

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 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 19, 2021 ⦿ ⦿ ⦿ 10:30 a.m.

Today's service will be broadcast LIVE via the internet and recorded for viewing anytime. Where indicated by the asterisk (), please stand if you can do so comfortably.*

This Sunday, we focus on the years 1996-Present, the 'modern age' 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

"Christmas Lullaby"
The Merry Ringers

Welcome

Rev. Doug Hagler

Sharing the Peace

Announcements

Sarah Shulman

The Candle of Love – Chuck and Sandy Heidel

Lighter: As we prepare for worship, we light the candle of love.

Deuteronomy 6:4-6

⁴ Hear, O Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD alone.

⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul, and with all your might.

⁶ Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart.

* Hymn # 86

"The People Who Walked in Darkness"

1 The peo - ple who walked in dark - ness a - wak - en to
 2 For God has en - larged the na - tion, and pros - pered the
 3 The yoke of de - spair and bond - age, the chains of the
 4 For us now a child is giv - en, for all the de -
 5 How vast is our God's do - min - ion! How far truth and

(D) (G) (B) (Em) (C/E)
 F B \flat D Gm E \flat /G

see a great light. The peo - ple who dwelt in the
 fruit of its land. God's peo - ple are blest with the
 slave mas - ter's rod are shat - tered and scat - tered like
 spised and for - lorn. The rule of com - pas - sion shall
 mer - cy ex - tend. The zeal of the Lord will ac -

(Em) (Bm) (Cmaj7) (Am7) (Bsus) (B)
 Gm Dm E \flat maj7 Cm7 Dsus D

land of the shad - ow rise to a star shin - ing bright.
 har - vest of vic - tory, gift from a boun - ti - ful hand.
 dust in a wind - storm, loosed by the jus - tice of God.
 rest on his shoul - der. God's own Mes - si - ah is born!
 com - plish its pur - pose: jus - tice shall reign with - out end.

Refrain (E) (Am7) (D) (G) (C) (F \sharp dim7) (B) (Em)
 G Cm7 F B \flat E \flat A dim7 D Gm

His name is Won - der - ful, Coun - sel - or, Al - might - y God,

(Cmaj7) (G) (Am7) (D) I (G)
 E \flat maj7 B \flat Cm7 F B \flat

Fa - ther for - ev - er, Prince of Peace.

2 (G) (B7sus) (B) Final (G) (C/G) (G)
 B \flat D7sus D B \flat E \flat /B \flat B \flat

Peace. (to stanzas) Peace.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

O God, giver of all good gifts, we come before you as children in need of your wisdom and grace. Our fears and our hopes are braided together in the rhythm of daily life. Break into this tangle of fear and hope, bringing peace to our souls. Break into our visions of the future, returning us to your hands. Break into our expectations, awakening us with curiosity and wonder.

(Time of silent prayer and reflection)

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.**

Children's Message

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

Prayer for Illumination

Karin Goodman

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: Zephaniah 3:14-20

Karin Goodman

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!

¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more.

¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.

¹⁷The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing ¹⁸as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it.

3. *continued....*

¹⁹I will deal with all your oppressors at that time.

And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

²⁰At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

Reading: Luke 3:7-18

⁷John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"

⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

¹⁰And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" ¹¹In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?"

¹³He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you."

¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals.

He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Sermon

Rev. Doug Hagler

* Hymn # 110

"Love Has Come"

1 Love has come: a light in the dark - ness!
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der.
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us!

(D) (Bm7) (Em) (A7) (D)
 F Dm7 Gm C7 F

Love shines forth in the Beth - le - hem skies. See, all
 Love is God now a - sleep in the hay. See the
 Love is life ev - er - last - ing and free. Love is

(A) (D) (Bm) (D) (A) (G) (D)
 C F Dm F C Bb F

heav - en has come to pro - claim it; hear how their song of
 glow in the eyes of his moth - er; what is the name her
 Je - sus with - in and a - mong us. Love is the peace our

(Em7) (F#7) (G) (A) (Bm) (A7)
 Gm7 A7 Bb C Dm C7

joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to you, a
 heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the name she
 hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the gift of

(D) (A) (G) (A) (D) (A) (A7) (Dsus) (D)
 F C Bb C F C C7 Fsus F

Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
 whis - pers. Love! Love! Je - sus, Em - man - u - el.
 Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

TEXT: Ken Bible, 1996
 MUSIC: French melody; arr. Eric T. Myers, 2012
 Text © 1996 LNWymns.com (admin. Music Services)
 Music Arr. © 2012 Eric T. Myers

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

"There Is No Rose"

Graham J. Ellis

There is no rose of such virtue, as is the rose that bare Jesu: Alleluia.

For in this rose contained was Heaven and earth in little space: Resmiranda.

By that rose we may well see there be one God in persons three:

Pares forma, pares, pares forma.

Then leave we all this wordly mirth, and follow we this joyous birth;

Transeamus, transeamus, transeamus.

*** 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: Ron 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.**

* Hymn # 94

"Now the Heavens Start to Whisper"

1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is
2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to
3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of

grow - ing thin. Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten
 drift a - way. Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness
 wis - dom's seed, come to bless with fire and fra - grance

to the stir - ring, faint with - in: seed of prom - ise, deep - ly
 shines the hope of com - ing day. Christ, the morn - ing star of
 hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need. In the lone - ly, in the

plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem! Like the soil be -
 splen - dor, gleams with - in a world grown dim. Heav - en's em - ber
 strang - er, in the out - cast, hid from view: child who comes to

neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.
 fans to full - ness; hearts grow warm to wel - come him.
 grace the man - ger, teach our hearts to wel - come you.

TEXT: Mary Louise Bringle, 2005
 MUSIC: Alexander Johnson's Tennessee Harmony, 1818; harm. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978
 Text © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc.
 Music Harm. © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship (admin. Augsburg Fortress)

* Benediction

Postlude *“Russian Dance from the Nutcracker Suite”* Rev. Doug Hagler
 Rebecca Barkley & Diane Legnini, piano duet Tchaikovsky/Eckstein



Christmas Eve Worship Services
Friday, December 24th
5:00 pm Family Service
9:00 pm Candlelight Communion Service

No Childcare Available

Parents of little ones, please note: We will not have childcare available during the worship services on Friday, December 24th and Sunday, December 26th.

Church Office Holiday Schedule & Staff Vacations

Due to the holidays the church office will be closed on the following dates:
Friday, Dec. 24th; Monday, Dec. 27th, Friday, Dec. 31st and Monday, Jan. 3rd.

Pastor Hagler will be on vacation from Dec. 25th – Jan. 2nd.

Sue Casey will be the guest speaker for the worship service on Sunday, December 26th.

Diane Legnini, will be on vacation on Sunday, December 26th.

Curiosity Class

Pastor Doug will once again be hosting a Curiosity Class where we will learn about Christianity, Presbyterianism, and this congregation in particular. The class will begin in January, with time and place to be determined. This is a class open to anyone, including curious visitors, new members, and members wanting a refresher. Contact Pastor Doug to let him know if you are interested. (pastor145@comcast.net)

Prayer Requests

Joys:

Concerns: Mike Blackburn; Karen Drummond; Family of Donna Hill

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 fpcprayerchain1@gmail.com and members will be lifting you up in prayer. You may also call Sue Smith at [\(610\) 933-8816](tel:6109338816) and she will forward your requests on to Amy. Anyone interested in being a Prayer Warrior should email Amy.



Christmas Poinsettias 2021

In Memory Of:

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

In Honor Of:

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

In Appreciation For:

Thank you to all of the musicians: Praise Team, Handbells and Choir	by Rich, Rebecca & Sarah Barkley
Trude Hoffman & Carl Biers	by Karen & John Cattafesta
Diane Legnini	by The Choir
The Bell Choir	by Barb & Gary Giebler
All the work done by People to People for our community.	by Barbie & Turrey Kepler
The FPC Session and Deacons	by Bob & Chris Wittrock

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.

****The last order before Christmas will be placed on Monday, 12/20.**

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.

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!!!

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).

Alternative Gift Cards

Alternative gift cards are still available in the narthex after worship and in the church office during the week. When purchasing these cards (\$5.00 each), you will be able to choose from among the following mission-related organizations: Bethany Christian Services (Safe Families program), PACS, Beekeeping Program through Presbyterian Mission, Global Water Center (confronting the global water crisis), and a Blankets program.

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 3rd.

Thank you for your support and consideration.

People to People Sorting Crew

Upcoming Scripture Readings

December 26th: TBA, Guest speaker – Sue Casey

January 2nd: Jeremiah 31:7-14; Ephesians 1:3-14

January 9th: Isaiah 43:1-7; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

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 exoner-ation. He was wrongfully imprisoned for the last 19 years.

His address is 413 Fenway Circle, Blue Bell, Pa 19422.

Read Termaine's story: <https://www.inquirer.com/news/philadelphia-wrongful-conviction-exoneration-police-misconduct-tremaine-hicks-20201216.html> and hear how he is living life and paying it forward <https://youtu.be/6UR8D7yBpsw>

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: <https://www.facebook.com/FPCPeopleToPeople>.

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

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.

Pub Theology

The next Pub Theology will meet on Sunday, January 9th 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 23rd at 7:00 PM. The new book to be discussed is "Caste" by Isabel Wilderson. All are welcome to [Zoom](#) in to learn, listen, and chat.

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

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.

This Week in the Life of the Church

Sunday, December 19th 4th Sunday of Advent (*Childcare provided)

8:30 a.m. Bible Study with Sue Casey via Zoom

9:30 a.m. *Sunday School (fellowship hall)

10:30 a.m. *WORSHIP SERVICE – In person and via YouTube

12:00 n. Women's Circle (parlor)

Monday, December 20th

6:30 p.m. Zumba class (fellowship hall)

Tuesday, December 21st

6:30 p.m. Zumba class (fellowship hall)

7:30 p.m. Session meeting via Zoom

Wednesday, December 22nd No events scheduled.

Thursday, December 23rd

10:00 a.m. People to People food ministry (kitchen)

7:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal (choir room)

Friday, December 24th Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m. FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE -In person and via YouTube

9:00 p.m. CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE- In person and via YouTube

Saturday, December 25th Christmas Day!

Sunday, December 26th *No childcare available this Sunday.*

10:30 a.m. WORSHIP SERVICE – In person and via YouTube

Monday, December 27th Church office closed. No events scheduled.

Rev. Douglas Hagler, Pastor145@comcast.net; 415-300-7912 (cell)
Diane Legnini, Director of Music; Sarah Shulman, Praise Team Leader
Maggie O'Malley, Communications Coordinator,

FPCcommunications@comcast.net

Sue Smith, Office Manager, secretaryfpc145@gmail.com

Church Telephone: 610-933-8816; Website: fpc-phoenixville.org

Church Treasurer: fpctreasurer145@gmail.com

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