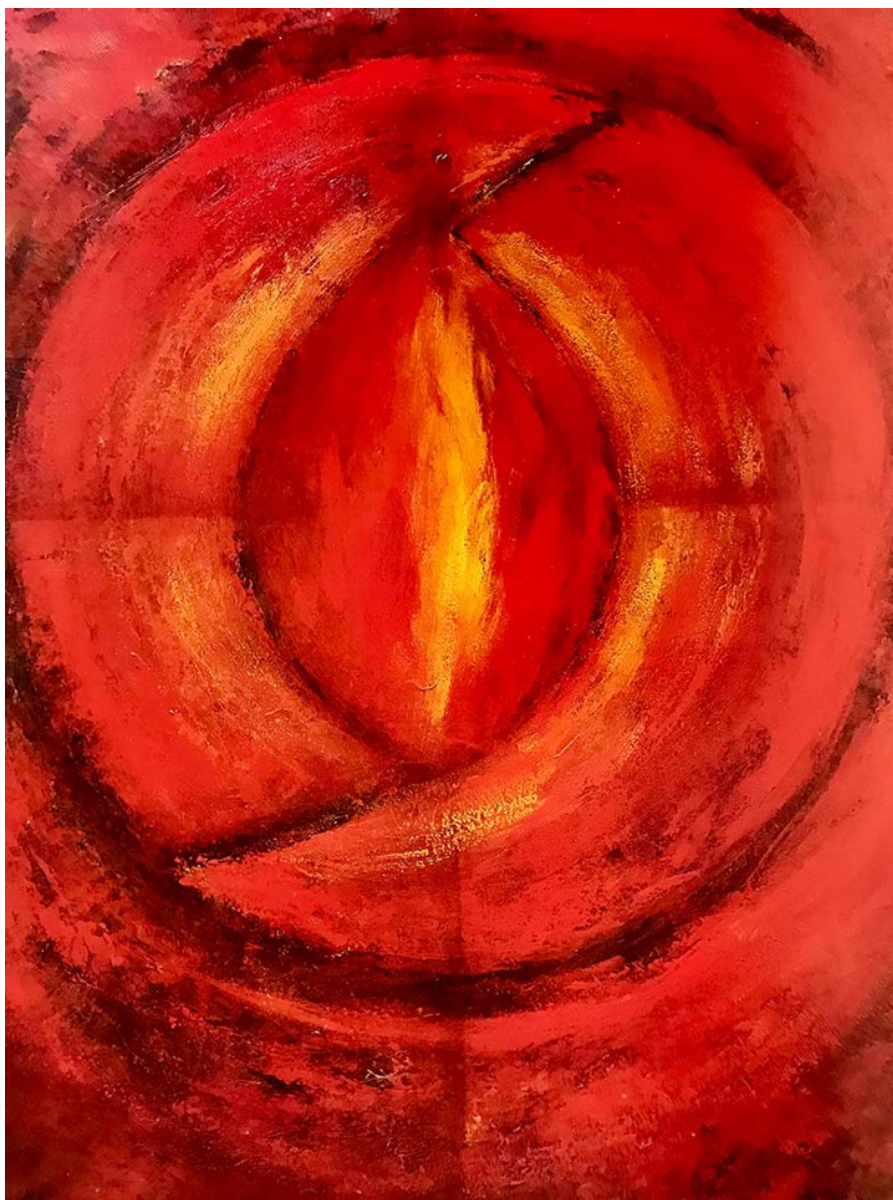




First
Presbyterian
Church *of Ann Arbor*



LOVE

by Anneke Kaai

The fire of love in the heart of the round shape symbolizes the love of God for those who are in Christ, which is why the whole painting is in the shape of a crucifix. Around the flames of love, human love is pictured, love for one another. Together these complementing, embracing figures radiate warmth to the surrounding world.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - LOVE

December 22, 2024

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



8:30 AM WORSHIP | DECEMBER 22, 2024

Fourth 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

Advent Candle Lighting

Where do we proclaim love?

**On hillsides and valleys,
in villages and cities.**

How do we proclaim love?

In lament and in song.

**In sighs too deep for words
and in jubilant exclamation.**

On this fourth Sunday of Advent,
let us light a candle of love.



Saint Nicholas

PROCLAMATION

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of the future, you are coming into
the world to bring all nations together.

We confess that we have not expected your
kingdom, for we often live casual lives,
ignoring your promises and our
commitment to you. We have exploited our
neighbors, abused the earth, and refused
your justice and peace. Hear our prayer.

Silence is kept.

Declaration of Forgiveness

THE WORD

First Scripture Reading

God's word for God's People.

Thanks be to God!

1 Samuel 2:1-10

Second Scripture Reading

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God!

Luke 1:46-55

Homily

Love and Justice in Advent

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

SENDING

Charge 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 22, 2024

Fourth 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 *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV659* J. S. Bach

Pouring of the Water

Welcome and Life in the Church

Bell Peal *Christ, Be Our Light*

Advent Candle Lighting Abby, Liza, and Margi Samuels,
Jeff Taggart, and Kathy Wirstrom

One: Where do we proclaim love?

All: On hillsides and valleys, in villages and cities.

One: How do we proclaim love?

**All: In lament and in song. In sighs too deep for words
and in jubilant exclamation.**

One: On this fourth Sunday of Advent, let us light a candle of love.

*Hymn 314 *Christ, Be Our Light* CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**Loving Shepherd,
as we draw closer to the feast of Christmas,
remind us again how to heed your will.
Help us to hear when you call.
Help us to follow where you lead.
Help us to trust your rod and staff.
Hold us closely in your care
as we anticipate the coming gift of Christ. Amen**

[Silent Prayer]



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

*Passing of the Peace

*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

Luke 1:39–45

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A Conversation with Young Disciples

Please join in singing as the children come forward.

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Second Scripture Reading

Luke 1:46–55

The grass withers, the flower fades;

The word of the Lord endures forever.

Sermon

RESPONDING

*Hymn 110

Love Has Come

BRING A TORCH

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

Offertory

My Heart Shall Sing

arr. Karen Marrolli

Chancel Choir, Mallory Tabb, *Violin*, and John Dorsey, *Djembe*

(Refrain)

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn,
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
And the world is about to turn.

The loud shall fall silent, the silent shall speak,
The weak be made mighty, the mighty made weak.
When tyrants shake with wrath, O lift us, meek and mild,
to walk the peaceful path to the Holy Child.

The unseen shall be seen; the unheard shall be heard!
Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn,
You will show your might, put the strong to flight,
For the world is about to turn. *(Refrain)*

The wealthy, you humble. The hungry, you fill.
The prideful, you scatter. The anxious, you still.
When darkness holds all sway, and the world falls into night,
O lead us into day, to the Child of Light!

Disrupt our world! Disturb our souls! Let those in comfort feel affliction!
Unsettle all who have ever swelt secure! Secure the frail in firm conviction!

From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;
There are tables spread; every mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn.

Our hearts cry for healing, our souls thirst for song.
Our hands crave true labor, to vanquish all wrong.
When creation burns with scorn, when we hear the drums of hate,
Remind us love is born in the child we await. *(Refrain)*

The unseen shall be seen, the unheard shall be heard.

*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 100

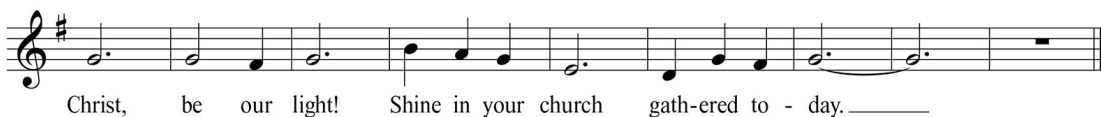
My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

STAR OF THE COUNTRY DOWN

*Charge and Benediction

*Benediction Response

Christ, Be Our Light



Closing Voluntary

Toccata on VENI EMMANUEL

arr. John Behnke



Join us in the Social Hall immediately following this service for a cup of coffee, a cookie, and good fellowship. Today, Fair Trade coffee will be sold for use at home or for holiday gifts.

A warm cup of coffee in our hands is perhaps the most tangible daily connection we have with farmers around the world. It represents warmth, hospitality, fellowship, hard work and life's pleasures both fine and simple.

Buying fair trade through the Presbyterian Coffee Project ensures that more of the money we spend on coffee reaches the hardworking farmers who actually grow it.



11:30 AM WORSHIP | DECEMBER 22, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Advent

GATHERING

Opening Voluntary

Pouring of the Water

Welcome and Centering

Advent Candle Lighting

The Gehrke Family –

Marty, Caryn, Martin, Levi, Charlotte, and Quentin

One: Where do we proclaim love?

All: On hillsides and valleys, in villages and cities.

One: How do we proclaim love?

All: In lament and in song. In sighs too deep for words and in jubilant exclamation.

One: On this fourth Sunday of Advent, let us light a candle of love.

[The fourth advent candle is lit.]

Side A: God, by your light, we want the systems of oppression to cease.

Side B: *We long for peace on earth and goodwill for all.*

Side A: We are ready to magnify you.

Side B: *Help us to magnify your good news, God.*

All: Let us worship God in all that we do.

*Hymn 314

Christ, Be Our Light

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of Justice, we confess that Mary's message is a little strong for us. The idea that you will completely restructure the world sounds like a bit much. However, we love the promise of justice and hope. We can hold on tight to a world filled with good things. Teach us how to work towards the world we long for, the world of the Magnificat, without being too overwhelmed, tired or scared. Give us the courage, to not be afraid.

(Continue to offer prayers in silence.)

Assurance of Grace

*Passing of the Peace

As you pass the peace, you are invited to share a time when you were scared to do something, but you tried to be courageous anyway.

*Congregational Response 582 *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*
**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.
World without end, without end, Amen. (3x)
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**
[Silence is kept.]

Prayer for Illumination 288 (*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 1:46b-55

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

Poetry Reading

My Soul Is Alive with Thoughts of God
An adaptation of Mary's *Magnificat* by Rev. M. Barclay

Sermon

Responsive Activity

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.**

*Closing Hymn 100

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

*Charge and Benediction

...we go out in peace, to love, to serve, to imagine.

Closing Voluntary



CARRYING WORSHIP WITH US

Reflection opportunity: Today is the fourth Sunday in the Season of Advent. One theme of Advent is waiting: for the birth of Jesus, for Christmas, for God's justice, for Jesus to come again. As we move towards Christmas, what is something you're patiently waiting for?

Opportunity to do something: Did you know people have connected with one another by sending Christmas cards for over 175 years? Look up practice began in and see which country this if you can find how many Christmas cards are sent each year! Then make a card and send it to a friend—even if you already have a special card your family sends, make a special card for someone special to let them know you're thinking of them. ‘

Opportunity to pray: In Mary's song, she sang about what life is like when God makes things right. This week as you pray, dream a bit about a world where all things are set right. Ask God to bring this reality to earth!

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*

Dan Mitas, *Lector*

Deanne Woodruff, *Lector*

9:30 AM WORSHIP

Rev. David Prentice-Hyers, *Lead Pastor*

Rev. Mark Mares, *Associate Pastor*

Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers, *Associate Pastor*

Rev. Nathaniel Fryer, *Resident Minister*

Rev. Tommy Langejans, *Resident Minister*

Lindsay Dodge, *Lector*

Susan Whitlock, *Lector*

Chancel Choir

Mallory Tabb, *Violin*

John Dorsey, *Djembe*

David Hufford, *Organist*

David VanderMeer,

Minister of Music & Fine Arts

11:30 AM WORSHIP

Rev. Mark Mares, *Associate Pastor*

Rev. Tommy Langejans, *Resident Minister*

Joshua Marzan, *Pianist*

Carly Polikoff, *Lector*

Nicki Sorter, *Lector*

GREETER

Barbara Dobson

PRAYER PARTNERS

Linda Lampman

Elsa Stuber

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

Worship Activities

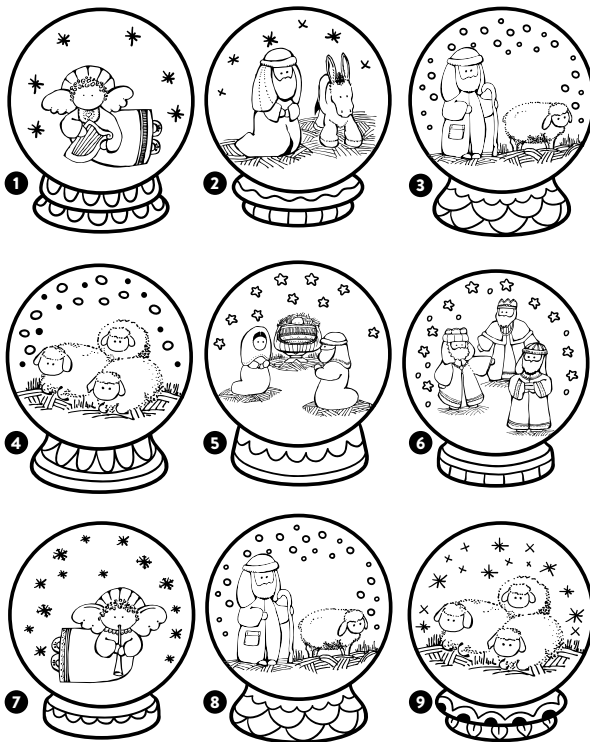
Proclaim Hope

Hope is waiting faithfully as God fulfills God's promises to us through Jesus Christ. Share the good news of Jesus like the angels and shepherds did.

- Sing carols like *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* or *Go Tell It on the Mountain*.
- Watch *A Charlie Brown Christmas* to reflect on Christmas' true meaning.
- Retell the nativity story together, adding creative details.
- Make stars with hopeful words like faith or trust to share with others.

PUZZLE

Find the two matching snowglobes.



PRAYER

*God of hope, thank you for Jesus, our hope for the world;
may we spread this good news far and wide.*



BIBLE STORY

The Shepherds

(Based on Luke 2:8–20)

One night, while the shepherds were watching their sheep near Bethlehem, an angel appeared with a bright light and told them, “Do not be afraid! A baby has been born who will bring great joy to all people. You’ll find him in a manger, wrapped in cloth.” Suddenly, many angels appeared, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth!” The shepherds went to Bethlehem, found the baby Jesus, and were amazed. They shared the good news and gave the baby some wool from their sheep, then praised God for the hope the angels had brought.

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? Contact Rev. Rogers for more information(mrogers@fpca2.org).

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>

Giving envelopes are available outside the Finance Office on the Second Level, Administration Wing, December 17-29, for 2025 pledgers who have requested them. If envelopes are not picked up, they will be mailed on December 30.

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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

The Lightness of Being in the Dark

Speakers: Sidonie Smith and

Jane Dutton

FIRST FRIENDS | LEWIS ROOM

Joining Exploring the Faith today

FOLLOW ME: HOPE | ROOM 102

Word & Practice: Proclaim Hope

Luke 4:16-21 & Leviticus 25:1-13

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 3 & 4

2ND & 3RD GRADES | ROOM 303

4TH & 5TH GRADES | ROOM 304

Word & Practice: Proclaim Hope

Luke 2:1-20

YOUTH

10:45 to 11:25AM

CONFIRMATION | YOUTH ROOM

MIDDLE SCHOOL | ROOM LL4

HIGH SCHOOL | ROOM LL1

Word & Practice: Proclaim Hope

Luke 4:16-21 & Leviticus 25:1-13

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.



Advent Banner, Paraments, and Wall Hangings

ADVENT 4 PAPER LACE BANNER ELLEN PHILLIPS, ARTIST

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb."

Luke 1:39-42

Here were two women. The one who had given up all hope of ever having children, and the other younger one who had no immediate plans to have a child. Yet, Mary went to Elizabeth with haste, she knew that she needed to see her. And when they met, Elizabeth and, no doubt, Mary were filled with the Holy Spirit. We can only imagine that they flew into each other's' arms and at that point the both knew, for certain, that these babies growing within them were no ordinary babies.

This banner is about that moment when they and the Holy Spirit were swept up together, and nothing was ever the same for them.

Or, for us.

The Advent paraments and wall hangings were created by Beth Taylor, fiber artist.

The color blue is used during the season of Advent.

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.

Announcements

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).

MUSIC MINISTRY _____

JOIN A CHOIR

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

Stewardship Update

Our hearts are full of gratitude for your dedication to our church's future through the 2025 Generations stewardship campaign. Because of your generosity, we have received 441 pledges totaling \$1,952,669.

As we draw closer to our goal of \$2.2 million, your continued support is vital to help us cross the finish line. If you haven't yet made your pledge, it's not too late to join this transformative effort. Every contribution, no matter the size, helps sustain our mission of service, growth, and faith for generations to come.

Ways to Pledge:

- Online: Visit our website - firstpresbyterian.org
- Mail: Send your pledge card to the church office
- In Person: Drop it off at the church Finance Office





Christmas Eve

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.

Christmas Eve Offering

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

*The church building will be closed December 25-27.
Join us on Sunday, December 29, in one service at 9:30 AM in the Sanctuary.*