

# First Presbyterian Church

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## *Celebrating 175 Years*



December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025

We welcome you not as strangers but as a part of God's family! We are a community of faith that gathers to praise our Lord and Savior, serve others, search for answers, and enjoy the fellowship of one another. We hope today you will be challenged and discover encouragement. The peace of Christ be with you!

## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025

### GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

*Worship begins with the Prelude. Please use this time for **silent** preparation.*

PRELUDE

J.S Bach

“Wachet Auf, Ruft Uns Die Stimme”

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Paul White

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

“O Come, Let Us Adore Him”

CALL TO WORSHIP (Rom. 13:11- 12(NIV)

Leader: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber,  
People: *Because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.*  
Leader: The night is nearly over; the day is almost here.  
People: *So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.*  
Unison: *Let us worship God!*

LIGHTENING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Adult Sunday School Class

\*HYMN OF ADORATION # 88

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

*God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ You came to us as light shining in the darkness. But we confess that we do not always welcome Your light! Instead of being transformed, we conform to the ways of our world. Instead of seeking Your will, we stubbornly cling to our old ways and habits, even when they pull us away from You.*

*Forgive us Lord, and bathe us in the light of Jesus Christ throughout this Advent season. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.*

\*DECLARATION OF PARDON

\*GLORIA PATRI

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen, amen.*

A MOMENT WITH OUR CHILDREN

\*HYMN OF PREPARATION # 143

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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.*

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-11, page 640

ANTHEM

Don Besig

“Advent Hymn”

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 3:1-12, page 2

Leader: The Word of the Lord.  
People: *Thanks be to God.*

SERMON

The Rev. David Dudley

“Filling In Potholes”

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Page 35

“Apostles’ Creed”

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

Finnish Folk Tune

“Lost in the Night”

\*DOXOLOGY

Hymn # 606

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SENDING GOD’S WORD INTO THE WORLD

\*HYMN OF COMMITMENT # 97

“Watchman, Tell Us of the Night”

\*CHARGE AND BLESSING

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

Traditional

“Danish Amen”

\*POSTLUDE

Luke Tenneson

“Toccata on *Hark the Herald*”

*\*Please stand if able.*

SERVICE FOR THE LORD’S DAY

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025

GATHERING AROUND GOD’S WORD

*Worship begins with the Prelude. Please use this time for **silent** preparation.*

PRELUDE

Patricia Lou Harris

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

## GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

## CHORAL INTROIT

J.S. Bach

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

## CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive) Isaiah

Leader: Who has believed what we have heard?

People: *And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?*

Leader: He was despised and rejected by others; a man suffering and acquainted with infirmity.

People: *Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases.*

Leader: But he was wounded for our transgressions and crushed for our iniquities.

People: *Upon him was the punishment that made us whole.*

Unison: *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

## LIGHTENING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Presbyterian Women

## \*HYMN OF ADORATION # 83

“Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

## \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

*Lord God, You are always the God of surprises and too often we want You to follow a path that makes us more comfortable. We do not want to put You first in everything we do. We do not want to love You with all that we are and all that we can be. We do not want to love those around us whom we do not like and we certainly do not want to love our enemies – those who have done harm to us or those who we love. We want revenge and suffering for them and we do not want to practice mercy and forgiveness towards them. The Savior whom You have sent to us, whose birth we celebrate at Christmas, is not the savior we want. Forgive us for trying to make Him more in our image and less in Your image. This we pray in the name of Jesus, Your Christ. Amen*

## \*DECLARATION OF PARDON

## \*GLORIA PATRI

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen, amen.*

## A MOMENT WITH OUR CHILDREN

## \*HYMN OF PREPARATION # 114

“Away In a Manger”

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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.*

## PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 53:1-7, page 683

ANTHEM

“Come, Emmanuel, Come”

Ruth Elaine Schram

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Luke 2:1-20, page 58

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

SERMON

“Born Into Our Midst as a Baby”

The Rev. Dr. Tom Currie

## RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

“Apostles’ Creed”

Page 35

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

“Lost in the Night”

Finnish Folk Tune

\*DOXOLOGY

Hymn # 606

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## SENDING GOD’S WORD INTO THE WORLD

\*HYMN OF COMMITMENT # 69

“I, the Lord of Sea and Sky”

\*CHARGE AND BLESSING

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

“Danish Amen”

Traditional

\*POSTLUDE

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

Laurentius Laurenti

*\*Please stand if able.*

## **Opportunities for the Week of November 30<sup>th</sup> – December 7<sup>th</sup>**

Today	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service / Rev. Tom Currie
Monday:	6:30 p.m.	PW Christmas Dinner
Tuesday:	6:15 p.m.	Men’s Group
Wednesday:	9:45 a.m.	PW Bible Study
	11:00 a.m.	PW CT Meeting
	5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Saturday:	7:30 a.m.	Robbin’s Food Bank

Sunday:            9:45 a.m.    Sunday School  
                     11:00 a.m.    Worship Service / Rev. David Dudley  
                     3:00 p.m.    Youth Group- Christmas Caroling (All are invited)

### **Announcements**

Please welcome our own Rev. Dr. Tom Currie as he brings forth our message today.

Today is the first day of Advent and we invite you to bring a Poinsettia to decorate the church during this season. We will get them arranged and will tend to them throughout Advent. If you plan on placing a Poinsettia in honor or memory of someone, please let Sonya Potter know so that the information can be added to the bulletin during Advent.

The annual PW Christmas Dinner is scheduled for Monday, December 1, 2025, at 6:30 pm. The evening will begin with a 30- minute musical program by Robert Wilson, followed by a baked spaghetti dinner, and a visit from Santa. There is no charge for the meal, donations will be accepted for the Carthage Food Pantry. All are invited and encouraged to bring family or friends.

The deadline for our Angel tree is December 7<sup>th</sup>. Two families from Carthage Elementary School are being sponsored this year for Christmas. The Angel tree is located in the upper Narthex. Please place wrapped gifts with Angel tags on them under tree. If there are any questions, please contact Marie Monroe or Gail Hardin.

The PW will be collecting school supplies for Carthage Elementary School during the month of December. Needed items are: Lysol spray; Lysol wipes; glue sticks; small boxes of crayons; Kleenex/tissues. A designated tote will be in the Family Life Center for your donations.