



# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**FIRST**  

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**PRESBYTERIAN**  

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**CHURCH**

Our mission is to know Christ, serve Him,  
and make Him known.

~ **Gathering Before the Word** ~

**Welcome**

Pastor Eddie

**Prelude**

*Birthday of a King*

Neidlinger

Joe Morris, tenor; Valarie Alexandra Valois, piano

**Lighting of the Candles**

Evie Sechler & Ingrid Townsend

**Choral Call to Worship No. 480**

*Wait for the Lord*

Chancel Choir

**Lighting of the Love Candle**

The Chris Lowder Family

**\*Hymn of Praise No. 61**

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

VENI EMMANUEL

**\*Prayer of Adoration**

**Prayer of Confession**

Holy Lord, we come to you as captives to sins like selfishness, pride, anxiousness, and the desire for control. Yet You love us too much to let us remain captives. You sent Your one and only Son to die for our sins, so that we may become heirs of Your heavenly kingdom. And out of His great love, He submitted to Your perfect will. Lord, let Your Spirit so permeate our lives that we no longer live as prisoners and slaves; but allow us to see as You see and love as You love, so that all who meet us will know we are Yours. For we pray in the name above all names, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Silent Prayers of Confession**

**Assurance of the Gospel**

Romans 5:8-9

But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by His blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through Him.

**\*Hymn of Advent No. 757**

*O Word of God Incarnate*

MUNICH

## ~ Proclaiming the Word of God ~

### Concerns and Celebrations of Our Church Family

Word with Our Children

Michelle Walker

Offering and Dance of Love *Light of the World* Daigle/Duncan/Mabury  
GraceFull Movements Dance Ministry

\*Scripture Reading

Sermon

Pastor Eddie

## ~ Responding to the Word of God ~

\*Sending Song *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* See insert

\*Prayer and Benediction

\*Postlude *Advent Improvisation* VAV

\*All who are able, please stand.

CCLI# 222113

welcome

We are delighted that you are worshiping with us this morning, and hope you find today meaningful and refreshing. Visitors are asked to fill out a Visitor Information Card, located in the pew, and place it in the offering plate. Prayer Requests may be noted on the reverse side of the card.

**Children's Activity Bags** are available for children aged 3 to grade 5. They include a children's bulletin related to the Sunday sermon, crayons, and scrap paper.

**Children's Church** is available for children 4 years through 2nd grade. After the "Word with our Children", they will be escorted to their classroom in the Nursery.

**A Nursery** is available for newborns through age 4. It is located in the Educational Building. If you need assistance or directions, an usher would be happy to help you!



**Our annual Candlelight Christmas Eve Service will be this Wednesday at 5:30pm.** We will celebrate the birth of our Savior with lessons and teaching from scripture and music of praise and worship, including vocal ensembles and instrumentalists. All are welcome, so please invite guests to join us!



**The Building on the Cornerstone campaign has raised over \$207,000 for improvements to the church's outdoor property, including a recent generous grant!** A landscaping and hardscaping company is currently completing a design for the project, and work is anticipated to begin in the late winter or early spring. There is still time to contribute if you wish, just write a

check to the church with 'Cornerstone' on the memo line or give through the church website.

## **The Session has approved our church budget for 2026**

Please see the Thursday email for a link to the 2026 Budget Report. Printed copies are available for you to pick up in the Narthex.



**Adult Sunday School**

There will be **NO** Sunday School next Sunday, December 28,, for any ages.

**There are three Bible Reading Plans available for you in 2026!** The plans are designed to encourage daily Bible Reading and time meditating on God's Word.

- **The 2026 Bible Reading Plan** focuses on the New Testament, with Old Testament readings from Psalms, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes.
- **The Bible in a Year – Mixed Readings** takes you through the entire Bible in one year. Each week, you will read from an Epistle, Old Testament Law, Old Testament History, Psalms, Poetry, Prophecy, and a Gospel.
- **The Bible in a Year – Chronological Plan** takes you through the entire Bible in one year. It is arranged chronologically, so you read events, psalms, and letters in the order in which they occurred.



Printed "bookmarks" with these plans may be found in the Narthex. You can also access them from our website.





## Dear Eddie, Michelle & First Presbyterian friends,

Thank you so much for the many calls, texts, cards, offers to help, and especially prayers during the last couple of weeks. When we started attending this past spring, we felt the warm and caring atmosphere of the church. But, we have been so humbled by the thoughts and prayers for us since my accident, surgery, and recovery. We certainly have felt the prayers and we are thankful to be a part of First Presbyterian. Thank you for your continued prayers. **Love, Julie & Doug Doby**



## Linda's Closet is open the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays

The closet will be closed until January 5 and will reopen Tuesday, January 6.

Current needs:

- boys clothes, sizes 2-16
- costume jewelry
- new underwear for all

**See Sue Maiocchi if you can volunteer.**



## Thank you for donating to the First Pres Blessing Fence!

See Sam or Kay McAllister if you can help with current needs:

- small cosmetic bags
- feminine products
- new/gently-used towels



## **PRAYER CONCERNS**

Help us keep Prayer Concerns current with weekly updates.  
Email the church or note on a prayer card & place in the offering plate.

### **CHURCH FAMILY**

- Peggy Gibson and family - loss of Frank
- Debby Baker - health concerns
- Vicki Morris - upcoming knee replacements on December 23rd
- Tony Rary - multiple myeloma treatments
- Regina Starnes - health concerns
- Steve Goodnight - recovering at home
- Bonnie Goodnight - caring for her father, Lester Watts
- Julie Doby - broken hip pocket and femur

### **FAMILY & FRIENDS OF CHURCH**

- Diane Belotti's brother, Robert Hudak - recovery from spine surgery
- Thomas "Bran" James (friend of Pam Hooks) - 10-yr-old - stem cell treatment in January
- Rachel Duval (Sam McAllister's granddaughter) - cancer
- Kim Stipe (Kay McAllister's daughter) - cancer treatments in January

### **HOMEBOUND**

- Barbara Hancock - Home
- Loretta Young - Five Oaks
- Linda Bost - Best of Care



# This Week @ FIRST PRES

**Sunday, December 21**

**4th Sunday of Advent**

9:30am - Morning Coffee

10:00am - Sunday School (Caroling in Fellowship Hall)

11:00am - Worship Service

**Tuesday, December 23**

12:00pm - NA

**Wednesday, December 24**

5:30pm - Candlelight Christmas Eve Service (Prelude begins at 5:15pm)

**Thursday, December 25**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

12:00pm - NA

**Next Sunday, December 28**

**10 Cents A Meal**

(No Sunday School Classes)

11:00am - Worship Service

## SERVANTS

**Elder Lock-Up:** Sharon Cranford

**Children's Message This Week:**

Michelle Walker

**NO Children's Message Next Week**

**Children's Church This Week:** Amelia Caskey

**Children's Church next week:** Jenny Sparks

**Acolytes This Week:** Evie Sechler & Ingrid Townsend

**Acolytes Next Week:** Kinsley Culp & Mary-Gray Petersen

**Nursery:** Amelia Caskey

**Nursery Next Week:** Jenny Sparks

**Ushers:** Amy Hurst, Chris Lowder, Mike Lowder, Sam McAllister

**Ushers Next Week:** Mal McDaniel, Jill & Phil McLain, Tony Rary

**Greeters:** Cookie Hamilton & Dave Argabrite

## FINANCIALS FOR NOVEMBER

**YTD Income** \$281,973.05

**YTD Expenses** \$281,666.54

**YTD Budget** \$292,984.12

**Last week's attendance:** 12/14/2025

**Worship AM - 104**

**Sunday School - 48**

# SERMON NOTES

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION - ACTIVE ELDERS

**Raegan Swaringen**

**Sharon Cranford**

**Tony Rary**

**Cookie Hamilton**

**Chris Lowder**

**Ken Sparks**

**Sue Maiocchi**

**Phil McLain**

**Jeff Barnhardt, Clerk**

**Pastor Eddie Spencer, Moderator**



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