



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Second Sunday of Advent

Rev. Dr. Helen Hutchison, Pastor
Jim Rumsey, liturgist

December 7, 2025

Prelude

Andrew Morris, organist

Welcome and Announcements

Friendship Pads: Please help us maintain good communication with all our members and guests by completing the Friendship Register as it is passed from the end of each pew. Please let us know the best way to communicate with you. Be sure to greet folks new to you at the end of worship!

Cards of Encouragement: Blue cards found in the pew rack ~ please put in offering plate and we will send them out in the mail.

Introit

*Away in a Manger
Go Tell It on the Mountain*

Children's Sunday School Choir

Lighting the Advent Candle: Peace

Presby Pickers

Call to Worship

One: Jeremiah said, "I am only a boy."

All: Moses said, "Who am I to do this work?"

One: Mary said, "How can this be?"

All: We often say, "But God, I am afraid."

One: Even when we are afraid, God invites us closer.

All: So may we trust the Inviter.

One: May we heed God's invitation.

All: May we summon our courage and sing God's praise.

One: Let us worship our courageous, inviting, calling God. Amen

• Hymn of Praise

Angels, from the Realms of Glory
REGENT SQUARE

Glory to God #143

* Call To Confession

Jim Rumsey, liturgist

One: Friends, often in life, when we make mistakes, we want to keep those mistakes to ourselves. We don't want to advertise our blunders. We don't want to highlight our failings. We can be tempted to brush those things under the rug and move on. But when it comes to God, there is nothing we need to brush under the rug. God welcomes and loves our full, honest, messy selves—blunders and all. So let us go before God in prayer, trusting that there is nothing we need to hide from our Creator. Let us pray.

* Prayer of Confession (unison)

Jim Rumsey, liturgist

Courageous God, you invite us to live into our call. You invite us to act, to serve, and to trust. Instead of responding with a resounding "yes," we often hide our face. We dig our heels in. We look for someone else to volunteer. Spark courage in us. Remind us that every person is capable of making a difference. Remind us that even when we're scared, we are not alone. You invite us forward. With baby steps we hope, we pray,

* Silent Prayers of Confession

* Pouring the Water

* Words of Forgiveness

Jim Rumsey, liturgist

One: Family of faith, no matter where your path has led you in the past, today is a new day. So join me in declaring this good news:

All: We are known. We are forgiven! We are sent to serve. May we step forward in faith, always moving closer to God's call. Amen.

- * **Passing the Peace** Jim Rumsey, liturgist
 One: Knowing the grace and mercy of the Lord, we share it with one another.
 The peace of Christ be with you.
All: And also with you.
(Please greet one another and exchange signs of peace and reconciliation.)
- * **Hymn** GLORIA PATRI
Glory Be to the Father
Glory be to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.
- Prayer of Illumination**
 Holy One, the story of this season is not a new one. We've heard this tale before. We've seen the nativities, watched the plays, sung the songs, witnessed the children act it out. The story of this season is not a new one, and yet we long to hear it as if it is. So spark our spirits awake. Call forth awareness, attention, and reverence in us. Allow us to hear this ancient tale with brand new ears. With hope we pray, amen.
- Hebrew Bible Reading** Jeremiah 1:4-10 Jim Rumsey, liturgist
- Gospel Reading** Luke 1:26-39
- Sermon** *"Even in Our Fear, We Are Called Forward"* Rev. Dr. Helen Hutchison
- Hymn** *O Little Town of Bethlehem* **Glory to God #121**
ST. LOUIS
- Call to Offertory**
- Offering** *Fling Wide the Door* Chancel Choir
JOHN YARRINGTON Adrian Hartsough, director
Joy Laird, recorder; Colin Bradt, bodhrán; Andrew Morris, piano
- * **Offertory Response** *In the Bleak Midwinter (verse 4)* **Glory to God #144**
What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part,
Yet what I can I give Him, give my heart.
- * **Prayer of Dedication**
- Sacrament of Holy Communion**
Invitation to the Lord's Table
Words of institution
Communion of the People
 As the ushers direct your row, please come forward by the center aisle to receive the bread and the cup.
 You will partake of communion at the front and then return to your seats by the south aisle.
 Communion will be taken to those who wish to remain in their seats.
- Prayer of the People 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, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.
- * **Affirmation of Faith**
 We have seen the valley. We have seen a sky without stars. We have seen the longest night, and still we believe.

We believe in a with-us God. We believe in the hope of tomorrow. We believe that good news is louder than fear. We believe this good news is for all people.

So even when our knees shake, even when our voice trembles, even when fear is all around us, we will hold onto that good news. We will reach for each other. We will look for God in our midst. We will sing songs of joy. We will proclaim: Unto us, love is born. We have seen the longest night, and we have seen unimaginable love. So still, we believe. Amen.

* **Closing Hymn**

Love Has Come
MERLE'S TUNE

Glory to God #110
Andrew Morris, organist

* **Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

* Stand as you are able – in spirit or in body

Welcome!

We encourage everyone to come as you are, be who you are, and be in community with us! Whether you are joining us virtually or in-person; we are happy to have you with us anytime! If you are new to First Presbyterian Church, please let us know you are here by signing the **Friendship Pad**. If you are worshipping with us online either live or recorded please **email us at firstpreslawrence@gmail.com** letting us know you joined us in worship. We look forward to getting to know you. If you are interested in membership, please talk to Pastor Helen.

Prayer List

Cares, Concerns and Celebrations

- Please keep **Ruthanne Stucky, Mother of Alisa Stucky**, in your prayers as she undergoes treatment for cancer.
- **Arlois McLay** died on November 5th at Presbyterian Manor. Services will be held at FPC on December 6 at 10 am. Prayers for her family as they mourn.
- **Wanda Seidel** is home following heart surgery. Prayers for a speedy recovery.
- **Yvonne Davidson** is home and recovering after her fall. Prayers are still appreciated.
- **Sammie Locke** has entered hospice care at Bridge Haven where she lives. Please keep her and Carl, who has moved to Brandon Woods, in your prayers.
- **Angela Randall's sister has a cancer diagnosis**. Angela teaches for First 5 Years.
- Please keep **Cyndy Glogau and her family** (of First 5 Years) in your prayers as they work on health issues.
- **Joan Snodgrass** is in rehab in Overland Park after a fall at her home.
- Prayers for **Myron Shipley** as he receives treatment for cancer.
- **Susan and Pat** - dealing with health concerns.
- **George Crump** is asking for prayers in support of his health and well-being.
- **Kristi McAlister**, FPC member and daughter of Pat McAlister, is facing serious health challenges.

- **Nancy Brink**, a friend of Lois and Dave Dutcher, asks for prayers as she copes with brain and lung cancer diagnoses.
- **Allison Clunn-McPlin and family**, friends of Dave and Lois Dutcher. Allison was diagnosed with an aggressive form of ALS.
- **Prayer for our pastor and church leaders**, for those leading our community, our state, and our nation.

Deacon Family Groups - 2025

A-Ca	Deborah Norwood	N-Q	Sandy Groene
Ce-Do	Joyce Carroll	Mc-Mz	Becky May
Dr-F	Diana Schoneweis	R-Si	Linda Longino
G-Ha	Lucille Eggenberger	SI-T	Russ Heikes
He-Ko	Mary Warren	U-Z	Allen Macfarlane
Kr-Ma	Lois Dutcher		

Birthdays in the Congregation

December 7

Brian Norwood
Linda Longino
Joy Laird

December 8

Carol Ann Vernon
Deb Pentecost

December 10

Wayne Hathaway

December 11

Jim Rumsey

December 12

Linda Upstill

Sunday Helpers

Ushers: Larry Schlosser, Eva Alley, Mark Shiflett

Greeters: Linda Watts

South Door Greeter: Judy Wilson

Offering: Jeff Southard and Marilyn Heikes

Friendship Pad Collector: Petra Peterson

Bag Brigade Volunteer: Dede Dresser

Communion Servers: Erinn Barcomb-Peterson, Cherie Elo, Jeff Southard, Chris Heider, Joan Golden

Calendar

December 7

9:15 am	Adult and Youth Sunday School
9:15 am	Children's Sunday School
10:30 am	Worship
10 pm	Girl Scout Cookie Sales Training

December 8

9:00 am First 5 Years Classes
1:15 pm FPC Staff Meeting
3:00 pm PW Tree Trim
6:00 pm Westminster Ringers Rehearsal

December 9

9:00 am First 5 Years Classes
1:00 pm Small World Classes
6:00 pm Kaw Valley Fiber Guild Meeting
6:30 pm Session Meeting

December 10

9:00 am First 5 Years Classes
6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 59 Meeting

December 11

9:00 am First 5 Years Classes
1:00 pm Small World Classes

3:00 pm Mission Committee Meeting

December 12

9:00 am First 5 Years Classes
10:00 am Men's Group
6:30 pm Janet Hart Studio Recital

December 13

7:30 am Boy Scout Leader Training
10:00 am Janet Hart Studio Recital
10:00 am Justice Matters Research Committee
2:00 pm Laura Hrivnak Studio Recital

December 14

8:30 am Presby Pickers Rehearsal
9:15 am Adult and Youth Sunday School
9:15 am Children's Sunday School
9:30 am Choir Rehearsal
10:30 am Worship
11:30 pm Christmas Dinner

Children Sunday School

• Sunday School Classes for Children

- On December 7 Chris Heider and Linda Longino will lead the Children's Sunday School in their singing in worship. On December 14 they will be doing a service project for our friends at the Manor. We will meet in room 14.

Pastor Helen's Monday Class will be taking a break for December. We will meet again on Monday, January 5, 2026 at 2 pm in the Fireside Room and start a study on the Lord's Prayer.

Youth Activities

- **November 30** – Stay after church and help “Deck the Halls.” We will also make ornaments with the EcoTeam and have a Pizza lunch.
- **December 7** – Annual Youth Holiday Party – We will gather at the Hoover-Elo home. Please RSVP to Kelly Jones-Grube
- **January 4, 2026** – FPC Winter Break Youth Retreat – 11:30 to 6 pm – will include art, cooking, lunch, games, service opportunities, fellowship time, and lots more! Other area church youth will be invited.

Do you have something you want to add to the calendar? Need more information? Contact Kelly Jones-Grube at 785-691-7445 or Kellygal78@hotmail.com

Session calls a Congregational Meeting

On December 7th after worship the Session calls for a Congregational Meeting for the purpose of electing the Officers for the Class of 2028 and other open positions. We will also hear an update on our Solar Panels. We don't expect this to be a long meeting so we hope you will plan to stay to support our new Elders and Deacons!

Christmas Dinner – Sunday, December 14 – after worship

The Fellowship Committee will provide Ham, potatoes, green beans, and beverages.

The Congregation is asked to bring side dishes to share.

If your last name begins with A - L please bring Salads.

Last names beginning with M – Z please bring desserts.

Our table decorations are compliments of Sharon Rankin.

Everyone is welcome – an RSVP is appreciated. Sign up today on the table in the Narthex.



Poinsettias – Sign up to purchase a poinsettia this year to honor or remember a loved one! Order forms are in the Narthex. You can take your flower home after worship on Christmas Eve or on Sunday, December 28th. Thank you.