

HOPE

Hope

May the light sent from God
shine in the darkness
to show us the way of salvation.



First Presbyterian Church

508 2nd Avenue • South Charleston WV • 25303 • [304] 744-2333 • fpcscwv.org



THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY The First Sunday of Advent December 1, 2024

GATHERING

(* Please stand in body or spirit. Text in **bold face type** is to be read by all.)

THE CHIMES CALL US TO WORSHIP

WELCOME – THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

-arr. Glick

CALL TO WORSHIP

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE & CALL TO WORSHIP

Charles & Nancy Knurek

One: We light this candle of Hope as the sign of the coming light of Christ.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE

All: In Christ there is life and light for all the people.

Pastor: Now lift up your heads and rejoice; your redeemer is drawing near. Let us worship God!

***HYMN**

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

No. 82

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, have mercy on us. We are not ready for your coming. We live apart from you, as though there were no justice. We live in fear, as though there were no grace. Forgive us, Lord, and show us your mercy and steadfast love. Lead us in your truth, and teach us your paths, for you are the God of our salvation. Amen.

[Silence is kept for personal confession]

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

GINNA TAYLOR, PASTOR

***GLORIA PATRI**

No. 581

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit!

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

PASSING THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you

And also with you

Please greet one another with the peace of Christ.

ANTHEM

"Come to Us, O Promised One"

-Lloyd Larson

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

Ginna Taylor, Pastor

*HYMN *"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"* *No. 88, verses 1-3*

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Ginna Taylor, Pastor

One: Pray for Hope.

All: We pray for hope to reside in every nation – that hatred and ill will in the hearts of all people, will be burned away in your refining fire, leaving only love.

One: Pray for Hope in the church.

All: We pray for in renewal – put an end to fear and fighting, that we may proclaim your good news and be awake to your presence.

One: Pray for Hope in this community.

All: We pray for hope in this place – for safety for our homes and streets, for the prosperity of our neighbors, and for the health of family and friends.

One: God of the future, make us ready for the coming of your reign, when you will bring everlasting peace and renew the face of the earth with hope. You have opened to us a place at your table of grace. In gratitude for the bread and cup you share, we will honor you by sharing our bread with others, by offering, without reserve, the cup you bless. Great is your faithfulness.

All: O God, we find peace in you.

One: Now to you be all the glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

All: Amen.

LISTENING TO THE WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

SERMON SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 21:25-36

SERMON

"Caught in the Trap"

Ginna Taylor, Pastor

RESPONDING TO GOD

*PROFESSION OF FAITH

-from the Confession of Belhar 10.5 pg. 303

We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ; and that God's life-giving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness, and enmity. We believe that God's life-giving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world. Amen.

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY

"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"

-J.S. Bach

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

God or righteousness, you have saved us from the worst the world can do and have promised to redeem the whole creation when Christ comes again. In hope we offer our gifts of money and self, that we may be a part of what you are doing in the world even now, as we watch for Christ's coming in glory. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is good to give God thanks and praise...*(the prayer continues)*

One: Praise to you, O God, for all your works. You created the world and called it good, and made us in your image to live together in love. You made a covenant with us, and even when we turned from you, you remained ever faithful.

During these Sundays of Advent, we thank you, God, for sending us your Son. He lived among us and told your story. He healed the sick and welcomed sinners. He shared our pain and died our death, then rose to new life that we might live, and all creation be restored. (Together we say...)

All: Lord, feed us with the gift of bread,

One: So that we can move among your people and share this plenty.

All: Feed us with your light of love.

One: So that we may surround all your children with acceptance and grace.

All: Feed us with new life and abundance.

One: So, forever your children, we can praise your name to all the earth.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, with the Holy Spirit in the holy church, now and forever, hear us as together we pray:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF BREAD AND CUP

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION AND COMMUNION (in unison)

Holy God, we thank you for this feast of grace and life. As we have been served, help us to serve our neighbors. As we have been fed, help us to feed all who are hungry. As we have been loved, help us to love the world – because in Christ Jesus you have loved us. Amen.

*HYMN *"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"* No. 377

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE *"God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen"* -arr. Bock

Music Notes: CCLI License # 21008312, Streaming License #20118305 and our OneLicense.net # 738390



The graphic features a black background with white and red text. On the left is the cover of the book 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas!' by Dr. Seuss, showing the Grinch. On the right is the cover of 'The Heart That Grew Three Sizes' by Matt Rawle, featuring a heart and a pine branch. In the bottom left is a small illustration of the Grinch in a Santa suit. In the bottom right is an illustration of a blue Bible with a gold cross. The central text reads: 'Advent Series', 'Pastor Ginna', 'First Presbyterian Church', 'Facebook Live', and the dates 'Dec 3, 4, 5 Tues thru Thurs 10:00 a.m.', 'Dec 10, 11, 12 Tues thru Thurs 10:00 a.m.', and 'Dec 17, 18, 19 Tues thru Thurs 10:00 a.m.'.

MISSIONS COMMITTEE REQUESTS FOOD PANTRY ITEMS

Heart & Hand's increased demand for food and household supplies continues through the fall and winter months. The following list is the items we will be collecting this month:

Dec 1: Peanut Butter	Dec 22: Canned Ravioli, Spaghetti O's
Dec 8: Beans and Rice	Spaghetti & Meatballs, Beefaroni
Dec 15: Rice-a-Roni, boxed pasta instant mashed potatoes	Dec 29: Soup

Presbyterian Women's December News

It's time for our monthly Circle/Bible Study. We will gather at 2 pm, on Thursday, December 12, in the Church Parlor. Becky Nelson will present our Bible lesson this time on another fascinating woman in the Bible. We hope you will join us.

Today's Scripture Readings...

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 (NRSV)

⁹ How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰ Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹² And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³ And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Luke 21:25-36 (NRSV)

The Coming of the Son of Man

²⁵ "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

The Lesson of the Fig Tree

²⁹ Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Exhortation to Watch

³⁴ "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Faith Ideas from the Nurture Committee of the Presbytery of WV

Please use this suggested scripture questions, and activities to help you explore your faith.

Dec 1--Read Luke 21:25-36: As we enter this Advent Season, our Scripture passage speaks of signs and the coming of the Son of Man in a cloud with power and glory. How do you visualize this scene depicted in the Scripture passage? Draw a picture with your family to depict His coming.

Christmas Giving Opportunities

Men's Shelter & Veteran's Center: The Presbyterian Women are collecting tee shirts, boxers, and socks for the Crossroads Men's Shelter and the Veteran's Center (sizes Large and X-Large). Donations may be left in the Parlor. Deadline for donations is December 15.

Stocking Stuffers for Heart & Hand will be collected for the first three Sundays in December: 1st, 8th & 15th. Items should be small, unwrapped, and placed under the Christmas tree in the Sanctuary.



A Gift for Church Staff



You may wish to make a special financial gift to show your LOVE for the members of the faithful Staff at First Presby. Your gifts will be divided evenly among all the staff as a Christmas gift from the church. You may place your contribution in the offering plate or church office no later than December 15th. Thank You!

South Charleston First Presbyterian Church Website:
www.fpcscwv.org makes available our Sunday morning live-stream worship services & bulletins, newsletters, Session information, and youth group videos. Also posted are Announcements for the Month, information about upcoming mission projects, and our many fellowship opportunities.

**REMEMBER IN YOUR
PRAYERS & DEEDS OF LOVE**

Church Family

<i>Nancy Alert</i>	<i>Rick & Lora Hayes</i>
<i>Sandy Bays</i>	<i>Christy Hovious</i>
<i>Brian Cole</i>	<i>James Logsdon</i>
<i>Terry Coleman</i>	<i>Drew McIlwain</i>
<i>Sallie Davidson</i>	<i>Marsha McIlwain</i>
<i>Mary Frye</i>	<i>Becky Parsons</i>
<i>Amanda Fuller</i>	<i>David Smith</i>
<i>Sally & Ben Games</i>	<i>Lee Snyder</i>
<i>Terri Guyette</i>	<i>David Sutton</i>

Care Facilities

Linda Amburgey
Von Carter
Bob & Barbara Cruickshank
Tee Goodman
Tom Haines
Barbara Snyder

Presbyterian Connections

Child Development Center
Bluestone Camp & Retreat Center
Lineweaver Cottage, Davis-Stuart
Fort Liberté, Haiti
Riverlawn Presbyterian Church, St. Albans
Village Chapel Presbyterian Church, Charleston
Kigogoini Church, Wandumbi Parish, Kenya

First Presbyterian Church

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Ministers:

EVERY MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION

GINNA TAYLOR, Pastor
Mary Ellen Logsdon, Director of Music Ministry
Collin Nelson, Worship Assistant
Becky Smith, Office Manager
David Smith, Opener/Closer

Pastor's Office Hours:

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM (T, W, Th)

Church Office Hours:

7:00 AM - 3:00 PM (M, T, W, Th)

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Web Address: *fpcscwv.org*

WIFI Network: 1stPresby SC – Guest

WIFI Password: PresbyGuest

Elders on Session:

Class of 2024

Sarah Clemente
Joe Fuller
Bill Kimmons

Class of 2025

Cheryl Eary
Bob Lilly
Mark Lovin

Class of 2026

Hersha Brown
Rick Smith
Owen Walker

Covered-Dish Luncheon for All, Sunday, December 15th

Please join us for lunch after the worship hour on Sunday, December 15. This event is hosted by the Missions Committee, who will provide fried chicken as our main course. Please bring a covered dish or dessert to share with everyone.

Come and enjoy a delicious meal and share lots of warm fellowship and Christmas joy with your family and friends at church!

December 20th: Assemble Christmas Food Baskets

ALL are invited to help assemble Christmas Food Baskets on Friday, December 20, at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Food Baskets will be given out on Saturday, December 21, starting at 8am. If you would like to help assemble and distribute the baskets, please join us as we share in the joy of giving this Christmas. Thank you to all who have contributed to our Christmas Basket mission!

A vertical poster for a Christmas Eve service. The background is a dark blue night sky with a bright, multi-pointed star at the top center. A white outline of a stable roof is superimposed over the sky. The words "Christmas Eve Service" are written in a white, elegant serif font across the middle of the stable. Below the stable, there are silhouettes of a shepherd with a staff, a woman kneeling, and a manger with a baby. At the bottom, the text "Candlelight Worship Service for All!" is written in a bold, white sans-serif font, followed by "TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH" and "6:30 pm" in the same font.

**Christmas
Eve Service**

Candlelight Worship Service for All!
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH
6:30 pm