

Second Scripture Reading                      Genesis 17                      Pew Bible Page #12

Sermon                      “Christmas with Abraham”                      Pastor Scott Cress

\*Hymn                      “*Savior of the Nations, Come*”                      Page #138

**Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper**

- *The Invitation ~ The Words of Institution*
  - *Salutation and Sursum Corda*
  - *The Sharing of the Bread and Cup*
- Page #785

\*Affirmation of Faith                      The Apostles’ Creed                      Page #14

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

**Prayer of God’s 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Our Tithes and Offerings                      “*In Dulci Jubilo*”                      Gordon Young

\*The Doxology                      Page #809

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*Hymn                      “*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*”                      Page #157

\*Benediction

Postlude                      “*O Come, All Ye Faithful*”                      Gordon Young

# ***The First Presbyterian Church***



***Sunday, November 30, 2025***

10:30 a.m. Worship

\*Congregation May Stand

*First Sunday of Advent*

**Prelude** *“From Heaven Above”* Gordon Young

**Welcome and Announcements** Nancy Ashton

**Call to Worship** Psalm 121:1-2

## Invocation

**\*Hymn**                      “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”                      Page #133

**\*Responsive Reading:** Psalm 122

Leader: I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord!”

**People:** Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem!

Leader: Jerusalem, built as a city which is bound firmly together,

**People:** To which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the Lord.

Leader: There thrones for judgment were set, the thrones of the house of David.

**People:** Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! “May they prosper who love you!

Leader: Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers!"

**People:** For my brethren and companions' sake I will say, "Peace be within you!"

**All:** For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.

## Lighting of the Advent Candle of HOPE

**Faye & Steve Ross**



*Tune of “Away in a Manger” Page #147*

## “We Light Now the Candle”

We light now the candle, and Hope is its name.  
It's Advent this morning; one candle aflame.  
New hope for our Savior, Messiah and King  
Is born in our hearts, so of Jesus we sing.

**Prayer of Confession** *(unison)*

**God of hope, we come to You now and confess that we often have weak faith. We don't always believe what You tell us about our future. We scheme and manipulate because we aren't satisfied with trusting You. Have mercy upon us, O Lord. Forgive us of our sins and lead us in the way of hope, the way of Jesus Christ.**

**Silent Confession**     *(continue in silent prayer)*     **...Amen.**  
**Assurance of Pardon**

**\*The Gloria Patri** Page #805

**Children's Sermon**                      "Hope"                      Pastor Scott Cress

**First Scripture Reading**                      Romans 13:11-14                      Pew Bible Page #987

**Anthem**                      “Who Will Go to Bethlehem?”                      Simon Andrews

# CHURCH CALENDAR

**Today, November 30 – First Sunday of Advent!**

- 8:30 a.m. Choir Practice, Sanctuary
- 9:40 a.m. Sunday School, Classrooms
- 10:20 a.m. Pre-Service Prayer, Chapel
- 10:30 a.m. Worship & Communion Service, Sanctuary
- 11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall
- Setup Christmas Trees and prepare for Christmas decorating!

**Monday, December 1**

- 9:30 a.m. Decorating for Christmas!
- 7:00 p.m. Arts Chorale Practice, Fellowship Hall

**Tuesday, December 2**

**Wednesday, December 3**

- 3:00 p.m. Ladies Society Christmas Tea, Fellowship Hall

**Thursday, December 4**

- 9:00 a.m. Men’s Bible Study, Anniversary Room
- 4:00 p.m. Deacons Meeting, Anniversary Room

**Friday, December 5**

- 5:00-6:30 p.m. Soup Supper, Fellowship Hall

**Saturday, December 6**

**Next Sunday, December 7 ~ Second Sunday of Advent**

- 8:30 a.m. Choir Practice, Sanctuary
- 9:40 a.m. Sunday School, Classrooms
- 10:20 a.m. Pre-Service Prayer, Chapel
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall

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## USHER SCHEDULE

- December 7:** Nancy Ashton and Bev & Larry Fall
- December 14:** Tom Fink, Lisa Roberts and Andrew Root
- December 21:** Becca & Kevin Portteus and Marty Games
- December 28:** Linda & Norman Bearman and Stuart Risedorph

# WELCOME

On this first Sunday in the Advent season, we invite you to grow in eager expectation of celebrating our Savior’s birth. Welcome to worship!

**A SPECIAL WELCOME TO ALL VISITORS** worshipping with us this morning. We ask that you please include your name and address when filling out the Friendship Pads and pass the pad along the pew so others may do the same. After everyone has registered, send the pad back along the pew so you can learn the names of those sitting with you. Attendance Last Sunday:

**The FLOWERS on the Communion table are given by Sue and Jerry Kinney in loving memory of her parents Maxine and Russell Huffman.**

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|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>PASTOR:</b>          | Rev. Scott Cress                |
| <b>CHOIR/ORGANIST:</b>  | Dean James                      |
| <b>WORSHIP LEADER:</b>  | Nancy Ashton                    |
| <b>BUILDING CLOSER:</b> | Bill Barron                     |
| <b>DEACONS:</b>         | Connie Hutchinson               |
| <b>USHERS:</b>          | The Cress and Portteus children |

**PRAYER REQUESTS:**

**CONTINUING PRAYER REQUESTS:** Sarah Price (*Daughter Bill Barron*), Marlene Risedorph (*Wife Stuart*), Don Sanderson (*Husband Mary*), Myrna Schneider (*Wife Warren*), Susan French (*Doug’s Wife*), Seymore Wright (*Brother Linda Bearman*), Barbara Craine & Susan Wilson (*Sisters C.Hoffman*), Nancy Leutheuser, Andre Portteus (*Kevin’s Father*), Tom Osborn (*Betty’s Brother-in-law*), Charles Cress (*Pastor’s Father*), Norma Baldwin, Melinda Foulke-Beckwith, Carissa Benavides, Jack Bowles (*Cousin Vida*), Keith Brown (*Friend H.Wood*), Elizabeth Burke (*Friend Betty Kneen*), Kimberly Burlew, Rosie Dryer (*Friend S.Kinney*), Kevin & Bridget Fowler (*Parents B.Portteus*), Maxine & George Gaffney & Snookie Ham (*Friends B.Kneen*), Sheila Hall (*Friend C.Erholtz*), Ashley Hightower, Robert Jones (*Irma’s Husband*), Shirley McIntyre, JoAnne Rollins (*Sister-in-law M.Rollins*), John Scott (*Friend C.Ringenberg*), Lois Shrock, Theresa Tomas (*Friend C.Erholtz*), Laura VanWormer (*Friend L.Fogarty*), Amy Wright, and Elijah Wright (*Son Karen Lagasee-Wright*); **PRAY FOR MILITARY:** LT. Andrea Cornett (*USN*); First Lieutenant Spencer Eves (*USN-Grandson Judy & Ron Adams*); LT. Col. Garron Garn (*US Marines*), Commander Zachary Laden (*US Navy—Grandson B.Taylor*), Major Ben Larson (*Nat’l Guard--Grandson C.Dear*); Army First Lt. Cheryl Jackson (*Schneiders' granddaughter in Kosovo*), and LT. Sydney Rouble (*USN RN—Granddaughter Bishers*); **PRAY FOR MISSIONS:** Helping Hands, Lingap Children’s Foundation, Love Inc, Samaritan’s Purse, and Share the Warmth; **PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-IN:** Diane Eames

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**ADVENT BEGINS TODAY!** During our worship time in today's service, we prepare our hearts for the Advent journey as we light the candle of Hope and prepare our hearts for the celebration of the birth of the Christ child.

**CHRISTMAS RECEPTION (December 14):** Join us for our annual Christmas Reception on Sunday, December 14, after worship. Please bring your favorite hors d'oeuvres to share as we celebrate the Christmas season with our Church family. It's the perfect time to invite neighbors and friends!

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING (December 14):** The Session has called for a Congregational Meeting to be held on Sunday, December 14, 2025, immediately following worship. The purpose of the meeting is to propose Bylaws changes to include regarding Trustee officer positions, to elect Elders, Deacons, one Trustee, to elect members of the congregation for the 2026 Nominating Committee, and to approve the Pastor's Terms of Call for 2026. Please make plans to attend.

**DEACONS MEETING (December 4):** There will be a Deacons Meeting this Thursday, December 4 at 4 PM in the Anniversary Room.

**LADIES SOCIETY (December 3):** Ladies Society is planning a unique "Winter Outings" Christmas Tea and program on Wednesday, December 3, 2025 at Noon in Fellowship Hall. Hostesses Nancy Ashton, Earla Carver, Bev Fall, and Vicky Hayes will provide tea and table service for everyone. Bring finger foods, sandwiches, snacks, and cookies to share. Our guest speaker, Sam Knecht, will present the program on "Advent in Art" and Ruth Brown will give a Christmas devotional in the Parlor. Please include Ladies Society in your holiday plans this year by saving the date for this special Christmas celebration that has been planned especially for you.

**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY:** Join Pastor Scott for a weekly Men's Bible Study every Thursday at 9:00 a.m. in the Anniversary Room. Come ready for a great time together studying God's Word together. We hope to see you there!

**SESSION MEETING (December 4):** There will be a Session Meeting this Thursday, December 4 at 7 PM in the Anniversary Room.

**SOUP SUPPER (December 5):** We're hosting a free Soup Super meal this Friday, December 5 from 5:00 to 6:30 PM in Fellowship Hall. Whether you'd like to enjoy a plate or serve others, this is a wonderful way to share God's love with our neighbors. There is a Sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** We have adult and children's Sunday school classes that begin at 9:40 a.m.-10:20 a.m. It's a safe atmosphere where you can grow in Christ and build lasting relationships. There's a place for everyone—come to grow, serve, and belong!

**THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER:** Today, we'll share in the Lord's Supper together during worship. Come prepared to reflect on Christ's sacrifice, rejoice in His grace and be renewed in Spirit. Note: If you would prefer to use the pre-packaged communion cups, please retrieve the elements at the back table before the service begins. The loose offering in today's collection will go to Deacons for their work among the members and friends of the congregation.

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED** after worship today to set up the many Christmas trees and bins of decorations because it's time to Deck the Halls! Everyone is welcome to help decorate the Church on Monday, December 1 starting at 9:30 AM. Please, come join us in our efforts to make sure our Church is transformed into a welcoming space for worship and celebration as we anticipate the coming of our Savior at Christmas. All help is very much appreciated!



**IN THE SPIRIT OF GIVING WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!** We are once again seeking donations of new hats, scarves, mittens, and unwrapped toys for children in our community. The collection will be **December 1 through December 15** for distribution by Christmas. Many thanks for covering the Mitten Tree with your gifts of love and hope for children in our community. What a wonderful thing it is to make their Christmas much brighter!

