



FAITH IMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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OUR STAFF:

Pastoral Care:

Rev. Dr. John Schmidt

Music Director:

Brad Hull

Custodian:

Jim Devor

Treasurer:

George Hope

Financial Secretary:

Carolyn Frischkorn

Office Administrator:

Christine Constantine

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday – Friday

9:00am – 4:00pm



FIRST SUNDAY OF
ADVENT

December 1, 2024

FAITH IMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"A welcoming community serving God and Neighbor"

First Sunday of Advent

Worship at 11:00 am

December 1, 2024

As you enter the sanctuary, please silence your cell phones and maintain a reverential quiet as you prepare your heart and mind to worship God. If you have a prayer request you would like to share with the pastor, please fill out a prayer card and pass it to the center aisle where an usher will collect it during the first hymn.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"Prepare the Way of the Lord"

Vocal Choir

Taize Chant

WE CELEBRATE THE PRESENCE OF GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We gather this morning to begin a new Christian year, a season of Advent, of waiting.

All: **Waiting? Look around and see brightly decorated trees, packages neatly wrapped, and Christmas songs blaring from sound systems.**

and a half octaves of Malmark Handbells, four octaves of Petit and Fritsen Handbells, Silver Melody Bells, and Hand chimes, and other assorted instruments. In 2015, the ensemble performed at the White House. The Ensemble will have their selection of popular CD recordings available for purchase at the concert.

PRAYERS OF JOY & CONCERNS AT FAITH IMMANUEL CHURCH

Claire Hetzel: Prayers for healing.

Gary: Friend of Lori Beamer. Prayers for Gary and his family. Diagnosed with stage 4 cancer.

Joy! Greg and Barb: Friends and family of Sherri Linn. Both involved in separate car accidents. Prayers of thanks that they are both okay.

Christine Constantine: Broken toe. Prayers for healing.

Billie Hawk: Prayers for healing.

The Family of Baby Ben: Ben passed away Nov. 23rd. Prayers.

Linda: Friend of Sheila Kannegieser. Prayers regarding an upcoming surgery.

Kevin: Prayers for 4 year old recovering from heart surgery Nov 25.

Joy! Ronald Neumann: Christine Constantine's Dad. Recovered from partially collapsed lung. Thank you for your prayers.

Blessings and prayers for our church members who are currently undergoing physical therapy and/or are awaiting an operation/procedure.

Ongoing Prayers for:

Gerard Horn, Robert Crawshaw, Monica DeFriesse, Sharon Bikle, Jim Milbrand, Fred & Jean Muncert, Cindy Lloyd, James Kilgus, Bridget Kilgus, Barbara Townsend, Bruce McLaren, Gail Diefenderfer, Pat Lebo's Family (multiple family members suffering with health issues), Sarah Finkle, & Skip.

were fortified by a delicious lunch provided by members of the Congregational Life committee: Lori Beamer, Shirley Cleaver, Bonnie Hack (her soup was YUMMY), Cathy Hartwick, Joan Hoffman, Mickey Hoffman and Gary Souders. Gary served double duty, staying into the afternoon to help decorate along with Susan Anthony, Susan Dinges (who was also there Saturday to help “stage” supplies and put up two trees along with Pat Reidell and Elise Kelly Berry). Susan Skelly, Ruth Woodlen, Ruth Ward, Tracee Olver, John Hanks, George Hope, Norm and Gail Diefenderfer, Merry Ann Kish, Erna Tunno, Leafie Phillips, Mackenzie and Mary Lazar. Cheryl Caplan also stayed to help and returned with her daughter Hannah on Tuesday to finish off the choir loft garlands and wreaths – ladder work that is best left for the younger generation, although George did climb to place bows and secure the garland above the sanctuary doors. Peggy Manning, away on Sunday, wouldn’t be denied her wreath hanging abilities so she did her part on Monday by making sure the biggest wreath of all was hung outside! We had an excellent crew, more folks than we have had to help in a number of years, with some new faces that were great to see. On behalf of the Music and Worship Committee, thank you one and all!

THANK YOU! Dear Faith Immanuel Family, Thank you so much for your gifts of love and support during the illness and subsequent death of my beloved husband Wendell. I am gradually working on individual thank-you notes. Please include our family in your prayers. Peace be with you. - Rose Jewell-Jordan

BUDGET: Stewardship & Finance: October Income Vs. Expense
Income = 18,761.79
Expense = 21,815.76
Difference = -3,053.97

ADVENT: The 2024 edition of the FIPC Advent Devotional is available in the Gathering Area. The Nurture Committee would like to thank all who contributed to the devotional this year. We appreciate their willingness to share their faith with us. We hope the devotional will help you prepare for the coming of Christ again this Christmas season.

CONCERT: Concerts on Colonial presents the Hershey Handbell Ensemble on Sunday, December 15th at 3pm. Invite your friends, neighbors and family to enjoy this wonderful free holiday concert at Faith Immanuel. Formed in 2004, the fifteen-member ensemble is based in south-central Pennsylvania and performs under the direction of Dr. Shawn Gingerich. It was established to fulfill the need for an auditioned community ensemble comprised of persons able to play advanced literature and interested in advancing the art of handbell ringing through education and performance, while uniting people through the musical arts. Ringers representing seven south-central PA counties, perform on seven

One: The world declares that a red-suited man is here, but I say to you that the baby who is coming won’t be wrapped in colorful paper, but in a simple cloth. Wait!

All: **We open ourselves to worship, to avoid the world’s distractions, to wait and prepare for the Savior’s birth.**

Advent Candle

One: “Emmanuel, while we are waiting come.”
Elizabeth lost hope that she could bear a child but now she waits for the miracle in her womb to be born.

All: **Her son John will prepare the way for the Messiah and announce his coming.**

One: We light the first Advent candle for Elizabeth who waits for what God has revealed.

All: **“Emmanuel, while we are waiting come.”**

Sing: “Emmanuel, Emmanuel!” (See Next Page)

OPENING PRAYER

***HYMN # 83**

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

189 EMMANUEL, EMMANUEL

Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a Son, and shall name Him Immanuel.
Isaiah 7:14

Unison

Em-man - u - el, Em-man - u - el,

His name is called Em-man - u - el. God with

us, re-vealed in us, His name is

called Em-man - u - el.

Final ending

Text: Bob McGee, b.1949
Tune: McGEE, Irregular; Bob McGee, b.1949
© 1976, C.A. Music (div. of C. A. Records, Inc.) ASCAP

AUGUST

Central Dauphin School District
NutriPaks Program

SEPTEMBER

Christian Churches United - Shelter House

OCTOBER

Downtown Daily Bread (items for shelter)

NOVEMBER

Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas

Child Shoeboxes

DECEMBER

Christmas offering envelopes

(monetary donations only)

(recipient of funds to be determined)

We look forward to your support as you are able.

COOKIE EXCHANGE: The 2nd Annual Christmas Cookie Exchange and Lunch will be held Sunday December 8th, after worship.

CAROLING: Please, join us at 6pm on Tuesday December 10th for Christmas Caroling around a nearby neighborhood. We will meet in the Library at 6pm. After caroling, we will reconvene back at the church to warm up with refreshments. Please, sign up in the Gathering Area.

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE: For those experiencing recent or "past" grief due to loss, please attend our Blue Christmas worship service at 2pm on Wednesday, Dec. 18th. Family, friends and neighbors are also invited. The holiday season is a time to be joyful and festive, but for many, this time of year can be difficult. Be together with others for music, prayer, and spiritual support.

MISSION-A-MONTH: Our **December Mission a Month** is our special **CHRISTMAS OFFERING**. Monies received will be sent to Downtown Daily Bread this year. A Christmas Offering envelope is included as one of your special offering envelopes. Please be sure to note "Christmas Offering" on your check so that your donation is credited to this mission. As you know, Downtown Daily Bread meets the needs of those facing hunger and homelessness in the Harrisburg area. Several members of our congregation volunteer every week to serve lunches. God bless you all for your time and dedication.

THANKS! Thanks to those of you who packed Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. Twenty-four boxes were delivered to the local drop-off location. God bless you for your thoughtfulness and kindness in filling these boxes which will be delivered to children around the world as a way to share God's love. Our donation was gratefully accepted and will certainly be appreciated by the children.

THANK YOU! A huge thank you to all those who stayed after church on Sunday to help beautify our sanctuary and surrounding areas for the Advent season. We

SATURDAY, DEC 6TH

SHAFFER HALL RESERVED FOR CHRISTMAS LUNCH SETUP

SUNDAY, DEC 8TH

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:30am **Deacons:** *Zarfoss Library*

11:00am **Worship:** *Sanctuary*

12:00pm **Christmas Lunch and Cookie Exchange:** *Shaffer Hall*

Guest Pastors: Rev. Ruth Ward

7:00pm **Pack 256 Committee Meeting:** *Nevada Room*

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

WELCOME: Rev. Woodlen is ordained in The United Methodist Church and a graduate of Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. (earning two degrees: Master of Divinity and a Master of Religious Education). She served churches in Philadelphia and Chester County for 23 years including mission experiences in Nicaragua, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and East Germany. She traveled to China twice for the adoption of her daughters. After retiring from active ministry, she moved to Harrisburg to become the Executive Director of the Mental Health Association of the Capital Region and then as a Program Director for Gaudenzia, Inc.

WELCOME: Rev. Don Potter is one of our guest preachers, today. He is a native of Canton, OH, a graduate of Spring Arbor University (MI), and Princeton Theological Seminary (NJ). He has served three Presbyterian Churches, all in PA-Kittanning, Mechanicsburg, & Middletown. He retired in 2015 and serves as Visitation Pastor at Camp Hill Presbyterian Church and supply preacher throughout Carlisle Presbytery.

MISSION: Session has approved the Mission Committee's 2025 Mission a Month Calendar as listed below:

JANUARY	Humane Society of the Harrisburg Area
FEBRUARY	HANNA's Pantry Souper Bowl of Caring
MARCH	One Great Hour of Sharing (monetary donations only)
APRIL	Easter offering envelopes (monetary donations only) (recipient of funds to be determined)
MAY	Paxton Ministries
JUNE	Veteran's Hospital
JULY	Hospice of Central Pennsylvania (monetary donations only)

***UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Holy God, we confess that we are busy with many preparations. We are busy with parties, with feasts, with giving. We are busy cleaning the house and wrapping presents. We are busy with the stuff of the holiday. And we confess that our busyness may be misplaced, that we spend more time preparing for things than preparing for You. Draw us back to the center, which is You. Remind us that our hearts and souls have work to do, too. Enable us to let go of what does not matter, and to see what does matter. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

***SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

One: In this be confident: that the grace of God is active enough to forgive, and the love of God is powerful enough to transform.

All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are God's by grace. With great joy we are made alive. Thanks be to God!

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** 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.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

(Please, greet one another with the peace of Christ.)

WE RECEIVE THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 33:14-16
Old Testament, pg. # 738

(Pew Bibles are located under your seats.)

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

“Advent Lyrie”

J. Parker / D. Lantz

SECOND READING

Luke 1:5-25
New Testament, pg. # 56

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Mushroom Faith”
Rev. Ruth Hope Woodlen

***HYMN # 93**

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

WE PRESENT OURSELVES TO GOD

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Dec 6TH: Pat Bivens

Dec 8TH: Wendy Coad

Today's Chancel Flowers are placed by Shirley McLaren:

“In loving memory of Hazel and Arch L. Martin, Shirley McLaren's parents. Hazel was born on Christmas Day and celebrated for 92 years, beginning in 1906.”

UPCOMING AT FAITH IMMANUEL

DECEMBER 1ST THROUGH DECEMBER 8TH

SUNDAY, DEC 1ST

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

COMMUNION

11:00am **Worship:** *Sanctuary*

Guest Pastors: Rev. Don Potter and Rev. Ruth Woodlen

MONDAY, DEC 2ND

1:30pm **Organ Practice:** *Sanctuary*

3:30pm **Vocal Choir Rehearsal:** *Music Room*

5:45pm **Bell Choir Rehearsal:** *Music Room*

TUESDAY, DEC 3RD

KITCHEN RESERVED FOR CHRISTMAS TEA

1:00pm **Game Time:** *TBA*

2:30pm **Nurture:** *Zarfoss Library*

6:30pm **Congregational Life:** *Nevada Room & Zarfoss Library*

WEDNESDAY, DEC 4TH

KITCHEN RESERVED FOR CHRISTMAS TEA

9:00am **HB McClure Meeting:** *Zarfoss Library*

12:00pm **Church Office Closes Early**

1:30pm **Ladies Christmas Tea:** *Sanctuary*

6:30pm **Girl Scouts:** *Nevada Room*

THURSDAY, DEC 5TH

6:00pm **PNC:** *Parlor*

6:00pm **Mission:** *Zarfoss Library*

7:00pm **Cub Scouts:** *Shaffer Hall, Nevada Room, & Room 3*

FRIDAY, DEC 6TH

12:30pm **Piano Tuning:** *Sanctuary*

*BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

“Amen”
Hymn # 601

*POSTLUDE

“Prepare the Way, O Zion”
Swedish Melody / W. Cassler

*Indicates where those who are able may stand.

A WARM WELCOME to all who are worshipping with us this morning. It is our hope that you feel the friendliness of our congregation as you worship with us today.

REMINDER: Please, silence mobile phones.

SANITIZER: Due to cold and flu season, we have placed hand sanitizer for your use in the welcome center.

PRAYER REQUESTS may be emailed to the church office by Thursday at 2pm for Sunday service. If you have a joy or concern to share for this morning's service, you may fill out a blue prayer card and pass it to the usher during the first hymn.

OUR SERVICES ARE RECORDED ON CDs. If you or someone you know would like to hear these CDs, please contact the Church Office at 717-545-4631.

SANITIZED HEARING DEVICES, LARGE PRINT HYMNALS, AND BIBLES are available from ushers. Shawls are also available to borrow from ushers.

DIRECTIONAL SIGNAGE for restrooms, including a handicapped restroom, and worship service Family Quiet Room is posted in the Gathering Area. Please, ask ushers for assistance.

WORSHIP SERVICES ARE LIVESTREAMED. You may appear on camera. Services are recorded on YouTube.

TODAY IN WORSHIP - 11:00 am

Ushers: *Susan Anthony & Susan Skelly*
Lay Reader: *Rev. Don Potter*
Advent Reader: *Lori Beamer*
Advent Lighter: *Joan Hoffman*

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in God, the creator, who moved upon the face of the deep at the beginning of creation. Who created all that is, and who spoke through the prophets of old.

We believe in Jesus Christ, into whom God's spirit was poured in fullness and power, that the whole creation might be restored and unified. And who promised that the Spirit would come and fill the faithful with power to witness to the mighty love of God.

We wait on that spirit today with longing hearts, seeking to be empowered to witness to the God's love in Christ, with fresh words and courageous actions of love and hope.

Glory be to God – Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit – now and always.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

MUSICAL MEDITATION

“Savior of the Nations Come”
arr. W. Wold

*DOXOLOGY

Hymn #606

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)**

Gracious God, in this season of anticipation, we offer our gifts with hopeful hearts. As we prepare for the fullness of your kingdom, may these offerings be a sign of our readiness and desire to live attentively. Use them to bring justice, righteousness, and joy to our world. Surprise us with your presence and help us to pay attention, and to embrace the hope you bring. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

One: The Spirit calls us to the Table of our Lord, speaking good news in this Advent time of waiting and watching.

All: **The day of our deliverance has dawned in the coming of One who will redeem his people.**

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

One: Let us pray...

One: ...Then we sing the Sanctus...

(The people sing, using same tune as Hymn 143,
Angels from the Realms of Glory)

**Holy, Holy, Lord most holy,
God of power and God of might,
Heaven and earth reveal your glory.
Hail, hosanna, Lord of Light!
Blessed be the coming Savior.
Hail, hosanna, Lord of Light!**

One: We praise you, most holy God... Remembering our Lord's self-giving love, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: **Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

THE LORDS PRAYER AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

WE GO TO THE WORLD AS CHRIST'S OWN

***HYMN # 106**

Prepare the Way, O Zion