



**First Presbyterian Church of Defiance**  
**December 3, 2023 – First Sunday of Advent**  
**501 Washington Avenue, Defiance, OH 43512**  
**419-782-2781      [www.1presby.com](http://www.1presby.com)**

***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**

Next Sunday is our Christmas dinner; please bring a dish to share

Monday, Dec 11th: 10 am PW& F meet to put together Christmas gifts for our home-centered folks; bring a batch of cookies for the gifts and for a cookie exchange.

*Please make use of the index card in your bulletin to make any comments or ask any question concerning the possibility of a shared ministry with St John UCC- for instance- your worship time preference, knowing that St. John UCC will have another time Sunday morn. Place it in the offering plate.*

### **PRAYER IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**

#### **PRELUDE**

#### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: In God's house, we can be joyful.

**P: We can be grateful. We can be hopeful.**

L: In God's house, we can be weary.

**P: We can be anxious. We can be grieving.**

L: In God's house, we can be honest -

**P: inspired or tired, delighted or doubtful, connected or curious,**

L: and everything in between. This is God's house. You are welcome exactly as you are.

**P: Let us worship our loving God.**

#### **\*HYMN 107**

#### **AWAKE! AWAKE, AND GREET THE NEW MORN**

#### **Lighting the Advent Wreath**

A: How does a weary world hope?

B: By telling stories of hope, by lighting candles in the night,  
and planting seeds in the winter that will bloom in the spring.

By praying for children as they grow, and picking up trash on the sidewalk.

By insisting that small acts can make a difference.

A: There are a million ways to practice hope.

So today we light the candle of hope as a reminder and a charge.

**All: With God's help, may we bring hope into a weary world. Amen.**

**HYMN 88**

**O COME, O COME EMMANUEL, STANZA 1**

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Gracious God, we are weary. For weary bodies that ache and cry out, we pray: **Forgive us for pushing ourselves too hard. Reminds us that we deserve Sabbath rest.** For weary minds that feel overwhelmed and saturated with news, we pray: **Forgive us for creating so many distractions. Remind us that in the quiet, we can hear you.** For weary hearts that long to feel the joy of this season, we pray: **Forgive us for being impatient with ourselves. Remind us that healing takes time, and that joy and grief can coexist.** For the weary edges of our faith that struggle to hold onto hope, **Forgive us. Remind us of Zechariah and Elizabeth. Remind us that your good news knows no bounds.**

**SILENT CONFESSION**

**ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS**

Family of faith, no matter how many times we wear ourselves thin, no matter how many times we lose ourselves to distractions, no matter how many times we ask ourselves, "How can this be?" God's love keeps showing up for us. So say this with me: **We are loved. We are claimed. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

**\*THE PEACE**

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

**P: And also, with you.**

L: Please share Christ's peace with one another

**\*HYMN 582**

**GLORY TO GOD, WHOSE GOODNESS SHINES ON ME**

**HEAR**

**WeKIRK WORD**

**ADVENT 1**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**PSALM 80, EXCERPTS AND LUKE 1:5-23**

**HOMILY**

**PRAYER OF THE WEARY**

**CALL FOR THE OFFERING**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**THE INVITATION**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**COMMUNION**

**CLOSING PRAYER**

**MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION**

Report of the Nominating Committee: for the class of 2025

Elders: Curtis Richards, Foyle Solether, and a vacancy

Deacons: Nancy Black, Barbara Florke, Jeanne Peffley

All Church Nominating Committee: Donna Black, Nancy Meyer,  
Susan King

Pastor's Terms of Call

Budget 2024 comments

**SCATTER TO SERVE**

**\*HYMN 92**

**WHILE WE ARE WAITING, COME**

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Family of faith, as you leave this place, 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.

*\*Please rise in body or in spirit*

**PLEASE PRAY FOR** Evan Bates, Ann Mallet (elbow surgery- Sandy Dunlap's daughter), Larry Bates, Joy Reid, Lynn Peters, Alton Myers, Sheron Lee, Wilma Sponsler and her daughter, Helen, Scott Solether, Jack Hess, Dave Roth (Youkers), Karen Solether, Dick (Wilma Sponsler), Nancy Black, Karen Barber, Karl Leckrone, Raegan Wonderly, Liat & Aviv (hostages) and all who are impacted in Israel & Gaza, Nancy Berkheiser (West Unity CRE), Kellie Hahn (Mike Price), Sue D'Ambrosia (Nikki's mother-in-law)