

# *First Presbyterian Church*

101 South Decatur Street • Strasburg PA 17579

(717) 687-6030

[www.straspres.org](http://www.straspres.org)



2ND SUNDAY OF *Advent*

**Sunday, December 10, 2023**  
*Second Sunday of Advent*

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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 Theresa Rineer

**WORSHIP: 8:30am and 11:00am**

*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 *"Introspection"* S. Landon  
*"How Beautiful Are the Feet" from Messiah* G.F. Handel

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS / RINGING OF THE BELL

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: *Colvin Family*  
Family: This second Sunday in Advent we light this candle as a symbol of Christ the Way. May the Word sent from God through the prophets lead us to the way of salvation.

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

\*HYMN *"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"* No. 8

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

**God of restoration and wholeness, we give you thanks for the shalom that you have provided in Jesus. You have promised us a complete life, but we seek out that which is sinful and so prefer a life fraught with destruction. You give us opportunities to embrace your kingdom, but we grasp onto that which is finite and frail. Forgive us for our stubbornness and remind us that in you is life and life abundant. 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

ANTHEM *"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"* G. Holst  
*Soloists: Annie Rendon and Aaron Hershey*

FIRST SCRIPTURE Isaiah 40:1-11

Sunday, December 10, 2023

*Welcome!*

8:30AM Service

SECOND SCRIPTURE

Mark 1:1-8

SERMON

**SERMON SERIES: ADVENT IN THE GOSPELS**

*"Preparing ourselves for God"*

Rev. Robert Bronkema

\*HYMN

*"Just As I Am"*

No. 370

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORDS PRAYER

WE BRING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY

*"From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"*

F. Zachow

\*DOXOLOGY

PROFESSION OF FAITH: APOSTLES CREED

\*HYMN

*"O Little Town of Bethlehem"*

No. 44

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

*"In dulci jubilo"*

G. Martin

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

*Sermon Notes*

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**NEXT WEEK**

**Third Sunday of Advent • December 17, 2023**

First Scripture: Isaiah 61:1-4

Second Scripture: Luke 1:46-55

Sermon: *"A teenager's gratitude"*

Rev. Robert K. Bronkema

Greeting and Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Wreath:

***Fulmer Family***

Family: This second Sunday in Advent we light this candle as a symbol of Christ the Way. May the Word sent from God through the prophets lead us to the way of salvation.

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

\*Praise & Worship

*O Come All Ye Faithful  
We Have A Saviour  
Getting Ready*

Prayer & Peace

Children's Message

Beth Feiler

Scripture

Isaiah 40:1-11  
Mark 1:1-8

Sermon

**SERMON SERIES: ADVENT IN THE GOSPELS**  
*"Preparing ourselves for God"*

Rev. Robert K. Bronkema

Offering

\*Closing Song:

*God With Us*

\*Benediction

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

**Memorial Poinsettias**

Today, December 10<sup>th</sup>, is the last day to order poinsettias. Cost is \$10 per plant. Please place this form, along with payment, in the Office Administrator's mailbox, or drop off in the church office mail slot.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Pots \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_



## WEEK AT A GLANCE

### **Sunday, December 10**

- 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 Confirmation Class - Rm 3/4

**Ignited Students** • Christmas Party: 6-8pm • Fellowship Hall

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

### **Monday, December 11**

- 7pm Mission & Finance - Rm 5

### **Tuesday, December 12**

- 2pm Food Pantry  
5:30pm Personnel Committee - Library  
6:30pm Community Impact Committee - Rm 5  
7pm Smolder Group  
7pm Outreach Committee - FH

### **Wednesday, December 13**

- 1pm Knifty Knitters - Library  
3pm Stitchin' Sisters - Rm 3/4  
6:30pm Trustee Meeting - Rm 3/4

### **Thursday, December 14**

- 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 15**

- 2pm Food Pantry  
6pm Our Table - FH

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



We are glad to see you here! Check out our website: [www.straspres.org](http://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-5<sup>th</sup> grades. Children will go to room 11 after the children's sermon.

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*Flowers are provided this Sunday to the glory of God from Kay Straley, in loving memory of husband Ron, brother Jim Filling, and other loved ones, and in honor of my family.*

*Flowers are provided this Sunday for the glory of God from Al & Sandy Bernstorf in loving memory of Betsey Bernstorf; Bill Brotzman; son-in-law, Mike Ranson; sister, Shirley and Noah Kreider.*



*The rose in the sanctuary today is in honor of the resurrection of Charlie Lefever, Jr., who passed into eternal life on November 28, 2023.*

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**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: Ron & Sandy Hershey Lowe. Hosts for next week: IGNITED. 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](mailto: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.

**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!

**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



## Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Events!

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**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! Registration and payment is due by January 7<sup>th</sup>. Please reference the information and registration form included in this bulletin for details. You may also register with the following link: [PSA Retreat Registration](#).



**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](mailto: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.

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



**SMITHSONIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE:** Join us for a journey to the museum in DC **on February 15<sup>th</sup>**. 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.





### 2023 SANTA'S HELPERS



This is just a friendly reminder to those who signed up to purchase a gift at the giving tree for the Santa's Helpers Program – that all gifts should be placed under the tree by Sunday, **December 17<sup>th</sup>**. Please be sure to attach the tag to the gift.

📞 If you have any questions, please contact Jo Ann or Terry Sweigart at 717-672-1427 or 717-606-6907.

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.

Thank you to everyone who is participating in this program!





## ASSISTANCE CORNER

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**CURRENT FOOD PANTRY NEEDS:** Single rolls of paper towels, Boxed tissues, Single rolls of toilet tissue



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](mailto: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](mailto:petrokonisandrea@gmail.com), Wayne Carr [waynec01@comcast.net](mailto:waynec01@comcast.net), or Linda Younger [LindaY@sunshinecorners.org](mailto:LindaY@sunshinecorners.org) if interested.



### *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
- Carla Plomchok – Recovering at home
- Clayton Frackman – Lakeside at Willow Valley



*Comfort in Time of Loss:* Pray for the family of Charlie Lefever as they grieve.

*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



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](mailto: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. If paying by credit card, please use the following QR code:



✂ 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