



9:00 AM WORSHIP

WELCOME

Rev. Barbara Gorsky

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF LOVE

Carol Kelley, Ray Powers

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: From Bethlehem shall come forth the one who will rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. (Micah 5:2-5)

All: He shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. They shall live secure, for he shall be great to the ends of the earth, and he shall be the one of peace.

One: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. (Luke 1:46-55)

All: God has helped us, according to the promise God made. The Lord's mercy is for those who fear God from generation to generation.

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

arr. Edward Barnes

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND HOPEFULNESS

Rev. Barbara Gorsky

O God, giver of all good gifts, we come before you as children in need of your wisdom and grace. Our fears and our hopes are braided together in the rhythm of daily life. Our visions of the future depend on our own hands and ability. Our expectations remain reasonable and within our control. Break into this tangle of fear and hope, bringing peace to our souls. Break into our vision of the future, returning us to your hands. Break into our expectations, awakening us with curiosity and wonder; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.

COMMISSIONING OF NEW STEPHEN MINISTER: Bill Hellyer

PSALM 80:1-7

Rev. Rebekah Anderson

MESSAGE "Promise in a Shepherd"

Rev. Laura Sherwood

Scripture: Luke 2:8-15

SONG "Shepherd"

Crowder, Bentley, Fieldes & Millard

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Rebekah Anderson

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

"Love Came Down"

Johnson, McIntosh, Johnson, Edwards & Riddle

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

GO, TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

arr. Hendrickson & Schultz

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.

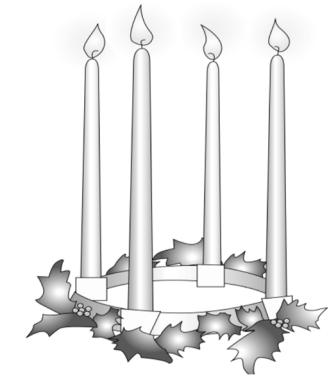


QR CODE FOR THE ONLINE GIVING PORTAL

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 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 22, 2024 9:00 & 10:30 AM

Choose bve .Be the light.Change the w orld .

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 “Noël X” *Louis-Claude Daquin*
The prelude is your invitation to quiet preparation for the worship of Almighty God.

WELCOME Rev. Laura Sherwood

INTROIT “Go Tell It On the Mountain” *Becki Slagle Mayo*
Text from Hymn 136
Children’s Choir; Nick Pulikowski, director

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF LOVE Sue Minarik, Bill Hellyer

✠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: From Bethlehem shall come forth the one who will rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. (Micah 5:2-5)

All: He shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. They shall live secure, for he shall be great to the ends of the earth, and he shall be the one of peace.

One: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. (Luke 1:46-55)

All: God has helped us, according to the promise God made. The Lord’s mercy is for those who fear God from generation to generation.

✠HYMN 110 “Love Has Come” BRING A TORCH

CALL TO CONFESSION Rev. Rebekah Anderson

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, giver of all good gifts, we come before you as children in need of your wisdom and grace. Our fears and our hopes are braided together in the rhythm of daily life. Our visions of the future depend on our own hands and ability. Our expectations remain reasonable and within our control. Break into this tangle of fear and hope, bringing peace to our souls. Break into our vision of the future, returning us to your hands. Break into our expectations, awakening us with curiosity and wonder; through Jesus Christ our Lord...

SILENT CONFESSION

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

...in Jesus’ name we pray. **Amen.**

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

One: Christ’s coming is certain. God’s promise is true. Trust in the transformational power of God’s forgiveness and receive the gift of God’s love. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

All: Thanks be to God!

✠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. Rebekah Anderson

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

COMMISSIONING OF NEW STEPHEN MINISTER
Bill Hellyer Rev. Barbara Gorsky

HEARING GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Rev. Barbara Gorsky

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 80:1-7
(Pew Bible, p. 470) Rev. Barbara Gorsky
The Word of the Lord/**Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM “Do You Hear What I Hear?” *Harry Simeone*
“Said the night wind to the little lamb, ‘Do you see what I see, Way up in the sky little lamb. Do you see what I see, A star, a star, Dancing in the night, With a tail as big as a kite. Said the little lamb to the shepherd boy, ‘Do you hear what I hear, Ringing through the sky shepherd boy. Do you hear what I hear, A song, a song, High above the tree, With a voice as big as the sea. Said the shepherd boy to the mighty king, ‘Do you know what I know, In your palace wall mighty king. Do you know what I know, A child, a child, Shivers in the cold, Let us bring him silver and gold. Said the king to the people everywhere, ‘Listen to what I say, Pray for peace people everywhere. Listen to what I say, The child, the child, Sleeping in the night, He will bring us goodness and light. The child, the child, Sleeping in the night, He will bring us goodness and light.”
Chancel Choir

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:8-15
(Pew Bible, p. 833) Rev. Laura Sherwood
The Word of the Lord/**Thanks be to God!**

SERMON “Promise in a Shepherd” Rev. Laura Sherwood

✠HYMN 117 “While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks” WINCHESTER OLD

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 “Shepherd’s Pipe Carol” *John Rutter*
“Going through the hills on a night all starry, On the way to Bethlehem, Far away I heard a shepherd boy piping, On the way to Bethlehem. Angels in the sky brought this message nigh: ‘Dance and sing for joy that Christ the newborn King is come to bring us peace on earth, and He’s lying cradled there at Bethlehem.’ ‘Tell me, shepherd boy piping tunes so merrily, On the way to Bethlehem, Who will hear your tunes on these hills so lonely, On the way to Bethlehem? ‘None may hear my pipes on these hills so lonely, On the way to Bethlehem; But a King will hear me play sweet lullabies, When I get to Bethlehem.’ ‘Where is this new King, shepherd boy piping merrily, Is he there at Bethlehem. I will find him soon by the star shining brightly, In the sky over Bethlehem.’ ‘May I come with you, shepherd boy piping merrily, Come with you to Bethlehem? Pay homage too at the new King’s cradle, Is it far to Bethlehem?’ ”
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 113 “Angels We Have Heard on High” GLORIA

✠CHARGE & BENEDICTION Rev. Laura Sherwood

POSTLUDE “Toccatina on Gloria” *Richard Elliott*

✠Please stand as you are able.

Fellowship Hosts: Mission Committee

Flowers: Mark & Mary Kiepora—In honor of our parents
Jan Niemeyer—In loving memory of Don Niemeyer; husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather

Preaching: Rev. Laura Sherwood

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

Advent Wreath Church Pillar: Healing Brokenness

(9:00 am) Deacons/Stephen Ministers
(10:30 am) Deacons/Stephen Ministers

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 Clarbourn
Nancy Conning

Bill Dillon
Cathy Dillon
Don Johnson
Nancy Johnson
Connie Leach
Patty Richard
Bea Sonderegger
Terry Wade

Friends & Family

Colton — Kathy Sobeski's neighbor's Grandson
Jeanie Bigger — niece of Launa Ismail
Cora — sister of Launa Ismail
Don Gross — father of Suzanne Kowalski
John Hayes — friend of Mary Kiepura
Carol Howe — friend of the choir
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

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	Cookie Walk
Today	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 3	Jan's Jam
January 8	Kitchen Cleaning Project
January 11	Undecorate the Church
January 14	PADS Returns to First Pres
January 15	Family Night Returns

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!



Choose bve .Be the light.Change the w orld .

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 22, 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.

COOKIE WALK IS HERE! — *Today / between worship services / Parlor* — Youth Ministries is excited to host our annual Cookie Walk! Cookies are available for purchase (\$10/box) in the Parlor between worship services. The funds raised from the Cookie Walk go to a cause that's close to the heart of our church: the Youth Mission Fund.

CONCERT SERIES: MESSIAH SING-ALONG — *Today / 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.

JAN'S JAM — *January 3, 2025* — All middle and high school students are invited to join us for an evening of fun! This event is named in memory of Jan Munz who was deeply committed to youth at First Pres. The cost to attend is \$55. Register online under Programs → Youth → Youth Group or contact Rev. Rebekah Anderson at rebekahanderson@firstpresah.org.

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 debbiewalter@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 22—Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:45 am – 11:45 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 / Cookie Walk — Parlor, Narthex
10:30 am **Worship** — Sanctuary
10:30 am Coffee: Grounds for Discussion & Service — Room 110/112
11:30 am Fellowship Time / Cookie Walk — Parlor, Narthex
4:00 pm Concert Series: *Messiah* Sing-along — Sanctuary
5:00 pm Concert Reception — Parlor
5:00 pm Youth Handbell Choir Rehearsal — Bell Choir Room
5:45 pm Youth Bell Choir/HSYG Dinner — Fellowship Hall
6:00 pm HSYG — HS Lounge, Gym, 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.

NO FAMILY NIGHT — Family Night will be on break for the holidays! We will return to regular programming on **Wednesday, January 15**. On Wednesday, January 8, we will prepare for a kitchen clean-up project. More information will be available soon!

OFFICE CLOSURES & UPDATED WORSHIP SCHEDULE — *Please note the change in 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 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.

PW THANKS YOU! — Thank you all who adopted one of the 35 Christopher House families. We also received twenty-seven \$25.00 food gift cards for other families to receive for Christmas Day. This was a blessing. Thank you again! — Liz Thompson, Chair

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

All Christmas Eve services will be webcast at 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, soprano



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. **Final Class Today: 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. **Join us for a Meet & Greet and new studies beginning January 5.**

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT EDUCATION — *Final Class Today / 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.

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 RENOVATION UPDATE & NEED FOR HELP! — PADS Renovation Part 1 is almost complete and on January 14, we are opening our doors to clients. Now we need your help! We are a church that has supported PADS for over 30 years, and we need volunteers to step up and sign up to work the various shifts. If everyone agreed to work just **one** shift, we would be set for the season. We need you! The QR code will direct you to the sign up page. Thanks! Pastor Barbara



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.

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM PDO — Merry Christmas from the First Pres PDO & Preschool staff! May this holiday season bless you and your family today and in the new year to come!

Worship Next Sunday

December 29, 2024: First Sunday of Christmas

10:30 am — Worship (Sanctuary)
Music: Kathy Sobeski, soprano

Preacher: Rev. Laura Sherwood
Scriptures: Luke 2:31-35; Galatians 4:4-7
Sermon Title: “On the Fifth Day of Christmas”

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	\$1,893.00
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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.