

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

November 27 2011 - 9:00 a.m.

1st Sunday of Advent

OUR PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Prelude Eileen Taylor

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Call to Worship

Leader: We eagerly await the birth of Jesus Christ!

People: We prepare our hearts!

Leader: Be glad for what God will do!

People: Come, Lord Jesus!

All: We worship the Savior!

WE WORSHIP IN PRAISE

*Hymn *"We Gather Together"* #387

WE WORSHIP IN PRAYER

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession (*in united voice we pray aloud*)

Holy God, we come into your house with a sense of anticipation. We excitedly wait to remember the birth of our Savior. In spite of our excitement and hope, we confess we are still sinners. We have separated ourselves from your kingdom by neglecting the needs of the world and by failing to become faithful disciples. For our sinfulness we ask your forgiveness. Give us a fresh start in the name of our Holy One, Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon

*Glorifying God *"The Gloria Patri"* #142

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.

WE WORSHIP IN PROCLAMATION

Greeting

Children's Message

*Hymn *"Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart"* #394

Anthem *"Good Christian Men, Rejoice, Medley"* arr. Sterling

Scripture Lesson Luke 2:25-35
(Pew Bible pg.890; Children's Bible pg. 1196)

Morning Message Rev. Robert R. Tolar, Jr.
"ADVENT 2011: OF BABIES AND RITUALS"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

9:00 am – Traditional worship service (Sanctuary)

10:00 am – Sunday School

11:15 am – Contemporary worship service (Fellowship Center)

TODAY IS THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT!

Begin to prepare your heart as we remember the birth of our Savior!

The color of the Advent season is purple. (The color of majesty). Jesus

Christ was (and still is) our Savior King.

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS

In the back of the sanctuary/worship center there are daily devotional books and calendars to use during the season of Advent. Take one for your family. Using it daily can help you prepare for the true meaning of Christmas.

STEWARDSHIP 101 UPDATE

Last Sunday was our annual stewardship Sunday. The theme of the day was "Stewardship 101." The morning included a first-class breakfast and uplifting worship services. The church received financial pledge cards for the ministry of the church during 2012. As of November 22nd the total dollars pledged are \$126,934.00 (operating) and \$37,379.00 (mortgage retirement). With more pledges to come, give thanks for what God will do with our ministry during 2012!

DEACONS' SUB SALE – LAST CHANCE!

Today is the last day the Deacons are selling \$5.00 coupons good at Tammy's Pizza. Be sure to stop by the Deacons' table in the Fellowship Center or contact any Deacon if you'd like to purchase a coupon. (They make great stocking stuffers.) Proceeds will be used to purchase food items for the meal the Deacons are preparing for Ronald McDonald House. Your support is appreciated. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Ruth Rossi at 875-7488 or Keith Larsen at 875-6225.

MOPs (Mothers of Preschoolers)

Come join the Mothers of Preschoolers.

Our next meeting will be Friday, December 2nd from 9:30-11:30am. For more information contact Letitia at MOPSmom2@gmail.com. Childcare will be provided.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Mark your calendars, tell your family and friends and plan to attend "The Case of the Missing Meaning" at 6:30pm on Sunday, December 11th. Practice is from 12:15-1:30PM EVERY Sunday and dress rehearsal is from 4-6pm On December 10th (with pizza afterward)/ If you have any questions, please call Teresa Long (875-3466).

HELP US STAY CONNECTED TO THOSE AWAY AT COLLEGE

Do you have someone in your family or know someone from our congregation who is away at college? If so, please send their address to the church office. We want to make sure we STAY CONNECTED to them and let them know their church family is thinking of and praying for them. Please call the church office (875-4322) or send an email to fpcgc@midohio.twcabc.com.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: USHERS-GREETERS-CHILDCARE

New sign-up sheets, reflecting the new worship schedule, are on the bulletin board across from the church office. Take a moment to stop and check to see where you can serve your church.

YOUTH and CHILDREN

PRESBY CLUB - BUCKEYE CANDY SALE!

Thank you to all who purchased Buckeye Candy from Presby Club! The \$143.00 raised will be used to purchase Christmas gifts for children in foster care through Franklin County Children's Services. The kids really look forward to this event every year – in addition to being a lot of fun, it is a good learning experience for them. We thank you for your support of this mission project.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

HAVE A NEED? ILL or KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS?

If you have a need and the Deacons can help, call the church office (875-4322) or let one of the Deacons know. If you need a ride, contact Karl Knight (kathykarlk@msn.com or 740-852-0796) or Judy Linder (875-0824) to request a ride. If you can provide transportation for those in our congregation, please let Karl or Judy know. Also, please contact the church office (875-4322), Phil Holdren (614-875-2109), or one of the Deacons with any news of illnesses, injuries, or hospitalizations.

STEWARDSHIP

FINANCIAL and ATTENDANCE REPORT for 11/20/11

	Received	Average Needed Weekly
Operating:	\$	\$5,454.00
Debt Retirement:	\$	\$1,090.00

Worship Attendance: 155 (Traditional- 101; Contemporary- 54)

CALENDAR FOR THIS WEEK

Today, 11/27	9:00am	First Sunday of Advent
	10:15am	Worship-Traditional
	11:15am	Sunday School
	12:15pm	Contemporary Service (FC)
	4:30pm	Christmas Program Practice
	6:30pm	Bell Choir
	6:30pm	Cubs – Den 1
Monday, 11/28	6:30pm	First Place 4 Health
	6:30pm	Cubs – Den 11
Tuesday, 11/29	7:00pm	Scouts
Wednesday, 11/30	6:30pm	Praise Team rehearsal
Thursday, 12/01	9:00am	12/03 Bulletin Deadline
	6:30pm	Membership Committee
	7:30pm	Choir Practice
Friday, 12/02	9:30am	MOPs
	6:00pm	Venture Crew Overnight
Saturday, 12/03	9:00am	House Committee Work Day
Sunday, 12/04		2 nd Sunday of Advent
		Last Day to Order Poinsettias
	9:00am	Worship-Traditional
	10:15am	Sunday School
	11:15am	Contemporary Service (FC)
	4:30pm	Bell Choir
	5:30pm	Presby Club
	6:00pm	BSA 136 Committee Meeting
	6:30pm	Cubs – Den 9

WE WORSHIP IN STEWARDSHIP

Receiving the Morning Offering

Special Music Sarah Mulvany

*Praising God "The Doxology"
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

Prayers of God's 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 glory forever. Amen.

GOING IN GOD'S NAME

*Hymn "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" #168

*Benediction

Postlude Eileen Taylor

* Those who are able, please stand.

† † †

The **FLOWERS** today are given to the glory of God by Bob and Barbara Lewis in honor of their 60th wedding anniversary on December 15th; and in honor of Britt and Lori Lewis' 30th wedding anniversary on December 19th.

WORSHIP LEADERS

LITURGIST: Teresa Long

GREETERS: Clyde and Karen Thompson

USHERS: Sam and Pat Dugan

CHILDCARE: 9:00 – Charlotte and Kate Ferguson
10:15 – Diana Forrester

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- **Do you have a prayer request?** Write the need on a prayer request card found in the pew rack; place the card in the offering plate. Your request will be included in the morning prayer and forwarded to the Prayer Chain.
- **Childcare** is offered during worship services for infants through 1st grade. The childcare room is located across from the church office.
- **Refreshments and fellowship** in the Fellowship Center after worship.
- **Nametags** are available in the narthex.
- **Worship Activity Bags** for young children are available at the back of the sanctuary.
- **Worship Bulletins** are offered for children aged 7-12 years.
- **Large Print Bulletins** are available for worship.
- A **Hearing Assistant System** is available for Sunday worship. The wireless units are on the usher's table at the back of the sanctuary.
- **Please turn-off all electronic devices.**

Advent 2011: Of Babies and Rituals

Luke 2:25-35

Note # 1 – Simeon and Anna. Day after day, year after year, they _____ to the Temple to pray.

Note # 2 – Simeon and Anna knew and respected the _____ and traditions of the people.

- Rituals strengthen faith and create a sense of well-being among the members of the group.
- If we aren't careful, rituals can grow into weeds that suck the life out of Christmas and leave us empty of meaning.
- These early people became so trapped in their rituals that they missed the Savior in their presence.

Note # 3 – Make sure that _____ all rituals and expressions of Jesus' birth.

- Don't split Jesus' birth from his crucifixion & resurrection. Let the poinsettias remind you of the red blood of his cross.

Note # 4 – God promised Simeon he would not die until he had _____ the _____.

- "Lord, I'm ready to die now. Now let your servant depart in peace."

Note # 5 – You will experience _____ at Christmas if you don't have the baby (Jesus) in view.

- Without the baby Jesus, none of the season will make sense.

Worth doing... (Reflect on the following)

- How might baby Jesus turn your life upside down? (Explore)
- Of your rituals, which might be covering the true meaning of Christmas? (Why this one?)
- Why do we have affection for the familiar? (Good and bad?)

First Presbyterian Church

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Rev. Robert R. Tolar, Jr., Pastor

First Presbyterian Church



Jesus Presented in the Temple

Welcome in the name of the Savior!

FPC Mission Statement:

"to know Christ and make Him known..."

