

## 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](https://paypal.me/fpcne) or [FPCNE.ORG](https://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

**BELL AND CHANCEL CHOIR PRACTICES** will resume 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 need and welcome new members to join. Ringing or singing in the Bell or Chancel Choirs is fun and a great way to serve the church! Speak with Jane Livingston for more information. Please note: There will be no choir practices on January 16.

**SIGN UP TO PROVIDE FLOWERS ON SUNDAY MORNING IN HONOR OR MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE OR OCCASION.** A new 2025 sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board by the church office. Please email [jlivingston@neo.rr.com](mailto:jlivingston@neo.rr.com) with bulletin details.

**JOIN OUR E-PRAYER CHAIN.** Speak with Pastor Gregg or email Jane Livingston at [jlivingston@neo.rr.com](mailto:jlivingston@neo.rr.com) to be added.

**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 Presbyterian Church

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

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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](mailto:pastortownsend@yahoo.com).
- Contact music director Jane Livingston at (814) 504-1135 (call or text) and [jlivingston@neo.rr.com](mailto:jlivingston@neo.rr.com).

He suffered and was buried, and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead, whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. And we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### SENDING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

\* **CLOSING SONG**                      “God of Our Life”

God of our life, through all the circling years, we trust in Thee.  
In all the past, through all our hopes and fears, Thy hand we see.  
With each new day, when morning lifts the veil,  
We own Thy mercies, Lord, which never fail.

God of the past, our times are in Thy hand, with us abide.  
Lead us by faith, to hope's true Promised Land. Be Thou our guide.  
With Thee to bless, the darkness shines as light,  
And faith's fair vision changes into sight.

God of the coming years, through paths unknown, we follow Thee.  
When we are strong, Lord, leave us not alone, our refuge be.  
Be Thou for us in life our daily bread,  
Our heart's true home when all our years have sped.

\* **OFFERING OUR TENTH AND GIFTS BEYOND**

\* **BENEDICTION AND POSTLUDE**

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“God Is Here” CCLI Song #1999215 Fred Pratt Green | John Zundel © 1979 Hope Publishing Company  
| “My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less” CCLI Song # 25417 Edward Mote | William Batchelder Bradbury  
© Words: Public Domain Music: Public Domain | “God of Our Life” Words: Charles Henry Purday  
Music: Hugh Thomson Kerr | © 1956 Presbyterian Board of Christian Education

His oath, His covenant, His blood support me in the whelming flood.  
When all around my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.

**On Christ the solid Rock I stand.  
All other ground is sinking sand. All other ground is sinking sand.**

When He shall come with trumpet sound,  
O may I then in Him be found.  
Dressed in His righteousness alone  
Faultless to stand before the throne. **(Chorus)**

## 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: THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten not made, being of one substance with the Father by whom all things were made; who for us all, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made human, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.

# First Presbyterian Church

North East, PA

Second Sunday After Christmas

January 5, 2025, 10:30 A.M.

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

Christy Reinsel

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

**Congregation: Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.**

Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; **we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.**

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise.

**Give thanks to him, bless his name.**

For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, **and his faithfulness to all generations.**

—Psalm 100

\* OPENING PRAISE

“God Is Here”

God is here as we your people meet to offer praise and prayer.  
May we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.

Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts.  
Wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.

Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace.  
Here are table, font and pulpit. Here the cross has central place.  
Here in honesty of preaching. Here in silence as in speech.,  
Here in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.

Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold.  
Here as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us as of old.  
Here, the servants of the Servant, seek in worship to explore.  
What it means in daily living to believe and to adore.

Lord of all of church and kingdom in an age of change and doubt.  
Keep us faithful to the gospel. Help us work Your purpose out.  
Here in this day's dedication, all we have to give receive.  
We who cannot live without You. We adore You we believe.

#### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

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.

When we allow darkness to overcome the light,  
**forgive us, Lord.**  
When we reduce Christmas to plastic and tinsel,  
**have mercy on us, Father.**  
When hardness of heart keeps us from seeing and hearing and  
touching,  
**let your grace consume us, O God.**  
When the wars around us are of no concern,  
**forgive us, Lord, and move us to compassion for those who suffer.**  
When our caring is not extended to action,  
**move us to seek justice for our brothers and sisters.**

**We come to confess our sinfulness before you and before each  
other. We are but dust without your love.**

**Remove all barriers that divide us, and let there be no obstacle to  
our love for you and for one another. Amen.**

#### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

“Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord  
has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has  
bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends  
of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.”

People of God, through the coming of Jesus Christ, whose birth we  
celebrate, the Lord has comforted and redeemed us too!

**In Christ we receive the salvation of our God. Glory to God in the  
highest!**

—based on Isaiah 52:9-10; Luke 2:14, NRSV

## **PROCLAIMING THE WORD**

### **CHILDREN'S BLESSING**

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

Hebrews 6:13-20

### **MESSAGE**

## **THE LORD'S SUPPER**

\* **RESPONDING IN SONG** “My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less”

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness.  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

**On Christ the solid Rock I stand.  
All other ground is sinking sand.  
All other ground is sinking sand.**

When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace.  
In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil.  
(Chorus)