



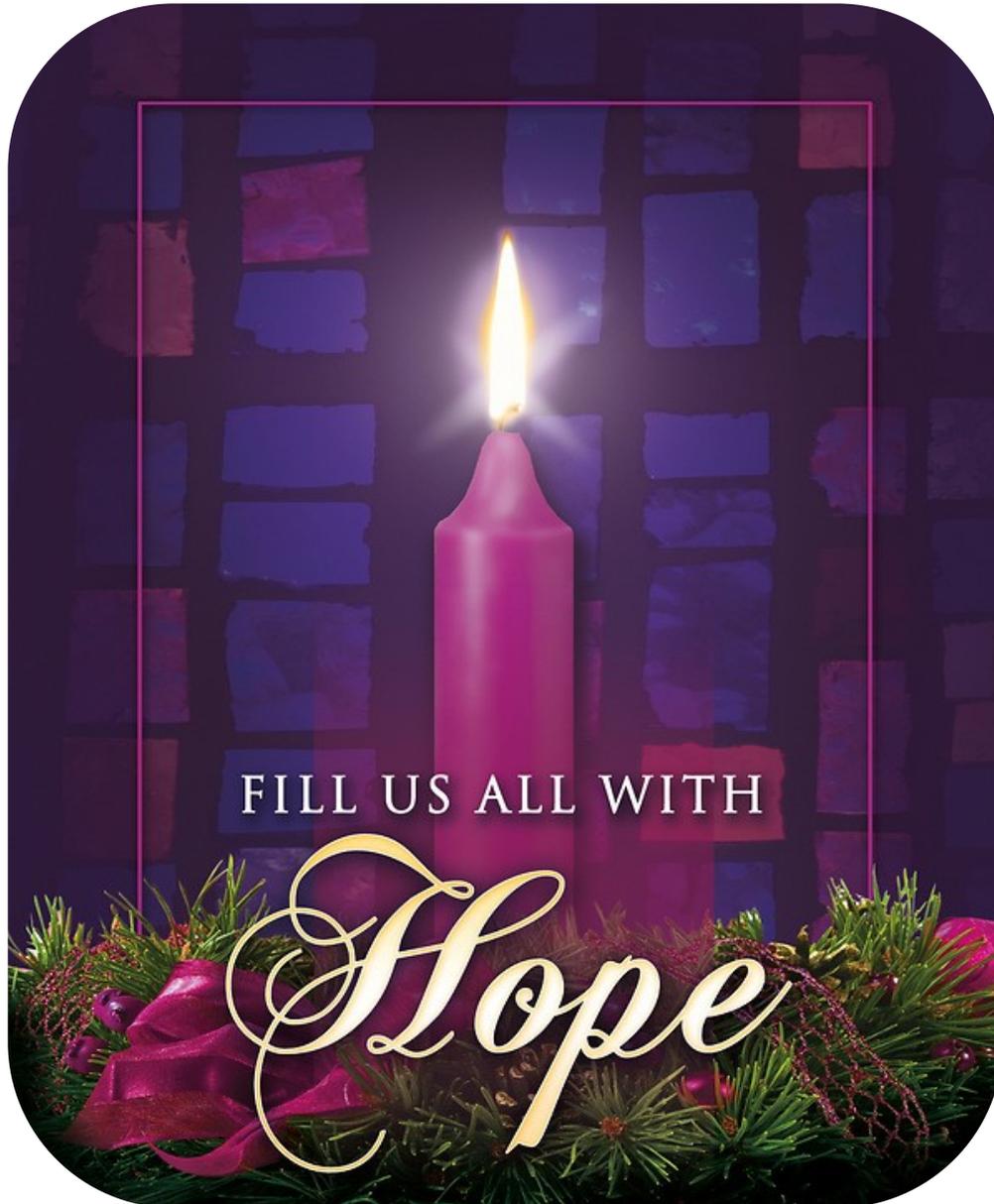
# First Presbyterian Church

meets at

292 West Main Street · Newark, DE 19711  
302-731-5644 · firstpresnewark.org



November 28, 2021



## **First Sunday in Advent**

*A nurturing community in Jesus Christ reflecting God's love for the world  
as we Worship, Grow and Serve.*

**WELCOME**

*We are glad you joined us for worship today! Please take a moment and sign the red friendship pad and let us know you joined us in worship today!*

- \* **PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP** “*More Precious Than Silver*”  
(*this is a prayer we will sing to prepare our hearts for worship*)

DeShazo

Lord, You are  
More precious than silver.  
Lord, You are  
More costly than gold.  
Lord, You are  
More beautiful than diamonds.  
And nothing I desire  
Compares with You.

- \* **CALL TO WORSHIP & LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING**

One: The days are growing darker

**All: But the light of Christ is only growing brighter,**

One: Let it glow through us as we put our differences aside and learn to listen to each other respect each other, seek the truth, and follow the one who has called us into faith.

- \* **HYMN 137**

*“He Came Down”*

HE CAME DOWN

He came down that we may have hope;  
he came down that we may have hope;  
he came down that we may have hope;  
hallelujah forevermore.

- \* **PRAYER** (unison)

**Faithful God, out of war’s chaos, you bring the order of peace. Renew us in hope, that we may work toward Christ’s advent of peace among all nations. God of promise, God of hope, into our darkness come.**

- \* **HYMN 83**

*“Come, Thou Long- Expected Jesus”*

STUTT GART

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us;  
let us find our rest in thee.

Israel’s strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.

(cont. on next page)

Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child and yet a king,  
born to reign in us forever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

#### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**As the nights grow longer and the cold seeps into our very bones we turn to you loving God for warmth. During these long cold nights, we wait in anticipation for the events that are now quickly unfolding. When the shepherds will watch their flocks by night all seated on the ground and the angels came and glory shone around. But the nights are growing longer and the world seems to be growing colder. We see distress among the nations, and brokenness in our country, and even here in our own church. And yet we hear the scriptures tell us “when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” Our redemption draws near: a child wrapped in swaddling clothes, and laid in a manger yet destined to be the savior of this world. And Mary treasured all these words and held them in her heart. May we too in the midst all that is taking place in our world and our lives be like Mary and treasure this time and the events that are enfolding around us in our hearts that we may find the joy that Jesus brings to all hearts that are open. Amen**

#### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

##### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION (responsive)**

**One:** Arise, shine: for your light has come.  
**All:** **O God, we live as if the light had never defeated the darkness in the world or in us.**  
**One:** And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.  
**All:** **We confess that we ignore the Christ you sent to be among us, to be in us.**  
**One:** For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.  
**All:** **We’ve kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season and do not yearn for his birth each moment in our waiting hearts.**  
**One:** And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.  
**All:** **Lord, you came to us in the fullness of time. Forgive us for not opening our eyes to your coming. It’s time that we prepare for your coming. Let the earth ring with song. Let the light break forth. Let us all rejoice in the miracle of love. Let Christ come into the fullness of our time. Amen.**

#### **SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

#### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

#### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**God our helper, by your Holy Spirit, open our minds, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may be led into your truth and taught your will, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Jeremiah 33:14-16, Luke 21:21-25

Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

This is the word of our Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

Luke 21:25-36

"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

This is the word of our Lord

**Thanks be to God.****SERMON**

"The Times They Are Changing"

Rev. Eric Markman

**\* HYMN 93***"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"*

TRURO

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;  
 behold the King of glory waits;  
 the King of kings is drawing near;  
 the Savior of the world is here.

Fling wide the portals of your heart;  
 make it a temple, set apart  
 from earthly use for heaven's employ,  
 adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide  
 my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.  
 Let me thy inner presence feel;  
 thy grace and love in me reveal.

**\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

1 Colossians 1:15-17, Phil. 2:5-11

**Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible.**

**All things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.**

**He is head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn of the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything.**

**For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.**

**Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.**

**And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.**

**Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen.**

**CALL FOR THE OFFERING**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER CONCERNS**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND 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.**

**Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.**

**Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**\* HYMN 106**

*“Prepare the Way, O Zion”*

BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN

Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!

Let every hill and valley a level way appear.

Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.

O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.

He brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above.

His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love.

Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding.

O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.

(cont. on next page)

Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior's rule embrace,  
and tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.  
All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing.

O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.

\* **CHARGE AND BLESSING**

\* **SONG OF SENDING**

*"Soul on Fire"*

Third Day

*(chorus)* God, I'm running for Your heart, I'm running for Your heart.

'Til I am a soul on fire.

Lord, I'm longing for Your ways, I'm waiting for the day

When I am a soul on fire, 'til I am a soul on fire.

*(repeat chorus)*

Lord, restore the joy I had.  
I have wandered, bring me back.  
In this darkness, lead me through  
Until all I see is You, yeah!

*(chorus)*

Lord, let me burn for You again.  
Let me return to You again.  
And Lord, let me burn for You again  
And let me return to You again!

*(chorus)*

God I'm running for Your heart, I'm running for Your heart,

'Til I am a soul on fire,

'Til I am a soul on fire,

'Til I am a soul on fire.

## ADVENT DEVOTIONALS

Gifts from YOUR Adult Education/ Discipleship Committee! Please look for Advent devotionals in the Narthex purchased for you, faithful congregants of First Presbyterian Church, Newark...and guests!

We have two different Christmas booklets for you to choose from this year, so please take your favorite (One per family please). And enjoy this time of preparation for the coming of our King.



*Presbyterian Women present:*

*“Jesus is Born: Light of the World”*

**December 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm**

**in the Sanctuary**

Come join us for an entertaining evening of music and Christmas stories. **All** (members and non-members) are welcome to this free program. Bring a friend.

*John 8:12 “I am the Light of the World.”*

Music will be provided by our Carillon Ringers and the DeBlok fluters recorder group. We will be accepting soda can tabs and toiletries for Ronald McDonald House as well as socks and hats for Hope Dining Room.

### ANNUAL REPORT UPDATE

Its that time again! If you are serving on a board or committee, **I need your annual report by December 17th!** This year, we ask that you submit no more than one half page of highlights and one or two accompanying photos. Thank you! Cindy

## **GIVE AN AGM GIFT**

### **THIS CHRISTMAS**

First Presbyterian Church is again providing the Alternative Gift Market service. You can satisfy your entire gift giving needs and help people all over the world.

The Market will be held this year in our Narthex on the following dates: ***Sundays, November 28 and December 12.***

If you have any questions, contact Sarah Huckleberry at 302-740-7786,

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### ***Hope Dining Room***



We will again be collecting socks for Christmas gifts for the clients. We have Hope on December 13th. The collection will begin on November 14 and end December 5 so we can wrap the socks and have them ready for the 13th. There will be baskets in the narthex and at the office for your gifts. We thank you for your gifts, they are truly appreciated.

Willee and Paul Short-willeepauls@gmail.com



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**A Blue Christmas worship service** of comfort will be offered at First Presbyterian, Newark, **at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 11 in the Parlors in Memorial Hall.** If your holiday spirit is

waning for any reason please join us for a quiet service of remembrance for what we have lost. If there will be an empty chair at your Christmas table or if Christmas finds you mourning any kind of loss, this is a safe place to gather. Pastor Eric and Beth Thomas will officiate. All are welcome.



## Chancel Flowers Update for 2022

Flowers can be dedicated in honor or memory of family, friends and loved ones. *If you have a specific date you wish to reservice, please call early!*

**Beginning January 1, 2022, Cost will be \$31.00 for two.**

You are welcome to take flowers home after worship on Sunday mornings, or we can deliver to a home bound member.

Please contact the church office at 731-5644 or email Cindy at [cindyrogers@firstpresnewark.org](mailto:cindyrogers@firstpresnewark.org) to sign up.

## *Dinanga School Fundraiser*

*The Session has approved a focused fundraising campaign to accelerate the fundraising for the Dinanga school addition. The original school construction at our sister church was funded in 2012. Full details are located in the December Heart Beat. And can be read using the link below:*

### Dinanga Fundraiser

Donations can be made by noting your offering as a special offering for the Dinanga computer lab. If there are any questions please contact me -Jim Annett @ 484-643-2230 or [jimannett@verizon.net](mailto:jimannett@verizon.net).

## Afghan Family Update

We are working jointly with the Seventh Day Adventist Church to help a family of 6 with children from 17 down to 4. Below is Sign Up Genius link for you to pick items you would like to get for the family. Donations can be delivered to Carolyn Morton's home. Contact her for more information. 302-737-7612.

**<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0E4DADAD2FABFD0-afghan>**

## *Christmas Memorials 2021*



The Christmas season is a time when people remember and honor loved ones. Our church provides two opportunities to appreciate and recall special people during the holiday season. The traditional poinsettias will be in the sanctuary on December 19th. You may pick up your poinsettia (s) after the Christmas Eve service you attend on December 24th. The cost for each poinsettia is \$15.00. An alternate choice will be to make a contribution to our local mission project, . You may pay with cash or check made payable to: First Presbyterian Church. On the memo line of the check please indicate "Poinsettia" or "Local Mission."

Order forms are available in the narthex and in memorial hall. Send the form and payment to First Presbyterian Church or place both in the offering plate by **DECEMBER 10th**. All memorials received by the deadline will be acknowledged in the church bulletin. If you have any questions, please call the church office at



**CHRISTMAS JOY**  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

*2021 Christmas Joy  
Offering*

*will be received*

*on Sunday, December 19th*

*God is with us. Matthew 1:23*

### ZOOM LINKS!

#### **Bible Study in Memorial Hall following worship**

Join using link below:

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82450506872>**

#### **Grief Support Group (12/12)**

Join using the link below:

**<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86489317426>**

## ***Prayer Concerns/Praises.....***

*If you know of someone who is hospitalized, please contact the church office and let us know. Prayer email: prayers @firstpresnewark.org.*

*New names are listed in bold.*

### **Praise:**

Rick and Judy Agnello's loving care for Carlton and Martha

Praise for Afghan families that have arrived in Newark

Liam and Walter's baptism

**We begin our Advent Season!**

### **Healing:**

Garrett Norman, Sr / Answers

Fiona (Jan Fickeissen's neighbor)-cancer

Bob Wenner

Susan Holt (Jerry Holt's sister-in-law) memory loss

Anne (friend of Nancy Boulden's)

Jason healing and relief from pain

Holly Hodges (friend of Crystal Norman) –cancer-limited treatment

Tom Brockenbrough moved to Cadia

Richardson family-unspeakable needs (neighbor of Doris Brewer)

Tim Brown- (Nancy Lewis' son in law) back surgery

Nancy Baldwin (Melody's sister's step daughter)  
breast cancer

**Julie Short** (Willie and Paul's in-laws)-knee surgery

### **Grief/Sympathy**

The families of:

Myles Stiefvater

Jim Dodd (friends of Nancy and Urie  
Boulden's)

Al Pellegrini (friend of Nancy Stevens)

Joseph George (Janet Thomson's father)

C. Lawler Rogers – (Nancy Lewis's  
former choir director)

William Thomson-Memorial Service  
12/4 at 11:00am

Jim Aftosmis (Carol's husband)

### **Comfort and Protection:**

All Teachers and students

Pastor Tshibuabua – our Dinanga Family

Afghan families resettling in the United States

Health Care Professionals and all essential workers

All struggling with mental health issues

**Garrett Norman, Jr - student teaching experience**

Traveling mercies for our church family and their  
families as they travel for Thanksgiving

Those grieving the anniversary of their loved one's  
passing

### **Wisdom:**

Pastor Eric

God's Guidance for Our Church

Grief Group

For all members to work together for the good of the  
church with Grace and Respect for each other

**Our committees and all who serve.**

### **Long term prayer:**

Marian Bowen

Doris Brewer-mold problem resolved

Rhettta Brighton

Lea McMurtry

Crystal Norman

Esther Reutter

Carlton and Martha Tappan

Stephen Thachik

Evelyn Hayes

Kelly Lovelace Soliman

Pat Steele

Rob Linwood

**USHERS:** Joe and Lois Huggins  
**COUNTERS:** Matt Reyne, Scott Sheldon  
**LITURGIST:** Angela Abankwa-Opoku  
**CLOSER:** Joe Huggins  
**GREETERS:** Vickie Person-Perry, Pat Steele

**THE CHANCEL FLOWERS ARE DONATED BY:**  
Andy and Lauren Stayton in loving  
memory of Thordis Searl

**NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP LINE UP—DECEMBER 5, 2021**

**USHERS:** Sandy and Bob Wenner  
**COUNTERS:** Ron Olson and Steve Hardwick  
**LITURGIST:** Jim Pierson-Perry  
**CLOSER:** Kern Piser

**LIST OF OFFICERS BY CLASS**

**SESSION**      **CLERK OF SESSION**—Nancy Lewis  
**Class of 2022:** Nancy Lewis, Jim Newsom, Jim Pierson-Perry  
**Class of 2023:** Greg Hills, Don Tancredi  
**Class of 2024:** Melody Bock, Pat Nelson, Bob Wunder

**DEACONS**      **MODERATOR:** Jane Moore      **VICE MODERATOR:** Norma Salomon  
**Class of 2022:** Judy Agnello, Jan Huckleberry, Lois Huggins, Bob Wenner  
**Class of 2023:** Angela Abankwa-Opoku, Nancy Boulden, Anne Lewis, Norma Salomon  
**Class of 2024:** Rosemarie Beron, Jane Moore, Pat Steele, Nancy Stevens

**TRUSTEES**      **PRESIDENT:** Ron Olson      **VICE PRESIDENT:** Ken Lewis  
**Class of 2022:** Ann Ferreira, Bill Lewis, Ron Olson, Scott Sheldon  
**Class of 2023:** John Bock, Francis Kwansa, Ken Lewis, Jynx Stevenson  
**Class of 2024:** Jim Annett, Joe Challburg, Jerry Holt, Kern Piser

**Online giving is available through PayPal** or you can mail or drop your offerings off at the church office. Visit our website giving page for details. <https://firstpresnewark.org/giving-at-fpc-n/>

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**INTERIM PASTOR:** Rev. Eric Markman  
Email: [ericmarkman@firstpresnewark.org](mailto:ericmarkman@firstpresnewark.org); Phone: 603-770-3239

**OFFICE MANAGER:** Cindy Rogers  
Email: [cindyrogers@firstpresnewark.org](mailto:cindyrogers@firstpresnewark.org)

**MUSIC LEADERS:** Dave Baker, Karen Baker, Larry Benson, Melody Bock, Griff Campbell, Jim Pierson-Perry, Mark Sisk, Myles Thompson

**VIDEO/MEDIA TEAM:** John Bock, Matthew Bowen, Dave Evers, Ted Koser, Jim Pierson-Perry, Jeff Rogers

**WEBSITE:** [www.firstpresnewark.org](http://www.firstpresnewark.org)

**PHONE:** 302-731-5644

**EMAIL:** [fpchurch@firstpresnewark.org](mailto:fpchurch@firstpresnewark.org)

**PRAYER EMAIL:** [prayers@firstpresnewark.org](mailto:prayers@firstpresnewark.org)

**ONLINE GIVING:** <https://firstpresnewark.org/giving-at-fpc-n/> (copy link to your web browser)

**LIKE US ON FACEBOOK:** First Presbyterian Church of Newark

**OFFICE HOURS:** Monday-Thursday 9:00am—2:00pm, Friday 9:00am—12:30pm