

**THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF GREENLAWN**



**Sunday Celebration of Worship
December 8, 2024 – The Second Sunday of Advent
“Peace”
10:30 a.m.**

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

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THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GREENLAWN

December 8, 2024 – 10:30 a.m.

The Second Sunday of Advent

“Peace”

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE RINGING OF THE BELL

Dan Charnews /Tyler Hago/ Glenn Jahier

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Glen and Priscilla Jahier,
and Vera Pane

CANDLELIGHTING

PRAYERFUL WORDS

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER:

Shine on us, O God of Peace.

Guide our path through gloom of night;

Bear within us Wisdom’s glory;

Come to us, O Christ the Light.

CALL TO WORSHIP

The reign of God is drawing near.

The prophet calls us to change our lives!

Prepare the way for the Lord:

A just and peaceful path!

We come to worship today, and Christ welcomes us,

For the glory of God!

HYMN # 5

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

PICARDY

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand.

Ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in His hand,

Christ our God to Earth descend-eth, our full homage to demand.

King of Kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on Earth He stood,

Lord of Lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood.

He will give to all the faith-ful His own self for Heavenly food.

*Rank on rank the Host of Heaven spreads its vanguard on the way.
As the Light of Light descendeth from the realms of endless day,
That the powers of hell may van-ish as the darkness clears away.*

*At His feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim, with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Lord Most High!*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, You call us to turn our lives around, and work with patience and diligence, but we get discouraged and give up too soon. You call us to collaborate in community, but we neither trust nor honor the gifts of others. You call us to be full of joyful confidence, but we burden ourselves with anxiety and fear. Forgive us, and lead us in the ways of patience, community, joy, and peace. 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.*

INVITATION TO OFFERING

DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from Whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.*

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

With these gifts, dear God, accept the praise and thanksgiving of our hearts, which rejoice in Your goodness and Your love. Let our gifts point to Your presence, and further Your dream for the world, through Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-us. Amen.

THE READING OF SCRIPTURE

Malachi 3:1-4

Luke 3:1-6

HOLY SPIRIT PRAYER

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Ann Van Cleef

“Juggling Too Much at One Time”

HYMN # 15

Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers

LLANGLOFFAN

Rejoice! Rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear.

The evening is advancing and darker night is near.

The Bridegroom is arising and soon He will draw nigh.

Up, watch with expectation, at midnight comes the cry.

See that your lamps are burning. Replenish them with oil.

Look now for your salvation, the end of sin and toil.

The marriage feast is waiting. The gates wide open stand.

Arise, O heirs of glory, the Bridegroom is at hand.

Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear.

Arise, Thou sun so longed for, above this shadowed sphere.

With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see

The day of Earth's redemption, and ever be with Thee.

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:

PLEADING SAVIOR

Christians all, your Lord is coming, calling you to serve in deed.

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

Christmas Tea

Many thanks to Jill Wilson and her team for their wonderful work on yesterday's Christmas Tea. Thank you, also, to those who supported the Tea with their enthusiastic attendance.

Church Upkeep Committee Meets Tuesday, 2:00 p.m.

The Church Upkeep Committee (formerly called Buildings and Grounds) will meet this Tuesday, December 10, at 2:00 in the Parlor. New members, male and female, are welcome. This is an excellent way to become more involved with our church!

Wedding Bells for Stephanie and John

Do plan to stay next week to attend the wedding of Stephanie Horne and John Van Dyke. The Wedding Service will take place immediately following our Service of Worship, and should take about 15 minutes.

Afterward, we will go upstairs to CE Hall for a reception, coordinated by Debbie Eitel. Gifts are not necessary, a card or a hug will do!

God's Creation Calendars

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

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 into a cute little Christmas shop. They invite you to do some early shopping today after church.

Christmas Tree Lighting

Mark your calendar! Next 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.

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!

Lessons and Carols – December 22

Once again, we will be holding our Lessons and Carols Service on the 4th Sunday of Advent, December 22, 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.

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 soon.

The Little Food Pantry

Please remember our Little Food Pantry when you go shopping. We seem to have plenty of canned vegetables; we are in need of instant mashed potatoes.

Poinsettias for Christmas

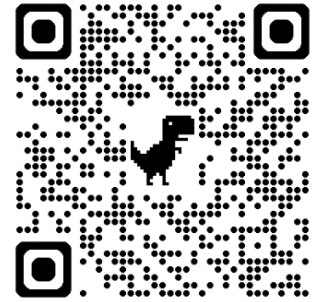
We went ahead and ordered 40 poinsettias from our wholesaler. The poinsettias will be on the Communion Table on Sunday, December 22, and Christmas Eve. So, keep turning those order forms in; we'll let you know when we reach 40.

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

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Larry Foray

Treasurer

James Dean

Custodian

Gary Prentiss

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Irene Lang

THE SESSION

Susan Perrotta, Recording Clerk

Class of 2024

Debbie Eitel
Larry Foray
Susan Perrotta

Class of 2025

Marian Adams
Bill Becker
Gary Prentiss

Class of 2026

Arlissa Dean
Kathleen Gerlach