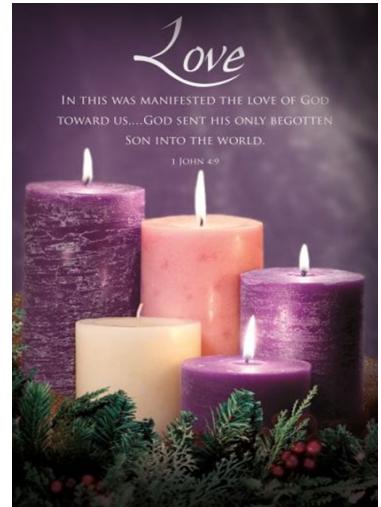




**Service for the Lord's Day**  
**4th Sunday of Advent**  
**Love**  
**December 21, 2025**



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

And let there be **peace**; **Peace** to every nation  
 Let there be **hope**; For all the world to see  
 Let there be **love**; And **joy** to all the children  
 Let there be **peace** on earth  
 For you and me.

Song by Carrie Underwood

**Chiming of the Hour**

**Prelude** "Bring A Torch, Jeanette, Isabella" (arr. Thompson) **Bell Choir**

**Bringing in the Light of Christ** **Mary Ruth Marsh**

**Welcome and Announcements** **Pat Marsh**

(Please sign the Friendship Pad and make a note if you have information you would like to share with or a question you have for the church office.)

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

**Liturgy of the Love Candle** **Dr. Michael & Carrie Hooper**

**Scripture: Titus 2: 11-14**

**Introit** "Four Candles Are Lit" (Kirkpatrick) **Chancel Choir**

**\*Call to Worship (Isaiah 35:10)** **Pat Marsh**

Leader: The ransomed of the Lord will return.  
 People: They will enter Zion with singing;  
 Leader: Everlasting joy will crown their heads.  
 People: Gladness and joy will overtake them,  
 All: And sorrow and sighing will flee away.

**\*Hymn** "O Come, All Ye Faithful" **# 21**

**\*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.

### \*Call to Confession

#### \* Prayer of Confession (Unison)

God of all hope, we rejoice in Your sure promise to send us a ruler and a shepherd. Our Shepherd lifts up the lowly and fills the hungry; yet we strive to promote ourselves and guarantee our own welfare.

We have denied His power and disbelieved Your promise. In mercy, do not scatter us in our pride.

Do not send us away empty. Teach us to embrace Your way with us, Your will for us, and Your Spirit in us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

(time of silent confession)

### \*Assurance of Pardon

(Matthew 1:20-21)

Leader: An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

People: She will bear a son, and you are to name Him Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

Leader: We believe the angel's good news: Jesus saves us from our sins. In Jesus Christ, our sins 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

"The Little Drummer Boy" (arr. Althouse)

Chancel Choir

Karisa Matusek on Piano, Dr. Michael Hooper on Snare Drum

### Children's Choir

"Angels We Have Heard On High" (arr. Manor)

### New Testament Reading

Luke 1:5-38

Page 56-57, NT Pew Bible

### The Offertory

"Silent Night" (arr. Rogers)

Dr. Michael Hooper on Organ

Karisa Matusek on Piano

### \*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

*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.*

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

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

The Apostles' Creed (p.14, Hymnal)

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.

**Anthem**

"We Are Three Kings" (arr. Cota)

Bell Choir

**\*Benediction**

(from 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13)

**Now may our God and Father Himself and our Lord Jesus, direct our way ... and may the Lord make us increase and abound in love to one another and to all people, so that He may establish our hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.**

**\*Benediction Response**

"It Came Upon A Midnight Clear" (Willis)

Chancel Choir

**Taking out the Light of Christ**

Mary Ruth Marsh

**Postlude**

"Of The Father's Love Begotten" (arr. Baker)

Dr. Michael Hooper



**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!**

**Stewardship Is...**



**Love in Action**

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

Pledge cards are extremely helpful when determining the budget for the up-coming 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!**

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.



### *Mark your calendars Hymn Sing Sunday*

**Please join us on Sunday, December 28th  
as we worship God through song  
as well as learn the origins  
of some of our favorite hymns.**

### *Come and Make A Joyful Noise Unto the Lord!!!*



During the coldest days of the year, we can make a difference in the lives of our vulnerable friends on the street.

**The Dangerous Weather Warming Shelter**  
needs our help now to protect people from exposure-related injuries and death.

Please bring any of the following items (new or gently used) for collection to the designated table in Fellowship Hall by January 4th:

Coats	Gloves	Socks
Winter Hats	Hooded Sweatshirts	



## 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 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

### Monday, December 22, 2025

Finance & Stewardship Committee  
1:00pm

Meeting in the ELA Classroom  
Cub Scout Meeting 6:00pm

### Tuesday, December 23, 2025

AA Meeting 7:00pm

### Wednesday, December 24, 2025

Office Closed  
Christmas Eve Services  
Lessons & Carols 4:00pm  
Candlelight Communion Service  
7:00pm

### Thursday, December 25, 2025

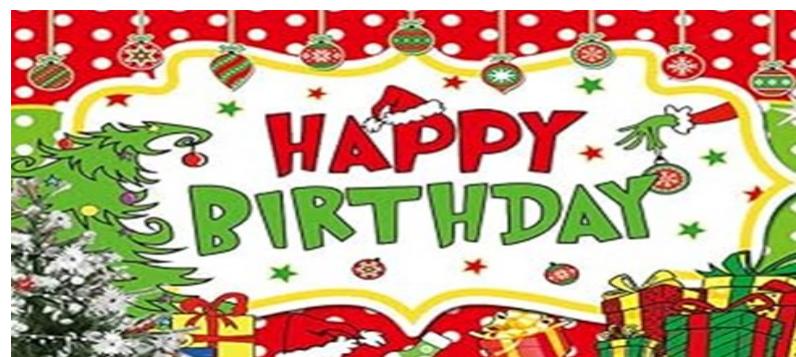
Office Closed  
Merry Christmas!

### Friday, December 26, 2025

Office Closed  
AA Meeting 5:00pm

### Sunday, December 28, 2025

Sunday School 9:00am  
Youth Breakfast Club 9:00am  
Hymn Sing Worship Service 10:00am



**Dec 21 Dana Edwards**

**Dec 23 Karisa Matusek**

**Dec 21 Lewis Obenchain** **Dec 26 Sarah Flannagan**

**Dec 21 Michal Dobson** **Dec 27 Blair Turner**



If you would like to add someone to the Prayer List,  
please call the church office at (931)684-6541



**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.**



**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)

**Ginny Saylor** (Member)

**Barbara Singleton** (Member)

**Bill & Pat Singleton** (Friend of Cathy Haithcote)

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

**Family & Friends of Barbara Steinke** (Member)

**Jeremiah Thomas** (Grandson of Pat Thomas)

**Bob Wilson** (Friend of Susan Spears)

**Kaemey Young** (Daughter of Turner Family/Friend)



# ♥ SERVERS ♥

## Sunday, December 21, 2025 "Love"

Ushers/Greeters	A Time for Young Christians	Children's Church
<b>Michal Dobson</b>	<b>Kate Canady</b>	<b>Christy Jensen</b>
<b>James &amp; Lori Smith</b>	Hall Monitor	Nursery
<b>Charlotte Williams</b>	<b>Ginny Saylor</b>	<b>Debby Snell</b>
Lay Liturgist	Acolyte	Advent Readers
<b>Pat Marsh</b>	<b>Mary Ruth Marsh</b>	<b>Michael &amp; Carrie Hooper</b>

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

Ushers/Greeters	A Time for Young Christians
<b>Brent Canady</b>	<b>Kate Canady</b>
<b>Kate Canady</b>	Hall Monitor
<b>Sarah Natale</b>	
Advent Readers: <b>Roy, Lisa, Grey, &amp; Benjamin Turner</b>	

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

Ushers/Greeters	Hall Monitor
<b>Brent Canady</b>	
<b>Kate Canady</b>	
<b>Sarah Natale</b>	
Communion Prep: <b>Pat Thompson &amp; Brooke Anne Farrar</b>	
Communion Servers: <b>Kate Canady &amp; James Smith</b>	
Advent Readers: <b>Willie &amp; Debby Snell</b>	

## Sunday, December 28, 2025

Ushers/Greeters	A Time for Young Christians	Children's Church
<b>Nancy June Brandon</b>	<b>Connie Crafton</b>	<b>Katherine Marsh</b>
<b>Helen Garner</b>	Hall Monitor	Nursery
<b>Terry &amp; Ginny Saylor</b>	<b>Jim Ikard</b>	<b>Raychelle Flannagan</b>
Lay Liturgist	Acolyte	Flowers
<b>Charlotte Williams</b>		



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



**5 cents-a-meal**

Bring your donations on  
Sunday, December 21st