

ORDER OF SERVICE

2nd Sunday of Advent
December 8th, 2024

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Announcements & Affirmation of Community

Joys and Concerns

Prelude "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"
Traditional English Carol

Silent Reflection Time

Choral Introit "Adoro te Devote"
Attributed to São Tomás de Aquino

Call to Worship

John came out of the wilderness to preach repentance;
He preaches to us still.
Make straight the paths we now walk
And prepare the way for God's reign of justice and love.

"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"
Text by Wayne Wold, based on a Yiddish Folk Song

Lighting the Advent Wreath Candles Alan & Jennie Booth

***Hymn** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" #88

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Refining God, you have sent us prophets and we have not listened.
We have not always determined what is best or made way for your
reign in our lives, our church, and our society. Forgive us, we pray,
and renew your covenant within us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our
Lord. Amen. **(Silent Prayer)**

Assurance of Pardon

***Gloria Patri** #581
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.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Illumination

First Reading **Philippians 1:3-11** pg. 196

Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Choral Anthem "Comfort, Comfort Now My People"
Genevan Psalter, Words by Johannes Olearius

Second Reading **Luke 3:1-6** pg. 60

Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon "In The Wilderness: Prepare the Way of the Lord"
Rev. Tim Luoma

Silent Reflection Time

***Hymn** "Prepare the Way, O Zion" #106

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

Offertory Invitation

Offertory "Watchman, Tell Us of the Night"
Text by John Bowring, Music by Joseph Parry

***Doxology** #606
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures
here below; praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son,
and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Thanksgiving/Dedication**

God of righteousness, receive these gifts of gratitude, the offerings of our lives. Purify them with your refining fire so that they may serve your purposes and shine with your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Prayer Response

“Alleluia”

Music by Jacques Berthier

***Hymn**

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

#132

***Benediction**

***Benediction Response** “Soon and Very Soon”

African American Spiritual

Postlude

All are asked to remain seated for the postlude.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

PASTOR: Rev. Dr. Timothy J. Luoma

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Dr. Adrian Carr

CLERK OF SESSION: Judy Bunnell

MODERATOR OF DEACONS: Connie Harrica

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Sadie Prinsen

SEXTON: Sally Ann Blow

Happy Birthday!

Richard Cantwell	12/13	Rebecca Amorelli	12/16
Kristine Cantwell	12/18	Alexander Wilson	12/21
Douglas Walker	12/27	Sally McSweeney	12/27
Judith Judge	12/28	Elizabeth Lawless	12/29

Caroling

We will be caroling on Friday, December 20th, starting around 5pm and ending with a reception at church. Everyone can bring a happy voice and treat to share. For more information, contact Benjamin at Pomerance.benjamin58@gmail.com.

Winter Solstice Yoga

We will be hosting a two-session Winter Solstice Yoga Class with Heather Bennett on Monday, December 9th and Monday, December 16th at 5pm in Fellowship Hall. Come celebrate the season of love, light, and peace with us with yoga!

Advent Decorations

A special thank you to Bill and Kerry Haley at the Haley Christmas Tree Farm for providing the tree and the wreaths in the Sanctuary and the wreaths on the front door of the church. Additional thanks to the people who decorated the sanctuary under the able leadership of Sally Meisenheimer, including Rob Meisenheimer, Lynn Mulholland, Mark Malchoff, and Terri Mahoney. The Sanctuary looks very festive with all their efforts.

Pledge Update

As of December 3rd, we have received 33 pledges totaling \$183,260. If your pledge card isn't among the 33 received thus far, please complete it and turn it in by leaving it in the offering plate or send it as soon as possible. There are extra pledge cards in the pews if you misplaced yours or contact the church office at 518-561-3140, and we will be happy to send one to you. Thank you!

First Presbyterian Church of Plattsburgh

*Worship Christ
Teach Faith
Practice Love*

**If you are visiting, please feel welcome to come to Fellowship Hall,
following the service.**

Visit us at:

www.firstchurchplattsburgh.org

Follow us on Facebook:

First Presbyterian Church of Plattsburgh NY

PRAYER FAMILIES FOR THE WEEK of December 8th, 2024

Jim & Joyce Fox
Rowena Genier
Brent & Jacquelyn Germain
Linda Gonyo

PRAYER CONCERNS

Matt Burgin and family
Barbara Thompson
Bob Svenson

Peg and Jack Myers
John Mazur

This Sunday we thank:

WORSHIP LEADER: Anne Bailey
USHERS: Julie Brunell & Donna Hanrahan
FELLOWSHIP: Y&E Advent Potluck
ZOOM COORDINATOR: Jim Snook

Worship Leaders

Dec 15- Jim Snook
Dec 22- Jennie Booth

Fellowship Time

Dec 15- Julie Brunell & Dana Jeweler
Dec 22-The Pomerance Family

Ushers

Dec 15- Lynn Mulholland & Linda Gonyo
Dec 22-

Zoom Coordinators

Dec 15- Jennie Booth
Dec 22- Carl Payne

Call for a Special Congregational Meeting

A Special Congregational Meeting is called for Sunday, December 15th, 2024 immediately after the last hymn of the 10 am worship service with in-person and Zoom-attendee participation for the purposes of receiving and acting on the report of 2024 Nominating Committee with recommendations to fill vacancies on Session and the Board of Deacons, and electing congregation members to the 2025 Nominating Committee.

Local Mission Christmas Tree Ornament Project

The congregation is once again invited to provide Christmas gifts to children in Clinton County. The Local Mission Council has received a list of wishes/needs from the Department of Social Services for five young children they serve. These gift requests are written on colored ornament tags that are hung on the tree in Fellowship Hall.

We thank those who took a tag last Sunday. There are still a half dozen or so tags on the tree if you weren't here then and would like to participate in this project.

Each ornament tag represents one gift. The ornament message contains the first name of the recipient, age, gender, requested item description. We encourage you to target your expense for gift to be at no more than \$25.

Congregation members are encouraged to take an ornament – both parts, as each ornament will have two (duplicate) parts tied together. Purchase the item and return the gift unwrapped with both parts of the ornament taped to it, either to Fellowship Hall under the tree, the Memorial Room, or on the bench by the church office no later than Tuesday, December 17th. PLEASE DO NOT WRAP THE GIFTS, although gift boxes for clothing items are always welcome. It is helpful to include a gift receipt in case an exchange may be necessary, especially for clothing items.

Advent Festival Potluck

There will be a potluck luncheon *today*, Sunday, December 8th after worship, we hope you brought a main dish, side dish, salad, or dessert to share. There will be a hot chocolate bar and an opportunity to make Christmas cards to accompany the poinsettias the Deacons bring to shut-ins and other festive activities of the season.

Bible Study

Bible Study meets in the Memorial Room on Tuesdays at 10:30am. Each week, they look at the readings for the week. This week they will be looking at Philippians 4:4-7 and Luke 3:7-18. New participants are always welcome!

Sunday, Dec 8:	9:00 am	Adult Church School
	9:00 am	Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am	Worship Service
	11:00 am	Y&E Advent Potluck
Monday, Dec 9:	5:00 pm	Winter Solstice Yoga, Pt. 1
Tuesday, Dec 10:	10:30 am	Bible Study
	Noon	AA Meeting
	Noon	Interfaith Council Meeting
	5:00 pm	Deacons
Wednesday, Dec 11:	1:30 pm	Parkinsons Support Group
	5:30pm	Finance Committee Meeting
	7:00pm	Plattsburgh Table Tennis
Thursday, Dec 12:	9:15 am	Quilting Group
	Noon	AA Meeting
	6:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, Dec 15:	9:00 am	Adult Church School
	9:00 am	Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Congregational Meeting