



December 15, 2024 ~ Third Sunday in Advent; Manger Sunday; Poinsettia Display

9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship (Sanctuary) -- *please stand as you are able

*Have you checked in for worship today on the Church Center app? Please remember to also **sign** the Friendship pads in the pews and greet those seated near you. **NOTE: Worship announcements begin approx. 8:55 am.***

Welcome & Work of God's People

Rev. Wes Allen

Music in Preparation for Worship

Joel Krott, Piano

Noel: Songs I Pray to Thee

Dandrieu

Introit

Sawyer McNab, Piano

Candle Song

Haydn

Come, Lord Jesus, Maranatha*

Miffleton

Primary Choir

*means "Our Lord, come"

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Week 3: Joy (pink)

Lighters: Paul and Rachel Gordon; Avery, Isaac, Freddy and Caroline

***Call to Worship**

Gordon Family

In the stillness of this sacred season, we gather to prepare the way of the Lord.

God shakes the heavens and the earth to awaken us to hope.

In the beauty of Mary's song, we hear God's promise of justice.

God lifts the lowly and fills the hungry with good things.

Come, let us worship the God of Advent, who makes all things new.

We lift our voices with joy and expectation, for the Lord is near.

***Opening Hymn**

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates (see insert)

***Seating interlude

Call to Confession & Prayer of Confession (unison)

Elder Steve Shaffer

Gracious God, we confess that we have often clung to what is comfortable and familiar, resisting the newness you bring. We fail to trust your promise that justice will flow and hope will rise. Forgive us for the times we have ignored the cries of the oppressed and turned away from your call to love. In the quiet of Advent, help us make room in our hearts for your transforming presence. Teach us to live as people of hope, proclaiming your kingdom with courage and joy. Amen.

(Silence for our personal prayers of confession and surrender.)

Assurance of Pardon

Elder Shaffer

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, hear the good news! In Jesus Christ, God has entered the world to lift us from despair and lead us into life.

God's mercy is from generation to generation.

Rejoice and be glad, for in Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

*Gloria Patri

Anthem

Carol Manion, Piano

Light One Candle

Sleeth

Junior Choir

Prayer of Intercession and the Lord's Prayer ('debts')

Rev. Stuart Spencer

Way of the Week #10: Join Hands

Speaker: Rev. Kathy Dain

10. JOIN HANDS. Work as a team. Collaborate with each other, our professional staff, our lay leaders, and our congregants to find the best solutions. Collaboration lightens the load, generates better ideas than individuals working alone, and unleashes the gifts God has given us all.

Offertory

Rev. Spencer



Throughout December, Christmas Green envelopes are in the pews for your holiday offering to First Presbyterian Church. Thank you for your faithfulness and for blessing FPC Moorestown with your giving, especially in this important stewardship season. Your offerings and donations allow us to sustain our church programs year-round. Donate easily from your device via the Church Center app for your tithes, offerings and other fund contributions. If you're watching via live stream, you can give online right now as well! To mail offerings, send to P.O. Box 868, Moorestown, NJ 08057.

Offertory Music

Rachel Ferguson, Piano

O Come, Redeemer of the Earth

Hanson

Chapel Choir; Lilly Rykaczewski, Alto; Ivan Denissov, Bass

O come, Redeemer of the earth, and manifest Your virgin birth.

Let ev'ry age in wonder fall: such birth befits the God of all.

Begotten of no human will but of the Spirit, You are still

The Word of God in flesh arrayed, the promised fruit to man displayed.

O Morning Star, come end our night. Cast out our sins and shed Your light.

continued

The darkness of our low estate with endless beams illuminate!
All praise, eternal Son, above Whose advent shows Your matchless love,
Whom with the Father we adore, and Holy Ghost forever more. Amen

*Doxology No. 809

Sermon

Rev. Wes Allen

“Hope in a Shaken World”

Scripture: Haggai 2: 6, 7 (Pew Bible page 878 OT); Luke 1: 26-38, 47-55 (Pew Bible page 56 NT)

Sermon Series: O Come Emmanuel!

Presentation of Manger Sunday Gifts (INSERT)

Rev. Spencer, Allen

Please bring unwrapped gifts forward to place in the manger and be blessed. As you process forward, please join in singing carols of the season (SEE HYMN INSERT). Later today, these gifts will be given to [Oaks Integrated Care](#) for their clients and families to use as gifts for their own families. Thank you for your amazing generosity!

Music in Preparation for Service

Joel Krott, Organ

Noel: Let's Go See This Divine Promise

Dandrieu

*Benediction and Going Forth

Rev. Allen

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Worship flowers are the poinsettias donated by church members in loving memory or honor of those they hold dear. *See insert for Poinsettia Dedications.*

Driving Help (I Will Serve) -- Would you be able to help the Deacons deliver poinsettias to connect with some of our less mobile members? Please see Bobbi Voglesong or Gail Sorin this morning.

9:00 a.m. Worship Ministry

Advent Wreath Lighters: The Gordon Family; **Ways Speaker:** Rev. Kathy Dain; **Beadle:** Elder Steve Shaffer; **Audio Technicians:** Harris Ransom and Taylor Adair; **Live Stream Technician:** Jonathan Nawrocki; **Ushers:** Jack Terry, Joe Scheideler, Owen Dietz; **Poinsettia Arrangers:** Fran Green and Stacy Schaffer; **Poinsettia Delivery Coordinators:** Deacons Bobbi Voglesong and Gail Sorin; **Trustee Greeter:** Matt Moxhay; **Sanctuary Greeter:** Stephen Minister Sue Hill; **Deacon Greeters/Welcome Centers:** Deacons Susan Horn and Steve Emerson; **Bagel Pickup:** Kelly Eagles or Carol Wiggans; **Coffee Hospitality:** Kelly Eagles and Carol Wiggans; **Nursery Care:** Chelsea Margerum.

[Work of God's People \(See Connections, eblast, website and Church Center app for details\)](#)

TODAY: [Manger Sunday Dec. 15](#) (I Will Give) - Members are invited to bring unwrapped gifts on **Dec. 15** for Manger Sunday to both services to place in the manger. Gifts will be given to Oaks Integrated Care clients to use as gifts for their own families. For those NOT attending, gifts may be dropped off before or after services outside on the steps by the Sanctuary Courtyard (off the Lobby, Blessing Box side) by **12 noon**. For questions, contact Deacons Susan Shaffer and Mike McNeil. [See our event page](#) for a list of Wish List gift items.

[Advent Wreath Candle Lighters](#) (I Will Serve)-- The Worship Team is looking for individuals for Sunday worship **Dec. 22**, as well as four Christmas Eve services on **Dec. 24** at 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 8:30 pm and 11:00 pm. Contact Worship Chair Kevin Fauvell at (609) 220-0177 or kevindfauvell@gmail.com to take part in this Advent worship experience as individuals, families or friend groups.

[Alternative Gift Fair](#) (I Will Give) is available **Nov. 24-Dec. 24**. See tables at church to purchase your gifts. Gifts begin at \$5.00 and a broad range of gifts is available to assist our ministries. Cash or checks. Fulfillment volunteers are needed to staff the Alternative Gift Fair on Dec. 15th and 22nd. Please contact Donna Leatherman at mailto:donnaleatherman@comcast.net or (856) 304-8001 if you can help.



Deacons Food and Coat Drive (I Will Give) -- Our Blessing Box supply is once again depleted and food needs are critical in these winter months. Next time you're grocery shopping consider picking up some **nonperishable food** items so we can restock the Blessing Box. Please leave food in the Commons Lobby. **ALSO:** We are also asking congregants to bring in **gently used and new coats** for local Haitian and Ukrainian refugees. Coats may be dropped off in the bin outside the Grace Boutique and are greatly appreciated as the weather is turning colder.

See our event page, website or Advent Activity Guide for a complete list of Christmas worship times

[NEW: Young Artists: Artwork for Christmas Eve Bulletins](#) -- We would like to showcase the artistic talents of our youth on our four Christmas Eve worship guides. *This year, we are asking for artwork that pictures Mary riding a donkey and Joseph.* Make the colors bold, and when pictures are colored in, please make sure no white paper shows through. Be creative! **Digital submissions are due by December 15 to Holly Ascitutto at hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org.**

"2024 Advent Activity Guide" and "Advent Devotional" Available (I Will Serve) – Pick up a copy of these two Advent publications. The *Advent Activity Guide* details all the activities of the Advent season leading us to Epiphany. Download from our website, events page and Friday eblast. The *"Advent Devotional"* offers daily reflections through Dec. 24, many from our young people. Contact the church office to have a copy mailed to you.

[Family Advent Kit](#) (I Will Pray) - Families are encouraged to pick up an *Advent Kit* in the Commons Lobby, as we prepare ourselves for Christmas. Everything you will need is included for you. See *Connections* for information.

[Christmas Worship Services \(I Will Invite\):](#) **Monday, Dec. 23rd:** Christmas Eve Eve Worship (3:00 pm & 7:00 pm (outdoor, weather dependent); **Tuesday, Dec. 24th Christmas Eve:** 4:00 pm Family Service (Sanctuary); 6:00 pm Lessons & Carols (Miller Commons); 8:30 pm Communion Service (Sanctuary); 10:45 pm Chapel Choir Concert/11:00 pm Lessons & Carols (Sanctuary); **Wednesday, Dec. 25th Christmas Day:** 9:30 am, preacher Dr. Jonathan Miller, Communion; **Sunday, Dec. 29th:** 5th Sunday (9:30 am combined, no Sunday School or nursery care, adult class meets AFTER worship.)

Holiday Prayer Service Schedule – There will be NO Thursday Prayer Service on December 26 or January 2, 2025.