

First Scripture Lesson	Romans 1:1-7	Pew Bible Page #977
Anthem	<i>“Carol of the Star”</i>	French Carol
Second Scripture Lesson	Genesis 26:17-33	Pew Bible Page #20
Sermon	Christmas with Rebekah	Pastor Scott Cress
*Hymn	<i>“What Child Is This?”</i>	Page #150
*Affirmation of Faith Westminster Shorter Catechism, Questions 20-21		
Question: Did God leave all mankind to perish in the estate of sin and misery?		
Answer: God, having out of His mere good pleasure, from all eternity, elected some to everlasting life, did enter into a covenant of grace to deliver them out of the estate of sin and misery, and to bring them into an estate of salvation by a Redeemer.		
Question: Who is the Redeemer of God’s elect?		
Answer: The only Redeemer of God’s elect is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, became man, and so was, and continueth to be, God and man in two distinct natures, and one Person, forever.		
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	<i>“Shepherds, Rejoice”</i>	French Carol
*The Doxology		Page #809
*Prayer of Dedication		
*Hymn	<i>“The First Noel”</i>	Page #162
*Benediction		
Postlude	<i>“Bring a Torch”</i>	French Carol

The First Presbyterian Church



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025

SERVICE FOR THE LORD’S DAY

December 21, 2025
*Congregation May Stand

Fourth Sunday of Advent
10:30 AM Worship

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Prelude	<i>“Sing We Now of Christmas”</i>	French Carol
Welcome and Announcements		Tom Conner
*Call to Worship:	Psalm 81:1-2	
Invocation		
*Hymn	<i>“Sing We Now of Christmas”</i>	Page #159
*Responsive Reading:	Psalm 80:1-7	
Leader:	Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, Thou who leadest Joseph like a flock!	
People:	Thou who art enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before E’phraim and Benjamin and Manas’seh! Stir up Thy might, and come to save us!	
Leader:	Restore us, O God; let Thy face shine, that we may be saved!	
People:	O Lord God of hosts, how long wilt Thou be angry with Thy people’s prayers?	
Leader:	Thou hast fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure.	
People:	Thou dost make us the scorn of our neighbors; and our enemies laugh among themselves.	
All:	Restore us, O God of hosts; let Thy face shine, that we may be saved!	

Lighting the Advent Candle of LOVE Patti & Rich Péwé



Tune of “Away in a Manger” page 147

“We Light Now the Candle”

We light now the candle, the Candle of Love.
It’s Advent this morning, light shines from above.
God loves us so much that He sent us His Son.
To save us, redeem us, our souls He has won.

Prayer of Confession: *(unison)*
God of love, we come to You now and confess that we too often fall into indifference and apathy. Our passion for You and Your will burns low, and our desire for our own comfort and satisfaction burns hot. What folly to think that anything else could replace You! Our hearts long for satisfaction in Your love. Have mercy upon us, O Lord. Forgive us of our sins and lead us in the way of love, the way of Jesus Christ.

Silent Confession *(continue in silent prayer)***Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

***The Gloria Patri** Page #805

Children’s Message “The Love Candle” Pastor Scott Cress

CHURCH CALENDAR

Today, 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

Monday, December 22 *(Church office closed all week)*

Tuesday, December 23

CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24

- 6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service, Sanctuary

CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 25

Thursday, December 26

Friday, December 26

Saturday, December 27

Next Sunday, December 28

- NO Choir Practice or Sunday School
- 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 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
- January 25:** Bev & Larry Fall and Sheryl Sanford

WELCOME

On this fourth Sunday in Advent, we sincerely welcome all who have come to worship. May Christ the Lord touch us with His grace, so that we may each be refreshed in mind, renewed in spirit and filled with the love of God. Please join us on Christmas Eve to celebrate our Savior’s birth!

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO ALL VISITORS worshiping 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: 101

The FLOWERS on the Communion table are given today by Barb and Tim Auseon in loving memory of their loved ones.

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| PASTOR: | Rev. Scott Cress |
| CHOIR/ORGANIST: | Dean James |
| WORSHIP LEADER: | Tom Conner |
| BUILDING CLOSER: | James Brandon |
| DEACON: | Connie Hutchinson |
| USHERS: | Doug French and Becca & Kevin Portteus |

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 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 the memo line. Thank you for giving generously!

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED (December 22-January 1): In order for our staff to celebrate the holidays with their families, the Church office will be closed December 22 and remain closed through January 1, 2026. If you have a pressing need, Pastor Scott may always be reached by phone. Warmest wishes to you and your families for a safe, peaceful, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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 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.

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: Just a reminder there is **NO Bible Study** this week or next because we are on a Winter break! Men’s Bible Study will resume on January 8, 2026.

ORDINATION & INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS (January 4): The Ordination and Installation of Officers will take place on Sunday, January 4th during worship. Officers for the Class of 2028 being installed as Deacons are Beverly Fall, Sue Hayes, Carol Ringenberg, and Sheryl Sanford and as Ruling Elder is Gregg Patten. Unfortunately, Marsha Rollins will be out-of-town and will be installed at a later date.

OUR FRIENDS HAVE MOVED! It is with great sadness we announce that Myrna and Warren Schneider have moved for health reasons. They have a new address: Blue Water Lodge, 2840 Keewahdin Rd., Apt #313, Fort Gratiot, MI 48059. It's bittersweet to say goodbye to these dear friends but we hope we can all stay in touch. Our prayer is "The Lord bless you and keep you and give your heart peace."

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Enjoy the blessed Christmas break! Our Sunday School pauses for a short winter rest on December 28 and January 4, returning January 11, 2026. See you in the New Year for more fun learning about Jesus!

CHRISTMAS EVE



Join us as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on Christmas Eve on Wednesday, December 24 at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary.

This simple, beautiful service focuses our attention on the real meaning of Christmas with candlelight, music, prayer, and a message of hope and joy! It reminds us of God's incredible love, demonstrated in the gift of His Son. *“For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given...”* (Isaiah 9:6). We pray that every longing heart will know and receive the love of Jesus this Christmas!



*WE PRAY THE LORD'S BLESSING OF JOY, PEACE,
AND WONDERFUL HOPE TO YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES
THIS CHRISTMAS AND IN THE COMING YEAR!*