

First Presbyterian Church

101 South Decatur Street • Strasburg, PA 17579

(717) 687-6030

www.straspres.org



Sunday, December 15, 2024
Third 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 Kondratowski

WORSHIP LEADER/READER: 8:30am Jean Pontz / 11am Isla Marsh

WORSHIP: 8:30am and 11:00am

*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 *"How Brightly Shines the Morning Star"* Dietrich Buxtehude

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS / RINGING OF THE BELL

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: *Colvin Family*

Family: This third Sunday in Advent we light this candle as a symbol of Christ our Joy.
May the joyful promise of your presence, O God, make us rejoice in our hope of
salvation.

People: (Sung) **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.**
Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel, shall come to thee, O Israel.

*HYMN *"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"* No. 22

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

Beloved Father, we are Your children and the sheep of Your pasture, freely loved by You. And yet, we do not always know what to do with Your deep and steady love. We struggle to live faithfully as children. We forget You gladly provide all we need, in Your ways and on Your timeline. In our forgetfulness, we think we need to provide a way, only to find that our ways too often harm one another. Help us, first and foremost, to trust You and Your will. 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 Tina Dansereau

ANTHEM *"A Mighty King Is Coming"* Billy Martin/Jon Paige

FIRST SCRIPTURE Exodus 30:11-16

SECOND SCRIPTURE Matthew 17:24-27

Sunday, December 15, 2024

Welcome!

8:30am Service

SERMON SERIES: MATTHEW: GOSPEL OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

SERMON

"Give No Offense"

Rev. Robert K. Bronkema

*HYMN

"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

insert

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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WE BRING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY

"Mary, Did You Know?"

arr. Jack Schrader

*DOXOLOGY

PROFESSION OF FAITH: APOSTLES CREED

*HYMN

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

No. 44

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Noël X"

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

**NEXT WEEK ~ DECEMBER 22, 2024
4TH WEEK OF ADVENT**

1st Scripture: Isaiah 7:10-14 2nd Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25

SERMON SERIES: MATTHEW: GOSPEL OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Sermon: *"Jesus is Born"*

Rev. Robert K. Bronkema, Preaching

Greeting and Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Wreath:

Fulmer Family

Family: This third Sunday in Advent we light this candle as a symbol of Christ our Joy.
May the joyful promise of your presence, O God, make us rejoice in our hope of salvation.

People: (Sung) **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.
Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel, shall come to thee, O Israel.**

*Praise & Worship *Angels We Have Heard On High
Come Thou Long Expected Jesus
What A Beautiful Name*

Prayer & Peace

Children's Message Tina Dansereau

Scripture Exodus 30:11-16
 Matthew 17:24-27

SERMON SERIES: MATTHEW: GOSPEL OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Sermon *"Give No Offense"* Rev. Robert K. Bronkema

Offering

*Praise & Worship *God With Us*

*Benediction

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

Prayer Requests Please keep the following in your prayers.

- Glenna Kirchner
- Reub Stoltzfus
- Elinor Rudy
- Jinny Russell
- Linda Hook



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 15

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 Confirmation Class - Room 4

7pm Courtyard Carols featuring cookies and hot cocoa with Walter Kondratowski - Courtyard

***IGNITED ♦ Combined Youth Group: 6 - 8pm - Fellowship Hall**

Tuesday, December 17

2pm Food Pantry

Wednesday, December 18

1pm Knifty Knitters - Library

7pm Session Meeting - Room 4

3pm Stitchin' Sisters - Room 4

7pm Praise Team - Sanctuary

Thursday, December 19

6:30am Men's Fellowship & Devotions - Library - Bring your own coffee/breakfast items

5:45pm Kidz JAM Choir

6pm Bible Study - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzoMo4VUuahmT0CFUtwZzgg>

6pm Food Pantry Committee - Library

7pm Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room

Friday, December 20

9am Toddler Gym - FH

2pm Food Pantry

6pm Our Table - FH



ANNOUNCEMENTS



We are glad to see you here! Check out our website: 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-5th grades. Children will go to room 11 after the children's sermon.

The flowers today are provided by Randy and Donna Stettler and children Steven and Morgan Murphy. May the love and peace that was born that night be with you at Christmas and always. Merry Christmas to our church family!



COFFEE HOUR • Join us each Sunday at 9:30am for coffee and fellowship with old and new friends. Hosts for today: The Marsh Family. Hosts for next week: IGNITED. 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. There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. Please choose the date(s) that work best for you!

Kidz JAM (Jesus and Me) choir rehearsal will continue this Thursday, December 19th, from 5:45pm to 6:30pm. 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 or 484.949.4514.

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 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.

SANTA'S HELPERS ~ This is just a friendly reminder to those who signed up to purchase a gift at the giving tree, that all gifts should be placed under the tree by **TODAY, Sunday, December 15th**. Please be sure to attach the tag to the gift.

CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S PAGEANT ~ Rehearsals will continue during Sunday School **in room 12**. Please arrive **at 3pm on Christmas Eve**. Please contact Beth Feiler with any questions.

ASSISTANCE CORNER

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED to help on Sunday mornings during both services and Sunday school. Please consider helping at least one time per month. There is a sign-up sheet on the wall racks by the welcome desk, or contact Amy Black at ablack@straspres.org or 717-224-3036.



CURRENT FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

-Canned fruit: mixed fruit, peaches, pineapple

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



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

BLUE CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE ~ **December 22nd 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 Emmanuel 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: TODAY, December 15, 2024

Name: _____

Number of Pots _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus 376

Whoever serves Me must follow Me. John 12:26



1. I have de - cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus, I have de - cid - ed
2. The world be - hind me, the cross be - fore me; The world be - hind me,
3. Tho' none go with me, I still will fol - low, Tho' none go with me,
4. Will you de - cid - e now to fol - low Je - sus? Will you de - cid - e now



to fol - low Je - sus, I have de - cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus,
the cross be - fore me; The world be - hind me, the cross be - fore me, No turn - ing
I still will fol - low, Tho' none go with me, I still will fol - low,
to fol - low Je - sus? Will you de - cid - e now to fol - low Je - sus?



Optional choral ending



back, no turn - ing back. I have de - cid - ed to fol - low Him.



TEXT: Source unknown

MUSIC: Folk melody from India; arranged by Eugene Thomas

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ASSAM
Irregular meter