

# FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 1 , 2024

Christmas Joy December 1 – December 22, 2024



**Reverend Delton H. Farmer, Pastor**

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*"Helping Others See Jesus' Grace In Me"*

# Order of Worship

## 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

*\*Congregation Stands/rise in spirit*

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES ..... Elder Sharon Kelley

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE ..... Christina & Karen Solis

\*INTROIT #106 (AA)

"In The Beauty Of Holiness"

GOD OUR FATHER

HIS ADORATION AND PRAISE

### 106 IN THE BEAUTY OF HOLINESS

*...be holy yourselves in all your conduct; for it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."  
1 Peter 1:15-16*

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of five systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Come let us wor-ship the Lord in the beau - ty of ho - li-ness. Come let us wor-ship the Lord in the beau-ty of ho - li-ness. Give Him the hon - or. Give Him the praise. Come let us wor-ship the Lord; Let's give Him the praise." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody. There are some triplets and longer note values in the piano part.

Wor - ship Him. Wor - ship Him. Give my God the glo -

ry. Give my God the praise.

Wor - ship Him. Wor - ship Him.

Come let us wor - ship the Lord; Let's give Him the praise.

Text: Nettie L. Sawyer Lester, © 1992, Joy Publishing Co. (SESAC)  
 Tune: Nettie L. Sawyer Lester, © 1992, Joy Publishing Co. (SESAC); arr. by Stephen Key, © 2000, GIA Publications, Inc.

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### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

**Leader:** Christ is coming!

**All:** We see the signs!

**Leader:** Christ is coming!

**All:** We will be ready!

**Leader:** Christ is coming! We raise our heads because our redemption is drawing near!

**All:** Praise be to God! We will worship and prepare.



**1 Hark the herald angels sing.  
Jesus, the light of the world.  
Glory to the new-born King.  
Jesus, the light of the world.**

**Refrain:**

**We'll walk in the light, beautiful light.  
Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.  
Oh, shine all around us by day and by night.  
Jesus, the light of the world.**

**2 Joyful, all ye nations, rise.  
Jesus, the light of the world.  
Join the triumph of the skies.  
Jesus, the light of the world. [Refrain]**

**3 Christ, by highest heav'n adored.  
Jesus, the light of the world.  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Jesus, the light of the world. [Refrain]**

**4 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace.  
Jesus, the light of the world.  
Hail, the Sun of righteousness!  
Jesus, the light of the world. [Refrain]**

**\* PRAYER OF PRAISE AND ADORATION** (*Unison*)

**Almighty God, We gather on this first Sunday of Advent to worship and honor You, our Lord and Savior. Thank You for the gift of Jesus Christ, who brings light and life to all. May our voices and hearts be lifted in praise to You, and may our worship draw us closer to Your presence. In Jesus 'name, we pray. Amen.**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**Leader:** Preparing for Christ's coming requires honest examination of our lives and our hearts. Let us turn to God in prayer to confess our sins.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*unison*)

**Prince of Peace, the wars and rumors of wars betray our addiction to violence, our destructive and dehumanizing ways. We deserve your judgement and condemnation. Yet, you remain faithful, a steadfast source of peace 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. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**Leader:** "Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. " Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. Amen.

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

**SPECIAL SELECTION**

**FUPC Choir – "You Deserve It" by J.J. Hairston**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION** .....

**Reverend Delton H. Farmer**

Savior God, guide us by your word and Spirit, that we might hear your truth, heed your call and be prepared for Christ's coming this Christmas. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS** .....

**Reverend Delton H. Farmer**

**OLD TESTAMENT - Jeremiah 33:14-16**

**NEW TESTAMENT - 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13**

**SERMON** .....

**"There Is Hope In The Promises Of God" .....**

**Reverend Delton H. Farmer**



JESUS CHRIST

HIS NAME

## 301 THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THAT NAME

...through believing you may have life in His name.  
John 20:31

Je - sus, Je - sus, Je - sus! There's just  
some-thing a - bout that name!

Mas - ter, Sav - ior, Je - sus! Like the  
fra - grance af - ter the rain;

Je - sus, Je - sus, Je - sus! Let all  
heav-en and earth pro - claim:

Kings and king-doms will all pass a - way, But there's  
some-thing a - bout that name!

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is primarily in the treble clef, while the piano accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are placed below the vocal line. The score consists of eight systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: "Je - sus, Je - sus, Je - sus! There's just some-thing a - bout that name! Mas - ter, Sav - ior, Je - sus! Like the fra - grance af - ter the rain; Je - sus, Je - sus, Je - sus! Let all heav-en and earth pro - claim: Kings and king-doms will all pass a - way, But there's some-thing a - bout that name!"

❧ INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE ❧

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*unison*)

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for 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 present, 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. Amen.

**CALL FOR THE OFFERING**

**Leader:** "All things in heaven and earth belong to God, who is coming in glory to reveal a new creation. " Let us present our tithes and offerings to the Lord.. *You may give online @ fupcc.org, mail your gifts to the church office, 406 N. College Street, 28202, or leave with the officers at the back of the sanctuary as you exit. Remember, all we have, and all we are, belong to God. Let us give with a cheerful heart. Amen*

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY SELECTION**

**FUPC Choir - "Emmanuel"** *by Norman Hutchins*

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Leader:** Christ calls us to live generous and grateful lives. Take these gifts we offer today, O God, and use them to the fulfillment of Christ's ministry. May these gifts help to free the captives, heal the sick, comfort the lonely, feed the hungry, heal the wounded. As Christ's hands and feet, use us too, in service to building your beloved community. Amen.

**SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER - Invitation to the Lord's Table .....Rev. Farmer**

**GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Leader: The Lord be with you

**People: And also, with you**

Leader: Lift up your hearts

**People: We lift them to the Lord**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

**People: It is right to give him thanks and praise**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE**



**\*CLOSING**

**"Agnus Dei"** by *Donnie McClurkin*

**Hallelujah, hallelujah, for the Lord God almighty reigns  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, for the Lord God almighty reigns  
Hallelujah**

**Holy, holy  
Are you Lord God almighty**

**Worthy is the Lamb  
Worthy is the Lamb**

**You are holy, holy  
Are You Lord God almighty**

**Worthy is the Lamb  
Worthy is the Lamb  
Amen**

**\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** ..... **Rev. Farmer**  
May the grace, hope, peace and love of God our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer be with us all, now and forever.  
Amen.

**POSTLUDE**

**First United Presbyterian Church**

**INTERCESSORY**



*prayer*

**The last Saturday of each Month @ 8:30 a.m.  
(In the Library)**



## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**TEN CENTS A MEAL** - We Can Make a Huge Difference when ALL participate. Using the same passage Two and Five Cents-a-Meal has been used since 1982. Please consider a gift to Ten Cents-a-Meal every 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday.

**PW BIBLE STUDY** - No Bible Study due to PW Winter Gathering on 12/21/24

**LET JUSTICE ROLL DOWN/God's Call to Care for Neighbors & All Creation: Lesson 4** -Water Justice

**Meeting ID:** 819 3012 7450 • **Passcode:** 129126 • **Call in:** 1 309 205 3325 US



**FIRST UNITED PW WINTER GATHERING**

**DATE:** Saturday, December 21, 2024

**TIME:** 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

**LOCATION:** The Education Building

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN** - PW Women will be collecting personal hygiene items for Sister to Sister for women (*deodorant, soap toothpaste, toothbrush, feminine products, lotion*), The collection of toiletries will continue throughout the year (December).

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN INVITATION** - **The Presbyterian Women of First Presbyterian Church** invite you to attend their annual **Advent Communion Service on December 4, 2024**. Service begins at 11:00 a.m., with a luncheon to follow. You do not need to register to attend the service. If you wish to attend the luncheon you are asked to register on First Presbyterian Church's website, the cost is \$15.00. The church is located at 200 W. Trade Street (28202).

**BIBLE STUDY – (Hybrid) - Bible Study every Wednesday night at 6:30 pm**

**Join Zoom Meeting**                      **Meeting ID:** 874 8560 5940                      **Passcode:** 413228

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87485605940?pwd=1W9aATJXSS4OqG90shNj5hr8jYK7cB.1>

**One tap mobile, + 1-301- 715-8592, follow the prompts: then give meeting**

**FUPCC INTERCESSORY PRAYER** - The last Saturday of each month @ 8:30 am in The Library

**FIRST UNITED'S TRIUMPHANT TEENS – Bible Study 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday's of each Month**

**Sunday Mornings @ 9:45 am      Classroom #201      Ages: 13-18      (snacks provided)**

**NOURISH UP 5<sup>TH</sup> Fridays @ First Presbyterian, the next date will be January 29, 2025**

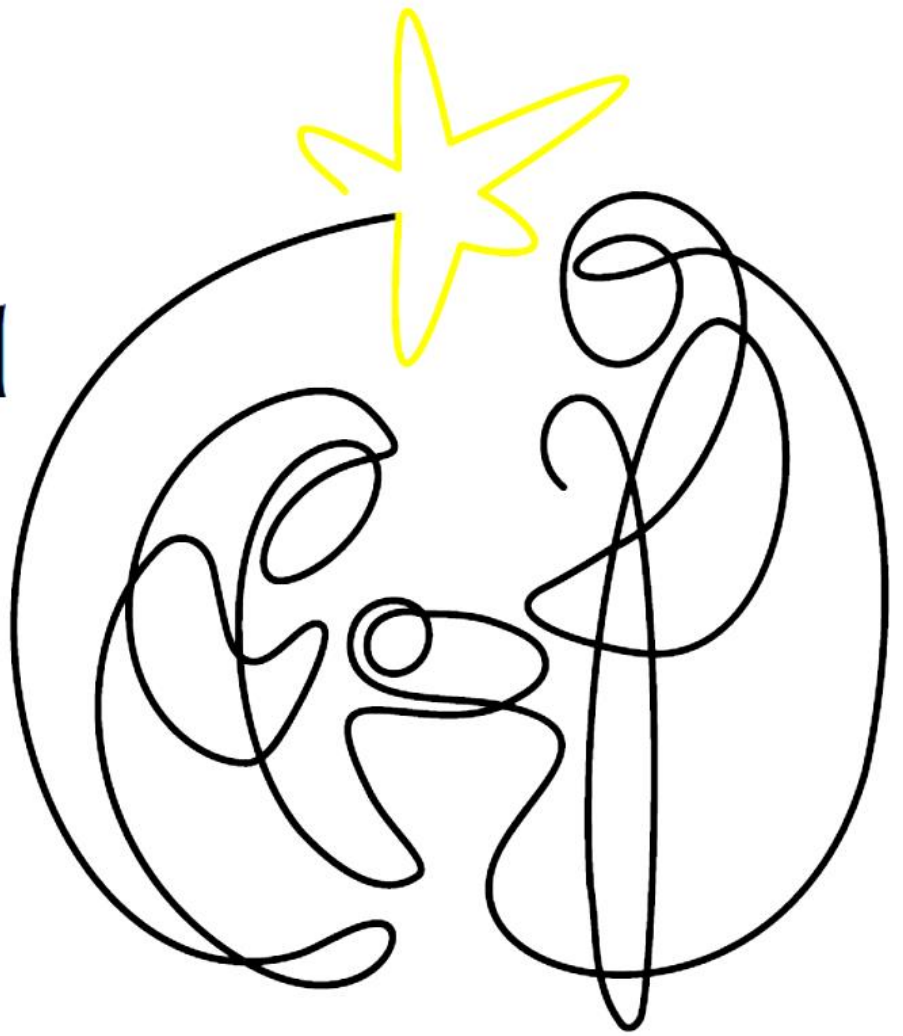
**CLEANSING WATERS SHOWER MINISTRY** - 1st & 3rd Sundays from 9:00 am - 10:30 am

**BT EXPRESS (Alcohol/Narcotics Program)** - Mondays & Wednesdays at 7:00 pm

**CONDOLENCES**

Condolences to Deacon Betty McNair upon the loss of her nephew, Larry Clark. First cousin of Tamara Williams, Thulder Carelock and Valerie Burton. Funeral service held on Saturday, November 30th at 11:00 am at A.E. Grier Funeral Home.

# Advent Devotional 2024



We hope you'll follow along daily, be deepened in your faith, and prepare your heart to celebrate the birth of Christ. This year's devotional is written by Pittsburgh Theological Seminary alumnae/i.

In addition to this printed format, you may also access the devotionals in these ways:

- » **Read and listen online.** Visit [www.pts.edu/devotional](http://www.pts.edu/devotional).
- » **Receive daily e-mails.** Go to [www.pts.edu/email](http://www.pts.edu/email), click "Signup for Seminary News," and "Devotionals (Advent and Lent)."

You may download additional Advent resources by visiting [www.pts.edu/devotional](http://www.pts.edu/devotional).



**PITTSBURGH  
THEOLOGICAL  
SEMINARY**

A decorative border of musical notation, including treble and bass clefs, staves, and various notes, surrounds the central text.

## **FIRST UNITED MEN**

The Men of First United

**"Save the Date"**

**December 15, 2024**

You have been asked to provide music on **Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**. Be a part of the worship experience. Let us make a "Joyful Noise" unto the Lord.

**FUPC Men's Ensemble Rehearsal**

Rehearsals will be

**Sunday, December 8, 2024**

(Immediately Following worship by the piano)

&

**Saturday, Decmeber 14, 2024**

**@ 9:00 am in the Sanctuary**



# CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE



## WAYS TO GIVE



Through your  
congregation



Donate by  
credit card online at  
[pcusa.org/christmasjoy](http://pcusa.org/christmasjoy)



Text  
CHRISTMASJOY  
to 91999  
to give or visit  
[pcusa.org/christmasjoy](http://pcusa.org/christmasjoy)



# Prepare the Way

ISAIAH 40



THE PERFECT GIFT

## December Birthdays

<i>Valerie Burton</i>	<i>December 1<sup>st</sup></i>
<i>Connie Patton</i>	<i>December 4<sup>th</sup></i>
<i>Barbara Cannon</i>	<i>December 10<sup>th</sup></i>
<i>Tamara Williams</i>	<i>December 10<sup>th</sup></i>
<i>Destineé Clark</i>	<i>December 14<sup>th</sup></i>
<i>Letitia Mouzon</i>	<i>December 15<sup>th</sup></i>
<i>Brenda Richardson</i>	<i>December 16<sup>th</sup></i>
<i>Derrick Maxwell Sr.</i>	<i>December 17<sup>th</sup></i>
<i>Clifford "CJ" Waddell, III</i>	<i>December 22<sup>nd</sup></i>
<i>Freddie Taylor</i>	<i>December 23<sup>rd</sup></i>
<i>Atlas Richardson</i>	<i>December 23<sup>rd</sup></i>
<i>McKinley Nesbitt</i>	<i>December 27<sup>th</sup></i>
<i>Vil Johnikin, Sr.</i>	<i>December 28<sup>th</sup></i>

# 7 Marks of Congregational Vitality

1. A commitment to forming disciples over every member's lifetime. This leads first to personal transformation, as people put on the heart of Christ, and then to social transformation, as people joyfully go forth into the community and tackle the issues facing today's culture.
2. Embracing the call to evangelism. We show forth the love of Christ by our actions and our lives even more than by our words. Our relationships are genuine and caring. People know we are Christians by our love.
3. An outward focus. Our church is not a place to escape from the world, but rather our gateway to our community where we may be the hands, feet, heart and mouth of Jesus Christ for people who are suffering or marginalized.
4. Empowering every member to discover their individual calling and the gifts God has given them so they can go forth and serve.
5. Spirit-inspired worship that challenges, teaches, transforms, convicts and energizes us so when we are sent out, we have experienced the wonder of God and are changed for the better from when we arrived.
6. Caring relationships modeled on God's love. We open our doors and hearts to all people, and we build relationships modeled on God's love, which leads to genuine reconciliation and peace.
7. Congregations with healthy systems. Our mission focuses are clear. There is fiscal responsibility and accountability. We have thoughtful decision-making structures. Our leaders and staff enjoy a sustainable balance of work/rest time.



## History of our Partnership

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN + SUN COUNSELING AND WELLNESS

The Opening Doors campaign identified mental health as an outreach priority after Charlotte's Opportunity Task Force included access to mental healthcare as a major factor in socioeconomic mobility and flourishing. First Presbyterian Church recognized barriers to quality, accessible mental health counseling within the uptown community (cost, location) and set out to partner with excellent therapists to provide care in uptown.

COVID-19 underscored the widespread need, not only for direct services for people of all income levels, but also for more opportunities to destigmatize education about mental health and wellness.

After receiving proposals from many potential partners, Sun Counseling was identified as the church's clinical partner for this project. First Presbyterian values Sun Counseling's proven excellence in clinical practice, as well as their commitment to compassionate, engaging education about mental health concerns that are familiar to many of us.

The Opening Doors Capital Campaign will fund income-based scholarships for clients seeing the therapists at the First Presbyterian location. FPC will also provide two offices in the Fresco Lobby during business hours.

Sun Counseling will provide educational opportunities throughout the year for the congregation and community of First Presbyterian Church.



First Presbyterian  
Church of Charlotte

# Sun Counseling and Wellness

AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## About Sun Counseling and Wellness

Sun Counseling and Wellness is made up of a consortium of providers that have many years of experience working with individuals, couples, families, and groups. We are passionate about helping clients achieve a balanced and fulfilling life and treating the WHOLE person. We use modern and evidence-based therapeutic techniques and are individualized and creative in our work with clients. Some of our specialty areas include trauma, grief, eating disorders, anxiety, depression, self-esteem, body image, life transitions, integrative wellness, yoga, acupuncture, and more.



### VALUES

Authenticity, Creativity, Compassion, Education, Service, Showing up. This spells ACCESS. By definition, access is "a means of approaching or entering a place and the ability, right, or permission to approach, enter, speak with, or use." Our hope is for every person to find permission to tend to their wellness and to have the opportunity to do so.

These are approachable, safe, inclusive, nonjudgmental counseling relationships to fit your needs. It is our privilege to work with clients and we are on a mission to destigmatize, elevate the conversation, and normalize dialogue around mental health. We want people to feel proud to say "Yes, I go to therapy!"

## Scheduling an Appointment

Sun Counseling and Wellness will handle all scheduling for appointments in the First Presbyterian counseling center. The new client form can be accessed on their website: [suncounselingandwellness.com/new-clients](http://suncounselingandwellness.com/new-clients)

You do not need a referral from a First Presbyterian minister to make an appointment.

## About the Scholarships

The cost of therapy can be a barrier to many. Sun Counseling therapists will work directly with individual clients to identify the appropriate rate for services rendered, using the income-based charts provided below.

If you think you qualify for a reduced rate, please fill out the form at [fpc.tiny.us/scholarship](http://fpc.tiny.us/scholarship) or speak directly with your therapist during or prior to your first session.

For adult clients or guardians with FEWER than four dependents:

YOUR INCOME	SESSION COST
Up to \$15,000	\$10 / \$15
\$15,001-30,000	\$25 / \$35
\$30,001-40,000	\$50 / \$75
\$40,001-50,000	\$75 / \$100
\$50,001-55,000	\$100 / \$150
\$55,001-60,000	\$125 / \$165
\$60,001+	\$150* / \$200*

For adult clients or guardians with MORE than four dependents:

YOUR INCOME	SESSION COST
Up to \$20,000	\$10 / \$15
\$20,001-\$40,000	\$25 / \$35
\$40,001-50,000	\$50 / \$75
\$50,001-60,000	\$75 / \$100
\$60,001-65,000	\$100 / \$135
\$65,001-70,000	\$125 / \$165
\$70,001+	\$150* / \$200*

● fee for session with a provisionally licensed therapist

\* Full-rate fees: \$175 for a 60-minute intake / \$150 for subsequent 50-minute sessions

● fee for session with a fully licensed therapist

\* Full-rate fees: \$250 for a 60-minute intake session / \$200 for subsequent 50-minute sessions

## Meet the Therapists

Sun Counseling and Wellness provides two full-time therapists who are available for appointments on the First Presbyterian campus.



Dr. Sheba Surratt, DBH, LCMHC

I have 15 years of experience providing counseling, professional development, and consultative services. I work with children, teens and adolescents, and adults. I provide services to individuals with emotional, psychological, lifestyle changes, and various other problem-situations. I work to reduce behavioral and/or mental health

symptoms that impair quality of life in order improve overall self-care management and wellness. *Specialty areas: Anxiety, depression, grief and loss, developmental concerns, adjustment and life transitions, self-esteem and self-concept, interpersonal conflict and relationship issues, substance use.*

### Andrea Juarez, LCSWA

I am a Latinx, Bilingual (English/Spanish), Licensed Clinical Social Worker Associate. I am passionate about breaking the stigma surrounding mental health and helping individuals find healing in their life. My aim is to work collaboratively with you to empower and support through life's ups and downs. It is my priority to create a safe and inclusive space for you to process and explore your feelings. *Specialty areas: complex trauma, intergenerational trauma, anxiety, depression, relationship dynamics, First Gen experience, LatinX experience, change/life transitions, navigating family of origin experiences.*



