

First Presbyterian Church

Tullahoma, Tennessee

First Sunday of Advent December 1, 2024

Vision Statement:

Worshipping God, growing together, serving others, and welcoming all

Service for the Worship of God – 10:30 a.m.



First Sunday in Advent

Welcome and Announcements

If you are visiting with us and would like to leave your contact information, please fill out the “Welcome” card (located in the pew rack) and drop it in the offering plate.

Prelude

*Still your heart and prepare to worship God.
Water is poured into the baptismal font calling us to remember our baptism.
The acolytes symbolically bring the light of Christ into the service.*

Call to Worship (responsively)

Led by Liturgist

The days are surely coming, says the Lord,
when I will fulfill my promise to my people.
Justice and righteousness will fill the land
and all will live in peace and safety.

Invocation (unison)

Led by Liturgist

God of hope, as night workers long for the sunrise, we long for the coming of Christ. In our worship this morning we long for your Spirit to be among us so we might catch a glimpse of your glory, and the promise that one day all things will be made new, through Christ, our Lord, our light. Amen.

Narration: The Decoration of the Sanctuary

Narration: The Paraments

****Hymn No. 82**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Narration: The Advent Wreath and Candles

Lighting of the First Advent Candle

Arayla and Taylon Smith

Please use the insert “o Come, O Come, Emmanuel” – Week 1

Special Music

Narration: The Greens and Wreaths

Hymn No. 147 (verses 1-4)

The First Nowell

Narration: The Word

Narration: The Poinsettias

Narration: Nativity Scenes/Manger

Hymn No. 121(verses 1-3)

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Narration: The Christmas Tree

Narration: The Chrismons

Hymn No. 133 (Verses 1, 3, and 4)

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Prayers of the People (Pastor) and The Lord's Prayer (unison): 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.

Presentation of Ourselves and of Our Gifts

Call to Offering

Liturgist

Contributions can be made online at www.fpctullahoma.org

****Doxology, No. 606**

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

****Prayer of Dedication**

Liturgist

****Hymn No. 134**

Joy to the World

****Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

We express appreciation to all the children and youth who participated in the service.

*****All who are able are invited to stand.***

Ministers – Our entire congregation
Stephen G. Yates, Pastor
David Hiebert, Organist
Bethany Sterling, Minister to Youth
Katie Prasser, Minister to Children
Robert Wright, Choir Director
Tommy Dimon, Narrator



Christmas Joy Offering – *Joyful Sharing*

Did You Know?

- ❖ The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s.
- ❖ The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.
- ❖ The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families.
- ❖ Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage.

We ask that you read the inserts provided in future Sunday bulletins about individuals whose lives have been enriched by the Christmas Joy Offering. Please prayerfully consider giving generously. If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!

When making your gift, you may use the special Joy Offering envelope, mark a pew envelope “Joy Offering,” or write a check to FPC and designate it “Joy Offering.” We will be receiving the Joy Offering throughout December.

Announcements – December 1, 2024

Sunday, December 1 – First Sunday of Advent

- 9:00 Children and Youth have a rehearsal for “Hanging of the Greens” service
- 10:30 Worship service including “**Hanging of the Greens**”
- 11:30 Session meeting in Fellowship Hall

Monday, December 2

- 8:30 Learning Place Preschool
- 12:00 Presbyterian Women’s Christmas luncheon in Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, December 3

- 8:30 Learning Place Preschool
- 12:00 p.m. Church Women United meeting in Fellowship Hall
- 1:00 p.m. Chair yoga in Williams Family Center
- 5:30 p.m. Girls Night Out meeting in Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, December 4

- 8:30 Learning Place Preschool
- 5:00 p.m. Kingdom Kids for children 3-years-old – 5th grade
- 5:00 p.m. Presbyterian Youth Connection 1 for middle school students
- 6:00 p.m. Presbyterian Youth Connection 2 for high school students
- 6:00 p.m. **The Salon** meeting in Fellowship Hall

Thursday, December 5

- 8:30 Learning Place Preschool, including chapel
- 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Thursday Girls meeting in Fellowship Hall

Friday, December 6

- 7:00 p.m. Tullahoma Christmas parade – First Presbyterian Church has a float in the parade.

Next Sunday, December 8 – Mission Sunday

- 8:00 Men’s Breakfast in Fellowship Hall
- 9:00 Sunday School for adults
- 10:30 Worship service, including Holy Communion
- 11:30 **Holiday Tasting and Advent Festival** in Williams Family Center (see lavender insert to sign up)

Good Samaritan Ministry – Bring your items for Good Sam with you to church on December 8, Mission Sunday.

Requests for December/January

Regular food request: canned fruits, canned vegetables, dry spaghetti, pasta sauce, soup, soda crackers, cereal, peanut butter, canned tuna, and canned chicken.

Special request: canned beef stew or Chef Boyardee ravioli

Dignity request: tooth paste

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



O come, O Wisdom from on high,
Who ordered all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show
And teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.

- L** *We are guided in hope by the Christ Child who points us to heaven.*
- C** *Come and lead us, Lord Jesus.*
- L** *Jesus arrives to brighten our future and tell us God loves us without end.*
- C** *Come and be with us forever, Lord Jesus.*

O come, O Bright and Morning Star,
And bring us comfort from afar!
Dispel the shadows of the night
And turn our darkness into light.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.

(Light one candle on the Advent wreath.)

MelodyVeni, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.

- L** *Isaiah declared that hope was on the way for God's people who were lost and abandoned.*
- C** *There is hope for us, too, who are lost in sin and abandoned by the world.*
- L** *Emmanuel has come.*
- C** *He finds us where we are and makes us part of God's family through his birth in Bethlehem.*
- L** *So we live in hope.*
- C** *We live our lives for Jesus.*

HE COMES WITH HOPE

(Daily Bible readings for the first week in Advent.)

- Sunday Isaiah 7:10-17
- Monday John 1:14-18
- Tuesday Isaiah 61:1-4
- Wednesday Isaiah 49:24-26
- Thursday Isaiah 35:1-4
- Friday Proverbs 3:5-6
- Saturday Psalm 130:1-8

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Advent Festival and Holiday Tasting

The Mission and Christian Education Committees invite the congregation to a time of food and fellowship following worship on **December 8th.**

Please bring a favorite holiday dish to share. Both sweet and savory items are welcome, so plan on bringing your favorite casserole, Christmas cookie, special family dessert, wintertime soup, etc. Festive drinks will be provided.

There will be an Advent litany during lunch followed by time for everyone to participate in a number of Advent/Christmas themed activities as well as time for you to browse and support the displayed alternative giving opportunities.

For planning purposes, please reserve your spot today or contact the church office by December 4th.

I will be at the Advent Festival and Holiday Tasting!

Name: _____

Number Attending: _____

2024 Christmas Baskets

Please complete the form below and place it in the offering plate to provide Christmas food donations and/or to volunteer to help. Recipients will shop on **Saturday, December 21, starting at 9:00 a.m.** Please bring food donations to the Williams Family Center during the following times:

Sunday, December 15th: before or after the worship service until 6:00pm

Monday, December 16th: 12:00pm-8:00pm

Tuesday, December 17th: 12:00pm-6:00pm

Place items in reusable grocery bags or boxes. Please make sure that your donated food items are not expired. Thank you!

Items for Basket

2 cans corn	1 small bottle cooking oil
2 cans green beans	1 box instant potatoes
1 can pork and beans	2-pound box Bisquick <i>or</i> cornmeal
2 cans soup	cranberry sauce
1 can peaches	bag hard candy / stick candy
1 jar applesauce	cookies, baked goods
1 jar peanut butter	box of crackers (Saltine, Ritz, etc.)
1 can yams	a special treat of your choice
box of instant rice	cranberry, apple or grape juice
stuffing mix	other items appropriate for a festive dinner
box of mac and cheese	

Several small cans of fruits and vegetables may be preferable to one large can. Add toiletries such as soap, Kleenex, toilet tissue etc. if you wish. The pre-school is collecting toothpaste.

Hams and fruit for the 2024 baskets are provided from mission funds. Laundry detergent is also provided from mission funds with the help of Presbyterian Women.

Important and/or Useful Information based on last year's data:

-Many shoppers were looking for healthy options, so consider purchasing some low sodium or low sugar items.

-Chicken Noodle Soup is not popular due to its prevalence at Good Sam throughout the year.

-Cranberry Juice was the most popular of the juices.

-Dial and Dove soap were preferred over Ivory and Zest.

-Crest toothpaste was preferred over Colgate.

-Shampoo and blankets were popular

2024 Christmas Basket

I/We will provide food donations for Christmas.

Name: _____

____ **Number of baskets**

Phone Number: _____

____ **I will help on Saturday, Dec. 21, from 9:00am-12:00pm**



***“Gifts of the Magi”
coming in January!***

January 6 is the Twelfth Day of Christmas, the traditional date on which the Magi arrived giving gifts to the Christ child. Therefore, January seems the perfect time to participate in an activity called “The Gifts of the Magi.” We did this activity a couple of years ago, and it has been suggested as a fun activity to do again. So, we will see if there is enough interest to do so.

As a participant in “The Gifts of the Magi,” you will be given the name of a First Presbyterian Church “family” (remembering that a “family” can mean a household of one or many). Another participating family will receive your name. To be both a giver and a recipient you must sign up to participate.

During the weeks of January you will take time each day to remember your assigned “family” in prayer. You may surprise them during the month with small gifts or acts of kindness. Some examples: drop off some cookies; write a note of encouragement; take them a casserole or a pot of soup that they can turn into supper after a busy day; meet for a cup of coffee or tea; have lunch together; offer to babysit while they do some shopping; give them a small gift; give a donation to a charitable cause in their name. It really is the thought that counts. Use your imagination for what is suitable for the “family” you have. Another “family” will be doing the same for you!

You may reveal your identity from the very beginning or you can do it as a “secret pal,” though keeping your identity secret will be much more difficult if you choose to do some of the suggested activities!

Those wishing to participate will need to sign-up by December 15, so we can give participants the name of the “family” that will be the recipient of their “Gifts” and will allow us to get the activity going at the beginning of January.

“The Gifts of the Magi” promises to be a way of getting to know members of the church family, appreciating and encouraging them, and of brightening January days for both givers and receivers. This activity will extend the message of Christmas throughout the month.

We invite you to participate! Simply sign up using this form and put the tear-off in the offering plate, email Martha Bradley at m2bradley@lighttube.net, or call the church office (931 455-9328) and leave a message.

I/We want to participate in “The Gifts of the Magi” activity in January 2025.

NAME _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Email _____