

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

Second Sunday of Advent & Hanging of the Greens

Today's service is special and unique. You will see a transformation of our sanctuary from its usual appearance into one that readily invites and announces the coming of the Christ-child.

We dedicate the entire service to this celebration, remembering along the way the traditions and the meaning of the symbols that aid us in our preparations. We are glad that you are here today to join us in these festivities, and we invite you to our Fellowship Hall downstairs for wassail, food, and fellowship after the service.

10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 8, 2024

* Please stand if you are able

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: "Puer Natus in Bethlehem" (01-16)

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, & AFFIRMATION OF OUR MISSION STATEMENT: Bill Olivier
As disciples of Jesus Christ, led by the Holy Spirit, we experience God's unconditional love, and we witness to others by discovering and sharing our gifts.

CHORAL INTROIT: Chancel Choir

* CALL TO WORSHIP: Isaiah 7:14, Micah 5: 2,4, 5

L: Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.

P: You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, From you, shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel,

L: One whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

P: And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord

L: And he shall be the one of peace.

P: With joy and peace-filled hearts, let us worship God.

* CAROL OF PRAISE: No. 9 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

ADVENT COLLECT: *In silence then unison*

Dear God, in this Advent Season, rich with mystery and miracle, during these weeks of December darkness, awaken us to your love and your light that our own inner darkness may become enlightened with your light, our doubt rekindled with hope, and our worries replaced with wonder and awe.

Let this service of scripture, stories, and songs speak to us anew. Fill us all with the love and laughter of Advent's promise; in the name of the coming Christ. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE: Derek, Amanda, Tori, & Isaiah Macchia

L: We light the candle of peace. May the peace of Christ dwell richly in you.

P: And also in you.

ADVENT CANDLE SONG: Arranged by Rev. Dick Wright

***Light of the world come down, fill our hearts new
with expectation so to welcome you. This candle now is lit, let its light shine,
and help your spirit melt this heart of mine.***

* EXCHANGE OF CHRIST'S PEACE:

L: The peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

Welcome one another with Christ's peace.

ADVENT CELEBRATION: HANGING OF THE GREENS

THE ADVENT BANNERS:

Bill Olivier

ADVENT CAROL: *No. 8 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* (v. 1)

***Lift up your heads, Behold, the King of glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near; The Savior of the world is here!***

SCRIPTURE READING: The prophet foretells Christ's coming. Isaiah 9: 6–7

***For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
7 His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of
David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with
righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will
do this.***

THE GARLAND, HOLLY, AND IVY:

Jen McElroy

CAROL: *No. 51 See Amid the Winter's Snow* (v. 1)

***See amid the winter's snow, Born for us on earth below,
See, the gentle Lamb appears, Promised from eternal years.
Hail! that ever-blessed morn, Hail redemption's happy dawn,
Sing through all Jerusalem: Christ is born in Bethlehem.***

THE CHRISTMAS WREATH:

Jennifer Plut

SCRIPTURE READING: John announces the incarnation of Jesus. Pastor David Harvey
John 1: 1–5, 14–15

***In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He
was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him***

ASSISTING DURING TODAY'S WORSHIP

Greeter: Lisa Besser

Choir Director: Maggie Morokutti

Worship Leader: Bill Olivier

Advent Candle Lighters: Macchia Family

Pastor: Rev. David Harvey

Ushers: Joanna Leontaris & Lillian Smith

Sound System: Theo Padavano

MIDI: Frank Wilson

DLP: Jennifer Plut

Ministers: The Congregation

Readers: Lisa Besser, Emily Maier, Jen McElroy, Bill Olivier, Betsy Peterson, Pete Peterson, Jennifer Plut, Elizabeth Topolski, Judy Trigg, Erika Wulster

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS

The Human Family: Persons and individuals who struggle with food insecurity and homelessness, the people in the Ukraine and the Middle East; families and communities impacted by gun violence; those impacted by severe weather.

Men & Women Serving in the Armed Forces & America's Veterans

Those in elected office: The President, the Congress, State Assembly, Municipality officials

Healing for Friends & Families:

Cancer: Judy Dales, Gordon Dugan, Samantha Elwell, Olivia Hollis, Adam Hubble, Tracy Lance, Troy Lutz, Caitlyn McMorrow and her family, Peter Porzio, Andrew Shan, Robert Talmadge, Addie Wasserman, Molly Grace Young, Audrey, Chet, Eva, Gail, Liza, Joan

Illness & Injuries: Robert Benz, George Burke, Derek Cameron, Elaine Canonico, Kyle Canonico, Thomas Cheevers, Lucy Cuipa, Anna Nagyhetenyi, Jan Smith, Margaret Stephens, Gail Weber, Betty Ann Weir, Ed Williams, Ann, Carter, Demares, Evelyn, Tracy, Valerie

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Joy of Giving! What a fulfilling feeling it is to help others less fortunate. Truly it is better to give than to receive. How important it is to foster a spirit of altruism in our children! Gift giving will be part of the Children's Christmas Pageant this year. The gifts will be delivered to the Clover Rest Home in Columbia. The residents are in need of shampoo, body/hand lotion, chapsticks and would enjoy sugar-free soft candy treats like chocolate. There will be a collection box in Fellowship Hall or items may be dropped off at the Outreach Center. Questions? Please contact Deb Albrecht 908 447-2112 Thank you!!!

ShopRite (\$25/\$100), **Acme** (\$25/\$100), **Dunkin** (\$10), **IHOP** (\$10), **Starbucks** (\$10), **Barnes & Noble** (\$10), and **Panera** (\$10) **gift cards** are available. See Gail Weber (or Jen Plut in the church office) to order additional cards or if you have any questions about how to support this ministry!

Christmas Joy Offering will be received during the month of December. Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor this gift by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

Poinsettias Dedications: If you wish to dedicate a poinsettia for the sanctuary in memory of a loved one or in celebration of the season, you may do so by returning the order form/bulletin insert in the offering plate or to the church office by Dec. 15. The donation per plant is \$12. Please make checks payable to "Presbyterian Women." Poinsettias may also be ordered at fpcb-nj.org and go to our Give Now button, contribute through Presbyterian Women and leave your dedication in the Notes section!

COMMUNITY NEWS:

Pocono Concert Chorale presents *A John Rutter Christmas* at 2:30 PM on Sun., Dec. 8 at the First Presbyterian Church at 575 Main St., Stroudsburg, PA. Featuring the great holiday music of this beloved composer, including his classic "Gloria" with brass & percussion. Admission is \$12 at the door.

Blair Vespers: Blair's Chamber Orchestra and Singers perform as part of this traditional holiday service on Dec. 13 at 4:30 & 7:00 PM in our Sanctuary.

Water Gap Singers Holiday Concert: Sunday, Dec. 15 at 4 PM in our Sanctuary (reception to follow). The program will include a variety of seasonal music, both sacred and secular. The Water Gap Singers is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Funding has been made possible, in part, by the Warren County Cultural and Heritage Division. New members are always welcome (no auditions). Visit watergapsingers.org for more information.

THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH

{ Dates/times subject to change }

Sunday, Dec. 8: 2nd *Sunday in Advent & Hanging of the Greens*

8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
10:00 AM Family Worship
11:15 AM Children's Choir

Monday, Dec. 9 *Office Closed*

Tuesday, Dec. 10

10:00 AM Bible Study/OC
6:00 PM NW Garden Club/OC

Wednesday, Dec. 11

1:15 PM BWC Exec. Board/OC

Friday, Dec. 13

4:30 PM Blair Vespers
7:00 PM Blair Vespers

Saturday, Dec. 14

10:00 AM Water Gap Singers Rehearsal

Sunday, Dec. 15: 3rd *Sunday in Advent*

8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
10:00 AM Worship
10:15 AM Sunday School
11:15 AM Children's Choir
4:00 PM Water Gap Singers Concert

For your spiritual renewal and refreshment, consider attending some or all the activities below in our Sanctuary:

- ❖ Dec. 8 10:00 AM *Second Sunday in Advent & Hanging of the Greens*
- ❖ Dec. 13 4:30/7:00 PM *Blair Academy Christmas Vespers*
- ❖ Dec. 15 10:00 AM *Third Sunday in Advent*
- ❖ Dec. 15 4:00 PM *Water Gap Singers Christmas Concert*
- ❖ Dec. 22 10:00 AM *Fourth Sunday in Advent & Children Christmas Pageant*
- ❖ Dec. 24 7:00 PM *Christmas Eve Service*



Poinsettia

DEDICATIONS

A. In Honor of B. In Memory of C. In Celebration of D. Other (specify)
 Please return by Dec. 15.

(A., B., C. or D. "Other"—specify)	Dedication Name

Please print clearly. Thank You!!

Name of Contributor: _____

----- For Office Use Only -----

Amount Paid: By Cash By Check #:

Date: _____



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1 Main St., P.O. Box 385, Blirstown, NJ 07825
 Church Office: 35 Main St., P.O. Box 385, Blirstown, NJ 07825
 Phone: (908) 362-5254 Fax: (908) 362-8060
 Food Pantry (908) 362-5254 Children's Center: (908) 362-7887
 e-Mail: fpcb@ptd.net Website: fpcb-nj.org
 Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday, 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM
 CCLI Copyright License #: 2309277, Streaming License #: 20761595



GIVE NOW