

FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 8 , 2024

Second Sunday of Advent
"Peace"



Reverend Delton H. Farmer, Pastor

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"Helping Others See Jesus' Grace In Me"

Order of Worship

2nd Sunday of Advent

**Congregation Stands/rise in spirit*

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Michelle Delaney Grier

*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 a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It consists of five systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor), 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 slurs 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: Zechariah sang to his newborn son:

All: "You, child, will be called a prophet of the Highest, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way.

Leader: You will tell his people how to be saved through the forgiveness of their sins.

All: Because of our God's deep compassion, the dawn from heaven will break upon us,

Leader: to give light to those who are sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death,

All: to guide us on the path of peace. "

2ND WEEK OF ADVENT:

Peace

**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*)

Blessed is the Lord, and blessed are God's people, to whom God sends a Savior, Christ the Lord. Your promise of peace shines in our hearts. Prepare us today to be your dwelling place. Fill us with forgiveness and hope, and make us instruments of your peace. Build your temple within us, O Lord, and let your peace reign forever. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: Scripture reminds us that repentance is part of our preparation to meet Christ. Let us therefore confess our sins together, trusting in his mercy and love.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Holy God, we confess we prefer the crooked paths where we think we can hide from you. We'd rather you didn't examine us too closely; all we do and fail to do. Yet you are coming not to judge, but to save us from our sins and our love of sinning. So come, Lord, by crooked path or straight, to enter our aching hearts. In the certainty of your grace, we make our prayer. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Hear the good news! Christ is our peace. Through him we have forgiveness and new hope. He comes to break the power of sin and set us free again. Alleluia! Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI**

SPECIAL SELECTION

FUPC Choir – "I Shall Wear A Crown" *by Thomas Whitfield*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION **Reverend Delton H. Farmer**

Jesus Christ, Word of God, dwell in us as we turn to these pages, holy ancient stories that proclaim your truth. In the Spirit, give us ears to hear and hearts to believe. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS **Reverend Delton H. Farmer**

OLD TESTAMENT - Malachi 3:1-4

NEW TESTAMENT - Luke 1:68-79

SERMON **"On The Road To Perfect Peace"** **Reverend Delton H. Farmer**



I NEED THEE EVERY HOUR 451

*With my whole heart I seek You; do not let me stray from Your commandments.
Psalm 119:10*

1. I need Thee ev-'ry hour, Most gra - cious Lord;
2. I need Thee ev-'ry hour, Stay Thou near - by;
3. I need Thee ev-'ry hour, In joy or pain;
4. I need Thee ev-'ry hour, Teach me Thy will;

No ten - der voice like Thine Can peace af - ford.
Temp - ta - tions lose their pow'r When Thou art - nigh.
Come quick - ly and a - bide, Or life is vain.
And Thy rich prom - is - es In me ful - fill.

I need Thee, O I need Thee; Ev - 'ry hour I need Thee;

O bless me now, my Sav - ior, I come to Thee.

Text: Annie S. Hawkes, 1835-1918

Tune: NEED, 6 4 6 4 with refrain; Robert Lowry, 1826-1899

FUPC License number: 11348664

✠ INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD'S PRAYER ✠

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*Apostles' Creed*)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

Leader: Leader: With gratitude for all God has given us, let us return our offerings to God, passing the plates along the aisle as we remember that it takes all of us together to make this church strong. *"It is more blessed to give than to receive."* (You may give online @fupcc.org; mail your gifts to the church office, 406 N. College Street, 28202; or leave with the Officers as you exit.) Remember, the Lord Loves a cheerful giver. Amen

OFFERING

OFFERTORY SELECTION

FUPC Choir - "I Love To Praise Him"

by The Mississippi Mass Choir

***DOXOLOGY**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Leader: Generous God, we thank you for all our blessings, and offer these gifts back to your service, that this church might continue to shine your light into the world. Amen.

***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**

Go out in the peace that comes from God, who has begun a good work in you. Go out with a peace to change the world. And as you go, may the love of God who made you, the strength of Christ who saved you, and the wisdom of the Spirit that gives you life, go with you now and forevermore. Amen

POSTLUDE

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 1st Sunday.

PW BIBLE STUDY– Please Zoom in if you are unable to attend.

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: 11:00 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).

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 2nd & 4th Sunday’s of each Month
Sunday Mornings @ 9:45 am Classroom #201 Ages: 13-18 (snacks provided)

NOURISH UP 5TH Fridays @ First Presbyterian, the next date will be January 31, 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

THANK YOU NOTE

Thank you church family for another successful Operation Christmas Child campaign. With your help, we provided 50 Christmas boxes which will be shared thru out the world. In addition, we were able to send a cash donation of \$355.00 (from family, friends and church members), to help with shipping cost. Again, thanks for your generosity, sharing and caring. We could not have done it without you.

-First United Deacons



Lessons and Carol Service

Please join us on the fourth Sunday in Advent, December 22nd at 11:00 am, for a special worship service telling the story of the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ, in scripture and song. Rev. Farmer will deliver a homily during the service. It promises to be a joyful time of worship!



Join Us For
A Service of
Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 22, 2024

at 11:00 AM

Liturgical Dance Workshop

DATE: February 15, 2025

TIME: 10:00 am

LOCATION: The Education Building

DANCE MINISTRY

**With a dance ministry during service on
Sunday, February 16, 2025.**

**This ministry is OPEN to any adult, youth and gender
regardless of age. If interested, please contact:
Ellen Smith at 704-516-4748.**

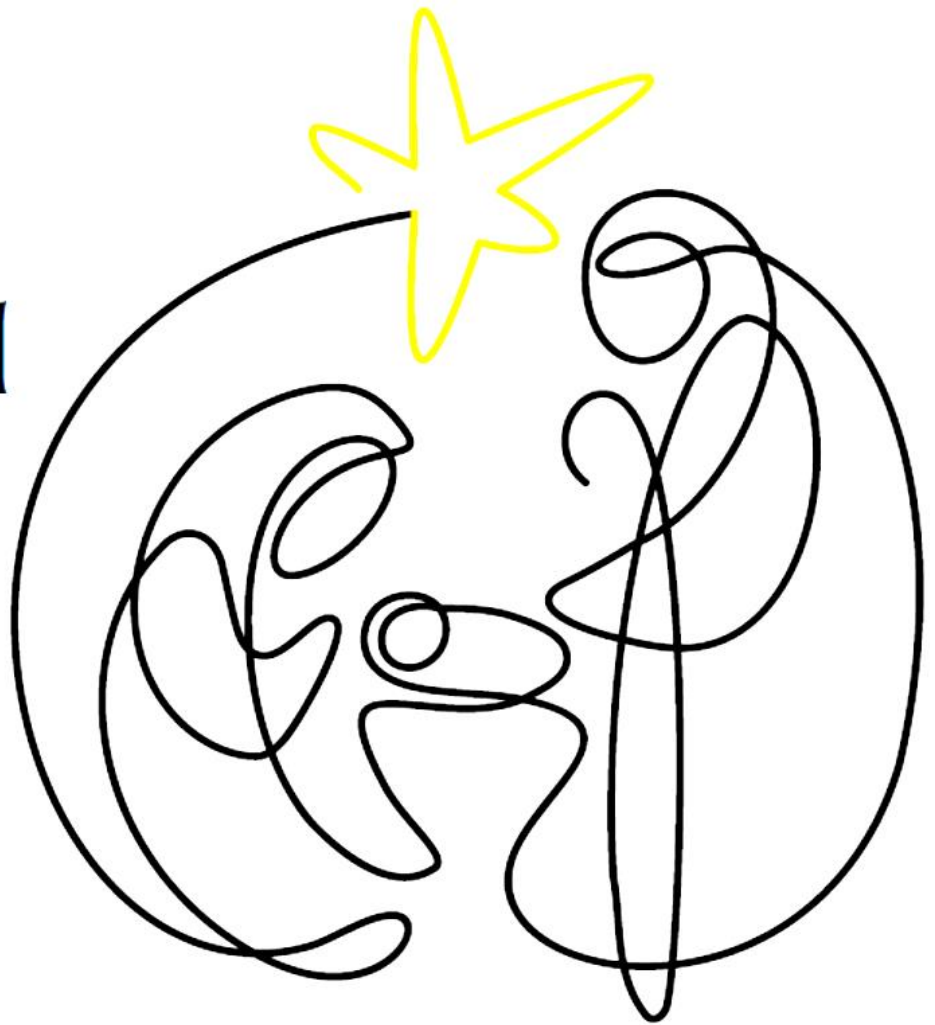


“Let them praise His name with
dancing and make music to Him with
tremble and harp”

Psalm 149:3



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.
- » **Receive daily e-mails.** Go to 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.





CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE



WAYS TO GIVE



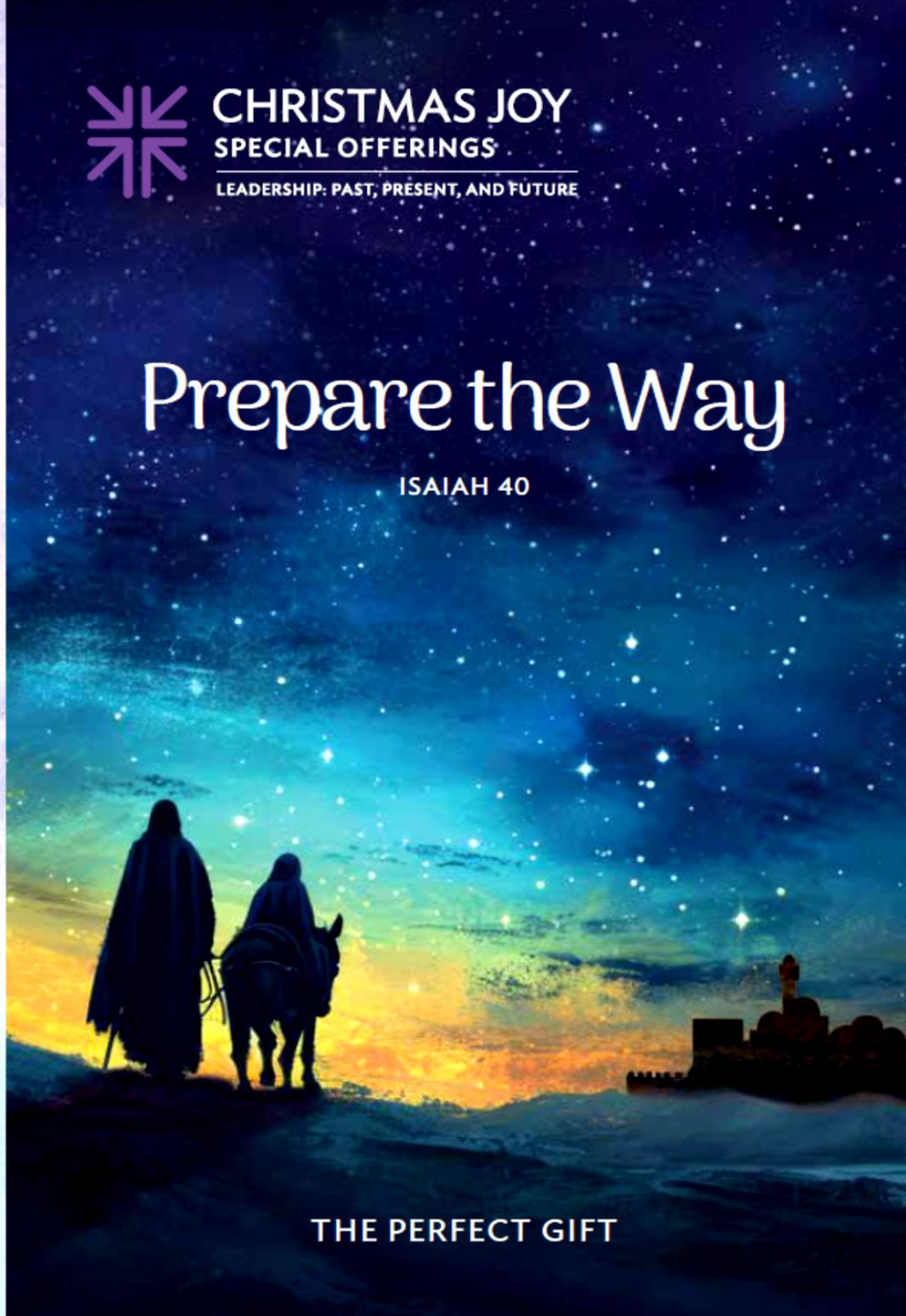
Through your
congregation



Donate by
credit card online at
pcusa.org/christmasjoy



Text
CHRISTMASJOY
to 91999
to give or visit
pcusa.org/christmasjoy



Prepare the Way

ISAIAH 40

THE PERFECT GIFT

First United will observe the Christmas Joy Offering on December 22, 2024

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

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.tinyurl.com/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.*



