



Season of light: Do not be afraid

There's so much noise out there in the world, it seems I can never get loud enough to be heard over the din. And then there's so much vying for our attention with all the flashy ads and tasty temptations, at times I can barely hear myself think. The glitz, the glam, and abundance is always in front of us as we navigate the tension in the air this season: between temporary and eternal; the intersection of the human and divine; as God made God's place among us in a small fragile child.

This year, instead of frivolously fighting, or avoiding, or running from the loud excess our culture has decided we need, I invite you this Advent, to intentionally, quietly and slowly, light up the world.

Advent is the season of waiting. May this season of light invite you to light candles, both literally and figuratively, in a world of darkness, scarcity and fear. Make an intention of your candle lighting this advent season—spend a few minutes and gather all your old candles laying around, and put them on a table—coffee table or a dining room table—wherever! Just some place visible.

And then pick a person, a place, an idea, that you want to be cognizant of that day/week and light a candle or a few. You may light a candle for joy and watch God reveal it all around you!



Or light a candle of hope and see the ways God is allowing hope to awaken in your world. Light a candle for someone you love but can't seem to deal with right now. Maybe God's light is needed there as well.

Listen to and carry the messages found in twinkling flames and holy whispers that the Spirit of Christ is alive and active, speaking to and leading us to the manger and a richer life found in the Spirit's presence.

I will light candles this Christmas.

Candles of joy despite all the sadness,

Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,

Candles of courage for fears ever present,

Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,

Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,

Candles of love to inspire all my living,

Candles that will burn all year long.

Author Howard Thurman
(taken from The Mood of Christmas and other Celebrations, 1973)

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Advent Activities

Youth Advent Mission Project - Church World Service Clean Up Buckets. The Christmas Tree in Fellowship Hall has items needed for the buckets. The list is to the right or you can look [here](#). Clean Up Buckets are used in areas where a natural disaster has happened, and allows communities to begin to clean up. We have a minimum goal of 15 buckets, with a total value of \$1200 (this includes the needed \$3 per bucket processing fee). We welcome both material and monetary donations. Money given will help cover the processing fee and purchase specialized items. **Deadline for items and funds is Wednesday, December 11.**



Join us Sunday, December 15 in Fellowship Hall after worship, 11:00 a.m., as we gather for our **Bucket Brigade Packing Party!** We'll have finger foods and assemble our buckets.

Caroling Caravans! Following our Bucket Brigade Packing Party, we'll divide into groups to go bring Christmas Cheer to our beloved at-home church members who aren't always able to join us in person! Families are welcome as this is a great all age activity. **12:00 p.m., Sunday, December 15.**



Donations for Christmas Decorations: if you would like to contribute to the beauty of our Sanctuary, there are envelopes in the pews. All gifts are welcome and all tributes received by **December 18** will be included in our Christmas Eve bulletin.



Here's the list for our buckets (items are specific - we cannot substitute):

- 5 gallon buckets with snap lid** (any home improvement store, logo is fine)
- 4-8 oz pump spray air freshener** (NO aerosol) 1 per bucket
- Scouring pads (thin ones)** - 5 per bucket
- Big sponges** - need 1 per bucket
- Sponges (smaller)** 6 per bucket
- Scrub brush** - 1 per bucket, with or without handle
- Liquid laundry detergent** -1 per bucket, 32-64 oz size
- Liquid disinfectant dish soap** - 1 per bucket; 16-34 oz bottle
- Liquid concentrate household cleaner** (must be mixed with water) 1 per bucket - 12-40 oz (NO spray bottles)
- Package of 50 clothespins** - 1 per bucket
- Cotton or plastic clothes line**, 50-100 feet, 1 per bucket
- Box of 20-28 contractor bags** (30-45 gallon size,) 1 per bucket
- Pump (non-aerosol) 6-9 oz insect repellent** (must have protective cover), 1 per bucket

Advent devotional available. If you would like one, you can pick one up in the office or the Narthex.



Deadline for financial contributions: to ensure your end-of-year contribution is credited for 2024, it must be in the office by December 29. Questions? [Email the office.](#)

Advent Worship & Opportunities

Sunday, November 24: Music Sunday - a musical tour of the Church Liturgical Year

Sunday, December 1: Communion/Advent 1 The Playground will be available for children.

Adults: Join Pastor Jessie in fellowship hall for a viewing of **Adventus**. We'll watch the film (35 minutes) and have conversations on the meaning and rituals of Advent.

Children/Youth: Motion & Movement

Sunday, December 8: Advent 2, Community Dinner

Sunday, December 15: Advent 3

2nd Hour Faith Formation: Bucket Brigade Packing Party - everyone! Fellowship Hall AND Christmas Caroling.

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

Third Sunday Family Faith Formation is Parents Night Out! We invite our families to bring their children and youth for dinner and activities related to the season, while parents can enjoy time out.

RSVP to Leslee by December 12.

Sunday, December 22: Advent 4

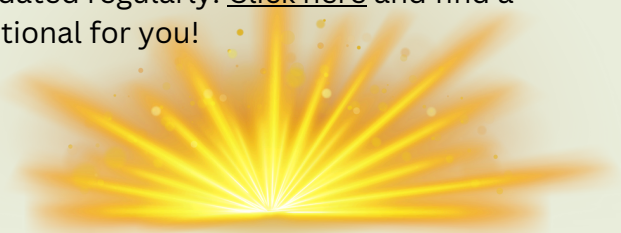
Tuesday, December 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship, 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 29: Christmas 1



Hanging of the Greens. Join us Monday, **November 25**, from 3:00-5:00 p.m. We will decorate the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. An activity good for all ages. Families especially encouraged to come! There will be pizza and refreshments. Join us and invite a friend to come too! **Sign up** outside the office or [click here](#).

There are good devotional resources for the season - many can be found on our website! There's a [Faith Formation Playlist](#) button. Leslee Kirkconnell curates a list of resources: devotions, parenting support, leader training and more. And it is updated regularly. [Click here](#) and find a devotional for you!



Help our Season of Light be bright! Kelly Sherrieb is seeking volunteers to help set up our luminaries along the driveway and walkways. **Tuesday, November 26** - email her or call 419-423-2112, ext. 3 for details. Timing will be volunteer driven.

Godly Play

Godly Play brings wonder to both children and adults, especially during Advent. Following the Blessing of the Children each Sunday, Heidi Croy will lead Kindergarten-5th grade to the Godly Play Room upstairs.

November 24: Receiving the Light, based on John 8:12

December 1: Playground is open, and children will remain in the Sanctuary to participate in the Lord's Supper

December 8: Advent 1 & 2: remembering the prophets pointing the way to something spectacular happening in Bethlehem; the Holy Family on the way to Bethlehem

December 15: Advent 3: angels visit the shepherds and urge them to go to Bethlehem

December 22: Advent 4: the wise traveler-astronomers on their way to Bethlehem

December 29: Christmas 1: The Mystery of Christmas

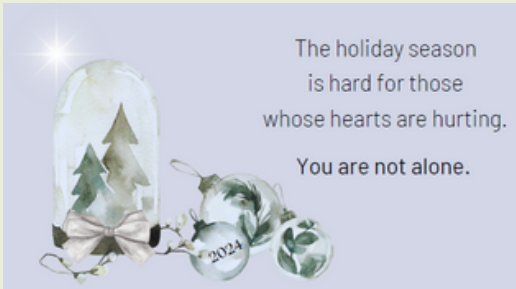


Music Ministry



Music Sunday - November 24

Come celebrate the liturgical year in song. We will journey through Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, and finally Christ the King Sunday in a special service of music. Guest musicians will enhance our worship. You won't want to miss this day of celebrating the great hymns of the church year.



Blue Christmas: Thursday, December 19, 7:00 p.m. at St. Andrews UMC, 120 W. Sandusky St. A gentle, contemplative service that offers comfort and hope. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 22, 6:30 p.m. here at First Presbyterian Church. A candlelight service of light and music for the longest night.

Nursery School

So much fall fun! Mr. Clint played the organ for us, we had costume parties, played with leaves, carved pumpkins and more!



Support early childhood education -consider a donation to the Nursery School scholarship fund. Scan the code or [click here](#).



Updates & Invites

Join us Thursday, December 12, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. We'll enjoy **Carols with Clint** - a celebration of beloved holiday music. Please RSVP for lunch by Tuesday, December 10 - call the office - 419-423-2112, email info@findlayfpc.org or sign up outside the office. Invite friends to join us!



Thank you to all who have submitted their pledge cards! We have received 76% of our pledge goal to date. If you did not submit a card by November 14, you will be getting a call from the Stewardship and Finance Committee. Having everyone's pledge cards submitted helps us create a balanced budget for 2025, so your response is greatly appreciated! Thank you for imagining a future of hope with us!



Every Thursday (other than the 2nd) the **Lunch Bunch** gathers in Room 113. Bring a bag lunch and enjoy casual conversation from 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m. A time of fellowship and building relationships. On the second Thursday, this group joins Onward & Upward. Friends are always welcome!

We will celebrate **Epiphany** on Sunday, January 5 during worship, 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.



Our Facility Manager **Kelly** requests donations of used **bath towels** for cleaning. You can bring yours to the office.



KnitWits meets every Friday, 9:30-11:30 a.m. in Room 112. Anyone who does handcrafts is welcome! Some knit or crochet for those in need, others bring personal projects - the beauty is the fellowship! Contact Deb Watson with questions.

Updates: the church will be closed Thursday, November 28 and Friday, November 29 for Thanksgiving. Leslee Kirkconnell will be out of the office November 19 through December 4. Jessie Commeret will be out of the office from November 22-29.



Mission Opportunities

Our next Community Dinner will be Sunday, December 8, 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the Great Room. We look forward to a delicious meal of pork tenderloin, cheesy potatoes, roasted vegetables, fruit, and dessert. Help will be needed with items for the meal, preparing the food, setting up, serving, and cleaning up. A sign up sheet is posted in the hallway outside the office. You can call or email to sign up as well. 419-423-2112, info@findlayfpc.org.



Saturday, December 7 is our next Mobile Food Pantry. Katie Abbott is coordinating volunteers. Help will be needed from 7:30-10:30 a.m. outside near the Great Room. A wonderful activity for families - come pack boxes of food for our neighbors who need a helping hand. Email Katie with questions or to volunteer.

Advent is Christmas Joy Season. We will collect this offering on Sunday, December 22. One of four special PC(U.S.A.) offerings, our gifts support church workers - both current and retired; as well as providing funds for education and faith development at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Click the picture or [here](#) to give online (be sure to choose 'Christmas Joy').



Thank you for your faithfulness! In October, we collected the PC (U.S.A.) Peace & Global Witness Offering (also known as the Peacemaking Offering). Our total was \$5,550. \$1,550 for peacemaking efforts of the PC(U.S.A.) and \$4,000 of that amount will be sent to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for Hurricane Helene relief. God has blessed us and we are in turn faithful in blessing others.

Facilities

We're preparing for colder weather. The Community Gardens are closed-hoses brought in and water shut off. Plots have been tilled. The Columbarium fountain is shut off and drained. AC units have been removed and are stored for the winter. Bearings on the heat pumps are being replaced and will be able to move hot air shortly. Gutter cleaning will come once all leaves are down.

Planning has begun for putting out Christmas luminaires - Contact Kelly if you would like to help.

Partnering with City Mission enables us to bring more help. Our donations for Darrel allow the Mission to use their funding for other items they would not otherwise be able to provide. Our December collection is **toilet paper and toilet bowl cleaner**. Let's overflow Darrel!



Pictures from our Life Together

Spooktacular fun on October 26!



Our Chili Cook Off was a delicious success!
Lark McCormick-our first Chili Champ!



Warm fellowship, delicious food!



\$649 raised for our
Summer 2025 Mission Trip.





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Financial Report

Year to Date 2024

YTD Income	\$610,248
YTD Income Budget	\$684,155
YTD Expenses	\$627,763
YTD Expenses Budget	\$724,040

Thank you for your generous support of Christ's Mission here at First Presbyterian Church Findlay!

Looking Ahead

November 24: Music Sunday
November 25: Hanging of the Greens
November 26: Set up Luminaries
Thursday-Friday, November 28-29: Church Closed
December 1: First Sunday in Advent
December 8: Community Dinner
December 11: MomCo Meet Up
December 12: Onward & Upward