

First Presbyterian Church

Ninth at Washington, Michigan City, Indiana

December 22, 2024

10:00 A.M.

4th Sunday of Advent



THE WORSHIP OF OUR LORD

† † †

** Indicates those who are able, please stand*

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WE GATHER BEFORE GOD

† WELCOME – WORSHIP – CELEBRATE – SERVE †

PRELUDE: “Angels, Peasants, and Shepherds”

D. Paxton

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

The Advent Wreath Lighters: The Jamie Williams family and Maddisyn Hallford

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP: “Go Tell It on the Mountain”

Spiritual

*CALL TO WORSHIP: (Luke 1:46) (Please join in unison)

One: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

All: *With Mary, our spirits rejoice, and we sing God’s praise.*

One: Let us honor God with our worship this day,

*HYMN # 14 “Savior of the Nations, Come” (The Pew Hymnal)

WE ARE RENEWED IN GOD’S GRACE

CALL TO CONFESSION (Spoken by liturgist)

The prophet Micah tells us that the “one of peace” will come from Bethlehem. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior, let us confess our sins and set ourselves on Christ’s path.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Please join in unison)

Soon we will celebrate the Prince of Peace, but we are not a people at peace. We glorify violence and dismiss the pacifist as weak. We dominate and demean turning dialogue into debate. We wage war before giving other strategies a chance. Lord, forgive us. Help us work towards your peaceable kin-dom, where swords will be beaten into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Micah 5:4-5)

Pastor: “And he will stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord ... And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.”

All: *In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.*

*SINGING GOD’S GLORY: Gloria Patri “Glory to the Father” #567 (Please join in unison)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen Amen Amen

*SHARING THE PEACE OF GOD (Please join in unison)

Leader: Since God has forgiven us in Christ,

let us all forgive one another,

and pass the peace of Christ to each other.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you!

Passing of the Peace of Christ

(Worshippers are invited to turn to others and safely show signs of peace by giving a nod, a smile, or a hand gesture of peace).

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Children's Sermon – NOISY OFFERING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (Please join in unison)

Open us, Holy Spirit, to your Word and your Way. As we make our final preparations before Christmas, clear our minds of holiday distractions and a long list of to-dos. Help us approach your Word with awe and wonder, so we may hear the message you intend for us today. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON:

Micah 5:2-5a

ANTHEM: "All Is Well"

Kirkpatrick/Smith

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 1:39-45

SERMON: "Greeting"

Rev. Ericka Kilbourne

Children are excused for Sunday school. Please join Mr. Jose and Ms. Janiece in the lobby to walk up together as a group.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from Book of Common Worship, Colossians 1:15-20) (Please join in unison)

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible. All things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn of the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.

*Hymn #53 "What Child Is This" (The Pew Hymnal)

EXPRESSING OUR GRATITUDE IN OUR OFFERING

OFFERTORY: "Rise Up, Shepherd!"

African American Spiritual

Many ways to give and give back  paypal.com **Click on link**

<https://www.paypal.com/fundraiser/112574644767835624/charity/3545525>

OR [Scan here:](#)



First time visitors-we would love to connect with you.

Please text "welcome" to 219-300-9867 and share your contact information with us.

*Doxology Song #592

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH (Announcements)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, ending with Our Lord's Prayer (together, using "debts")

WE GO OUT IN GRATITUDE TO SERVE IN GOD'S NAME

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE: "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers!"

L. Smith

SHARE OUR PRAYERS WITH:

For each of us to share the Gospel with someone this week:

- Andy Casper, Dave Dougherty, Johanna Miller, Barb Reichert, Margo Shank, Mary Steider and Donna Wiseman for health needs.
- Sandy Dougherty as she recovers from surgery.
- Pray for our Military and their families.
- AmeriCorps and Peace Corps workers and their families.

GUESTS AND VISITORS

We are delighted to welcome you and worship with you today! **First time visitors**-we would love to connect with you. Please text "welcome" to 219-300-9867 and share your contact information with us.



FLOWERS We express our sincere thanks to all who provided poinsettias for the glory of God and to beautify the sanctuary this morning. Givers names and dedication are

SERVING TODAY

Ministers
 Preacher
 Organist
 Liturgist
 Greeter(s)
 Usher
 Video & Sound Crew

All Members of the Congregation
 Reverend Dr. Ericka Parkinson Kilbourne
 Carol Garrett
 Michele Bartels
 Peggy McAnally
 Alice Yacullo
 Mark Smith, Rylie Thornton
 and Antoinette Jackson



MEMORIALS/DONATION

The Soup Kitchen and General fund received donations in memory of
 Rosemary A. Mennen from the
 Frederick C. & Rosemary A. Mennen Foundation



The General Fund received a donation from Greg & Dianne Scott
The Elevator fund received donations from PEO Sisterhood Chapter BR and from
 Connie McKeague in memory of Barb Vinson
 We are always thankful for your kindness.

Have a Very Happy Day!

Dec 01 Ree Labaj
 Dec 02 Andrew Grove
 Dec 06 John Jackson
 Dec 12 Anne Lute
 Dec 13 Bernard Scott
 Dec 14 Michele Bartels
 Dec 14 Jason McDaniel



Dec 17 Micah Spiece
 Dec 20 Pamela Krueger
 Dec 20 Peggy McAnally
 Dec 23 Andy Casper
 Dec 24 Jason Blank
 Dec 28 Laurie Wilson
 Dec 31 Aiden Lamb

CHURCH CHAT

(Any or all information is subject to change without notification)

MESSAGE FROM THE CLERK OF SESSION

Dear Congregation members,
Your session elders assembled via zoom and in person last evening (12/18/24).
The purpose of the additional December meeting was to approve the proposed 2025. I'm happy to report that the budget was approved.
On another note, the elevator will not be available for use for the next several church services, including Christmas Eve. Therefore, VOLUNTEERS will be available to usher disabled guests/members via wheelchairs at the beginning of services on 12/22 , 12/24 and on 12/29 into church. Please look for help near the ramp in front of the church. The volunteers will also assist to help when services are over.
Thank you for your support and patience in the meantime as we continue to work to get the elevator fully operational.
Wishing everyone a blessed and merry Christmas,
Your Session Clerk,
Laura Kittle

ANNUAL REPORT

The annual report is due soon. The last day to submit your report is January 9, 2024. This will allow time for the report to be created and printed for distribution on January 19th. Thank you. Diane Yettaw, Administrative Assistant

STEWARDSHIP

Thank you to all who attended Stewardship Sunday. The finance team appreciates your generosity. The pledges help us create our budget for next year. If you weren't able to attend or have lost your pledge card and still want to pledge, you can email Diane your pledge or use this link to pledge on-line --which is easy for everyone. Thank you again



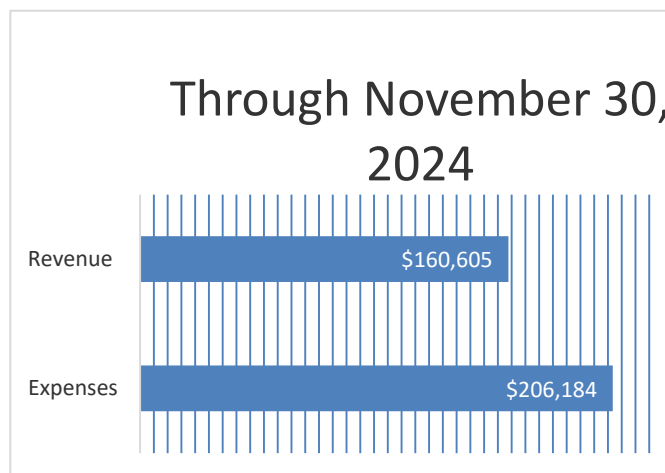
"Stewards of Children" Training

"Stewards of Children" training on January 5, 2025 at 11:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. This is a free training offered to us by Dunebrook. All officers (Elders and Deacons) and anyone planning to teach Sunday school or chaperone a children or youth outing or event is asked to come.

2024 Per Capita

As we all know time is flying by and 2024 is nearing the end. If you have not paid your 2024 Per Capita, there is still time. The amount is \$43.62 per person. If you have any questions, please contact the office. Thank you.

FINANCE REPORT





ELEVATOR OUT OF SERVICE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

- Dec 22 Sunday 9 a.m. Adult Ed - "Do Not Fear"
- Dec 22 Sunday 10 a.m. Worship service-4th Sunday of Advent
- Dec 23 Monday **PASTOR OFF**
- Dec 24 Tuesday Office Closed Christmas Eve
- Dec 24 Tuesday 5 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
- Dec 25 Wednesday Office closed **MERRY CHRISTMAS**
- Dec 26 Thursday Office Closed Christmas Holiday
- Dec 27 Friday Office Closed
- Dec 28 Saturday Pastor Off
- Dec 28 Saturday 9:30 a.m. Faith Formation Bible Study
- Dec 28 Saturday 11:30 a.m.- 1:00 p.m. Soup Kitchen
- Dec 29 Sunday NO Adult Ed Pastor Off
- Dec 29 Sunday 10 a.m. Worship service 1st Sunday of Christmas (Worship Leader, Anne Lute)
- Dec 30 Monday **PASTOR OFF**
- Dec 31 Tuesday Office Closed New Year's Eve
- Jan 01 Wednesday Office Closed New Year's Day **HAPPY NEW YEAR 2025**
- Jan 03 Friday Office Closed **Pastor in by appointment**
- Jan 04 Saturday 11:30 a.m.- 1:00 p.m. Soup Kitchen
- Jan 05 Sunday 9 a.m. Adult Ed - "Do Not Fear"
- Jan 05 Sunday 10 a.m. Worship service-2nd Sunday of Christmas
- Jan 05 Sunday 11:30 a.m. -2:00 p.m. Stewards of Children Training
- Jan 06 Monday Epiphany
- Jan 06 Monday **PASTOR OFF**
- Jan 07 Tuesday 10 am- 11 a.m. 3B New Session through March 27
- Jan 07 Tuesday 2 pm Personnel meeting in the library



LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

God has blessed the Church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. This Offering addresses the support needed by some of our leaders, including supporting leadership development for communities of color, and providing support for Presbyterian church workers in their time of need.

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\$1.1 million in gifts since 2022

are being used to provide critical financial support and grants for current and retired Presbyterian church workers in their times of need;

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272 individuals helped

assisted retired church workers and surviving spouses;

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223 recipients

could afford to stay in their homes, assisted living, or long-term care;

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621 Emergency Assistant Grants

helped people facing economic hardship.

- + Mail "Christmas Joy Offering"
- + Web www.presbyterianmission.org/christmasjoy
- + Text CHRISTMASJOY to 91999



ELEVATOR BRICK FUNDRAISER

For over fifty years, our heritage garden has been a resurrection symbol of new life and of welcome, as each spring its buds peek up from the ground, even after the harshest of winters. In all seasons, it is the place where our visitors enter our building for the first time.

The garden's brick path will soon represent the confident hope that, with a refurbished elevator, we will continue to tell the resurrection story to ALL. Each contribution to the brick fundraiser will be directed to our elevator fund. The cost is \$100.00 per brick. With this link, you are invited to enter the words you would like to be written on your brick. You may choose to make your payment online, or you can bring or send your check to First Presbyterian Church, 121 W 9th St. Michigan City, IN 46360.

<https://form.jotform.com/241926284623157>

The First Presbyterian Church

of Michigan City is raising funds to pay for the update and repair of our elevator. Not only is the elevator essential to our church but also essential for many community programs. By purchasing a \$100 brick on the Gratitude Pathway in the Heritage Garden you will not only have a permanent memory of a loved one or event you will be helping fund a necessary element to our church

Some ideas for your commemorative brick inscription are:

- Your family name.
- An inspirational message.
- Honoring a special family member or fellow church member.
- Honoring a relative that is with God.
- Your favorite Bible passage.
- A special event in your life.

Be one of the first to show your commitment and create a lasting memory by filling out the form below or contacting us at (219)879-4501 | dyettaw@fpcmicity.org

ELEVATE OUR WELCOME

CURRENT STATUS OF OUR ELEVATOR FUND CAMPAIGN

TARGET: \$150,000.00 (100%)
CONGREGATION GIFTS ACHIEVED \$64,770.00 (43.7%)
GRANT \$50,000.00 (33.3%)
ACHIEVED WITH GRANT \$114,770.00 (77%)

The elevator work is coming to an end and payments will need to be made.

Remember, this project will come in around \$150,000. So if you haven't fulfilled your pledge, or would like to give to this project, please turn in your gifts to the office soon and note that they are for the elevator project. Thank you so much!



FOOD SUPPLY ITEM OF THE MONTH

We are collecting biodegradable hot/cold 8 oz. cups throughout December. You may drop off your in-kind donation on a table located in the Narthex area near the coat racks. Monetary donations are also welcome to the "Soup Kitchen Fund." Thank you!

I assure you that whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ will certainly be rewarded . —Mark 9:41 (CEB)

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For prayer requests
Contact Brian Spiece at
jspiece@hotmail.com

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YouTube - First Presbyterian Church Michigan City
Facebook - First Presbyterian Church Michigan City
WiFi password: 1holyGod!

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