



W E L C O M E

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 13, 2020

We are an inclusive, mission-minded, Christian congregation where everyone belongs.



WORSHIP LEADER

The Rev. Amanda Maguire Thomas



HEAD OF STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Dan McCoig Jr. (Pastor Dan will be away 12/7-12/13)

BEYOND WALLS, A PLACE FOR ALL

In these unprecedented times, we invite you to make First Presbyterian Church your spiritual home. While we are unable to worship in our interior worship spaces, we are so glad you have found us online, fpcwinc.org/virtual

During this difficult time, please contact us if we can provide assistance and prayer. Our church office's e-mail is info@fpcwinc.org.

Through your donation, we thank you for your generosity so FPC can continue to provide comfort, support, and ministry to all. Donations can be done securely and confidentially online, fpcwinc.org/stewardship/donate or by mail, 116 South Loudoun Street, Winchester, Virginia 22601 (*please designate your giving*)

EXPERIENCE FPC ONLINE – YOUR VIRTUAL CHURCH

If viewing this leaflet online, please download and open this document in your device's PDF program. Connect spiritually online at fpcwinc.org/virtual and our prayer community at fpcwinc.org/prayer

VIRTUAL ORGAN CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

There are wonderful Christmas organ concerts happening virtually, connected to the FPC community.

See our latest eNotice for details on how to watch!

CHAIN OF CHECKS

Dollar by dollar, *Chain of Checks* continues to grow to help CCAP of Winchester as we address hunger in our community. You can leave your donation at one of the "50 Friends" locations...*Your donation will go to CCAP of Winchester so they can purchase a delivery truck and that would make their job easier!* **Please see the recent eNotice** for the list of "50 Friends" locations. The *Chain of Checks* Match Day Radiothon is 12/17 & 18 on 92.5 FM – donations on those days will be matched!

HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

Are you having trouble connecting or accessing the church online through our website, emails, the worship videos . . . whatever it is, we want to help! Please contact the church office either through e-mail [\[info@fpcwinc.org\]](mailto:info@fpcwinc.org) or leave a message on extension 11. Also, notify us if you know of someone who is in the hospital, rehabilitation, births, and deaths.

LET'S BE FRIENDS

Find us on Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, and Instagram. 116 S. Loudoun St. • Winchester, VA • 22601

540.662.3824 • info@fpcwinc.org • www.fpcwinc.org

There are more announcements and details emailed weekly. Please contact the church office for assistance.

ADVENT 2020 BY THE SEASONAL TEAM

CHRISTMAS CARD WRITING This year, more than ever, we hope Christmas cards can connect us. The Advent team is encouraging you to send cards to someone you don't know in our directory whose last name begins with the same letter of your last name, and to send cards to those living in retirement communities. Join us in spreading Christmas cheer!

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE 2020 has been a year of loss and lament. All are welcome to join us in the parking lot on Sunday, December 20th at 5pm for a service of lament, prayer, and remembering.

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD Join us for an in-person (masked and distanced), parking lot Christmas Eve service at 5pm. We will have music, prayers, safe candle lighting, and hear the Christmas story. And, by NOON, you can worship virtually our Lessons and Carols service on our online platforms.

IRA/STOCK DONATIONS

If you have recently made a stock transfer or IRA Distribution or are intending to do so, **[please notify Jennifer in the church office](#)**. This will help ensure that we credit your gift accurately.

CHURCH OFFICE AVAILABILITY DURING COVID-19

The Staff continues to work on a hybrid schedule. There will be someone available to take phone calls on *most* Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. If your phone call goes to voicemail, please leave a message so they are aware you have called. If you require building access, please call or email to schedule. After Christmas Day, the church office will be staffed Monday, 12/28 and Thursday, 12/31, from 9am-12:30pm *only* for the holiday break.



VIRTUAL WORSHIP

Third Sunday of Advent • December 13, 2020 • 10:00 AM

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WINCHESTER

"Those who DREAM prepare the way . . . BELIEVE in the promise". <https://www.fpcwinc.org/advent>

GATHERING *The Holy Spirit Calls Us Together as People of God*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "In the Bleak Midwinter" Amy Bowman, piano

Thompson

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Watch and wait for Christ's coming!

All: Light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises of God with prayer.

LIGHTING OF HOPE, PEACE, AND JOY CANDLES Annie Pompelia

Rejoice! For our Lord is coming into the darkness of oppression's exile to lead us home, as we hear in Isaiah 35:1-10:

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Let us pray. O Lord, our redeemer, you lead us from languishing in sorrow's shadows into laughter's joy over your abundant restoration. Thank you that you are coming for us to lead us home along your Way, Jesus Christ. Amen.

HYMN "My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout!"

STAR OF COUNTY DOWN

*FPC does not have the permission or license to print lyrics and music. This hymn can be located in the Glory to God hymnal, #100.
COPYRIGHT: Text © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc. Music Arr. © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc.*

WORD *God Speaks to Us in Scripture, Preaching, and Song*

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Todd Bowman

SONG "Noel" Allie Swiger, vocals | Leila Grace Sergent, dance

SCRIPTURE Luke 1:46-55

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant

Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

SERMON “Mary, the Grinch, and Joy!” The Rev. Amanda Maguire Thomas

THANKS *The People of God Respond to God’s Word*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER Annie Pompelia

[...the petitions conclude...] And now as Christ taught us, we are bold to pray... 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.

OFFERTORY

Friends, our giving is one way of saying thank you to God for what God has given us. It’s an act of gratitude. It is also an act of worship. Just as we present our words in liturgy and song and prayer to God, we present a portion of the fruit of our work to God, our money. May we reflect on what we have been given and respond by giving generously to the work of God through this community.

SONG “He Has Come for Us” Lisa Pluska, vocals | Amy Bowman, piano Ingram/Andrews

You can send your offering via USPS [116 S. Loudoun St., Winchester, VA 22601] or you can give electronically using the “Donate” button on our website. If you use the PayPal app, send it to administrator@fpcwinc.org Thank you. [<https://fpcwinc.org/stewardship/donate>]

SENDING *God Blesses Us and Sends Us to Live as God’s People in the World*

BENEDICTION

Friends, Be people of joy. Let joy live in your heart and share the joy of Christ with all you meet. Share joy by seeing the good in each other. Share joy by remembering good times and hoping for good times to come. Share joy by praying for our world. In this Advent season, we need to see, feel, and share joy. As you go out into the wonder of God’s creations, share joy, peace, and hope with those you meet. Amen.

POSTLUDE “The Holly and the Ivy” arr. Mier

PERMISSIONS: Scripture quotations are from the Common English Bible, retrieved from "BibleGateway.com: A searchable online Bible in over 150 versions and 50 languages." www.biblegateway.com. The liturgy is reprinted from *Book of Common Worship*, copyright © 2018 Westminster John Knox Press. Reprinted by permission from the *Book of Common Worship*, © 2018 John Knox Press. All Rights reserved. Hymns and Songs are reprinted by permission of CCLI under license #3086733. CCLI Annual License, Size C with Premium SongSelect. #3086733, expires March 31, 2021. CCLI Streaming License #CSPL099591, expires February 28, 2021.

"GIVING BACK"

Community Thanksgiving Dinner November 26, 2020

The Community Thanksgiving Dinner co-directors Bob Cleaver, Roberta Lake, Lacy Morise, and Bill Stewart express our sincere appreciation and thanks to the Corporate Sponsors, Church Partners, Business Supporters, Faith Communities, and all those who volunteered or made a donation to help make the 2020 Community Thanksgiving Dinner happen during a very difficult and trying time.

Corporate Sponsors

Costco
USA Produce & Seafood, Inc.

Partlow Insurance Agency, Inc.
Sprint/Shentel

Church Partners

Church of Jesus Christ of
Latter Day Saints
Fellowship Bible Church

First Presbyterian Church
(host site)

Business Supporters

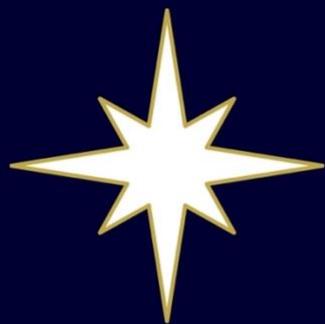
FAST SIGNS
Jordan Springs Market
Human Resources Department of
Valley Health

Martin's Food Store - Riverdell Court
Virginia Farm Market



CHRISTMAS CARD WRITING

The Advent Seasonal team is encouraging folks to think of your church family as you send Christmas cards. This year, more than ever, we hope Christmas cards can connect us. The Advent team is encouraging you to send cards to someone you don't know in our directory whose last name begins with the same letter of your last name. We also encourage you to send cards to those living in retirement communities. Join us in spreading Christmas cheer!



Longest Night Service

2020 has been a year of loss and lament.

We lament the loss of life.

We lament delayed celebrations or trips.

We lament the way things are.

All are welcome to join us in the parking lot on Sunday, December 20th at 5pm for a service of lament, prayer, and remembering.

All are welcome.

The Nativity of Our Lord

Join us for an in-person
(masked and distanced), parking lot
Christmas Eve service at 5 pm.

We will have music, prayers, safe candle
lighting, and hear the Christmas story.

All are welcome.

Lessons and Carols online worship will
be available at NOON on Christmas
Eve on all of our online platforms.