

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church of Defiance.
As you enter this holy space, please enter with reverence,
respecting those who are preparing for worship.

GATHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stay for lunch, fellowship, carols and fun.

Monday: 10 am PW & F Cookie Exchange and gifts for home-centered folks.

Wednesday: FPC Napoleon invites us to Carols, Soup & Crafts, 6 pm.

PRAYER IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Holy God, we know that you are near. We know that you are standing at the door, you are running down the driveway, you are inviting us in—into your Word, into relationship, and deeper into joy. Do not let us pass you by. Do not allow distraction or doubt to get the best of us. Do not let us walk down this road without you. Instead, give us the wisdom to turn and run your way. Give us the wisdom to hear your wisdom, to let it sink into our bones and change us, Amen.

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Welcome to worship.

P: Welcome to worship.

L: I am glad you're here.

P: I am glad you're here.

L: Surely God is in this space.

P: Surely God is in this space.

L: I see God in your face.

P: I see God in your face.

L: Let us worship together.

P: Let us worship together.

***HYMN 88**

O COME, O COME EMMANUEL (STANZAS 1,5,7)

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

L: How does a weary world practice peace?

P: By listening before we speak and saying sorry when we need to.

L: By advocating for justice and caring for our neighbor.

P: By practicing Sabbath and forgiving seventy times seven.

L: By choosing grace over hate and opening the door for each other.

P: There are a million ways to practice peace.

L: So today we light the candle of peace as a reminder and a charge.

P: With God's help, may we bring peace into a weary world. Amen.

HYMN 88

O COME, THOU DAYSPRING (STANZA 6)

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of laughter, God of open front doors and family reunions, we confess that we often doubt good news. **We move through this world waiting for the other shoe to drop, waiting for life to fall apart, waiting for our humanity to get the best of us.** Instead of leaning into joy, we lean into scarcity. We lean into fear. We lean into isolation. **Forgive us for forgetting that joy is amplified when shared. Heal the wounds we have from past hurts, and teach us how to throw open our doors like Elizabeth. Show us how to find joy in connection.**

SILENT CONFESSION

***ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS**

***THE PEACE**

L: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

P: And also, with you.

L: Please share signs of peace with one another.

***HYMN 119**

HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING (STANZA 1)

HEAR

WeKIRK WORD

ADVENT 2

SCRIPTURE READING

ISAIAH 40: 1-11, LUKE 1: 24-45

SERMON

JOY IN CONNECTION

RESPOND

HYMN 95

PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD (SING 3 TIMES)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING NOTE

Thank you for your continued gifts to the work of the church. This season we have 2 special ways to give: The Christmas Joy Offering and through the Deacons "Pay down School lunch bills" for school children in our county.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SCATTER TO SERVE

*HYMN 82

COME, THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Family of faith, as you leave this time, you go into a weary world—so speak tenderly. Do the good that is yours to do. Choose connection. Hold onto hope. And remember that Christ took on flesh for you. You are God's beloved. So go rejoicing. The world needs it.

*POSTLUDE

**Please rise in body or in spirit*

Cover art by Claudio Schwarz as on Unsplash.com; from research, I believe it is a piece of the Berlin Wall. I could not find the website shown on the picture. ACW

Liturgy adapted from liturgy written by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

PLEASE PRAY FOR Evan Bates, Larry Bates, Joy Reid, Lynn Peters, Alton Myers, Sharon Lee, Wilma Sponsler and her daughter, Helen, Scott Solether, Jack Hess, Dave Roth (Youkers), Foyle & Karen Solether, Dick (Wilma Sponsler), Nancy Black, Karen Barber, Karl Leckrone, Raegan Wonderly, Nancy Berkheiser (West Unity CRE), Kellie Hahn (Mike Price), Sue D'Ambrosia (Nikki's mother-in-law), Carla Knoop, (Marilyn), Marty & Deb Kennedy (Elaine), AnnMarie Montgomery & family.