

# *First Presbyterian Church*

*101 South Decatur Street • Strasburg, PA 17579*

*(717) 687-6030*

*www.straspres.org*



**Sunday, December 1, 2024**  
**First Sunday of Advent**

PASTOR: Rev. Robert K. Bronkema

FULLER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY INTERN: Jen Eisenberg

INTERIM ORGANIST/CHOIRMASTER: Jonathan Jones

INTERIM DIRECTOR OF CONTEMPORARY MUSIC: Walter Kondratowski

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES: Beth Feiler

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH: Kristin Kondratowksi

WORSHIP LEADER/READER: 8:30am Ali Elias-Lizardo / 11am Andrea Petrokonis

Sunday, December 1, 2024

*Welcome*

8:30am Worship

*Open your heart and give yourself up to Christ who is here to meet you today.  
"Be still and know that I am God." ~ Psalm 46:10*

PRELUDE     *Offertoire sur "Venez Divin Messie"*     Jehan de Montber

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS / RINGING OF THE BELL

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH:     ***Nadu Family***

Family: This first Sunday in Advent we light this candle as a symbol of Christ our Hope. May the light sent from God shine in the darkness to show us the way of salvation.

**People:** (Sung) **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.**

**Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel, shall come to thee, O Israel.**

\*HYMN     *"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"*     No. 2

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

**Good and gracious God, We come face to face with You today, thanksgiving in our hearts and praise in our mouths. From the beginning, You prepared a way to our good and happy future together. Always faithful, You promise to restore and repair us. We confess, we are tempted to fix things ourselves. We need You to carry us. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\*SHARING SIGNS OF PEACE [*Please share Christ's peace with one another.*]

\*HYMN     *"Spirit of the Living God"*

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me; Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

**Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE     Jen Eisenberg

ANTHEM     *"Is Your Heart Prepared for a King?"*     Robert Lau

FIRST SCRIPTURE     Malachi 4:2-6

SECOND SCRIPTURE     Matthew 17:9-13

Sunday, December 1, 2024

*WELCOME!*

8:30am Service

SERMON SERIES: MATTHEW: GOSPEL OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

SERMON                    *"The Incarnate Redeemer"*                    Jen Eisenberg

\*HYMN                    *"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*                    No. 9

WE BRING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY                    *"The First Noel"*                    arr. John Carter

\*DOXOLOGY

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution

Welcome

Distribution

\*ALLELUIA

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE                    *"Noël Suisse"*                    Louis-Claude Daquin

*\*You are invited to stand if you are able during those places in the worship service marked with an asterisk.*

### Sermon Notes

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**NEXT WEEK ~ DECEMBER 8, 2024**  
**2<sup>ND</sup> WEEK OF ADVENT**

1<sup>st</sup> Scripture: Deuteronomy 32:4-9                    2<sup>nd</sup> Scripture: Matthew 17:14-21

SERMON SERIES: MATTHEW: GOSPEL OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Sermon: *"Faith as a Marker of Advent"*

Rev. Robert K. Bronkema, Preaching

Sunday, December 1, 2024

*Welcome!*

11:00am Service

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Greeting and Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Wreath: ***Kondratowski Family***

Family: This first Sunday in Advent we light this candle as a symbol of Christ our Hope. May the light sent from God shine in the darkness to show us the way of salvation.

**People:** (Sung) **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.**

**Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel, shall come to thee, O Israel.**

\*Praise & Worship

*Hark  
The First Noel  
God With Us*

Prayer & Peace

Children's Message

Jen Eisenberg

Scripture

Malachi 4:2-6  
Matthew 17:9-13

SERMON SERIES: MATTHEW: GOSPEL OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Sermon

*"The Incarnate Redeemer"*

Jen Eisenberg

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Offering

\*Praise & Worship

*Joy To The World (Joyful Joyful)*

\*Benediction

*\*You are invited to stand if you are able during those places in the worship service marked with an asterisk.*

*December Deacons of the Month: Donna Stettler & Morgan Murphy  
In Need of the Prayer Chain? Please contact the church office at 717-687-6030.*



## WEEK AT A GLANCE

### **Sunday, December 1**

- 8:30am **Worship** (Classic)  
9:30am **Coffee Hour**  
10am **Sunday School Classes** for all ages  
\*Children's Sunday School (Grades K - 5) - Room 12  
\*Youth Sunday School  
-Grades 6 - 7: Room 5      -Grades 8 - 12: Youth Room  
\*Young Adults - Choir Room  
\*Wired Word - Library  
\*Young at Heart - Room 4  
11am **Worship** (Modern)  
12:15pm Congregational Meeting - Sanctuary  
12:15pm Confirmation Class - Room 4  
  
**5:30pm Family Advent Night**  
**\*No IGNITED Youth Group**
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### **Tuesday, December 3**

- 9am Women's Bible Study - Room 4  
2pm Food Pantry  
7pm Worship Committee - Library

### **Wednesday, December 4**

- 1pm Knifty Knitters - Library      7pm Deacons Meeting - Room 4  
3pm Stitchin' Sisters - Room 4      7pm Praise Team - Sanctuary  
6pm Kids Clubhouse

### **Thursday, December 5**

- 6:30am Men's Fellowship & Devotions - Library - Bring your own coffee/breakfast items  
5:45pm Kidz JAM Choir - Sanctuary  
6pm Bible Study -  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzoMo4VUuahmT0CFUtwZzgg>  
7pm Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room

### **Friday, December 6**

- 9am Toddler Gym - Fellowship Hall  
2pm Food Pantry  
6pm Our Table - FH



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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We are glad to see you here! Check out our website: [www.straspres.org](http://www.straspres.org) under the "Events" tab for current church events and please be sure to like us on Facebook. Children's Church is available for kids K-5<sup>th</sup> grades. Children will go to room 11 after the children's sermon.

**COFFEE HOUR** • Join us each Sunday at 9:30am for coffee and fellowship with old and new friends. Hosts for today: Terry & JoAnn Sweigart. Hosts for next week: Wayne & Fran Carr. Volunteers are needed! All volunteers will be reimbursed for their purchases. If you would like to help with Coffee Hour, please contact Theresa Rineer at 717-682-9954 or email [rineertheresa@yahoo.com](mailto:rineertheresa@yahoo.com). There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. Please choose the date(s) that work best for you!

**CHANCEL CHOIR** • If you enjoy singing beautiful, inspiring anthems, we invite you to join us for a one-hour rehearsal each Thursday at 7pm in the Choir Room and then again each Sunday at 8am in the Sanctuary choir loft, for a 15-minute rehearsal. We would love to have you join us! If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact Jonathan Jones: [jjones@straspres.org](mailto:jjones@straspres.org) or 484.949.4514.

**Kidz JAM (Jesus and Me)** choir rehearsal will continue this Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, from 5:45pm to 6:30pm in the Sanctuary. We look forward to sharing this music ministry with children of all ages. Parents are welcome to stay for rehearsal. If you have any questions, please contact Jonathan Jones at [jjones@straspres.org](mailto:jjones@straspres.org) or 484.949.4514.



**LIBRARY NEWS** • Did you know that a member of our congregation is a published author? MJ Lau has written several books and we now have one in our library written by him and his daughter Fiona. "The Borrowed Daughter" is great for middle grade children to read. But you can read it too!

**SEWING GROUPS** • Would you like to learn to sew, quilt or knit? The Stitching Sisters and Knifty Knitters would love to help you! If interested, contact Bette Davis or Pam Johnson. There is no age/gender requirement!



**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY** • Every Sunday until Christmas you might be lucky enough to find a painted rock with an inspirational message. Keep it or pass it on to someone who needs a hug. The children made these rocks to go along with their Sunday school theme, living as Christians.





## Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Events!

**"OUR TABLE" WORSHIPPING COMMUNITY ~ Every Friday Night Beginning at 6pm** • Got friends? Bring 'em along! Everyone is welcome at Our Table! The meal is followed by an interactive Bible study, worship songs, and prayer. Eat and run or stay for the fun; we're just happy you showed up. There's always room at Our Table!

**TODDLER GYM ~** Join us weekly on **Fridays from 9 - 10am (Sept. - May)** for playtime for ages 1 - Kindergarten with their caregivers. This program is free and open to the public and follows the Lampeter Strasburg School District schedule. For more information, contact Amy Black at 717-224-3036 or [ablack@straspres.org](mailto:ablack@straspres.org).

**CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S PAGEANT** rehearsals will continue during Sunday School **in room 12**. Please contact Beth Feiler with any questions.

The Session has called for a **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING at 12:15pm (after second service) TODAY, December 1<sup>st</sup>**. The purpose of this meeting is to review and act on the proposed 2025 Pastoral Terms of Call, elect New Officers for the terms starting in 2025, and to review and receive the 2025 Ministry Budget.

## ASSISTANCE CORNER

**NURSERY NEEDS:** The nursery is in need of goldfish crackers, baby wipes and Clorox wipes. Thank you for considering this request!



### CURRENT FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

-Canned meats	-Canned soups	-Canned fruit	-Jelly
-Canned pasta	-Potato items	-Peanut butter	-Cereal

Monetary donations are gladly accepted. Kindly use the envelopes marked **FOOD** found in the pews. This allows the volunteers to purchase most needed items when our stock is depleted. Thank you for considering this request.

**Please contribute your tithes and offerings using one of the following methods:**

- Place your contribution in the collection plate
- Scan the QR code to the right and follow the prompts
- Click the DONATE button on the church web site
- Mail your check to FPCS, 101 St. Decatur Street, Strasburg, PA 17579





## *Upcoming Advent & Christmas Programs*



**FAMILY ADVENT NIGHT** ~ Join us on **TONIGHT, December 1<sup>st</sup> from 5:30-7pm!** All church family members are welcome (young and not so young, kids and no kids)!

**CHRISTMAS AT THE ORGAN** ~ Join us for an organ concert and Christmas carols on **December 8<sup>th</sup> at 7pm**, hosted by our very own Jonathan Jones.

**COURTYARD CAROLS FEATURING COOKIES AND HOT COCOA** ~ Join us on **December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7pm** in the courtyard for a fire as we sing carols led by our very own Walter Kondratowski.

**BLUE CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE** ~ **December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 3pm** ~ Sanctuary  
Sometimes the comfort and joy of the Christmas season also comes with grief, loneliness, and/or fatigue. Blue Christmas offers a pause from the busyness and pressures of Christmas to simply be with God Immanuel and to be met by His unfailing love.



### **Christmas Eve Schedule • December 24**



Children's Christmas Pageant • 4:30 PM  
Candlelight Worship Services • 8 PM & 11 PM



## **Memorial Poinsettias**



Orders are now being taken for memorial poinsettias for the upcoming Advent season. Cost is \$10 per plant. Please place this form, along with payment, in the Office Administrator's mailbox or drop off in the church office mail slot.

**Deadline for orders & payments: December 15, 2024**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Pots \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_





## 2024 SANTA'S HELPERS



This year FPS will again participate in the Santa's Helpers Program by having interested members of the congregation purchase a specific gift for a child in need. The Santa's Helpers program began over 30 years ago when the founders discovered a family that could not afford to buy Christmas gifts nor a Christmas meal for their family. The program has grown into a non-profit organization which partners with the L-S School District to provide Christmas for over 100 needy families. Our congregation joined this effort in 2011 and has purchased over 900 toys for children of needy families in our area since our participation began. To play a part in this valuable program all you need to do is:

- 📌 Sign-up to purchase a gift at the giving tree located next to the receptionist desk on either **Sunday, December 1** or **Sunday, December 8**.
- 📌 You sign-up by picking a tag from the tree which will include the number of a child along with the specific gift.
- 📌 Your name and the number of your child will be registered by a volunteer at the sign-up table.
- 📌 Please spend between \$15 to \$20 for the gift.
- 📌 Gifts do not need to be wrapped; all wrapping will be done by the Santa's Helpers organization.

Please attach the tag to the gift and place under the tree by **December 15th**. If you have any questions, please contact JoAnn or Terry Sweigart at 717-672-1427 or 717-606-6907.



# Let's Celebrate!



You are invited to Celebrate the Ministry of  
Michael Wilson at a Celebration Luncheon

**Sunday, December 8, 2024 from 2 - 4pm**

First Presbyterian Church of Strasburg  
101 S. Decatur Street, Strasburg, PA 17579

Call the church office to RSVP  
717-687-6030

Sponsored by The Presbytery of Donegal





Contact Pastor Bob for information if interested.

# CIVIL RIGHTS BUS TRIP

FOR ALUMNI, PARENTS & FRIENDS OF MESSIAH UNIVERSITY

## March 8-15, 2025

### HIGHLIGHTS:

- Tour key southern sites of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s-60s
- Listen to speakers who were involved first hand with the movement
- Meet in Atlanta, fly out of Memphis (airfare not included in price)
- Cost covers ground transportation, lodging, museums, speakers, books, & some meals.

**\$1400/\$2000**  
PER PERSON  
(DOUBLE OCCUPANCY/  
SINGLE OCCUPANCY)



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