

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](https://www.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.

CHURCH NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THERE WILL BE NO BELL OR CHANCEL CHOIR

PRACTICES on Thursday, January 2. We will resume practices on Thursday, January 9. Bell Choir Practice is held on Thursdays at 6:00 PM followed by Chancel Choir Practice at 7:00 PM. We welcome new members to join.

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."

PLEASE SUBMIT ALL BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS by Wednesdays. Please email Pastor Gregg or Jane.

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First Sunday of Christmas

First Presbyterian Church

25 West Main Street | North East, PA 16428

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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 WHITE, which is used for special days of great joy.

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.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove.
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

* **CAROL** "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" #29

Go tell it on the mountain! Over the hills and everywhere!
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night.
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.
Go tell it on the mountain! Over the hills and everywhere!
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo above the earth.
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.
Go tell it on the mountain! Over the hills and everywhere!
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

Down in a lowly manger, the humble Christ was born.
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.
Go tell it on the mountain! Over the hills and everywhere!
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

* **OFFERING OUR TENTH AND GIFTS BEYOND**

* **BENEDICTION**

* **POSTLUDE**

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* CAROL “Hark The Herald Angels Sing” #31

Hark the herald angels sing. Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild. God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful all ye nations rise. Join the triumph of the skies.
With th’angelic hosts proclaim: “Christ is born in Bethlehem.”
Hark the herald angels sing! Glory to the newborn King!

Christ by highest heaven adored. Christ the everlasting Lord.
Late in time behold Him come. Offspring of the Virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see. Hail th’incarnate Deity.
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell: Jesus our Emmanuel.
Hark the herald angels sing! Glory to the newborn King!

Hail the heav’n-born Prince of Peace. Hail the sun of Righteousness.
Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by. Born that we no more may die.
Born to raise us from the earth. Born to give us second birth.
Hark the herald angels sing! Glory to the newborn King!

PASTORAL PRAYER 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.

* CAROL “Joy to the World” #40

Joy to the world! The Savior reigns. Let us our songs employ.
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground.
He comes to make His blessings flow.
Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as,
Far as the curse is found.

First Presbyterian Church

North East, PA

December 29, 2024, 10:30 A.M.

First Sunday of Christmas

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

WELCOME

Pastor Gregg Townsend

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 148

Leader: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights! Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

Congregation: Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars! Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created. He established them for ever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command! Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!
Young men and women alike, old and young together!

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven. He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the Lord!

* **CAROL** "Angels We Have Heard on High" #23

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing over the plains.
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be, which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing.
Come adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Today we celebrate that Jesus, our Lord, came to earth as a human, just like us but without sin. He came so that we who sin may be freed from sin. With the peace that comes from knowing Jesus came, let us confess our sins and be forgiven.

Congregation: God of love, all year long we pursue power and money, yet you come in weakness. All season long we covet great material gifts, when you alone offer what is lasting.

Through the work of this Lord Jesus, who comes among us full of grace and truth, forgive us, heal us, correct us. Then open our lips, that we may sing your praise with the angels, and remake our lives, that we may witness to your transforming love. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law,

O star of wonder. Star of night. Star with royal beauty bright. Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to Thy perfect light.

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain. Gold, I bring to crown Him again.
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign. **(Chorus)**

Frankincense to offer have I. Incense owns a Deity nigh.
Prayer and praising, we are raising, worshiping God Most high.
(Chorus)

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom.
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
(Chorus)

Glorious now behold Him arise. King and God and sacrifice
Alleluia! Alleluia! Sounds through the earth and skies. **(Chorus)**

LESSON Matthew 2:13-18

CAROL "What Child Is This" #53

What Child is this who laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear for sinners here, the silent Word is pleading.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh.
Come one and all to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings. Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

LESSON Matthew 2:19-23

so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons,
God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba!
Father!'

Thanks be to God!

Galatians 4:4-6

* **CAROL** "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" #28

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice.
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today.
Ox and ass before him bow and He is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice.
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this.
He hath opened Heaven's door and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice.
Now ye need not fear the grave. Jesus Christ was born to save.
Calls you on and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

* **CAROL** "The First Nowell" #56

The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay.
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far.
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.
Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Born is the King of Israel.

And by the light of that same star,
Three wise men came from country far.
To seek for a king was their intent.

And to follow the star wherever it went.
Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Born is the King of Israel.

This star drew nigh to the northwest o'er Bethlehem it took its rest.
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay.
Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Born is the King of Israel.

LESSON Isaiah 60:1-6

CAROL "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" #38

It came upon the midnight clear that glorious song of old.
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold.
Peace on the earth, good will to all from heaven's all gracious King.
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled.
And still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains, they bend on hovering wing.
And ever o'er its Babel sounds, the blessed angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load whose forms are bending low.
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow.
Look now for glad and golden hours, come swiftly on the wing,
O rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on by prophet bards foretold.
When with the ever-circling years, comes round the age of gold.
When peace shall over all the earth, its ancient splendors fling.
And the whole world give back the song, which now the angels sing.

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 2:1-12

CAROL "We Three Kings Of Orient Are" #66

We three kings of Orient are bearing gifts we traverse afar.
Field and fountain moor and mountain, following yonder star.