

First Lesson	Romans 15:4-13	Pew Bible Page #988
Anthem	<i>“Past Three O’Clock”</i>	English Carol
Second Lesson	Genesis 18:1-15	Pew Bible Page #13
Sermon	“Christmas with Sarah”	Pastor Scott Cress
*Hymn	<i>“O Little Town of Bethlehem”</i>	Page #155
*Affirmation of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism Questions 16-17 Question: Did all mankind fall in Adam's first transgression? Answer: The covenant being made with Adam, not only for himself, but for his posterity; all mankind, descending from him by ordinary generation, sinned in him, and fell with him, in his first transgression. Question: Into what estate did the fall bring mankind? Answer: The fall brought mankind into an estate of sin and misery.		
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>“The Holly and the Ivy”</i>	English Carol
*The Doxology		Page #809
*Prayer of Dedication		
*Hymn	<i>“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”</i>	Page #156
*Benediction		
Postlude	<i>“God Rest You Merry”</i>	English Carol

The First Presbyterian Church

Organized July 22, 1843



Sunday, December 7, 2025

SERVICE FOR THE LORD’S DAY

December 7, 2025

Second Sunday of Advent

*Congregation May Stand

10:00 a.m. Worship

Second Sunday of Advent

Prelude	<i>“Masters in This Hall”</i>	English Carol
Welcome and Announcements		James Brandon
Call to Worship	Psalm 21:23-24	
Invocation		
*Hymn	<i>“Come, Thou Long Expected”</i>	Page #135
*Responsive Reading	Psalm 72:1-7	
Leader:	Give the king Thy justice, O God, and Thy righteousness to the royal son!	
People:	May He judge Thy people with righteousness, and Thy poor with justice!	
Leader:	Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness!	
People:	May He defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor!	
Leader:	May He live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!	
People:	May He be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth!	
All:	In His days may righteousness flourish, and peace abound, till the moon be no more!	

Lighting the Advent Candle of PEACE **The Fawley Family**



Tune of “Away in a Manger” page 147

“We Light Now the Candle”

We light now the candle, the Candle of Peace.
It’s Advent this morning, glad tidings increase.
Our Prince is arriving to show us the way
To trust in God’s plan for us day after day.

Prayer of Confession *(unison)*
God of peace, we come to You now and confess that we too often prefer war and contention. We don't ask for what we need, and what we do ask for we spend on our own desires. With sorrow we admit that we fight to get the scraps even though You have set out the table of abundant provision. Have mercy upon us, O Lord. Forgive us of our sins and lead us in the way of peace, the way of Jesus Christ.

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

Assurance of Pardon

***The Gloria Patri** Page #805

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

CHURCH CALENDAR

Today, 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 Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

Monday, December 8

- 9:00 a.m. Building & Grounds Meeting, Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, December 9

- 10:00 a.m. Book Club, Parlor

Wednesday, December 10

Thursday, December 11

- 9:00 a.m. Men’s Bible Study, Anniversary Room
- 10:00 a.m. Missions Meeting, Fellowship Hall

Friday, December 12

Saturday, December 13

Next Sunday, December 14 ~ Third Sunday of Advent

- 8:30 a.m. Choir Practice, Sanctuary
- 9:40 a.m. Adult 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. Congregational Meeting & Christmas Reception, Fellowship Hall**

USHER SCHEDULE

- 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

We’re one week closer! As we prepare our worship space and our homes for the coming of Jesus at Christmas, let us also prepare our hearts. Please greet one another in the name of the coming Prince of Peace. We’re so glad you’re here!

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: 45

The FLOWERS on the Communion table today are given by Sue and Jerry Kinney in

- PASTOR:** Rev. Scott Cress
- CHOIR/ORGANIST:** Dean James
- WORSHIP LEADER:** James Brandon
- BUILDING CLOSER:** Marsha Rollins
- DEACON:** Earla Carver
- USHERS:** Nancy Ashton and Bev & Larry Fall

PRAYER REQUESTS: Myrna & Warren Schneider

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

BOOK CLUB (December 9): Ladies, our Book Club is meeting this Tuesday, December 9th at 10 AM in the Parlor. The aim is to have fun, enjoy reading, and find out other's thoughts on the book Consider the Lillies (Finding Perfect Peace in the Character of God) by Jonny Ardavanis that is being read.

BUILDING & GROUNDS MEETING (December 8): The Building & Grounds Committee will have a meeting this Thursday, December 12th at 9:00 AM in the Anniversary Room.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM (December 14): All families interested in participating in a short children's Christmas program should meet in the craft room (behind the nursery) immediately after service to find costumes and receive parts. Practice will happen during the Sunday school hour on December 14th and the program will happen during the service on the same day.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE (December 24): Once again, we are coming to that special day of the year that we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. So, don't miss our special Candlelight Service at 6:30 PM the evening of Christmas Eve in the sanctuary. Invite your family and friends and let's celebrate the miracle of our Savior's birth and the wonder of Christmas together!

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!

CHRISTMAS RECEPTION (December 14): We invite you to share the spirit of Christmas at our annual Christmas Reception next Sunday, December 14th, after worship in Fellowship Hall. As in year's past, there will be lots of goodies for you, your family, and guests. Everyone is asked to bring their favorite hors d'oeuvres to share. Please bring your favorite hors d'oeuvres to share as we celebrate the Christmas season with our Church family!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING (December 14): The Congregational Meeting will take place next Sunday, December 14th in Fellowship Hall 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 for this meeting and help conduct the business of the Church. ***Please plan on staying for this meeting after the Christmas Reception!***

FLOWER CALENDAR (2026): The new Flower Calendar has been placed downstairs in the hall by the Parlor. Donating Altar flowers is a simple way to honor a loved one, glorify God, and to beautify the sanctuary for Sunday's worship. Flowers can be donated in memory of someone who has died, in celebration of an anniversary, birthday, or other milestones, or in thanksgiving for friends and/or family. Select an open date and enter your name to donate flowers through the Flower Calendar. Please call Irma in the Church office so your dedication for your flowers can be printed in the bulletin on the Sunday which you are providing them.

HILLSDALE ARTS CHORALE CONCERT TODAY! The Hillsdale Arts Chorale invites you to a ***"Messiah Sing-a-long"*** Concert this Saturday, December 13th at 3:00 PM at the College Baptist Church in Hillsdale. Everyone is invited and welcome!

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Join our Men's Bible Study on Thursdays at 9:00 AM in the Anniversary Room. Come ready for a great time together studying the Bible with Pastor Scott. We hope you will join in!

MISSIONS MEETING (December 11): The Missions Committee Meeting will be this Thursday, December 11th at 4:00 PM in the Anniversary Room.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: We have adult and children's Sunday school classes that begin at 9:40 AM - 10:20 AM. 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 MITTEN TREE (December 1-15): Christmas is coming! So, we are once again seeking donations of new hats, scarves, mittens, and unwrapped toys for children in our community. The collection began on December 1st and will end on December 15th 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!

THE NEW GIVING ENVELOPE BOXES for 2026 may be picked up today at the table in the Alcove. **Please note:** The *Initial Offering Envelope* is to defray the cost of printing the giving envelopes and the amount received is posted to General Income. The Giving Boxes also contain special offering envelopes for ***Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas.*** Call Irma in the Church office if you can't find a box with your name on it.

WINTER WORSHIP – WARM HEARTS, COLD DAYS: Even when the weather turns cold, our Church family stays warm through worship, fellowship, and faith. Join us this Sunday and be reminded that there's no better place to find warmth than in God's presence and among His people. Join us as we seek God's wisdom and celebrate His faithfulness.