



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Church of Nashville

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 17, 2023

8:00, 9:30, & 11:00 a.m.



To know Christ, to make Him known and to exhibit His love through worship, education and service.



PRELUDE

Der Himmel lacht! (from *Cantata 31, Mvt. 1*)
J.S. Bach

Der Himmel lacht! Die Erde jubilieret!
The heavens laugh! The earth rejoices!

Greensleeves
Ralph Vaughan Williams

Personent Hodie
arr. Gustav Holst

Sing aloud on this day! Children all raise the lay. Cheerfully we and they hasten to adore thee, sent from highest glory, for us born on this morn of the Virgin Mary. Now the child newly born, swathing bands him adorn. Manger bed he will not scorn; ox and ass draw near him. We as Lord revere him, and the vain powers of hell spoiled of prey now fear him. From the far Orient, a guiding star wise men sent. To seek him is their intent, Lord of all creation; we kneel in adoration. Gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh for their oblation. All now join him to praise; young and old voices raise on this day of all days; angel voices ringing, Christmas tidings bringing. Join we all “Gloria in excelsis” singing.

Christians, Be Joyful (from *Christmas Oratorio*)
J.S. Bach

Christians, be joyful and praise your salvation, sing for today your Redeemer is born; cease to be fearful, forget lamentation, haste with thanksgiving to greet this glad morn!

WORDS OF PREPARATION

“This is the word of the prophet: ‘Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given’ (Isaiah 9:6). This is for us the hardest point, not so much to believe that he is the son of the virgin and God himself, as to believe that this Son of God is ours.”

—Martin Luther

ORDER OF WORSHIP

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD CANDLE OF ADVENT

The Flanagan Family (8:00)

The Andrews Family (9:30)

The Davis Family (11:00)

Reader 1: I saw no temple in the holy city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.

Reader 2: That city has no need of sun or moon, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb.

Reader 3: The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it.

Reader 4: People will bring into the city the glory and the honor of the nations.

All: Amen! Blessing and glory and power and might be to our God now and forever!

†INTROIT

The Holly and the Ivy
arr. Walford Davies

The holly and the ivy, when they are both full grown; of all the trees that are in the wood the holly bears the crown. O the rising of the sun and the running of the deer, the playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir. The holly bears a blossom as white as any flower; and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to be our sweet Savior. The holly bears a berry as red as any blood; and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to do poor sinners good. The holly bears a prickle as sharp as any thorn; and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ on Christmas Day in the morn. The holly bears a bark as bitter as any gall; and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ for to redeem us all.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. John Musgrave (8:00)
Dr. Sandra Randleman (9:30 & 11:00)

Leader: All God’s people—boys and girls, women, men:

All: Come and worship!

Leader: Shepherds, Magi, saints, and angels:

All: Come and worship! Come and worship!

Leader: All who need the Savior, all who long for comfort:

All: Come and worship, come and worship Christ, the newborn King!

*†OPENING HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful
ADESTE FIDELES

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!**

Refrain

***O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!***

**Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! *Refrain***

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! *Refrain***

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

Scott Dalton (8:00)
Ben Elrod, Jr. (9:30)
Ellie Richmond (11:00)

FIRST LESSON | 1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not despise prophecies, ²¹ but test everything; hold fast what is good. ²² Abstain from every form of evil. ²³ Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Dr. Stuart Gordon

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful Lord, we confess that with us there is an abundance of sin, but in you there is the fullness of righteousness and abundance of mercy. We are spiritually poor, but you are rich and in Jesus Christ came to be merciful to the poor. Strengthen our faith and trust in you. We are empty vessels that need to be filled; fill us. We are weak in faith; strengthen us. We are cold in love; warm us, and make our hearts fervent for you that our love may go out to one another and to our neighbors. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A moment for silent confession.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE

Angels We Have Heard on High
GLORIA

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH | Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Whether you are a longtime member or a guest, please mark your presence by signing the friendship pad and greet those seated near you as you pass it along.

ANTHEM

Candlelight Carol
John Rutter

How do you capture the wind on the water? How do you count all the stars in the sky? How can you measure the love of a mother, or how can you write down a baby's first cry? Candlelight, angel light, firelight and starglow shine on his cradle till breaking of dawn. Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo! Angels are singing; the Christ child is born. Shepherds and wise men will kneel and adore him, Seraphim round him their vigil will keep; nations proclaim him their Lord and their Savior, but Mary will hold him and sing him to sleep. Find him at Bethlehem laid in a manger: Christ or Redeemer asleep in the hay. Godhead incarnate and hope of salvation: A child with his mother that first Christmas Day.

‡BLESSING OF THE YOUNG DISCIPLES

Away in a Manger
MUELLER

**Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

*During the 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 services, children who are age 4, 5, or 6
(not in first grade) are invited to join Young Children & Worship.*

ANTHEM

Where Shepherds Lately Knelt
Craig Courtney
text by Jaroslav J. Vajda

Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel's word, I come in half-belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred; but there is room and welcome there for me, but there is room and welcome there for me. In that unlikely place I find him as they said: Sweet newborn Babe, now frail! And in a manger bed, A still, small voice to cry one day for me, A still, small voice to cry one day for me. How should I not have known Isaiah would be there, his prophecies fulfilled? With pounding heart I stare; a child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me, a child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me. Can I, will I forget how Love was born, and burned its way into my heart unasked, unforced, unearned, to die, to live, and not alone for me, to die, to live, and not alone for me?

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING | Luke 1:39–45

³⁹ In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰ and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴² and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Why Me?

Dr. Ryan Moore

OFFERTORY | Luke 2:8–14

Glory to God in the Highest (from *Messiah*)
G.F. Handel

There were shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them: “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people, for unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God, and saying: “Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will towards men.”

As you reflect on the Lord’s goodness, you can make an offering by dropping your gift in the offering plate, texting GIVE to 707-475-3005, or donating online at fpcnashville.org.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

CHRISTMAS MEDLEY

O Little Town of Bethlehem
ST. LOUIS

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

Silent Night, Holy Night
STILLE NACHT

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace!**

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear
CAROL

**It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven’s all-gracious King”:
the world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.**

Those who are able, please stand for the final carol.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
MENDELSSOHN

**Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity,
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”**

**Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”**

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Hallelujah Chorus (from Messiah)
G.F. Handel

Hallelujah! For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Hallelujah! The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ; and he shall reign forever and ever. King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Hallelujah!

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

In dulci jubilo, BWV 729
J.S. Bach

** Those who are able, please stand.*

† Latecomers may be seated.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

Ryan Moore, PhD – *Pastor*

Stuart Gordon, DMin – *Senior Associate Pastor for Christian Formation & Witness*

John Musgrave, DMin – *Parish Associate*

Sandra Randleman, DMin – *Associate Pastor for Congregational Care & Missions*

Raphael Bundage, DMA – *Director of Music*

Peter Rogahn, DMA – *Organist and Assistant Director of Music*

Rhonda Swanson, MM – *Assistant Organist*

Sopranos – Daphne Garey, Terri Richter, Claire Paschal

Lighting the Advent Wreath – Greenlee Jr., Annie, Greenlee III, Bentley Flanagin; Jess, Ceesun, Kate, Caroline, Mack Andrews; Lipscomb, Rachel, Lip Davis

Acolytes – Watts Ward, Brooks Ward; Ella Hancock, Mattie Grace Pearson; Luke Richardson, Kate Richardson

SUPPORTING FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

You can make a gift or fulfill a pledge payment by placing your gift in the offering plate, texting “GIVE” to 707-475-3005, donating online at fpcnashville.org, or scan the QR code.



*Today's special music is made possible in part by
the M. Stratton Foster Foundation.*

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WELCOME

First Presbyterian Church extends a warm welcome in the name of Christ to all who worship with us today. Since 1814 First Presbyterian has sought to be faithful in service to Jesus Christ and the common good. We are rooted in the Reformed, orthodox, and evangelical traditions of the larger church. If you do not have a church home, we would love to welcome you!

Hearing Assistance App Directions

Join WiFi network. You must be connected to this network for the app to work. Network Name: FPC Guest; Password: GreenRock-81. Download the WaveCAST app. Open the app and select “First Pres Sanctuary.” Plug in your headphones and adjust the volume to your preference.

Join us downstairs in Courtenay Hall between services for coffee and doughnuts.

To **livestream** worship and special events or view past services, visit youtube.com/firstpresbyterianchurchofnashville.

Children of all ages are invited to worship alongside their families, and worship activity bags are provided at each entrance to the Sanctuary. Children ages 4–6 are invited to join **Young Children & Worship** following the Blessing of the Young Disciples. Parents pick up their child after worship at Grundy Hall, located in the Children’s Ministry Wing. Check-in and pickup for Nursery–Kindergarten is located in the Children’s Ministry lobby, while Elementary is located in Oak Hill C-Wing. **Nursery care** for children ages 0–3 is available from 7:45 a.m.–12:15 p.m. The **Mother and Infant Quiet Room** is located in the Nursery Wing.

INTERESTED IN GETTING MORE CONNECTED?

If you are new to our community, we would love to get to know you and welcome you personally into the life and ministry of First Presbyterian Church. Whether you are a guest or a longtime member, fill out the Connect Card to get more involved, update your contact information, or sign up for church communications. Drop your completed Connect Card in the offering plate so we can follow up!

*Stay informed about news and upcoming events by reading FPC’s weekly Parish News email.
To subscribe, email communications@fpcnashville.org.*



GREENERY DEDICATIONS

The greenery adorning the church today is given to the glory of God

———— IN MEMORY OF ————

Polk & Mai Alexander
Mr. Woodow L. Amos
Wordie & Buck Armistead
Sandy Ash
William L. Bainbridge
Willilam Lafayette Bainbridge III
Kay Y. Barker
Mr. & Mrs. James O. Bass & Family
Celia & Richard Bird
Dr. John Benjamin Bond
David C. Breast
Mr. & Mrs. John K. Breast, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Bradford Brindley
Pricilla Brown
Mrs. Nell Scott Buice
Col. Bertram H. Chalfant, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Certram H. Chalfant
Mr. Scott Clayton
Patricia & Jesse Colton
Leslie Oliver Cook
Anne Courtenay
Dr. & Mrs. Walter R. Courtenay
Mrs. Maxine Crain Crocker
W. Lipscomb Davis, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Lipscomb Davis, Sr.
Mrs. Martha Crowe Davis
Mrs. Jack Denis
Dan Draughn
Susan & Bill Eason
Anne Eatherly
Dr. Leonard & Mary Hawkins Edwards
Dr. William H. Edwards
Ervin Morgan & Jane Edwards Entrekin
Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin E. Feltner
Dr. Bill D. Feltner
Mr. Clinton E. 'Gene' Feltner
Gordon Ferragina
Mr. & Mrs. Duncan M. Fort, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Duncan M. Fort, Sr.
Mr. Joel B. Fort
Marion Woodard Fort
Mr. Richard B. Fort
Dr. Richard B. Fort, Jr.
Mary Martha McGaughy Geddie

Roxie Gibson
Roxie & Jim Gibson
Paul Gilliland
Mark S. Goodman
Ed & Deane Gould
Haynie Gourley
Josephine Gourley
Joan Haden
Bob & Opal Hall
James Miller Harrison
Dr. Roland Hawkins
Colleen Heaston
Nancy Wayne Hendricks
Leonard Edwards Herrington
Dr. Lynwood & Mary A. Edwards
Herrington
Mr. & Mrs. Hugh P. Hobbs
William F. Hull
Rev. William Jarvis
Charles & Martha Jean Johnson
Charlie Johnson, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin Williams Jones
Dr. & Mrs. Allen Kennedy
Chris Evans Lambos, Sr.
Myrtle Stanford Lambos
Catherine Loflin
Dr. & Mrs. Edward Mattingly
Dr. Jay Mattingly
Joanne McCall
Henry McCall
Lee McCubbin
William McCubbin
JoAnn Gregory McDaniel
Romain Edward 'Ed' McDaniel, Jr.
Romain Edward 'Mac' McDaniel III
Norton Brown & Frances Nuckols
McGaughy
Norton 'Bud' McGaughy
Charles E. McKay III
Clifton Meador
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Miller
Ruida Saleem Munayyer
Peter L. Nelson
Robert L. Nichols, Jr.
Hunt Oliver

Mrs. Mary Fort Oliver
Mr. Oren Oliver
Michael & Stephanie Paslawsky
Ms. Jane Clayton Pate
Mr. & Mrs. S. Keith Payne
Harley Phelps
Rachel Phillip
Alice Sutherland Pryor
Emily & W. Robert Pugh
Kathleen 'Sister' D. Pugh
Carlton Duane Randleman
William Richardson
Jessie Ridenour
Mr. & Mrs. Charles N. Rolfe III
Mr. & Mrs. H.L. Saunders
Dr. John L. & Dr. Julia Edwards Sawyers
Chuck Self
Patricia Shockley
Gayle & Alden Smith
Libbye Smith
Virginia Brittingham Smith
Mrs. Virginia Easterday Smith
Janet Stone
Merrill Stone, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Stumb, Jr.
Mr. Ray U. Tanner
Mary Terhune
Nancy Wheeler Tetzlaff
Marion F. Thomas, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Marion F. Thomas, Sr.
Verena & Fred Thomas
Mr. & Mrs. DeWitt C. Thompson, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. DeWitt C. Thompson III
Gregory A. Vest
William J. 'Bill' Wade, Jr.
Barbara H. Walker
Mr. & Mrs. James A Webb & Family
S. Hugh Welch
Mr. & Mrs. Scott E. Wheeler
Ann 'Boonie' Wiley
Mr. & Mrs. David W. Wiley
Susan K Wilson
Willie Wilson
William & Elinor Yagemann

———— IN HONOR OF ————

Mrs. Ray Tanner

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Service of Hope | *Today* | *12:15 p.m.* | *Stanford Chapel* — If you or a loved one is going through a challenging time, join us for prayer, Scripture, Communion, and lighting candles of hope. Hosted by our Stephen Ministry. All are welcome to come and find comfort.

College Christmas Gathering | *December 18* | *6:00 p.m.* | *Stark-Gingrass Home* — College students will gather for their Christmas party and dinner. RSVP to Ginger at youth@fpcnashville.org.

Epiphany Bonfire | *January 7* | *3:00 p.m.* | *South Lawn* — Join your church family for hymn singing and burning of the greens at our annual Epiphany Bonfire. It's been a tradition since Victorian England to celebrate the end of Christmas on Twelfth Night, taking down the evergreens of the Christmas season and lighting a bonfire. The greenery used to decorate for the Christmas season has served its purpose, and the bonfire from burning them celebrates the light and warmth of Christ coming into the world on one of the darkest nights of the year.

NEWS AND EVENTS

New Items at Bookmarks, Our Church Bookstore! — BookMarks has new books and gift items perfect for the holidays, including gently-used Christmas children's books for \$0.50 each, some unique dish towels, and 10% off Thistle Farms products. Bookmarks is open Sunday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to noon and is located across from Courtenay Hall.

Inquirers Class | *Sundays, January 7–28* | *9:45 a.m.* | *Courtenay Lounge* — Interested in learning more about First Presbyterian Church or becoming a member? Join us for a four-part Inquirers Class each Sunday during the Education Hour on January 7, 14, 21, and 28. Visit linktr.ee/fpcnashville to register or contact Julia Wilk (615-473-8742 or jwilk@fpcnashville.org).

FPC Early Preschool Program Tours for the 2024-2025 School Year | *January 8–12, 2024* — FPC's Early Preschool provides a Christian environment for the development of children ages 18 months through five years. We are hosting program tours before opening registration for our 2024-2025 school year in January. This is a great opportunity to experience the program, meet our staff, and see if the EP is right for you and your family.

Registration for the 2024 Spring Music Academy Is Now Open | *January–April* | *Monday–Thursday from 3:15–6:15 p.m.* | *Cheek House Chapel* — FPC's Music Academy offers vocal and instrumental lessons to allow our younger disciples and adults to explore their God-given artistic gifts in voice, violin, harp, piano, organ, and now guitar. Our music instruction meets a standard of excellence that inspires students to learn, grow, and serve with their gifts to the glory of God alone. The spring semester runs from January–April. Lessons are held Monday–Thursday evenings from 3:15–6:15 p.m. in the Cheek House Chapel. Registration closes January 12. Visit linktr.ee/fpcnashville to register.

Grief Support Group | *Sundays* | *January 14–February 4* | *3:00 p.m.* | *Session Room* — First Presbyterian Church will offer a grief support group on Sunday afternoons, 3:00–4:30 p.m., January 14 through February 4. The grief support group will focus on understanding the stages and feelings of grief as well as how prayer can help us in seeking the comfort of God during the very difficult time of grieving the losses of life. The psalms of lament in the Bible will provide a model for our study of prayer. For more information, please contact Dr. Sandra Randleman (srandleman@fpcnashville.org or 615-298-9502).

Save the Date: Calvin University January Series | *January 16–February 2* | *11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.* | *Lunch and livestreamed lecture in the Jones Session Room* — First Presbyterian Church is hosting Calvin College's January Series. This 15-day virtual lecture series aims to cultivate deep thought and conversations about important issues of the day in order to inspire cultural renewal and make us better global citizens in God's world. We look forward to sharing more details in the coming days!

MISSIONS

Christmas Joy Offering — Today, we will collect a special Christmas Joy Offering to support leadership development in the Presbyterian church, particularly in communities of color. To contribute, please use the envelopes in the back of the pews. Your gifts will provide critical financial support to church workers in their time of need and will be distributed equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions.

Room In The Inn | *Wednesdays through March* — Every year, First Presbyterian Church provides shelter for men experiencing homelessness through Room In The Inn. There are a number of volunteer opportunities available this year: overnight hosts, van drivers, breakfast donors, lunch donors, and laundry volunteers. Room In The Inn takes its name from the Christmas story in Luke 2, a reminder that Jesus was laid in a manger because there was no room for him in the inn. Participating in this ministry is a beautiful way to serve Christ by serving the least of his brethren (Matthew 25:40). In addition, they regularly need clothing. Please consider donating new boxer shorts, undershirts, socks, gloves, stocking caps, and new or used men's coats and shoes. Contact Missions (missions@fpcnashville.org) for more information.

STEWARDSHIP AND GENEROSITY

Stewardship Update — The Generosity Team is grateful for the church's response to our 2024 Giving Campaign. As of December 12, we are 132 pledges and \$527,000 from our goal. If you still need to make your pledge, please submit it before year-end at fpcnashville.org.

Household Pledges | *Actual: 408, Goal: 540*

Pledge Total | *Actual: \$3.6 million, Goal: \$4.1 million*

Average pledge | *Actual: \$8,833, Goal: \$7,650*

2023 Year-End Giving — As 2023 draws to a close; this is a great time to make a tax-deductible year-end contribution to First Presbyterian Church. Your contributions are vital because they enable us to fulfill our mission commitments. There are many ways to give, each suited to different financial situations:

- **To donate cash**, visit fpcnashville.org/generosity/ and click the give button. Doing this will also allow you to see what you have already given in 2023 (if you have donated online).
- **To submit stock**, please contact Carsen Rooney at Wiley Bros. The account details for a contribution can be found at fpcnashville.org.
- **To give directly from an IRA** (members above 70½ years old), please contact the institution that manages the IRA.

The church office is open Monday through Thursday this week, December 18–21, but closed Friday, December 22. During the final week of the year, the church office will be open Tuesday through Thursday, December 26–28, but closed Friday, December 29. All gifts must be made to the church by December 31. If you have not fulfilled your 2023 pledge, please do so by year end. If donating stock or giving from an IRA, please initiate the process by December 21. And if you have not made your 2024 pledge, please visit linktr.ee/fpcnashville or go to our website at fpcnashville.org/2024-generosity/ and fill out the pledge card. Thank you for your generous support of FPC.

Member Testimonial | The Carswell Family Knows the Joy of Giving — Loving First Presbyterian Church has been a central theme in the Carswell family. They love the staff, outreach ministries, and serving as deacons in the church, and they feel they have received far more than they could ever give back. “It’s been an absolute joy to grow up and mature in this church. I love serving as a deacon and usher and watching our members give joyfully each Sunday during the offering.” As God has given so much to them, the Carswells encourage each member to join their family in giving generously back to FPC. Visit linktr.ee/fpcnashville to watch their testimonial.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULES

The Church Office is closed on December 22, 25, 29, and January 1.

Sunday School classes will not meet on
December 17, December 24, and December 31.



VISIT [LINKTR.EE/FPCNASHVILLE](https://linktr.ee/fpcnashville)
TO GIVE OR LEARN MORE

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2023

WORSHIP

CHRISTMAS EVE

Sunday, December 24

Christmas Eve Sunday Worship

11:00 a.m. | *Sanctuary*

This traditional service will include the lighting of the Advent wreath and a celebration of the Lord's Supper. Please note that nursery and Young Children & Worship are not provided.

Journey to Bethlehem Live Nativity

5:00 p.m. (*livestreamed*) | *Sanctuary*

A lively pageant will be led by our children at this year's 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Join shepherds, angels, wise men, and more on a *Journey to Bethlehem*. Please consider blessing our friends at Room In The Inn with a donation of M, L, or XL weatherproof gloves. Bring them to worship for a special offering during the children's time!

Lessons and Carols

8:00 (*livestreamed*) & **10:30 p.m.** (*New time!*) | *Sanctuary*

This beloved service, first celebrated in the English cathedral town of Truro in 1880, features Scripture readings that recount salvation history, with hymns and choral anthems sung in response. Communion will be celebrated at the 10:30 p.m. service. The service culminates in the candlelit singing of "Silent Night."

CHRISTMASTIDE

Christmas Day Worship

Monday, December 25

11:00 a.m. | *Stanford Chapel*

Happy Birthday, Jesus! Spend an hour worshipping the newborn King with your church family at this informal, relaxed service. We will enjoy some birthday cake and children are welcome to come in pajamas.

First Sunday of Christmas

Sunday, December 31

11:00 a.m. (*livestreamed*) | *Sanctuary*

On Sunday, December 31, there will be only one worship service, at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Nursery care will be available, beginning at 10:45 a.m. Young Children & Worship will not be provided.



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