

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - HOPE  
December 1, 2024  
8:30, 9:30 & 11:30 am Worship



8:30 AM WORSHIP | DECEMBER 1, 2024

# First Sunday of Advent

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*\* Please rise in body or spirit when you see this symbol,  
and join in singing or reading aloud text in **bold**.*

## GATHERING

Pouring of the Water

Welcome and Announcements

Centering Prayer

Advent Candle Lighting

Call to Worship

One: We gather together on this advent season

**All: To celebrate the coming birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ.**

One: To worship, to commemorate, and to hear the story.

**All: A story of justice, mission, and service.**

One: Great is the faithfulness of our God.

**All: The Lord's name is blessed. Amen.**

## PROCLAMATION

Opening Reading *An Excerpt from Paul's Letter to the American Christians*  
by Martin Luther King Jr.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

*[Hymn: Elegy, Movement 3]*

Assurance and Declaration of Pardon

Hymn

*Glory Be to the Father*

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning,

Is now and ever shall be,

World without end.

Amen. Amen.

First Scripture Reading

God's word for God's People.

**Thanks be to God!**

Psalm 25:1–10

Second Scripture Reading  
Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.  
Thanks be to God!

Luke 21:25–36

Homily

*Holy Figs*

## RESPONDING

The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to the Table

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving 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.**

Words of Institution

Communion

Prayer after Communion

## SENDING

Closing Sentences

Bless the Lord.

**The Lord's name be praised.**

Go in peace.

*(Share a sign of peace with one another.)*

✠ ✠ ✠



9:30 AM WORSHIP | DECEMBER 1, 2024

# First Sunday of Advent

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*\* Please rise in body or spirit when you see this symbol,  
and join in singing or reading aloud text in **bold**.*

## GATHERING

Opening Voluntary

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Marshall McDonald and Steven Sharp Nelson

Sarah Cleveland, Cello

Pouring of the Water

Welcome and Life in the Church

Bell Peal

*Christ, Be Our Light*

\*Advent Candle Lighting

Carol and Paul Smith, Ashley, Brent, Sam, and Hannah Bowles

One: The days are surely coming, your salvation is nearing.

**All: Christ, be our light!**

One: The heavens are speaking; your kingdom is arriving.

**All: Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.**

One: The world is turning; new life is appearing.

**All: Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.**

One: On this first Sunday of Advent, let us light a candle to hear hope.

\*Hymn 314

*Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness (Christ, Be Our Light)*

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**Surprising God,**

**forgive our sleepiness in the presence of your splendor**

**and for when we abandon hope**

**and expect and look for the same old thing in the same old way.**

**Forgive us our silence when we ought to have spoken up**

**and our carelessness with your world and each other.**

**Awaken us to your holy, hopeful presence**

**so we may watch and wait for you, Lord Jesus Christ....**

*(Continue to offer prayers in silence.)*

# Kyrie

PICARDY



Come, Lord Je-sus, soon in\_\_ mer - cy, bring us to your sav - ing\_\_ grace;



Light-en all the world a - round us with the rad-iance of your face.



Fill us with your love, re - new \_\_\_\_\_ us, here and when we leave this place.

## Assurance of Forgiveness

### \*Congregational Response



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark - ness.



Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gath-ered to - day. \_\_\_\_\_

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

### Prayer for Illumination

### First Scripture Reading

Psalm 25:1-10

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### A Conversation with Young Disciples

*Please join in singing as the children come forward.*

CELTIC ALLELUIA



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

### Second Scripture Reading

Luke 21:25-36

The grass withers, the flower fades; **the word of the Lord endures forever.**

### Sermon

## RESPONDING AND SEALING

### Offering of Tithes and Gifts

#### Offertory

*O Come, Emmanuel*

Elaine Hagenberg

Chancel Choir and Sarah Cleveland, Cello

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
O come thou Dayspring come and cheer our spirits by Thine Advent here,  
And drive away the shades of night and pierce the clouds and bring us light!  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to Thee, O Israel.  
O come, desire of nations, bind all people in one heart and mind;  
Bid envy strife and quarrels cease and fill the world with Heaven's peace.  
O Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel. Shall come to Thee, O Israel, O come.

#### \*Doxology

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise God, all creatures here below. Alleluia, alleluia!  
Praise God above ye heavenly host.  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

#### \*Prayer of Dedication

#### The Sacrament of Communion

*Children and youth are invited forward at the start of Communion to gather around the table. They will return to their families before Communion is served.*

#### Words of Institution

**One: The Lord be with you.  
All: And also with you.  
One: Lift up your hearts.  
All: We lift them up to the Lord.  
One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
All: It is right to give our thanks and praise...**

#### Sanctus

PICARDY

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly. Reign - ing God of  
pw'r and might. Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry,  
All cre - a - tion seeks your light! Bles - sed is the One who  
comes in Your name. Bles - sed be the Lord most High!

## Memorial Acclamation

Christ has died; Christ is ri - sen;  
Christ the Lord will come a - - gain.

## Amen

A - - - men. A - - - men.  
A - - - - men. A - - - men.

## Communion of the People

Communion will be served in this way: The two outside stations have cups of juice and pre-cut bread. The inner stations have bread that the clergy will offer you to dip in the cup. In the center are gluten-free wafers.

When you come forward to receive communion, you'll receive a piece of rope. You're invited to take the rope home as a reminder that you carry 'hope' with you, but also that you are part of a larger community of hope. You can also tie a 'hitch' knot and wear the rope as a bracelet during the season of Advent.



## Communion Music

## Prayer after Communion

### SENDING

*Hymn 384	<i>Soon and Very Soon</i>	SOON AND VERY SOON
*Charge and Benediction		
*Benediction Response		CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT
*Passing of the Peace		





11:30 AM WORSHIP | DECEMBER 1, 2024

# First Sunday of Advent

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## GATHERING

Pouring of the Water

Welcome and Announcements

Centering Prayer

Advent Candle Lighting

\*Call to Worship

Side A: Here we are, to celebrate the coming birth of Jesus.

Side B: **Let us prepare our hearts and minds to worship our God of justice.**

Side A: Center us in your love and compassion, O Lord.

Side B: **That we might better emulate your mission and vision.**

Side A: The mission and vision of loving our neighbors, service to all, and care for the marginalized.

Side B: **Let us embody that mission and vision, in all we do.**

**All: *Forever and always. Amen.***

\*Opening Hymn

\*Call to Confession

\*Prayer of Confession

**Great God of hope, Isaiah boldly prayed, “O that You would tear open the heavens and come down,” but we are not so bold. Our words may pretend to plead for Your presence, but our lives reveal our disdain for Your ways. In fact, the idea of You returning with great power and glory often fills us more with dread than with hope. Forgive us. Transform us. Renew us.**

*Silence is kept.*

\*Declaration and Assurance of God's Pardon

\*Passing of the Peace

As you pass the peace, you are invited to reflect with your neighbors

\*Congregational Response

Hymn 399

*God Welcomes All*

THEMBA AMEN

**God welcomes all, strangers and friends;**

**God's love is strong and it never ends.**



## PROCLAMATION

Prayer for Illumination (*sung*) *Spirit of the Living God*

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

**Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.**

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

First Scripture Reading

God's word for God's People.

**Thanks be to God!**

Mark 1:1-8

Second Scripture Reading

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

**Thanks be to God!**

Isaiah 40:1-11

Homily

*Loving our Neighbor in Advent*

## RESPONSE ACTIVITY

Holy Communion for the People

Prayer Stations

## SENDING

\*Closing Hymn

\*Blessing and Benediction

We go out in peace...

**...to love, to serve, to imagine.**

# Leading in Worship

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Worship at 8:30, 9:30, & 11:30 am; Livestream at 9:30 am

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## LEADING IN WORSHIP

8:30 AM WORSHIP

Rev. Nathaniel Fryer, *Resident Minister*

9:30 AM WORSHIP

Rev. Mark Mares, *Associate Pastor*

Rev. David Prentice-Hyers, *Lead Pastor*

Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers, *Associate Pastor*

Rev. Nathaniel Fryer, *Resident Minister*

Cathy King, *Lay Reader*

11:30 AM WORSHIP

Rev. Nathaniel Fryer, *Resident Minister*

Rev. Mark Mares, *Associate Pastor*

## USHERS (9:30)

Joe Schmidt, *Head Usher*

Bill Austin, *Head Usher Emeritus*

## MUSICIANS

9:30 AM WORSHIP

Chancel Choir

Sarah Cleveland, *Cello*

David Hufford, *Organist*

David VanderMeer,

*Minister of Music & Fine Arts*

11:30 AM WORSHIP

Joshua Marzan, *Pianist*

## GREETERS

Nikki and Bill Black

## PRAYER PARTNERS

John LeDuc

Ginny Rezmierski

## FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY

The chancel flowers are given in loving memory of Hubert and Almira White by their daughter Jean White.

## COVER ART – HOPE BY ANNEKE KAAI

*Artist's Note:*

The rising red line expresses love that follows the way of Christ, who asked his disciples to pick up their cross, to choose life and set their eyes on him alone. Christ's way has a light side but at times also leads through the dark; it always has an eternal perspective.

## ADVENT 1 PAPER LACE BANNER – ELLEN PHILLIPS, ARTIST

*"The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time, I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety."*

– Jeremiah 33:14-16

This banner depicts the family tree that ultimately produces the righteous Branch, Jesus. The tree springs forth from the Davidic line, a line of earthly royalty. This Branch, however, will bring about the salvation of the Jewish nation and will rule with justice and righteousness throughout the land.

It is no wonder that the Jews expected a king with the prophecy of a royal Branch. The rule, however, would be with justice and righteousness as opposed to strength and power.

In Advent we expectantly wait for the One who has already come. We anticipate the promised justice of God's new world, yet we praise God who raised the "righteous branch" to rule with justice and righteousness. We hope for the restoration of the afflicted, the tormented, and the grieving, yet we delight that healing has come in Christ. We long for the beating of swords into plowshares, yet we rejoice that the Prince of Peace has appeared. We yearn for the barren deserts of our inner cities to flourish, yet we laud the desert Rose that has bloomed. We dream of the land where lions and lambs live in harmony, yet we acclaim the child born to lead us into the promised land.

The color blue is used during the season of Advent. The Advent paraments and wall hangings were created by Beth Taylor, fiber artist.

### **The Christmas Joy Offering**

The Christmas Joy offering will be received on December 15. This offering supports the wider-church through the PCUSA special offerings. We celebrate God's perfect gift to us, with generous support of leaders among us—past, present, and future—who point us to God. If you would like to support, please label your check "Christmas Joy."

### **The Christmas Eve Offering**

For decades, First's Christmas Eve offering has helped individuals and families in need in our community and beyond. This year we continue this tradition by supporting two local mission partners: Peace Neighborhood Center and the Community Action Network (CAN) of Washtenaw County. These offerings will support two organizations working to address the needs of youth in our community. Your generosity will make a meaningful impact by providing resources and support for young people to grow, thrive, overcome challenges. Join us in giving this Christmas Eve to make a difference for youth in our community.

# Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

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## **NEW TO FIRST PRES?**

We are so thankful that you have joined us today for worship. We would love to get to know you and help you get to know us. Please sign the Friendship Pad. Sign it then pass it down to others. Interested in membership? **Join us for Fast Track to Membership next Sunday, December 8, at 10:45 AM, in the Lead Pastor's Study.** Contact Rev. Rogers, [mrrogers@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:mrrogers@firstpresbyterian.org), for more information.

## **PRAYER**

If you would like someone to pray with you, stop by the Prayer & Compassion Room, just off the Lounge, after the 9:30 am service. Elders, Deacons, and Stephen Ministers are always there to assist those seeking prayer.

## **CHILDREN IN WORSHIP & CHILDCARE**

We love to have children in worship! Age-appropriate worship activities and books are available as you enter the sanctuary or Monteith Hall. We also offer childcare for children ages 5 and younger on the First Level. Ask an usher for directions.

## **FAITH FORMATION**

Faith Formation classes are for all ages and meet on Sundays at 10:45 am, September through May. To learn more about our classes, visit our website at [firstpresbyterian.org](http://firstpresbyterian.org).

## **MUSIC MINISTRY**

Are you interested in singing or ringing handbells or playing an instrument in worship with one of our choirs? Rehearsals are September through May. Contact Dave VanderMeer, [dvandermeer@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:dvandermeer@firstpresbyterian.org), for more information.

## **PARKING**

Additional parking is located at the Forest Avenue parking structure located on South Forest Avenue between South University and Willard. Accessible parking spaces are available near the Sanctuary. A state-issued placard or license plate or a church-issued permit should be displayed while parked. If you would like a church parking permit for an accessible parking space, please speak to one of our Parish Nurses, Barb DeLancey, [bdelancy@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:bdelancy@firstpresbyterian.org), or Stacey Pakela, [spakela@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:spakela@firstpresbyterian.org).

## **GIVING**

Through your generosity, we help build a stronger, more vibrant community, extending hope, compassion, and love to those in need, while ensuring the spiritual growth and vitality of First Presbyterian church for generations to come. To give online visit <https://secure.myvanco.com/YM88/home>

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*First Presbyterian worship services are filmed, recorded, and broadcast online. If you do not want to appear in any videos or photos, please speak with an usher.*

# Today in Faith Formation

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## **ADULTS**

10:45AM

**EXPLORING THE BIBLE | FRENCH ROOM**

*The Parables of Jesus*

Host: Ed Koster

**EXPLORING THE FAITH | LEWIS ROOM**

*The Inevitable Winter Solstice: The  
Disorienting Darkness of Grief*

Host: Sid Smith

Speaker: Christy Miller, LMSW, ACSW:  
Program Director, GrieveWell

Holidays can be a painful time for those who are grieving the loss of loved ones. This gathering is an invitation to connect, learn, and navigate challenging emotions during the holiday season.

**FIRST FRIENDS | LEWIS ROOM**

Joining Exploring the Faith today

Host: Carole Pawloski

## **CHILDCARE & NURSERY**

9:15AM-12:15PM

**AGES 5 AND YOUNGER | ROOM 101**

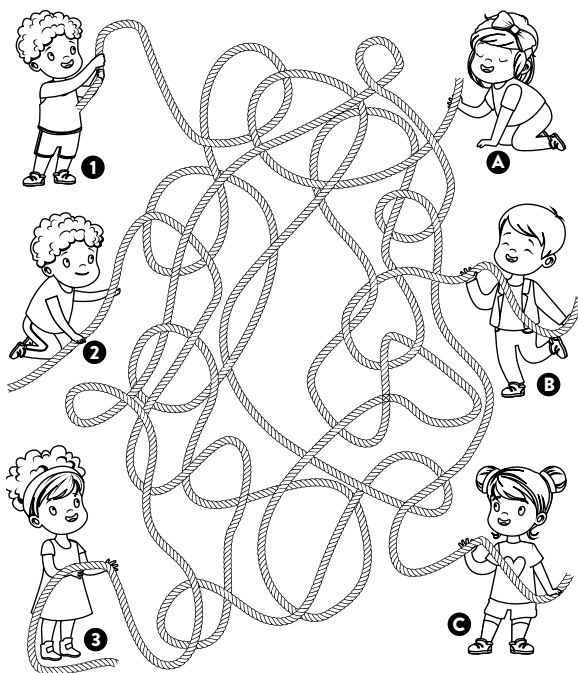
# Worship Activities

## Hearing Hope

The Hebrew word for hope, *tikvah*, also means rope—symbolizing connection to God. Explore stories of God’s promises in Bible storybooks like *Growing in God’s Love*. Watch the “Promises Worship Video” on YouTube and sing along. Reflect on hope daily by asking, “Where have you heard hope today?” Consider stories, news, or music—both familiar and new—and discuss where hope emerges. Be inspired to help others hear hope.

### FIND THE PAIRS

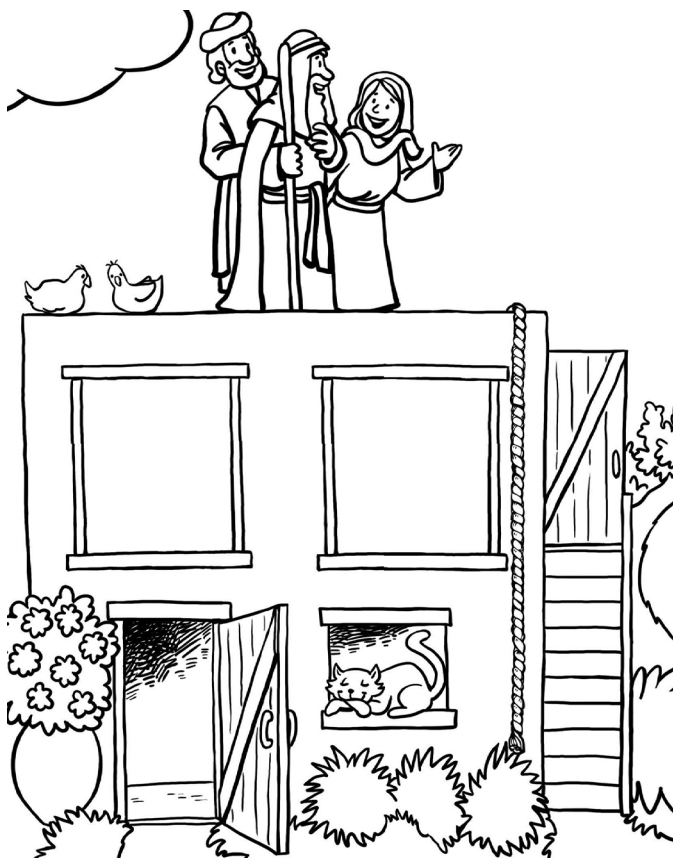
These children are offering their ropes of hope to each other. Can you find the pairs?



1-B; 2-A; 3-C

### PRAYER

*God of hope, open our ears to hear your hope in unexpected places.*



### BIBLE STORY

Rahab and the Spies  
(Based on Joshua 2)

Rahab, a woman from Jericho, welcomed two Hebrew spies sent by Joshua. Knowing of God’s power, she chose to hide them from the king’s soldiers. To protect them, she lied about their whereabouts and later helped them escape over the city wall using a red rope. In return, the spies promised to save Rahab and her family during their conquest, asking her to hang the same red rope in her window. Rahab’s faith and hope connected her to Jesus’ lineage, as seen in Matthew 1:15.

# Announcements

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## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE \_\_\_\_\_

### **ADVENT POINTSETTIAS ORDER BY DECEMBER 6**

If you wish to donate a poinsettia to beautify our December 15 and 24 worship services, the cost is \$15. You may donate in memory or honor of a loved one. Poinsettias will be delivered to those in need by our Deacons. Purchase online at [firstpresbyterian.org](http://firstpresbyterian.org)

## MATURE MINISTRIES \_\_\_\_\_

### **LUNCH & LEARN THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5 12:00PM | SOCIAL HALL WHAT IN THE WORDLE?**

A chat with Tracy Bennett about her journey to becoming a full-time puzzle professional and what it's like to work on The New York Times game team editing the daily crossword, Wordle and Strands.

## MISSION \_\_\_\_\_

### **ROTATING SHELTER JANUARY 6-20, 2025**

Up to 25 men seeking safe, warm, dry accommodations will be directed here by the Shelter Association of Washtenaw. Volunteers are needed as Evening Hosts, Overnight Hosts, and Morning Drivers. Hot food donations are needed. Donations of new warm clothing and pre-packaged food snacks and juice boxes may be dropped off in the Welcome Center. Sign up at [firstpresbyterian.org](http://firstpresbyterian.org). Financial donations are also welcome. For more information, contact Jim Peggs ([jpeggs@umich.med.edu](mailto:jpeggs@umich.med.edu)) or Marcey Terrien ([m2terrien@hotmail.com](mailto:m2terrien@hotmail.com)).

## PRAYER SERVICE \_\_\_\_\_

### **TAIZÉ PRAYER SERVICE TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3 7:00 PM | MONTEITH HALL**

Whether seeking a moment of tranquility, spiritual connection, or simply a break, the Taizé service offers a sanctuary for you to find peace and renewal.

## PRESBYTERIAN LIFE \_\_\_\_\_

### **SPIRITUAL WRITING THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5 10:30AM | VANCE ROOM**

Get in the Holiday Spirit with Spiritual Writing! Questions? Contact Meg Brown at [lmegbrown@gmail.com](mailto:lmegbrown@gmail.com).

### **HORIZONS BIBLE STUDY THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12 10:00AM | FOUNDERS ROOM 10:30AM | CURTIS ROOM**

Come for coffee and conversation at 10:00 following by the study of *God's Call to Care for our Neighbors and All Creation*. Mary Engelhardt will lead lesson four, *Water Justice*.

# THE SEASON OF ADVENT

03

## Taizé Prayer Service

Experience a beautiful form of prayer, inspired by the ecumenical community in Taizé, France.

Tuesday, December 3  
7:00 PM | Monteith Hall

06

## Christmas Poinsettias

Purchase a poinsettia to beautify our services on December 15 and 24. The cost is \$15. Purchase online at [firstpresbyterian.org](http://firstpresbyterian.org).

Friday, December 6  
[firstpresbyterian.org](http://firstpresbyterian.org)

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## Nativity Service

All children are invited to participate in the no-rehearsal retelling of the Nativity story during 9:30 am worship.

Sunday, December 8  
9:30 am | Sanctuary

09

## Christmas Giving

Support children in need this Christmas through two programs, Fostering Futures and Family-to-Family. Sign up online, [firstpresbyterian.org](http://firstpresbyterian.org)

November 30 & December 9  
Welcome Center

14

## Advent is Happening!

Crafting, cookie decorating, mission project, and holiday fun — activities for all ages to celebrate, create, and give back together!

Saturday, December 14  
10:00 AM | Social Hall

15

## Glorious Sounds of Christmas

Share the joy of the holiday season at our festive Christmas concert featuring the Chancel Choir, Joyful Ringers, Sanctus Ringers, and Lemon Chapel Singers. A strolling reception follows.

Sunday, December 15  
4:00 PM | Sanctuary

18

## Longest Night Service

Share and hear prayers, scripture, and music that acknowledge that God's presence is for those who mourn, for those who struggle, and that God's Word comes to shine light into our darkness.

Wednesday, December 18  
7:00 PM | Monteith Hall

24

## Christmas Eve Services

### 5:00 & 7:00 pm Candlelight Lessons & Carols

A traditional Christmas Eve celebration with scripture readings and carols that tell the story of Christ's birth.

### 11:00 pm Candlelight Communion

A serene, candlelit worship service with communion, celebrating the arrival of Christ.

The church office will be closed December 25-27 and December 31-January 1.  
All church events can be found by visiting the online calendar at [firstpresbyterian.org](http://firstpresbyterian.org)