

First Presbyterian Church

Founded
July 16, 1788

Organized
September 7, 1800



Winchester, Virginia

540-662-3824

fpcwinc.org

WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN WINCHESTER

1st Sunday of Advent • December 1, 2024 11:00 AM

When this symbol (⚔) precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit.
Ushers collect blue prayer requests during the first hymn.

Worship Leaders Rev. Michael Hafele

The Holy Spirit Calls Us Together as People of God

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE Mark Schroder and Laurel Tschirgi

From deep in the past, Jeremiah calls to us, “The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah” (Jeremiah 33:14). Beloved, the days are surely coming when the yearning of the land; the longing of the sun, moon, and stars; the desperate need of the people of earth for flourishing and peace will receive their fulfillment.

While fear, anxiety, and suspicion surround us on every side, we choose to watch and wait in hope, preparing our hearts to notice and rejoice in God’s grace already at work in our midst.

We light this candle of hope as a sign of our commitment to pay attention and prepare for the days that are surely coming and are already here—the days when God’s kingdom of love, justice, and mercy will reign.

PRELUDE “Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland” {Savior of the Nations Come} J. S. Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP

The days are coming; your salvation is nearing.

**Teach us your paths
as we wait on your coming promise.**

The heavens are speaking;
your kingdom is arriving.

**Strengthen our hearts
as we wait on your coming promise.**

The world is turning; new life is appearing.

**Keep us alert
as we wait on your coming promise.**

We worship you with waiting hearts this day.

Fill us with hope in this season. Amen.

⚔ **HYMN 88** “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” vv. 1-4 VENI EMMANUEL

⚔ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Great God, no one knows the hour of your return,
yet we await your arrival, trusting that it will come.

There is a sense of urgency in our waiting.

We await the birth of Jesus, but we watch for so much more,
anticipating all that your incarnation means in a hurting world.
Teach us to keep alert, that we may not become complacent
or convinced that we have time.

Show us how to hurry up and wait,
to enact our expectation by sharing love, offering forgiveness,
and living according to the movement of the
Holy Spirit. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Silence for personal confession

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

GLORIA PATRI [Hymn 581]

God Speaks to Us in Scripture, Preaching, and Song

✠ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you!

Friends, you are encouraged to pass the peace.

Children Kindergarten and younger may leave for Wee One's Worship in Room 107.

MUSIC FOR WORSHIP

"Comfort Ye My People" Reese Holahan, soloist

Opening Recitative for tenor in Handel's *Messiah*

SCRIPTURE *Jeremiah 33:14-16, Luke 21:25-36*

SERMON "Hopeful Anticipation" by the Rev. Michael Hafele

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, Our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into Hell. The third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, sitteth at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

The People of God Respond in Faith

THE OFFERING OF GIFTS AND TITHES (*leader*) Friends, our giving is an act of gratitude for what God has given us. It is also an act of worship. Just as we present our words in liturgy, song, and prayer to God, we present a portion of the fruit of our work to God.

OFFERTORY "Longing for the Light" The Chancel Choir

Traditional English melodies: "Scarborough Fair" and "Greensleeves"

arr. Martin

THE DOXOLOGY, HYMN 606, AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

HYMN 129

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

ES IST EIN' ROS'

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING AND LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks
to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks
and praise...**

The Thanksgiving continues. . .

Leader: [...the petitions conclude...]

And now, with the confidence of the children of God, let us pray:

All: 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.

THE DISTRIBUTION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (*unison*)

Holy God, we thank you for this feast of grace and life. As we have been served, help us serve our neighbors. As we have been fed, help us to feed all who are hungry. As we have been loved, help us to love the world—because in Christ Jesus you have loved us. Amen.

The People Depart to Serve

⦿ HYMN 93

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

TRURO

BENEDICTION

RESPONSE

"Twofold Amen"

Dresden

POSTLUDE

"Savior of the Nations Come"

Paul Manz

USHERS

Pat Grosso, Kathy Uphaus

Called Meeting of the Congregation

A congregational meeting will be held at 10:45 a.m. on Sunday, December 8, 2024, in the Sanctuary to elect elders for the classes of 2026 and 2027.

Chancel Choir Advent Presentations

During Advent this year our Chancel Choir will be singing selections from *Tapestry of Light*, A Celtic Christmas Celebration. The texts for most of the selections will be very similar to the ones we sing, but the tunes are traditional ones from England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. The gifted composer, Joseph M. Martin, has arranged these marvelously to focus on the Christ child, the Light of the world.

Advent Adult Sunday School

Starting on Dec. 1st and throughout Advent, please join Rev. Michael in Loudoun Hall at 9:45 as we journey with reflections of famed 20th Century theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer. The class will be guided by the book, *God Is in the Manger: Reflections on Advent and Christmas*. Limited Copies Available: \$10 each

Wreath Making & Decorating

Join us for wreath-making and Sanctuary Window Decorating on Saturday, Dec. 7th at 8:30 a.m. in Loudoun Hall! We need help collecting greens earlier in the week on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Donations of Boxwood, Yew, Leland Cypress, Pine, and Magnolia are welcome, as well as volunteers to cut and collect greens. Please contact Rossi Selzer or Emily Skiles with questions!

CCAP Christmas Dinner List

The support from First Presbyterian for Thanksgiving was heartwarming! Trunkloads of food and supplies were delivered to CCAP for their Thanksgiving Dinner giveaway—thank you for helping put food on the table. Now, CCAP is gearing up to provide food at Christmas. If you didn't get a chance to contribute for Thanksgiving or have unused items from the list below, this is your opportunity. Donations are accepted until *December 9th*. Please fill the bins in the hallway outside the sanctuary and help make Christmas joyous for our CCAP friends.

Items Needed:

- Disposable aluminum roasting pans
- Stuffing mixes/boxed stuffing
- Cans of gravy
- Boxes of mashed potatoes/scalloped/au gratin
- Canned sweet potatoes/yams
- Cranberry sauce
- Canned fruit
- Boxed desserts (Jello, brownies, puddings)
- Cake mixes and icings
- Marshmallows

Refugee Resettlement

Church World Service expects 30+ refugees to arrive in Winchester soon, with several families per week. Our team needs short-term help setting up homes and supporting these new neighbors. **How You Can Help:**

Volunteer: Assist with moves, wash kitchen supplies, grocery shop, or prepare welcome meals. You can volunteer multiple times a week to fit your schedule.

Donate: Furniture, household items, and essentials (list in Gathering Hall & newsletter). For more information or to help, contact the office or Carolyn Thalman.

"Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love." – Mother Teresa

CM Christmas Pizza Party

Join us after Children's Choir on 12/11 at 5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall for pizza and a viewing of *The Story of Christmas*! RSVP by 12/7 to Kelly Tierney at kellytierneycm@outlook.com.

Jazz Benefiting the Helper Fund!





Sunday, December 8th, at 3pm in the Fellowship Hall. Tickets are on sale now at fpcwinc.org or in the office! Don't miss this opportunity to give back while enjoying a fantastic performance!

Every Pledge Counts!

Visit the Sanctuary Entrance off of the Gathering Hall to pick up a pledge card and drop it in the secure box. Next to the box, you'll find our stewardship display, where you're encouraged to add a note sharing your hopes in this period of transformation. We're now at 51% of our goal, just 32 pledge cards away from filling our second balloon! Our campaign display includes three balloons, each representing 33% of our goal, which will fill with color as we progress. Your commitment helps shape the future of First Presbyterian Church and strengthens our community in faith.

2024 12

Advent at First Pres. DECEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Advent SS Starts! Chrismon Tree Gifts due!	2 Winchester Christmas Parade - parking lot closed at 5:30pm	3	4 Visitation Team Lunch in Library 1:15 pm	5	6 Valley Chorale 7pm Christmas Concert Camp Joy-El retreat begins	7 Brian Hobbs recital 6pm Window decorating and wreath making in Loudoun Hall 8:30am - 1:30pm
8 Campers from Joy El return 3pm Jackson Caesar Helper Fund Christmas Concert	9	10	11 CM "Movie Night": Christmas Special & Pizza Party	12	13	14
15 Children's Choir sings at New Stone Youth Ministry Progressive Dinner 4:40pm	16	17	18 Deriter(s) Concert 11am Office Closed after 12:30pm for Staff Christmas Lunch	19 Weekday School Christmas Program	20 Weekday School Christmas Program	21
22 WDS sings at New Stone , CM Birthday Party for Jesus during in Loudoun Hall	23 Youth Ministry IHOP Breakfast at 10:30am	24 Office Closed 4pm Children's Service 7pm Youth Led Service 9pm Candlelight	25 	26 Office Closed	27 	28 
29 One 11am Service in the Sanctuary	30	31				

ADVENT ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Starting on December 1st and throughout the Sundays of Advent, please join Rev. Michael in Loudoun Hall at 9:45am as we journey with reflections of famed 20th Century theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

Christmas Eve Offerings

- Children's Service: Offerings will be evenly split between Froggy's Closet and Healthy Families.
- Youth Led Service: Offerings will support the Henry and William Evans Home for Children.
- Candlelight Sanctuary Service: Offerings will go to the Helper Fund.