



9:00 AM WORSHIP

WELCOME

Rev. Rebekah Anderson

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF JOY

Joe Alaimo & Jim Nelson and Mike & Patti Noble

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: Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you and turned away your enemies. (Zephaniah 3:14-20)

All: We will fear disaster no more.

One: Do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst.

All: God will rejoice over us with gladness and renew us in love.

One: God will save the lame and gather the outcast, changing their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

All: At that time, God will bring us home. The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:7)

HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING

arr. Hendrickson

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND HOPEFULNESS

Rev. Rebekah Anderson

Merciful God, we confess that, in the midst of your glorious creation, we have neglected our role in its care. We ignore the cries of the hurting and the lonely, those on the margins and those who are oppressed. We focus on our own desires, while forgetting the needs of our neighbors. We have not prepared a way for the Lord, through either our words or our deeds, neither through our actions nor our thoughts. Grant us your mercy in forgiveness; and lead us to act with compassion and justice, guided by your glorious light.

SUNG RESPONSE "Wait for the Lord"

HYMN 90

TIME OF GREETING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Rebekah Anderson

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

PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7

Rev. Rebekah Anderson

MESSAGE "Prepare for the Promised Birth"

Rev. Laura Sherwood

Scripture: Luke 2:1-7

SONG "Mary Did You Know"

Greene & Lowry

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Barbara Gorsky

SHARING OUR GIFTS (See back for other giving options.)

"I Saw the Light" Hank Williams, Sr.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Rev. Barbara Gorsky

JOY TO THE WORLD

arr. Hendrickson

CHARGE & BLESSING

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.

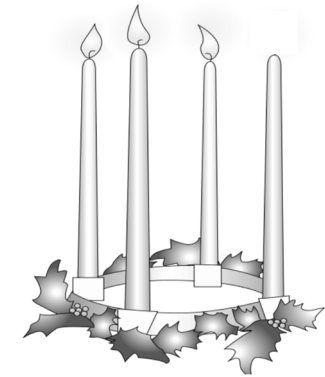
QR CODE FOR THE ONLINE GIVING PORTAL

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 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

DECEMBER 15, 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 "Joy to the World" *arr. Bill Ingram*  
"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" *Susan Geschke*  
Chancel Handbell Choir

*The prelude is your invitation to quiet preparation  
for the worship of Almighty God.*

WELCOME Rev. Laura Sherwood

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF JOY  
The Gibbs Family and Richard & Meredith Levinsky

### ✦ 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: Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you and turned away your enemies. (Zephaniah 3:14-20)

**All We will fear disaster no more.**

One: Do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst.

**All: God will rejoice over us with gladness and renew us in love.**

One: God will save the lame and gather the outcast, changing their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

**All: At that time, God will bring us home. The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:7)**

✦ HYMN 134 "Joy to the World" ANTIOCH

CALL TO CONFESSION Rev. Barbara Gorsky

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God, we confess that, in the midst of your glorious creation, we have neglected our role in its care. We ignore the cries of the hurting and the lonely, those on the margins and those who are oppressed. We focus on our own desires, while forgetting the needs of our neighbors. We have not prepared a way for the Lord, through either our words or our deeds, neither through our actions nor our thoughts. Grant us your mercy in forgiveness; and lead us to act with compassion and justice, guided by your glorious light...**

### SILENT CONFESSION

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

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

### WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

One: Surely God is our salvation! We will trust in the Lord's goodness and will not be afraid. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

**All: Amen.**

✦ 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. Barbara Gorsky

COMMUNITY LIFE Rev. Laura Sherwood  
*Please sign the Friendship Pad and pass it along to those around you.*

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS  
Joe Alaimo, Jim Nelson, Joyce Spohr

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Rev. Barbara Gorsky

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Philippians 4:4-7  
(Pew Bible, p. 955) Rev. Barbara Gorsky  
**The Word of the Lord/Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM "The Peace of God" *David Danner*  
*"Take no thought for your life, what you eat, what you drink, what you wear.  
See the birds as they fly, they do not sow or reap, But the hand of the Father  
cares for them. See the flowers in the field, they do not toil or spin,  
But their beauty is beyond compare. Take no thought for your life,  
But rejoice in the Lord, Let everyone know your caring. The Lord is near.  
Don't worry about anything, But with thankfulness, pray about everything!  
And the peace of God in Christ will dwell in your heart."*  
Chancel Choir & Chancel Handbell Choir

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:1-7  
(Pew Bible, p. 832) Rev. Laura Sherwood  
**The Word of the Lord/Thanks be to God!**

SERMON "Prepare for the Promised Birth" Rev. Laura Sherwood

✦ HYMN 121 "O Little Town of Bethlehem" ST. LOUIS

## 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 "Christmas Lullaby" *John Rutter*  
*"Clear in the darkness a light shines in Bethlehem: Angels are singing, their sound fills  
the air. Wise men have journeyed to greet their Messiah; But only a mother and baby lie  
there. 'Ave Maria, ave Maria': Hear the soft lullaby the angel hosts sing.  
'Ave Maria, ave Maria, Maiden, and mother of Jesus our King'. Where are his  
courtiers, and who are his people? Why does he bear neither scepter nor crown?  
Shepherds his courtiers, the poor for his people, with peace as his scepter and love for  
his crown. What though your treasures are not gold or incense?  
Lay them before him with hearts full of love. Praise to the Christ child,  
and praise to his mother who bore us a Saviour by grace from above."*  
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 362 "Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers" LLANGLOFFAN

✦ CHARGE & BENEDICTION Rev. Laura Sherwood

POSTLUDE "Gaudeamus" *Sydney Campbell*

✦ Please stand as you are able.

**Fellowship Hosts:** Opportunities are available to host Fellowship Time.  
**Flowers: Gerri Campbell**—In honor of my parents, Elizabeth "Libby" and Tom Dale  
**Preaching:** Rev. Laura Sherwood  
**Liturgists:** (9:00 am) Revs. Barbara Gorsky & Rebekah Anderson  
(10:30 am) Rev. Barbara Gorsky  
**Advent Wreath Church Pillar:** Welcoming  
(9:00 am) Joe Alaimo & Jim Nelson and Mike & Patti Noble  
(10:30 am) The Gibbs Family and Richard & Meredith Levinsky  
**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 Kiepora  
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	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
December 24	Office Closed 12:30 pm
December 25-26	Office Closed All Day
December 29	One Worship Service at 10:30 am (Sanctuary)
December 31	Office Closed 12:30 pm
January 1	Office Closed All Day
January 11	Undecorate the Church
January 14	PADS Returns to First Pres

**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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**First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights**

302 North Dunton, Arlington Heights, IL 60004  
847-255-5900 / www.firstpresah.org / mail@firstpresah.org

# Church Life

December 15, 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.

**ALL-CHURCH CAROLING & PIZZA PARTY** — *Today / 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 with any questions.

**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.

**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.

**2024 PLEDGE REMINDER** — 2024 year-end is fast approaching. Please remember to complete your 2024 pledge. **All payments will be processed through December 31.** If you are unsure of your pledge balance, please contact Debbie Walter at debbiewriter@firstpresah.org. Thank you for your contributions to First Pres.

**HAVE YOU TURNED IN YOUR 2025 COMMITMENT CARD?** — If you have not yet had a chance to turn in your Commitment Card for 2025, you are invited to place your card in the offering plate, or you can drop it off or mail it to the church office, to the attention of Debbie Walter, business administrator. You can also enter your commitment online at firstpresah.org.

### December 15—Third Sunday of Advent / Welcoming New Members

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  
4:00 pm All-Church Caroling — Gather in the Parlor  
6:00 pm All-Church Pizza Party — Fellowship Hall

## 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.

**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!

**PW CIRCLE 1** — *Wednesday, December 18 / 9:30 am / Parlor* — Come celebrate the holidays with Circle 1. We'll gather in the Parlor for some holiday cheer!

**OFFICE CLOSURES & UPDATED WORSHIP SCHEDULE** — *Please note the change in the worship schedule, listed below, for December 29.* The office will be closing at 12:30 pm on Tuesdays, December 24 and December 31. The office will be closed all day Wednesday, December 25; Thursday, December 26 and Wednesday, January 1. There will be only one worship service in the Sanctuary at 10:30 am on Sunday, December 29.

**GIVING TUESDAY: YEAR-END GIFT AND MISSION OPPORTUNITY FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE** — From 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](http://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.

**CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

*All Christmas Eve services will be webcast at [firstpresah.org/experience/livestream](http://firstpresah.org/experience/livestream).*

**Christmas Eve — Tuesday, December 24**

**10:30 am: Children's Pageant / Sanctuary**  
*Music: Children's Choir*

**4:00 pm: Youth-led Lessons, Carols & Candlelight / Sanctuary**  
*Music: Youth Handbell & Vocal Choir*

**8:00 pm: Lessons, Carols & Candlelight / Sanctuary**  
*Music: Chancel Choir*

**Sunday, December 29 — One Service Only**

**10:30 am: First Sunday of Christmas / Sanctuary**  
*Music: Kathy Sobeski*



## 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.

**HELP COFFEE: GROUNDS FOR DISCUSSION & SERVICE HOST THE ANNUAL STAFF CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST** — *Tuesday, December 17* — Coffee: Grounds for Discussion & Service will host a breakfast for the church staff in Fellowship Hall. Contact Kelly Dean at [k\\_p\\_dean@hotmail.com](mailto:k_p_dean@hotmail.com) if you would like to help out!

**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.

**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 [K\\_Hogan2003@yahoo.com](mailto: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!

**PADS IS RETURNING JANUARY 14 AND WE NEED YOUR HELP** — Your PADS Steering Team is hard at work! And lots of good things are happening with PADS! New plastering has been completed on the pillars and walls that had deterioration. The back sleeping area has been cleared out and we have additional space to accommodate our clients. In the Christian Education wing, Room 102-104 has been cleared out and is ready to accommodate women needing a separate sleeping area. There will be multiple opportunities to volunteer and support this critical ministry outreach. Please consider joining our team of dedicated volunteers and experience first-hand what it feels like to serve those in need. Sign up in the Narthex this week!



**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 22, 2024: Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

**10:30 am — Worship** (Sanctuary)  
*Music: Chancel Choir and Children's Choir*

*Preacher:* Rev. Laura Sherwood  
*Scriptures:* Psalm 80:1-7; Luke 2:8-15  
*Sermon Title:* "Promise in a Shepherd"

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](mailto:maryandmartha@firstpresah.org).