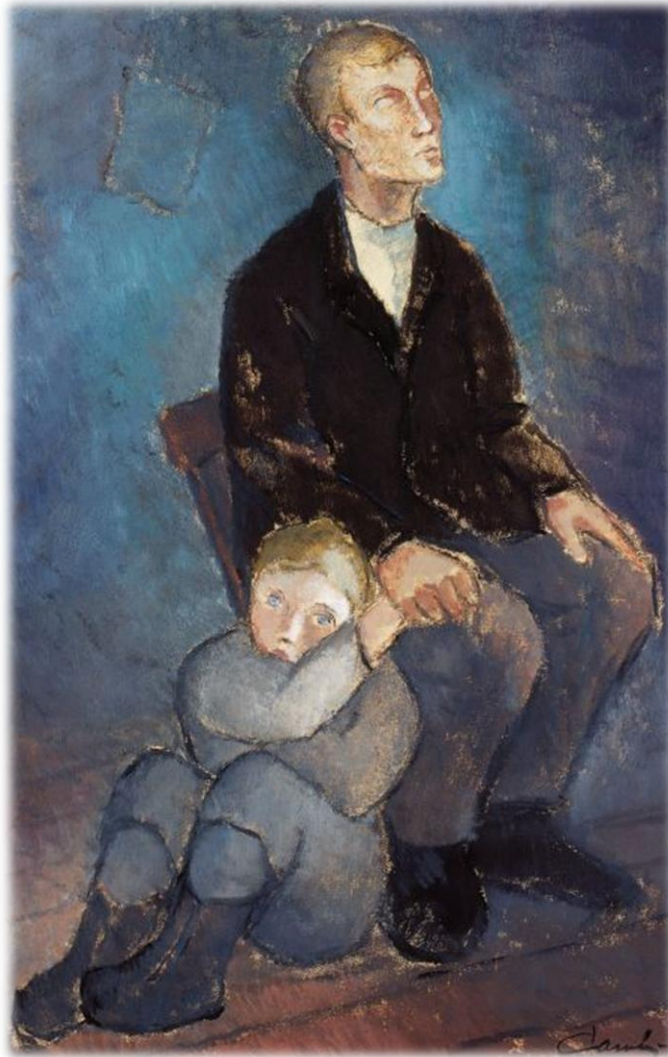


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Bringing hope to the heart of Charleston and beyond.



The Third Sunday of Advent
December 14, 2025 | 10:30am

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

16 Leon Sullivan Way • Charleston, WV 25301 • 304-343-8961 • www.firstpresby.com

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. William C. Myers

Ministers: All members of the congregation

*A warm welcome is extended to all who worship today.
May the gift of worship we offer honor God and serve as a blessing to you.*

We are grateful you chose to worship with us today. Please take a moment to sign in via the Friendship Pads located at the ends of the pews. We use this information to keep in touch about church events. We hope you will take a moment to read about news and events happening in the life of the church, found in the worship bulletin after this morning's order of service. Please share news and notes with your friends and neighbors!

All children are welcome and encouraged to participate in worship.

A reflection for worship:

"A prison cell, in which one waits, hopes — and is completely dependent on the fact that the door of freedom has to be opened from the outside, is not a bad picture of Advent."
— Dietrich Bonhoeffer

"The joy of God goes through the poverty of the manger and the agony of the cross; that is why it is invincible, irrefutable. It does not deny the anguish, when it is there, but finds God in the midst of it, in fact precisely there."
— Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The following scriptures are provided for silent meditation during the prelude:

Lectionary

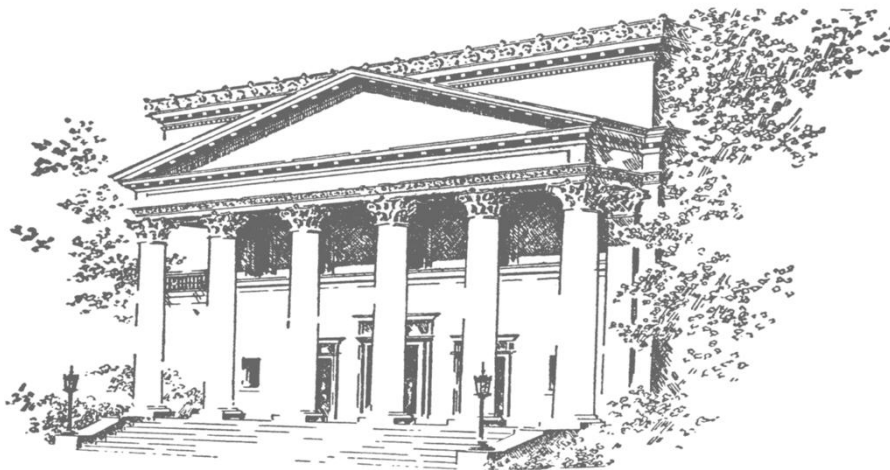
Isaiah 35:1-10 • Psalm 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46-55 • James 5:7-10 • Matthew 11:2-11

Cover art:

Blind

Alvar Cawén, 1926

Kadrioru Kunstmuuseum, Tallinn, Estonia



*Seek the welfare of the city where I
have sent you...
and pray to the Lord
on its behalf for in its welfare you will
find your welfare.*
Jeremiah 29:7

The Worship of Our Lord

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO...

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

**indicates congregation standing, as able.*

OPENING VOLUNTARY An Advent Prayer Louise E. Stairs

WELCOME Pastor Myers

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

PRAISE ALMIGHTY GOD

*CALL TO WORSHIP The Pepper Family

One: Come, all who long for God's justice and peace.

All: We wait for God's promises, even in the dryness of life.

One: The desert shall bloom, the wilderness rejoice!

All: People: Our hearts sing with hope, for God is faithful.

One: Come, let us worship the God who restores and redeems.

All: Let us rejoice in the Lord our God

*CHORAL INTROIT Light Three Candles to Watch for Messiah TIF IN VELDELE

Light two candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.

Lift your heads and lift high the gateway for the King of glory.

*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH The Pepper Family

One: Wake up! The wilderness cries out.

All: We light this candle as a sign of God's joy.

One: The desert shall bloom; the blind shall see, the lame shall leap, the oppressed be lifted.

All: God's joy breaks into the world, even while we wait.

*HYMN OF PRAISE #93 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates TRURO

CONFESS TO OUR FORGIVING CREATOR

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Pastor Myers

One: God calls us to rejoice always, but we often cling to fear and division. Let us confess the ways we have fallen short of God's call and seek the joy that comes with forgiveness.

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

All: Merciful God, we confess that we have not lived as your faithful people.

We have sought security in earthly power and boundaries

Rather than in your promises.

We have excluded others from the joy of your kingdom

By our words, actions, and silence. Forgive us, O God.

Transform our hearts by your Spirit,

That we may live as witnesses to your love and justice. Amen.

(Silence is kept for personal confession.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Pastor Myers

One: Rejoice and be glad, for our Savior has come! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and set free to live as people of joy and peace!

All: Thanks be to God!

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** Creator of the Stars of Night (vs. 3) CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM



***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Pastor Myers

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 35:1-10

The Pepper Family
page 663, Old Testament

SCRIPTURE LESSON Psalm 146:5-10

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

The Pepper Family
page 581, Old Testament

ANTHEM

Christ is Coming

Joachim Neander, John Ross Macduff

Christ is coming! Let creation from its groans and labor cease;
Let the glorious proclamation hope restore and faith increase:
Christ is coming! Christ is coming! Come, O blessed Prince of peace.
Earth can now but tell the story of your bitter cross and pain;
We shall yet behold your glory, Lord, when you are born to reign:
Christ is coming! Christ is coming! Let each heart repeat the strain.
With that blessed hope before us, flutes are tuned and harps are strung;
Let the mighty advent chorus onward roll from tongue to tongue:
Christ is coming! Christ is coming! Let each heart repeat the song.
Long your exiles have been pining for your promised rest and home,
But in heavenly glory shining, soon the newborn Christ shall come.
Christ is coming! Christ is coming! Joyful, shout the victory psalm.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 11:2-11

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Pastor Myers
page 11, New Testament

A TIME FOR CHILDREN

Pastor Myers

Birth - K may meet in the Nursery (Room 114) for a lesson and a snack.
Children in grades 1-5 are dismissed to Children's Church in Room E-117/119
or they may remain in the sanctuary with their parents.

SERMON

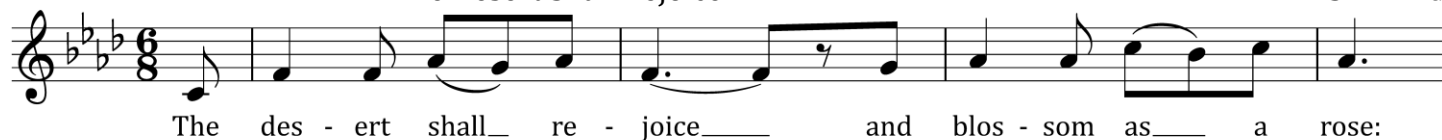
"Why Wait? Finding Joy in the Desert"

Pastor Myers

***HYMN**

The Desert Shall Rejoice

STERLING



1. It shall blos - som a - bun - dant - ly and re - joice with praise and sing - ing.
2. For the ground will be - come a pool and the dry land springs of wa - ter.
3. As the ran - somed re - turn to God and come sing - ing back_ to Zi - on.

DEDICATE OUR LIVES TO GOD

JOYS & CONCERNS

Pastor Myers

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

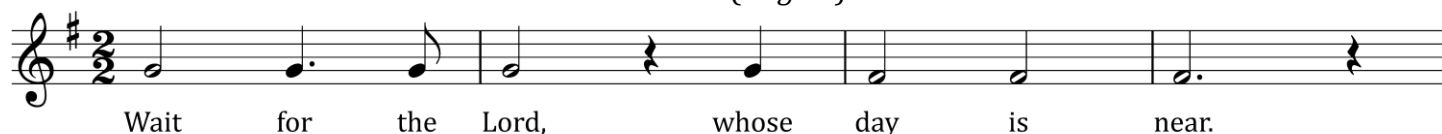
Pastor Myers

**All: 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.**

SUNG RESPONSE TO PRAYER

Wait for the Lord (*sing 3x*)

WAIT FOR THE LORD



OFFER OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

*Please bring your offering forward during the offertory.
You may also text "firstpresby" to 73256 to give from your mobile device.*

OFFERTORY

Carol of the Birds

arr. Barbara Baltzer Kinyon
First Presby Handbells

***OFFERING RESPONSE #607** Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow
***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.***

OLD HUNDREDTH

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION**

Pastor Myers

GO FORTH TO SERVE

***HYMN #105**

People, Look East

BESANÇON

***BENEDICTION**

Pastor Myers

CONCLUDING VOLUNTARY

OUR WORSHIP CONTINUES IN OUR SERVICE TO OTHERS

Worship is broadcast on Sundays at 11:00am on WCHS 580AM
Worship is also available on our YouTube channel: First Presby WV
Follow us on Facebook: First Presbyterian Church Charleston, WV

WORSHIP LEADERS

The Rev. Dr. William C. Myers
The Pepper Family

AUDIO & VIDEO

Byron Goodew
David Cottrell

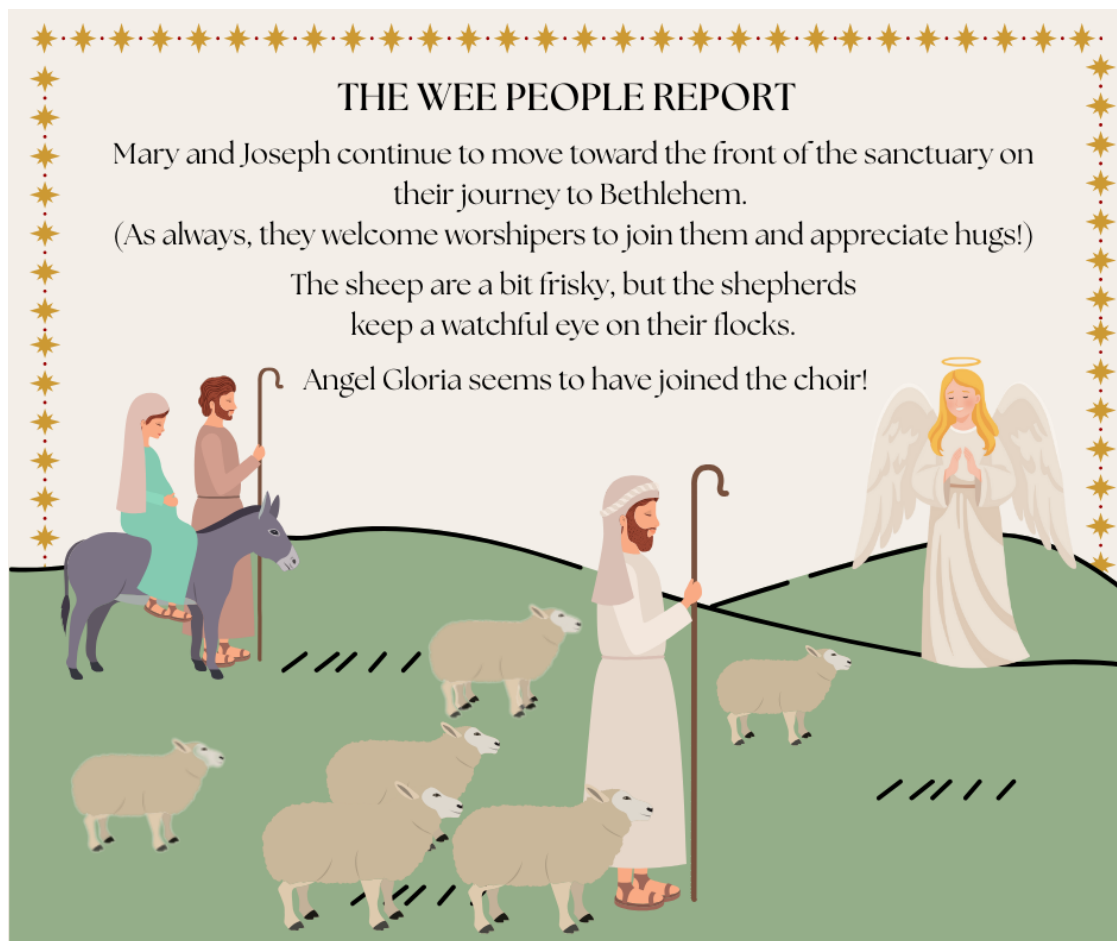
CUSTODIAL SERVICES

David Feibelman

THE MUSIC TODAY

Jayson Keeton, Director of Music & Organist
The Sanctuary Choir
First Presby Handbells
Kathy Lynch, director

Service music is reprinted under CCLI License No. 3604127.



THE STAFF OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

William Myers, Pastor/Head of Staff
Jayson Keeton, Director of Music & Organist
Jenny Pitchford, Financial Services Manager
Susan Smith, Christian Education Coordinator
Diana Vorhees, Office Administrator
Chelsea Greathouse, Office Assistant

Anne Moses, Director of the Preschool
Erin Stone, Preschool Office Administrator
Bernard Wooten, Preschool Custodian
Curtis Allen, Preschool Custodian
Steven Barrett, Facilities Manager
Jeff Kirk, Church Custodian

First Presby Weekly News December 14, 2025

CHRISTMAS EVE READERS

If you are interested in reading at the 8pm Lessons and Carols service on Christmas Eve, please reach out to Diana at diana@firstpresby.com.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Attention Committee Chairs, Annual Reports are due to Diana by Monday, December 22nd. Thank you so much for all of your hard work this year.

SCAM AWARENESS

We were notified that some text messages were sent pretending to be Pastor Myers trying to interact and ask for giftcards. Please ignore, report sender and block if able.

ADVENT CALENDAR AND DEVOTIONALS.

The Christian Education committee is pleased to provide an advent calendar and a choice of two devotionals entitled *The Will to Dream*. *The Will to Dream* highlights the stories of Advent–Epiphany as witnesses to God’s dream of a new world. From Isaiah’s visions to Mary’s song, from Zechariah’s prophecy to the defiant journey of the magi, these scriptures call us to nurture prophetic imagination. Dreams remind us of the possibility: there is enough love, mercy, and courage for all.

The Will to Dream Devotional features everything you need to engage scripture thoughtfully and prayerfully: weekly scripture readings; a written reflection; plus discussion questions.

The Will to Dream Practices for Families is a devotional resource for households of all shapes and sizes, with weekly reflections, practices, and coloring pages—plus podcast recordings for busy families.

The Advent calendar offers a simple way for households to mark Advent together. Each day includes a short activity that is easy to complete and meaningful for all ages.

CHRISTMAS EVE TABLEAU

1ST – 5TH GRADE CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP LEADERS NEEDED

The children of the church will lead worship at 5:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve as they present the Birth of Jesus through scripture and Christmas hymns in a living Tableau.

Rehearsal will be held Monday, December 22 from 2:00pm – 4:30pm.

Children should make their top 3 choices by contacting Diana Vorhees at the church by email at diana@firstpresby.com 8961 or you can visit our website and fill out a digital form. Adult volunteers are also needed.

Roles include: Mary, Joseph, Donkey, Innkeeper, Shepherds and Sheep, Angel Gabriel, Angels (lots of them), Angel with the Light, Angel of the Lord, Angel with the Star, Magi, King Herod, Cow, Dove and the infant Jesus.

PRESBYTERY CHURCH PRAYERS

Each week we pray for other congregations in our presbytery, along with the Presbytery of West Virginia and other ministry partners. This week please pray for First Presbyterian Church in Whitesville and Highlawn Presbyterian Church in St. Albans

First Presby Weekly News December 14, 2025

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

Sunday, December 14

9:15am	Discovery Class	<i>Act. Bldg. Rec. Room</i>
10:30am	Worship	<i>Sanctuary & YouTube</i>
11:00am	Worship Radio Broadcast	<i>WCHS-580AM</i>
2:00pm	CCRA K-2 Bball Practice	<i>Gym</i>
4:00pm	CCRA Elementary Bball Practice	<i>Gym</i>
7:00pm	CCRA HS Bball Practice	<i>Gym</i>

Monday, December 15

8:30 am	Aerobics	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>
1:00pm	PW Bible Study	<i>Edgewood Summit</i>
6:00pm	CCRA HS Girls Bball Game	<i>Gym</i>
7:15pm	CCRA HS Girls Bball Game	<i>Gym</i>
8:30pm	CCRA HS Boys Bball Game	<i>Gym</i>

Tuesday, December 16

10:00am	Staff Meeting	<i>Ruffner Room</i>
4:30pm	Finance Meeting	<i>E117</i>
6:30pm	CCRA 3-5 Bball Practice	<i>Gym</i>

Wednesday, December 17

8:30am	Aerobics	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>
10:00am	Knitting Club	<i>Room 406</i>
5:15pm	LIFT (Logos)	<i>Dining Room</i>
NO SESSION MEETING		

Thursday, December 18

8:00am	Shoney's Group	<i>Zoom</i>
10:00am	PS Christmas Program	<i>Sanctuary</i>
4:30pm	Time for Refreshment	<i>Ruffner Room</i>
6:00pm	CCRA HS Girls Bball Game	<i>Gym</i>
7:15pm	CCRA HS Girls Bball Game	<i>Gym</i>

Friday, December 19

8:30am	Aerobics	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>
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Saturday, December 20

Sunday, December 21

10:30am	Worship	<i>Sanctuary</i>
11:00am	Worship Radio Broadcast	<i>WCHS-580AM</i>
4:00pm	Concert Series – Lessons & Carols	<i>Sanctuary</i>

DISCOVERY CLASS

- Dec 14** "Jesus as Exorcist and Healer" - John Nesius
- Dec 21** "Mission Possible – What are your gifts?"
Dave Nolan

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING

Sunday, December 14	John 5:30-47
Monday, December 15	Matthew 24:15-31
Tuesday, December 16	Matthew 24:32-44
Wednesday, December 17	Matthew 24:45-51
Thursday, December 18	John 3:16-21
Friday, December 19	Luke 1:1-25
Saturday, December 20	Luke 1:26-38



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF CHARLESTON**



