

ADVENT



*A Season
of Expectation*

November 30, 2025

**FAITH IMMANUEL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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First Sunday of Advent

Worship at 11:00 AM

November 30, 2025

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

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Barb Dugan

MINUTE FOR ADVENT

Rev. Ruth Hope Woodlen

PRELUDE

“Wait For The Lord”

Chancel Choir

WE CELEBRATE THE PRESENCE OF GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Beloved once again, we embark on the Advent path that points us to the coming of Jesus.

All: We journey together toward the day that all the earth awaits.

One: We remember the signs and the times that heralded the arrival of the baby Jesus, God Incarnate.

All: We journey together toward the day that all the earth awaits.

One: We tell the stories once again as we learn how to discern the signs and the times, watching for glimpses of God’s here-and-not-yet kingdom among us.

All: We journey together toward the day that all the earth awaits.

One: Come, let us worship God who shines a light to guide us on the path to peace and flourishing for all creation.

All: Come, let us worship as we journey together toward the day that all the earth awaits.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

One: The prophet Isaiah calls to us from the past to imagine the future when God's reign will be fully realized and recognized throughout creation. When that time comes, God "shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more" (Isaiah 2:4).

All: Today, we choose to live in hope, believing that the time of God's reign has come and is coming among us.

One: We light this candle of hope as a sign of our promise to follow the Light as we answer God's call to transform our hope into reality today and in the days to come.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** "Emmanuel, Emmanuel" Insert

OPENING PRAYER

***HYMN** "All Earth is Waiting" Insert

***UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Holy God, You call us to wake from sleep, to become aware to our surroundings. The dawn of a new time of preparation is upon us. Forgive us when sleepiness takes its toll, when our discussions become battles, when our judgment and self-judgement outweigh our faith. Let us put on the light of Christ and live as You have called us in respect, in mutual dialogue, and in healthy living. Help us so that everything we do reflects Christ's light. Amen.

***SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

One: Love is always waiting to be found among us in Christ Jesus. It will surprise us with its faithfulness and kindness.

All: On this day, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** "Gloria Patri" Pg. #581

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

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

WE RECEIVE THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of Hope, give us ears to hear and hearts to trust the promises you offer to us in this season of Advent. Amen.

(Pew Bibles are located under your seats.)

FIRST READING

Isaiah 2:1-5

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

Old Testament, pg. #631

ALL: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

“We Await You”

R. Schram

SECOND READING

Matthew 24:35-44

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

New Testament, pg. #27

ALL: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Are We There Yet?”

Rev. Ruth Hope Woodlen

***HYMN**

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Pg. #82

WE PRESENT OURSELVES TO GOD

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We are the people of God. We are the sign of the new world. We are the brothers and sisters of Jesus. We believe in God. We believe in the goodness of God, the presence of God in human history and the nearness of God’s love. We believe in Jesus Christ. We believe that God was and is revealed in human life, that out of human suffering may come rescue and healing, that out of death comes new life. We believe in the Eternal Spirit. We believe that spirit moves among God’s people and invites the world into God’s reign. We believe that the world can change, that peace and wholeness can come, and the new world can arrive. We are the people of God. We are the sign of the new world. We are the brothers and sisters of Jesus.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

In response to God's goodness and in gratitude for all that the Lord has done for us, let us offer ourselves and our gifts for the work of the church and to glorify God.

OFFERTORY "From Heaven Above" D. Schack

***DOXOLOGY** Hymn Pg. #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 DEDICATION** (unison)

Ever-Watchful God, you call us to live not in fear, but in faithful anticipation. As we offer these gifts, we do so as people preparing our hearts, our hands, and our world for your coming reign. We confess that we often cling too tightly to our comforts and schedules, forgetting that your kingdom calls us to loosen our grip and lift our eyes. Awaken us, Lord, to the "someday" you are already shaping through our love, our justice, and our generosity. Let these offerings be signs of readiness, trust, and joy as we wait—and work—for your future to break into our present. In the name of the one who comes, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (Matthew 24:36-44)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

WE PRESENT OURSELVES TO GOD

***HYMN** "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You" Pg. #82

***BENEDICTION**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** "Amen" Pg. #601

***POSTLUDE** "Savior of the Nation's To Come" W. Wold

**Indicates where those who are able may stand.*

The Flowers are presented today by Mickey Hoffman, "In memory of In loving memory of Husband, Dennis H. Hoffman.

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.

TODAY WE WELCOME Rev. Ruth Hope Woodlen. 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.

REMINDER: Please, silence mobile phones.

PRAYER REQUESTS may be emailed to the church office by Wednesday at 12pm 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.

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY:

Lay Reader: Tracee Olver

Ushers: Mickey Hoffman & Sally Humbert

UPCOMING AT FAITH IMMANUEL

NOVEMBER 30 THROUGH DECEMBER 6

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30 -

- 9:30am **SUNDAY SCHOOL** - Zarfoss Library
11:00am **WORSHIP** - Sanctuary
12:45pm **AGAPE NEPALI CHURCH** - Sanctuary
4:00pm **GIRL SCOUT TROOP 14071** - Shaffer Hall/Nevada

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1-

- 1:30pm **ORGAN PRACTICE**
3:30pm **VOCAL CHOIR PRACTICE**
5:45pm **BELL CHOIR PRACTICE**
6:30pm **CUB SCOUTS PACK 256** - Nevada Room
6:15pm **CCA BOARD MEETING** - Zarfoss Library

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2 -

- 2:00pm **CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE MEETING -**
 Nevada Room
2:230pm **NURTURE COMMITTEE** - Zarfoss Library
6:30pm **GIRL SCOUT TROOP 11261**

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3 -

- 2:00pm **BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE** - Sanctuary

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

- 6:00pm **MISSION COMMITTEE MEETING** - Parlor

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

- 7:00pm **BABY SHOWER SET-UP** - Nevada Room

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

- 9:00am **COOKIE WALK SET-UP** - Shaffer Hall
12:00pm **BABY SHOWER** - Nevada Room

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOTICE OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A congregational Meeting has been called by Session for Sunday, **Dec. 7** , after an abbreviated worship service and before lunch and the cookie exchange. The purpose of the meeting is to vote to affirm The Rev. Caroline A. Vickery as part-time solo pastor for Faith Immanuel Presbyterian Church starting Jan. 1, 2026. The Rev. Kristal Smith from the Presbytery of Carlisle will moderate the meeting.

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS

The Nurture Committee is pleased to provide Advent devotionals for this season of reflection and anticipation. These devotionals will be available in the Gathering Area. We kindly ask that each household take one copy to ensure there are enough for everyone. It is our hope that these devotionals will enrich your Advent journey and help prepare your hearts to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

BLUE CHRISTMAS

If you are experiencing or having experienced loss - a loved one, relocation, health, employment, identity, independence, mobility - please come to our service on **December 3 at 2pm** for our Blue Christmas service.

ORDER POINSETTIAS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Red and white, potted and foiled poinsettias to adorn a poinsettia tree in the Gathering Area can be ordered by completing a form or contacting the church office. You can choose white or red plants and designate in memory, honor of to God. You can also designate whether you want to take the plant(s) home with you or have Deacons deliver to homebound members. The cost is \$20 per poinsettia with orders due by **Dec. 5th**. Checks should be made out to Faith Immanuel Presbyterian Church with Poinsettia identified in the subject line. Checks with order forms can be placed in offering plates at Sunday services or given to the church office. The poinsettia tree will be on display on Sunday, Dec. 21, and Christmas Eve, Thursday, Dec. 24. Plants are available to be picked up after the Christmas Eve service or Sunday, Dec. 28. Sue Skelly and Norm Diefenderfer from the worship committee are thanked for providing this display.

SEMI-SURPRISE BIRTHDAY BASH FOR MARGE BARNER

Marge Barner's family is cooking up a delightful semi-surprise birthday bash, and you're on the guest list! Join us as we honor Marge with laughter, love, and light refreshments in the cozy community room at Kindred Place on **December 6th from 2pm - 4pm**. Everyone is welcome! Kindred Place address is: 4700 Oakhurst BLVD, Harrisburg PA 17110.

SPECIAL MUSIC FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

As we quickly approach the season of Advent, many preparations are underway for the fast-approaching Christmas celebrations. We are seeking musicians of all kinds to add their talents for Christmas Eve. A simple musical offering of 2 to 3 minutes would be wonderful. Do you feel called to explore this possibility? Or perhaps you could reach out to a friend or family member that is musically inclined? Please contact Brad at bradleyjhull@gmail.com by **December 7**. Additionally, should you be interested in joining the vocal choir to sing at our Christmas Eve service, rehearsals are Mondays at 3:30. Please come and join us.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

We are excited to announce our annual Christmas caroling event, which will take place on **Tuesday, December 9th**. This festive occasion is a wonderful opportunity to spread holiday cheer and celebrate the season.

TEAS THE SEASON

Ladies, **Today is the last day** to purchase tickets for the Ladies' Christmas Tea on **Thursday, December 11, at 1:30pm**. Enjoy a relaxing afternoon filled with festive food and special teas followed by a presentation "Folds and Flowers" by our own Marcia Shore. Since there is no availability of funds, the cost of the tea will be \$10 a person. Tickets may be purchased in the gathering area. Don't miss this special time of fellowship.

COLONIAL CREST SING ALONG AND LUMINARIES AT THE POND

The Colonial Crest Association invites Faith Immanuel Presbyterian Church families to join them for this festive event on **Saturday, December 20th at 4:30pm**. There will be s'mores and hot chocolate, then a holiday sing-a-long starting at 5pm. No RSVP needed, just show up and bring the whole family!

OCTOBER MISSION A MONTH

Congratulations FIPC congregation! You've really outdone yourself with donations to Downtown Daily Bread's shelters which were our October 2025 mission a month. Items collected for both men and women are included in the total numbers. 105 pairs of slippers and socks / 41 sweaters / 5 pairs of shoes and boots / 31 pairs of pants / 12 pairs of underwear / 56 shirts / 21 jackets / 3 winter scarf / 1 belt / 3 ball caps / 19 hooded sweatshirts and 17 blankets. Monetary donation of \$335 were also received. Our donations were so gratefully received. May God bless you for your thoughtfulness and kindness to those less fortunate and in need of assistance.

NOURISH YOUR SPIRIT: LUNCH AND LEARN WITH PASTOR CAROLINE

This winter, take a midweek pause to feed your soul and your body. Join us for a special series of Lunch and Learn gatherings with Pastor Caroline, where fellowship meets spiritual insight. **Every Tuesday in December – Dec 2, 9, 16, and 23** – we'll gather at noon for a time of reflection and discussion about the scripture lessons for the following Sunday. Lunch will be provided. In addition to our Tuesday gatherings, we'll also meet after church on the following Sundays:

- December 21
- January 18

These post-service sessions also offer a chance to dive deeper into the following Sunday's scripture lesson. Lunch will be provided. **We ask that you sign-up in the Gathering Area for the sessions you plan to attend.**

ANGEL TREE

Once again we are supporting the children of Delta Community with our Angel Tree ministry. Delta Community provides temporary housing for single parents and their children. These families don't have the resources to provide Christmas presents for their children. They have been extremely grateful for our support in the past. Without our help, these children would get nothing for Christmas. The tags on the tree list the child's name, age, & gift requests. It is not expected that you buy everything listed. Please prayerfully consider supporting this project. We will also accept gently used toys to donate to Delta. Please have all gifts at the church by **December 16th**.

FIPC BOOK CLUB

The FIPC Book Club has chosen *Saving My Enemy* by Bob Welsh for the January 21st meeting. It is a true story of how two soldiers fought against each other and later forged a friendship that saved their lives. For the February meeting *The Secret War of Julia Child* by Diana Chambers has been selected. It is a historical novel about Julia Child's life before becoming the beloved chef. The book club does not meet in December. The meetings are at 10:45am in the Zarfoss library. If you have any questions, contact Connie Hack at (717) 521-3626 or Sue Skelly at (717) 234-8035.

7TH LOWER PAXTON CHRISTKINDLMARKT, CELEBRATING CHRIST IN THE COMMUNITY

Saturday, December 13, 2025, 10am-4pm

Join Family, Friends and Neighbors to Celebrate Christmas in The Village of Linglestown between the roundabouts for a FREE traditional outdoor German Christmas market. Living Nativity, Kinderworld Kids Activities, 100+ Handcraft Vendors, Live music, free parking and Shuttle busses LPCKM.com

MISSION A MONTH 2026 CALENDAR

JANUARY	Church World Service
FEBRUARY	(Souper Bowl of Caring) HANNA's Pantry
MARCH	One Great Hour of Sharing (Lent March 4) (monetary donations to Presbytery)
APRIL	Easter Offering Envelope Donations (April 20) (monetary donations to Downtown Daily Bread)
MAY	Lebanon Valley Veteran's Hospital
JUNE	Krislund Camp (monetary donations)
JULY	Christ Lutheran Church Dental/Medical Clinic (monetary donations)
AUGUST	Fox's Wash 'n' Go Clean Clothes Initiative (monetary donations/supplies)
SEPTEMBER	Central Dauphin School District NutriPacks Program
OCTOBER	Humane Society of Central PA
NOVEMBER	Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child
DECEMBER	Christmas Offering Envelope Donations (monetary donations) (recipient of funds to be determined)

SAMARITAN'S PURSE OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES

Thanks so very much to those who packed shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child as our November mission a month. As a congregation, we packed 24 shoeboxes! Prayers and many thanks were offered over the boxes at delivery. These boxes will be distributed to under privileged children around the world to reach out to them and express God's love. God bless you and again, and thank you for your efforts in supporting this mission and the children.

LINGLESTOWN FIRE COMPANY HOLIDAY EVENT

Linglestown Fire Company and its Auxiliary have contacted us to see if we would be able to donate cookies for their Christmas tree lighting/cookies and hot chocolate event being held on **Sunday, December 7**. They do not have the resources available internally to provide cookies for the over 300 individuals who have been attending this event. If you can donate cookies, please bring them to the Church next Sunday, December 7 and we will make sure they are delivered. Thank you for assisting our local fire company and township residents as they welcome the beginning of the holiday season.

KRISLUND CAMP GIFT CERTIFICATES

We have been informed by Krislund Camp that they are offering individuals the ability to purchase gift certificates for kids to attend camp this year. If you are looking for a unique gift for your child/grandchild/niece or nephew (or any child) please pick up one of the information packets at the Mission table in the gathering area. Any amount may be gifted from \$25 to paying for the full week's registration fee. Why not consider giving a child an experience that helps them encounter God, build relationships and experience creation?

CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPE DONATIONS - CENTRAL PA FOOD BANK

Our December mission a month is monetary donations to the Central PA Food Bank. All donations received in the special Christmas Offering envelopes will be specifically included in this mission total. No offering envelopes, no problem. All checks should be made payable to the Church noting Central Pa Food Bank on the memo line. As you know, many people are struggling with lack of food and the Food Bank has been extremely busy assisting them as well as other local organizations involved in assisting those less fortunate. Your support of this very worthwhile mission is most appreciated. God bless you for caring and thanks so much for your support.

HANGING OF THE GREENS THANK YOU

Thank you from the Worship Committee to all the volunteers who stayed last Sunday to decorate the church with the Hanging of the Greens! Thanks to the Congregational Life Committee for providing a delicious soup and salad lunch for fortification and thanks to Agape Nepali congregation for their help with lifting the heavy risers and creche. A job well done!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Dec 6 Pat Bivens

PRAYERS OF JOY & CONCERNS AT FAITH IMMANUEL CHURCH

Joys:

Pastor Caroline - John Schmidt - Prebystery celebrated John's 55th anniversary of ordination!

Concerns:

- Elise Kelly Berry - Rose Jewell Jordan and son Thomas are travelling to Philadelphia then flying to Nashville for Thanksgiving with Michael & Family.
- Gayle McCollum - Nancy McCollum passed away to be with the Lord.
- Erna Tunno - our children's safe return to South Carolina today.
- Jackie Webb - John Williams - several major health issues.

Ongoing Prayers for: Gerard Horn, Robert Crawshaw, Monica DeFriese, Sharon Bikle, Jim Milbrand, Fred & Jean Muncert, Bridget Kilgus, Cindy, Jim, Barbara Townsend, Bruce McLaren, Pat Lebo's Family (multiple family members suffering with health issues), Sarah Finkle, Larry Klaboe, Ronald Neumann, Stewart Robinson, Marge Barner, The Family of Collen Sanderson, Kathy, Claire Hetzel, Irene, Curt, Renee, Nancy B., Nancy McCollum, Elaine Bauer Shatto.

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

ONLINE GIVING

As believers, we know that giving is an act of worship that reflects our love for God and our trust in His provision. You can give to the ministry here at FIPC:

- Online: faithimmanuelpc.org and click the "Give" button.
- In person during our regular worship services.
- By mail: 1801 Colonial Road, Harrisburg, PA 17112

Your donations support FIPC's mission of spreading the love of God and serving our community. Thank you for your faithful support of this ministry.



FAITH IMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**1801 Colonial Road
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17112**

Phone: (717) 545-4631

Fax: (717) 541-5673

Email: fipcoffice@lifeinfaith.org

Website: www.faithimmanuelpc.org

OUR STAFF:

Pastor: Rev. Caroline Vickery

Director of Music Ministries: Dr. Bradley J. Hull

Custodian: Jim Devor

Treasurer: George Hope

Office Administrator/Finance Secretary: Heather Ruoss

OFFICE HOURS:

9am-1pm Monday-Friday

CHURCH CALENDAR:

www.faithimmanuelpc.org/events

ONLINE GIVING:

www.faithimmanuelpc.org - GIVE