

Children's Presentation of the Christmas Story

First Scripture Lesson James 5:7-10 Pew Bible Page #1056

Anthem *"Nothing But a Child"* Steve Earle
Frank Steiner & Sam Knecht

Second Scripture Lesson Genesis 24:30-40 Pew Bible Page #18

Sermon "Christmas with Isaac" Pastor Scott Cress

***Hymn** *"It Came upon the Midnight Clear"* Page #170

***Affirmation of Faith:** Westminster Shorter Catechism, Question 18
Question: Wherein consists the sinfulness of that estate whereinto man fell?

Answer: **The sinfulness of that estate whereinto man fell, consists in the guilt of Adam's first sin, the want of original righteousness, and the corruption of his whole nature, which is commonly called original sin; together with all actual transgressions which proceed from it.**

Prayers 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. 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 *"O Holy Child"* J.S. Bach
***The Doxology** Page #809
***Prayer of Dedication**

***Hymn** *"While by the Sheep We Watched"* Page #166

***Benediction**

Postlude *"Break Forth Into Joy"* J.S. Bach

The First Presbyterian Church



Sunday, December 14, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent
10:30 a.m. Worship

People: The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.
The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.

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CHURCH CALENDAR

Today, December 14 ~ Third Sunday of Advent

- 8:30 a.m. Choir Practice, Sanctuary
- 9:40 a.m. Sunday School & Children’s Christmas Program Practice
- 10:20 a.m. Pre-Service Prayer, Chapel
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service & Children’s Christmas Program, Sanctuary
- 11:30 a.m. Christmas Reception & Congregational Meeting, Fellowship Hall

Monday, December 15

Tuesday, December 16

- 2:00 p.m. Finance Meeting, Anniversary Room

Wednesday, December 17

Thursday, December 18

- 6:00 p.m. Joint Deacon & Session Fellowship, Anniversary Room
- 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting, Anniversary Room

Friday, December 19

Saturday, December 20

Next Sunday, December 21 ~ Fourth 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 Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

USHER SCHEDULE

- December 21: Doug French and Becca & Kevin Portteus
- December 28: Linda & Norman Bearman and Stuart Risedorph
- January 4: Ruth Brown, Marsha Rollins, and Doug French
- January 11: Nancy Ashton, Sheryl Sanford and Andrew Root
- January 18: Vida Long, Tom Fink and Marty Games

WELCOME

We are very pleased to have you at worship on this third Sunday of Advent. May the **JOY** of Christmas be prominent in and among us all. Welcome, members and visitors alike, to worship at FPC. We are honored by your presence here today.

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: 74

The FLOWERS on the Communion table are given today by Barb & David Lipps with best wishes to our Church Family as we look forward in celebration of the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ.

- PASTOR: Rev. Scott Cress
- CHOIR/ORGANIST: Dean James
- WORSHIP LEADER: Ruth Brown
- BUILDING CLOSER: Bob Roberts
- DEACON: Mitzi Dimmers
- USHERS: Tom Fink, Lisa Roberts and Andrew Root

PRAYER REQUESTS: Susan French, Myrna & Warren Schneider, Aiden James Weigle (Great Grandson Bev & Larry Fall)

CONTINUING PRAYER REQUESTS: Sarah Price (*Daughter Bill Barron*), Marlene Risedorph (*Wife Stuart*), Don Sanderson (*Husband Mary*), 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

CHRISTMAS RECEPTION TODAY! Everyone is invited to join us for our annual Christmas Reception today after worship for a time of fellowship and celebration of this special Christmas season! Everyone is welcome. Don't worry if you didn't bring something to share – there is plenty of food and good fellowship for all!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TODAY! The FPC's annual Congregational Meeting will be held today after the Christmas Reception. The purpose of this meeting is: (1) to propose changes to the Bylaws regarding the Trustee officer positions; (2) to elect incoming Elders and Deacons for the Class of 2028; (3) to elect members of the congregation to the Nominating Committee for 2026; and (4) to approve the Pastor's terms of call for 2026. If you are a member of our congregation, please make every effort to stay after the Christmas Reception for the congregational meeting and help conduct the business of the Church.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE (December 24): Join us for a heartwarming a Christmas Eve Service, at 6:30 PM celebrating the birth of our Savior with candlelight, music, prayer, and a message of hope and joy! Come worship the gift of Jesus Christ!

CHRISTMAS OFFERING: This year all donations received in the Christmas Offering envelopes will go to the Hillsdale Salvation Army to provide food and assistance to people in need in Hillsdale County. The pew envelopes may also be used by writing "*Christmas Offering*" on them. Thank you!

DEACON & SESSION FELLOWSHIP TIME (December 18): On December 18th, all current and outgoing Deacons and the Session will get-together at 6:00 PM for their annual Officers Fellowship time in the Anniversary Room. The snacks for this get-together are kindly being provided by the Session. The regular Session Meeting will follow the fellowship time at 7:00 PM.

FINANCE MEETING (December 16): The Finance Committee meets again this Tuesday, December 16th at 2:00 PM to discuss many financial matters in the Anniversary Room.

FLOWER CALENDAR: To all of you who have graciously donated Communion table flowers for our Sunday services, we thank you for your kind contributions. The Worship Committee appreciates your gift in memory of loved ones or in celebration of your special event! The new Flower Calendar has been placed in the hall by the Parlor. Please take a moment to place your name on the Flower Chart for giving flowers on any given Sunday in 2026. Thank you!

GIVING ENVELOPE BOXES (2026) can be picked up today in the Alcove on the small table. Note: Those who do "Prepaid Giving" will not have a box with their name. Call the Church office if you'd like a box or can't find one with your name on it. Also, please do not begin using your new envelopes until January 1, 2026. Questions? Call Irma in the Church office.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY: It's that time of year when our schedules become a bit overwhelming with all of the busyness of the holiday. Because of this, we have decided to take a break from Men's Bible Study until the first of the year. We will pick back up the Men's Bible study on Thursday, January 8th at 9:00 AM.

MITTEN TREE: Donations of hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, and new, unwrapped toys can only be received by tomorrow so they may be distributed by Christmas. Many children will be warmer this winter and have a nicer Christmas thanks to your gifts of love!

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Please join us for Sunday school that begin at 9:40 AM-10:20 AM. There's a place for everyone—come to grow, serve, and belong!



Thank you for shining so brightly in our Christmas program! You all did an amazing job sharing the JOY of Christmas and making the Christmas Story so special! We appreciate the joy you brought to our worship today and we'll rejoice more in our Savior's birth. Thank you for the JOY you bring into our lives and for being incredible children!

We pray that every longing heart will know and receive the love of Jesus this Christmas! God's blessings to you all!