



9:00 AM WORSHIP

WELCOME Rev. Rebekah Anderson

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF PEACE John Goode & Mary Larson

✦ CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. (Isaiah 9:2)

All: Christ is our light. By grace he came, in power he rose; we wait for Christ to come again.

One: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for God has looked favorably upon God's people and redeemed them. (Luke 1:68-79)

All: God has raised up a mighty savior for us, as promised through the mouth of the prophets

One: to save us from our enemies,

All: so we might serve God without fear in holiness and righteousness before God all our days.

One: By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us

All: to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

✦ **“COME THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS”** Wesley & Prichard

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND HOPEFULNESS

Rev. Barbara Gorsky

Cleansing God, we hear the call to repentance, but we struggle to respond. A voice tells us to turn around, but we prefer our own ways. You seek to purify us in love, but we constantly elude your searching hand. Our sin leads us in other directions, away from you, away from life. Look with mercy upon us, clear a place within us so that something new might be born, something that might return us to the way you have shown us in Jesus Christ.

SUNG RESPONSE “Wait for the Lord” HYMN 90

✦ TIME OF GREETING

ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Laura Sherwood

Please sign the Friendship Pad and pass it along to those around you.

LUKE 1:26-38 Rev. Barbara Gorsky

SONG “What Gift Can I Bring?” Miller & Reynolds
Youth Choir; Chuck Beech, piano

MESSAGE “Prepare for God's Promise” Rev. Laura Sherwood
Scripture: Luke 3:1-6

SONG “Reason I Sing” Smith & Wickham

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Rebekah Anderson

SHARING OUR GIFTS (Use the QR code on the back page to give now.)

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” arr. Hendrickson

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING Rev. Rebekah Anderson

✦ **“LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH”** Jackson & Mill

✦ **CHARGE & BENEDICTION** Rev. Laura Sherwood

✦ Please stand as you are able.

WELCOME, GUESTS!

Thank you for worshipping with us this morning.

Stop by the Welcome Center in the Narthex (lobby) to pick up information that will acquaint you with our church services and programs. You are also invited to join the conversation on Facebook, at facebook.com/firstpresah, X, at @FirstPresAh, and Instagram, at @firstpresah. We look forward to connecting with you again. Please scan the QR code to visit our website for more information.



CHILD CARE

Children of all ages are warmly welcomed and encouraged to participate in worship. Child care is available (infants through age four) in the Christian Education Wing (8:45 am – 11:45 am).

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP ACTIVITY BAGS

Activity bags for children are available at the Sanctuary and Chapel entrances. Please put used bags in the basket after worship.

CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

From September through May, Sunday morning Christian education classes are held for all ages. These include classes for preschool, elementary, middle school, and high school students, as well as education and discussion groups for adults. To learn more, visit firstpresah.org or call the church office at 847-255-5900.

SPECIAL ASSISTANCE

For worship in the Sanctuary, large print bulletins, and hearing amplifiers (some with T-Coil lanyard adapters) are available from the ushers.

IMPORTANT WORSHIP REMINDERS

Please silence cell phones and refrain from taking photos or recording the worship service. Services are webcast live at firstpresah.org/experience/livestream. To download or listen to a podcast of today's sermon, search Apple podcasts for **The Word @ First Pres**. Past sermons are available at firstpresah.org/experience/sermons.

SOURCES FOR WORSHIP

All liturgies are from *Call to Worship*, Presbyterian Publishing; scriptures are from the New Revised Standard Updated Edition (NRSVUE), Advent Candle Litany 2024 (YEAR C), text written by Carla Pratt Keyes.

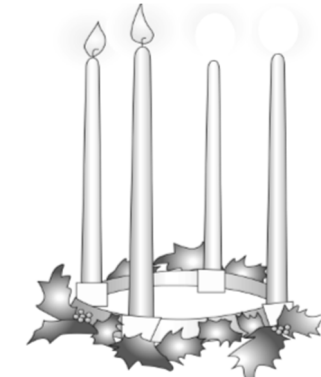


QR CODE FOR THE ONLINE GIVING PORTAL

Please scan the QR code to access our online giving portal. Please select “General Fund” or other offering option. You may also text 11855 to 73256 to give. Thank you for your generous support!

First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights

*A congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)
Organized in 1855*



“May Advent be a time for us to be filled with wonder at the great gift we have at Christmas: Christ's incarnation on earth, his taking on flesh for the sake of love and our salvation.”

— *A Time for Wonder*, 2024 Advent Devotional

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**DECEMBER 8, 2024
9:00 & 10:30 AM**

Choose love. Be the light. Change the world.

First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights
302 N. Dunton Avenue • Arlington Heights, IL 60004
847-255-5900 • firstpresah.org • mail@firstpresah.org



10:30 AM WORSHIP

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE "Christmas Excursions" *Joel Raney*
I. Prophecy in Blue
II. A Merry Tago
Chuck Beech, piano; Chris Urban, organ
The prelude is your invitation to quiet preparation for the worship of Almighty God.

WELCOME Rev. Laura Sherwood

INTROIT "What Gift Can I Bring?" *Miller & Reynolds*
*"A babe in a manger, a baby, yet King. What can I give You? What gift can I bring?
I'll rock you gently, and in my arms hold to keep You away from the cold.
Look at this baby, so gentle, so small. He is the Savior, the Lord of us all.
What can I give You? What gift can I bring? With all my heart, I can sing. Alleluia!
Jesus is Lord of the earth! Singing Alleluia! The heavens rejoice on this day of birth.
You are the joy that was sent from above. Jesus, I'll give you my love."*
Youth Choir; Chuck Beech, piano

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF PEACE
Mary Halatek, Joan Morrone, Kris Ward

✦ CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. (Isaiah 9:2)
All: Christ is our light. By grace he came, in power he rose; we wait for Christ to come again.

One: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for God has looked favorably upon God's people and redeemed them. (Luke 1:68-79)

All: God has raised up a mighty savior for us, as promised through the mouth of the prophets

One: to save us from our enemies,

All: so we might serve God without fear in holiness and righteousness before God all our days.

One: By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us

All: to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

✦ HYMN 87 "Comfort, Comfort Now My People" GENEVA 42

CALL TO CONFESSION Rev. Barbara Gorsky

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Cleansing God, we hear the call to repentance, but we struggle to respond. A voice tells us to turn around, but we prefer our own ways. You seek to purify us in love, but we constantly elude your searching hand. Our sin leads us in other directions, away from you, away from life. Look with mercy upon us, clear a place within us so that something new might be born, something that might return us to the way you have shown us in Jesus Christ...

SILENT CONFESSION

(please pray a silent and personal prayer of confession during this time)

...in Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

One: By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace. This is good news!

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

✦ RESPONSE (Hymn 84 vs.1)

**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.**

✦ TIME OF GREETING Rev. Laura Sherwood

COMMUNITY LIFE

Please sign the Friendship Pad and pass it along to those around you.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Rev. Barbara Gorsky

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1:26-38
(Pew Bible, p. 831) Rev. Barbara Gorsky
The Word of the Lord/Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM "I Hear the Prophet Callin' " *Pepper Choplin*
"I hear the prophet callin'. 'Prepare the way of the Lord.' Come and make straight the way in the desert, a highway for our God. I hear Isaiah callin'. 'Fear not, your God has come.' Then will the eyes of the blind be opened. The ears of the deaf will hear, And then the mute will shout for joy. And the desert will be joyful and blossom as a rose. We shall rejoice with joy and singing and see the glory of God."
Chancel Choir

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Luke 3:1-6
(Pew Bible, p. 834) Rev. Laura Sherwood
The Word of the Lord/Thanks be to God!

SERMON "Prepare for God's Promise" Rev. Laura Sherwood

✦ HYMN 96 "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" WINCHESTER NEW

GIVING THANKS TO GOD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Rev. Barbara Gorsky

LORD'S PRAYER

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

CALL FOR OFFERING (See back for other giving options.)

OFFERTORY "Every Valley" *John Ness Beck*
"Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain made low; and the crooked made straight, and the rough places plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. Amen."
Chancel Choir

✦ DOXOLOGY (Hymn 607)

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 Rev. Laura Sherwood

One: God Most High, receive the gifts of our lives as an offering of gratitude for your grace. Overshadow us with your Holy Spirit and let it be with us according to your word for nothing is impossible with you.

All: Amen.

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

✦ HYMN 366 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" HYFRYDOL

✦ CHARGE & BENEDICTION Rev. Laura Sherwood

POSTLUDE "Toccata on 'Hyfrydol' " *Mark Thallander*

✦ Please stand as you are able.

Fellowship Hosts: Monday Book Club

Flower: David & Kim Hogan—Celebrating our granddaughters, Lydia and Miriam's, birthdays

Preaching: Rev. Laura Sherwood

Liturgists: (9:00 am) Revs. Barbara Gorsky & Rebekah Anderson
(10:30 am) Rev. Barbara Gorsky

Advent Wreath Church Pillar: Pastoral Leaders & Sermons

(9:00 am) PNC Members: John Goode & Mary Larson

(10:30 am) PNC Members: Mary Halatek, Joan Morrone, Kris Ward

Director of Music and Worship: Adam Hendrickson

Associate Director of Music and Organist: Christopher Urban

Tech Support and Livestream: Amy Senior and Jonah White

WORSHIP NOTES

Prayer Requests

Healing & Comfort

First Pres Community

Mario Alberico
Carole Anderson
Judy Ayers
Denise Beihoffer
Carl Burklund
Laura Carlson
Jean Castles

Mary Clarbour
Nancy Conning
Cathy Dillon
Don Johnson
Patty Richard
Bea Sonderegger
Terry Wade

Friends & Family

Colton — Kathy Sobeski's neighbor's grandson
Don Gross — father of Suzanne Kowalski
John Hayes — friend of Mary Kiepura
Peter Jung — friend of Jim & Ingrid Kaufman
Monica Kotas — sister of Mario Alberico
Bradford Leach — brother of Jeff Leach
Lisa — daughter-in-law of Launa Ismail
Desa Peric — great-granddaughter of Steve Smith
Phil Perillo — brother of Kristie Cerniglia

Jim & Nancy Robinson — friends of Sheila Hall
Jerry Shields — husband of Dianne Shields
Jood Singer — daughter-in-law of Jo Christian
Ron and Peg Slack — friends of Jo Christian
Tom Spaeth — friend of Steve Smith
Claire Walsh — cousin of Mary Hebden
Dave Weiss — brother of Rev. Barbara Gorsky
Pamela Wilson — daughter-in-law of Al & Karen Wilson

Congratulations to

Jan Niemeyer, on the birth of great-granddaughter, Theodora Layne Ellis

Sympathy to

Kathy Doering and family, on the death of her husband, James Doering
Gary and Haven McClung, on the death of Gary's sister, Colleen Jones

Serving in the Armed Services

MU2 Wesley Carroll, Navy — son of Kevin and Amy Carroll, grandson of JoAnn Thompson
Lt. Col. Michael B. Ford, US Army Reserves — stepson of Kris Ford
Brandon Latuzek — nephew of Elaine Chen

About First Pres

STAFF

Interim Pastor / Head of Staff:
Laura Sherwood

Interim Associate Pastor:
Barbara Gorsky

Associate Pastor of Children, Youth and Families: Rebekah Anderson

Director of Music and Worship:
Adam Hendrickson

Associate Director of Music and Organist: Christopher Urban

Worship Technicians:
Amy Senior, Jonah White

Business Administrator:
Debbie Walter

Senior Administrative Assistant:
Mary Fino

Administrative Assistant / Receptionist: Carol Vega

Director of First Pres PDO & Preschool: Coleen Anzalone

Nursery Coordinator: Beth Johnson

Save the Date

Today	Concert Series: The Glory of Christmas
December 10	Chimes Articles Due
December 11	PW Christmas Tea
December 14	Annual All-Church Christmas Breakfast
December 15	All-Church Caroling
December 18	Family Night Christmas Party
December 22	Cookie Walk
December 22	Concert Series: <i>Messiah</i> Sing-along
December 24	Christmas Eve Worship - 10:30 am, 4:00 & 8:00 pm
January 11	Undecorate the Church

PASTORAL CARE — If you have a death in the family, an anticipated surgery, the birth of a new baby, or if you or a loved one are struggling, your pastors and church family want to be there to support you. Please contact Rev. Barbara Gorsky, at barbaragorsky@firstpresah.org, or 847-255-5900, extension 225 or Rev. Laura Sherwood, at laurasherwood@firstpresah.org or 847-255-5900, extension 229 or call the office to share your pastoral needs.

LIVE WEBCAST & WORSHIP RECORDINGS — Services are webcast live at firstpresah.org/experience/livestream. To download or listen to a podcast of today's sermon, search Apple podcasts for **The Word @ First Pres**. Past sermons are available at firstpresah.org/experience/sermons. If you need help with technical problems, please send an email to webcasting@firstpresah.org.

GET CONNECTED — Join the conversation on Facebook, at facebook.com/firstpresah; X, at @FirstPresAH; and Instagram, at @firstpresah. Download the free ACS Church Life app or visit the website to access the church directory or manage your giving online. We look forward to connecting with you!



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Church Life

December 8, 2024

We believe in building the kingdom of God in this world. We strive to be a welcoming and inclusive church that celebrates the diversity existing in our community. That means bringing good news to the poor, freedom to the oppressed, welcoming the stranger, and loving one another as Jesus loves us. We do this by choosing love and being the light that changes the world. Thank you for worshiping with us in this spirit.

A TIME OF WONDER ADVENT DEVOTIONAL NOW AVAILABLE — This 4-week devotional guides you along a journey through times of renewal, trial, revelation and ultimately to a time of wonder at the great gift that we have at Christmas. Available in print in the literature rack or by request from the church office.

CONCERT SERIES: THE GLORY OF CHRISTMAS — *Today / 4:00 pm / Sanctuary* — Chancel Choir, Men's Chorus and orchestra present our annual Christmas concert featuring choral music by John Rutter and orchestra music by Mannheim Steamroller. Always a popular event, come early to get a seat.

CHIMES DEADLINE — *Tuesday, December 10* — The deadline for the January issue of *The Chimes* is Tuesday, December 10. Please submit articles to Chris Urban at chrisurban@firstpresah.org.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CHRISTMAS PROGRAM AND TEA — *Wednesday, December 11 / 1:30 pm / Sanctuary, Parlor* — All are invited to join PW for a musical Christmas program and tea. Our program will start in the Sanctuary where we will be entertained by the Madrigal Singers from Rolling Meadows High School under the direction of Caitlyn Walsh. We will have a Christmas Tea in the Parlor following the program.

ALL-CHURCH BREAKFAST — *Saturday, December 14 / 9:00 am-10:30 am / Fellowship Hall* — Men's Monday Morning Bible Study invites you to the annual Christmas Breakfast served by Scout Troop 32. All are welcome! Come and enjoy food, fellowship and fine conversation! **Please RSVP to the church office by Tuesday, December 10.**

December 8—Second Sunday of Advent

8:45 am – 11:15 am — Child care (infants – 4 years) — Room 205/207 (Blue Room), Main Floor Christian Education (CE) Wing

9:00 am **Worship** — Chapel

10:00 am Adult Choir Rehearsal — Choir Auditorium

10:00 am Fellowship Time — Parlor, Narthex

10:30 am **Worship** — Sanctuary

10:30 am Preschool Sunday School (3- & 4-year olds) — Room 206

10:30 am K-5 Sunday School — Room 304

10:30 am Sunday School (Grades 6-7 & 9-12) — Room 301/303

10:30 am Confirmation — Room 109/111

10:30 am Coffee: Grounds for Discussion & Service — Room 110/112

11:30 am Fellowship Time — Parlor, Narthex

12:00 pm Session Meeting — Boardroom

4:00 pm Concert Series: The Glory of Christmas — Sanctuary

5:00 pm Concert Reception — Parlor

5:00 pm Youth Handbell Choir Rehearsal — Bell Choir Room

5:45 pm Youth Handbell Choir/HSYG Dinner — Fellowship Hall

6:00 pm HSYG — High School Lounge, Gym

Upcoming Events



FAMILY NIGHT PROGRAMMING — *Wednesdays / 6:00-8:00 pm / September through May* — Come and share dinner and fellowship with families from First Pres and the broader community. This program includes dinner, adult education and programs for children and youth.

Weekly Schedule:

- 6:00-7:00 pm:** Drop-in dinner time for all ages
- 6:45-8:00 pm:** Christmas Camp
- 7:00-8:00 pm:** Classes and programs, including:
 - ENGAGE & ENCOUNTER adult Christian education
 - Middle School Youth Group (grades 6-8)

ENGAGE & ENCOUNTER: *The Gospels* — *Wednesdays, through December 11 / 7:00 pm / Chapel / Instructor: Dr. Don Kaasch* — We have all understood the Gospels to be eyewitness works of four authors who each wrote of their unique experiences alongside Jesus and after his death. What do the authors say about themselves, about each other and about Jesus? Are they the same? Are they close enough to corroborate with one another? Why are Mark and John so vastly different that the Jesus between them is hardly the same person. Is Jesus human, semi or fully divine?

FAMILY NIGHT CHRISTMAS PARTY — *Wednesday, December 18 / 6:00 pm / Fellowship Hall* — Join us for dinner and holiday fun on Wednesday, December 18, before taking a break for the holidays. We will return to regular programming on Wednesday, January 8. A big thank you to Jenna and Betsy Allen for planning and organizing our wonderful meals and to all those that have volunteered or contributed financial donations that allow us to offer such an amazing night of community and fellowship!

THE BRIDGE: ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY — *Saturday, December 14 / 7:00 pm* — The Bridge (social group for adults 50-60+) is hosting their annual Christmas party at the home of Kirk & Kate Ingemunson. There will be a contest for the ugliest Christmas sweater! Please bring an appetizer to share, \$10 per person for the beverage fund and an unwrapped toy to donate to the Wheeling Township Toy Drive. Please RSVP by December 12 to Kate Ingemunson at kate.ingemunson@gmail.com.

ALL-CHURCH CAROLING — *Sunday, December 15 / 4:00 pm* — Join a caroling group to spread Christmas cheer, followed by a pizza dinner at 6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. Gather in the Parlor at 4:00 pm. Contact Rev. Rebekah Anderson at rebekahanderson@firstpresah.org with questions.

CONCERT SERIES: MESSIAH SING-ALONG — *Sunday, December 22 / 4:00 pm / Sanctuary* — Northwest Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Timothy Semanik, and soloists present our annual Handel's *Messiah* Sing-along. Many will become one as the audience serves as the chorus. Warm up your vocal cords as we fill the Sanctuary with beautiful music, such as the *Hallelujah Chorus*, honoring the birth of our Savior.

COOKIE WALK IS COMING — *Sunday, December 22 / between worship services / Parlor* — Youth Ministries is excited to host our annual Cookie Walk! The funds raised from the Cookie Walk go to a cause that's close to the heart of our church: The Youth Mission Fund. We will need lots of cookies! If you're able to share a batch of cookies, please let Rev. Rebekah know how many you plan to bring and drop them off at church on Saturday, December 21, between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm.

Serving, Giving, and Growing

COFFEE: GROUNDS FOR DISCUSSION & SERVICE — *Sundays / 10:30-11:30 am / Room 110* — Coffee Grounds is a member-led study group open to ALL adults, of ALL ages. *Sundays, through December 22: Advent Study, Scrooge: Connecting Christ & Culture* by Matt Rawle — *The Redemption of Scrooge*, based on Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, will explore the world of Ebenezer Scrooge, Tiny Tim and the Cratchits, with an eye to Christian faith. Along the way you will meet the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Yet to Come and learn about living with and for others in a world blessed by Jesus. This book is part of Matt Rawle's Pop in Culture series.

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT EDUCATION — *Sundays, through December 22 / 9:00 am / Boardroom* — Join us for our Advent study: *Peace, Justice, Joy and Salvation: An Adult Advent Study*, from The Thoughtful Christian. This class will consider familiar texts from the Book of Isaiah through the lens of gifts. Embedded in these texts are gifts that God longs to give us and deeply desires for us to receive into our lives.

GIVING TUESDAY: YEAR-END GIFT AND MISSION OPPORTUNITY FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE — Starting this Giving Tuesday (December 3) and lasting until the end of the year, we have a unique opportunity to make a meaningful impact in both our local community and for our church's mission. As we close out 2024, we are facing a budget gap of roughly \$200,000 that requires our collective support. Your gift—big or small—will make a significant difference in helping us end the year on a strong note and continue our important work in the community. You can give online at firstpresah.org by clicking "Donate" and selecting 'Year-End Gift' in the drop down, or by cash or check to Debbie Walter in the office.

Here's how we're planning to allocate your contributions:

- 80% of giving will go directly to support our church's general budget, ensuring we can continue our vital ministries and programs.
- 20% will be directed to Facing Forward to End Homelessness, an organization working tirelessly in our community to support individuals and families in need of stable housing and care.

REFUGEEONE HELP NEEDED — In conjunction with RefugeeOne, the Mission Committee has agreed to furnish an apartment in the North Rogers Park neighborhood. This is an essential part of their work in welcoming a refugee family. We are looking for volunteers to grocery shop, provide a hot meal for the family on their arrival day and to help with the actual setup. Questions? Want to help? Contact Kim Hogan at K_Hogan2003@yahoo.com

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING — *Donate during the month of December* — Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we have an opportunity to honor past, present and future church leaders who faithfully work to lead us toward God. 50% of the Joy Offering supports present and retired church workers who are experiencing extreme financial need. The remaining 50% provides much needed financial assistance to Presbyterian related schools and colleges that equip students of color with education and leadership development skills. Please give generously!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HOST SUNDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP TIME — Fellowship Time takes place after worship services for about 30 minutes. Anyone can host! Gather your family, a group of families, a group of friends, your book club, or your committee and scan the QR code to sign-up.

Worship Next Sunday

December 15, 2024: Third Sunday of Advent

9:00 am — **Worship** (Chapel)
Music: Compass Praise Band

10:30 am — **Worship** (Sanctuary)
Music: Chancel Choir and Chancel Handbell Choir

Preacher: Rev. Laura Sherwood
Scriptures: Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 2:1-7
Sermon Title: "Prepare for the Promised Birth"

If you give electronically but would like to put something in the offering plate, we invite you to use the laminated bookmarks available in the pew rack in front of you. We will be keeping you abreast of your generosity.

Bookmarks	\$1,742.00
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CURRENT GIVING OPPORTUNITY: *Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) Hurricane Helene Restoration Fund* — In response to the devastating destruction by hurricane Helene, monies collected from bookmarks will support PDA Hurricane Helene Restoration Fund through the end of the year. Know that your support of PDA is addressing immediate needs and will provide the necessary resources to support the long-term recovery, which will take many years.

FAMILY NIGHT HELP WANTED — There are many ways to help support this vital ministry to church and community members. Please consider ways you could help:

- **Sponsor** the full or partial cost of dinner for one night (*average cost is \$400 for 100 people*). Contact Debbie Walter in the Church office or choose "Family Night" from the dropdown on our Giving page.
- **Bring Dessert** — we need a few people each week to bring four dozen servings of dessert.
- **Wash Dishes & Cleanup** — we need three people each week to help wash, dry and put away dishes.
- **Attend!** The most important part of Family Night is YOU – whether you can help with funds, food or cleanup, *your presence is the best gift of all!!*

FOOD BARREL COLLECTION — The Mission Committee has voted to direct the donation of nonperishable food items for the quarter (October-December) to the Wheeling Township Food Pantry. Please place items in the barrels located in the Narthex and outside the Chapel. The next time you are at the grocery store, why not pick up a few healthy nonperishable items to donate? Thank you for your past and continued support!

MARY AND MARTHA'S LENDING CLOSET — What exactly is Mary and Martha's Lending Closet? It's a one-stop shop for all things entertaining, from tables and chairs to serving dishes, dishes, glassware, vases, centerpieces, outdoor games and even a giant movie screen and projector for that fun backyard movie viewing. It's the perfect place to borrow for your next book club, graduation party, shower, neighborhood gathering, casual or fancy dinner party. What are the fees? A donation to the closet goes towards programs that address food insecurity in the Chicagoland area. To make an appointment to reserve your items, email maryandmartha@firstpresah.org.