

**THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF GREENLAWN**



**Sunday Celebration of Worship
December 1, 2024 – The First Sunday of Advent
“Hope”
10:30 a.m.**

**Meeting ID: 813 0261 1379
Passcode: 039859**

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<http://greenlawnpresbyterian.com/>

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December 1, 2024 – 10:30 a.m.

**The First Sunday of Advent
“Hope”**

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE RINGING OF THE BELL Dan Charnews /Tyler Hago/ Glenn Jahier

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Dan and Barbara Charnews

CANDLELIGHTING

PRAYERFUL WORDS

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER:

Shine on us, O God of Hope.

Guide our path through gloom of night.

Bear within us Wisdom’s glory.

Come to us, O Christ the Light.

CALL TO WORSHIP

In Advent, we watch, wait,
and prepare to welcome the Christ Child into the world.

Come, Lord Jesus, come!

In Advent, we prepare for a life of discipleship,
and watch faithfully for signs of God’s light breaking into the world.

Come, Lord Jesus, come!

As we watch for signs of God’s action in the world,
actions of compassion and grace break forth.

Come, Lord Jesus, come!

We recognize that we know neither the day nor the hour,
but we know that the time draws near.

Come, Lord Jesus, come!

Be born anew in our world and in our lives.

*Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates. Behold, the King of Glory waits.
The King of Kings is drawing near. The Savior of the World is here!*

*Fling wide the portals of your heart. Make it a temple set apart.
From earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer, and love and joy.*

*Redeemer come! I open wide my heart to Thee, here, Lord abide.
Let me Thy inner presence feel Thy grace and love in me reveal.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of promises and possibilities, we admit that we color the world according to our own limited vision. We are often unjust in our judgments, and faithless in our relationships. We are haunted by sins we have not confessed. Hear us as we entrust them to Your forgiving care. Help us to let go of our transgressions, to renew our covenant with You, and to live constructively with one another. We ask Your forgiveness in the spirit of Jesus Christ, whose coming among us we await with great expectation. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

GLORIA PATRI

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be.
World without end. Amen, Amen.*

PRAYER CONCERNS

Elder Betty Chatfield

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

... All this we pray in Jesus' name, saying, 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.

Congregational Response:

*Breathe on me, breath of God. Fill me with life anew.
That I may love what Thou dost love, and do what Thou wouldst do.*

HYMN # 2

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

*Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free.
From our fears and sins release us. Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the Earth Thou art.
Dear desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.*

*Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King.
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious Kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone.
By Thine all sufficient merit raise us to Thy glorious throne.*

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:

PLEADING SAVIOR

*Christians all, your Lord is coming, drawing near in holy birth.
Ring the bells and sound the trumpets, let your music fill the earth.
Dance and move to show God's glory. Kneel and pause to hear God's word.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Rise and let your songs be heard.*

JOYS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deck the Halls

A big “thank you” to Debbie Eitel and her team for the work they did decorating the church for the Christmas holidays last Sunday.

There is still work to be done. Debbie will announce when the next “Deck the Halls” day will take place.

Christmas Tea

Have you made reservations for our 3-course Christmas Tea yet? It will take place on Saturday, December 7, from 1 – 3 p.m. You can “dress up” with hats and gloves, or just come as you are. Men are invited, too. (Top hats, spats, and canes are optional!) Please see Jill Wilson to reserve your seat. Tickets are \$30.

Today is the last day to make your reservations. Please see Jill Wilson.

God's Creation Calendars

God's Creation 2025 Wall Calendars are still available at a bargain price of \$7. Please see Debbie Eitel.

Christmas Luncheon

Our Christmas Luncheon will take place on Sunday, December 15 after church.

Christmas Fair

Our Christmas Fair will take place on Saturday, December 14, from 9 – 3 in CE Hall *and* downstairs in the Sunday School wing. The committee has been working very hard to turn the Sunday School classrooms in to a cute little Christmas shop. They invite you to do some early shopping today after church.

Christmas Tree Lighting

Mark your calendar! On Sunday, December 15, at 5:00 p.m., we will have a special community event: we will light our Christmas tree outside, sing some Christmas carols, and then come inside for some hot chocolate and Christmas cookies. Please plan to attend and invite a friend.

Christmas Eve Service at 4 p.m.

By informal vote of the congregation, we have decided to move our Christmas Eve Service to 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 24. This earlier hour will ensure that people won't have to drive home in complete darkness.

The Little Food Pantry

The Little Food Pantry is in need of rice, black beans, boxed potatoes, gravy, canned peas, canned yams, and cranberry sauce.

Our outdoor food pantry continues to be a blessing to the neighborhood, and is heavily used. Thank you to all of the "Pantry Angels" who continue to donate generously to our food pantry. You are very much appreciated.

Lessons and Carols – December 19

Once again, we will be holding our Lessons and Carols Service on the 4th Sunday of Advent, December 19, at 10:30 a.m.

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols Service will be held on Sunday, December 20, the Fourth Sunday of Advent, at 10:30 a.m.

This Service tells the story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus. It is told in nine short Bible readings from Genesis, the Prophetic Books, and the Gospels, and is interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols, hymns, and other music.

The original format was based on an Order of Worship for Christmas Eve, 1880, in Cornwall, England. It is said that a key purpose of the Service at that time was to keep men out of the pubs on Christmas Eve!

The Service at FPC Greenlawn will be based on the one at *The King's College* in Cambridge, England, where the nine lessons are read by representatives of the congregation and of the local community. We already have several community leaders who have agreed to read. We also have some soloists from our congregation.

This will be a very inspiring Service of worship. Please plan to attend, and invite a friend!

Required Minimum Distributions

RMDs are a wonderful thing as far as having a little more spending money is concerned. But there are some downsides. (1) You have to pay taxes. (2) You might possibly be bumped up into the next tax bracket. (3) As far as Medicare is concerned, your Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount, IRMAA for short, which is a fee you pay on top of your Medicare Part B and Part D adjustments, could rise if you make a yearly income above the annual thresholds.

You may want to prayerfully consider making a year-end gift to your church directly from your RMD. This will keep your taxes down, and will benefit the church. Thank you for considering this.

Medicare Expert

If you missed meeting Heidi Peborde the Medicare Expert Speaker who was here in October, you are in LUCK! You can still contact her and have her look at your specific situation and get her advice **FREE** of charge. She will cover the options that are available for you. Her e-mail address is hpseniorins@gmail.com. Her phone number is **631-553-8776**. The deadline for Medicare coverage changes is Dec 7.

Coffee Hour Hosting

All Sundays in December are available for Coffee Hour hosting. Arlissa, Susan, and Debbie are doing more than their share of hosting, and we are very appreciative. Can we have some other folks step in and host? Thank you!

Church Membership

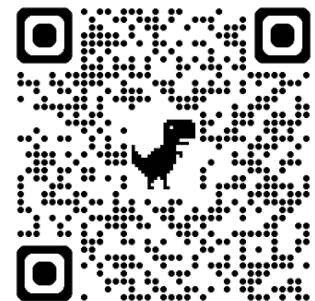
Are you a friend of our church who has faithfully been attending worship? Would you like to become a member of The First Presbyterian Church of Greenlawn? Please see Pastor Ann about joining; we would like to have a “New Members Sunday” sometime this fall.

Is God Calling You to Become a Church Officer?

There are three people whose terms are ending on Session this year, and we still have an unfilled spot in the Class of 2026. Please prayerfully consider becoming a Ruling Elder. There are eleven meetings per year, nine of them on Zoom. Susan Perrotta will be happy to give you more information.

You May Now Donate On Line

Simply put your cell phone into camera mode, hold it up to the funny little square thing (no need to take a photo), and the link to our church website will pop up. The “Donate” button is on the opening page.



STAFF

Pastor

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Worship Accompanist

Leonora Knight

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fpcgoffice@gmail.com

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Debbie Eitel

Benevolence Secretary

Susan Perrotta

Building Use Manager

Larry Foray

Treasurer

James Dean

Custodian

Gary Prentiss

Webmaster

Irene Lang

THE SESSION

Class of 2024

Debbie Eitel
Larry Foray
Susan Perrotta

Susan Perrotta, Recording Clerk

Class of 2025

Marian Adams
Bill Becker
Gary Prentiss

Class of 2026

Arlissa Dean
Kathleen Gerlach