



Upcoming Worship Services

Nativity Service

Sunday, December 19, 11:15 a.m.

The Longest Night Service

Tuesday, December 21, 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Worship

A Service of Lessons & Carols, 5:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.

Candlelight Communion Service, 11:00 p.m.

First Sunday of Christmas Family Worship

December 26, 9:30 a.m.

(This is the only service on December 26.)

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 12, 2021 ♦ 8:00 a.m.



Awake My Soul
Mike Moyers



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Ann Arbor | Michigan

Making God's Love Visible

GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY *Of The Father's Love Begotten*

arr. Mark Hayes

WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

FAITH IN ACTION

Rotating Shelter

Marcey Terrien

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!

The Lord, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing
as on a day of festival.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.

**Shine through the darkness.
Christ be our light!**

Shine in your church gathered today.

* HYMN 106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, You call us to draw joyfully from the wells of your salvation.
Yet in these times we are ... hesitant. Scared. Mistrustful.
We know Jesus saves us from the darkness within and among us.
Yet we have failed to put our faith in you, and we have fallen into fear.
Hope and joy are found in a manger. Yet peace and justice still feel so far away.
Lest we are lost to the darkness, find us in your everlasting grasp.
Lest we are blinded by the light, bind us ever closer to your love...

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.

Rotating Shelter returns to First Pres January 3–17. For these two weeks, our church home will become the overnight home to 25 men who otherwise have housing challenges. The RS Committee and First Pres staff are working to comply with Covid protocol and to follow the directives of the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County. Distancing, testing, and masking will all be used. No hot food will be served; instead, we'll offer pre-packaged snacks and beverages.

Volunteer opportunities are described on our website. They include Evening Host, Overnight Host, snack food donor and driver to breakfast site.

Folks unable to participate in-person may want to make a donation of food or clothing. These donations are welcome at any time during the two weeks; however, it would be helpful for you to use this site to specify your date of snack donation. Donations of warm, new clothing (original package and tags) are especially welcome. Donations may be left at the Welcome Center.

Please join others in our church in welcoming these men into our home. Your participation is as easy as following the link below. Questions? Call Jim Peggs (734-646-9412) or Marcey Terrien (480-833-7019)

Sign-up link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040f4aa8a62ea3fe3-first>

The Glorious Sounds of Christmas

TODAY, 4:00 p.m.

Sanctuary

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

Join us for Social Hour in the Social Hall immediately following the Closing Voluntary. Please continue to wear your mask. While we so enjoy being together, as our county Covid-19 numbers rise during these coldest months of being inside, we thank you for being as cautious as possible. Enjoy good conversation and then take a pre-bagged cookie with you as you leave. **Cookie bakers** are Ginny Horan and Linda Lampman. Thanks for helping us all stay safe and healthy!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Our December Communion Food Donations and Financial Contributions support Food Gatherers, the main supplier of food to local food banks in Washtenaw County. As we are fed at the Lord's Table, we also come to feed others and lend support to our neighbors in need. Non-perishable food may be placed in the bin provided in the Social Hall on Sundays, Mondays–Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Fridays, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Financial gifts may be made by check or online. Personal Care items are of particular need since they cannot be purchased with Bridge Cards. The most needed food items include low sodium soups, canned meats and vegetables, pasta, rice, cereal, oatmeal, granola bars, nut butters, jelly, baby food and formula, and Ensure or other nutritional supplement drinks. The most needed personal care items are diapers, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, and disposable razors. Donations will be coordinated by T2A2, our Young Adult Ministry.

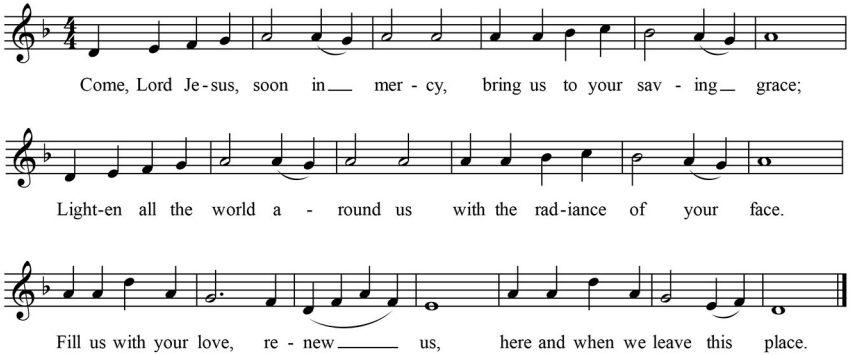
Visit our new art exhibit “Finding Sanctuary during the Pandemic” by Christina Saj. “Finding Sanctuary” is displayed in the Social Hall. This body of work takes shape from the circles on which they are painted. The Pandemic collection seeks solace in aesthetics, delivering hope and faith through image, form, and color. Its intention is for each painting to bloom in our collective gardens, offering glittering rays of sunshine, the echo of children’s laughter, a burst of flowers to sustain us through these tragic times. Christina Saj is a contemporary artist whose abstract paintings reveal a fascination with vivid color and rich pattern. To see more of her work please visit <http://www.saj.art>. The artwork is for sale for \$225.00 apiece. The Sacred Music Fund will receive 40% of all sales.

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 TODAY. Sign up either online at <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/w1w3mdbe1sxyhze/> or in the Main Office.

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/>.

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**
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
This is the refrain of Hymn 113, *Angels We Have Heard on High* (GLORIA).

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Zephaniah 3:14–20
This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Luke 3:7–18
The grass withers, the flower fades;
the word of the Lord endures forever.

SERMON Ordinary Miracles

RESPONDING AND SEALING

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Offertory

Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain
Chancel Choir Section Leaders

Carolyn Jennings

Climb to the top of the highest mountain,
Joyous tidings proclaim to the world,
Lift up your voice, shout the good news:
Behold, your Lord comes to you.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd,
He will carry the lambs in his arms,
He will ever keep them safe from harm.
Behold, your Lord comes to you.

He who made the stars in the heaven,
He who fashioned the earth and the sea,
From time eternal he was God, the Alpha and Omega, He.
Behold, your Lord comes to you.

He will come in power and glory,
He will rule with mercy and truth,
Hope of nations, light of all the world.
He will love the little children,
He will hold them in his arms.
Love and trust him as a little child,
Your Lord comes to you.
Love him as a little child.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Please see the Communion Card.

Communion Music

Take and Eat

arr. Mark Hayes

SENDING

* HYMN 314

Christ, Be Our Light

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

* 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

O Come, Emmanuel

arr. Fred Bock

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 – Hannah Lundberg; Candlelighters – Nancy Fox and Katie Parker; Scripture Reader – Brian Rubel; Preacher – Evans McGowan; Musicians – Chancel Choir Section Leaders; Pianist – Eric Banitt; Conductor – Dave VanderMeer; Usher – Marty Reineman; Communion Servers – Jeanette Kibler and Kathy Hillig

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.

