



*The Glorious Sounds
of Christmas*

Sunday, December 12

4:00 p.m.

Sanctuary

First Presbyterian Church

*A festive Christmas Concert
featuring Children's Choir,
Sanctus Ringers, and Chancel Choir*

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
NOVEMBER 28, 2021 • 8:00 a.m.



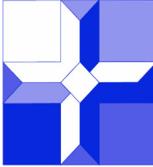
Pastoral & Program Staff

- Eric Banitt
Accompanist / Pianist
- Rev. Megan Berry
Resident Minister
- Barbara DeLancey
Parish Nurse
- David Hufford
Organist
- Rev. Hannah Lundberg
Resident Minister
- Rev. Mark Mares
Minister of Youth & Families
- Rev. Evans McGowan
Assistant Pastor of Faith Formation and Campus Ministries
- Stacey Pakela
Parish Nurse
- Shayla Powell
Children's Choir Director
- Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers
Associate Pastor
- Rev. Jay Sanderford
Associate Pastor
- Beca Torres-Davenport
Coordinator of Children's & Family Ministry
- David VanderMeer
Minister of Music & Fine Arts
- Rev. Matthew J. Warfield
Resident Minister



Administrative Staff

- Robin Agnew
Administrative Assistant
- Nick Dibacco-Vaidya
Finance Assistant
- Pat Gilbreath
Welcome Center Coordinator
- Almer Harris
Maintenance Specialist
- Kathy Houser
Technology Coordinator
- Diane Knibbs
Administrative Assistant
- Anna Miller
Finance Manager
- Allie Milot
Communications Coordinator
- Adrian Prundeanu
Facilities Manager
- Linda Robinson
Office Manager



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Ann Arbor | Michigan

Making God's Love Visible

Awake My Soul
Mike Moyers

GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY Excerpt from *Arabesque No. 1* Claude Debussy

WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

FAITH IN ACTION *Making Friends with the Friendship Pad*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

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.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness. Christ be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

* HYMN 88 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* VENI EMMANUEL
Please sing stanzas 1, 2, 4, and 6.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy One, you are the God of abundance, of provision, and of plenty. Still, so many do not have enough. As our nation celebrates the abundance of Thanksgiving, we acknowledge the ways that violence, injustice, and the genocide of native peoples have shaped our history. We confess our participation in unjust systems and pray that we may build a future that repairs past harms and truly honors the dignity of all. Lord, have mercy. Guide us in this season of Advent to choose truth over fear, collaboration over competition, gratitude over greed, and patience over productivity. Help us to choose you and your ways, always...

SILENT PRAYER

The Prayer Team meets every Monday morning online. If you have a prayer request, use this form by Sunday evening: <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/prayer-request/>.

Your Pastor Nominating Committee meets weekly and is committed to being open and transparent in our search for a Lead Pastor. Information about our search is available at: <https://www.firstpresbyterian.org/about/staff-leadership/pastoral-transition-first-presbyterian>. We may be reached at pnc2021@firstpresbyterian.org.

Poinsettias for Christmas. If you wish to donate a poinsettia to beautify our December 19 and December 24 worship services, the cost is \$20. You can donate in memory or honor of a loved one. Poinsettias will be delivered to those in need by our Deacons following those services. Thank you for your donation! The deadline is Sunday, December 12, at midnight. Sign up either online at <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/w1w3mdbe1sxyhze/> or in the Main Office.

Advent Mission Event: Save the Date! Sunday, December 5, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Join us for a First Sunday special intergenerational mission event in our Social Hall with Rise Against Hunger as we pack 10,000+ meals for those in need. Donations are also welcomed to help fund the cost of the meals. Contact Rev. McGowan (emcgowan@firstpresbyterian.org) for more information and to sign up. Register or Donate Here: <http://events.riseagainsthunger.org/FirstPresbyterianChurchofAnnArbor>.

Our annual Nativity Service has a new date and time this year. It will be on Sunday, December 19, at 11:15 a.m. All children ages 3 and older are invited to participate. Children who are comfortable reading are encouraged to sign up as scripture readers. There are also non-speaking parts for a multitude of children: Star Bearers, Angels, Shepherds and Magi. The parent information meeting is next Sunday, December 5, at 10:45 a.m., in our Family Space (room 301). Please sign up to participate using this link: <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/nativity-worship-pageant-registration/>.



Ann Arbor Youth Chorale
6 Winter Concert

4:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 5, 2021
First Presbyterian Church
1432 Wastenaw Ave, Ann Arbor, MI

Join us for an afternoon of beautiful music!

Tickets available at www.a2yc.org and at the door.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our November Communion Food Donations and Financial Contributions will be overseen by Campus Ministry. Monetary donations will be sent to Washtenaw Community College Student Emergency Fund which provides food cards to needy students. Donated food will be given to Community Action Network (C.A.N.).

The Men's Study Group meets on the first and third Friday mornings, 8:30 – 9:30 a.m., in the Curtis Room, for coffee, study, and conversation. Contact Rev. Sanderford for more information at jsanderford@firstpresbyterian.org or (734) 662-4466.

Journeys, a Bible Study for women, meets on the first and third Thursdays at 11:30 via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoomus/j/295007173>). Remaining dates this fall are December 2 and December 16. For more details contact Coordinator Beth Gerwig (bgerwig@comcast.net) or Resident Minister Matthew Warfield (mwarfield@firstpresbyterian.org).

Expand Your Faith with Presbyterian Women (PW). There are several monthly Bible studies that all women of the church are welcome to attend. These include two Horizons Bible Studies on the second Thursday of each month and a weekly study of Paul's "Letters to the Ephesians & Galatians" hosted by Meg Brown in her home on Wednesdays. Contact Meg (lmegbrown@gmail.com) for more information and to request to be added to an email list to receive timely updates on other matters of interest to PW.

Mature Singles meet on Friday nights. Please call Marcy (995-2519) for more information.

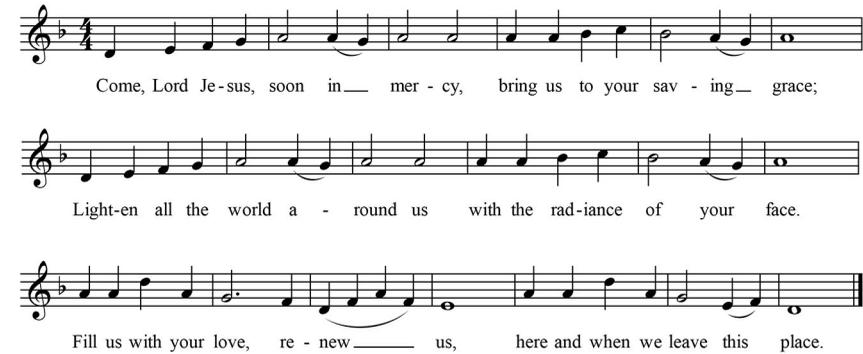
Making God's Love Visible, Peace by Piece Stewardship Update. Thank you to all who have returned your pledge and Opportunity to Serve forms. As of November 22, we have 321 pledges for \$1,204,631, representing 73.1% of our goal. Every pledge counts. We do expect expenses to rise in unpredictable ways next year. It's not too late to pledge so we can continue to grow the worship, mission and programs of First Pres. Pledge forms are available in the Church Office or online at firstpresbyterian.org/contribute/donate/stewardship-2022.

Visit the Virtual Art Exhibit, "The Peace of the Earth" by local Ann Arbor artist, Joan Cohen Jones. The exhibit is found at www.fpca2art.org.

Help support First Pres as we host the Rotating Shelter, January 3–16, 2022. Up to 25 men will be directed here by the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County for overnight shelter. Following Covid guidelines, volunteers are needed as evening hosts (6:30–9:00 p.m.), overnight hosts (8:30 p.m.–7:00 a.m.), and for awake watch-duty shifts (10:00 p.m.–6:00 a.m.). Sign up for the shift(s) that best fit your calendar at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040f4aa8a62ea3fe3-first>. Donations of pre-packaged food snacks/juice boxes and new warm clothing may be dropped off in the Welcome Center. Financial donations are also welcome by using the following link: <https://secure.myvanco.com/YM88/campaign/C-11Q0D>.

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.

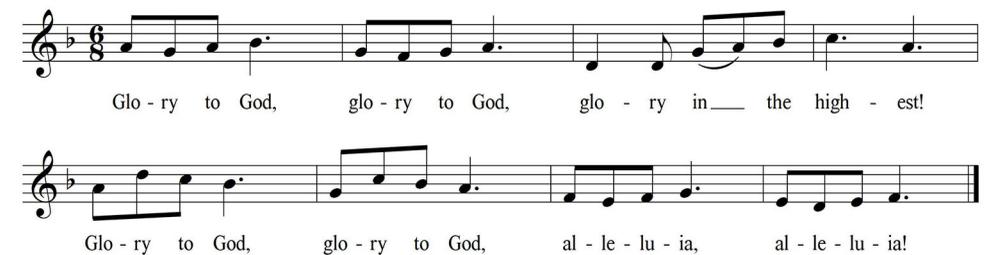
Fill us with your love, re - new — us, here and when we leave this place.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

You are invited to share signs with one another of the peace we experience as God's people. Greet one another saying, "The peace of Christ be with you," and respond, "And also with you."

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE



Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry in— the high - est!

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

This Hymn 583, Glory to God (GLORIA).

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalms 25:1–10

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

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 21:25–36

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

SERMON

A Sign of the Times

RESPONDING AND SEALING

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Offertory

Thou Shalt Know Him

Mark Sirett

Chancel Choir Section Leaders

Thou shalt know him when he comes,
Not by any din of drums, nor his manners, not his airs,
Nor by anything he wears.

Thou shalt know him when he comes,
Not by his crown or by his gown. But his coming known shall be,
By the holy harmony which his coming makes in thee.
Thou shalt know him when he comes. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Please see the Communion Card.

Communion Music

O Come, O Come Emmanuel, Improvisation

SENDING

* HYMN 82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE

In the name of Jesus —

Let us Love...**with Open Hearts!**

Let us Learn...**with Open Minds!**

Let us Serve...**with Open Arms!**

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

arr. Mark Hayes

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

“Christ, Be Our Light”

We can't see light itself. Instead, we can only catch glimpses of what light illuminates, like the tiny circle of light where the candle glows. We see the reflections – a face looking up to us or the beam of a flashlight cutting through the haze. In John, Jesus says that he is the Light of the World, and this is part of what he is saying. He is beyond our field of vision, but in the darkness where we stand, we see, because of him, the track that leads us forward is visible. Our Advent and Christmas theme this year reflects our deep longing for light. “Christ, Be Our Light” is our guiding theme and it flows directly from a lovely, singable hymn written by Bernadette Farrell. At the heart of it we sing our Advent desire:

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

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

Worship Leaders: Liturgist – Megan Berry; Candlelighters – Rol and Jeanette Kibler; Scripture Reader – Nancy Fox; Preacher – Hannah Lundberg; Musicians – Chancel Choir Section Leaders; Pianist – Eric Banitt; Conductor – Dave VanderMeer; Usher – Marty Reineman; Communion Server – Jeanette Kibler

Use the offertory moments to savor your gratitude for the abundance of God's love and to consider your own response in loving service. As you consider making your offering, remember that the church's regular expenses continue in these difficult times. And the community around us needs your financial support: your faithful giving is like the breath of life to mission programs we love, neighbors in need, members who are hurting. Thank you for your faithful generosity! Ways to give include online on our First Pres website, via “Text-to-Give” (855-904-1523), using our Vanco Mobile app, putting a check in the mail, or scanning the QR code on the right.



Join us for Coffee Hour in the Social Hall immediately following the Closing Voluntary. Please continue to wear your mask when not actively eating and drinking while remaining in the Social Hall. Cookie baker is Peggy Hodgson.

Music copyrights: All music is reprinted under OneLicense.net A-720542 and under CCLI license #20971309. All rights reserved. **Cover art copyright:** *Awake My Soul* by Mike Moyers is used with permission from “Art in the Christian Tradition,” a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

FAITH FORMATION TODAY @ 11:00

The Bible at 11 o'clock, Exploring the Faith, and First Friends do not meet today. Please plan to attend one of these adult faith formation classes next Sunday.