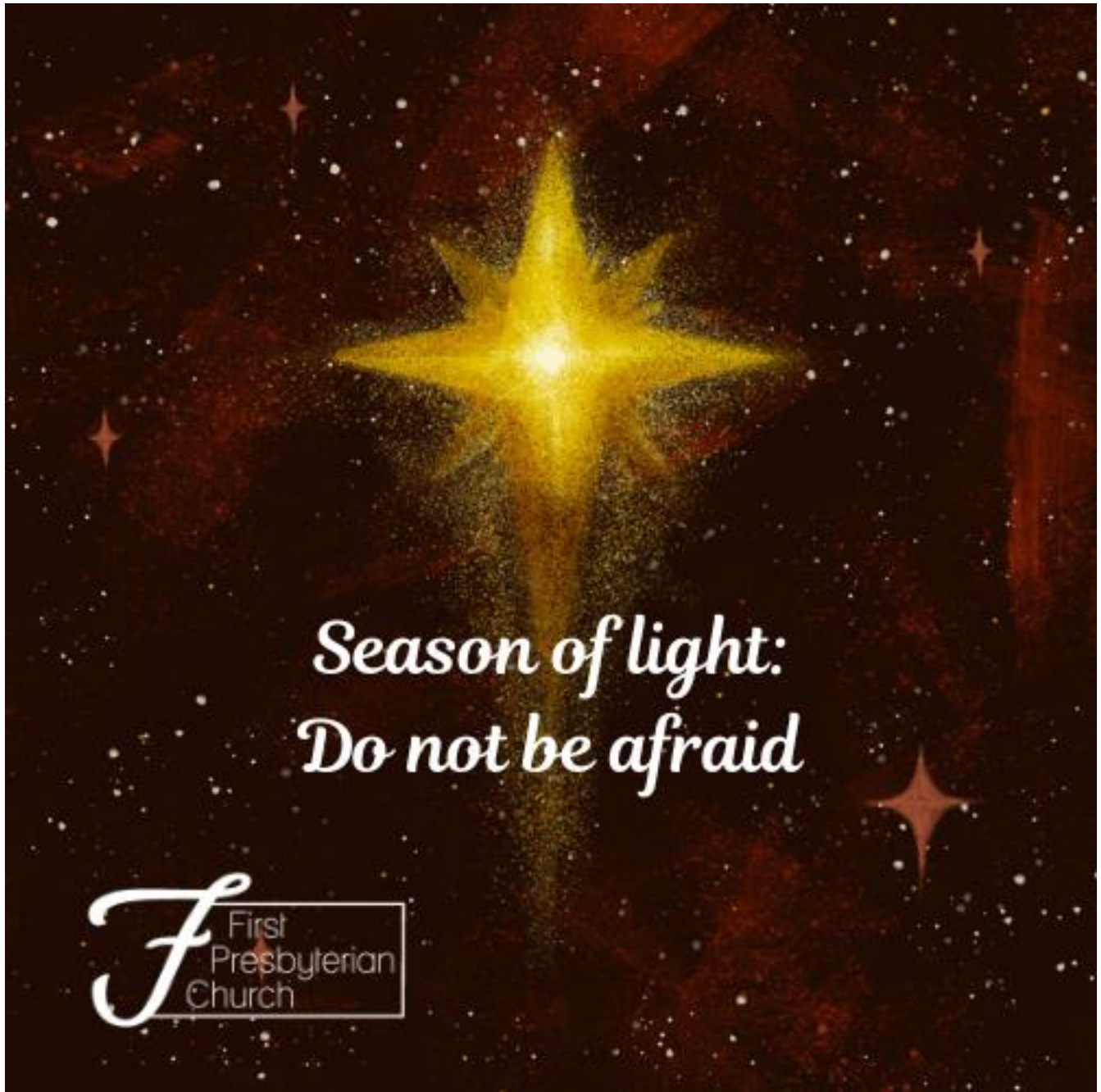


Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2024



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2330 SOUTH MAIN STREET FINDLAY, OH 45840 FINDLAYFPC.ORG

Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2024, 10:00 a.m. Service

WELCOME TO FPC

We are so glad you are with us on this day where we celebrate the gift of hope for ourselves and for our world. We invite you to follow us on Facebook, sign up for our weekly emails or check the website regularly to see the new things God is doing among us at FPC Findlay!

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

Little Ones: Infants and toddlers are welcome to join trained caregivers in Room 333 on the third floor during worship.

Children's Worship Bulletins: These are available along with activity packets in the Narthex. Ask a Greeter for one.

Godly Play: Children in preschool through elementary school-age are invited to attend Godly Play worship in Room 340 following the Blessing of the Children.

WORSHIP VIA FACEBOOK LIVE

As the prelude begins, we invite you to share your prayer requests in the comments section beneath the Facebook Live video.

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LITURGICAL ART

First Presbyterian Church follows the liturgical calendar to mark the seasons of our life together as Christians. Traditionally various colors are used for each season. ADVENT (from the Latin word for "coming") is a period of four Sundays before Christmas Eve. BLUE is the color of hope, expectation, and preparation. The dossal cloth and pulpit and lectern paraments were designed and created especially for our Sanctuary by liturgical artist, Jenia Rimor of Camas, Washington in 2001 and 2003. She wrote "the blue velveteen symbolizes the darkness of the world, hoping and waiting for a Savior to come. The white lines through the pulpit and lectern paraments represent the voices of the prophets of old, pointing to the future. The periwinkle and turquoise colors represent the present time which become enlarged during this season of watchfulness. In the center of the dossal are angel wings which are modified from the molding and shadows above the dossal. They portray the Holy Spirit which keep us even as we wait for the fullness of God to be revealed." The BLUE banners above the doors, left and right, are based upon a view through the Hubbell telescope, portraying the universe in patient expectation of renewed creation displaying God's glory in the coming of Christ. The banners were created in 2016 by Don Beck, whose creative vision can be seen in the other liturgical season decorations.

***Honoring our heritage, we are a dynamic body
welcoming all to Christ's spacious table, illumined
to serve God with imagination and love.***

Please turn off all mobile and electronic devices while in the Sanctuary.

**Indicates to rise in body or spirit.*

GATHERING

We gather as a community and prepare our hearts to worship God.

Tolling of the Bells

*At the sound
of the bells,
please prepare
your hearts
and minds for
worship.*

Prelude Savior of the Nations, Come, BWV 649 J.S. Bach

Choral Introit Light Dawns on a Weary World Mary Louise Bringle

Love grows in a weary world when hungry hearts find bread and children's dreams are fed. Love grows in a weary world: the promised feast of plenty comes. The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs; the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing! We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace, as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.

*Lighting of the Advent Candle: Peace

Leader: A flickering candle lights our path to peace.

People: Let us step into unfamiliar places so that we can learn the surprising ways of God!

Leader: May we dare to do hard things, so that we can experience the companionship of deep integrity.

People: Let us risk connecting to God who first connected to us!

Leader: Let us pray:

God of peace, who hates violence and war,

we gather today to worship in peace,

pray for peace,

and make space for peace in our community.

We bring peace because you bless peacemakers.

We bring peace because Jesus is the Prince of Peace.

We bring peace because even though we disagree and even argue with one another,

our hearts are united in our love for you.

Enrich our worship today with the peace of your presence.

And in your presence, we are not afraid.

People: Amen.

*Opening Hymn #106 Prepare the Way, O Zion BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN
See page 9

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Loving God,

you call us to be peacemakers,

to choose communication over violence, and solidarity over hierarchy.

But sometimes, we do not bring peace.

Instead, we allow greed or prejudice or pride to divide us.

Bring us back to peacemaking. Bring us back to solidarity.

You call us to have peaceful hearts,
enforcing firm boundaries which protect ourselves and each other.
But sometimes we waver, making space for anxiety and more conflict.
Bring us back to healthy boundaries that give us peace.
Forgive our trespasses into strife and discord.
Fill us with the peace of Advent who is your son, Jesus.

(Silent Confession)

We pray this all in the name of Christ. **Amen.**

*Assurance of Pardon

Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel.
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

*Passing of the Peace

Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

*Grateful Response Jesus, the Light of the World Traditional, arr. André Thomas

The musical score is written for piano and voice. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment (bass clef). The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 6/8. The lyrics are: "We'll walk in the light, beau-ti-ful light, come where the dew-drops of mer-cy shine bright. Shine all a-round us by day and by night, Je-sus, the Light of the world." The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand.

Children are invited to come to the Chancel steps at this time for a Blessing.

Following the Blessing of the Children, children 3rd grade and younger may go to Room 340 for Godly Play.

Youth Minute for Mission: Advent Clean-Up Buckets

Blessing of the Children

Michael Bedford

Pre- pare a way for the Lord! pre- pare a way for the Lord! Get
read - y, get read - y, he's com - ing soon! — Pre -
pare a way for the Lord! — Pre- pare a way for the Lord! — Get
read - y, get read - y, he's com - ing soon!

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Anthem

Comfort, Comfort

arr. John Ferguson

“Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!” So says our God. “Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow’s load. To my people now proclaim that my pardon waits for them! Tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare now is over.” For the herald’s voice is crying in the desert far and near, calling us to true repentance, since the reign of God is here. O, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way. Let the valleys rise in meeting and the hills bow down in greeting. Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain. Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God’s holy reign. For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad, and all flesh shall see the token that God’s word is never broken.

Scripture Lesson

Luke 1:58-79

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. 58Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. 59On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. 60But his mother said, “No; he is to be called John.” 61They said to her, “None of your relatives has this name.” 62Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. 63He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is John.” And all of them were amazed. 64Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. 65Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. 66All who

heard them pondered them and said, “What then will this child become?” For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

67 Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:

“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

69 He has raised up a mighty savior for us

in the house of his child David,

70 as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

71 that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

72 Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors

and has remembered his holy covenant,

73 the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,

to grant us 74 that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,

might serve him without fear, 75 in holiness and righteousness

in his presence all our days.

76 And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High,

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

77 to give his people knowledge of salvation

by the forgiveness of their sins.

78 Because of the tender mercy of our God,

the dawn from on high will break upon us,

79 to shine upon those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,

to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Breaking of the Dawn

Rev. Jessica Commeret

RESPONSE TO GOD’S WORD

*Hymn #109

Blest Be the God of Israel

MERLE’S TUNE

See page 10

Call for Offering

Offertory Anthem

An Advent Prelude for Flute and Organ

Charles Callahan

*Doxology

Advent Doxology

IRBY

Unison

Praise to God, the One who made us. Praise to Christ, the soon - born Son.
 the new* - born

Praise the Spir - it, ev - er — with us. Praise the God - head, Three in — One.

Clear a path! Pre-prepare the way! Ad - vent leads to Christ - mas Day!

*Prayer of Dedication

Concerns and Celebrations

Prayers of the People

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.**

Prayer Response

Amen

VENI EMMANUEL

A - men, a - men, a - men, a - men.

SENDING FORTH IN MISSION

*Closing Hymn #853

We are Marching in the Light of God

SIYAHAMBA

See page 11

Congregational Meeting

*Benediction

WORSHIP LEADERS

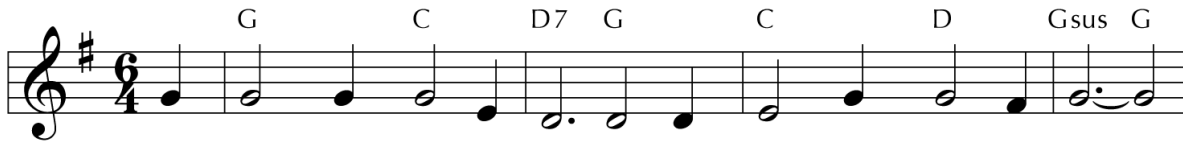
Pastor:	Rev. Jessica Commeret
Director of Music:	Clinton Miller
Lay Reader:	Miles Myers and Char Ebersole
Director of Connectional Ministry:	Leslee Kirkconnell
Musicians:	Chancel Choir; GatherRing Handbell Choir; Desra Dabney, flute; FPC Choral Scholars: Joicy Carvalho, BK Riha, Zach Sanford, Cassie Wilson
A/V Technician:	Robbie Riffle

HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Opening Hymn #106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

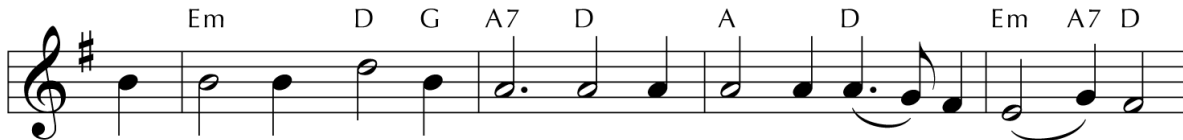
BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sav - ior's rule em - brace,

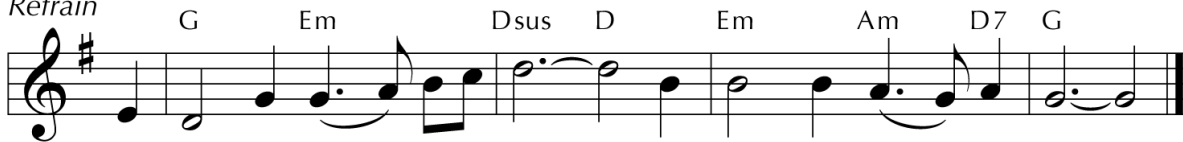


Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
 and ti - dings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
 Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
 All lands will bow re - joic - ing, their ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing.

Refrain



O blest is Christ who came in God's most ho - ly name.

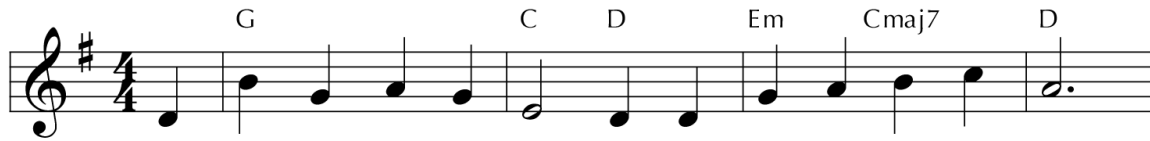
Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This engaging Advent text based on Isaiah 40:3–5 and Psalm 24:7–10 has been in use in the Church of Sweden for almost two hundred years. It is set to a version of an even older Swedish tune, which in turn seems to be derived from a German folktune that spread to Scandinavia.

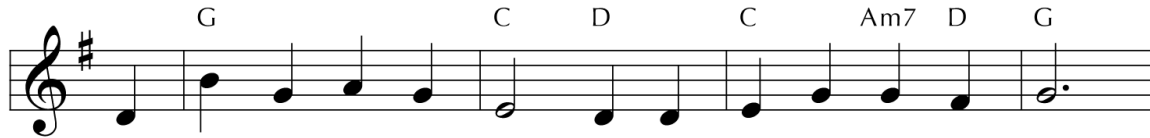
TEXT: Frans Mikael Franzen, 1812, rev. 1819; trans. Augustus Nelson, 1958;
 adapt. Charles P. Price, 1980, alt.

MUSIC: *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697; arr. *American Lutheran Hymnal*, 1930
 Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN
 7.6.7.6.7.7 with refrain



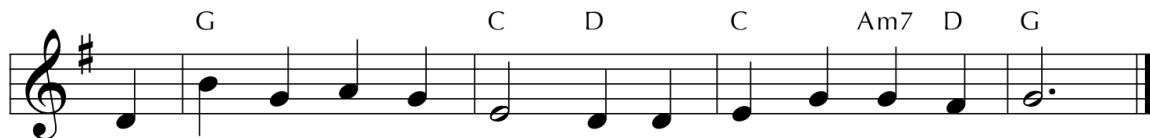
1 Blest be the God of Is - rael, who comes to set us free;
 2 God from the house of Da - vid a child of grace has given;
 3 On those who sit in dark - ness the sun be - gins to rise,



who vis - its and re - deems us, who grants us lib - er - ty.
 a Sav - ior comes a - mong us to raise us up to heaven.
 the dawn - ing of for - give - ness up - on the sin - ner's eyes.



The proph - ets spoke of mer - cy, of free - dom and re - lease;
 Be - fore him goes the her - ald, fore - run - ner in the way,
 God guides the feet of pil - grims a - long the paths of peace.



God shall ful - fill that prom - ise and bring the peo - ple peace.
 the proph - et of sal - va - tion, the har - bin - ger of day.
 O bless our God and Sav - ior with songs that nev - er cease!

This 20th-century British paraphrase of the Song of Zechariah (Luke 1:68–79) broadens the implications of what John the Baptist's father says in order to affirm that God's work is ongoing. The tune is named for the composer's oldest sister, who was his first piano teacher.

We are march-ing in the light of God; we are march-ing in the
Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -

light of God. We are march - ing in the light of God;
nyen' kwen - khos'. Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos',

we are march-ing in the light of God.
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.

we are march-ing in the light of, the light of God.
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen -, kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.

we are march-ing in the light of God.
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.

This lively Zulu/Xhosa freedom song originated in a Methodist young men's group in South Africa and has gone on to become popular in many other languages around the globe. Some additional stanzas are suggested, but others may be improvised as appropriate to the occasion.

We are march - ing
Si - ya - ham - ba

We are march-ing, march-ing, we are march-ing, march-ing,
Si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba,

we are march-ing in the light of God.
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.

we are march-ing in the light of, the light of God.
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen-, kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.

we are march-ing in the light of God.
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.

We are march - ing
Si - ya - ham - ba

We are march-ing, march-ing, we are march-ing, march-ing,
Si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba,

we are march-ing in the light of God.
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.

Additional stanzas ad lib.:
We are dancing...
We are praying...
We are singing...

ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 8, 2024

TODAY

Fellowship

We have coffee, snacks, and conversations starting at 9:30 a.m. and again following worship every Sunday in the Parlor.

Godly Play

Today's Bible story: Remembering the prophets pointing the way to something spectacular happening in Bethlehem; the Holy Family on the way to Bethlehem.

Following Worship

Congregational Meeting

Today, following worship, Sanctuary

Immediately following worship, there will be a congregational meeting for the purpose of the election of officers in the Sanctuary.

Nominated for elder, class of 2027: Patricia McVetty, Dave Reynolds and Elizabeth Wright.

Nominated for deacon, class of 2027: Tom and Melody Butterfield (team), Sandy Wadding and Liz Wickard.

Community Dinner

Today, 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Great Room

All are welcome to gather at the table following worship in the Great Room until 12:30 p.m. Today's Lunch Menu: pork loin, roasted vegetables, cheesy potatoes, applesauce, rolls and assorted pies.

HIGHLIGHTS

Onward and Upward

Thursday, December 12, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall.

We will enjoy sounds of the season as we **Carol with Clint**. We will also have an ugly/funny Christmas sweater/shirt contest so wear your best holiday apparel. Lunch will be provided. RSVP outside the Church Office and be sure to invite your friends!

Martha's Home Tour

Friday, December 13, 3:00-4:00 p.m., 1918 N. Main Street

Come see Martha's Home in a private viewing. They anticipate being open by Christmas, and we can see all the improvements. Please RSVP no later than Wednesday, December 11. To RSVP, call Erin Dircksen at 419-423-9151 x116.

HIGHLIGHTS (continued)

Youth Advent Mission Project

November 17-December 15

Our youth are collecting items and money for Church World Service Clean Up Buckets. Lists are available in the Narthex and weekly E-Newsletter. We have a goal of 15 buckets, with a value of \$1,200. Monetary donations are needed as there are particular items to be purchased and to cover the \$3 fee per bucket.

Contact: Beth Niemyer

Bucket Brigade Packing Party

Sunday, December 15, 11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hall

Join us following worship as our youth lead us in assembling our Clean Up Buckets. We will have refreshments and pack our buckets. Everyone can help!

Caroling Caravan

Sunday, December 15, 12:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Following the Bucket Brigade Packing Party, we will divide into groups and go caroling to our at-home members. All ages are welcome. A sign-up sheet is outside the Church Office.

Parents Night Out

Sunday, December 15, 5:00-7:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall.

This evening parents can "take the night off" from the kids to catch up on shopping or just catch your breath. Please RSVP for dinner by Thursday, December 12.

Contact: Leslee Kirkconnell

Advent/Christmas Décor

Please consider donating to the Sanctuary decorations of poinsettias and pines. There are envelopes in the pews and your tributes will be included in the Christmas Eve worship bulletin.

Blue Christmas/Longest Night Services

The holiday season is difficult for those whose hearts are hurting. There are a couple of offerings to hold space for those in need.

Thursday, December 19, 7:00 p.m., St. Andrew's United Methodist Church

A gentle, contemplative service that offers comfort and hope.

Sunday, December 22, 6:30 p.m., FPC Sanctuary

A candlelight service of light and music for the longest night.

Contact: Clint Miller and Jessica Commeret

MUSIC MINISTRY

Chancel Choir

Wednesdays, 7:00-8:30 p.m., Choir Room

Lend your voice to the chorus! The Chancel Choir sings at the 10:00 a.m. worship services during the program year.

GatherRing Handbell Choir

Tuesdays, 1:30-2:30 p.m., Sanctuary

All you need to know is how to read rhythms and know your right hand from your left hand. This is a great way to work together as a team to create beautiful music for our worship services. Contact Clint Miller to get involved!

FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship “Hour”

Sundays, 9:30 a.m. and following worship, Parlor

Join us for coffee, water, treats, and social time to gather with friends and greet one another.

Contact: Suzi Healy

Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch is not meeting in the month of December.

Thursdays, 12:00 p.m., Room 113

Bring your sack lunch and join the fellowship with one another for a casual lunch time every week! On the second Thursdays, this group joins Onward and Upward.

Contact: Beth Niemeier

Knit Wits

Fridays, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Room 113

Bring your needles, yarn, and great spirit to share time together knitting prayer shawls and other crafts. Don't knit, but do other crafts? Every crafter welcome!

Contact: Deb Watson

GET CONNECTED

Scan the code to read our weekly E-News Connections.

You can also read in your email



ONLINE GIVING

To the right is a QR Code. You can open the camera on your smartphone and be connected to our Giving page via a link pop up. We encourage you to use this method to give as we pass the offering plate. Thank you!



ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Women of Faith

Mondays, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Parlor

This group is open to all women. The only requirement is a desire to continue your faith journey. We discuss a variety of spiritual studies.

Contact: Mary Alice Patrickson

MISSION

Community Dinner

Sunday, December 8, 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Great Room

The Community Dinner outreach provides a nutritious home-cooked meal on the 2nd Sunday of each month to the community. Volunteers meet at 9:00 a.m. on the 2nd Saturday to prep the meal. The Community Dinner is a great way to show God's love through the gift of food and fellowship. Sign up to help outside the Church Office or contact Tracy Kennedy.

Darrel the Barrel

This month: Toilet paper and toilet cleaner

City Mission asks for donations for specific items each month to help feed, house, and care for the unhoused in our community. As we go deeper into partnership with them, particularly Martha's Home, filling Darrel will enable them to use their resources more efficiently for all those who seek their help. The Barrel is located in the Narthex.

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

Sunday Morning Faith Formation

First, Third, and Fourth Sundays, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Choir Room

The first Sunday of each month is *Motion & Movement*—having sat in worship for an hour this is an opportunity to move our bodies and expend some energy with exciting games and activities. The third and fourth (and fifth) Sundays, youth and children will join *Worship Explorers!* where children and youth will learn about parts of our worship experience, creating musical ventures in our worship service, leading prayers and readings, and help tell our Biblical stories in creative ways. Contact Clint Miller for more information.

Second Sundays, 11:00 a.m., Great Room

Children and youth have the opportunity to assist with preparing and serving the Community Dinner.

Third Sunday Family Faith Formation

Sunday, December 15, 5:00-7:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall.

We begin with dinner at 5:00 p.m. following food and reflection, we divide up and enjoy a time of Christian Formation for ALL ages. Jessica Commeret will lead adults, Leslee Kirkconnell will lead youth and Meg Ramlow will lead children K-5th grade. Childcare will be provided for those 4 years old and younger following dinner.

Contact: Leslee Kirkconnell

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

(continued)

Mom Co Meet Up Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, December 11, 9:00-11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hall; Child Care beginning at 8:45 a.m. in Room 107C.

We continue our monthly meet up of moms of all-age children. Childcare is provided. Refreshments, fellowship, community. Join us!

Contact: Leslee Kirkconnell

First Presbyterian Church Staff

Jessica Commeret, Pastor	jcommeret@findlayfpc.org
Clinton Miller, Director of Music	cmiller@findlayfpc.org
Leslee Kirkconnell, Director of Connectional Ministry	lkirkconnell@findlayfpc.org
Stephanie Bryan, Church/Financial Secretary	sbryan@findlayfpc.org
Kelly Sherrieb, Facility Manager	ksherrieb@findlayfpc.org
Carol Smith, Nursery School Director	csmith@findlayfpc.org
Casey Risner, Head Custodian	crisner@findlayfpc.org
Curt Hugunin, Evening Custodian	
Marna Weaver, Church Accountant	

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Walk in the Light. Text & Music: George D. Elderkin, 1890, arr. André Thomas

Prepare the Way, O Zion. Text: Frans Mikael Franzen, 1812; rev. 1819; trans. Augustus Nelson, 1958; adapt. Charles P. Price, 1980, alt. Music: Then Swenska Psalmboken, 1697; arr. American Lutheran Hymnal, 1930. Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company.

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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