This Sunday's worship service will be streamed live over the internet at 10:30 a.m. and will be available to the public. It will be broadcast on FPC's YouTube Channel - "FPC Phoenixville". The recorded version will be available for "anytime" viewing.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrmNs7JdvZNJpsNjs0Ds8vg.

## Morning Worship – Third Sunday of Advent December 12, 2021 뷰뷰 10:30 a.m.



This Sunday, we focus on the years 1916-1996, the third 50 years of First Presbyterian Church's life as a congregation, as part of our Sesquicentennial year of celebration. The hymns chosen for this Sunday come from (approximately) that time period.

Prelude

"Love Has Come"

arr. Lynette Maynard

Welcome

Announcements

Sarah Shulman

Rev. Doug Hagler

The Candle of Joy – The Kleppinger Family Lighter: As we prepare for worship, we light the candle of joy.

Isaiah 29:19-21 (NRSV)

<sup>19</sup> The meek shall obtain fresh joy in the LORD, and the neediest people shall exult in the Holy One of Israel.

- <sup>20</sup> For the tyrant shall be no more, and the scoffer shall cease to be; all those alert to do evil shall be cut off—
- <sup>21</sup> those who cause a person to lose a lawsuit, who set a trap for the arbiter in the gate, and without grounds deny justice to the one in the right.

\* Hymn # 84 "Creator of the Stars of Night" 1 Cre a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's ev - er i =2 When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in 3 At your great name, O Je - sus, now all knees must bend, all God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spir - it, 4 To Christ, all, last - ing light, 0 re - deem - er of us child bright, a mon - arch, but the splen - dor not as earth with one ac cord, all things hearts must bow: on might, and glo - ry be praise, hon - or, Three One, in call. pray you, hear when we we us Mar - y, blame - less mild. moth - er of in heaven, shall call you Lord. like those e - ter - nal - ly. men. from age to age A

TEXT: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; trans. John Mason Neale, 1851; as in The Hymnal 1940, alt. MUSIC: Sarum plainsong, Mode IV, 9th cent.; harm. Alfred V. Fedak, 2011 Text Alt. © 1940 Church Pension Fund Music Harm. © 2011 Alfred V. Fedak

#### Prayer of Confession (unison)

Cleansing God, we hear the call to repentance, but we struggle to respond. A voice tells us to turn around, but we prefer our own ways. You seek to purify us in your love, but we elude your searching hand. Our sin leads us in other directions, away from you, and away from life. Look with mercy upon us. Clear a place within us, so that something new might be born, and we may return to the way you have shown us in Jesus Christ.

Assurance of Pardon Leader: The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

#### \* Gloria Patri

## Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

Sacrament of Baptism - Logan Adam Grube; son of Stephanie (Giebler) & Adam Grube.

Questions of the Parents Questions of the Sponsors

Prayer

Pour out your Spirit upon us and upon this water,

that this font may be your womb of new birth.

May all who now pass through these waters be delivered from death to life, from bondage to freedom, from sin to righteousness.

Bind them to the household of faith, guard them from all evil.

Strengthen them to serve you with joy until the day you make all things new. Amen.

**Baptism** 

Passing the Peace

Call to the Word "Listen, You Nations of the World"

Prayer for Illumination

**Ellen Williams** 

Leader: Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen. Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Reading: Micah 5:2-5

**Ellen Williams** <sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah,

from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel,

whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

3. continued...

<sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; <sup>5</sup> and he shall be the one of peace. If the Assyrians come into our land and tread upon our soil, we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight installed as rulers.

Reading: Luke 1:39-55

Ellen Williams

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup> where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.
<sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb.
And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup> and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

<sup>43</sup> And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me?
<sup>44</sup> For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, <sup>48</sup> for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; <sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup> His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.
<sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
<sup>52</sup> He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;
<sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, <sup>55</sup> according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

# People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Sermon

Rev. Doug Hagler





TEXT: Rory Cooney, 1990 MUSIC: Irish melody; arr. Rory Cooney, 1990 Text and Music Arr. © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc.

Offering Prayer

Leader: The earth is the Lord's, and all that is in it,

#### People: the world, and those who live in it.

Leader: Freely you have received, freely give. Let us return to God the offerings of our life and the gifts of the earth.

Offering Anthem "Rejoice in the Lord, Alway" Anonymous Text is Philippians 4:4-7 (page 187 of the pew Bible

\* Doxology (Hymn #606) - Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below, Praise God above ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

\* Prayer of Dedication

Elder: Lynne Williams

Joys and Concerns

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.



\* Benediction Postlude

Rev. Doug Hagler Praise Team



Today we celebrate the baptism of

# Logan Adam Grube

Logan was born on August 12, 2020 and is the son of Adam and Stephanie Grube. Grandson of Gary and Barbara Giebler

> Welcome, precious little child, so fresh from God above. Baptized today in Jesus' name, held in His arms of love. May angels guide your tiny feet, and bring you smiles to wear. And may our Heavenly Father always keep you in His care.

## Holiday Messages for an Exonerated Man in PA

We invite you to consider writing this Christmas to Termaine Hicks, who will be spending his first Christmas as a free man after his exon-eration. He was wrongfully imprisoned for the last 19 years. His address is 413 Fenway Circle, Blue Bell, Pa 19422.

#### **Congregational Meeting**

A Congregational Meeting has been called for Sunday, Dec. 12, 2021 at 11:45 a.m. The purpose of this meeting is to present the nominees for the next class of Elders and Deacons, and to vote on this slate of officers.

Deacon

Nominees are: <u>Elder</u>

	Deacon
Jewell Baker	Kristen Craven
George Cockerill	Gail Landazuri
Jeff McLaughlin	Mona Sabia
Adam Smith	

## **Christmas Caroling**

Your Parish Life Committee cordially invites **children of all ages** to join us for an **intergenerational Christmas caroling** event, outside on the church steps on **Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm.** (weather permitting.)

Following a time of singing and making music together, we will warm up with cups of hot chocolate and treats. Plan to join us for a fun time as we celebrate the coming of Christmas!

#### **People to People Facebook Page**

The new P2P Facebook Page has already been reaching folks in our community, to let them know about events and opportunities at First Presbyterian and throughout the Phoenixville area. More and more people have been "liking" the page and viewing the individual posts.

A total of 58 people referred to the page for information about the Thanksgiving dinners and 249 (!) checked the page to learn about the recent coat giveaway. If you haven't done so already, visit the Facebook page, leave a "like," maybe post a comment or two, and check out the information and announcements included there. The address is: <u>https://www.facebook.com/FPCPeopleToPeople</u>.

## Time to Enjoy the Season

Please hold on to your donations for People to People until after the holidays. We will be taking a "break" to enjoy the Christmas season and would appreciate no donations being left until after January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Thank you for your support and consideration. People to People Sorting Crew

## **Prayer Requests**

#### Joys:

**Concerns:** The family of Diane D'Agostino Strope

## **Prayer Chain & Prayer Requests**

To request prayers, you can fill out a card in the worship service, drop a note off in the church office or email Amy at <u>fpcprayerchain1@gmail.com</u> and members will be lifting you up in prayer. You may also call Sue Smith at (610) 933-8816 and she will forward your requests on to Amy. Anyone interested in being a Prayer Warrior should email Amy.

## **Upcoming Scripture Readings**

December 19<sup>th</sup>: Zephaniah 3:14-20; Luke 3:7-18 December 26<sup>th</sup>: TBA, Guest speaker – Sue Casey



## Christmas Poinsettias 2021

#### In Memory Of:

My parents, Louise & Chet Hain Ronald Varnum (Barb's dad) Barry Messere Dr. Abram M. Hostetter Andrew J. Hostetter Marian & Don Meckstroth and Helen & Dick Schnaedter Those impacted by gun violence by Jewell Baker by Barb & Gary Giebler

by Cheryl Messere

by Beck, Ken & Nicholas Sinapius

by Beck, Ken & Nicholas Sinapius

by Rick & Gail Schnaedter by Bob & Chris Wittrock

## In Honor Of:

Dorothy Barkley (Rich's mom) Ruth Ann Dabback by Rich, Rebecca & Sarah Barkley by Cheryl Messere

## In Appreciation For:

by Rich, Rebecca & Sarah Barkley
by Karen & John Cattafesta
by The Choir
by Barb & Gary Giebler
by Barbie & Turrey Kepler
by Bob & Chris Wittrock

## **Offering Envelope Boxes**

Your 2022 offering envelope boxes are ready for you to pick up in the narthex. Please take a moment in the coming weeks to get yours. If you are unable to pick your envelopes, please call the church office and we will deliver or mail them to you.

#### Seeking a Grant Writer

We are looking for someone who is interested in working with the MAC Committee to write grants to support some of our current mission and future initiatives. If you enjoy writing and want to help but don't have experience with grants, we can look into opportunities to learn. If you are interested, contact Pastor Doug (pastor145@comcast.net) or Chris Wittrock (cwittrock22@gmail.com).

#### News from the Finance Committee

Key financial numbers year to date through October are as follows:

- Pledges are \$ 9,551 short of our expected pledge income
- Non-pledges are \$ 4,356 short of our expected non-pledge income
- Expenses are \$ 24,039 less than had been expected
- The church received \$ 37,606 in Covid-19 grant funds
- Our year to date revenue to expense result is favorable at \$11,837, but if we had not received the Covid-19 federal grant and made savings in our operating expenses, our position would be \$61,646 less than it is

## Sunday Morning Bible Study

The Bible Study group will be taking a look at Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* as the Advent study this year. The study will be guided by questions and Scripture references written by Alan Vermilye, but there is no need to purchase the study guide. All you need is a copy of *A Christmas Carol*--check your book shelves and contact Sue Casey if you need help locating a copy. This series will begin on November 28 and most likely run slightly into the new year. It is fine to "drop in" for a class or two if that is what will fit your schedule.

This class is by Zoom from 8:30 to 9:30 AM Sundays--allowing those attending church in person to get there on time. Contact Sue Casey for the Zoom link. <a href="mailto:skcinpa@aol.com">skcinpa@aol.com</a>

## **Alternative Gift Cards**

For the upcoming Christmas season, the MAC Committee will again be offering alternative gift cards. When purchasing these cards, you will be able to choose from among five mission-related organizations. Recipients will then see that a donation has been made to the selected organization in their names. The five organizations for this year are: Bethany Christian Services (Safe Families program), PACS, Beekeeping Program through Presbyterian Mission, Global Water Center (confronting the global water crisis), and a Blankets program. Cards may be purchased for \$5 each following the worship service on Sundays or in the church office during the week.

## Message from Stewardship and Finance

For contributions to be credited to your 2021 statement, offerings must be received by Sunday, Jan. 2, 2022. Contributions received after that date will be reflected in your 2022 statement. Thank you.

## 2022 Pledge Campaign ... It's Not Too Late

The Stewardship Committee would like to thank everyone who has completed and returned their pledge card for 2022.

If you have not yet turned in your pledge card, please know that it is not too late! Completed cards may be returned by mail, dropped off at the church office, or placed in the offering plate on Sunday morning.

If you need a pledge card, please call the church office (610-933-8816),

or Lynne Williams (610-415-1581) and we will get a card to you.

Your generous and faithful offerings help to support the ministry and the many good works of First Presbyterian Church.

By completing your pledge card, you help the Finance Committee as they plan for the coming year. Thank you for your commitment to our church. The Stewardship Committee

## A Request from a Neighbor

A few FPC volunteers are getting to know some neighbors through Bridge of Hope and helping them avoid homelessness. One of the challenges is finding affordable housing in the Phoenixville area for a family with five children. The ideal need is for a 3-4 bedroom residence with a maximum rent of \$1500. Although this family does not have good credit, there are references available and a stable, secure income.

If you have any leads on possible housing, please contact Pastor Doug.

# **Scrip Gift Card Orders**

Let the Stewardship Committee help you with your **Christmas shopping**, while at the same time provide you the opportunity to support our church.

We are placing orders for **gift cards** every Wednesday, beginning **December 1**. (Orders will be placed **12/15 and 12/22**)

If you would like to place an order, please call Lynne Williams at 610-415-1581 (home) or 610-955-4749 (cell).

You may mail your check to Lynne, drop it off at her home, (14 Schofield Road, Phoenixville, PA 19460), or see her at church on Sunday morning.

Orders and checks must be received by the day before the orders are placed (**Dec. 14 & Dec. 21**). Please make checks payable to "First Presbyterian Church DR". You do not need to fill out an order form. We will do that for you. **Happy** 

## Christmas Shopping !!!

## **Pub Theology**

The next Pub Theology will meet on Sunday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at The Foodery, (325 Bridge St, Phoenixville). Join Pastor Doug in a discussion of theological topics and current events over food and drinks. Listen, chat, and hash things out...it's fun and thought-provoking!

## **Book Club**

The Antiracism Book Club's next meeting will be on Sunday, January  $23^{rd}$  at 7:00 PM. The new book to be discussed is "<u>Caste</u>" by Isabel Wilderson. All are welcome to <u>Zoom</u> in to learn, listen, and chat.

# This Week in the Life of the Church

Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent (\*Childcare provided) 8:30 a.m. Bible Study with Sue Casey via Zoom 10:30 a.m. \*WORSHIP SERVICE – In person and via YouTube 11:45 a.m. \*Congregational meeting (sanctuary) Worship & Music Committee meeting (parlor) 12:00 n. Christmas Caroling outside on the front steps of the church 4:00 p.m. Monday, December 13th 6:30 p.m. Zumba class (fellowship hall) **Tuesday, December 14th** 6:30 p.m. Zumba class (fellowship hall) Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> 7:30 p.m. Bell Choir rehearsal (choir room) Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m. Women, Infants & Children (fellowship hall) 9:00 a.m. People to People Clothing+ ministry (fellowship hall) 10:00 a.m. People to People food ministry (kitchen) Choir rehearsal (choir room) 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. "We Are" Live Vigil (Main & Bridge Streets) Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m. Women, Infants & Children (fellowship hall) Saturday, December 18th Zumba class (fellowship hall) 9:30 a.m. 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent (\*Childcare provided) Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup> 8:30 a.m. Bible Study with Sue Casey via Zoom \*Sunday School (fellowship hall) 9:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m. \*WORSHIP SERVICE – In person and via YouTube 12:00 n. Women's Circle (parlor)

Rev. Douglas Hagler, <u>Pastor145@comcast.net</u>; 415-300-7912 (cell) Diane Legnini, Director of Music; Sarah Shulman, Praise Team Leader Maggie O'Malley, Communications Coordinator, <u>FPCcommunications@comcast.net</u> Sue Smith, Office Manager, <u>secretaryfpc145@gmail.com</u> Church Telephone: 610-933-8816; Website: <u>fpc-phoenixville.org</u> Church Treasurer: <u>fpctreasurer145@gmail.com</u>

#### **Church Office Hours**

Monday, Wednesday & Friday: 9:00am – 4:00pm Tuesday & Thursday: 10:00am – 4:00pm Note: Pastor Doug's day off is Friday each week. Please respect his day off unless there is an emergency.

#### **Elders on Session**

George Cockerill	484-302-1227
Jeanie Osterhoudt	610-331-7835
Becky Sinapius	610-983-9644
Lynne Williams	610-415-1581
Mike Eitl	610-650-8011
Kathryn Grocki	610-933-6252
Ron Williams	610-505-1977
Chris Wittrock	610-662-1412
Ken Brown	610-933-6188
Kevin Carrabine	610-933-2318
Ann Miller	610-554-6391
Roger Warwick	610-458-7080
Jewell Baker (Clerk)	484-459-3585

#### **Board of Deacons**

Gail Landazuri	610-608-5662
Mona Sabia	610-506-9925
Barb White	610-935-7242
Pam Bodam	610-496-1933
Karen Drummond	610-952-1242
Paulette Mark	610-935-2749
Bob Wittrock	610-662-1412
Jen Johnson	610-831-5466
Gail Schnaedter	610-666-5402
Kathy Thais	610-933-8983
Ellen Williams	484-988-0174