



ADVENT

Service For The Lord's Day

First Sunday of Advent/Communion/2 Cents a Meal

December 3, 2017

**Those who are able, please stand.*

10:00 A.M Worship

WELCOME! We are glad you are worshiping with us today. We pray that you will be challenged and find joy, hope and celebration in this hour spent together in the presence of God. *Please sign and pass the "Ritual of Friendship" booklet; then, return it to the first person. Note those who worship with you so that you might greet them by name.*

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Gracious God, we hear the promise of the coming of Jesus into a manger and into our hearts and homes. Bless our Advent waiting; fill our worship with anticipation of Your love; dedicate us to prepare Your way by lifting up the valleys in our lives and making smooth the rough places of others. We pray in the name of Emmanuel – God with us. Amen.

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER TO WORSHIP

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***PASSING OF THE PEACE** (Please greet nearby worshipers and return to your seat.)

PRELUDE

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

arr. Hayes

INTROIT

"Gather Around the Christmas Tree"

Hopkins

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Responsive)

Leader: Come away from times of weariness. Dare to accept the love God offers you.

All: Restore us, O God. Let Your goodness flow through us.

Leader: Come away from all distraction. Dare to let God show you a larger picture.

All: Help us to examine the flow of our lives. Reveal to us what is really important.

Leader: Come away from the holiday clutter. Find joy in the Babe of Bethlehem.

All: Lead us to think of others in new ways. Let us find grace and peace in Emmanuel.

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION** *(In Unison)*

Loving God, Whose signs are everywhere, restore in us Your light that we may discern what You are about. Shine upon this assembly to give life to tired routines. Fill our longing hearts with quiet confidence. Awaken the child in us to experience Your revelation. By Your presence with us, deepen the prayers we utter and turn our fears to eager anticipation. Touch us to lend strength and confidence as we reach out to one another for help and healing. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN** “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” No. 2

***CALL TO CONFESSION** *(Lay Reader)*

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(In Unison)*

O God, You have called us to be apostles of Your grace, but we have been judgmental instead of gracious. We condemn in others what is also, all too often, in us. We refuse to listen to others’ pain or to understand the source of their tears. We avoid those who are angry or scornful or embittered. It is easier to dismiss the feelings of others than to offer true empathy. We would rather reject than encounter them. Yet You come to us, Emmanuel, and we want to repent. You reach out to us, and our hearts melt. We want to embrace this new life. Amen.

***KYRIE** No. 574

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON** *(Lay Reader)*

***GLORIA PATRI** No. 579

GOD’S PEOPLE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION *(In Unison)*

Righteous God, Whose gifts of grace and peace are delivered in strange and unexpected places, let Your promise of Emmanuel be a sign to us of salvation near at hand. Restore us to that quality of life and relationships which has been Your intention for humanity since the beginning of time, that we may be saints who serve, for the sake of all Your hurting children. Amen.

FIRST READING Psalm 33:1-8, 20-22

ANTHEM “Jesus Christ, the Evergreen” Alexander/Sterling

CHILDREN’S TIME *(Afterward, children can return to their seats)*

SECOND READING

Matthew 1:18-24

SERMON

“It’s Gonna Be Okay”

Rev. Rusty Cowden

***HYMN**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

No. 9

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Prayer

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements (Eat the Bread as you are served; hold the Cup - we will take together).

Communion Music

“In the Bleak Midwinter” / “Of the Father’s Love”

Begotten

Prayer

GOD’S PEOPLE RESPOND

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

“The Apostles’ Creed” (Traditional)

Hymnal p. 14

OFFERTORY

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

arr. Hayes

***DOXOLOGY**

No. 592

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

(In Unison)

Loving God, we would not weary You with empty words or with routine tips of obligation. You have granted us life with such abundant possibilities that we can never do enough to express our gratitude. You have honored us by calling us saints and apostles. Therefore, we offer ourselves and our abundance in the confidence that You will continue to provide for us in whatever circumstances we face. Use us as ministers of Your grace. Amen.

***HYMN**

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

No. 5

GOD’S PEOPLE GO FORTH TO SERVE

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

***BENEDICTION**

“Gather Around the Christmas Tree”

Hopkins

POSTLUDE

“Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella”

Beck

***THE CELEBRATION HAS ENDED;
LET OUR SERVICE BEGIN!***



WELCOME VISITORS! We are pleased you chose to worship with us today. To learn more about First Presbyterian Church of Warren, we invite you to pick up a Welcome Packet at one of the Sanctuary entrances.

FPC VISION: Glorify and enjoy God through worship, education and service.

FPC'S WEB PAGE ADDRESS is <http://www.fpcwarren.org> – come visit us on the ‘Net! Our e-mail address is fpcwarren@hotmail.com.

RADIO MINISTRY is funded this morning by **Chris Lovett**. Our service is broadcast at 10:00 a.m. Sundays on WHKZ-1440 AM. If you would like to contribute to this ministry, donations designated for the Radio Ministry may be placed in the offering plate; contributions may also be mailed to the Church Office with “Radio Ministry” in the memo of the check.

THE LOVE TREE - During this Advent Season, *The Love Tree* is once again filled with the needs of Willard School children grades 3-5, our adopt-a-school. Please stop by and choose one or more tags from our tree and return your gifts no later than **Sunday, December 10, 2017**, so these children will have a joyous Christmas. For additional questions, you can contact Jenny Annandono at 330-719-6296.

THE DEACONS would like to thank all who remember the Deacons’ Cupboard while shopping. They are requesting **bar soap, shampoo, Kleenex and Ramen noodles** for the month of December. You may leave your items in the Deacons’ box in Fellowship Hall.

2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES – You can pick up your 2018 offering envelopes in Fellowship Hall starting today, and continuing through the month. Names are printed on the boxes. Any questions, please call the Church Office @ 330-393-1524.

VISIT AT LAKE VISTA: Visit friends at Lake Vista and join them for lunch in the Heron Dining Room on **Monday, December 18**, at 11:30 am. The cost is \$6.50. Please call Pat Hebberts at 330-984-5182 with your reservation by Thursday, December 14.

ADVENT PROGRAM: An Advent program, titled “Grandma’s Christmas Legacy: The Testimony of the Tree”, will be held today following worship. A light lunch will be provided after the program in Fellowship Hall.

MIRIAM ESTHER CIRCLE will meet Thursday, December 7, at 11 am, in the Parlor. We will study lesson three of “A Cloud of Witnesses”. After our bag lunch, we will decorate the Parlor Christmas Tree.

THE CRAFTERS will meet December 6 and 13, at 10:00 am, to finish the shut-in projects.

ADVENT EVENTS: December 10: Christmas Fun Day—Join us after worship in Fellowship Hall for old-fashioned fun, activities, food, fellowship and surprises. **December 17:** Caroling and Elastic Band Concert—We will meet in Fellowship Hall at 2 pm. We will be caroling to our members and friends; after we return from caroling, pizza and drinks will be provided. If your last name begins with A-M, please bring a side dish or salad; N-Z, bring a dessert. Our caroling party will also include an ugly sweater contest, so look through that closet and wear your ugliest sweater.

CHRISTMAS EVE: Family Youth Service: “The Legend of the Very First Christmas Tree”. Service begins at 5 pm and will feature the Elastic Band and InSPIREd Voices.

Candle Light Service: Music at 10:45 pm and Worship at 11 pm.



LARGE-PRINT BULLETINS AND HYMNALS ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST FROM OUR USHERS AND GREETERS.

LAY READER:	<i>Chris Lovett</i>
USHER CAPTAIN:	<i>Tony Ewell</i>
GREETERS:	<i>John and Marilyn Pogue, Delores Morrison</i>
RADIO, LIGHTS AND SOUND SYSTEM:	<i>Bill Kemp, Gary Wireman, Luke Heiligenberg</i>
VIDEO PROJECTION:	<i>Bob Stahl</i>

MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS – It is again time to order poinsettias for this Christmas season. With the many beautiful seasonal flowers, the warm feeling of Christmas permeates throughout the Sanctuary. The cost of the poinsettias this year will be \$10.00, and you can either pick yours up on Christmas Eve or donate it to a homebound member. Please complete the form below and return it to the Church Office with your payment. **All orders must be received and paid for by Tuesday, December 19, 2017!!**

-----tear here-----

In memory of: _____

Given by: _____

_____ # of Poinsettias at \$10.00 each _____ Will pick up _____ Give to Homebound

_____ Amount enclosed in lieu of Poinsettias for _____

Your Name: _____

WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE

Sun, Dec. 3 - *First Sunday of Advent/Communion/2 Cents a Meal*
 - **Choir Rehearsal**8:30 am
 - **Sunday School**9:00 am
 - **Worship**.....10:00 am
 - **Elastic Band Rehearsal**.....10:30 am
 - **Advent Program/Lunch**.....11:15 am
 - **B&G and Mission Meetings**11:15 am

Mon, Dec. 4 - Girl Scouts, B..... 5:30 pm
 - AA, MC 7:30 pm

Tue, Dec. 5 - Al-Anon, MC 9:30 am
 - Presbytery Meeting, Canfield 10:00 am
 - Rev. Thornton Bible Study 12:00 pm
 - NA, MC 7:00 pm

Wed, Dec. 6 - **Crafters, B**10:00 am
 - AA, MC 6:30 pm
 - **Chimes**..... 7:00 pm
 - **Bells** 7:30 pm

Thurs., Dec. 7 - **Prayer Talk, FH**8:30 am
 - **Miriam Esther Circle, P**11:00 am

Sun, Dec. 10 - *Second Sunday of Advent*
 - **Choir Rehearsal**8:30 am
 - **Sunday School**9:00 am
 - **Worship**.....10:00 am
 - **InSPIREd Choirs**10:30 am
 - **Christmas Fun Day, FH**11:15 am

FH-Fellowship Hall MC-Mable Culver P-Parlor B-Badger Hall T-Tieffle Lounge

Rev. Rusty Cowden
Pastor

Melanie A. Vlad
Director of Music Ministry

Kathie Trowbridge
Administrative Assistant

David Skipper
Sexton