

First Presbyterian Church

101 South Decatur Street • Strasburg, PA 17579

(717) 687-6030

www.straspres.org



Sunday, December 29, 2024

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 Carolyn Groff / 11am Andrea Petrokonis

WORSHIP: 8:30am and 11:00am

Sunday, December 29, 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 *Prelude on "Christmas Day"* Gustav Holst

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS / RINGING OF THE BELL

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 63

Leader: Because Your loving kindness is better than life,

People: Our lips will praise You! And we will bless You!

*HYMN *"What Child Is This"* No. 53

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

God of all glory and power and might. In this season when we celebrate the birth of Your only Son, we are aware of how much we need a just and righteous king. We participate in the life of communities marred by corrupt, violent and self-interested governments. Too many of us struggle to find food to eat or a voice to speak truth. You shake us from our ways and set us on the Way of Jesus Christ. 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 Beth Feiler

FIRST SCRIPTURE Jeremiah 31:15-17

SECOND SCRIPTURE Matthew 2:16-18

SERMON SERIES: MATTHEW: GOSPEL OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

SERMON *"Jesus is Born"* Rev. Robert K. Bronkema

*HYMN *"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"* No. 48

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Pg. 16

WE BRING OUR GIFTS TO GOD
OFFERTORY *"Behold, a Rose is Blooming"* Johannes Brahms

*DOXOLOGY

PROFESSION OF FAITH: APOSTLES CREED

*HYMN *"We Three Kings of Orient Are"* No. 66

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *"God Rest You Merry"* setting by Wilbur Held

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

Sermon Notes



Greeting and Announcements

*Praise & Worship *I Thank God*
 Grace Alone
 Stand In Your Love

Prayer & Peace

Children's Message

Beth Feiler

Scripture Jeremiah 31:15-17
 Matthew 2:16-18

Sermon SERMON SERIES: MATTHEW: GOSPEL OF RIGHTEOUSNESS
 "Jesus is Born"

Rev. Robert K. Bronkema

Offering

*Praise & Worship *I Speak Jesus*

*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
Linda Hook

Clark Taylor
Ray Frye – Hospice Care
Jinny Russell



December Deacons of the Month: Donna Stettler & Morgan Murphy
January Deacons of the Month: Janice Bowers, Lynda Margerum & Deb Welk
In Need of the Prayer Chain? Please contact the church office at 717-687-6030.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, December 29

8:30am **Worship** (Classic)

9:30am **Coffee Hour**

10am **Sunday School Classes** for all ages

*Children's Sunday School Grades K - 5: Rm 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

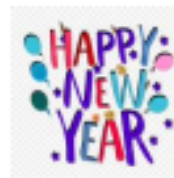
11am **Worship** (Modern)

*No Confirmation Class

***No IGNITED Youth Group**

Tuesday, December 31

*Food Pantry Closed



Wednesday, January 1 **Happy New Year!**

The church office is closed in observance of New Years

Thursday, January 2

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

5:45pm Kidz JAM Rehearsal

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

7pm Choir Rehearsal

Friday, January 3

9am Toddler Gym

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.

~~We are pleased to welcome Donna Burkholder as our guest organist this Sunday. ~~

COFFEE HOUR • Join us each Sunday at 9:30am for coffee and fellowship with old and new friends. Hosts for today: Tina Dansereau. Hosts for next week: David & Jim Witmer and Donna Burkholder. Volunteers are needed for January and after! 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) • It's not too late to join the children's choir! Join us for rehearsal on Thursday evenings at 5:45pm. We look forward to sharing this music ministry with children of all ages. 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!



GREAT BEGINNINGS PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION for the 2025-2026 school year begins on January 2, 2025 for First Presbyterian Church members and current preschool families. Contact Heather Reynolds, Administrative Director at hreynolds@straspres.org or 717-617-9501, or pick up an application at the church office or the preschool mailbox.



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!

UNDECORATING THE CHURCH • Sunday, January 5th, at 6pm we will be undecorating the church together to bring down the Advent and Christmas decorations. Come join in the fun and grab some pizza while you’re here!

POINSETTIAS • Please feel free to pick up your poinsettias starting **January 5th** and take them home or give them to someone who may enjoy them!



OFFICER/STAFF RETREAT • Friday, January 24th in the Sanctuary **and Saturday, January 25th** in Fellowship Hall.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING • Sunday, January 26th the church will have our annual meeting to elect two Members-At-Large to serve on the 2025 Church Officer Nominating Committee and review and receive the FPCS 2024 Annual Report.

**NEXT WEEK ~ JANUARY 5, 2025
COVENANT RENEWAL**

1st Scripture: II Kings 23:1-3 2nd Scripture: Matthew 25:14-30

SERMON SERIES: MATTHEW: GOSPEL OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Sermon: *“The Covenant Renewal”*

Rev. Robert K. Bronkema, Preaching



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 -Spam -Macaroni & Cheese -Meal Helpers



This month the pantry has seen more than double the numbers of client visits; a lot of food has left our shelves. Monetary donations are also 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.



CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

The Christmas Joy Offering provides assistance to current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need, and develops our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges

equipping communities of color. If you, in the congregation, feel led to make a contribution to this fund, you can make a notation on an Offering Envelope or Check stating **Christmas Joy Offering** making your check out to First Presbyterian Church.

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

