

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We believe there is one God, whose nature is love; revealed in one Lord Jesus Christ, by one Holy Spirit of grace. We believe the authenticity, genuineness, and inspiration, of the Holy Scriptures; that both the Old and New Testaments contain the revealed will of God and that the Bible is the supreme written authority in all matters of faith and conduct. We believe that Jesus is the Son of the Living God. He came in the flesh, died for our sins, was buried, and rose again on the third day according to the Scriptures. We believe, that holiness and true happiness are inseparably connected; and that believers should do that which is right, and strive to maintain order, and practice good works, for these things are good and profitable to all people. Amen.

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 "Give Now" link on our website: <https://www.fpcjc.com>

OFFERTORY

*Do You Hear What I Hear?...arr. Wagner
Glory Ringers*

***DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER** (Offertory Response, Hymn #606)

GO IN GOD'S NAME

***HYMN OF COMMITMENT #128**

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

*Carol of the Bells...by Wagner/Leontovich
Glory Ringers*

***People stand as they are able**

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.

December 8, 2024
Second Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus...*arr. Edward Broughton

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT *O Come, O Come Immanuel...*arr. Thompson
Glory Ringers

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH AND CALL TO WORSHIP
Elaine Dill and Darryl Smith

**Loving God, we open ourselves to you this Christmas season.
As these candles are lit, light our lives with your imagination.
Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that
comes from justice. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by
you that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.**

MUSICAL RESPONSE: *Emmanuel*

***HYMN OF PRAISE #132** *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

***INVITATION TO, AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you.
We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy. We have not
loved you with a pure heart, nor have we loved our neighbor as
ourselves. We have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked
humbly with you, our God. Have mercy on us, O God, in your
loving-kindness. In your great compassion, cleanse us from our**

**sin. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit
within us. Do not cast us from your presence, or take your Holy
Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain
us with your bountiful Spirit. Amen.**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

***RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS (Hymn #447)** *We are Forgiven*
**We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.
We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.**

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

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS

PRAYER

FIRST LESSON *Malachi 3:1-4*
Leader: The Word of the Lord
People: Thanks be to God.

CHORAL ANTHEM *Zither Carol*
A Czech Carol

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

***HYMN #106** *Prepare the Way, O Zion*

THE MESSAGE TEXT AND MESSAGE *Luke 3:1-6*
Prepare "Your" Way



- **Our members and friends who are living in a nursing home, assisted living or are partially or fully "home-bound"**
- **All those battling cancer**
- **Joyce Miles has recently been diagnosed with lung cancer. Please keep Joyce, Gary, and their family in your prayers.**

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

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 may be seen during children's sermons. If you have concerns, please contact the church office

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

Transitional Pastor: Kemper Huber

Worship Leader: Krista Blaisdell

Chancel Choir Director: Joe Markley

Music Coordinator and Handbell Director: Sheila Markley

Organist: Rhoda Frasier

Video Preparer/Operator/Sound: Colleen Smith

Key Deacon for Dec. transportation: Mary Kay Munson
(785-375-3189)

Elder on call the week of December 8: Jim Ray (785-307-5188)

Head Usher for December 8: Carolyn Zumbrunn

Acolytes for December 8 are: Ally Lankas & Grayson White

Coffee Fellowship this week is hosted by Sue Steinfort and Chris Jeffrey

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

Mitch and Jenna Langvardt have provided the **flowers in the sanctuary today**, to the glory of God and in honor of the wonderful family he has blessed them with!

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. Childcare will be provided.

Per Capita for 2025 will be \$38.00.

There will be **no Sunday School (youth or adult)** on December 29 or January 5. Classes will resume on January 12

Join us in the dining room for the **Sunrise Adult Sunday School class**. Please join us every Sunday at 8:55 am.

Join us in room 206 for the **Pathfinders Adult Sunday School class**. Please join us for hot coffee, breakfast snacks, warm fellowship, and great discussions every Sunday at 9:30 am.

Join us for our Wednesday lunchtime Bible study with Elaine Dill leading a study on Max Lucado’s book *Fearless*. This class meets from 12:30 to 1:30 pm in room 206.

Join us for our Friday lunch Bible study with Ashley King leading a study on Lisa Terkeurst’s book *Forgiving What You Can’t Forget*. This class meets from 12:00 to 1:00 pm in room 206.

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

If you have any information you would like in the **bulletin**, please let the church office know by **noon on Wednesday** for that week. You may call 785-238-1191 or email your info to office.fpcjc@gmail.com

If you want to put anything into the **January** newsletter, please email the information to the church office no later than **December 20, 2024**. Our email address is office.fpcjc@gmail.com.

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

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Monday	
6:00 pm	Cub Scouts
Wednesday	
12:30 pm	Bible Study
6:30 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
8:00 pm	AA Meeting
Friday	
Noon	Bible Study
Sunday	
8:30 am	Glory Ringers Rehearsal
8:55 am	Sunrise Sunday School (Adult only)
9:30 am	Sunday School (Adult and Youth)
10:45 am	Worship, child care available
	Coffee Fellowship
After Service	Cookie Exchange
12:00 pm	Youth Candle Lighting Practice



Next Sunday, December 15 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.



Advent / Christmas Study

“Finding Our Place at the Manger” will be offered at both the 8:55 and 9:30 Adult Sunday school classes during Advent (Sundays December 1, 8, 15, and 22nd). We will look at the different characters in our Nativity scenes and see how they can speak to us today.

To enhance this study, the Worship Committee would like to invite the First Presbyterian Church family to share their favorite Nativity with the congregation. These nativities will be displayed all around the sanctuary for everyone to view and enjoy. The more nativities we have, the better!

Please bring your nativity on or before Sunday, November 24th. Following worship, we will hold the “Hanging of the Greens” as we decorate the church for Advent and Christmas. We would like to set up the nativities as part of this decorating for Christmas. We will have a place for every size from very small to much larger scenes. A note sharing where the Nativity is from or any special meaning for the Nativity (perhaps handed down for many years) would be helpful. Please help the church celebrate this special season by sharing your Nativity scenes.

There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. Please let us know if you will participate and how many nativities you will share.



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 want to purchase a Poinsettia, please complete the form below and return it to the church office by Monday, **December 8**. Checks should be made out to: First Presbyterian Church and noted “Poinsettias”

Poinsettias will be in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 22 for the 10:45 service, and for the Christmas Eve service, on Tuesday, December 24.

Memorials and other expressions will be printed in the bulletin on Sunday, December 22.

Please pick up your Poinsettia(s) following the worship service on 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!

15 December

DECEMBER YOUTH EVENTS:

12/15

10:45 am - Christmas Pageant during worship



12-12:30 pm (or immediately after worship) - Practice candle lighting for the Christmas Eve Service with Margaret (participating 1st-5th)

12/22



12-12:30 pm (or immediately after worship) - Practice candle lighting for the Christmas Eve Service with Margaret (participating 1st-5th).



MS/HS Class needs to plan to stay as well to go over their candle-lighting duties with Pastor Kemper.

12/29 - 1/5



No Youth Programming during this time. This includes JELLY on 1/5. Sunday School Classes will resume on January 12.