

**\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also, with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

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

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

**GO IN GOD'S NAME**

**\*HYMN OF COMMITMENT#128**

*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**\*The Congregational Response #88 (last line of Verse 7)**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel**

**shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**POSTLUDE**

*Masters in This Hall...by Robert J Hughes*

**\*People stand as they are able**

*Notice of Filming: Worship services are filmed and recorded to be included on our Church website, Facebook, YouTube, etc. While most footage will feature worship leaders, video of the congregation may also appear. Children during children's sermons may be seen. If you have concerns, please contact the church office.*

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

*We strive to be a loving family of faith nurturing the spiritual growth of one another as we serve, worship, and reach out in celebration of Christ's Love.*

**(B) Advent 1**

**December 3, 2023**

**PRELUDE**

*On a Bethlehem Hill...by Gerald Peterson*

**GATHER IN GOD'S NAME**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Sheila Markley

**CHORAL INTROIT**

*O Come, O Come Emanuel*

**LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE**

Vic & Sandy Wong

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE #93**

*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*  
(Verses 1 & 3)

**\*THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Leader: You know what time it is:

**People: Now is the time to wake from sleep.**

Leader: Salvation is near!

**People: Let us confess our sin.**

**God of night and day, there is no shadow that can conceal our sin from you and no secret that you will not bring to light. For our reveling and drunkenness, forgive us, O God. For our debauchery and licentiousness, forgive us, O God. For our quarreling and jealousy, forgive us, O God.**

**O God, forgive us our sins, renew us in love, and teach us to live in a way that brings honor and glory to your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.** (silent prayers of confession)

**\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

**People: In the grace and love of God, we are forgiven.  
Thanks be to God!**

**\*RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS**      *Gloria*      Hymn No. 113 (refrain)

**Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**\*THE PEACE**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also, with you.**

*(Please greet one another and exchange signs of peace and reconciliation)*

**PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD**

**PRAYER FOR THE DAY**

**Creator God, we come from a busy weekend, to experience in our lives the gentle heartbeat of hope. If we are chilled by grief, bring the warmth of your love. If we are overwhelmed and exhausted, bring the renewal of rest. If our expectations are too high, bring the gift of moderation. If we are anxious, bring peace into our hearts. Breathe courage into our day. Whisper strength into our dreams. We ask this in the name of Christ, who came to set us free. Amen.**

**FIRST LESSON**

*Psalm 91:9-12*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**CHORAL ANTHEM**

*Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day...arr. Helvey*

**A CONVERSATION WITH CHILDREN**      Christian Education Committee

**THE SERMON TEXT**

*Matthew 2:1-2, 9-10*

**SERMON**

“The Littlest Angel” by Charles Tazewell  
Read by Elder, Clarke Sanders

**RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

**\*HYMN #105**

*People Look East*

(Verses 1 & 4)

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God.**

**For us and for our salvation...**

**he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For us and for our salvation...**

**he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**For us and for our salvation...**

**he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated on the right hand of the Father.**

**For us and for our salvation...**

**he will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

From The Nicene Creed (Ecumenical)  
Excerpted

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**INVITATION TO OFFERING**

*Offering plates will be passed to persons seated in pews. Gifts/pledges may also be sent to First Presbyterian Church by mail or through the “Giving” link on our website: <https://www.fpcjc.com/giving>*

**OFFERTORY**

*Do You Hear What I Hear...arr. Simeone*

**\*DOXOLOGY** (Offertory Response, Hymn #606)



- **Our members and friends who are living in nursing home, assisted living or are partially or fully "home-bound"**
- **Roger Lawson**
- **Tim Sullivan (Danette Story's brother) and all those battling cancer**
- **Anessa Locke and family**
- **The family and friends of Doris MacLaird-Nelson**
- **Brianna Talley and family**

We encourage you to pray for these friends – send them a note, call or visit them. Addresses and phone numbers can be obtained from the church office. Send your prayer requests, concerns and updates to [office.fpcjc@gmail.com](mailto:office.fpcjc@gmail.com)

**Thanks to those who have assisted in this morning's worship:**

**Pastor:** Position Vacant

**Worship Leader:** Sandy Wong

**Chancel Choir Director:** Joe Markley

**Music Coordinator and Handbell Director:** Sheila Markley

**Organist:** Rhoda Frasier

**Video Preparer/Operator/Sound:** Colleen Smith

**Key Deacon for December transportation:** Janet Parrish (785-226-0239)

**Elder on call for the week of December 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Brenda Edleston (785-410-3959)

**Head Usher for December 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Bob Haynes

**Coffee Fellowship** this week is hosted by Jenna Langvardt

**Acolytes** this week are: Quint Lindey and Kate Schoenrock

**Children are welcome in worship.** We welcome all children and youth to stay during the worship service and experience God. If you need your young child to go to the nursery, our caretakers are ready to receive them.

**Today's loose coins and change** will be collected for the Food Pantry.

**Can you host Cookie Fellowship?** Dates are open beginning with January 7<sup>th</sup>. The signup sheet is on the bulletin board across from the kitchenette. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Annette Ray at 785-210-4490 or Jenna Langvardt at 785-761-5815.

**Christmas Eve Service** will start at **5:00 pm** with a pre-service Christmas Recital, followed by service at **5:30 pm**. We encourage parents and grandparents to bring children of all ages to this worship service.

**Christmas is coming!** Poinsettias are available for purchase for \$10 a plant. Forms can be found in the bulletin and in the narthex on the table.

**Per Capita for 2024 will be \$37.00.**

**All Church Caroling**-everyone is invited to join our youth as they go caroling on Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at Brookdale Senior Living Center. We will leave from the church at 6:30 and arrive back at 7:30.

If you have information you would like in the **bulletin**, please let the church office know by **noon on Wednesday** for that week. You may call 238-1191 or email your info to [office.fpcjc@gmail.com](mailto:office.fpcjc@gmail.com)

If you have anything you would like to put into the **January** newsletter, please email the information to the church office no later than **December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023**. Our email address is [office.fpcjc@gmail.com](mailto:office.fpcjc@gmail.com).

**Church services are streamed** at: <https://www.fpcjc.com>. You will also find links to our Facebook page and YouTube on this webpage. The worship bulletin can be found at <https://www.fpcjc.com/publications>.

**When inclement weather is forecast** there are three ways you can find out if the church worship service has been cancelled: WIBW (website or T.V.), our First Presbyterian Church-Junction City Facebook page, and-if we have your email address-email from the church.



Sunday December 17<sup>th</sup> is "Bell Sunday". If you have a special bell of your own you would like to ring during the Hymn "Angels We Have Heard on High" be sure and bring it with you. There will be bells available for everyone.

**CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday**

11:00 am Staff Meeting  
 4:30 pm Facilities Committee  
 7:00 pm Boy Scouts

**Tuesday**

2:30 pm Finance Committee  
 5:30 pm Mission, Evangelism & Fellowship Committee  
 6:00 pm Deacons Meeting

**Wednesday**

12:30 pm Bible Study  
 6:30 pm JAM  
 6:30 pm MS/HS Youth Group  
 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
 8:00 pm AA Meeting

**Thursday**

9:00 am Christian Education Committee

**Sunday**

8:30 am Glory Ringers Handbell Rehearsal  
 9:30 am Sunday School  
 10:45 am Worship, child care available  
 Coffee Fellowship



# Poinsettias

The church office will begin taking orders for Poinsettias to be used in the sanctuary during the Christmas season.

Cost is \$10.00 each (which includes tax).

If you would like to purchase a Poinsettia, please complete the form below and return it to the church office by Monday, December 4th. Checks should be made out to: First Presbyterian Church and noted "Poinsettias"

Poinsettias will be in the sanctuary on Sunday December 17th for the 10:45 service, and for both of the Christmas Eve services, Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>.

Memorials and other expressions will be printed in the bulletin on Sunday, December 17th. Please pick up your Poinsettia following the evening worship service Christmas Eve. Any Poinsettias not picked up will be distributed as the church deems best.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Poinsettia(s) ordering: \_\_\_\_\_

Bulletin Inscription: (name(s) Given in memory of or in honor of)

In Memory of

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Join us to celebrate

# CHRISTMAS

With a Christmas Cookie Exchange! Bring 3 dozen of your favorite homemade goodies to the parlor before church. After Church, there will be a container for you to fill with 3 dozen assorted goodies to enjoy this holiday season!

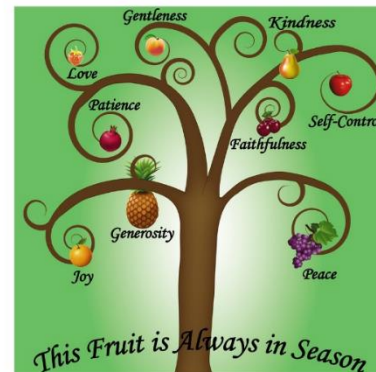
**17 December**



## NEW NEWS ABOUT OUR YOUTH!!

### Upcoming Dates for Parents:

- **Sunday, December 3rd** - PJ & Movie Day (all ages)
- **Sunday, December 10th** - During Sunday School, we will practice candle lighting for Christmas Eve Service with Margaret (K-5)
- **Wednesday, December 13th** - JAM will be from 5:45pm-7:00pm. We will be practicing for the Christmas Pageant.
- **Sunday, December 17th** - Christmas Pageant during worship service. Practice candle lighting for Christmas Eve Service with Margaret *after* worship service (K-5)
- **Wednesday, December 20th** - Christmas Caroling & Hot Cocoa (JAM & MS/HS)
- **Sunday, December 24th** - NO Sunday School
- **Wednesday, December 27th** - NO JAM or MS/HS Youth Group
- **Sunday, December 31st** - NO Sunday School
- **Wednesday, January 3rd** - No JAM or MS/HS Youth Group



### Save the Date!

Fruit of the Spirit VBS  
July 29 - August 1, 2024

**\*WE ARE CURRENTLY  
LOOKING FOR YOUTH  
VOLUNTEERS**