

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GREENLAWN



**Celebration of Worship
December 24, 2023 – 10:30 a.m.
The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Meeting ID: 820 9580 8348
Passcode: 128114**

Dial in: 1 (646) 558-8656

**497 Pulaski Road
Greenlawn, NY 11740
Phone: 631-261-2150**

<http://greenlawnpresbyterian.com/>
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GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE RINGING OF THE BELL

Dan Charnews

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Peggy Monitto and Roy Cance

One Candle Is Lit

Come, wander where lion and lamb gently play,

Where evil is banished and faith takes the day.

A Babe in a manger to fool the world's eyes,

One candle is lit for God's Loving Surprise

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come apart to this place of rest and renewal;

Let your spirits rejoice in the presence of God.

We will sing of God's steadfast love for all people.

We will proclaim God's faithfulness to all generations.

God looks with favor on the humble and the lowly.

God's covenant does not focus on rank or position.

God strengthens those who are weak.

The proud are scattered in the thoughts of their hearts.

Blessed are those who walk in God's light.

Blessed are all who say 'yes' to God's call.

Let the heavens proclaim the wonders of God.

Let all the Earth rejoice in Christ's coming.

HYMN # 59

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

CHRISTMAS

While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground,

The angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around.

And glory shone around.

"Fear not," said he, for mighty dread had seized their troubled minds.

"Glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and humankind.

To you and humankind.”

*“To you in David’s town this day, is born of David’s line
The Savior who is Christ the Lord, and this shall be the sign.
And this shall be the sign.”*

*“The heavenly babe you there shall find to human view displayed,
All humbly wrapped in swathing bands, and in a manger laid.
And in a manger laid.”*

*Thus spoke the seraph, and forthwith appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God, who thus addressed their joyful song,
Addressed their joyful song.*

*“All glory be to God on high, and to the Earth be peace.
Good will to all from highest Heaven begin and never cease.
Begin and never cease.”*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, in whom all things are possible, we confess that we have doubted what we cannot explain. We have sought strength and enjoyment apart from You. We have taken pride in ownership rather than giving praise through stewardship. We have neglected to thank You, both in good times or when things don’t go well. We have resisted the newness You offer. Forgive us, we pray, and lead us in paths of trust and obedience. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

HYMN # 27

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

*Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger.
There he lay, the undefiled, to the world a stranger.
Such a Babe in such a place, can He be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race who have found His favor.*

*Angels sang about His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him.
Heaven’s star shone brightly forth, glory all around Him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, heard the angels singing.
All the plains were lit that night, all the hills were ringing.*

*Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger.
He is still the undefiled, but no more a stranger.
Son of God, of humble birth, beautiful the story.*

Praise His name in all the Earth, hail the King of Glory!

PRAYER CONCERNS

Elder Betty Chatfield

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 44

*O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray.
Cast out our sin and enter in. Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell.
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel.*

INVITATION TO OFFERING

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 53

*What Child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Our best we give to You, Loving God, for You have given Your best to us in the mystery of the Incarnation. May our offerings proclaim Jesus in ways that will be received with joy. Send Your Word to the world in this season through our caring service. May we share it with one another in ways that help us all to grow. We are Your servants. The gifts we dedicate Are already Yours. Thank You for all the ways You have provided for us. Amen.

THE READING OF SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:26-38

HOLY SPIRIT PRAYER

SERMON

“Trusting God”

Rev. Dr. Ann Van Cleef

HYMN # 29

Go Tell It on the Mountain

GO TELL IT

REFRAIN: *Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.*

*While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. REFRAIN*

*The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! Above the Earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. REFRAIN*

*Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. REFRAIN*

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:

*Christians all, your Lord is coming. Calling you to serve indeed.
See the ones who hurt and suffer, hear their cry and act with speed.
Set all selfish ways behind you. Purge your hearts of sinful greed.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ in you will meet their need.*

JOYS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS, FOLLOWED BY POSTLUDE

Tonight's Service

Our Christmas Eve Liturgy and Candlelighting Service will take place tonight at 5:00. This will allow our senior members time to get home before the hour gets too late. There will be no coffee hour following tonight's Service.

Christmas Offering

We have been asked by the Presbytery to take up a special offering to help needy retired ministers and missionaries with their bills. (Many of them have very low pensions.) There are envelopes in today's bulletin. Even a few dollars will help. Thank you!

New Year's Eve Celebration

They say that for those of us "of a certain age," 9 p.m. is the new midnight. Most of us will *not* be staying up to watch the festivities in Times Square.

But New Year's Eve must be celebrated! So, please join us after our Service next Sunday, December 31, for a special celebration welcoming in 2024. We'll have hors d'oeuvres, some non-alcoholic "bubbly," and a few surprises. We will also have our annual Holiday Sweater Contest, with a prize for the prettiest and the ugliest.

Don't miss the fun!

Food Pantry

Do you know of people who might be hungry this season? Remember that we have a free food pantry in front of the church that is available 24/7. Please help us spread the word.

Join Us!

Great things are happening here at The First Presbyterian Church of Greenlawn. If you are seeking a church home, we invite you to join us for worship, Sundays at 10:30 a.m. No matter who you are or where you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome here.

“God’s Creation” Wall Calendars

The beautiful “God’s Creation” wall calendars have arrived. Every month features a full-color picture and a Scripture verse. Each Sunday has a Scripture verse notated as well. The price is \$8 / calendar; please see Debbie Eitel.

STAFF

Pastor

Rev. Dr. Ann M. Van Cleef
pastorannsutton@yahoo.com

Worship Accompanist

Leonora Knight

Custodian

Gary Prentiss

Financial Secretary

Betty Chatfield

Webmaster

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Fellowship Director

Debbie Eitel

Treasurer

James Dean

Benevolence Secretary

Susan Perrotta

Building Use Manager

Larry Foray

THE SESSION

Susan Perrotta, Recording Clerk

Class of 2023

Arlissa Dean
Kathleen Gerlach
Craig Satterlee

Class of 2024

Debbie Eitel
Larry Foray
Susan Perrotta

Class of 2025

Marian Adams
Bill Becker
Gary Prentiss



Christmas Poinsettias

Given by:

In Memory of:

Marian Adams Husband, Bob and Daughter, Debbie Adams Hobgood
Marian Adams My Parents and My Brother
Mildred Bachmann My Beloved Husband, Charles J. Bachmann
Mildred Bachmann My Beloved Parents
Bill Becker Wife, Carol Her Parents, Brother, Bob
Bill Becker My Parents, William & Marie Becker
Barbara & Dan Charnews Our Parents, Becky & Rennie Terry
Barbara & Dan Charnews Our Parents, Stephe & Dan Charnews
Bill & Betty Chatfield Faith of Our Fathers
Arlissa & Jim Dean Ramona and Salvatore Salamone
Debbie Eitel My Grandparents, Julia & Leo Eitel; Kathleen & Charles Pape
Debbie Eitel Carol Ann Eitel, James Robert Eitel, Kenneth Pape
Kathy Fitzgerald Friends and the Fitzgerald Family
Kathy Fitzgerald Peter and Gertrude "Trudy" Fitzgerald
Kathleen Gerlach My Parents, Arlene & Ottomar Gerlach
Priscilla & Glenn Jahier Our Parents
Leonora & Jack Knight John, Eleanora, Robert, and Melissa
Jane Longstreet Kenneth Longstreet
Nancy MacIntyre My Mother, Henrietta Honneger
Susan Perrotta and Family Patricia M. Kershaw
Susan Perrotta and Family Robert Van Cleef
Claire & Paul Proctor Our Parents
Liz and Bob Schrenker Kenneth Longstreet
Rosalie & Emery Schweighardt Loved Ones
Rory & Glenn Shotwell Our Parents, Sherwood & Ruth Shotwell;
Our Grandfather, Charles Tilden; Our Aunt, Edith Tilden;
Our Uncle & Aunt, Stuart & Jean Shotwell;
Our Uncle and Aunt, William & Ethel Wyckoff;
Our Uncle & Aunt, C. Edward & Helen Tilden;
Our Uncle & Aunt, Arnold & Elaine Tilden;
Our "Aunt Flo" Tilden; Our Cousin, Rich Miltner;

	Our Friends, Becky & Everet Dodge
Ann Van Cleef	My Husband, Robert Van Cleef
Ann Van Cleef	My Parents, Arthur & Mary (Lolly) Abbate
Robert Van Cleef	My Parents, Clifford & Cecelia Van Cleef
Robert Van Cleef	My Late Wife, Lettie L. Van Cleef
Rosalie L. Wilson	Loved Ones

Given by:

In Honor of:

Bill & Betty Chatfield	Service Men & Women, and Veterans
Ann Van Cleef	My Wonderful Church
Ann Van Cleef.....	My "Support Team:" Norma, Todd, Kathy, Philip, and Don

*We would like to acknowledge the following members and friends of our Church
who entered Life Eternal this past year.
They will be celebrating Christmas with their Lord and Savior.*

*Carol Ann Pape Eitel – April 23, 2023
Carol Ann Becker – August 4, 2022, Buried May 22, 2023
Kenneth Longstreet – August 16, 2023
Ronald Ulrich – December 3, 2023
Robert Van Cleef – November 21, 2023*