

~ ANNOUNCEMENTS ~

TODAY, after worship, you are invited to Fellowship Hall for conversation and light refreshments. The Prayer Community meets (all welcome!).

TODAY, serving in worship:

Reader: Tracy Sommers

Advent Candle Lighters: The Whitman Family

Greeters/Ushers: Dan & Bonnie Deardorff; Joanne Doyle

Fellowship Hosts: Parish Life Committee (celebrate Dec. birthdays!)

Video Recorder: Joe Shane

Audio Recorder: Ray Thomas

THIS WEEK, in our prayers:

* **in the presbytery:** Church Administrative Staffs

* **in the congregation (at random):** Marjorie Neusbaum;
Anne Roberts-Samsel

THIS WEEK, in the life of the church:

- **Monday, 2 PM:** Faith Circle meets
- **Wednesday, 8 PM:** Christmas Eve Service (details follow)
- **Thursday: MERRY CHRISTMAS! HE IS BORN!**



~ **to the many helpers** who assembled **243** gift bags of cookies so generously baked, and delivered them to Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry for distribution to truckers/travelers passing through our area during the holiday season.

~ **to all Angel Tree participants** whose gifts will brighten Christmas morning for **27** children (in **14** families) at Community CARES, Shippensburg.

NEXT SUNDAY.....1ST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS.....DEC. 28TH

> No Sunday school

> **10:45 AM:** Worship; Debby Madden preaching; Sermon, "Seeking Refuge;"
Scripture: Matthew 2:13-23

> No Fellowship Hour

END-OF-YEAR GIVING. Please ensure that any gift you intend to count for 2025 is in the church office by **Noon, Monday, Dec. 29**. Considering the holiday mail rush, if you are mailing a year-end contribution, please do so quickly; or use the online giving option found on our website; or hand-deliver it to the office. Thank you!

2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES can be picked up in Fellowship Hall. If you are not a church member but wish to use offering envelopes, contact the church office, 717-243-4612.

PASTOR TONY will enjoy a time of vacation Dec. 25 through January 2. During that time, you may address pastoral needs and concerns to Debby Madden (contact info in directory).



ADDITION (to Church Officers page):

Deacons / Class of 2027

Earlene Heckendorn 385-9237 twins211990@comcast.net

ADDRESS CHANGE:

E. Peter Geitner, 2709 Bluebill Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23456



Christmas Eve
SERVICE

You are invited to attend our traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight
Service of Lessons & Carols, Wednesday evening at **8 PM**.

Special music will begin at **7:40 PM**.

Come, bring a friend! Celebrate the birth of Christ the Lord!



A D V E N T

Members of the Congregation, Ministers

The Rev. Anthony D. Lorenz, Pastor

The Rev. Jon A. Black, Pastor Emeritus

Debby Madden, Educator Emerita

Arthur Thompson, Organist; Ron Richcreek, Music Director

Avis Allen, Secretary; Chuck Adler, Sexton

Church Office Hours: Mon. & Wed., 9 AM-2 PM

Phone: (717) 243-4612; E-mail: fpcarl@pa.net;

Website: www.firstprescarlisle.org

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Church Officers

Elders

Deb Richcreek

Deb Ryerson

Tricia Naylor

Matt Weiser

Charlie Thompson

Susan Palyo

Lynne Hofferica

Lynda Mann

Richard Bressler

Deacons

Jim King

Jeff Whitman

Danielle Weiser

Barbara Allen

Mary Jane Blosser

Burce Ashbaugh

Anita Ashbaugh

Pat Pepper

Earlene Heckendorn

First Presbyterian Church On-the-Square Carlisle, Pennsylvania



December 21, 2025

10:45 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

ORDER FOR WORSHIP

GATHERING

PRELUDES

Shepherd’s Pipe Carol	Wood
Il e Ne	Carter
Swiss Noel	D’Aquín

(The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**)
~ GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS ~

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly	Polish Carol
Steve Walker, vocal	

* CALL TO WORSHIP & LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

God our Shepherd, you lead us like a flock:
You are enthroned upon the cherubim:
Shine forth; stir up your might and come to save us!
Restore us, O God of hosts.
Let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Today we light all four Advent candles.
Their brightness recalls God’s glory that shone
around the shepherds when they heard the angel’s
first Christmas greeting: “Do not be afraid.”
We pray that God’s glory will rule on earth
as it does in the highest heaven.
Come, Lord Jesus.
Shine on us, and the night will be bright as the day.

For once you lived in shadow, but now in the Lord you are light.
Live as children of light, enjoying all that is good and right and true.
Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. “Sleeper, awake!
Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”
Come, Lord Jesus.
Shine on us, and the night will be bright as the day.

* HYMN #12 – “People, Look East”

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Lord Christ, we confess our willingness to be loved
but also our reluctance to love.**
**We confess our readiness to accept
your forgiveness but also our struggle
to forgive one another.**
**We confess our eagerness to grasp
your redemption but also our resistance
to follow you without question.**
**In this time of preparation,
forgive us our failure to respond as we should.**

**Come to us anew, and by your grace assist us to receive you
with joy, with gratitude, with obedience, and with love. AMEN**
(silent confession . . .)

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

* RESPONSE #579 – “Gloria Patri”

* PASSING THE PEACE

Just as God has forgiven us in Christ Jesus, let us also forgive
one another and offer signs of peace and reconciliation.
The peace of Christ be with you, **and also with you.**
(Extend a word of peace with one another . . .)

PROCLAIMING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**God of hope, who never lets us go,
draw near to us in these ancient yet living words.**
**By your Holy Spirit may we be filled, lifted up,
and leveled as you prepare in our hearts
the path of your coming. AMEN**

FIRST LESSON	Isaiah 7:10-16	(O.T., p. 636)
	(The Word of the Lord; thanks be to God!)	

CHOIR ANTHEM	“Do You Hear What I Hear?”	arr. Simeone
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SECOND LESSON	Matthew 1:18-25	(N.T., p. 1)
	(The Word of the Lord; thanks be to God!)	

SERMON	Rev. Lorenz
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* HYMN #49 – “Once in Royal David’s City”

* THE APOSTLES’ CREED (Traditional)

**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**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD’S PRAYER (p. 16, blue hymnal)

GIVING THANKS

OFFERING OURSELVES

Offertory	Jesus, Jesus, Oh What a Wondrous Name
	African American Carol

* RESPONSE #592 – “Praise God”

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**Eternal God,
as we await the fulfillment of your kingdom,
use our gifts and the gifts of our lives
to bring justice to those who are oppressed,
to set free those who are in prison,
to lift up those who are bowed down,
and to uphold those who are vulnerable. AMEN**

SENDING

* HYMN #31 – “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”
*Let bells be rung vigorously during the last stanza,
announcing the expected arrival of Jesus, our Lord!*

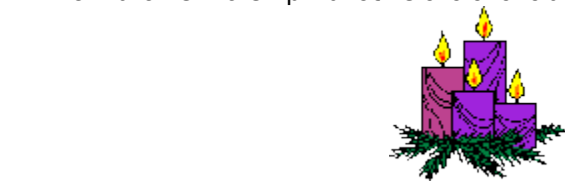
* BENEDICTION

* CLOSING RESPONSE #29 (*refrain*) – “Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

**“Go, tell it on the mountain Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born!”**

* POSTLUDE	Kling, Glockchen	German Carol
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* indicates please stand, if able
BOLD indicates ALL read
Children’s Worship Bulletins are available; an usher can assist you



WE BID ALL who have come to worship a warm welcome in the
name of Jesus Christ! If you do not have a church home, we invite you to
become part of this community of faith and learn about what it means to
follow Jesus Christ. Find more info at: www.firstprescarlisle.org.