

# First Presbyterian Church

Wooster, Ohio



## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 30, 2025

10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

*Five Noels, from 'L'Organiste'*

*César Franck*

Eric J. Gastier, organ

POURING THE BAPTISMAL WATERS

WELCOME

Ann Gastier

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

Kyle, Jenna, Macey, and Anna Pagel

One: As we enter this sacred season, we gather around this wreath  
and light the first candle of Advent, the candle of Hope.

With this candle, we remember the source of our hope for peace, joy, and love  
and rekindle our imagination for the work of justice. Let us pray:

**All: Loving God, once more you come into the world, embodying our deepest longings—  
enter into our lives again and fill us with your Hope.**

**In your presence, inspire us to work for that day when your justice and peace  
will be plain for all to see.**

**In the name of the Light of the World, we pray. Amen**

All Sing:

Herbert F. Brokering

Aaron David Miller



\*CALL TO WORSHIP +

Calin Baxstrom

One: In Advent we watch and wait and prepare to welcome the Child of Wonder anew.

**All: In Advent we prepare for lives of discipleship  
and watch faithfully for the signs of God's light breaking into the world.**

One: As we await Holy Mystery, we watch for signs of God's action in the world,  
actions of compassion and grace breaking in around us.

**All: Come, Lord Jesus, come! Be born anew in our world and in our lives.**

\*HYMN 106

*Prepare the Way, O Zion*

*BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION +

**All: Gracious and Loving God, we give thanks for the promise of this sacred season  
and for the joy we find embodied in a child born long ago.  
Yet even as we rejoice, we recognize that we often fail to live  
with the hope of healing and wholeness for all creation.  
In this season of anticipation, we know that we are easily distracted  
by our own projects and preparation.  
We lose focus on the one who is the Source of our Hope.  
Forgive us, God, and restore our trust in you.**

*Here each worshipper may offer personal, silent prayer.*

Gracious God, hear our prayers. **Amen**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS +

The promise of the season of Advent is the promise of Emmanuel, God with us.  
Jesus calls us to keep awake so that we are ready to receive Holy Mystery.  
Therefore, let us lay aside all those things that distract us from faithful watching.  
As we wait, let us rejoice that in God's grace we are all forgiven. **Amen**

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you . . . **And also with you.**

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Amy Baxstrom

ANTHEM

*Come, Lord Jesus, Come to Earth (text: Herbert F. Brokering)*

Walter L. Pelz

SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 3:14-16 Psalm 25:1-9 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 Pew Bible 659, 475, 192

SERMON

*Prepare for the Lord*

Ann Gastier

\*HYMN 88

***O Come, O Come, Emmanuel***

*VENI EMMANUEL*

OFFERING OF SUBSTANCE AND LIFE

**We continue receiving 2026 Pledge Cards.**

Through our monetary gifts, we offer something of our work and ourselves to God.

OFFERTORY

*Noel, from 'Esquisses Byzantine'*

Henri Mulet

\*DOXOLOGY 607

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;  
praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Ann Gastier

**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**

\*HYMN 82

***Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus***

*HYFRYDOL*

\*BENEDICTION: Hymn 106 (verse 1)

***Prepare the Way O Zion***

*BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN*

POSTLUDE

*Sortie, from 'L'Organiste'*

César Franck

\* Asterisk indicates places in the service to stand.

+ Liturgy adapted from *Seasons of the Spirit*





On December 5<sup>th</sup> from 4:00-7:00pm we will be participating in the Historic Church Tour. We will need volunteers to welcome guests into the church, showcase our beautiful Sanctuary, and invite them to Bruch Hall for some light refreshments and spiritual practices. Please let Amy Baxstrom know if you can help!



**You Are Invited...to SEE and HEAR  
Sonnenberg Station perform at FPC on  
December 6, 2025 at 3:00pm**

### **The Annual FPC Holly Jolly Holiday Potluck – Sunday, December 7!**

Get ready to sleigh the season! Our **Annual First Presbyterian Church Holly Jolly Holiday Potluck** is coming up, and we can't wait to celebrate together. Join us on **Sunday, December 7**, right after the **10:30 a.m. service**, as **Bruch Hall** fills with warmth, joy, and all the flavors of the season. This cherished tradition brings our whole church family together to **jingle and mingle** over a festive shared meal full of community spirit.

**Turkey and ham will be provided**, and we invite everyone to bring a favorite holiday dish to share. Whether it's a treasured family recipe or a **fresh festive favorite**, your contribution adds to the celebration.

**Sign-ups are available in the Gathering Area or online.**