

# First Presbyterian Church

309 Lincoln Street, Johnstown, Pennsylvania 15901



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*Vision Statement ~ We seek to become a Christian people of Spiritual Vitality and Faithfulness embraced by the love of God in Jesus Christ, through the Holy Spirit, as we love God and our neighbors, near and far.*

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## Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2025 Rev. Jeffrey Bassette, *Guest Minister* • Joyce Gerlach, *Liturgist* 10:45 AM

**THE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP** On this second Sunday of Advent, we eagerly welcome all who have joined with us in anticipation of the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ. May this time of worship be encouraging and inspirational to all. As you listen to the prelude, please read over the service in the bulletin and meditate on the words, so that they may be an inspiration to you as you worship.

\*Signifies to please stand if you are able.

## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

**THE PRELUDE**

**“Now Let All the Heavens Adore Thee”**

*Nicolai*

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CENTERING HYMN “Surely the Presence of the Lord is in This Place”**

(Refrain x2) *Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place. I can feel God's mighty power and God's grace. I can hear the brush of angel's wings; I see glory on each face. Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.*

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

*Heith & Michelle Bragg*

**\*THE CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Our souls magnify the Lord!

**People: Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!**

Leader: The mighty One has done great things for us!

**People: Holy is God's name! For God is our Maker and our Redeemer; Throughout generations God is Merciful.**

Leader: Let us worship God.

**\*THE PRAYER OF APPROACH**

God of grace and glory, we come before You in awe of your great plan of redemption, announced by prophets and fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Like John in the wilderness, You call us to prepare the way, to make straight paths for Your coming. As we gather, may Your Spirit move among us, awakening our hearts to Your presence and preparing us for the coming of the Savior. In this season of Advent, we seek Your light, truth, and grace. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**\*THE OPENING HYMN #2 “Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus”**

**\*THE CALL TO CONFESSION**

## **\*THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*Begin in silence, reading over the Prayer of Confession and preparing to pray it together.*

**Lord Jesus Christ: we confess we are willing to be loved but we are reluctant to love. We confess the readiness to accept your forgiveness but also our refusal to forgive. We confess our eagerness to grasp your offer of redeeming love but also our resistance to follow your leading without question. In this Advent time, forgive our failure to respond to your love as we should. Come to us anew, and by your grace, assist us to welcome you with the joy of shepherds; with the obedience of Mary and with love, as you have loved us. Even so: come quickly, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

## **\*THE ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

**Leader: Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Your sins are pardoned. The penalty is paid through the grace and mercy of God.**

**People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!**

## **\*THE RESPONSE #579 “The Gloria Patri”**

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.*

## **\*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**Leader: Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us access to his grace. The peace of the Lord be always with you.**

**People: And also with you.**

## **PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

### **THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON      Isaiah 11:1-10**

**THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON      Matthew 3:1-12**

**Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.**

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**THE MESSAGE      “Fruit of Repentance”**

*Rev. Jeffrey Bassette*

## **RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**\*THE HYMN OF RESPONSE #409      “Wild and Lone the Prophet’s Voice”**

**\*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*The Apostles’ Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**\*THE OFFERING of our Tithes, Time, and Talents**

**THE OFFERTORY**

**“Carol of Christmas”**

*DeCou*

**\*THE DOXOLOGY #592 AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**We bring our gifts to you O Holy One in the name and spirit of Jesus. Bless these offerings, that they may be multiplied and their usefulness increased! May we be given grace to give with a welcoming mind, a willing spirit and hearts filled with joy. All these things we ask, in the name of the Baby, our Risen Savior, the Lord of Life, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**THE PRAYERS AND PRAISES OF THE PEOPLE AND THE 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.*

## **FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD**

**\*THE CLOSING HYMN #29**

**“Go Tell It on the Mountain”**

**\*THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**\*THE POSTLUDE**

**“If Jesus Had Not Come”**

*Hustad*

*During the Postlude, you are welcome to stay and pray, simply enjoy the music, or head out into the world to meet the rest of your day, whichever is preferable to you.*

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### **THIS WEEK’S EVENTS**

<b>TODAY</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>FESTIVAL OF THE NATIVITY</b>
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>	<b>NAR-ANON</b>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>BIBLE STUDY</b>
<b>NEXT SUNDAY</b>	<b>10:45 AM</b>	<b>WORSHIP – Third Sunday of Advent</b>

**PRAYER FAMILIES OF THE WEEK: Mostoller, Wagner**

**WE EXTEND** a friendly welcome to all who are visiting with us today. If you would like to learn more about First Presbyterian Church, please speak to a Deacon after the service.

**PARISH NURSE** Pat Betts will be in the office Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 AM to Noon. Please feel free to stop by or give her a call

**VISION & HEARING ASSISTANCE** Large print hymnals and wireless hearing devices are available from the Deacons.

**IF YOU ARE AWARE** of anyone who has any health concerns and would appreciate a phone call or visit and prayer, please let Pat Betts or the office know. Also, if you are admitted to the hospital and would like a visit, be sure to let the hospital staff know or contact Pat or the office.

**FOCUS ON PRAYERS** Help us have quiet and joyful spirits as we worship you, our loving Creator.

**PLEASE SAVE YOUR PLASTIC SHOPPING BAGS** from the grocery store or Walmart for the Deacons. They are donated to the Backpack Project to pack lunches for area children.

**NON-PERISHABLE** food items are collected each week and taken to the Food Pantry at Franklin Street U. M. Church. It's easy to pick up an extra box of macaroni and cheese, jar of peanut butter, or can of vegetables while you're doing your grocery shopping. The donation basket is by the Lincoln Street entrance.

**2026 PLEDGES:** If you haven't turned in your pledge card for 2026, you can put it in the offering plate or turn it in to the church office. Extra cards are available at the entrances. Thank you.

**THE CHRISTMAS GREETING MAILBOXES** will be up in the back of the sanctuary on Monday December 8<sup>th</sup>, after the Festival ends.

**THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING** will be received today. Envelopes were included in the December Vision and are available at the three church entrances. This offering supports two programs: current and retired church workers in financial need and students at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Thank you for your generosity!

**THANK YOU** to Joyce Gerlach for serving as liturgist today.

**THANK YOU** to Rev. Jeff Basette for sharing the message today.

**THANK YOU** to Gary McClelland for lending his talent as organist today.

**THE FESTIVAL OF THE NATIVITY** finale begins tonight at 6:00 PM. **EVERYONE** should plan to attend the musical performances during the Festival.

**PRICE INCREASE:** the **Upper Room yearly subscription** will increase from \$8.00 to \$9.50, beginning in the new year with the January/February 2026 issue. Let the office know if you'd like to keep your subscription or cancel. We get a bulk rate for 10 or more subscriptions, otherwise the price will be \$17.25 per subscriber.

**CHRISTMAS MISSION:** This year the Mission Stewardship Committee is pleased to partner with Beginnings, Inc. We invite you to take part in this meaningful outreach opportunity. We are collecting warm clothing items for children sizes preemie to 5T. For each donation there will be two stockings. Take one stocking with you for shopping, and sign the second stocking to leave on the tree as a record. Do not wrap your donations. Details can be found in the November Vision, or by reaching out to Joyce Gerlach, Chairman of the MSC.

**THE PASSING OF THE PEACE** Due to being in the midst of cold and flu season, we would like folks to limit their greetings to vocal only and avoid the hugging and handshakes, for the safety of the congregation.

**IF YOU HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST:** Please fill out the blue "Joys and Concerns" prayer cards and give it to a deacon or place it in the plate during the offering.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** is on hiatus until January 11, 2026.

**BIBLE STUDY:** We will resume this Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM.

**THE DECEMBER VISION** is available at the entrances for those who decided to forgo mailing.

**THE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION** will hold their Christmas luncheon next Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 Noon.

**A BIG THANK YOU** to everyone who helped out with the Thanksgiving Dinner! A special 'Thank You' to Joyce Foster for stepping up to lead - and recruiting her daughters to help. Also thank you to Bruce Thiel, Audrey Carbaugh and her grandsons, Jim Ridella, Roy Gindlesperger and anyone else who helped in any way!

### **THE REVEREND JEFFREY L. BASSETTE**

After serving 20 years in the U.S. Army as an Engineer Officer, he, his wife, Jan, and their seven children retired to Manns Choice, PA. Ten years later, Pastor Jeff completed Seminary at Gettysburg, PA, and was ordained May 2009, serving at St. David's Lutheran Church, Davidsville, PA until January 2013. He then served as the Chaplain at Laurel View Village, Davidsville, PA until March 2019, retiring from full-time ministry. Since October 2017, he was called to Graef's Lutheran Church, Cairnbrook, PA, where he serves as part-time supply; concurrently serving as Priest-in-charge at St. James Episcopal Church on a quarter-time basis from February 2018 until end of September 2025. Pastor Jeff is now an NALC pastor, helping to supply God's Calling Community Church. He, his wife, Jan, and son Josiah, live in Hollsopple, PA, with their two dogs and thirteen cats.

**“GOD LOVES MY ENEMIES AS MUCH AS GOD LOVES ME”**  
**“ROTO REVIEW” (Reach Out To Others)**

**Pastor:** TBD

**CHURCH:**

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**Website:** [www.1stpresjohnstown.org](http://www.1stpresjohnstown.org)

**Parish Nurse:** Mrs. Patricia Betts

**Organist:** Jennifer Kist

**Ministers:** All members of First Presbyterian Church

**Administrative Assistant:** Caroline Goller

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