



First Presbyterian Church

Announcements and Things to Know

WE'RE COLLECTING pancake mix and syrup to donate to the food pantry during the month of December.

THE NORTH EAST FOOD PANTRY is collecting Giant Eagle recycling cloth bags. If you have extras that you'd like to donate, place them in the basket in the Assembly Room.

SIGN UP TO HOST COFFEE HOUR. All you need to do is make the coffee and drinks, set out the necessary supplies and "host."

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SERVICES



Tuesday, December 24 at 7:30 PM

Join us for our annual **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**. Pastor Gregg will share a special message, "Believe in Jesus," and our Music Ministry will fill the air with joyful music.

Wednesday, December 25 at 10:30 AM

Pastor Gregg will lead us in a special **Christmas Day Communion Service** filled with favorite carols.

Sunday, December 29 at 10:30 AM

End 2024 and usher in 2025 by joining us for a special Sunday Worship Service filled with readings and carols.

PLEASE SUBMIT ALL BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS BY WEDNESDAYS. Please email Pastor Gregg or Jane.



Third Sunday of Advent

First Presbyterian Church

25 West Main Street | North East, PA 16428
(814) 725-8641 | FPCNE.ORG | Follow us on Facebook

WELCOME



WELCOME TO ALL. You enter this church not as a stranger, but as a child of God, joining in worship with our Christian family. Please take a moment to complete a Visitor/Guest Card, located in the pew racks, and place it in the collection plate at the back of the sanctuary or give directly to Pastor Gregg. We are glad you are here.

TO PREPARE FOR WORSHIP, please turn off or silence cell phones, tablets, and all other wireless electronic devices upon entering the sanctuary.

FOR FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN, nursery care is available for infants and young children through pre-K.

ASSISTANCE FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED is available. Please contact a member of the media team to use the assisted listening devices.

RESTROOMS are located across from the office area and down the hallway in the Christian Education wing.

PARKING IS AVAILABLE in the designated church parking spaces on the south and east side of the church, as well as street parking. The municipal building parking lot west of the church is also available on nights and Sunday mornings.

TODAY'S LITURGICAL COLOR IS BLUE, which is used during the penitential and preparation seasons of Advent and Lent.

WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYER AND DEVOTIONAL is held on Facebook on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM (ET). Please contact Pastor Gregg directly to share any prayer requests.

CONTACT INFO YOU MIGHT NEED

- Contact Pastor Gregg anytime at (814) 460-3123 (call or text) and pastortownsend@yahoo.com.
- Contact music director Jane Livingston at (814) 504-1135 (call or text) and jlivingston@neo.rr.com.

Christ brings God's rule O Zion He comes from heaven above
His rule is peace and freedom and justice truth and love
Lift high your praise resounding for grace and joy abounding
O blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name

Fling wide your gates O Zion Your Savior's rule embrace
And tidings of salvation proclaim in every place
All lands will bow rejoicing their adoration voicing
O blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name

*** OFFERING OUR TENTH AND GIFTS BEYOND**

*** BENEDICTION AND POSTLUDE**

OFFERING OUR TENTH AND GIFTS BEYOND

1. Place your envelopes in the plates at the back of the sanctuary.
2. Give through PayPal at paypal.me/fpcne or FPCNE.ORG. Scan the QR code in the pew pocket to go right to the church's Paypal account.
3. Speak with Pastor Gregg for details on setting up direct deposit.

JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICE ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT. Our sanctuary will be filled with poinsettias, and our Music Ministry has special music planned. Pastor Gregg will conclude his series with "Believe in Home" based on Zephaniah 3:17-20. Plus we will welcome new members and celebrate the sacrament of baptism.

**All Music Used with Permission | Church Copyright License #1496394
| + Streaming License #20537695**

"Prepare the Way" CCLI Song # 1210135 Augustus Nelson | Charles P. Price | Frans Mikael Franzen © 1982, 1985 Adaptation Charles P. Price. Assigned to Hope Publishing Company | "Rejoice, Rejoice Believers" CCLI Song #736768 © Public Domain Johann Michael Haydn | Laurentius Laurentii Laurinus | Sarah Borthwick Findlater | "Here I Am to Worship" Tim Hughes CCLI Song #3266032 © 2000 Thankyou Music | "Savior of the World" © 2004 Jane Livingston

Our hope and expectation, O Jesus now appear.
Arise Thou sun so longed for above this shadowed sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead O Lord to see,
The day of earth's redemption and ever be with Thee.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Prepare the way of the Lord! Let us make our confession to God. If we look at our own lives,

we must confess the mixture of giving and selfishness, our waiting on the Lord turned to an endless rush, our missing the mark of Advent.

Lord, forgive our frantic ways and misplaced efforts. But we can also trust in God,

who still brings us salvation, who still supplies us strength, who hears our songs of gratitude, who accepts our joyful praise.

Let us all draw water from the wells of salvation. Let us shout it in church and in town:

The Lord's great name will still be praised. His saving deeds support our lives. His greatness still astounds us. The Holy One of Israel is among us. Praise the Lord and sing for joy.

—based on Isaiah 12

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.

Thanks be to God!

Zephaniah 3:14-16

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Waiting”

Chancel Choir

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

Advent means coming. We are preparing for the full coming of God's kingdom:

The nations shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

—from Isaiah 2:4, NRSV

We believe in God's justice.

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

—Isaiah 11:6, NRSV

We believe in God's peace.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

—Isaiah 35:1-2, NRSV

We believe in God's joy. Let us walk in the light of the Lord!

*** RESPONSE**

“Savior of the World”

Come Emmanuel, Savior of the world, we wait for you.

Holy Son of God, Light of our salvation love so true.

The child sent from heaven to earth will bring us life anew.

Emmanuel, Savior of the World, we wait for you.

You are the hope, a candle shining bright. You are near Emmanuel.
God with us, You are the Promised One. You, we worship and adore.
All praise to you, the everlasting Father
The Prince of Peace, You will reign forever (**Chorus**)

SCRIPTURE READING

Zephaniah 3:14-16

MESSAGE

“Believe in Joy”