



Thank  
God  
for  
*his gift*  
that words  
can't describe!

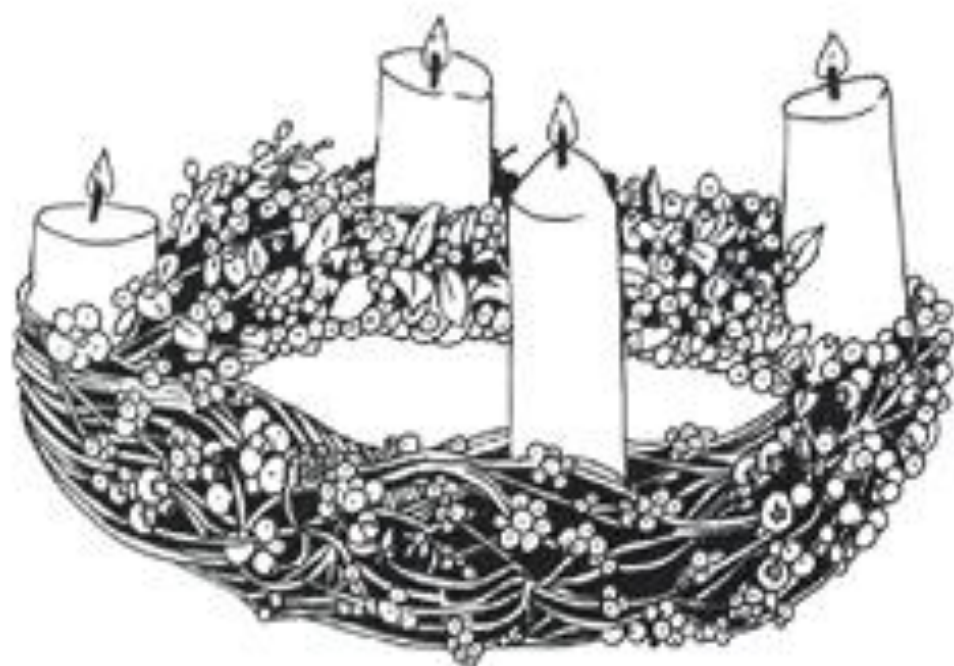
2 CORINTHIANS 9:15

# *First Presbyterian Church*

101 South Decatur Street • Strasburg PA 17579

(717) 687-6030

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



## **Fourth Sunday of Advent Sunday, December 24, 2023**

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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 Sandy Wenger / 11am Jeff Marsh

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

Sunday, December 24, 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 Come, All Ye Faithful"  
"Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"*

arr. J. Innes  
arr. J. Innes

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS / RINGING OF THE BELL

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH:

***Elias Family***

**Family:** This last Sunday in Advent we light this candle as a symbol of the Prince of Peace. May the visitation of Your Holy Spirit, O God, make us ready for the coming of Jesus, our hope and joy.

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

\*HYMN

*"O Come, All Ye Faithful"*

No. 41

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

God of wonder and grace, thank you for your son Jesus who came on earth to save us from our sins. On this Christmas Eve we are grateful for your presence in our lives and in the world. We recognize that we have sinned against you by not expecting the miracle of peace, joy, protection, and fulfillment and so have sought our own ways. Forgive us for not considering you as redeemer, sustainer, and deliverer. Lead us back to your Way. 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

Ali Elias

ANTHEM

*"Away in a Manger"  
Isla Marsh, soloist*

arr. G. Martin

FIRST SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 7:10-14



Sunday, December 24, 2023

*Welcome!*

8:30AM Service

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SECOND SCRIPTURE

Matthew 1:18-25

SERMON

SERMON SERIES: ADVENT IN THE GOSPELS  
*"So This is Christmas"*

Rev. Robert Bronkema

\*HYMN

*"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"*

No. 38

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORDS PRAYER

WE BRING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY

*"The First Noel"*

arr. J. Innes

\*DOXOLOGY

PROFESSION OF FAITH: APOSTLES CREED

\*HYMN

*"What Child is This?"*

No. 53

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

*"Joy to the World"*

arr. H. DeCou

*\*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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Greeting and Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Wreath:

***Marsh Family***

Family: This last Sunday in Advent we light this candle as a symbol of the Prince of Peace. May the visitation of Your Holy Spirit, O God, make us ready for the coming of Jesus, our hope and joy.

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

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

\*Praise & Worship

*Angels We Have Heard on High  
While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night  
O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

Prayer & Peace

Children's Message

Ali Elias

Scripture

Isaiah 7:10-14  
Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon

SERMON SERIES: ADVENT IN THE GOSPELS

*"So This is Christmas"*

Rev. Robert K. Bronkema

Offering

\*Closing Song:

*O Come All Ye Faithful*

\*Benediction

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

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**NEXT WEEK ~ DECEMBER 31, 2023**

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1<sup>st</sup> Scripture: Isaiah 26:3-4

2<sup>nd</sup> Scripture: II Corinthians 4:8-9

Sermon Title: *"A Father's Love"*



Guest Preacher: Marcia Andersen

## WEEK AT A GLANCE

### Sunday, December 24

- 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  
\*No Wired Word  
Young at Heart - Rm 3/4  
11am **Worship** (Contemporary)
- 4:30pm **Children's Christmas Pageant**  
8pm **Candlelight Worship Service**  
11pm **Candlelight Worship Service**
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### **No Nursery Time This Week**

Monday, December 25  Merry Christmas!   
The church office is closed in observance of Christmas.



### Tuesday, December 26

The church office is closed in observance of Christmas.  
Food Pantry Closed Today  
No Smolder Group This Evening

### Wednesday, December 27

1pm Knifty Knitters - Library  
No Stitchin' Sisters Today

### Thursday, December 28

6:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast - Library - Bring your own coffee/breakfast items  
No Creating Landmarks  
No Bible Study This Evening  
No Choir Rehearsal This Evening

### Friday, December 29

2pm Food Pantry  
6pm Our Table - FH



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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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.

**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: Marsh Family. Hosts for next week: Mary Lou Butler and Lynda Cornelia. 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!

**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 today, Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>.

**GREAT BEGINNINGS PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION** for the 2024-2025 school year begins on **January 2, 2024** for First Presbyterian church members and current preschool families. Contact Heather Reynolds, Administrative Director at [hreynolds@straspres.org](mailto:hreynolds@straspres.org) or 717-617-9501, or pick up an application at the church office or the preschool mailbox.

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!

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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 February 4<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!*

**CREATING LANDMARKS BIBLE JOURNALING • We will be taking a short winter break and will resume on January 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am, in the New Year.**

**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.



**UNDECORATING THE CHURCH • Friday, January 5<sup>th</sup>,** we will be undecorating 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 7<sup>th</sup> @ 5pm.

**POINSETTIAS • Starting, Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>** after the candlelight service, you may pick up your poinsettias. Feel free to take them home or give them to someone who may enjoy them!





## ASSISTANCE CORNER

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### 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@strasnpres.org](mailto:ablack@strasnpres.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.

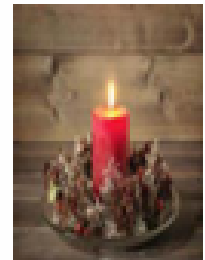


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### *Prayer Requests*

*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 – The Glenn at Willow Valley



\*The celebration of life for Louise Witmer will take place on Saturday, January 13, 2024 at 11am, with a luncheon following.

*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

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# 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, 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:



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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: _____  |                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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 _____  |                                      |

