

First Presbyterian Church

101 South Decatur Street • Strasburg PA 17579

(717) 687-6030

www.straspres.org



Sunday, December 3, 2023
First Sunday of Advent

PASTOR: Rev. Robert K. Bronkema

ORGANIST/CHOIRMASTER: Dr. Bruce Gerlach

DIRECTOR OF CONTEMPORARY MUSIC: Jon Knauss

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES: Beth Feiler

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH: Kristin Kondratowksi

WORSHIP LEADER/READER: 8:30am Jean Pontz / 11am Alicia Eltman

WORSHIP: 8:30am and 11:00am

Sunday, December 3, 2023

Welcome

8:30AM Worship

*Open your heart and give yourself up to Christ who is here to meet you today.
"Be still and know that I am God." ~ Psalm 46:10*

PRELUDE

*"O Little Town of Bethlehem"
"Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light"*

arr. B. Price
arr. B. Price

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS / RINGING OF THE BELL

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH:

Lau Family

Family: This first Sunday in Advent we light this candle as a symbol of Christ our Hope.
May the light sent from God shine in the darkness to show us the way of salvation.

People: (Sung) **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.
Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel, shall come to thee, O Israel.**

*HYMN

"Angels from the Realms of Glory"

No. 22

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

Loving God, on this first Sunday in Advent we give you thanks that you are the light of the world. We praise you for your faithfulness, even as we continue to be unfaithful. We ask for forgiveness for pursuing that which draws us away from you. Forgive us for focusing on our problems instead of rejoicing in your Providence. This Advent season teach us again to expect the miracles and the promises that you provide. Through Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*SHARING SIGNS OF PEACE [*Please share Christ's peace with one another.*]

*HYMN

"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.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Beth Feiler

FIRST SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 52:7-10

SECOND SCRIPTURE

John 1:1-5, 10-14, 16-18

Sunday, December 3, 2023

Welcome!

8:30AM Service

SERMON SERIES: ADVENT IN THE GOSPELS

SERMON *“And the Word was God”* Rev. Robert Bronkema

*HYMN *“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”* No. 2

WE BRING OUR GIFTS TO GOD
OFFERTORY ANTHEM *“And the Word Was God”* B. Harlan

*DOXOLOGY

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER
Prayers of the People & the Lord’s Prayer
Words of Institution
Welcome
Distribution

*ALLELUIA

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE *“Postlude on ‘Old Hundredth”* J. Boalt

**You are invited to stand if you are able during those places in the worship service marked with an asterisk.*

Sermon Notes

Greeting and Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Wreath:

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Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel, shall come to thee, O Israel.

*Praise & Worship

Hark The Herald Angels Sing
Future/Past
All The Poor And Powerless

Prayer & Peace

Children’s Message Beth Feiler

Scripture **SERMON SERIES: ADVENT IN THE GOSPELS**
Isaiah 52:7-10
John 1:1-5, 10-14, 16-18

Sermon *“And the Word was God”* Rev. Robert K. Bronkema

Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

Offering

*Closing Song: *Great Are You Lord*

*Benediction

**You are invited to stand if you are able during those places in the worship service marked with an asterisk.*

Memorial Poinsettias

Orders are now being taken for memorial poinsettias for the upcoming Advent season. Cost is \$10 per plant. Please place this form, along with payment, in the offering plate, the Administrative Assistant’s mailbox, or drop off in the church office mail slot.
Deadline for orders & payments: December 10, 2023

Name: _____

Number of Pots _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____



WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, December 3

- 8:30am **Worship** (Traditional)
9:30am **Coffee Hour**
10am **Sunday School Classes** for all ages
Children's Sunday School (Grades K - 5) - Pageant Practice
Youth Sunday School (Grades 6 - 12) - Pageant Practice
Young Adults - Choir Room
Wired Word - Rm 6
Young at Heart - Rm 3/4
11am **Worship** (Contemporary)
12:15pm Congregational Meeting - Sanctuary
12:15pm Confirmation Class - Rm 3/4

Ignited Students • Middle School: 5 - 6:30pm; High School: 6:30 - 8pm Fellowship Hall

Nursery Time: Tuesdays, Thursday and Fridays • 9am - 1pm

Tuesday, December 5

- 2pm Food Pantry
6pm Christian Education Committee Meeting - Rm 5
7pm Smolder Group
7pm Worship Committee Meeting - Rm 3/4

Wednesday, December 6

- | | | | |
|-----|----------------------------|-----|---------------------------|
| 1pm | Knifty Knitters - Library | 6pm | Family Advent Night |
| 3pm | Stitchin' Sisters - Rm 3/4 | 7pm | Deacon's Meeting - Rm 3/4 |

Thursday, December 7

- 6:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast - Library - Bring your own coffee/breakfast items
9:30am Creating Landmarks - Rm 5
6pm Bible Study - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzoMo4VUuahmT0CFUtwZzgg>
7pm Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room

Friday, December 8

- 9am Toddler Gym - FH
2pm Food Pantry
6pm Our Table - FH

Saturday, December 9

- 10am Being in the Presence - FH

ANNOUNCEMENTS



We are glad to see you here! Check out our website: www.straspres.org under the "Events" tab for current church events and please be sure to like us on Facebook.

Children's Church is available for kids K-5th grades. Children will go to room 11 after the children's sermon.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS • This first Sunday in Advent, the flowers are provided to the glory of God by the Petrokonis Family in memory of their children, Leah Petrokonis and John Petrokonis; their parents, Bud and Elsie Hundley, and Kelly and Nancy Petrokonis and brother, Charles Petrokonis.



COFFEE HOUR • Join us today in Fellowship Hall and each Sunday at 9:30am for coffee and fellowship with old and new friends. Host for today: Sue Schenke. Hosts for next week: Ron & Sandy Hershey Lowe. Volunteers are needed. All volunteers will be reimbursed for their purchases. If you would like to help with Coffee Hour, please contact Theresa Rineer at 717-682-9954 or email rineertheresa@yahoo.com. There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. Please choose the date(s) that work best for you!

THE WELL IS OPEN • Come check out the new furniture and relax or socialize! It is a great place whether you are solo or with a friend.

SMITHSONIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE: Join us for a journey to the museum in DC on February 15th. We will be leaving from FPC on a charter bus at 7am and returning from DC leaving there at 3pm. There is no cost for the trip since it is sponsored by the Racial Justice Task Group of the Donegal Presbytery. If you are interested in going contact Pastor Bob.



LIBRARY NEWS • Christmas is just around the corner! Would you like to read some good Christmas books? In our library Christmas books are shelved under #45 right behind the door. We will also place some books on the table. Yes, we also have children's Christmas books which will be placed on the table for easy access! Go for it! Grab a book or two and get into the Christmas spirit!

NEXT WEEK

Second Sunday of Advent • December 10, 2023

First Scripture: Isaiah 40:1-11

Second Scripture: Mark 1:1-8

Sermon: "Preparing ourselves for God"

Rev. Robert K. Bronkema

Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Events!

CHURCH WIDE RETREAT • PSA • February 23-25 at Black Rock Retreat

Spend the weekend as a congregation as we pray, read scripture, act and have fellowship! Please reference the information and registration form included in this bulletin for details. Registration and payment is due by January 7th.



TODDLER GYM • Fridays • 9am – 10am (Sept. – May) • Weekly playtime for ages 1 – kindergarten with their caregivers. This program is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Amy Black at 717-224-3036 or ablack@straspres.org.

“OUR TABLE” WORSHIPPING COMMUNITY • Every Friday Night Beginning at 6pm • Got friends? Bring ‘em along! Everyone is welcome at Our Table! The meal is followed by an interactive Bible study, worship songs, and prayer. Eat and run or stay for the fun; we’re just happy you showed up. *There’s always room at Our Table!*

CHANCEL CHOIR • Rehearsals are **Thursday evenings at 7pm in the choir room.** All are welcome to join, grade 9 through age 100. At 101, you may retire!

CREATING LANDMARKS BIBLE JOURNALING • Every Thursday @ **9:30am** in Room 5. No art experience or talent necessary and supplies will be available. Contact Joan Coste at 717-201-7926 with any questions.

The Session has called for a **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING at 12:15pm TODAY.** The purpose of this meeting is to review and act on the proposed 2024 Pastoral Terms of Call, elect New Officers for the terms starting in 2024, and to review and receive the 2024 Ministry Budget.



FAMILY ADVENT NIGHT • Join us during Clubhouse time! ALL of you, young and not so young, are invited to come out and join the fun on **December 6th** from **6 – 7:30pm!** Christmas stories, songs, and crafts along with cookies and hot chocolate will be on hand for you to enjoy. Hope to see you there!

BEING IN THE PRESENCE • Join us on **Saturday, December 9** at as we gather to pray together as a congregation in Fellowship Hall. Carole Turano will lead us in a time of guided prayer as we continue our pursuit of Christ as faithful disciples.

ADVENT CONCERT: CHRIS KEENEY, GUITARIST • Join us on **Sunday, December 17th** at **7pm** for an evening of music and fellowship as we celebrate together this Advent Season.





2023 SANTA'S HELPERS

This year FPS will again participate in the Santa's Helpers Program by having interested members of the congregation purchase a specific gift for a child in need. The Santa's Helpers program began over 30 years ago when the founders discovered a family that could not afford to buy Christmas gifts nor a Christmas meal for their family. The program has grown into a non-profit organization which partners with the L-S School District to provide Christmas for over 100 needy families. Our congregation joined this effort in 2011 and has purchased over 800 toys for children of needy families in our area since our participation began. To play a part in this valuable program all you need to do is:

- ✚ Sign-up to purchase a gift at the giving tree located next to the receptionist desk on either **Sunday, December 3** or **Sunday, December 10**.
- ✚ You sign-up by picking a tag from the tree which will include the number of a child along with the specific gift.
- ✚ Your name and the number of your child will be registered by a volunteer at the sign-up table.
- ✚ Please spend between \$15 to \$20 for the gift.
- ✚ Gifts do not need to be wrapped; all wrapping will be done by the Santa's Helpers organization.

Please attach the tag to the gift and place under the tree by **December 17th**. If you have any questions, please contact Jo Ann or Terry Sweigart at 717-672-1427 or 717-606-6907.

ASSISTANCE CORNER

CURRENT FOOD PANTRY NEEDS:

- Single rolls of paper towels
- Single rolls of toilet tissue
- Boxed tissues



Monetary donations are gladly accepted. Kindly use the envelopes marked FOOD found in the pews. This allows the volunteers to purchase most needed items when our stock is depleted. Thank you for considering this request.

THE NURSERY is in need of volunteers for the first and second Sunday services. If able to lend a helping hand, please contact Amy Black at ablack@straspres.org or 717-224-3036. There is a sign-up sheet in the nursery, and there will be a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall during Coffee Hour. Please choose the date(s) that work best for you.

USHERS are needed for both first and second services. Please contact Andrea Petrokonis, petrokonisandrea@gmail.com, Wayne Carr waynec01@comcast.net, or Linda Younger LindaY@sunshinecorners.org if interested.

COOKIE BAKERS are needed for our Family Advent night on **December 6th**. Willing bakers are needed to bake a dozen or more Christmas cookies and drop them off in room #5 by December 6th. They will be served with hot chocolate during our Advent activities. See Beth Feiler with any questions.

Please contribute your tithes and offerings using one of the following methods:

- Scan the QR code to the right and follow the prompts
- Click the DONATE button on the church web site
- Mail your check to FPCS, 101 St. Decatur Street, Strasburg, PA 17579



Prayer Requests: Please keep the following in your prayers

- Louise Witmer – Under Hospice Care at The Glen at Willow Valley
- Bobbe Ryder – Under Hospice Care at Home
- Tricia Wilson – Recovering at home
- Tim Ott
- Karen Cooper
- Joyce Hollinger – Recovering at home
- Jerry Paparo – Recovering at home
- Carla Plomchok – Recovering at home



Comfort in Time of Loss: Pray for the family of Charlie Lefever as they grieve. Visitation will be held Thursday, December 7, 2023 at 10am, with a service at 11am, and private burial to follow.

December Deacons of the Month: Tina Dansereau and Heidi Zook-Payne

In Need of the Prayer Chain? Please contact the church office at 717-687-6030.

PRAYER, SCRIPTURE, ACTION • CHURCH WIDE RETREAT

February 23-25, 2024

Black Rock Retreat

1345 Kirkwood Pike

Quarryville, PA 17566

The logo features a stylized green leaf and an orange circle above the text "Black Rock Retreat".The logo features a stylized green leaf and an orange circle above the text "Black Rock Retreat".

Join the church congregation at Black Rock Retreat starting with dinner on Friday evening and ending with worship on Sunday morning at Black Rock. This is for everyone! Singles, couples, families with little kids and families with big kids! We will be offering activities and events that are focused on Prayer, Scripture and Action, as well as have plenty of opportunity for fellowship and fun!

	<u>Church Cost</u>	<u>Subsidized Cost</u>
Individual w/double occupancy	\$200	\$125
Couple – Single occupancy	\$400	\$250 (per couple)
Couple – Double occupancy	\$275	\$125 (per couple)
Family of 3	\$475	\$250
Family of 4	\$550	\$250
Family of 5	\$625	\$250
Family of 6	\$700	\$250

*Includes 2 nights and 5 meals. *More funding is available if needed.

**Please contact Pastor Bob or Alice Eisenhooth at (717) 725-2675, or ameisenhooth@gmail.com with any questions.



*Registration and payment due by Sunday, January 7th. Please turn in the form below along with payment to Nicole Keays, Office Administrator.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ Number of attendees in group: _____

Registering as a (check category below):

Individual—double occupancy room

Sharing a room with: _____

Couple—single occupancy room

Couple—double occupancy room

Sharing a room with: _____

Family of 3

Family of 4

Family of 5

Family of 6