

* Song *The First Noel*
arr by Dan Galbraith | Grant Wall

* Confession of Sin Dr. Randy Kirby
**God of Advent hope,
You took on flesh and came into the world
for such a time as this,
yet we do not trust your timing.
We rush through the joy of your birth
and hurry to exact our will on your world.
We struggle to wait and watch and listen.
Slow us down. Quiet our hearts.
Help us to be still
and know that you are God.**

* Assurance of Forgiveness

* Response *Angels We Have Heard on High*
Chris Tomlin | James Chadwick

Proclamation of the Word

Children's Message Delaine Fowler

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture: Isaiah 64:1-9 Camden Honeycutt

Scripture: Mark 13:24-37

Sermon Rev. Lara Musser Gritter

A Moment for Reflection

Responding to the Word

* Affirmation of Faith *The Apostles' Creed*

**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.**

Prayers of the People

Announcements & Celebrations

Offering

Offertory

Sing We the Song of Emmanuel
Keith Getty | Matt Boswell | Matt Papa | Stuart Townend

* Doxology

Doxology (BRING A TORCH)
words by Thomas Ken & Ken Bible | music from a French melody |
arr. John Stafford

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Communion of the People

"The body of Christ, given for you."

"The blood of Christ, shed for you."

Music during Communion

Remembrance (The Communion Song)
Matt Maher | Matt Redman

You are invited to sing as Communion is served.

* Prayer after Communion

Sending to share the Word

* Song *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*
Charles Wesley | Rowland Prichard | Toby Baxley

* Benediction

Postlude

*Those who are able are invited to stand.
Bold indicates words spoken in unison.

**The flowers this morning are given to the glory of God,
and in loving memory of Virginia and Leo Wallace, Jr.,
by Suzanne Wallace Casey, Vicky and Victor Wallace,
and Lee and Mona Wallace**

Giving Challenge Update

180 megaphones
(including 15 commitments from kids & youth!)
87 hands & feet – \$874,569.00

We are at 73% for our goal of at least 120 hands & feet!

Joys and Concerns:

Scott Johnson, Fred Aggers, James Fisher, Acey Worthy, John Smith

Fred and Marjie Aggers on the death of their brother-in-law, Dave Clingensmith

Continuing Concerns:

Ann Blankenship, Lois Boyd (Ellie Grover's mother), Malcolm Bullock, Richard Franklin, Maria Hudson, Vonnie Jordan (Mike Jordan's mother), Harriet Murphy, Tom Overcash, Mary Repsher, Elizabeth Romska, Betty Bonner Steele (David Carmichael's mother), Jesse Tart, Sharon Whittington

Ministry Area – Deeply Rooted

Worship Services: This morning we welcome Dr. Charles Chandler as our guest musician. Thank you, Charles, for leading us in worship.

Worship Services: Communion Elders: Andrea Smith and Rhonda Shaw

Grow in Faith: TODAY, we gather together for our 1st Advent Gathering Food & Fellowship Event! The food is fabulous, the coffee is hot, and the fellowship is wonderful. Please join us in Fellowship Hall between 9:15-10:00. Today's hosts: Everyman's and the Grow in Friendship Ministry Team.

Grow in Faith: Following the Advent Gathering, please stay for our "Countdown to Christmas" Event from 10:00-10:45. We have our Annual Advent Wreath Making and several fun activities and crafts for our families and children. Our Elementary and Pre-Teen Sunday School classes have been canceled on Dec 3, so that our children and families can attend. (These classes will resume next Sunday from 10:00-10:45.)

Gather: The Christmas Extravaganza is fast approaching!
 Sunday, December 17, at 5:00 pm. Food, games, and fellowship await!
 Bring a side dish to share; the rest will be provided. **RSVP by Dec. 8!**

Grow in Friendship: JOY – A few spots are open for today’s party!

Ministry Area – Core

Staff: Digital Giving – Our online, text, and mobile donors will see a fresh new look to our form next time you give. **Don’t worry, it’s still us!** Nothing has changed with your history or saved payments. We just freshened up the look and feel of our site to provide you with the best giving experience.

Ministry Area – Branching Out

Embracing the Unchurched: New and Gently Used Coats – We are collecting any new or gently used coats to take to RHM for men and women. The Embracing the Unchurched Team will have a red plastic tub in the lobby outside Lewis Hall to collect the coats each week.

Embracing the Unchurched: Cocoa and Carols @ the Bell Tower Green! Join us Friday, December 8, 5:00-6:00 pm, at the park for cocoa and carol singing.

Reach: Yoga in Lewis Hall, from 9:00-10:15 am on Wednesdays, December 6, 13, and 20. Beginners and the not-very-flexible are welcome! A suggested donation of \$10 per class is welcome.

Youth: Youth Christmas Party – Join us tonight at the Forest Glen Clubhouse from 5:00-6:30 for our Youth Christmas Party. We will have Go Burrito for dinner. Bring a white elephant gift worth \$20 or less. Please, no gift cards. Invite a friend for food, games, & fun!

This Week’s Events

December 3	8:30	Worship in Lewis Hall
	9:15	Advent Gathering – Fellowship Hall
	9:45	Countdown to Christmas – Fellowship Hall
	9:45	Adult Sunday School
	11:00	Worship in Lewis Hall
	4:00	JOY Christmas Party @ the Gables
	5:00-6:30	Youth Christmas Party
December 4	10:00	PWCT
	11:00	PW Bible Study
	3:00	Grow in Friendship Team
	5:30	Personnel, Showing Up Teams
	6:00	Youth Team
December 5	10:00	Staff
December 6	5:00	Handbells
	5:30	1 st Kids
	7:00	Choir
December 7	6:30	LCW Rehearsal
December 8	5:00-6:00	Cocoa & Carols @ Bell Tower Green Park
December 9	10:00	LCW Rehearsal

Advent 2023

Sunday, December 3

- 4:00 JOY Christmas Party at the Gables Clubhouse
- 5:00 Youth Christmas Party at the Forest Glen Clubhouse

Sunday, December 10

- 8:30 Contemporary Worship with Lessons & Carols in Lewis Hall
- 9:15 Advent Gatherings in Fellowship Hall hosted by Sisters in Christ & Mary and Martha
- 10:00 Mix & Mingle in Fellowship Hall (If you do not attend a Sunday School class, please join us! Adult Sunday School members, please refer to your leaders.)
- 10:00 Sunday School Classes for Elementary and Pre-Teen Children
- 11:00 Traditional Worship with Lessons & Carols in Lewis Hall
- 5:00 Race Task Force Christmas Party at Debbie Collins’s at 510 Club House Dr, Salisbury

Sunday, December 17

- 8:30 Contemporary Worship in Lewis Hall
- 9:15 Advent Gatherings in Fellowship Hall hosted by Open Door, Outlook, & Contemporary Christians
- 10:00 Karl Hall Christmas Stories in Fellowship Hall (If you do not attend a Sunday School class, please join us! Adult Sunday School members, please refer to your leaders.)
- 10:00 Breakfast & Bible for Youth
- 10:00 Sunday School Classes for Elementary and PreTeen Children
- 11:00 Traditional Worship in Lewis Hall
- 5:00 Annual Christmas Extravaganza Party in Lewis Hall, bring a side dish

Sunday, December 24

- 9:15 Advent Gatherings in Fellowship Hall hosted by New Horizons & Discovery
- 10:00 Christmas Hymn Sing in Fellowship Hall (If you do not attend a Sunday School class, please join us! Adult Sunday School members, please refer to your leaders.)
- 10:00 Acolyte Training for Candlelight Service in Lewis Hall
- 10:00 Sunday School Classes for Elementary and PreTeen Children
- 11:00 Unified Worship with Children’s Christmas Pageant in Lewis Hall
- 8:30p Prelude Music begins in Lewis Hall
- 9:00p Candlelight & Communion Christmas Worship Service in Lewis Hall

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First Presbyterian Church

December 3, 2023
 8:30 am

1st Sunday of Advent



Missional Priorities

- Spirit-Centered Discipleship
- Friendships Across Differences
- Hands-on Local Mission
- Embracing the Unchurched

Worship of the Living God

Gathering Around the Word

- Prelude
- Welcome Rev. Lara Musser Gritter
- * Lighting of the Advent Candle John & Lesleigh Drye

Let us pray:
Lord Jesus, as we search for signs of hope this week, help us to become the signs of hope that others are searching for. As these candles are but a glimpse of the light of the heavens, help us to be a glimpse of heaven’s hope. Amen.