



First Presbyterian Church

Announcements and Things to Know

COME BACK TODAY AT 5:00 PM FOR FUN, FILM, POPCORN, AND FELLOWSHIP. We're

showing the film "Miracle on 34th Street," which will be used as a backdrop to our Advent sermon series. Wear your favorite Christmas sweater and join in the fun.

THERE WILL BE A MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION immediately following the morning worship service on December 8 to elect a Trustee.

PICK UP AN ADVENT CALENDAR OF EVENTS at the back of the sanctuary. We have a wonderful Advent planned for you!

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO A HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE AT PASTOR GREGG & JANE'S HOME next Sunday, December 8 from 4:00-6:00 PM at 20 Gibson Street. Stop by and enjoy some fellowship and Christmas goodies.

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.

WE'RE COLLECTING pancake mix and syrup to donate to the food pantry during the month of December. Donate today or bring to our December 1 movie night.

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

JOIN OUR E-PRAYER CHAIN. Speak with Pastor Gregg or email Jane Livingston at jlivingston@neo.rr.com to be added.

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



First 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.

**What joy! What peace! Has come to us.
What hope! What help! What love!**

When ev'ry unclean thought and every sinful deed.
Was scourged upon His back and hammered through His feet.
The innocent is cursed. The guilty are released.
The punishment of God bought me peace. **(Chorus)**

Come lay your heavy load down at the Master's feet.
Your shame will be removed. Your joy will be complete.
Come crucify your pride and enter as a child.
For those who bow down low, He'll lift up to His side. **(Chorus)**

*** 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.

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"O Come O Come Emmanuel" CCLI Song # 31982 John Mason Neale | Thomas Helmore
© Words: Public Domain Music: Public Domain | "Creator of the Stars at Night" Latin hymn, 9th century
| Jane Livingston | "When Love Came Down" CCLI Song #3359138 Stuart Townend © 2001 Thankyou
Music (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing)

HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and Cup (Please eat the bread and then drink the cup.)

Prayer

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

When the fullness of time came God sent his Son, his eternal wisdom, the substance of his own glory, into this world, who took the nature of humanity from the substance of a woman, a virgin, by means of the Holy Ghost. And so was born the “just seed of David,” the “Angel of the great counsel of God,” the very Messiah promised, whom we confess and acknowledge to be Emmanuel, true God and true man, two perfect natures united and joined in one person.

We acknowledge and confess that this wonderful union between the Godhead and the humanity in Christ Jesus did arise from the eternal and immutable decree of God from which all our salvation springs and depends.

—The Scots Confession, Chapters 6 and 7

SENDING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

* CLOSING SONG

“When Love Came Down”

When Love came down to earth and made His home with men.
The hopeless found a hope. The sinner found a friend.
Not to the powerful but to the poor He came
And humble hungry hearts were satisfied again.

First Presbyterian Church

North East, PA

December 1, 2024, 10:30 A.M.

First Sunday of Advent

Jane M. Livingston, Director of Music

Gregg D. Townsend, Pastor

**Indicates to stand if you are able*

SHARING OUR JOYS, CONCERNS, AND PRAYER REQUESTS. Please fill out a Prayer Card located in the pew racks and give to Pastor Gregg before the service.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

GATHERING MUSIC

“I Still Believe in Christmas”

WELCOME

Pastor Gregg Townsend

* GREETING

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Kathy Taylor

Leader: A voice cries: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”

Congregation: As we worship today, let us prepare to welcome God’s dramatic work in our midst, in our hearts, in our community, and in all of creation. Let us worship God.

—based on Isaiah 40:3, NRSV

* OPENING PRAISE

“O Come O Come Emmanuel”

O come, O come, Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel.
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou, Dayspring come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death’s dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind.
Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease.
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Prepare the way of the Lord! Let us make our confession to God.
Arise, shine: for your light has come.

O God, we live as if the light had never defeated the darkness in the world or in us.

And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

We confess that we ignore the Christ you sent to be among us, to be in us.

For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.

We've kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season and do not yearn for his birth each moment in our waiting hearts.

And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

Lord, you came to us in the fullness of time. Forgive us for not opening our eyes to your coming. It's time that we prepare for your coming. Let the earth ring with song. Let the light break forth. Let us all rejoice in the miracle of love. Let Christ come into the fullness of our time. Amen.

—based on Isaiah 60:1-3

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Your sins are pardoned.
The penalty is paid.

Thanks be to God.

—based on Isaiah 40:1-2

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

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. Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Waiting”

Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE READING

Zephaniah 3:1-8

MESSAGE

“Believe in Justice”

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

* RESPONDING IN SONG

“Creator of the Stars of Night”



1. Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, Your peo - ple's e - ver -
2. When this old world drew on toward night. You came, but not in
3. At Your great name, O Je - sus, now All knees must bend, all
4. All praise e - ter - nal Son to Thee, Whose ad - vent sets thy



last - ing light. O Christ, Re - deem - er of us
splen - dor bright. Not as a mon - arch, but the
hearts must bow; All things on earth with one ac -
peo - ple free. Whom with the Fa - ther we a -



all. We pray You hear us when we call.
child. Of Ma - ry, blame - less moth - er mild.
cord, Like those in heaven, shall call You Lord.
dore And Spi - rit blest for - e - ver - more.