

THE
Christ child

BROUGHT BEAUTY INTO OUR
BROKEN WORLD, LIGHT INTO OUR DARKNESS,
AND PEACE FOR EACH DAY.



MY EYES HAVE SEEN YOUR SALVATION, WHICH YOU HAVE PREPARED IN THE SIGHT OF ALL PEOPLE,
A LIGHT FOR REVELATION TO THE GENTILES AND THE GLORY OF YOUR PEOPLE ISRAEL.

LUKE 1:30-32 (NIV1984)

First Presbyterian Church

101 South Decatur Street • Strasburg PA 17579

(717) 687-6030

www.straspres.org



Third Sunday of Advent Sunday, December 17, 2023

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 June Stum / 11am Isla Marsh

WORSHIP: 8:30am and 11:00am

Sunday, December 17, 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

*"Carol Fantasy"
"Glory to God in the Highest"
Piano and Organ Duet, Donna Burkholder, piano*

arr. D. Wolford
Pergolesi; arr. G. Pollock

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS / RINGING OF THE BELL

MINUTE FOR MISSION

PSA

Tricia Wilson

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH:

Sickler Family

Family: This third Sunday in Advent we light this candle as a symbol of Christ our Joy.
May the joyful promise of your presence, O God, make us rejoice in our hope of
salvation.

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

*HYMN

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

No. 28

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

**Loving God, you promised that your Holy Spirit would be with us through every moment
in our lives. But we tend to ignore you when things are going well and cry out for help
when trouble finds us. Forgive us and teach us again to trust in your faithfulness in all
seasons of our life. Like Mary, help us to see ourselves as your servants willing to live the
lives that you have called us to live. 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

Kristin Kondratowski

ANTHEM

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

arr. N. Johnson

FIRST SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 61:1-4

Sunday, December 17, 2023

Welcome!

8:30AM Service

SECOND SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:46-55

SERMON

SERMON SERIES: ADVENT IN THE GOSPELS

"A Teenager's Gratitude"

Rev. Robert Bronkema

*HYMN

"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

No. 27

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORDS PRAYER

WE BRING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY

"Angels Ever Bright and Fair"

G. F. Handel

*DOXOLOGY

PROFESSION OF FAITH: APOSTLES CREED

*HYMN

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

No. 29

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

"Tocatta on 'In dulci jubilo'"

G. Young

**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

Minute for Mission

PSA

Tricia Wilson

Lighting of the Advent Wreath:

Edwards Family

Family: This third Sunday in Advent we light this candle as a symbol of Christ our Joy. May the joyful promise of your presence, O God, make us rejoice in our hope of salvation.

People: (Sung) **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.**

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

*Praise & Worship

*Go Tell It
Angels We Have Heard on High
Goodness of God*

Prayer & Peace

Children's Message

Kristin Kondratowski

Scripture

Isaiah 61:1-4
Luke 1:46-55

Sermon

SERMON SERIES: ADVENT IN THE GOSPELS
"A Teenager's Gratitude"

Rev. Robert K. Bronkema

Offering

*Closing Song:

Gratitude

*Benediction

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



WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, December 17

- 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
7pm **Advent Concert - Guitarist Chris Keeney** - Sanctuary

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

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

Tuesday, December 19

- 2pm Food Pantry
7pm Smolder Group

Wednesday, December 20

- 9:30am Sarah Circle - Rm 3/4
1pm Knifty Knitters - Library
3pm Stitchin' Sisters - Rm 3/4
7pm Session Meeting - Rm 3/4

Thursday, December 21

- 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>
6pm Food Pantry Committee Meeting - FH
7pm Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room

Friday, December 22

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

The flowers today are provided by Randy and Donna Stettler and children Steven and Morgan Murphy. May the love and peace that was born that night be with you at Christmas and always.

Merry Christmas to our church family



The rose in the sanctuary today is in honor of the resurrection of Louise Witmer, who passed into eternal life on December 14, 2023.

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: IGNITED. Hosts for next week: The Marsh Family. 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.

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!

WIRED WORD • There will be no Wired Word Sunday School class on Sunday, December 24th.

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

- Place your contribution in the collection plate
- 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!



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 February 4th. 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.

“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 **TODAY 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 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.



UNDECORATING THE CHURCH • Friday, January 5th, we will be un-decorating the church together to bring down the Advent and Christmas decorations. Come join in the fun at 6pm and grab some pizza while you’re here!

WINGS & THINGS • Gather with the men of FPCS at “The Tavern” Springhouse for wings, or another dish of your liking **every first Sunday of the month at 5pm**. Our next gathering will be **Sunday, January 7th @ 5pm**.

POINSETTIAS • Starting, Sunday, December 31st you may pick up your poinsettias. Feel free to take them home or give them to someone who may enjoy them!



**NEXT WEEK ~ CHRISTMAS EVE ~ DECEMBER 24, 2023
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Traditional and Contemporary Services • 8:30am & 11am

First Scripture: Isaiah 7:10-14 Second Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25

SERMON SERIES: ADVENT IN THE GOSPELS

Sermon: *"So This is Christmas"* • Rev. Robert K. Bronkema



Children's Christmas Pageant • 4:30pm



Candlelight Worship Services • 8pm & 11pm

First Scripture Isaiah 9:2-7 Second Scripture: Luke 2:1-7

Sermon: *"Jesus Christ is born"* • Rev. Robert K. Bronkema



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 – all gifts should be placed under the tree by **TODAY**. 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

CURRENT FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

- Canned peaches, fruit cocktail
- Canned meats (chicken, tuna, spam)
- Jelly, applesauce
- Single rolls of toilet tissue and paper towels

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.



Prayer Requests

Please keep the following in your prayers.

- Bobbe Ryder – Under Hospice Care at Home
- Tim Ott
- Karen Cooper – Recovering from surgery at LGH
- Joyce Hollinger – Recovering at home
- Clayton Frackman – LGH



Comfort in Time of Loss: Pray for the family of Louise Witmer as they grieve her passing on December 14th.

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.

Thank You to the Following Who Provided Poinsettias

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Ed & Linda Bredin | In Loving Memory of parents Andrew & Elsie Hundley and Ted & Mary Jane Bredin |
| Mary Lou Butler | In Loving Memory of Mel Butler & our parents Marie & Jack Austin and Alma & Carl Butler |
| Joy Corey | In Loving Memory of Ken Corey |
| Tina Dansereau | In Loving Memory of Shirley Yinger |
| Bette Davis | In Loving Memory of daughter Faith Sandiford-Bey and grandson Brady McCarty |
| Colleen Emig | In Loving Memory of Donald Emig and William J. Proud |
| The Ferguson, Ely & Stark Families | In Loving Memory of Mary Anne Ferguson |
| John & Lori Ford | In Loving Memory of our Family & Friends |
| Ryan & Rienna Fulmer | In Loving Memory of Anthony, Rosella and Roseanne DeMeo, Mark Fulmer and Jason Madonna |
| Paul & Robin Kendlehart | In Loving Memory of Frederick & Helen Cornter and In Honor of Children's Church and Sunday School Leaders |
| Glenna Kirchner | In Loving Memory of Ann & Glenn Esbenshade and Tyler Zook |
| Linda Lawrence | In Loving Memory of son Jason Lawrence and parents H. LeRoy & Ruth Welk |
| Shawn Murphy, Jr. | In Loving Memory of Shawn Michael Murphy, Sr. |
| Lillian Myers | In Loving Memory of husband Gary Myers and sister and brother-in-law Nancy & Don Burkhardt |
| George & Jean Pontz | In Loving Memory of our parents Bill & Sallie Steller and Bob & Marie Pontz |
| Sue Schenke | In Loving Memory of husband Reynold Schenke and brother Carl Wilson |
| Reid Sheaffer, Jr. | In Loving Memory of Reid Sheaffer & Betty B. Sheaffer |
| Michelle Simmons | In Loving Memory of David Simmons |
| Jim & Nancy Smith and Family | In Loving Memory of Jim's parents Martin & Hazel Smith and Nancy's parents Carl & Virginia Mosebach and In Honor of our children Jim, Andy & Amy |
| Reuben & Barbara Stoltzfus | In Loving Memory of our son Jeffrey, and In Honor of our parents |
| Barb Szczesniak | In Loving Memory of Irene Szczesniak |
| Steve & Donna Szczesniak | In Loving Memory of Stefan Szczesniak |
| Norma Weaver | In Loving Memory of husband Bob |
| Jane Weese | In Loving Memory of Loved Ones |
| Harold & Karen Welk | In Loving Memory of H. LeRoy & Ruth Welk, Richard & Viola Ludwig, and brother Robert Ludwig |
| LeRoy & Deb Welk | In Loving Memory of Ira & Dorothy Welk, Lloyd & Barb Welk and Jim & Fran Ashby |
| Hope Wixon | In Loving Memory of husband Larry Wixon |
| Heidi Zook-Payne | In Loving Memory of Tyler Zook & Tyreese Smith |



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 with any questions.



***Registration and payment due by Sunday, February 4th. Please turn in the form below along with payment to Nicole Keays, Office Administrator. If attending only for the day, please complete the form below and contact Alice Eisenhooth for meal cost and payment. 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):

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual—double occupancy room | <input type="checkbox"/> Family of 3 |
| Sharing a room with: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Family of 4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Couple—single occupancy room | <input type="checkbox"/> Family of 5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Couple—double occupancy room | <input type="checkbox"/> Family of 6 |
| Sharing a room with: _____ | |

Attending for the day only (please check what meals you will be present for each day you are attending).

Friday: Dinner _____

Saturday: Breakfast _____ Lunch _____ Dinner _____

Sunday: Breakfast _____