First Presbyterian Church

Bringing hope to the heart of Charleston and beyond.



The First Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2026 | 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 as we gather for worship today. Whether you are a longtime member, a first-time guest, or joining us again after some time away, we are grateful you are here.

May our worship honor God, strengthen our faith, and send us into the world with hope and joy.

All children are welcome and encouraged to participate in worship.

A reflection for worship:

"Life in a prison cell may well be compared to Advent; one waits, hopes ... the door is shut, and can be opened only from the outside."
— Bonhoeffer, November 1943.

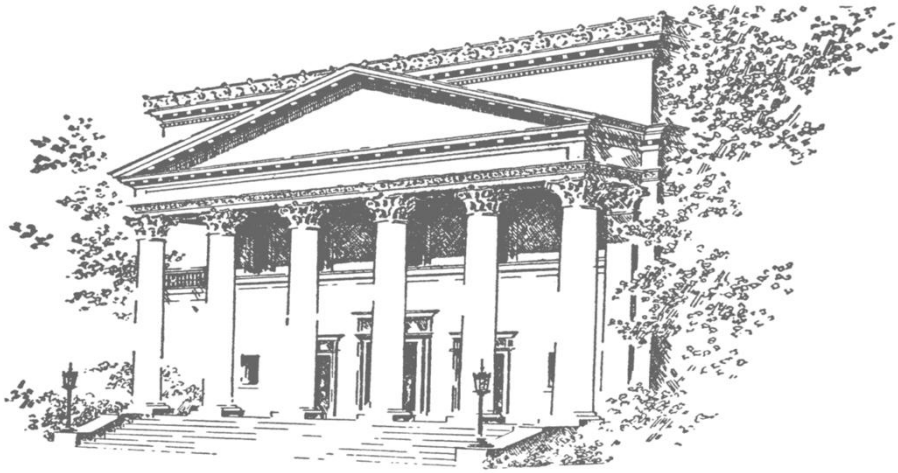
"Every Christian hope begins with the rising of the crucified Christ."
— Jürgen Moltmann — Hope in These Troubled Times

"Waiting is the hardest work of hope."
— Lewis B. Smedes

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

Lectionary
Isaiah 64:1-9 • Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 • 1 Corinthians 1:32-9 • Mark 13:24-37

Cover art:
A Potter (1942)
Else Berg (1877–1942)



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

Our Offering of Worship

We Come Before God

God calls us together as one people. We come with our joys and burdens, our questions and hopes, trusting that God meets us with grace and welcomes us into worship.

**indicates congregation standing, as able.*

Opening Voluntaries Prelude on *Nun komm der Heiden Heiland* Paul Fey

Introit Creator of the Stars of Night CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM
The Sanctuary Choir

Creator of the stars of night,
Your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, redeemer of us all,
We pray you, hear us when we call.

Welcome Pastor Myers

Chiming of the Trinity

We Give Thanks and Praise

In song and prayer, we turn our hearts toward the God who creates, redeems, and sustains us. Together we offer our praise and remember the faithfulness of God.

***Call to Worship** The Stewart Family

One: Sometimes we wonder where God is when we need him most.
All: But even when God seems far away, we hold on to hope.
One: The world can be a dark and troubled place.
All: But we believe God's light is still shining.
One: So we come together, trusting that God has not forgotten us.
All: Come, Lord Jesus. Give us the courage to hope again!

***Lighting of the Advent Wreath** The Stewart Family

One: When God seems distant, we watch and wait.
All: We light this candle as a sign of hope.
One: Even in darkness, God has not abandoned us.
All: The light is coming, and God's promises will not fail. Amen.

***Hymn of Praise #349** "Sleepers, Wake!" A Voice Astounds Us WACHET AUF
The congregation sings verses 1 & 3. The choir will sing verse 2 alone.

We Confess and Receive Grace

In confession, we acknowledge the ways we have fallen short and open our hearts to God's mercy. Through Christ, we receive forgiveness, renewal, and the promise of new life.

Prayer of Confession Pastor Myers

One: Advent calls us to wakefulness, yet too often we move through life distracted by our worries and fears.

All: Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sins.

Faithful God, you call us to trust your promises, but we grow impatient when answers do not come. We allow fear to overshadow hope and disappointment to weaken our faith. We become so consumed by our own concerns we fail to recognize your presence and the needs of others. Forgive us. Awaken our hearts, renew our trust, and teach us to live as people of hope.

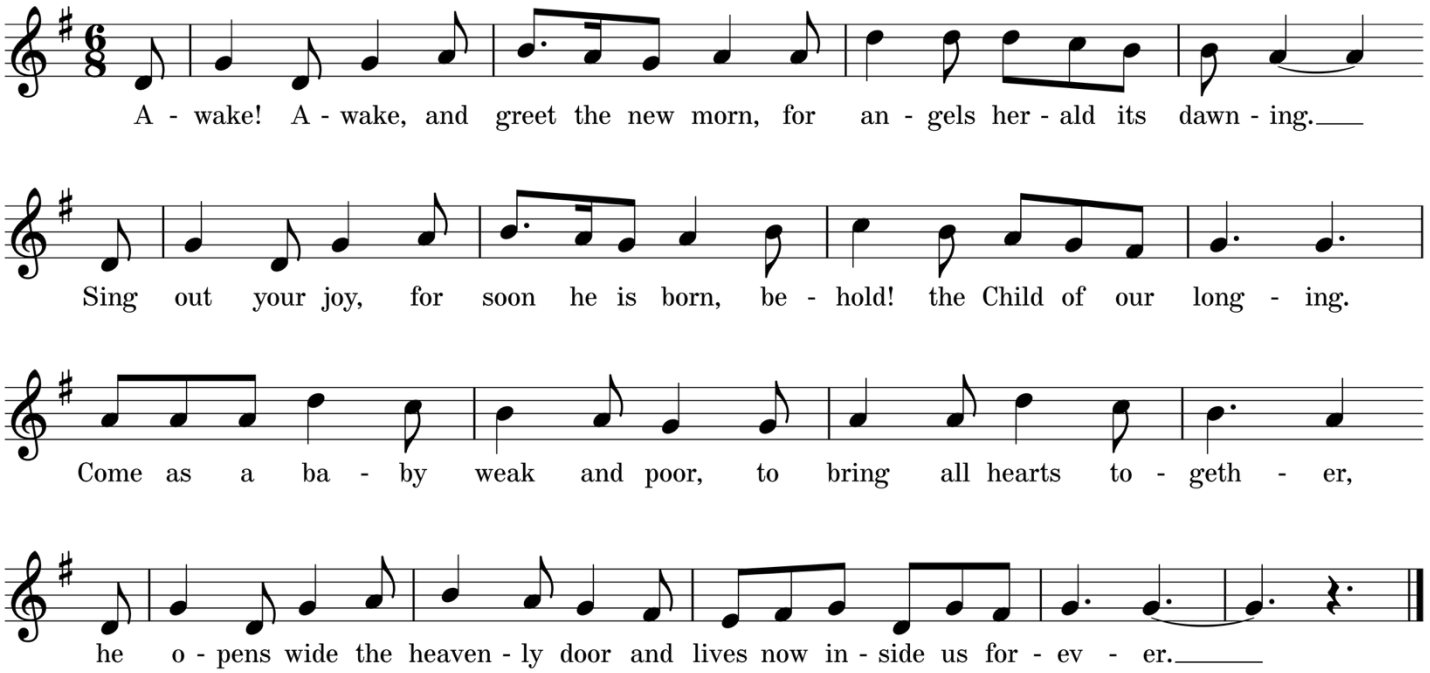
(Silence is kept for personal confession.)

Assurance of Pardon

One: Hear the good news: God is faithful. In Jesus Christ, God has come to us with grace and mercy, and nothing can separate us from God's love. Believe the good news of the gospel.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

***Congregational Response** Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn REJOICE, REJOICE



***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

We Listen for God's Word

God speaks to us through Scripture. The Holy Spirit opens our hearts to receive its wisdom, challenge, and hope. We listen together for the Word that calls us to faithful living.

Prayer for Illumination The Stewart Family

All: **Gracious God, as we hear your Word, awaken us to your presence. Speak to our doubts, strengthen our faith, and renew our hope in the promises of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

A Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures Isaiah 64:1–9 The Stewart Family

page 694, Hebrew Scriptures

A Reading from the Epistles 1 Corinthians 1:3–9 The Stewart Family

page 166, New Testament

Anthem Savior of the Nations, Come NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

The Sanctuary Choir

Savior of the nations, come;
Virgin's son, make here your home.
Marvel now, O heaven and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.

Now your manger, shining bright,
Hallows night with newborn light.
Night cannot this light subdue;
Let our faith shine ever new.

From God's heart the Savior speeds;
Back to God his pathway leads;
Out to vanquish death's command,
Back to reign at God's right hand.

Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,
Virgin's son, incarnate Word!
To the holy Trinity
Praise we sing eternally.

A Reading from the Gospels Mark 13:24–37 Pastor Myers

One: This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. *page 50, New Testament*

All: **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

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 "The Courage to Hope Again" Pastor Myers

***Hymn #348** Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending HELMSLEY

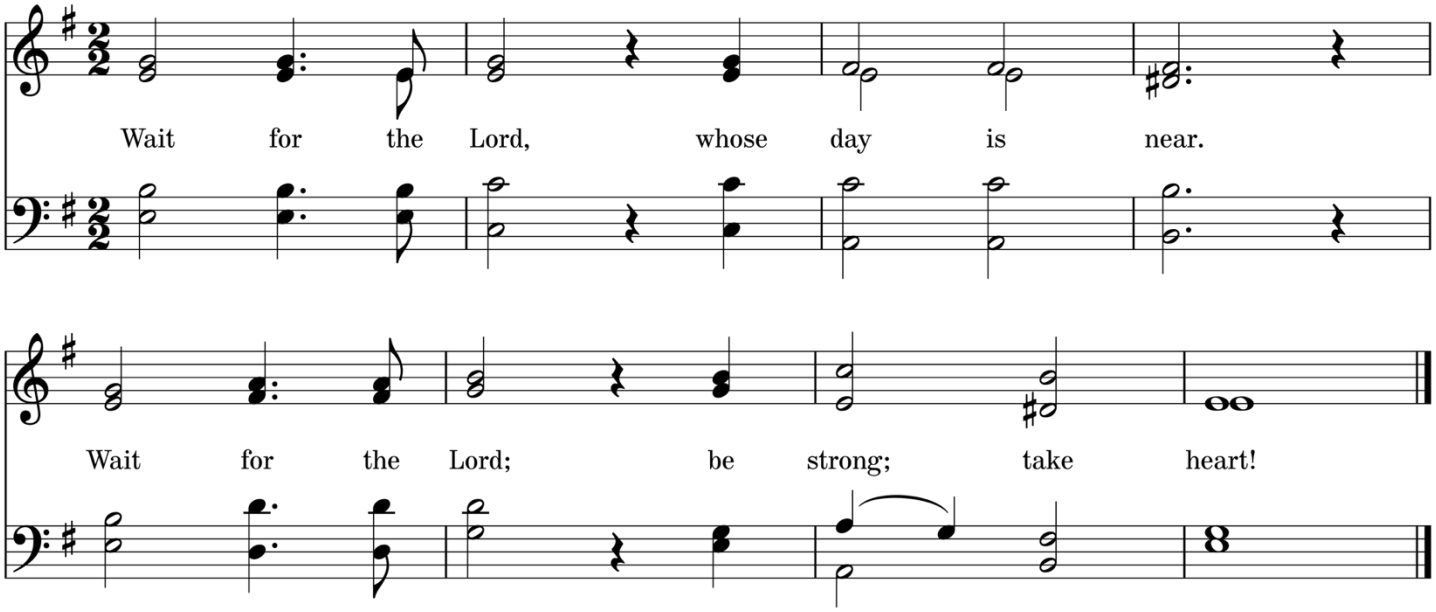
We Respond in Faith

As we come before God, we bring the joys and burdens of our lives,
the needs of our neighbors, and the hopes of the world.

Prayer 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 3 times)* WAIT FOR THE LORD



We Commit Our Lives to God

Every good gift comes from God. In gratitude for God's abundant grace,
let us commit our lives and our gifts for the work of Christ in the world.

Offertory Meditation on *Conditor alme siderum* Daniel E. Gawthrop

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

***Offering Response #607** Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

***Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication** Pastor Myers

We Go Forth in Hope

Having gathered in God's presence, heard God's Word, and received God's grace,
we are sent into the world as Christ's people—called to love, serve, and share God's hope.

***Hymn #352**	My Lord! What a Morning	MY LORD, WHAT A MORNING
***Benediction**		Pastor Myers
Closing Voluntary	A mínuít fut fait un réveil	Jean-François Dandrieu

Our Worship Continues in Our Service to Others.

Worship is broadcast 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
Devon, Laura and Joey Stewart

AUDIO & VIDEO
Byron Goodew
David Cottrell

CUSTODIAL SERVICES
David Wolf

THE MUSIC TODAY
Jayson Keeton, Director of Music & Organist
The Sanctuary Choir

Service music reprinted under CCLI License No. 3604127.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY:
An AED machine, Pediatric/Adult Resuscitators, and a First Aid Kit are located in the main church hallway on the wall by the front offices.

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
Patrick Barron, Facilities & Maintenance Coordinator

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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. 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 Tuesday, December 22 from 2:00pm – 4:30pm in the Sanctuary.

Children should make their top 3 choices and contact Diana Vorhees at the church by email at diana@firstpresby.com or telephone 304-343-8961.

If you have any questions, please contact Sallie Daugherty at 304-419-5557 or salliedaugherty@suddenlink.net

Adult volunteers are also needed – please call or email Sallie if you would like to volunteer.

ADVENT FAIR

Mark your calendars for the Advent Fair on Sunday, December 6th right after church. Lunch will be provided. The activities this year include a handprint wreath, a gum drop Christmas tree, a "stained" glass tea light, cards for at home members, Christmas pillowcase, and more. This year we are including a mission project. More on that below. Come join us for food and fun on Sunday, December 6th!

ADVENT FAIR MISSION PROJECT

This holiday season, in honor of baby Jesus, the mission division is requesting donations of swaddling blankets and diapers for the Gabriel Project. The Gabriel project is a well-established organization in our community that helps support low income families with babies and toddlers under the age of 2. Supplies can be brought to church or to the Advent Fair on Sunday, December 6th. The organization can use diapers of any size, but they are in particular need of larger sizes (size 4.5 and 6).

WOMEN'S WEEKLY BOOK STUDY

Join the Women's Book Study Group in the Ruffner Room every Wednesday at 1:00pm. The book *Bible Stories for Grown-Ups: Reading Scripture with New Eyes,* Pastor Josh Scott looks at familiar Bible stories and reveals new details and interpretations for an adult audience. This six-week Bible study will consider stories, many read as children including, Noah's Ark, the binding of Isaac, Jonah and the big fish, Jesus and Zacchaeus, Jesus healing a blind man, and the parable of the talents. Scott reimagines these stories and opens new visions for readers to understand well known pieces of Scripture in our current cultural environment. Books are available in the church office.

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HOPE VILLAGE TEAR DOWN

Men wanted for the Hope Village tear down!
We need a crew to remove items from the Hope Village on Wednesday, December 3 at 10 am. We need to remove the tables, trees and display pieces and put them back in our storage room.
Questions? Contact Dina at (304)444-2211 or Debbe at (304) 444-9272.

GRIEF SUPPORT FOR THE HOLIDAYS

HospiceCare support groups in December will focus on coping with grief over the holidays. They are held at the HospiceCare office, 1606 Kanawha Boulevard, Charleston WV 25387 on Tuesdays 10:30 am to 12:30 pm or 2pm to 4pm or on Thursdays 2 pm to 4 pm or 6 pm to 8 pm (no groups on Dec 24 or 31). Grief support groups are open to anyone in the community and there is no need to register.

2027 PLEDGE CARDS

The Finance and Generosity Committee is encouraging the congregation to turn in your 2027 pledge cards as soon as possible so that we can determine the 2027 budget. If you have given to the church in the past, please prayerfully consider increasing your pledge. We hope to continue to support the many organizations that rely on First Presby's ongoing generosity for their annual programming. Also, in order to maintain our beautiful facilities, we must meet the challenges that come with aging facilities and the associated costs. Thank you in advance for your support of the ministries of First Presby.

YOUTH GROUP

The Youth Group will be attending Light the Night at the Dirty Birds Ballpark on Monday, November 30th. We will meet at the ballpark at 5:20 and purchase the tickets at 5:30 for those who have arrived. Friends and Family are invited to attend with the Youth. We will finish with hot chocolate at 6:20 and depart from the ballpark at 6:30. Please RSVP to Susan Smith.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS

Join your church family for a free meal on Wednesday nights at 5:30 as a part of LIFT (Living in Faith Together). After dinner you can stay in the dining hall to continue fellowshipping or join the adult class or the children's class and nurture your faith. We finish the evening with a brief communion worship service from 7:00 – 7:15.

LIFT AFTER DARK: QUESTIONS WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO ASK AT CHURCH

Some questions are too important for easy answers. This fall, LIFT After Dark will make room for honest conversation about faith, doubt, Scripture, and the questions many of us carry but rarely have the opportunity to explore together.

Each week stands on its own—no homework, no preparation, and no need to attend every session. Come for the questions that interest you. Bring your doubts, your experiences, and your curiosity.

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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 Riverlawn Presbyterian Church in St. Albans and Village Chapel Presbyterian Church in Charleston.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

Sunday, November 29

10:30am	Worship	*Sanctuary & YouTube*
11:00am	Worship Radio Broadcast	*WCHS–580AM*
4:30pm	HS Girls Bball Practice	*Activities Building*

Monday, November 30

8:30am	Aerobics	*A201*
5:15pm	Light the Night	*GoMart Park*
6:30pm	FPC Bowling	*Galaxy Lanes*

Tuesday, December 1

10:00am	Staff Meeting	*Ruffner Room*
6:00pm	Deacon's Meeting	*A201*
7:00pm	Boy Scouts	*Activities Building*

Wednesday, December 2

8:30am	Aerobics	*A201*
10:00am	Knitting Group	*Room 406*
10:00am	Hope Village Take Down	*Activities Building*
1:00pm	Women's Book Study	*Ruffner Room*
5:30pm	LIFT	*Dining Room*
6:15pm	LIFT After Dark	*Ruffner Room*

Thursday, December 3

8:30am	Shoney's Group	*Zoom – Virtual*
1:00pm	Shepherd Center Meeting	*E117*

Friday, December 4

8:30am	Aerobics	*A201*

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING

Sunday, November 29	Matthew 25:1-13
Monday, November 30	Luke 20:1-8
Tuesday, December 1	Luke 20:9-18
Wednesday, December 2	Luke 20:19-26
Thursday, December 3	Luke 20:27-40
Friday, December 4	Luke 20:41-21:4
Saturday, December 5	Luke 21:5-19

DISCOVERY CLASS

November 29	NO CLASS – Thanksgiving weekend
December 6	Salvation Army – Captains Mike and Cathy Michaels



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF CHARLESTON

