



**Second Sunday in Advent**  
**December 8, 2024 | 8:30AM & 11:00AM**

---

**WELCOME TO FPC MARIETTA**

This church welcomes you no matter who you are or from where you come. We are Christ's people, and this is Christ's place with its doors open wide. If you are passing through, Godspeed; if you are looking for a home, stay here; if you need instruction, we can learn together. We invite you to return often.

**FRIENDSHIP PAD**

Whether you are a member, a long-time visitor, or just passing by, please sign the friendship pad at the end of your row.

**CHILDREN IN WORSHIP**

The nursery is available for infants through 4-yr-olds from 9:30-12:15pm. Children are invited to pick up worship items from the blue cart at the entrance to the Sanctuary and Great Hall. Following the Children's Time during the 11:00 service, children in 4yr Pre-K through 1st grade may go to Children's Church.

**STEPHEN MINISTERS ON-CALL**

A Stephen Minister is on call each Sunday morning from 10:00am through 12:00pm. If you would like to speak with a Stephen Minister during that time, please inquire at the front desk.

# GOD GATHERS HIS PEOPLE

*Blue is the color that marks the season of Advent at First Presbyterian Church. While the world mostly celebrates this season with busyness and shopping, during Advent the Church anticipates the newness and renewal that comes to us in the birth of Jesus. In the words of Old Testament Scholar Dr. Walter Brueggemann, "The whole tenor of Advent is that God may act in us, through us, beyond us, more than we imagined, because newness is on its way among us."*

## WELCOME

**GATHERING MUSIC**      *Berceuse de l'Enfant Jésus* | Gower

**\*GATHERING HYMN NO. 163**    *Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice*

**LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF HOPE** 8:30 Johnston Family | 11:00 Johnson Family

Please be seated and join me in the liturgy for lighting the Candle of Peace.

Hear the Word of the Lord from the Prophet Isaiah:

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
And a branch shall grow out of his roots.  
On that day, the wolf shall live with the lamb,  
The leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
The calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
And a little child shall lead them.

A voice cries out in the wilderness,

**"Prepare the way of the Lord."**

A choir sings out of the silence,

**"Come, O come, Emmanuel."**

While despair says, "tomorrow will be no better than today,"

**Our God says, "One is coming who will set all things right."**

While fear says, "lock your doors and shield your eyes,"

**Peace says, "Wait, watch, and listen" for he is coming to change the world.**

Let us pray.

**Almighty God, Christ is coming, and your kingdom is drawing near. We cannot remain unchanged. As we prepare the way for the Prince of Peace, help us turn from our wayward wanderings, return to faithful paths. The war drums command our attention, so we neglect the cause of the poor, and ignore their cries for help. Growing complacent in a world of violence, we turn a blind eye to suffering, and lose hope for peace. Renew our minds and transform our hearts, that our lives might be the first fruits of the change that is to come. Baptize us with your Spirit. Claim us again for your holy work, and in this silence, hear our confession.** (Silence) Amen.

---

*Note: Leaders: regular font | **People: bold font** | \*Those who are able, please stand.*

**\*WE LIGHT THE CANDLE OF PEACE**

Arise, God's people, for light still shines.

As we light this second advent candle,

**We look forward to the day of peace.**

As we watch its flame, we remember the Light that shines in the darkness.

**For peace is stronger than turmoil and love is louder than hate.**

**\*GREETING ONE ANOTHER WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Hear the teaching of Christ: I give you a new commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Having received forgiveness and peace from God, let us pass such forgiveness and peace to our neighbors.

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

(11:00am) **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**\*CAROL NO. 106** *Prepare the Way, O Zion*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**ANTHEM** *Wonderful Peace* | Nordquist

Peace, peace, wonderful peace,  
Peace to the world is given.  
Hushed are the angels, so still is the night;  
Then in the East shone a heavenly light.  
Join in the chorus His praises sing!  
Glory to God, to the new born King.  
Peace, peace, wonderful peace.  
Peace to the world is given.

Peace, peace, bearer of peace,  
Men of good will receive Him.  
Holiest of nights, O most wondrous of days;  
Shepherds and kings lift their voices in praise.  
Join in the chorus, His praises sing!  
Glory to God, to the newly born King.  
Peace, peace, wonderful peace.  
Peace to the world is given.

# GOD SPEAKS TO HIS PEOPLE

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### SCRIPTURE READINGS (NRSV)

**Malachi 3:1-4**

**Luke 1: 67-80**

The Word of the Lord | **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON *Peace* | Rev. Joe Evans, Senior Pastor

## WE RESPOND TO GOD

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*The 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.

### OFFERING/OFFERTORY

*Adagio e dolce from BWV 527* | Bach

### \*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE

### \*SENDING HYMN NO.123

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

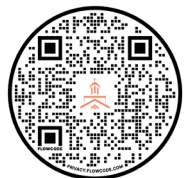
### \*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

### \*CHORAL BENEDICTION

*The Lord Bless You and Keep You* | Rutter

### \*SENDING MUSIC

*People, Look East!* | Langlois



---

If you would like to give online go to [fpcmarietta.org](http://fpcmarietta.org), or scan this QR code.

## **Today's Worship Leaders**

*Rev. Joe Evans, Senior Pastor*

*Rev. Cassie Waits, Associate Pastor*

*Rev. Dr. Paul Sherwood, Parish Associate*

*Jean Tafoya 8:30am Beadle*

*Harry Foster, 11:00am Acolyte*

*Rose Wing, 11:00 Beadle*

*Dr. Jeffrey Meeks, Director of Music & Fine Arts*

*Chohee Kim, Principal Organist*

*Chancel Choir*

*Audio/Visual Team: 8:30am Will Myers | 11:00am Thomas Foster, Will Myers, John Hills*

---

## **Chancel Flowers**

The flowers today are given in memory of Brent Law's father, Willard Carl Law,  
October 24, 1929 - February 12, 2024 by Greg and Cheryl Briscoe.

## **Join us**

New members are received each month in worship.

If you are interested in joining, please contact Ken Farrar at [kenfarrar@icloud.com](mailto:kenfarrar@icloud.com).

# Advent & Christmas at FPC

Advent begins Sunday, December 1 and ends on Christmas Eve, December 24.  
Join us as we await the birth of Jesus.



## ANNUAL ANGEL TREE

### FULFILL THE CHRISTMAS WISH LIST OF A CHILD.


Details in the Gathering Space  
Questions? Contact Anne Fletcher at  
[annefletcher@me.com](mailto:annefletcher@me.com).

### EMERGENCY OVERFLOW SHELTER TRANSPORTATION

MUST will activate emergency shelters when overnight temperatures are expected to fall to 35 degrees or below. We need volunteers to drive the church van, to ride in the van (so two volunteers are in each van, and to drive their own vehicle (for transporting luggage and other belongings).

Reach out to Jeff Byrd at 770.295.8326 or  
[jeffbyrd@gmail.com](mailto:jeffbyrd@gmail.com) for more details!

## Christmas Poinsettias

 Forms received November 17 - December 18

Poinsettias will decorate the Great Hall and Sanctuary. Consider donating one or more in memory of a loved one or to honor a special person at Christmastime. Forms are available at [fpcmarietta.org/events](http://fpcmarietta.org/events) and in the Gathering Space.



## Live Nativity

Sunday, December 15  
4pm | Main Lot

Join us at the manger! Feed live animals, meet the camel, and enjoy hot chocolate and a Christmas treat!



## Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 15  
5pm | Great Hall  
with Chancel Choir, Bells, & Brass

Join us as we read the Christmas story and sing our favorite Christmas carols.

### Advent Lecture Series with Dr. Brennan Breed

Sundays, December 1-22 | 9:45am - 10:45am | Sanctuary

### Christmas Joy Offering

Collected during worship each Sunday in Advent

From Rev. Dr. Paul Sherwood: I wish to lift up the annual Joy Offering for your consideration.

Following the devastation of Hurricane Helene, I learned that representatives of our denomination, the PC(USA) reached out immediately to our churches in the impacted areas. They offered grants to those church employees who suffered damage. As of the end of October, they distributed \$400,000 and expect to distribute a total of \$750,000 by the end of the year. I was proud to hear of such speedy assistance to these folks and I am glad to support the Joy Offering.



# *The Longest Night*

Thursday, December 19 | 7pm | Sanctuary

---

This is a more subdued and reflective worship service, especially for those who struggle during the holidays. Communion will be served.



# *Christmas Eve Services*

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24



**12:00pm Communion Service in the Sanctuary**

**4:00pm Family Service in the Great Hall**

Children ages PreK 3-Grade 5 and youth take part in telling of the Christmas story.

More details coming soon!

*Baby gift items will be collected for the Georgia Division of Family and Children's Services.*

**7:00pm Candlelight Service in the Great Hall**

*A nursery is available for this service*

**11:00pm Candlelight & Communion Service in the Sanctuary**

## ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

### Presbyterian Women December Meetings

PW Sunday Circle: December 8 | 5:00-6:30

Study Topic: "I'm dreaming of a white hot Christmas" - on Climate Change  
Christmas refreshments will be served.

PW Monday Meeting: December 9 | 10:00am | Holland Hall

In addition to our study topic, "Water Justice," we will have a musical program presented by the preschool children. Lunch will be served for \$7.

*PW reminds the congregation to cut stamps from Christmas card envelopes (please leave a broad margin) and also to remove the pop tops from aluminum cans. The stamps fund Spanish language educational materials and the pop tops keep the power on at the Ronald McDonald House. Collection sites for both are on the PW bulletin board opposite Holland Hall.*

**P/T Facilities Manager Position** Monday-Friday - up to 25 hours.

The Facilities Manager supports the Property Committee to oversee the church building and grounds maintenance, and facilities care functions to promote a clean, well-kept, and safe environment for members and visitors. Please contact Melissa Ricketts at [MelissaRicketts@fpcmarietta.org](mailto:MelissaRicketts@fpcmarietta.org).

**Book Club** (*The Women* by Kristin Hannah)

Next Meeting: December 11 | 6pm | in person/online

Questions? Contact Nancy Jo Kirk at 678-986-3967

### Pedalers

Next Ride: Friday, December 13 | 9am | starting at the Florence Road trailhead.

We usually ride an hour out and an hour back, but we can modify the ride to fit the needs of the group. This is a social activity, not a race! We ride for pleasure. Questions? Call Jennifer Davis at 404-210-3697 or Nancy Jo Kirk at 678-986-3967.

### FPC Men's Group

This group will have a Christmas gathering at the home of Jennifer and Russell Davis on Monday, December 16. Upcoming 2025 dates: 1/27, 2/17, 3/24, 4/28  
Contact John Knox at [Jdknox162@gmail.com](mailto:Jdknox162@gmail.com) to join!

**Tuesday Ladies Bible Study - New 7-Week Study!** *How Much More* by Lisa Harper beginning Tuesday, January 7 | 9:30am-12:00pm | Room 055

Lisa Harper explains how our Creator Redeemer's unconditional love is woven throughout Scripture. Refreshments, workbook discussion time, and a 30-40 min video. Questions? Linda Bush at 770-856-8443

### Stephen Ministry Grief Share

Wednesdays, beginning January 15, 2025 | 6-8pm | Room 050

A Grief Share support group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. Through this 13-week group, you'll discover what to expect in the days ahead and what's "normal" in grief. To learn more or sign up, email Denise Lobodinski: [lobodrake@aol.com](mailto:lobodrake@aol.com)

## Small Group Opportunities

### SUNDAYS

#### Sunday School

for All Ages 9:45-10:45am

**Youth Group** 5:00-7:00pm

#### Presbyterian Women

Third Sundays  
5:00pm

### MONDAYS

#### Presbyterian Women

Second Mondays | 10:00am

#### Monday Men's Group

4th Mondays (usually)  
6:00-7:30pm

#### NAMI Support Group

Mondays 7:00-8:30pm

### TUESDAYS

#### Ladies' Bible Study

Tuesdays 9:30am-12pm

### WEDNESDAYS

#### Book Club

2nd Wednesdays 6:00pm

#### Jubilee (55+)

1st Wednesdays

### THURSDAYS

#### Thursday Bible Study

Thursdays 12pm-1pm

### DAILY

#### Club 3:30

4-6pm

*This list is not exclusive.*  
For more opportunities, go to [fpcmarietta.org/get-involved](http://fpcmarietta.org/get-involved).