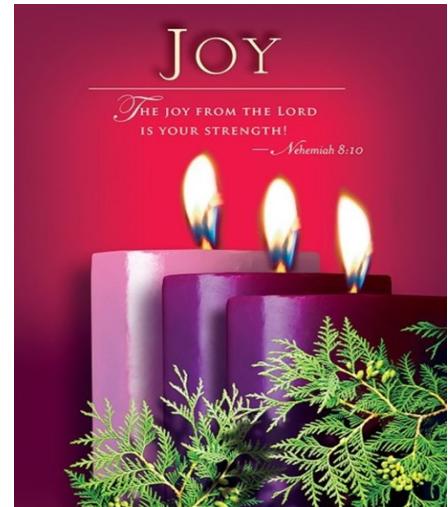




Service for the Lord's Day
3rd Sunday of Advent
December 14, 2025



Preparation for Worship (Read before service for quiet meditation):

The word "Advent" means arrival, and for us it's a season of preparing and waiting for the arrival that changes everything - the birth of Jesus. And like a dawn with no dusk, the Light of the World comes into our lives and promises never to leave us. Wherever you are on your journey and whatever you find yourself waiting for... be assured that the Lord is working while you are waiting.

O Light of the world, Come to us, stay with us,
 Like a dawn with no dusk; Come to us, stay with us
 We pray.

-Sarah Kroger

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude "Imagine" (Getty) Dr. Michael Hooper

Bringing in the Light of Christ Kate Marsh

Welcome and Announcements Kate Canady
 (Please sign the "Friendship Pad" and make a note if you have a hymn request or information for the Pastor or church office.)

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Pat and Mary Marsh
Liturgy of the Joy Candle
Scripture: Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11

Introit "Three Candles Are Lit" (Kirkpatrick) Chancel Choir

***Call to Worship** (Philippians 4:4-5; Isaiah 61:1-2a; Luke 4:18-19) Kate Canady

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.

People: Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.

Leader: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me;

People: He has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted,

Leader: To proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners;

All: To proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

*Indicates standing for those who are able.



*Passing of the Peace

Leader: May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Please share the peace of Christ with those around you.

*Hymn

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

8

*Call to Confession

* Prayer of Confession (Unison)

O God of grace and power, You call us to live in unexpected ways, performing unexpected tasks of sacrificial love. We confess that we do not always welcome Your surprises or greet with joy Your unexpected calling. We prefer the familiar, the comfortable, the usual. Forgive us, O God, and bring to birth in us a new openness to Your unexpected presence and calling. Let us, with Mary and Joseph, obediently give ourselves to Your purpose. By Your great love, power, and majesty, rule in our hearts as we live Your message of love and grace to everyone, goodwill to all people. In the name of our Lord Jesus, our sole Savior.

(time of silent confession)

*Assurance of Pardon

(1 Timothy 1:15; 2 Corinthians 5:17)

Leader: Hear the good news! Christ Jesus entered the world to rescue sinners.

People: If anyone is in Christ, he or she becomes a new person altogether.

Leader: The past is finished and gone, everything has become fresh and new. Being in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*All Sing

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel. Amen.

Anthem

"Advent Echo Carol" (Beall)

Chancel Choir

A Time for Young Christians

(Fifth grade and up, please remain in worship)

Connie Crafton

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

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.

Old Testament Reading

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Page 877, OT Pew Bible

Gospel Reading

Luke 3: 7-18

Page 60, NT Pew Bible

Sermon

"A Musical Timeline Of Christmas"

Dr. Michael Hooper

***Affirmation of Faith**

The Apostles' Creed (p.14, Hymnal)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Offertory

"Watchman, Tell Us Of The Night" (arr.Parry)

Dr. Michael Hooper

***Doxology**

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 Dedication**Hymn**

"Away In A Manger"

25

***Benediction**

(Romans 15:13)

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

***Benediction Response**

"On Jordan's Bank The Baptist's Cry" (arr Woodward)

Chancel Choir

Taking out the Light of Christ

Kate Marsh

Postlude

"When God Is A Child" (Carter)

Dr. Michael Hooper



Love in Action

Time, Talents & Service Commitments for 2026

If you have not filled one out yet, Please do so.

They are in the back of the Sanctuary.

Thank you very much for your service in His name!

It's not too late to turn in your Pledge card for 2026

Pledge cards are extremely helpful when determining the budget for the upcoming year. If you haven't turned one in yet please call or text Lisa to let her know your pledge or there are pledge cards in the back of the sanctuary you can fill out and drop in the offering plate. **Thank you all for all you do!**



5 cents-a-meal
Donation is coming up on
Sunday, December 21st



**Bring your Good Samaritan
donations on Sunday,
December 14th**

Children's Choir

Christmas Performance

Mark your calendars to see them perform
During the worship service on Sunday, December 21st.

Special Special SPECIAL thanks to our
Director of Music, Michael Hooper, and
Lea Anne Windham for stepping up
to lead our precious children in song.



MERRY CHRISTMAS

December 24, 2024 (Wednesday)

4:00pm Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols Worship Service

This will be a sweet and simple service lasting no longer than 40 minutes.

This is perfect for those who do not like to drive after dark or families with young children. Communion will not be served during this service. There will not be a sermon although this service will have Time for Young Christians. The choir will not sing.

7:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Worship Service

Join us for our traditional Christmas Eve service with communion. This year we will end our evening together with our church's tradition of singing Silent Night as we depart the sanctuary.



We need Volunteers! 2 Ushers & 1 Hall Monitor
For 4:00pm and 7:00pm Services on Christmas Eve.
If you would like to volunteer, Please call or e-mail
Church office (931) 684-6541
First.pres.church600@gmail.com

Poinsettia Dedications

Mary Brown

Two poinsettias to the Glory of God

Kate and Brent Canady

One poinsettia in loving memory of Evelyn and Bud McGrew

One poinsettia in loving memory of Harvey Canady
and in honor of Ann Canady

The Emerson, Hutto, and Turner families

One poinsettia in honor of Helen Garner

One poinsettia in honor of Trena and Bailey Little

MA Higgs

In honor of Alben and Mary Ruth Simmons

Cathy and Jim Ikard

One poinsettia in loving memory of Cathy's parents

One poinsettia in loving memory of Jim's parents

Debbie Kee

In loving memory of David Kee

Candy Magee

Two poinsettias to the Glory of God

Katherine and Rob Marsh

One poinsettia in honor of Mary and Pat Marsh

One poinsettia in honor of Kathy and Bill Rieder

Ginger Shofner

In memory of John, Betty, and Chris Shofner

Lori and James Smith

One poinsettia in honor of our parents

One poinsettia in honor of our children

Willie and Debby Snell

One poinsettia in loving memory of our parents

One poinsettia in honor of our boys

Pat Thomas

In honor of my children, Ashley Jennings and Kyle Thomas,
And their sweet families

*Those who have donated flowers are welcome to take them home
following the worship service on Sunday, December 21st or
you may wait to take them home following
the Christmas Eve service you attend.*

The congregation appreciates the gift of the
beautiful Christmas wreaths
which adorn the doors of the church
given by the Matusek Family



CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

The Christmas Joy Offering provides assistance to current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need, and develops our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.



The Christmas Joy Offering is one of four annual special offerings. The church-wide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) play an important role in defining what it means to be a connectional church in the 21st century, bringing together the diversity of the PC (USA) to focus and take faith-based action on shared concerns. The Special Offerings offer opportunities for partnership, learning, and witness and they profoundly affect the life of the church as a collective witness to Jesus Christ's love for the whole church.

WAYS TO GIVE

- Through your congregation
- Donate by credit card online at pcusa.org/christmasjoy
- Text CHRISTMASJOY to 91999 to give or visit pcusa.org/christmasjoy



Holy God,
you have prepared the way
for your perfect gift,
Immanuel, God with us.

Help us to be
your faithful disciples
by offering ourselves
to serve those in need;
through Jesus Christ,
your Word made flesh.

Amen.

CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we reflect God's perfect gift to us.

50% of our gifts smooth the path for current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need.

Born and raised a Presbyterian in South Korea, Rev. Jinho Kim's life was changed when he met a missionary in the 1970s whose ministry focused on campus and youth evangelism with Spirit-filled worship and discipleship training. A few years later, his youth group was going to sing Christmas carols to marginalized unwed mothers. He was inspired "by faith," to create a melody for the verse from Psalm 117, "The steadfast love of the Lord is great toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever," which is still being sung a generation later. After retirement, having earned only a modest income throughout his years of service, Jinho felt the Psalmist's love upon him, receiving help through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, made possible by gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering.



"The Lord said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive. I thank all my brothers and sisters in the PC(USA), whose generosity through the Christmas Joy Offering made the gifts I now receive possible."

—Rev. Jinho Kim

50% of your gifts prepare students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

High school senior Søren Briggs is the youngest ruling elder to be ordained at First Presbyterian Church in his hometown of Albuquerque, New Mexico. His home church and the Presbyterian-related Menaul School, with its historic emphasis on ministry as a potential career, titled "Called to Serve," will help students appreciate the understanding of "vocation" as they explore together how their vocation plays out in everyday life. Søren sees the class as helping him cultivate good values: how to live your life as a kind person and to live your faith.



"To be able to motivate young people into the church through schools like Menaul is why people should give to the Christmas Joy Offering."

—Søren Briggs

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY...
FOR WHEN WE ALL DO A LITTLE,
IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!





November 30, 2025 (Sunday) 1st Sunday of Advent “Hope”
10:00am Worship Service

December 7, 2025 (Sunday) 2nd Sunday of Advent “Peace”
10:00am Worship Service.

Annual FPC Christmas Lunch after worship service.

Sponsored by Presbyterian Women.

Bring a main dish, side or dessert. Drinks will be provided.

December 9, 2025 (Tuesday)

Presbyterian Women Christmas Party

6:00PM - Held at the home of Kate Canady, dinner will be provided.

Bring \$20-\$25 gift for dirty Santa exchange.

No reservations required.

December 14, 2025 (Sunday) 3rd Sunday of Advent “Joy”
10:00am Worship Service

December 21, 2025 (Sunday) 4th Sunday of Advent “Love”

10:00am Our Special Christmas in Music Sunday led by our Director of Music Dr. Michael Hooper and featuring our Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir, and Children’s Choir.

Special Christmas Joy Offering

December 24, 2024 (Wednesday)

4:00pm Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols Worship Service.

This will be a sweet and simple service lasting no longer than 40 minutes.

Perfect for those who do not like to drive after dark or families with young children.

7:00pm Traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve Service with Communion Service.

December 28, 2024 (Sunday) 10:00am Hymn Sing Sunday

Please don't hesitate to contact the church office with any questions.



Dear Members of First Presbyterian Church,

As we continue the search for our next Pastor and discern the future direction of our congregation, we will be using a **Congregation Assessment Tool (CAT)**—an online survey designed to give us a clear picture of our church's strengths, challenges, and priorities. Your participation is essential to this process.

The CAT will provide key indicators of our congregation's vitality and will help the Session identify the leadership qualities most needed in our next Pastor, as well as opportunities for growth within our ministry.

Assessment Process

Accessing the Assessment:

During the week of **November 24, 2025**, we will email link to the online survey. Paper copies will be available through the church office, along with a self-addressed stamped envelope for those who prefer a printed version.

Completing the Survey:

The assessment will take approximately **30–45 minutes**. Please set aside adequate time to respond thoughtfully.

If your household shares an email address, ensure that **each adult and young adult** completes an **individual** survey, as every person's input is important.

Confidentiality:

All responses are **strictly anonymous**. There is no mechanism for identifying individual respondents, allowing you to answer with complete honesty.

Timeline:

The assessment will remain open to be completed at your discretion. **It will close on December 30, 2025**; please complete it by this date.

After the assessment has concluded, the Session will receive the comprehensive “Vital Signs” reports in preparation for our interpretation session, where we will review and discuss the findings.

Your thoughtful participation will greatly assist in shaping the future of First Presbyterian Church. We appreciate your commitment to this important work and ask that you look for the assessment link arriving in your inbox soon.

Sincerely,

The Session of First Presbyterian Church
Shelbyville, Tennessee

Calendar

Sunday, December 14, 2025

Sunday School 9:00am
Youth Breakfast Club 9:00am
Worship Service 10:00am
Bring Your Good Sam Donations
3rd Day of Advent - Joy

Monday, December 15, 2025

Cub Scout Meeting 6:00pm
Session Meeting 5:30pm

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

AA Meeting 7:00pm

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Work Day for Parent's Day Out
Chancel Choir 6:00pm

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Parent's Day Out Open House -
Sweets for Santa
AA Meeting 7:00pm

Friday, December 19, 2025

AA Meeting 5:00pm

Sunday, December 21, 2025

Sunday School 9:00am
Youth Breakfast Club 9:00am
Special Christmas in Music 10:00am
4th Sunday of Advent - Love
Special Christmas Joy Offering
Bring your 5-cents-a-meal donations



Dec 16 Christy Jensen

Dec 18 Edwin Holcombe

Dec 16 Tony Matusek

Dec 18 Robert Windham

Dec 17 Emily Anne Windham

Dec 20 Mary Marsh



If you would like to add someone to the Prayer List,
please call the church office at (931)684-6541
or send an email to first.pres.church600@gmail.com.



LCDR Andy Canady (Member)

Airman Chase Blanton (Member)

Airman Caleb Fletcher (Grandson of Susan Spears)

Pvt. Oscar Taylor Helen Garner's Great-Great Nephew

Airman Anna Powell (Melanie Hamilton's Great Niece)

Those in Military Service and their families.

Those who are serving abroad and at home.



PRAYER REQUESTS

8

Frieda Bone (Member)

Mary Brown (Member)

Kay Dennis (Friend of the Jim & Cathy Ikard)

Patricia Farrar (Daughter of Pat Thompson)

Carol Filczer (Angie's Sister/Church Secretary)

Bill Garner (Brother-in-law of Helen Garner)

Cliff Garrard (Member)

Alan Gill (Brother In Law of Belinda Craig)

Emily Hall (Daughter of Dr. Carol Magnusson)

Edwin Holcombe (Member)

Fred Hunt (Member)

JD Idso (Deann Idso's Son)

Cathy Ikard (Member)

Mike Jenne (Raychelle Flannagan's Brother In-Law)

Anna Kaiser (Friend of Wayne & Charlotte Williams)

Tony Matusek (Member)

Chris & Savanna Morton (Family & Friends of Debby & Willie Snell)

Joe Powell (Relative of Melanie Hamilton)

Baker Smith (Son of Lauren & Gage Smith/Grandson of Kathy & Richard Smith)

Barbara Singleton (Member)

Bill & Pat Singleton (Friend of Cathy Haithcote)

Barbara Steinke (Member)

Jeremiah Thomas (Grandson of Pat Thomas)

Bob Wilson (Friend of Susan Spears)

Kaemey Young (Daughter of Turner Family/Friend)



♥ SERVERS ♥

Ushers/Greeters
Melanie Hamilton
Rob Marsh
Roy & Lisa Turner
Lay Liturgist
Kate Canady

Sunday, December 14, 2025 "Joy"

A Time for Young Christians
Connie Crafton
Hall Monitor
Raychelle Flannagan
Acolyte
Kate Marsh

Children's Church
Charlotte, Christy, Melanie
Nursery
Katherine Marsh
Advent Reader
Pat & Mary Marsh

Ushers/Greeters
Michal Dobson
James & Lori Smith
Charlotte Williams
Lay Liturgist
Pat Marsh

Sunday, December 21, 2025 "Love"

A Time for Young Christians
Kate Canady
Hall Monitor
Ginny Saylor
Acolyte

Children's Church
Christy Jensen
Nursery
Debby Snell
Advent Readers
Michael & Carrie Hooper

Tuesday, December 24, 2025 4:00pm Lessons & Carols Service

Ushers/Greeters
A Time for Young Christians
Kate Canady
Hall Monitor

Advent Readers: **Roy, Lisa, Grey, & Benjamin Turner**

Tuesday, December 24, 2025 7:00pm Christmas Eve Service

Ushers/Greeters
Hall Monitor
Nursery

Communion Prep: **Pat Thompson & Brooke Anne Farrar**

Communion Servers: **Kate Canady & James Smith**

Advent Readers: **Willie & Debby Snell**

Sunday, December 28, 2025

Ushers/Greeters
Nancy June Brandon
Helen Garner
Terry & Ginny Saylor
Lay Liturgist
Charlotte Williams

A Time for Young Christians
Connie Crafton
Hall Monitor
Jim Ikard
Acolyte

Children's Church
Katherine Marsh
Nursery
Raychelle Flannagan
Flowers



If you know of someone that is homebound and they would like to receive communion. Please contact the church office.



Barbara Steinke, former member of First Presbyterian Church, passed away peacefully at her residence in Shelbyville, TN on November 24, 2025.

A visitation to celebrate Barbara's life was held on December 9, 2025, at Countryside Funeral Home & Crematory of Bartlett in Bartlett, IL. Funeral services followed on December 10, 2025, at 10:00 am at the same location.

May God's peace comfort her family and friends.