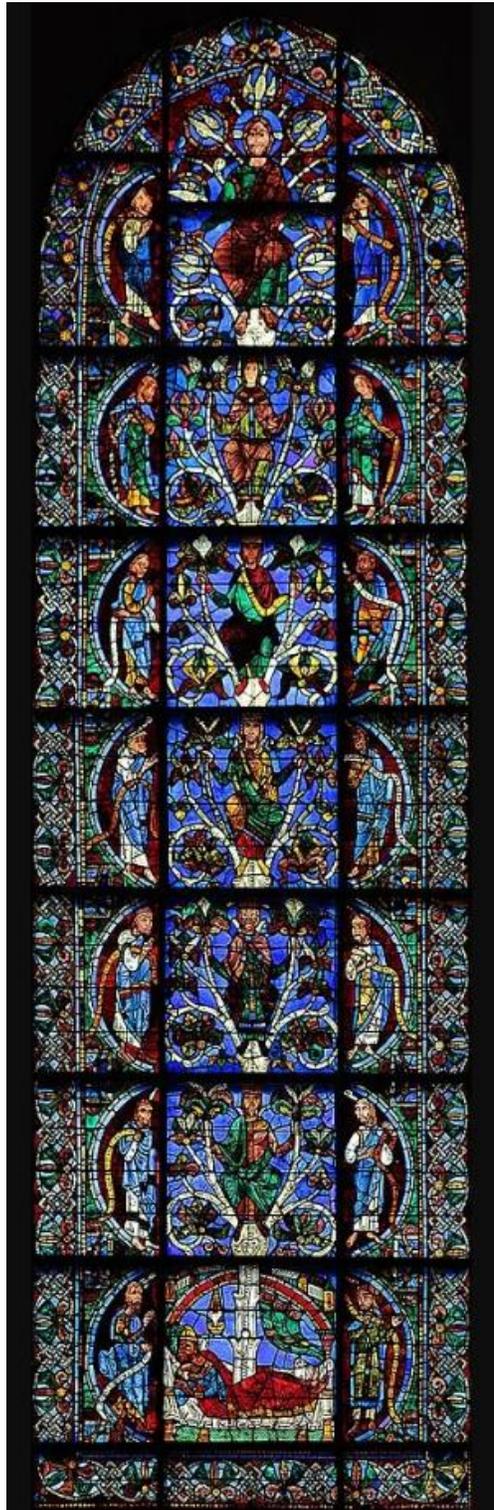


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Bringing hope to the heart of Charleston and beyond.



**The Second Sunday of Advent
December 7, 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:

"Yesterday, December 7, 1941 — a date which will live in infamy — the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan... No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people in their righteous might will win through to absolute victory."

— Franklin d. Roosevelt,
December 8, 1941

"The ultimate tragedy is not the oppression and cruelty by the bad people but the silence over that by the good people."

— The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Letter from Birmingham Jail, 1963

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

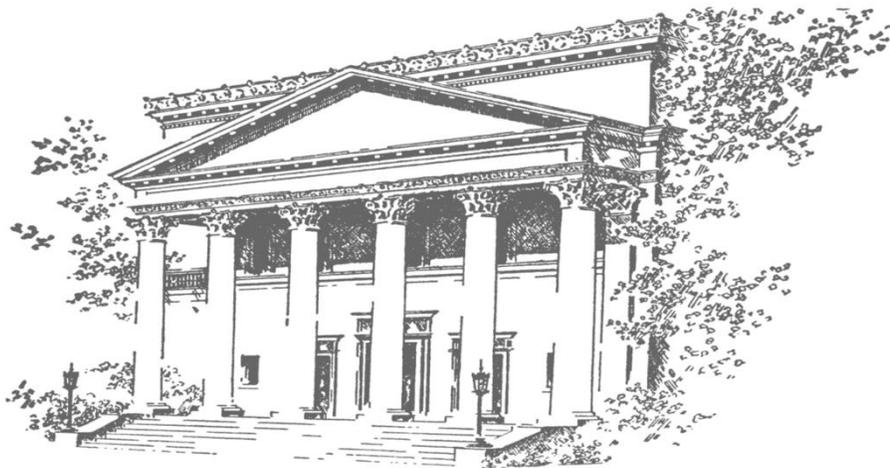
Lectionary

Isaiah 11:1-10 • Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 • Romans 15:4-13 • Matthew 3:1-12

Cover art:

Tree of Jesse (Stained Glass)
Chartres Cathedral, France
Jayson Keeton

At right: The *Tree of Jesse* window —
the rightmost vertical window over the
main Nave doors of the cathedral.



*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 Come to Us, Lord Jesus Benton Price

WELCOME Pastor Myers

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

PRAISE ALMIGHTY GOD

***CALL TO WORSHIP** The Clarke Family

One: In the wilderness, a voice cries:

All: "Prepare the way of the Lord!"

One: From the stump of Jesse, a shoot shall rise —

All: A Branch of peace and justice for all creation.

One: Come, let us worship the God who makes peace.

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

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

He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gently lead them homeward.

***LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT wreath** The Clarke Family

One: Wake up! The wilderness cries out. We light this candle as a sign of God's peace.

All: God's peace is not passive; it calls us to courage, repentance, and action.

One: From the stump of Jesse rises a shoot - a Branch of life and hope.

All: The voice cries in the desert: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." God calls us out of complacency and into the life of peace. Amen.

***HYMN OF PRAISE #106** Prepare the Way, O Zion BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

CONFESS TO OUR FORGIVING CREATOR

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Pastor Myers

One: John the Baptist's cry echoes through the ages: Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near!

All: Here and now, we go to God in humility and faith, confessing our sins.

God of all creation,

Your vision of peace is beyond our knowing.

We have been hurt

And we have seen destruction,

So we turn around and hurt others,

Destroying what you have called good.

Forgive us,

And fill us with your knowledge,

So we may help bring forth your peaceful kin-dom.

(Silence is kept for personal confession.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Pastor Myers

One: Christ comes into our world - Christ comes into our lives - to purify us and give us life.

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. We rejoice in the hope Christ offers! Thanks be to God.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** Creator of the Stars of Night (vs. 2) CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM

When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in splen - dor bright,
not as a mon - arch, but the child of Mar - y, blame - less moth - er mild.

***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 11:1-10 The Clarke Family
One: This is the word of the Lord. page 640, New Testament
All: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM There Is a Place of Quiet Rest Cleland Boyd McAfee

There is a place of quiet rest, near to the heart of God,
A place where sin cannot molest, near to the heart of God.
*O Jesus, blest Redeemer, sent from the heart of God,
Hold us, all waiting for thee, near to the heart of God.*
There is a place of comfort sweet, near to the heart of God,
A place where we our Savior meet, near to the heart of God.
There is a place of full release, near to the heart of God,
A place where all is joy and peace, near to the heart of God.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 3:1-12 Pastor Myers
One: This is the word of the Lord. page 2, New Testament
All: **Thanks be to God.**

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 "Complacency Isn't Peace" Pastor Myers

***HYMN #129** Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming Es IST EIN' ROS'

DEDICATE OUR LIVES TO GOD

JOYS & CONCERNS Pastor Myers

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 Andante religioso (from *Heures Mystiques*) Léon Boëllmann

CELEBRATE OUR COMMUNION WITH CHRIST AND EACH OTHER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, eternal God, creator and ruler of the universe...

...Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the choirs of angels and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing the glory of your name:

SUNG RESPONSE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (*Refrain*)

VENI EMMANUEL



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - - ra - el.

One: You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord...

...Great is the mystery of faith:

SUNG RESPONSE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (*Refrain*)

VENI EMMANUEL

One: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us...

...Through Christ, all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit in the holy church, now and forever.

SUNG RESPONSE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (*Refrain*)

VENI EMMANUEL

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

(This morning we share the bread and the cup together, gathered and scattered, united in Christ at the Table.)

COMMUNION ANTHEM Agnus Dei (from *Chichester Mass*)

William Albright
Lindsay Marchio, soprano

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

All: Gracious God, thank you for this holy meal that nourishes body and spirit. In Christ, you unite us beyond division. Send us renewed to live as witnesses of your peace, justice, and hope, watching and working for the coming of your kingdom in fullness. Amen.

GO FORTH TO SERVE

***HYMN #362**

Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers

LLANGLOFFAN

***BENEDICTION**

Pastor Myers

CONCLUDING VOLUNTARY

Andante

Louise Farrenc

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 Clarke Family

AUDIO & VIDEO

Byron Goodew
David Cottrell

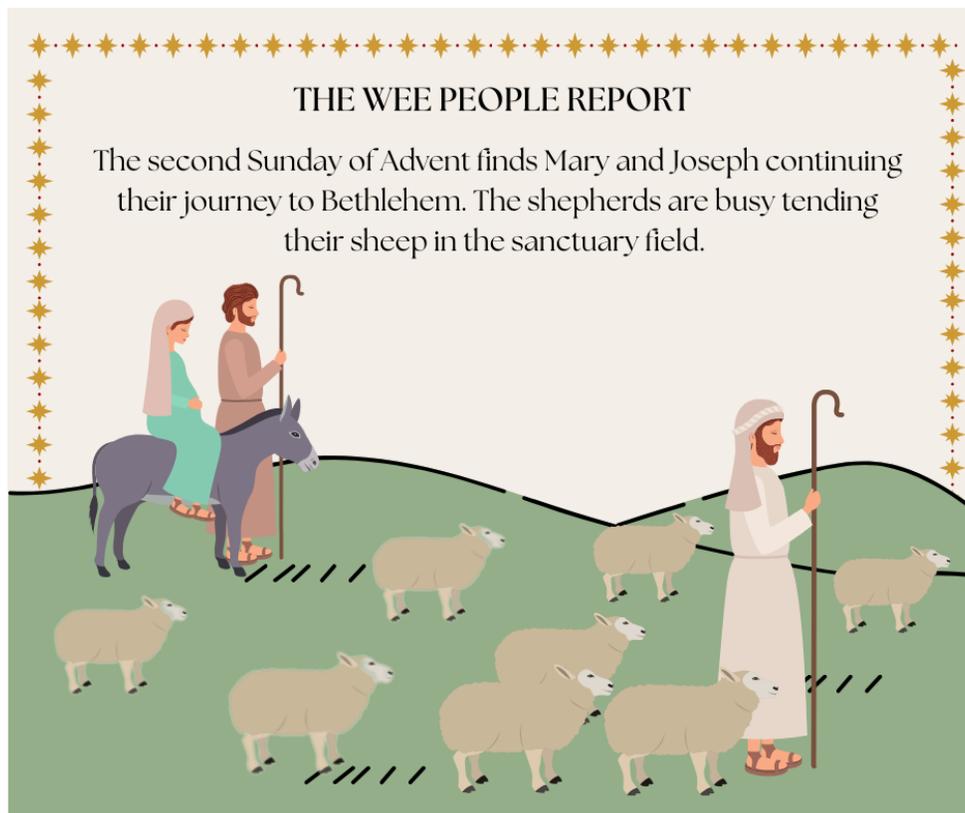
CUSTODIAL SERVICES

David Feibelmann

THE MUSIC TODAY

Jayson Keeton, Director of Music & Organist
Lindsay Marchio, soprano
The Sanctuary Choir

Service music is reprinted under CCLI License No. 3604127.



THE WEE PEOPLE REPORT

The second Sunday of Advent finds Mary and Joseph continuing their journey to Bethlehem. The shepherds are busy tending their sheep in the sanctuary field.

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

We accidentally left Lori Nolan off of the ballot as a member of this year's Nominating Committee. We want to thank her for her service and ongoing dedication to First Presbyterian Church.

ADVENT WORKSHOP

The annual Advent Fair will be this Sunday, December 7th following the worship service. Lunch will be provided. You, your family, and friends will be able to choose from a variety of crafts: Advent wreath; Christmas pillow case; "stained glass" tea light holder; shadow theater box; plus a few surprises. We will see you in the Dining Room immediately following worship!

ADVENT CALENDAR AND DEVOTIONALS.

Advent starts next Sunday, November 30th. 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.

DEACONS CAROLING

The Deacon's would like to invite you to go caroling with them on December 9th starting at 5:30pm for the folks at Charleston Gardens and December 11th at 7pm for the folks at Edgewood Summit. Come to one or come to both. It is sure to be a merry time for all!

CHRISTMAS EVE TABLEU

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. This time-honored tradition is your child's chance to lead the congregation in worship as we center our hearts and minds on Jesus Christ at this blessed time of year.

Hear and see the good news of the coming of the Christ child - the Light of the World!

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.

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 or telephone 304-343-8961. Adult volunteers are also needed.

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 Nitro, First Presbyterian Church in Williamstown and Summersville Presbyterian Church.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

Sunday, December 7

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>
11:30am	Advent Fair	<i>Dining Room</i>
7:00pm	CCRA HS BBall Practice	<i>Gym</i>

Monday, December 8

8:30 am	Aerobics	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>
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Tuesday, December 9

10:00am	Staff Meeting	<i>Ruffner Room</i>
5:30pm	Hope Center Board Meeting	<i>4th Floor</i>
5:30pm	CCRA K-2 BBall Practice	<i>Gym</i>
6:30pm	CCRA 3-5 BBall Practice	<i>Gym</i>

Wednesday, December 10 - NO SCHOOL

8:30am	Aerobics	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>
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Thursday, December 11

8:00am	Shoney's Group	<i>Zoom</i>
11:00am	PS Lesson w/ Susan	<i>Chapel</i>
1:00pm	Shepherd Center Meeting	<i>E117</i>
3:30pm	FPC Book Club	<i>Ruffner Room</i>
4:30pm	Time for Refreshment	<i>Ruffner Room</i>
5:30pm	CE Meeting	<i>E117</i>
6:00pm	Randolph St. Baptist Bball Practice	<i>Gym</i>

Friday, December 12

8:30am	Aerobics	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>
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Saturday, December 13

Sunday, December 14

10:30am	Worship	<i>Sanctuary</i>
11:00am	Worship Radio Broadcast	<i>WCHS-580AM</i>

DISCOVERY CLASS

- Dec 7** Christmas Mission Project
- Dec 14** "Jesus as Exorcist and Healer" - John Nesius
- Dec 21** "Mission Possible - What are your gifts?"
Dave Nolan

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING

- Sunday, December 7** Luke 1:57-68
- Monday, December 8** Matthew 22:23-33
- Tuesday, December 9** Matthew 22:34-46
- Wednesday, December 10** Matthew 23:1-12
- Thursday, December 11** Matthew 23:13-26
- Friday, December 12** Matthew 23:27-39
- Saturday, December 13** Matthew 24:1-14



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF CHARLESTON

