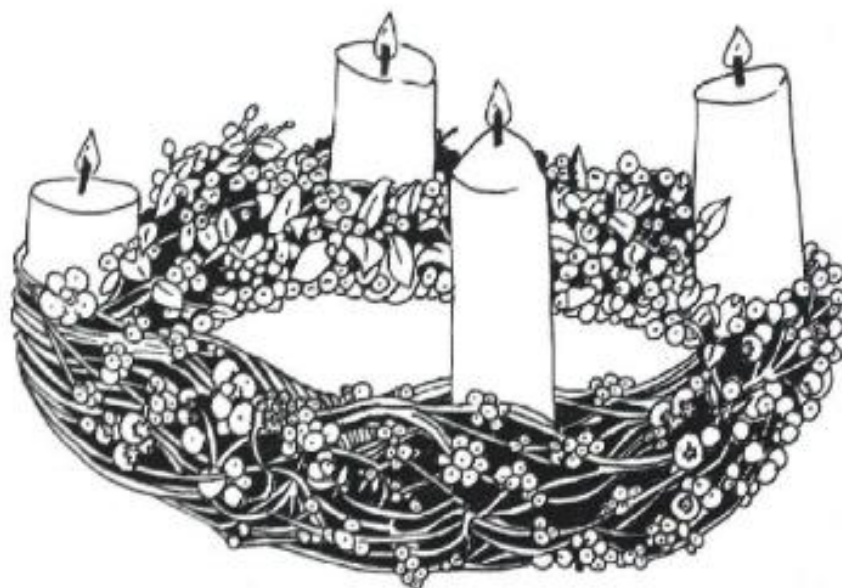


First Presbyterian Church

101 South Decatur Street • Strasburg, PA 17579

(717) 687-6030

www.straspres.org



Sunday, December 22, 2024 **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

PASTOR: Rev. Robert K. Bronkema

FULLER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY INTERN: Jen Eisenberg

INTERIM ORGANIST/CHOIRMASTER: Jonathan Jones

INTERIM DIRECTOR OF CONTEMPORARY MUSIC: Walter Kondratowski

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES: Beth Feiler

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH: Kristin Kondratowski

WORSHIP LEADER/READER: 8:30am Pam Johnson / 11am Jeff Marsh

WORSHIP: 8:30am and 11:00am

Sunday, December 22, 2024

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

"In Thee Is Gladness"

J. S. Bach

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS / RINGING OF THE BELL

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH:

Creighton 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

Good and gracious God, giver of signs and Your Son. Sometimes, it seems too much to ask for your help. We shy away, not wanting to bother You or impose on You. We hold back and don't reach out to You. And so You come to earth. You intervene on behalf of Your children anyway. Your goodness flows out from Your hand despite our resistance. We need Your words of hope and guidance to live faithfully. We pray this in Jesus' name. 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

"Light One Candle"

Natalie Sleeth

FIRST SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 7:10-14

SECOND SCRIPTURE

Matthew 1:18-25

SERMON SERIES: MATTHEW: GOSPEL OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

SERMON *"Jesus is Born"* Rev. Robert K. Bronkema

*HYMN *"Away in a Manger"* No. 25

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Pg. 16

WE BRING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY *"O Little Town of Bethlehem"* arr. Joel Raney

*DOXOLOGY

PROFESSION OF FAITH: APOSTLES CREED

*HYMN *"Joy to the World!"* No. 40

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *"Toccata on God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"* Alfred Fedak

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

Sermon Notes

**NEXT WEEK ~ DECEMBER 29, 2024
FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**

1st Scripture: Jeremiah 31:15-17 2nd Scripture: Matthew 2:16-18

SERMON SERIES: MATTHEW: GOSPEL OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Sermon: *"Jesus is Born"*

Rev. Robert K. Bronkema, Preaching



Sunday, December 22, 2024

Welcome!

11:00am Service

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

Joy To The World (Joyful Joyful)

O Little Town (Emmanuel Has Come)

O Come O Come Emmanuel

Prayer & Peace

Children's Message

Beth Feiler

Scripture

Isaiah 7:10-14

Matthew 1:18-25

SERMON SERIES: MATTHEW: GOSPEL OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Sermon

"Jesus is Born"

Rev. Robert K. Bronkema

Offering

*Praise & Worship

Hark

*Benediction

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

Prayer Requests Please keep the following in your prayers.

Glenna Kirchner

Reub Stoltzfus

Linda Hook

Clark Taylor -LGH

Ray Frye – Hospice Care

Jinny Russell



December Deacons of the Month: Donna Stettler & Morgan Murphy

January Deacons of the Month: Janice Bowers, Lynda Margerum & Deb Welk

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

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, December 22

8:30am **Worship** (Classic)

9:30am **Coffee Hour**

9:30am Christmas Pageant Practice – Room 12

10am **Sunday School Classes** for all ages

*Youth Sunday School

-Grades 6 – 7: Room 5

-Grades 8 – 12: Youth Room

*Young Adults – Choir Room

*Wired Word – Library

*Young at Heart – Room 4

11am **Worship** (Modern)

*No Confirmation Class

3pm **Blue Christmas Service**

***IGNITED ♦ Combined Youth Group: 6 – 8pm – Fellowship Hall**

Tuesday, December 24

*Food Pantry Closed

The church office is closed in observance of Christmas.

4:30pm **Children's Christmas Pageant**

8pm **Candlelight Worship Service**

11pm **Candlelight Worship Service**

Wednesday, December 25

🕯️ Merry Christmas! 🕯️



The church office is closed in observance of Christmas.

Thursday, December 26

The church office is closed in observance of Christmas.

*No Men's Fellowship & Devotions

6pm Bible Study –

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzoMo4VUuahmT0CFUtwZzgg>

*No Choir or Kidz JAM rehearsal.

Friday, December 27

*Food Pantry Closed

6pm Our Table – FH

Saturday, December 28

8am Deborah Circle – Dienners Restaurant



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.

COFFEE HOUR • Join us each Sunday at 9:30am for coffee and fellowship with old and new friends. Hosts for today: IGNITED. Hosts for next week: Tina Dansereau. 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!

Kidz JAM (Jesus and Me) • It's not too late to join the children's choir! We look forward to sharing this music ministry with children of all ages. If you have any questions, please contact Jonathan Jones at jjones@straspres.org or 484.949.4514.

CHANCEL CHOIR • If you enjoy singing beautiful, inspiring anthems, we invite you to join us for a one-hour rehearsal each Thursday at 7pm in the Choir Room and then again, each Sunday at 8am in the Sanctuary choir loft, for a 15-minute rehearsal. We would love to have you join us! If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact Jonathan Jones: jjones@straspres.org or 484.949.4514.



LIBRARY NEWS • Did you know that a member of our congregation is a published author? MJ Lau has written several books and we now have one in our library written by him and his daughter Fiona. "The Borrowed Daughter" is great for middle grade children to read. But you can read it too!

SEWING GROUPS • Would you like to learn to sew, quilt or knit? The Stitching Sisters and Knifty Knitters would love to help you! If interested, contact Bette Davis or Pam Johnson. There is no age/gender requirement!



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY • Every Sunday until Christmas you might be lucky enough to find a painted rock with an inspirational message. Keep it or pass it on to someone who needs a hug. The children made these rocks to go along with their Sunday school theme, living as Christians.



Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Events!

"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!

CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S PAGEANT ~ Rehearsals will continue during Sunday School, **starting at 9:30am in room 12**. Please arrive **at 3pm on Christmas Eve**. Please contact Beth Feiler with any questions.

BLUE CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE ~ TODAY, December 22nd at 3pm

Sometimes the comfort and joy of the Christmas season also comes with grief, loneliness, and/or fatigue. Blue Christmas offers a pause from the busyness and pressures of Christmas to simply be with God Emmanuel and to be met by His unfailing love.



CHRISTMAS EVE SCHEDULE ♦ DECEMBER 24

Children's Christmas Pageant • 4:30 PM
Candlelight Worship Services • 8 PM & 11 PM



ASSISTANCE CORNER

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED to help on Sunday mornings during both services and Sunday school. Please consider helping at least one time per month. There is a sign-up sheet on the wall racks by the welcome desk, or contact Amy Black at ablack@straspres.org or 717-224-3036.



CURRENT FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

-Canned fruit -Spam -Macaroni & Cheese -Meal Helpers

This past week, the pantry has seen more than double the numbers of client visits; a lot of food has left our shelves. Monetary donations are also 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.

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





Thank You to the Following Who Provided Poinsettias



Mary Lou Butler	In Loving Memory of Mel Butler & parents Marie & Jack Austin and Alma & Carl Butler
Joy Corey	In Loving Memory of husband Ken Corey and sister Joan
Bette Davis	In Loving Memory of daughter Faith Sandiford-Bey and grandson Brady McCarty
Ryan & Rienna Fulmer	In Loving Memory of Anthony, Rosella and Roseanne DeMeo, Mark Fulmer and Jason Madonna
Robin Kendlehart	In Loving Memory of Paul M. Kendlehart
John & Glenna Kirchner	In Loving Memory of Ann & Glenn Esbenshade and Tyler Zook
Jim & Donna Law	In Loving Memory of brother David Spacht and parents John & Ruth Law and Donald & Florence Spacht
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 Burkhart
Sue Schenke	In Loving Memory of husband Reynold Schenke and brother Carl Wilson
Reid Sheaffer, Jr.	In Loving Memory of parents Reid & Betty B. Sheaffer
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 son Jeffrey
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
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
Linda Younger	In Loving Memory of parents and grandparents
Heidi Zook-Payne	In Loving Memory of Tyler Zook & Tyreese Smith

