



**First Presbyterian Church
December 22, 2024**

200 YEARS
1824-2024
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH COLUMBUS

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Congregational readings are in **bold** type.

+ indicates all are invited to stand.

Ringing of the Bell

Welcome & Announcements

Passing of the Peace

The Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Prelude

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

Text: Christina G. Rosetti. Music: Gustav Holst, arr. Craig Courtney © 1989 Beckenhorst Press, Inc.
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Jenny Heichelbech & Doug Sprunger, vocal duet

Remembering our Baptism

+ Call to Worship and Advent Candle Lighting

Sam Brown, Macy Eaton, Bella Herbert

How does a weary world practice love?

By sending cards and picking up the phone.

By practicing empathy and assuming the best in others.

By learning people’s stories and finding common ground.

By advocating for justice and saving a place at the table.

There are a million ways to practice love.

So today we light the candle of love, as a reminder and a charge.

With God’s help, may we bring love into a weary world.

+Hymn 88

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

VENI EMMANUEL

(verses 1-4)

Text: Latin prose, pre-9th cent.. Music: Plainsong; adapt. Thomas Helmore. Public Domain.

Prayer of Confession

(Based on Luke 1:46-56)

Leo Copeland

When our spirits despair and we deny our blessedness

Forgive us, O God.

When we ignore the mighty things you have done,

Forgive us, O God.

When we doubt your mercy,

Forgive us, O God.

When we are proud in the thoughts of our hearts,

When our power rests on the oppression of others,

When our wealth causes others to go hungry

Forgive us, O God.

Help us, your servants, according to the promises you have made.

Silent Prayer

Words of Assurance

Gabby Spurgeon

In the courage of Hope

In the promise of Peace

In the delight of Joy

In the embrace of Love

Emanuel: God is with us

Emanuel: God is with us

Response Hymn #137

“He Came Down” (Love)

HE CAME DOWN

Text: Camaroon song. Music: Cameroon melody, transc. and arr. John Bell © 1986 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc). Podcast/streamed with permission through One License #A-728197. All Rights Reserved.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

+ Gospel Reading

Luke 1:46-56

Time with Children

Jen Riddle

(Children under 5 may go to the nursery. Children K-6th are to go to the Rainbow Room.)

Christ's light shines here,

Helping us remember God is with us here.

**All: And when we leave here,
we take Christ's light with us,
to light up the darkness wherever we go.**

Sermon

“Expecting Love”

Rev. Dr. Felipe Martinez

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

+Hymn 100

“My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout”

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

Text: Rory Cooney. Music: Irish melody, arr. Rory Cooney © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc. Podcast/
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Moment for Mission

Christmas Joy Offering

Chip Orben

Offertory

“O Holy Night”

Text: John S. Dwight. Music: Adolphe G. Adam. Public Domain.

Damaris Pacheco, vocal solo

+ Doxology 609 “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Text: Brian Wren © 1998 Hope Publishing Co.

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Music: Public Domain. Harmonization © 1998 Hope Publishing Co.

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all creatures high and low, Alleluia, Alleluia!
Praise God in Jesus fully known:
Creator, Word, and Spirit one.
Alleluia! (5x)*

+ Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

*Feel free to start the prayer with “Our Father”, “Mother”,
“Creator”, “Holy One” as the Spirit leads you.*

GOING IN GOD’S NAME

+Hymn 110

“Love Has Come”

BRING A TORCH

Text: Ken Bible © 1996 LNWhymns.com (admin. Music Services). Music: Eric Myers © 2012 Eric. T Myers (admin. Presbyterian Publishing Corp). Podcast/streamed with permission through One License #A-728197. All Rights Reserved.

Congregational Benediction

How do we share the love of God?

**With simple, daring acts of compassion,
which counter selfish materialism.**

How do we embody the love of God?

**By feeling Jesus lives in us
And guides us into justice and mercy in all we do.**

Postlude

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

Johannes Brahms

Public Domain

Cover: Love by Stanley Petrey. Stanley is an artist currently unhoused who lives in Columbus with his mom and dad. When Pastor Felipe offered him the opportunity to share his artwork with the church, he was eager to create something for our bulletin based on today's scriptures. The church purchased Stanley's artwork. Used by permission.

Sources: Candle lighting liturgy adapted from a prayer by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org. Prayer of Confession by Joanna Harader, 2016, spaciousfaith.com. Creative Commons.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to worship! We are glad you are here and we are worshipping together. Please ask ushers for information about our nursery, large-print bulletins, hearing-aid assists, or current newsletters. Please sign the *Friendship Registration* pads and share your contact information, especially if you are worshipping here for the first time.

We strive toward the use of **inclusive language** in our church as it pertains to people and to God.

Restrooms are located in the Loggia/Franklin St. glass door entrance, Laws Room across from the kitchen (all-gender, handicap-accessible restroom), and the balcony of the Laws Room. **Wheelchairs** are available, please ask an usher if you need one.

We live stream our services. If you prefer not to appear in the streaming, please sit in the back six pews.

THANK YOU to our liturgist and Advent candle lighters, Sam Brown, Macy Eaton, Bella Herbert, Leo Copeland and Gabby Spurgeon, and our musicians and soloists Doug Sprunger, Jenny Heichelbech and Damaris Pacheco.

Children & Youth Schedule

Sunday's Schedule for Children and Youth - December 22:

Pre-K and Younger:

Parents: Each child needs a registration form for the 2024-2025 school year. Please accompany your child to the Nursery and fill out a form before leaving them in our care. When picking up your children, please be sure to sign them out. Thank you!

9:15-10:30am The Nursery is open all morning for our youngest in the family. Parents are welcome to drop off kids beginning at 9:15am, or keep them with you during worship, where we welcome the presence and sounds of children.

10:30-10:45am Joyful Noise in the Nursery.

10:45am Childcare continues in the Gym. Please sign children out before leaving.

Children (Kindergarten-6th Grade):

Parents: Each child needs a registration form for the 2024-2025 school year. Forms are available from volunteers as you sign your child out, in the gym, on the bulletin board between the kitchen and church office, and on the church website. Thank you!

9:30am Worship in the Sanctuary with family and friends. Worship Bags with activities and toys are located by the Franklin Street entrances to the sanctuary.

9:45-10:45am After the "Time with Children" in worship, dismiss to Kids' Church. Kindergarten-6th Grade will be in Rainbow Room Classroom 1 for the All Kids Godly Play class. Please sign your kids out from the Rainbow Room.

Youth (Grades 7-12):

9:30-10:30am Worship in the Sanctuary with family and friends

Children's News



December *Kid's Church Schedule*

1	INTERGEN SERVICE Nursery only
8	REGULAR SERVICE All Kids Class
15	REGULAR SERVICE All Kids Class
22	REGULAR SERVICE All Kids Class
29	REGULAR SERVICE Nursery only

Scan the QR code to learn more about children and worship.



Join us for Advent Week 4: Love!

Kiddos pre-K and younger are welcome in the nursery each week. For kids in K-6th grade, Kid's Church will be enjoying a Godly Play lesson about the fourth week of Advent.

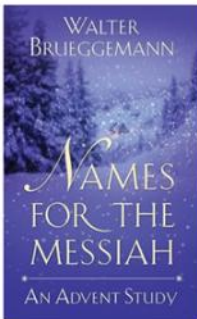
Stick around after worship for our **Advent workshop** focusing on Love! Folks of all ages can help decorate cookies for Hot Meals, write a note for shut-ins, and continue working on the Advent coloring poster.



Love Advent Workshop

Join people of **all ages** to celebrate the fourth Sunday of Advent--**Love!** Following worship, we will gather in the gym to **decorate cookies for Hot Meals** guests, make **cards for shut-ins**, and continue our Advent **coloring poster**.

AFE Book Study



Following worship on December 22 we will use Walter Brueggemann's book *Names for the Messiah* to discuss what these titles meant to people in ancient Israel, how Jesus fulfilled that meaning, and what it means to Christians today. Join us in the Crump Room to join the conversation. Books will be available in the gym during coffee hour for anyone interested in reading it as a personal Advent experience.

Dec 22: *Names for the Messiah*, Prince of Peace



Alternative Giving Fair

Find treasures for the hard-to-gift individual:
olive oil from Palestine,
olive trees to plant in the West Bank,
handmade goods from Zambia supporting
the Power of Love Foundation,
and items from the Presbyterian Giving Catalog.



Copies of the FPC 200th anniversary history book
as well as books by local author and FPC member,
Kimberly Hoffman, will also be available.



Last Chance--December 22



HEART TREE UPDATE

FPC Youth packed 46 Birthday Bags for kids in foster care, thanks to your donations!

Beloved founder, Amy Linnemann, was on hand to help and share more about the work of their organization.



Join us for Christmas Eve at FPC!

**FAMILY CANDLELIGHT
SERVICE WITH COSTUMES:**

5:00-5:30 PM

**CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
WITH COMMUNION:**

9:00 PM



PARENTS SOCIAL NIGHT & KID PARTY!

Parents of tweens and younger:
Bring your kiddos to church to have a fun night with
seasoned FPC caregivers and then head over to the
Porter's for an evening of social fun without the kids!



Saturday,
January 25

5:00-7:30pm

Register here:



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

FINANCE TEAM says THANK YOU!

The Stewardship & Finance Committee wishes to thank all of you for your generous (and sometimes COURAGEOUS) gifting this year. For those who made pledges this past year (2024) – THANK YOU for fulfilling the promises you made. You routinely sent in contributions weekly, monthly and all places in between, and this giving has been the backbone of FPC's financial health. Others of you have been generous with gifting in different ways – some financial (and that is a HUGE, HUGE help) – and some with time and talent. Remembering that when each gives a little, it adds up to a lot. We are so grateful for each and every gift, no matter the size, no matter the amount. God's work is being accomplished with YOUR hands, feet, minds and hearts. Thank you!



2025 PLEDGE CAMPAIGN:
2025 Goal: \$ 654,800
Pledges Received: \$ 458,760
Shortfall: \$ 196,040
Pledges received: 74

If you have not yet done so, please consider sending in your 2025 Pledge Card (green cards in the pews or available in church office). As of 12-19-2024, we sit at only 70% of 2025 Goal. Thank you for sharing your faithfulness by sending in a pledge. When each does even a little, it adds up to A LOT! For further information please contact Jayne Farber, Treasurer, promise@fpccolumbus.org; or Missy Burton, Financial Administrator, mburton@fpccolumbus.org. Jayne is also available at jayne.farber@gmail.com or 317-439-9094.

MISSION STATEMENT

To be an active, growing, inclusive and caring church family that witnesses to God's love and shares the good news of Jesus Christ. Our mission leads us to invite all people to participate fully in our community and worship life as safe, loved, and accepted children of God, including:

- Conventional Christians and questioning skeptics
 - Children and adults of all ages
- People of all sexual orientations, gender identities
 - People of all races, & cultures
 - People of all socioeconomic situations
 - People of all mental and physical abilities
- Those who bring hope to the world and those who seek hope



Christmas Poinsettia Gifts

On behalf of the Worship Committee, thank you to the following members for their gifts of poinsettias. Those donors who are keeping their plant may take it after the Christmas Eve services. The remainder of the plants will be delivered to the senior members of our church who are unable to attend Christmas services.

Given by:

Jan & Roger Brinkman

***Jennifer, James, Leo & Claire
Copeland***

Nancy, Eli & Emma Edwards

Jim & Dianne Farrar

***Amy, Grant, Margy &
Nellie Hale***

Judy Holdread

Ann & Bill Jones

Jose Lopez & Andrew McKinney

Felipe Martinez &

Tracy Heaton de Martinez

Mary Ann McCray

Ron & Cindy McMillin

Julie & Chip Orben

Mary & Bob Orben

Carol Rumple

John & Nancy Sawin

Sherry Stark & David Tiede

Marquita Tuck

In Memory/Honor of:

In honor of Abby Brinkman and Sherm Franz

In memory of Ward Edwards & Kent Ziegler

In memory of Susie & David Jones, & Sherm Franz

In memory of Jon Holdread

In honor of Phil & Maria Larson

In honor of their parents

In honor of our church & preschool staff

In honor of their children & grandchildren

In memory of Grandma and Grandpa

Orben, Bob's parents

In honor of a wonderful family

In memory of John Rumple

In memory of their parents

In honor of her family



Check us out on the web at www.fpccolumbus.org Join our Facebook groups by going to “First Presbyterian Church Columbus Indiana” and “First Pres Columbus Prayer Page” (click on the button that says “Join group”).



You can now find us on Instagram at [first.pres.columbus.in](https://www.instagram.com/first.pres.columbus.in)

Church WiFi: FPC Guest, Password Guest123

Donate to FPC now
<http://bit.ly/4083lQw>

Ministers: The congregation of First Presbyterian Church

Staff:

Felipe Martinez, Pastor and Head of Staff's email is felipem@fpccolumbus.org. His extension is 223.

April Hemmerlein, FPC Preschool Director's email is aprilh@fpccolumbus.org.

Jen Riddle, Director of Children, Youth and Young Adults Ministries. Her email is jriddle@fpccolumbus.org or call the church office.

Jordan Lewis, Organist, can be reached via email at jordanl@fpccolumbus.org.

Jenny Heichelbech, Choir Director, can be reached at ext. 225 or via email at jennyh@fpccolumbus.org.

Brook Brown, Church Administrative Assistant, will be in the office Monday and Wednesday thru Friday from 9 am until 5 pm. Tuesday, from 9 am until 3 pm. Phone extension is 221 and email is brookb@fpccolumbus.org.

Missy Burton, Financial Administrative Assistant. Her email address is mburton@fpccolumbus.org or call the church office.

OFFICE HOURS are typically Monday & Wednesday - Friday **9:00 am - 5 pm** and Tuesday **9:00 am - 3 pm**, with the office closed from noon until 1 pm for lunch.

Want to sign up for the eblast? Email Brook Brown at brookb@fpccolumbus.org!

Want to privately speak with someone about your pledge? Email our Treasurer at promise@fpccolumbus.org.



Unless otherwise noted, scripture translation by Dr. Wilda C. Gafney.

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