



*First Presbyterian Church of Murrysville  
3202 North Hills Road  
Murrysville, PA 15668  
724-327-0728*

*Our mission is to worship and honor God,  
and to bring people to Christ. It is our joy to be stewards  
of the Good News of the love of God in Jesus Christ.*

*First Sunday of Advent  
December 1, 2024  
11:00 a.m.*

11:00 A.M.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

DECEMBER 1, 2024

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

The Klein Family

FIRST SUNDAY: WAIT for the Light  
(*SEE Music Insert for Congregational Part*)

Musical Introduction (*sung by Choir*)

*End our darkness, end our night, Jesus, the light of the world.  
Bring to earth God's heavenly light, Jesus, the light of the world.*

Responsive Litany:

Leader: Advent is a time to wait.

**People: We wait in hope for the dawning light.**

Leader: Advent is a time to wait for freedom from captivity.

**People: We wait in hope for the dawning light.**

Leader: Advent is a time to wait for comfort in our sorrow.

**People: We wait in hope for the dawning light.**

Leader: Advent is a time to wait for power in our weakness.

**People: We wait in hope for the dawning light.**

Leader: Advent is a time to wait for the end of darkness.

**People: We wait for Jesus, the Light of the World.**

Candle Lighting

Short musical intro by *Choir*: "*Jesus, the light of the world...*"

**ALL** Sing the Congregational part TWICE (INSERT)

Conclusion (*sung by Choir*):

*O Jesus, the light of the world, light of the world.*

Concluding Prayer

\*HYMN #154

*"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*

*(Decoration of the Christmas Tree: Members of the congregation are invited to come forward and hang their ornaments on the tree during the singing of the hymn)*

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)**

**Almighty God, the giver of life and forgiver of sins, we come to You now with hope: hope because You always love us, even though at times it seems like we have been forsaken; hope because you do not hold our sins against us, but instead grant us Your grace; hope because You turn our hearts toward You and give us the courage to trust You in a world filled with darkness. Help us, Lord, to confess our sins, remembering that Your Son died for our sins so that we might be reconciled to You. Create in us the desire to serve You faithfully in all that we say and do. In Christ's Name we pray.**

**\*PRAYERS OF PERSONAL CONFESSION**

**\*ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

**HYMN #734**

**ANTHEM**

*"Prepare for the Coming of the Lord!"*

**Chancel Choir**

**SCRIPTURE**

**Psalm 84:1-12**

**O.T. Page 543**

**Luke 1:39-45**

**N.T. Page 57**

**SERMON**

*"The First Song of Christmas"*

**Rev. Edward Gray**

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (UNISON)**

**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; on 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**

*"From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"*

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**HYMN #34**

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

\*HYMN #153

*"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"*

\*BENEDICTION & CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

**Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior, glorious Lord;  
Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, living Word.**

*Naida Hearn (c) 1974, 1978 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.) All rights reserved. CCLI License No. 1860205*

Rev. Edward Gray, Pastor

Ruth Poscich, Director of Music

Eddie Gray, Audio/Video Technician

This morning we are blessed with the following participants and volunteers:

8:30 a.m. Worship Leader: Jeremy Hill

11:00 a.m. Worship Leader: Peter Klein

11:00 a.m. Musicians: The Chancel Choir; Michael Bellavia, guitar

The First Presbyterian Church of Murrysville will hold the annual congregational meeting for the purpose of electing the church officers on Sunday, December 8, 2024, in the church sanctuary immediately following the 11:00 am worship service.

Please make every effort to attend this brief but important meeting.



**December 1, 2024 through December 8, 2024**

<b>Today</b>	<b>First Sunday in Advent</b>
	<b>8:30 a.m.      Worship Service – Laird Hall</b>
	<b>9:45 a.m.      Sunday School</b>
	<b>11:00 a.m.     Worship Service – Sanctuary</b>
	<b>12:30 p.m.     Worship Committee Meeting</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Give Big Pittsburgh—benefitting Our Meals On Wheels</b>
	<b>8:00 a.m.      Rangers Breakfast, Fellowship Dicks Diner</b>
	<b>9:30 a.m.      Staff Meeting</b>
	<b>3:00 p.m.      Deacons Meeting</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.      Sew What</b>
	<b>2:00 p.m.      Joy Ringers Rehearsal</b>
	<b>4:00 p.m.      Friends’ Kitchen</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>1:30 p.m.      Moms in Prayer</b>
	<b>3:00 p.m.      Chancel Choir Rehearsal</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Office Closed</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.    Salvation Army Bell Ringers</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Second Sunday in Advent</b>
	<b>8:30 a.m.      Worship Service – Laird Hall</b>
	<b>9:45 a.m.      Sunday School</b>
	<b>11:00 a.m.     Worship Service – Sanctuary</b>
	<b>Congregational Meeting</b>

**\*\*Meals on Wheels every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday in Laird Hall**

**\*\*Friends’ Kitchen is the first Wednesday of each month at Laird Hall**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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

### **DEACONS' PRAYER LIST**

Lift-up in prayer the residents and families who have suffered through Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton especially those in Florida, North Carolina, Tennessee and Georgia.

The hats, mittens, and scarves were delivered to Karen Keifer at Sewickley Presbyterian Church, who then passed them along to Mendon Elementary School. Mendon is the poorest elementary school in Yough School District. Thank you, Deacons, and to all of you who contributed to this much needed outreach.

## Announcements

**Tuesday, December 3**, is Pittsburgh Magazine's "Give Big Pittsburgh." A one-day drive for donations to various charities in the region. Murrysville Meals on Wheels (MOW) is registered on the donation site [www.givebigpittsburgh.com](http://www.givebigpittsburgh.com). All of the proceeds donated to Murrysville MOW on the site on that day will come directly to them.

**Friends' Kitchen** will be on Wednesday, December 4, at 4:00 p.m. in Laird Hall. The menu will be Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, Green Beans and Dessert.

**We will decorate our Sanctuary with Christmas Poinsettias on Christmas Eve.**

If you would like to purchase any poinsettias, please complete the form (an insert to this bulletin) and return it to the office with payment for the poinsettias by **December 8**.

**Wreaths Across America** will be holding a service in our cemetery on Saturday, **December 14** at 9:00 a.m. Immediately following, the wreaths will be laid on the graves of our veterans by Trail Life USA and volunteers. All are welcome to the service and the wreath placement. For more information, please visit [www.wreathscrossamerica.org](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org)

**Murrysville Presbyterian Preschool Sunday** is **December 15** at the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Come worship with our children and their families and enjoy a time of fellowship afterward at Sandwich Sunday in the Conference Room.

**The Annual Congregational Christmas Dinner** will be on Sunday, **December 15**, at 5:00 p.m. in Laird Hall. There will be games, food, music and a special visit from Santa. Please sign-up in the Narthex or Laird Hall so that we can plan and order accordingly.  
Mark Your Calendars!

**The Christmas Offering** has been designated as a gift for Mars Home Youth Service. Karen Harvey from Mars Home was with us last week to worship and share details about their ministry





Next week, December 8, the Sunday School discussion will focus on the following Scriptures:

1 Samuel 2:1-10

Luke 1:46-56

We will be discussing pages 35-66 in the book The First Songs of Christmas by Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth. Copies are available in the Narthex. A free-will donation is welcome to help offset the cost of the books.

**\*\*UPCOMING EVENTS\*\***

DEC 3	"GIVE BIG, PITTSBURGH" FOR MOW
DEC 3	DEACONS MEETING
DEC 4	FRIENDS' KITCHEN
DEC 7, 14	BELL RINGING AT 380 AUCTION
DEC 8	MC <sup>2</sup> APPRECIATION DINNER
DEC 14	WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA
DEC 15	PRESCHOOL SUNDAY
DEC 15	CHRISTMAS DINNER
DEC 16	SESSION MEETING
DEC 18	WARM HUGS
DEC 24	CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE



**POINSETTIA PLANTS  
FOR  
CHRISTMAS  
\$9.00**



Poinsettia plants are available in red and white. Please return the completed form to the Church office and enclose a check for the payment. Checks should be made out to **First Presbyterian Church of Murrysville** and please put "Poinsettia Order" in the memo line of your check. Place your order form and in the offering plate, or place it in the office. You are welcome to take your plant home after the Christmas Eve worship service.

**Please complete the order form with legible writing and include the exact way you want your names and message to appear in the bulletin.**

**The deadline for order is **December 8, 2024****

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**POINSETTIA ORDER FORM**

**\$9.00 each/6-inch pot**

**Color:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **RED**  
Quantity

\_\_\_\_\_ **WHITE**  
Quantity

**Given by** \_\_\_\_\_

*Please write your dedication exactly as you wish for it to appear in the  
Christmas Eve bulletin:*

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Murrysville Meals on Wheels  
3202 North Hills Road  
Murrysville PA 15668  
724 327 6842

Contact us at: [www.Murrysville-mow.org](http://www.Murrysville-mow.org)

## PLEASE MAKE A DONATION

*All proceeds fund client food purchases providing  
homebound neighbors with nutritious hot & cold meals*

Pittsburgh Magazine's  
**give big**  
PITTSBURGH  
presented by  
GBU Life

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December 3, 2024 | 12:00am – 12:00am

Go to: <https://www.givebigpittsburgh.com/organizations/murrysville-meals-on-wheels>