts with his warmth he fills. *(Refrain)*

Love in that stable was born into our hearts to flow;

Innocent dreaming babe, make me thy love to know. *(Refrain)*

*Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

All praise, eternal Christ, to thee;

Whose Advent sets thy people free;

Once more upon thy people shine;

And fill the world with love divine. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People and the 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.

SENDING

*Hymn 134

Joy to the World (stanzas 2, 3, & 4)

ANTIOCH

*Charge and Benediction

*Benediction Response *Christ, Be Our Light (see page 5)*

*Passing of the Peace



Please join us in the Welcome Center immediately following this service for a cup of coffee, a cookie, and good fellowship.



11:30 AM WORSHIP | DECEMBER 8, 2024

Second Sunday of Advent

GATHERING

Pouring of the Water

Welcome and Announcements

Centering Prayer

*Advent Candle Lighting

One: How can we share joy?

All: When others are weary and broken, we strengthen them.

One: How can we share joy?

All: When we are weary and tired, we lean on the hope and joy others provide.

One: On this second Sunday of Advent, let us light a candle of joy.

*Hymn 88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (stanzas 1–3)

VENI EMMANUEL

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Approaching God, you witness the sorts of lives we lead. You ask us to share the gospel of hope, yet we place it on our to-do list instead, pushing it further down as we add more items to our list. Given the chance to cry out for justice for others, we fall strangely silent. Invited to pray for joy in every moment, invited to sit in the moments where your love is truly felt, we rush to the next thing, and we prefer to grumble at ‘all the things’ that need to be done.

Have mercy on us, God of grace, and prepare our hearts for your forgiveness to have its way with us. Fill us with your hope, so we might lighten the shadows of others. Help us to join the choirs of children in singing of your joy. Transform us with that tender mercy who is our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

(Continue to offer prayers in silence.)

*Assurance of Grace

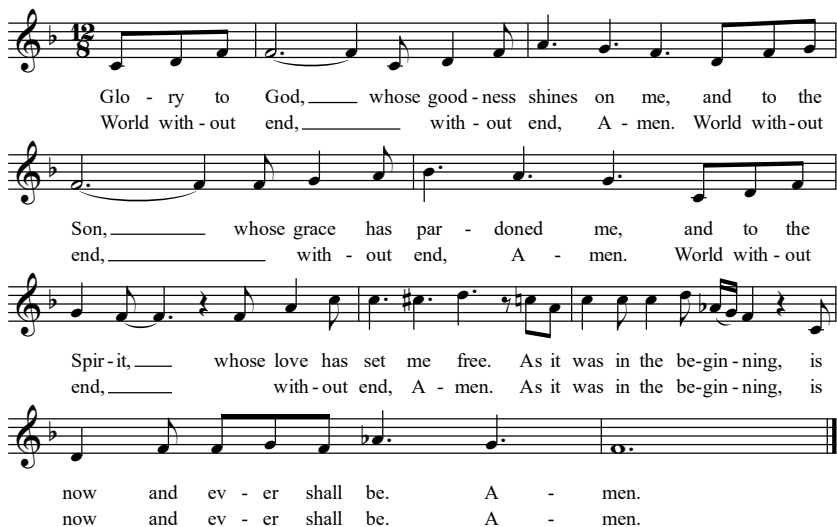
*Passing of the Peace

Question to share: What is your favorite part of Advent?

*Congregational Response

Glory to God

VASILE



Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me, and to the
World with - out end, with - out end, A - men. World with - out
Son, whose grace has par - doned me, and to the
end, with - out end, A - men. World with - out
Spir - it, whose love has set me free. As it was in the be - gin - ning, is
end, with - out end, A - men. As it was in the be - gin - ning, is
now and ev - er shall be. A - men.
now and ev - er shall be. A - men.

PROCLAMATION

Prayer for Illumination (*sung*) *Spirit of the Living God*
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Scripture Reading

Luke 3:1-6

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

RESPONSE

Prayers of the People and the 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.

SENDING

*Closing Hymn 88 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (stanzas 4, 6, 7) VENI EMMANUEL

*Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary



CARRYING WORSHIP WITH US

How will we prepare for the birth of Jesus in our own lives this week?
 How can we midwife the birth to love in the world this season?

Leading in Worship

Worship at 8:30, 9:30, & 11:30 am; Livestream at 9:30 am

LEADING IN WORSHIP

8:30 AM WORSHIP

Rev. Nathaniel Fryer, *Resident Minister*

9:30 AM WORSHIP

Rev. David Prentice-Hyers, *Lead Pastor*

Rev. Mark Mares, *Associate Pastor*

Rev. Tommy Langejans, *Resident Minister*

Mark Lindley & Sandy Talbott, *Readers*

Chancel Choir

Brent Ivey, *Guest Organist*

David VanderMeer,

Minister of Music & Fine Arts

11:30 AM WORSHIP

Rev. David Prentice-Hyers, *Lead Pastor*

Rev. Nathaniel Fryer, *Resident Minister*

Joshua Marzan, *Pianist*

GREETERS

Prue Heikkinen

Sara Vander Voort

PRAYER PARTNERS

Nancy Fox

Susan Washabaugh

USHERS (9:30)

Joe Schmidt, *Head Usher*

Bill Austin, *Head Usher Emeritus*

Dick Carlisle, *Usher Captain*

RO Andrus

Keith Bilby

Sheila Bilby

Jim Cameron

Carol Carter

Spaulding Clark

Connie Swindle

Martin Swindle

FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY

In recognition of today's Nativity service, the chancel flowers are given in celebration of the babies born into the congregation this year. Little ones, you are so loved!

Aidan Cheng Keil

Ethan Oliveto McQueen

Noah John Miller

Henry Noah Hayes

Natalie Grace Glanda

Jake Robert Buckner

Emerson Kent Tamblyn

Peter Guthrie Silbert Cialdella

Charlotte Elaine Campbell

Arthur William Ewels Sawtell

Cora Meklir Newton

Eleanor Pipe

Ruby Fois McCallister

George Robert Walsh Green

Advent Banner, Paraments, and Wall Hangings

ADVENT 2 PAPER LACE BANNER ELLEN PHILLIPS, ARTIST

Sing aloud . . .shout, O Israel! . . .
The Lord, your God, is in your midst, . . .
he will rejoice over you with gladness. . .
he will exult over you with loud singing. . .!

All of the scriptures for this second week in Advent are full of boundless joy, and what could possibly represent that all-out joyfulness more than Jacob Lawrence's painting of children frolicking and running and turning somersaults? This is from a series referred to as the Harriet Tubman Series, painted by the artist in the 1940's. I recommend that you research these deceptively simple paintings in the series. So, joy is what this banner is all about. Total, wide-open exuberant joy that the Lord is in our midst. Even now. Today. Feel free to turn a cartwheel!

The Advent paraments and wall hangings were created by Beth Taylor, fiber artist. The color blue is used during the season of Advent.

Special Offerings During Advent

THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

The Christmas Joy offering will be received next Sunday, December 15. This offering supports the wider-church through the PCUSA special offerings. We celebrate God's perfect gift to us, with generous support of leaders among us—past, present, and future—who point us to God.

THE CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING

For decades, First's Christmas Eve offering has helped individuals and families in need in our community and beyond. This year we continue this tradition by supporting two local mission partners: Peace Neighborhood Center and the Community Action Network (CAN) of Washtenaw County. These offerings will support two organizations working to address the needs of youth in our community. Your generosity will make a meaningful impact by providing resources and support for young people to grow, thrive, overcome challenges. Join us in giving this Christmas Eve to make a difference for youth in our community.

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

NEW TO FIRST PRES?

We are so thankful that you have joined us today for worship. We would love to get to know you and help you get to know us. Please sign the Friendship Pad. Sign it then pass it down to others. Interested in membership? **Join us for Fast Track to Membership today, December 8, at 10:45AM, in the Lead Pastor's Study.**

FELLOWSHIP TODAY

Everyone is cordially invited to a time of fellowship following the 8:30 and 9:30AM services. Join us in the Welcome Center following the 8:30 service and in the Social Hall following the 9:30 service for conversation, coffee, and cookies.

PRAYER

If you would like someone to pray with you, stop by the Prayer & Compassion Room, just off the Lounge, after the 9:30AM service. Elders, Deacons, and Stephen Ministers are always there to assist those seeking prayer.

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP & CHILDCARE

We love to have children in worship! Age-appropriate worship activities and books are available as you enter the sanctuary or Monteith Hall. We also offer childcare for children ages 5 and younger on the First Level. Ask an usher for directions.

FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation classes are for all ages and meet on Sundays at 10:45AM, September through May. To learn more about our classes, visit our website at firstpresbyterian.org.

PARKING

Additional parking is located at the Forest Avenue parking structure located on South Forest Avenue between South University and Willard. Accessible parking spaces are available near the Sanctuary. A state-issued placard or license plate or a church-issued permit should be displayed while parked. If you would like a church parking permit for an accessible parking space, please speak to one of our Parish Nurses, Barb DeLancey, bdelancy@firstpresbyterian.org, or Stacey Pakela, spakela@firstpresbyterian.org.

GIVING

Through your generosity, we help build a stronger, more vibrant community, extending hope, compassion, and love to those in need, while ensuring the spiritual growth and vitality of First Presbyterian church for generations to come. To give online visit <https://secure.myvanco.com/YM88/home>

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First Presbyterian worship services are filmed, recorded, and broadcast online. If you do not want to appear in any videos or photos, please speak with an usher.

Today in Faith Formation

ADULTS

10:45AM

EXPLORING THE BIBLE | FRENCH ROOM

The Parables of Jesus

Host: Ed Koster

EXPLORING THE FAITH | LEWIS ROOM

Revisioning the Value of Darkness:

Two Experienced Death Workers

Explore the Light in Challenging Spaces

Speakers:

Rev. Diane Smith, Merilynne Rush

FIRST FRIENDS | LEWIS ROOM

Joining Exploring the Faith today

FOLLOW ME: HOPE | ROOM 102

Word & Practice: Share Hope

Mark 2:1-23 & Luke 1:39-49

7:00 to 9:00PM

SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY |

CHRIS WAHL'S HOUSE & ZOOM

The book of Daniel. For more

information, email cgwahl@umich.edu

CHILDCARE & NURSERY

9:15AM-12:15PM

AGES 5 AND YOUNGER | ROOM 101

CHILDREN

10:45-11:25AM

K & 1ST GRADE | ROOM 302

Advent 1 & 2

2ND & 3RD GRADES | ROOM 303

4TH & 5TH GRADES | ROOM 304

Word & Practice: Share Hope

Luke 1:26-55

YOUTH

10:45 to 11:25AM

CONFIRMATION | YOUTH ROOM

MIDDLE SCHOOL | ROOM LL4

HIGH SCHOOL | ROOM LL1

Word & Practice: Share Hope

Mark 2:1-23 & Luke 1:39-49

YOUTH GROUP

6:00 to 7:30PM | YOUTH ROOM



The Follow Me curriculum is based on practices Jesus did and taught us to do as faithful followers. Written for people of all ages who wish to live out their faith, this curriculum examines where these practices are found in the Bible and how they have been used in Christian faith then and now.

These classes meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month for grades 2-5, middle school, high school, and adults.

Our focus practice in November and December is Hope. Hope is waiting in faith. It is not merely wishing for something to happen or hoping everything will work out if the stars align. Hope is waiting with anticipation—at times, with impatience—for what you know and believe is coming. In Hebrew, the word for rope and hope are the same. Hope is something outside of ourselves that tethers us to safety and helps us keep going, even when we can't see our way.

Worship Activities

See Hope

Hope is visible if we pay attention

- Create a HOPE anagram with reminders of God's hope, decorate it, and display it.
- Observe and practice acts of kindness, exploring how they ripple to others.
- Plant seeds as symbols of hope and watch them grow.
- During Advent, look for signs of hope like wreaths, calendars, and banners in your surroundings. Reflect on how waiting ties to hope.

1	3	9	7	3	5	9	1	7	3	7	5	5	9	1	7	3	1	1	9	5	3	7	3	1
8	4	3	6	2	3	3	1	2	6	2	9	7	3	8	6	8	4	7	1	6	2	8	4	2
2	6	9	4	8	1	7	8	4	2	6	2	3	1	8	2	6	4	2	1	2	4	2	6	8
4	8	1	2	8	1	6	4	1	3	9	2	6	7	2	4	7	8	6	9	4	2	3	1	7
8	6	3	4	6	5	4	8	9	5	1	4	8	3	4	2	7	8	6	5	2	6	5	7	9
2	8	4	6	8	1	6	2	5	1	3	8	6	5	8	6	3	2	4	3	8	8	6	4	7
4	4	6	2	8	3	4	8	9	5	7	2	4	9	2	6	8	4	6	7	6	2	4	8	5
8	2	5	6	2	7	8	6	7	5	3	6	2	1	4	2	4	6	1	3	4	8	1	9	7
6	6	1	4	8	3	1	4	2	8	2	4	1	3	8	4	9	1	7	3	2	6	4	2	8
2	4	3	4	6	7	9	1	4	6	4	3	7	9	4	2	7	3	5	1	8	4	2	8	6
7	3	9	1	7	3	5	5	1	3	9	5	1	7	5	3	7	9	1	3	5	7	1	9	7



PUZZLE

To find the hidden word, color all of the even-numbered squares one color and the odd numbered another color.

PRAYER
God of hope, open our eyes to see your surprises of hope each day and give thanks.



BIBLE STORY

Mary and the Angel
 (Based on Luke 1:26-57)

Hello! My name is Abe, Mary's donkey. One day, while Mary brushed me, a bright light appeared, and an angel spoke to her, saying she would have a baby named Jesus, the Son of God. The angel told her nothing is impossible with God and that her cousin Elizabeth was also expecting. Mary and I traveled to Elizabeth's house, where Elizabeth blessed Mary and her baby. Mary was so happy, she sang a song praising God's hope and promises through Jesus. It was the most amazing story of my life!

Announcements

CHILDREN & YOUTH _____

ADVENT IS HAPPENING!
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14
10:00AM | SOCIAL HALL

MUSIC MINISTRY _____

Are you interested in singing or ringing handbells or playing an instrument in worship with one of our choirs? Rehearsals are September through May. Contact Dave VanderMeer, dvandermeer@firstpresbyterian.org, for more information.

MISSION _____

ROTATING SHELTER
JANUARY 6-20, 2025

Volunteers are needed as Evening Hosts, Overnight Hosts, and Morning Drivers. Hot food donations are needed. Donations of new warm clothing and pre-packaged food snacks and juice boxes may be dropped off in the Welcome Center. Sign up at firstpresbyterian.org. Financial donations are also welcome. For more information, contact Jim Peggs (jpeggs@umich.med.edu) or Marcey Terrien (m2terrien@hotmail.com).

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN _____

HORIZONS BIBLE STUDY
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12
10:00AM | FOUNDERS ROOM
10:30AM | CURTIS ROOM

Come for coffee and conversation at 10:00 following by the study of *God's Call to Care for our Neighbors and All Creation*. Mary Engelhardt will lead lesson four, *Water Justice*.

THE SEASON OF ADVENT

03

Taizé Prayer Service

Experience a beautiful form of prayer, inspired by the ecumenical community in Taizé, France.

Tuesday, December 3
7:00 PM | Monteith Hall

06

Christmas Poinsettias

Purchase a poinsettia to beautify our services on December 15 and 24. The cost is \$15. Purchase online at firstpresbyterian.org.

Friday, December 6
firstpresbyterian.org

08

Nativity Service

All children are invited to participate in the no-rehearsal retelling of the Nativity story during 9:30 am worship.

Sunday, December 8
9:30 am | Sanctuary

09

Christmas Giving

Support children in need this Christmas through two programs, Fostering Futures and Family-to-Family. Sign up online, firstpresbyterian.org

November 30 & December 9
Welcome Center

14

Advent is Happening!

Crafting, cookie decorating, mission project, and holiday fun — activities for all ages to celebrate, create, and give back together!

Saturday, December 14
10:00 AM | Social Hall

15

Glorious Sounds of Christmas

Share the joy of the holiday season at our festive Christmas concert featuring the Chancel Choir, Joyful Ringers, Sanctus Ringers, and Lemon Chapel Singers. A strolling reception follows.

Sunday, December 15
4:00 PM | Sanctuary

18

Longest Night Service

Share and hear prayers, scripture, and music that acknowledge that God's presence is for those who mourn, for those who struggle, and that God's Word comes to shine light into our darkness.

Wednesday, December 18
7:00 PM | Monteith Hall

24

Christmas Eve Services

5:00 & 7:00 pm Candlelight Lessons & Carols

A traditional Christmas Eve celebration with scripture readings and carols that tell the story of Christ's birth.

11:00 pm Candlelight Communion

A serene, candlelit worship service with communion, celebrating the arrival of Christ.

The church office will be closed December 25-27 and December 31-January 1.
All church events can be found by visiting the online calendar at firstpresbyterian.org