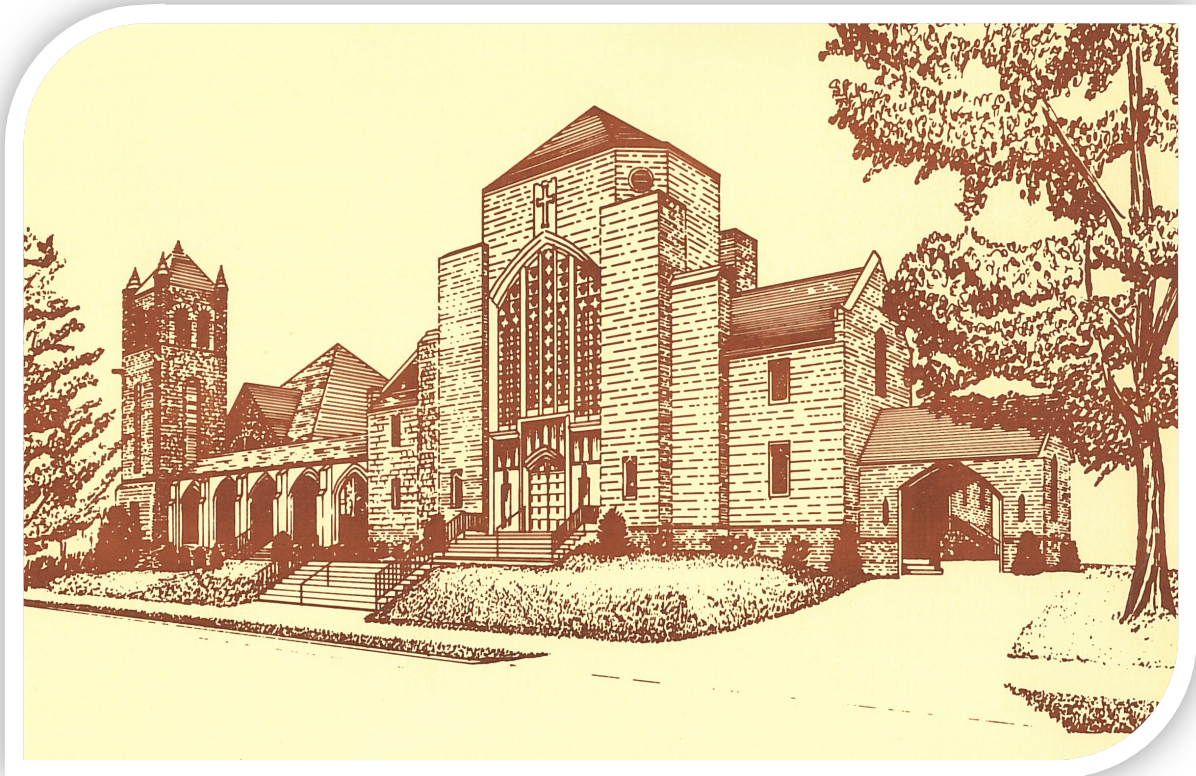




FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
A Congregation of a Covenant Order
of Evangelical Presbyterians
323 Main Street, Greenville, PA



We believe there is no condemnation for those who are In Christ Jesus. We know that all things work together for good among those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:1,28,38-39
The Book of Common Worship

**THE LORD’S DAY
ADVENT I
DECEMBER 1, 2024 – 10:45 AM**

GREETING

One Voice: May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

All Voices: **And also with you!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR MISSION.....Kate Biter

MINUTE FOR STEWARDSHIP.....Elder Kelly Jones

PRELUDE — “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”arr. John Carter

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE.....The Dershimer family

Light of Peace
Responsive Litany

One Voice: During Advent, God’s light illuminates a weary world.
For any who have grown weary of waiting:

All Voices: God speaks, “Peace, be still.”

One Voice: For any who are anxious about worries of tomorrow:

All Voices: God speaks, “Peace, be still.”

One Voice: For any whose lips have been silenced:

All Voices: God speaks, “Peace, be still.”

This morning we light the FIRST candle. It reminds us in a dark and weary world, that our PEACE is in the everlasting God who pierces the darkness of this world and reaches into the brokenness of our live, granting us the promise of a new tomorrow.

Prayer

Gracious Lord, our souls long for the peace that only you can provide. We confess that, all too often we only add to the discord, separation, and tension around us. Help us to feel your peace in our lives and strive to reflect it more in our witness. We pray this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

*HYMN - "The King of Glory Comes"

Refrain (Unison)

The King of glo - ry comes, the na - tion re - joic - es.

O - pen the gates be - fore him, lift up your voic - es. voic - es.

Verses

1 Who is the King of glo - ry: what shall we call him?
 2 In all of Gal - i - lee, in cit - y or vil - lage,
 3 He gave his life for us, the pledge of sal - va - tion,
 4 He con - quered sin and death; he tru - ly has ris - en,

to Refrain

He is Em - man - u - el, the prom - ised of a - ges.
 he goes a - mong his peo - ple, cur - ing their ill - ness.
 he took up - on him - self the sins of the na - tion.
 and he will share with us his heav - en - ly vi - sion.

WORDS: Willard F. Jabusch (1930-)
 MUSIC: Israeli folk song; arr. John Ferguson (1941-)
 Words © 1966, 1982 Willard F. Jabusch (Admin. OCP Publications)
 Music Arr. © 1974 The Pilgrim Press

PROMISED ONE
 12.12.Ref.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Prince of Peace: Wars and rumors of war announce our addiction to violence, our destructive and dehumanizing ways. We deserve your judgment and condemnation.

Yet, you remain faithful – a steadfast source of peace and beacon of hope in the midst of our warring madness. Holy God, turn us from evil. Return us to Christ and his path of peace.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. All of it we pray in the mighty name of Jesus, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*GRATEFUL RESPONSE – “Holy is the Lord”

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord.

The first system of musical notation is for the first line of the response. It consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in 3/4 time and B-flat major. The treble staff contains a vocal line with lyrics, and the bass staff contains a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord."

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord.

The second system of musical notation is for the second line of the response. It consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in 3/4 time and B-flat major. The treble staff contains a vocal line with lyrics, and the bass staff contains a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord."

Ho - ly is the Fa - ther, ho - ly is the Son,

The third system of musical notation is for the third line of the response. It consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in 3/4 time and B-flat major. The treble staff contains a vocal line with lyrics, and the bass staff contains a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly is the Fa - ther, ho - ly is the Son,"

ho - ly is the Spir - it: bless - ed Three-in - One.

The fourth system of musical notation is for the fourth line of the response. It consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in 3/4 time and B-flat major. The treble staff contains a vocal line with lyrics, and the bass staff contains a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "ho - ly is the Spir - it: bless - ed Three-in - One."

CONVERSATION WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH.....Diane Curtis
Grades 1-6 are invited to go downstairs for 'Kid's Church'

ANTHEM –The Chancel Choir
"Emmanuel".....Allen Pote

SERVICE OF GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION.....Elder Kelly Jones

HOLY SCRIPTURE

Old Testament – Isaiah 9:2-7

- ² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.
- ³ You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.
- ⁴ For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.
- ⁵ For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.
- ⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- ⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Epistle – Galatians 6:7-10

7 Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.

8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

9 And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

10 So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

PREACHING TEXT

Gospel – Matthew 1:18-25

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed

to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

19 And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.

20 But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

23 “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us).

24 When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife,

25 but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

One Voice: The word of the Lord!

All Voices: Thanks be to God!

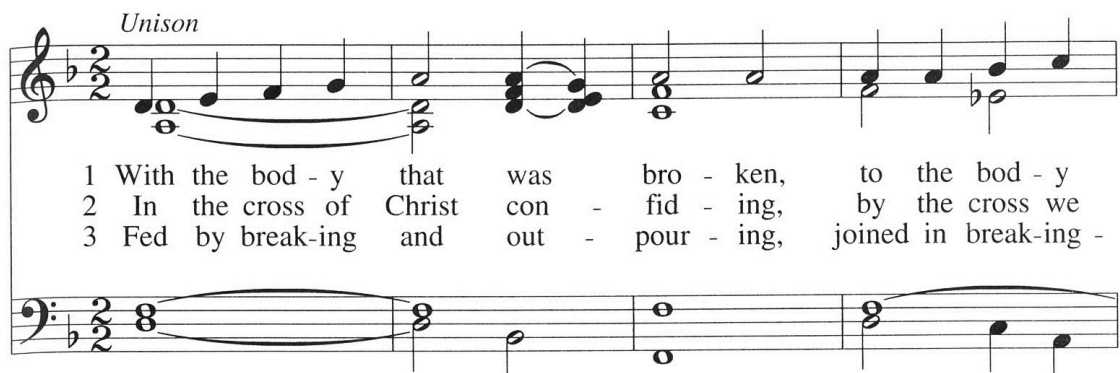
SERMON – “The Gift of Presence”David Dobi

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER (Elements are gluten free)

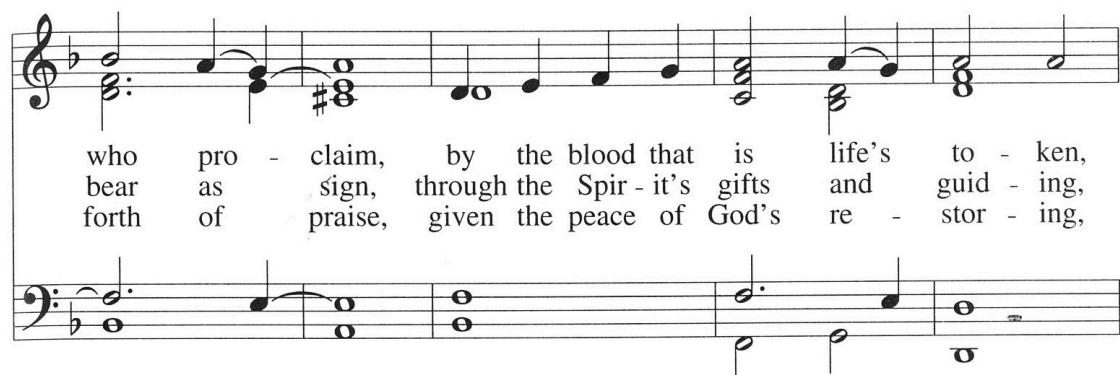
- Invitation to the Lord's Table

COMMUNION HYMN – “With the Body That Was Broken”

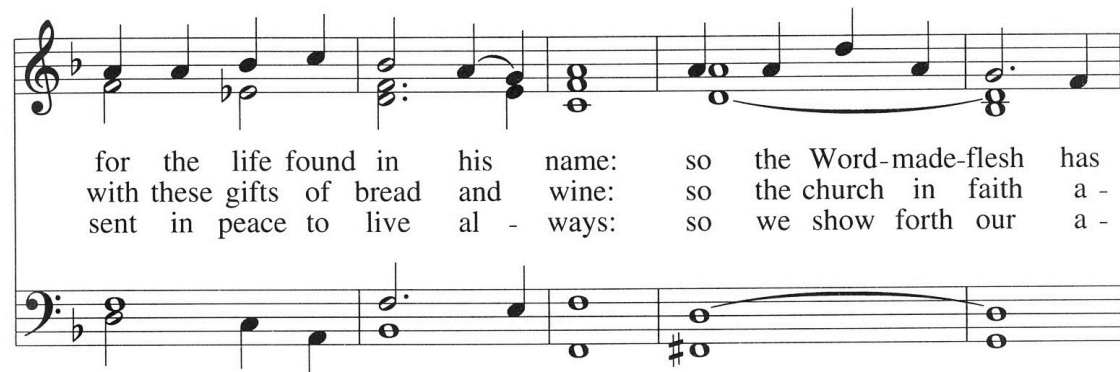
Unison



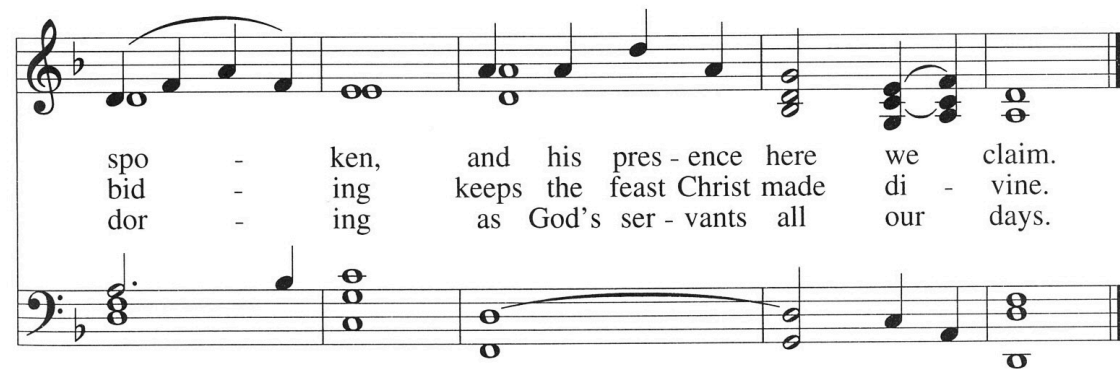
1 With the bod - y that was bro - ken, to the bod - y
2 In the cross of Christ con - fid - ing, by the cross we
3 Fed by break - ing and out - pour - ing, joined in break - ing -



who pro - claim, by the blood that is life's to - ken,
bear as sign, through the Spir - it's gifts and guid - ing,
forth of praise, given the peace of God's re - stor - ing,



for the life found in his name: so the Word-made-flesh has
with these gifts of bread and wine: so the church in faith a -
sent in peace to live al - ways: so we show forth our a -



spo - ken, and his pres - ence here we claim.
bid - ing keeps the feast Christ made di - vine.
dor - ing as God's ser - vants all our days.

WORDS: Carl P. Daw, Jr. (1944-)

MUSIC: French melody, 17th c.; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Words © 1989 Hope Publishing Company

PICARDY

8.7.8.7.8.7.

Prayer of Consecration

- Distribution of the Elements
- Pastoral Prayer with The Lord's Prayer

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING - God's Tithes/Our Offering

OFFERTORY – “The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came”arr. Hal Hopson

*DOXOLOGY – “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

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

*WE AFFIRM OUR FAITH – ‘The New City Catechism’ (2017, The Gospel Coalition and Redeemer Presbyterian Church – New York City)

Q19 – Is there any way to escape punishment and be brought back into God's favor? (Isaiah 53:10-11)

A19– Yes! To satisfy his justice, God himself, out of mere mercy, reconciles us to himself and delivers us from sin and from the punishment for sin, by a Redeemer.

Q20 – Who is the Redeemer? (Timothy 2:5)

A20 – The only Redeemer is the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, in whom God became man and bore the penalty for sin himself.

*SENDING HYMN – “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.

Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

dear De - sire of ev - ery na - tion, Joy of ev - ery long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

WORDS: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)
MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard (1811-1887); arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

HYFRYDOL
8.7.8.7.D.

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE – “Votre bonte’ grand dieu ”Claude Balbastre

Director of Music Ministries
Randall Curtis



FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL this morning are dedicated
to the glory of God in loving memory of
David Baughman.

In Loving Memory of
Judy Hodge
January 16, 1949 — November 25, 2024

SERVING TODAY in the church nursery (infant and toddler childcare)

10:45 AM – Paulla & Savannah Johnson

NEXT SUNDAY

10:45 AM – Becky Bray & Barbara Deist

GREETERS TODAY – Becky Bray

NEXT SUNDAY - Josh & Michelle Lentz

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS are available at each entrance to the sanctuary. Daily devotionals and family devotionals are there for your walk through the Advent season.

STEWARDSHIP 2025

Stewardship Sunday is celebrated today. Please prayerfully consider your commitment to our church budget for 2025, as you remember God's goodness and generosity.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

The Mission Committee has decided to designate the offering to be sent to our local nursing homes to help provide care for the residents who have financial needs. Many of these persons have dedicated their lives to serve the Lord and have emphasized service over financial reward. Half of the offering will be given to St Paul's Senior Living and half to Shenango on the Green, New Wilmington. Your donations can be placed in the specially marked boxed envelopes or in the general pew envelope with Joy Offering written on the outside. The offering can be given any time during Advent and until January 12.

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS & SOUP 'N SUNDAE

Mission Committee is inviting you to come for lunch immediately after worship today. After lunch you will have a chance to shop for meaningful Christmas gifts for family and friends. So please join us for soup and a sundae begin Advent in a special way.

FIRSTPRES HAS A BICENTENNIAL FLOAT in the Greenville Christmas parade Saturday, December 7. If anyone would like to ride on and/or walk along side the float please contact Sue in the office for more information.



POINSETTIAS will be placed in the sanctuary CHRISTMAS EVE in memory and/or honor of family and friends. A printed list will appear in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

The donation cost is \$9.00 per flower. The deadline for orders is December 8. Please return your order forms to the office. Christmas blessings.

WORSHIP BULLETIN INFORMATION

In memory/honor (Please circle)

of _____

given by _____

WORSHIP BULLETIN INFORMATION

In memory/honor (Please circle)

of _____

given by _____

WORSHIP BULLETIN INFORMATION

In memory/honor (Please circle)

of _____

given by _____

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CHRISTMAS DINNER

Tuesday, December 3rd Erin Warren, a covenant partner at First Presbyterian Church and an elementary school music teacher, will help the Presbyterian Women enjoy Christmas Carols at our annual Christmas Dinner in Calvin Hall at 6:00 p.m. Dinner will be provided by the Daytime and Evening Circles. Each person is asked to bring their table service. After a delicious dinner we will have devotions and a business meeting. We hope you will come and enjoy gathering together during the Christmas Season.

PREPARATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation at FPC Greenville is scheduled for January 26, 2025. All those responsible for submitting a report should have them in to the office no later than January 1, 2025. Thank you for sending them to: office@fpcgreenville.com

Christmas Giving Trees

The Christmas Giving Trees are available in the Church Narthex and Rear Vestibule. This is an opportunity to purchase a Christmas gift for others who may have limited resources. Tags on the trees describe specific gifts for children, youth, and nursing home residents. **The gifts are to be returned in Christmas gift bags, with the tags securely attached on the outside, to the church no later than next Sunday, December 8.** If you are unable to shop and want to be a part of this joy of giving, you may provide a monetary donation and a gift will be purchased for you. Donations may be left at the Church office or given to Dan Baker, Cherri Artman, Kelly Hittle, Carol Riley or Beth McCracken.



The Mitten and Hat Tree

The Mitten and Hat Tree offers the opportunity to provide some warmth to children, youth, and infants in the Greenville Area. Please bring winter hats, mittens and gloves of all sizes, unwrapped, and hang them on the tree in the primary Sunday School area anytime between now and Christmas.

2025 GREETERS NEEDED

There are two sign-up sheets on the table in the rear foyer with dates representing all SUNDAYS in the new year. Please consider signing up for two Sundays to greet your fellow worshipers. Choir members, please consider signing up in the summer months. With just 26 willing greeters, the year will be completed! Thank you so much for your attention and participation.

JINGLE JAM DECEMBER 15. This event will happen during Kid's 3F and 612, a night of Christmas fun. Children, K through 5th grade at 4:00-5:30 and 612 from 6:00-7:30 are invited to come dressed in an ugly Christmas sweater as we get in the holiday season with fun games, food, and faith lessons.

FAMILY CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Sunday, December 15 from 1:45 PM – 3:30 PM participants can meet in the parking lot at FirstPres for an afternoon of caroling. Following caroling we will meet in the Parlor for cookies and cocoa. Sing-up sheets are on the table in the rear vestibule.

“Pay It Forward” Breakfast

All are invited to the annual “Pay-it-Forward Breakfast” during the Sunday School hour on Sunday, December 22, 2024. A representative from each Sunday school class will share how their class paid it forward this Christmas season. Please come for some fellowship, good food, and the kids singing a few tunes.

Christian Education is now offering a ZOOM link for the junior high Sunday school hour (9:30am-10:30am). If you are interested in participating please let the church office know.

Christian Education is looking for a volunteer to lead VBS 2025. If you feel God leading you in this direction please contact Dan Baker or Ericka Dershimer. We are looking to have a lead person and small team to lead this year's program.

This Week

Sunday, December 1	9:00 a.m.	Deacons Mtg.
	9:00 a.m.	Prayer in the Library
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	Morning Worship/Advent I Communion/Stewardship
	12:00 noon.	Soup 'n Sundae Alternative Christmas
	1:00 p.m.	Messiah Rehearsal
Monday, December 2	9:00 a.m.	Staff Mtg. No School
Tuesday, December 3	9:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	1:00 p.m.	Men's Bible Study
	6:00 p.m.	PW Christmas Dinner
Wednesday, December 4	9:00 a.m.	Kids of the Kingdom
	10:00 a.m.	Tots of the Kingdom
	7:00 p.m.	Ladies 3-F
Thursday, December 5	9:30 a.m.	Thanksgiving Dinner/
	10:00 a.m.	Women's Bible Study
	6:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Friday, December 6	9:00 a.m.	Kids of the Kingdom
Saturday, December 7		Messiah Dress Rehearsal
	5:00 p.m.	Greenville Christmas Parade
Sunday, December 8	9:00 a.m.	Prayer in the Library
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	Morning Worship/Advent II
	1:30 p.m.	Greenville Brass Prelude
	2:00 p.m.	Messiah Presentation
	4:00 p.m.	3-F
	6:00 p.m.	612

**Deadline for announcements for Sunday's bulletin-Wednesday
by noon Deadline for Bell Tower – 20th of every month**

939 PRAYER PARTNER

Suggested prayer focus – Friends and relationships

Directory

First Presbyterian Church
323 Main Street, Greenville, PA 16125
phone: 724-588-6520
web address: fpcgreenville.com

David A. Dobi, Senior Pastor
email: ddobi@fpcgreenville.com

Ben Claypool, Associate Pastor
email: bclaypool@fpcgreenville.com

Susan Blum, Office Manager
e-mail: office@fpcgreenville.com

Randall Curtis, Director of Music Ministries
rpc1220@me.com

Prayer Chain: for prayer support on any request,
e-mail office@fpcgreenville.com

STAFF OFFICE HOURS

David Dobi – Senior Pastor

Monday-Wednesday	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Thursday	Off
Friday	8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Saturday	8:00 a.m. –12:30 p.m.

Ben Claypool-Associate Pastor

Monday-Thursday	8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Friday	Off

Susan Blum-Office Manager

Monday	8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Tuesday-Friday	8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Dan Dibble – Head Custodian

Monday	8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
Wednesday	8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
Friday	8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.



