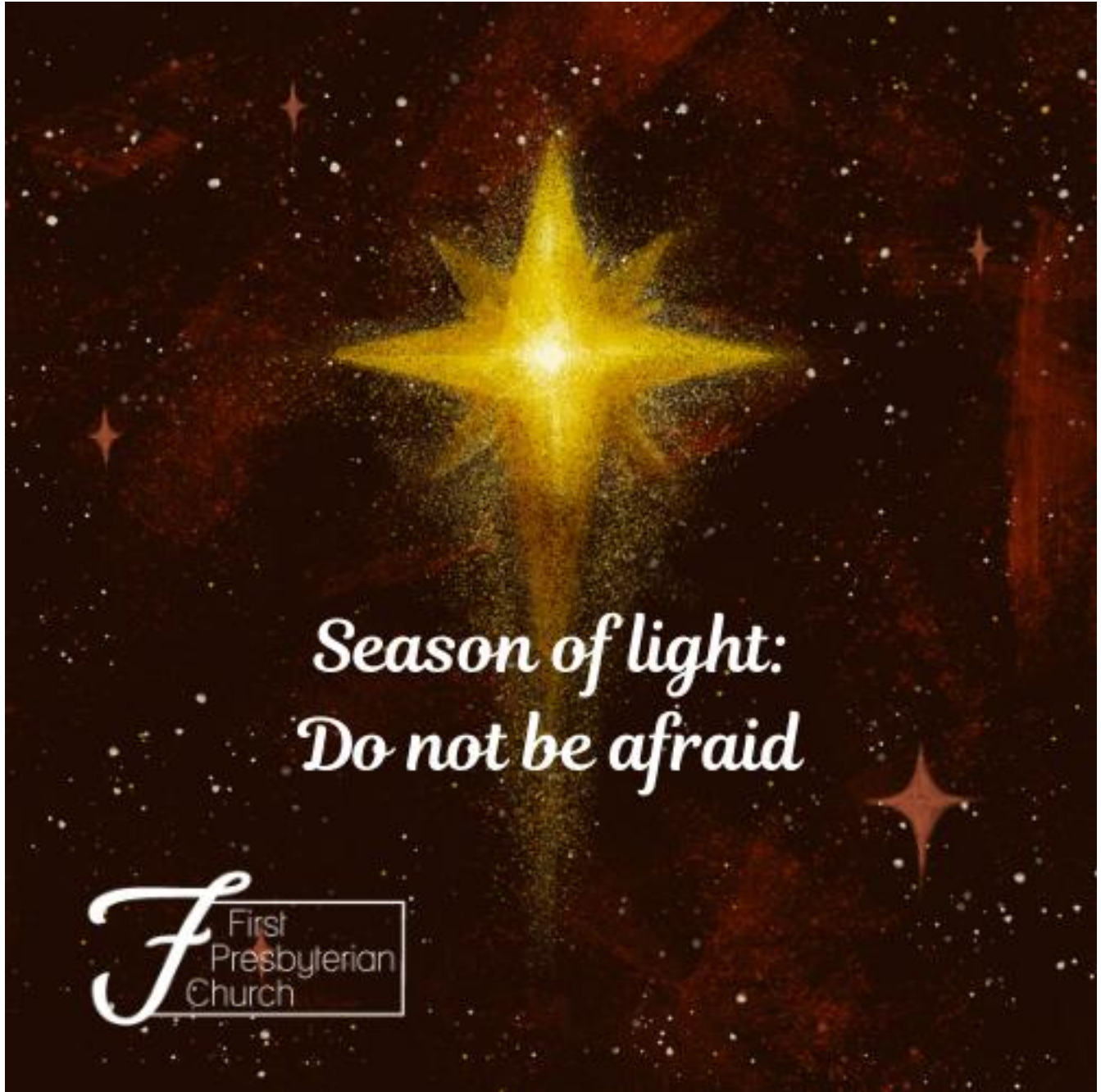


# First Sunday of Christmas

December 29, 2024



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

# First Sunday of Christmas

## December 29, 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

**The 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. CHRISTMAS is a period of time from Christmas Eve to Epiphany Day and the Baptism of Jesus. The colors are WHITE AND GOLD, symbolizing purity, holiness and virtue, expressing joy at the birth of the Savior. The dossal cloth with an embroidered cross was given in 2005, in memory of long-time member Emily Young, by her daughters, Nancy Young Gehlbach and Betsy Young Weaver and their families. The two banners above the doors, left and right, portray the Star of Bethlehem and the Manger of Jesus created in 2016 by Don Beck.

***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.*

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

Tolling of the Bells

Prelude

Go, Tell it on the Mountain

Eugene W. Hancock

\*Call to Worship

One: O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant! Come, ye, to Bethlehem!

**All: We come to behold him, born the king of angels.**

One: Sing, choirs of angels! Sing in exultation! Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

**All: O Come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

One: To Jesus be all glory, Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!

**All: O Come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

**Let us worship the newborn king!**

\*Carol #132

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

IN DULCI JUBILO

Carol #136

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

GO TELL IT

*See page xx*

\*Call to Confession

\*Prayer of Confession

**Merciful and loving God,**

**we confess to you we need the gift of Christmas,  
the gift of Jesus.**

**Without your gift of light and love,  
we lose our way.**

**We confess we often flounder in fear,  
isolate ourselves in despair,  
and defend our possessions in greed.**

**But the gift of Christmas shows us a different way to live.**

**And we ask for your grace to begin again,  
to receive this abundant gift of life,  
and follow you toward holding hope, bringing peace,  
practicing joy, and choosing love.**

*(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

Christ, the Sun of Light

IN DULCI JUBILO

*O Christ, the shining star of morn, in you the dawn of hope is born.  
Hear the prayers of peace, we pray to you who brings the lasting day.  
Sing we now in great accord to Christ, the everlasting Lord.  
Glory in the highest now and evermore!*

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

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

Blessing of the Children

Michael Bedford

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

**BREAKING OPEN THE WORD**

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson

Psalm 148

- Praise the Lord!
- Praise the Lord from the heavens;  
praise him in the heights!
- <sup>2</sup> Praise him, all his angels;  
praise him, all his host!**
- <sup>3</sup> Praise him, sun and moon;  
praise him, all you shining stars!**
- <sup>4</sup> Praise him, you highest heavens  
and you waters above the heavens!**
- <sup>5</sup> Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
for he commanded and they were created.
- <sup>6</sup> He established them forever and ever;  
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**

<sup>7</sup> Praise the Lord from the earth,  
 you sea monsters and all deeps,  
<sup>8</sup> **fire and hail, snow and frost,**  
**stormy wind fulfilling his command!**  
<sup>9</sup> Mountains and all hills,  
 fruit trees and all cedars!  
<sup>10</sup> **Wild animals and all cattle,**  
**creeping things and flying birds!**  
<sup>11</sup> Kings of the earth and all peoples,  
 princes and all rulers of the earth!  
<sup>12</sup> **Young men and women alike,**  
**old and young together!**  
<sup>13</sup> Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
 for his name alone is exalted;  
 his glory is above earth and heaven.  
<sup>14</sup> **He has raised up a horn for his people,**  
**praise for all his faithful,**  
**for the people of Israel who are close to him.**  
**Praise the Lord!**

Second Lesson

Colossians 3:12-17

Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with  
 compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with one another  
 and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the  
 Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup> Above all, clothe yourselves  
 with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace  
 of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be  
 thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one  
 another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and  
 spiritual songs to God. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in  
 the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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

Reflections On A Few Favorite Carols

Leslee Kirkconnell

Carol #121  
 #144  
 #143

O Little Town of Bethlehem  
 In the Bleak Midwinter  
 Angels, from the Realms of Glory

ST. LOUIS  
 CRANHAM  
 REGENT SQUARE

*See page xx*

Call for Offering

Offertory Carol 123

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

CAROL

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.**

**SENDING FORTH IN MISSION**

Messages for Our Life in Community

\*Closing Hymn #134

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

*See page 11*

\*Benediction

Postlude

Carillon on 'Antioch'

Mary Beth Bennett

## WORSHIP LEADERS

<b>Pastor:</b>	Rev. Jessica Commeret
<b>Director of Music:</b>	Clinton Miller
<b>Lay Reader:</b>	Debbie Crow
<b>Director of Connectional Ministry:</b>	Leslee Kirkconnell
<b>Musicians:</b>	Today, we welcome Heather Kirkconnell as our guest organist.
<b>A/V Technician:</b>	Robbie Riffle

HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Opening Carol Medley #132

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

IN DULCI JUBILO

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
 now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.  
 He has o-pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.  
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Carols using two languages, like this one dating from at least the 14th century, belong to a special group called "macaronic," the original languages here being German and Latin. Though the present version is only in English, it is sung to the traditional German folk melody.

TEXT: Medieval Latin; trans. and para. John Mason Neale, 1853, alt.  
 MUSIC: German folk melody, 14th cent.; harm. David Hugh Jones, 1953  
 Music Harm. © 1955, ren. 1983 John Ribble (admin. Westminster John Knox Press)

IN DULCI JUBILO  
 6.6.7.7.8.5.5



Verses 1, 2, & 5

1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-rious song of old,  
 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come, with peace-ful wings un - furled,  
 3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suf-fered long;  
 4 And you, be-neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing low,  
 5 For lo, the days are has-tening on, by proph-ets seen of old,

from an - gels bend - ing near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:  
 and still their heaven-ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world:  
 be - neath the heaven-ly hymn have rolled two thou-sand years of wrong;  
 who toil a - long the climb-ing way with pain - ful steps and slow,  
 when with the ev - er - cir-cling years shall come the time fore - told,

"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all-gra-cious King":  
 a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov-ering wing,  
 and we at war on earth hear not the tid - ings that they bring;  
 look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing:  
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen-dors fling,

the world in sol - emn still-ness lay, to hear the an - gels sing.  
 and ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds the bless-ed an - gels sing.  
 O, hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the an - gels sing!  
 O, rest be - side the wea - ry road, and hear the an - gels sing.  
 and the whole world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er  
 2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your  
 3 Sag - es, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions  
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,

all the earth; you, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,  
 flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing;  
 beam a - far; seek the great de - sire of na - tions;  
 Spir - it, Son, ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing

now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
 yon - der shines the in - fant light: come and wor - ship,  
 you have seen his na - tal star: come and wor - ship,  
 to the e - ter - nal Three in One:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king!

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y and, gath - ered all a - bove,  
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!  
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by.  
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.  
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.  
 cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light;  
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,  
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.  
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
 O come to us; a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

Though he was famed during his lifetime as a great preacher, no sermon Phillips Brooks ever preached has been heard or read by as many people as have sung this carol he wrote in December 1868 for the Sunday School children of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Philadelphia.

TEXT: Phillips Brooks, 1868  
 MUSIC: Lewis Henry Redner, 1868

ST. LOUIS  
 8.6.8.6.7.6.8.6  
 (alternate tune: FOREST GREEN)

1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan;  
 2 Our God, heaven can - not hold him, nor earth sus - tain;  
 3 An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there;  
 4 What can I give him, poor as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;  
 heaven and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign:  
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim thronged the air;  
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;

snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed  
 but his moth - er on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,  
 if I were a wise man, I would do my part;

‡ in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.  
 the Lord God in - car - nate, Je - sus Christ.  
 ‡ wor - shiped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.  
 yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

Though this text describes winter weather in England rather than in Palestine, the poet is using familiar surroundings as a means of making the Nativity more immediate and personal. The tune name honors a Gloucestershire village near the composer's birthplace in Cheltenham.

TEXT: Christina Rossetti, c. 1872, alt.  
 MUSIC: Gustav Holst, 1906

CRANHAM  
 Irregular

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs  
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -

her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,  
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow  
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his  
 and heaven and na - ture sing,

and  
 sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.  
 heaven and na - ture sing,

While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9 in Christian terms, titling it "The Messiah's coming and kingdom." So "the Lord" here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

TEXT: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.

MUSIC: Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742; arr. Lowell Mason, 1836

ANTIOCH

CM with repeat

(alternate tune: RICHMOND, 266)

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

January 29, 2024

## TODAY

### Fellowship

We have coffee, snacks, and conversations starting at 9:30 a.m. and again following worship every Sunday under the portico (weather permitting) or in the Parlor.

### Godly Play

Today's Bible story: The Mystery of Christmas

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## HIGHLIGHTS

### Church Office Closings and Hours

The Church Office will be closed the following dates:

Wednesday, December 25

Thursday, December 26

Wednesday, January 1

The week of December 30-January 27, the church office will be open 9:00 a.m.-Noon each day the office is open.

### Staff Vacation Dates

Clinton Miller: December 27-January 2

Pastor Jessie: December 27-January 2

## 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.

Contact: Clint Miller

### 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

## OLDER ADULTS

### Onward and Upward

**Thursday, January 9, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall.**

Join us for an engaging program followed by a delicious lunch. Invite friends, come and learn, and of course, enjoy lunch! Contact: Pastor Jessie

## FELLOWSHIP

### Fellowship "Hour"

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

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

Contact: Suzi Healy

### Sarah Circle

**Friday, January 17, 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Room 112-113**

A "circle" is a women's group that meets for prayer, study, community building, giving and fellowship. Special projects raise funds for our church and mission work. First Presbyterian Church of Findlay has two circles that meet from September through May for fellowship and Bible study. Both support local charities and mission and welcome new members.

Contact: Peggy Lobb

### Lunch Bunch

***The Lunch Bunch will not meet 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 causal lunch time every week! On the second Thursdays, this group joins Onward and Upward.

Contact: Beth Niemeyer

### Knit Wits

**Fridays, 9:30 a.m., Room 113**

Bring your needles, yarn, and great spirit to share time together knitting prayer shawls and other crafts.

Contact: Deb Watson

### Men's Group

**Sunday, January 12, 9:00 a.m., Room 211**

This group is open to all men of our church. Let's get to know each other better and share our work and faith stories. Hope to see all of you there.

Contact: Curt Hugunin at 419-957-2038

## WORSHIP

### Sanctuary Flowers for Winter 2025

A sign-up sheet to provide Sanctuary flowers is posted on the bulletin board outside the church office, and a number of dates remain available. Please select the Sunday(s) you would like to provide Sanctuary flowers.

### Lay Readers Needed for Worship

A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board outside the church office for those who want to provide leadership in Sunday worship services.

## 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

### 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, January 19, 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-5<sup>th</sup> grade. Childcare will be provided for those 4 years old and younger following dinner.

Contact: Leslee Kirkconnell

### MomCo Meet Up Monthly Meeting

**Wednesday, January 15, 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 with RSVP by Monday, October 14. Refreshments, fellowship, and community. Join us!

Contact: Leslee Kirkconnell

### MomCo Needs Loving Arms

**Wednesday, January 15, 8:45-11:45 a.m., Room 107C**

We need one volunteer willing to rock babies during our MomCo Meet Up. There is a sign-up sheet outside the office. Volunteers must have a current background check.

Contact: Leslee Kirkconnell

## GET CONNECTED

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

You can also read in your email.



## 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

### FPC Men's Group to Start

**Sunday, October 20, 11:15 a.m., Room 214**

There's been interest in having a men's group at FPC, so we're having an initial meeting to determine a time to gather, as well as activities and/or study all men would like to see. The group is open to all men of any age. We will meet in Room 214. If you cannot come to the meeting but are interested, please contact Curt Hugunin.

## MISSION

### Community Dinner

**Sunday, January 12, 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Great Room**

The Community Dinner outreach provides a nutritious home-cooked meal on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month to the community. Volunteers meet at 9:00 a.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 bowl 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.

### Mobile Food Pantry

**2025 dates to be announced**

FPC hosts four mobile food pantry distributions throughout the year in cooperation with Chopin Hall and other community service organizations to provide food for the hungry throughout our community.

Contact: Katie Abbott

## 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!



## 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
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Carol Smith, Nursery School Director	csmith@findlayfpc.org
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Curt Hugunin, Evening Custodian	
Marna Weaver, Church Accountant	

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## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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