



First Presbyterian Church  
513 Birch St., Boonton, NJ 07005  
(973) 334-3535 [www.fpcboonton.org](http://www.fpcboonton.org)  
Like us on Facebook

Living Matthew 25: Rooted in Christ, Living Boldly, Serving with Compassion

December 21, 2025

*Fourth Sunday of Advent "Love"*

10:00 AM

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

\* = Please stand in body or in spirit

**WELCOME! We are glad you can join us for worship here and online.** Visitors, please fill out a Welcome Card and place it in the offering plate. Prayer Request Cards are available in the racks within each pew. Please ***remember to turn off all devices as we turn towards God.***

GREETINGS TO THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH

PRELUDE

*"Of The Father's Love Begotten"*

arr. John Carter

PRAYER OF ADORATION

**Creator God, we join together with people of faith everywhere proclaiming your faithfulness and love. Your arms of mercy and compassion are always with us. Help us to be attentive to the Holy Spirit as we worship and hear your word. All glory, laud and honor to you, Redeemer, King. Amen.**

SCENES FROM THE GOSPEL

The Voice of the Sheep

\* ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

One: Let all that we do be done with love.

**All: God is love and we are called to love all people.**

One: Love binds together everything in perfect harmony.

**All: Let us all follow in Christ's example of compassion and service.**

One: On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, let us light the candle of Love to reflect how Christ cares for each and every one of us.

\* HYMN # Blue 41

*"O Come, All Ye Faithful"*

J. F. Wade

PRAYER SEEKING GOD'S GRACE

**God of Love, we have forgotten what it means to care for our neighbor. We have refused to embrace those we disagree with. We continue to reject our enemies. Return our hearts and minds to you. Keep us open and honest, so that we may approach all people with graceful and humble hearts. Help us to love you each and every day, as we seek to love others according to your teachings.**

SILENT REFLECTION

\* KYRIE: (Sung in unison) HYMN # Blue 572 *"Lord Have Mercy Upon Us"*

John Merbecke

**Lord Have Mercy Upon Us, Christ Have Mercy Upon Us, Lord Have Mercy Upon Us**

\* ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

\* PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: May the Peace of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

RESPONSIVE HYMN # Blue 53

*"What Child Is This?"*

William C. Dix

Verse 3

TIME FOR MISSION

GOD'S WORD TO US

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 22:1-11 p. 500  
One: The word of God for the people of God.  
**All: Thanks be to God.**

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 52:7-15 p. 683  
One: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.  
**All: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON “*God is Love*” The Rev. Nathaniel Fryer

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

### OUR RESPONSE TO GOD’S WORD

\* HYMN # Blue 376 “*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*” Charles Wesley  
(At this time, ushers will receive any written prayer requests  
or you can email the church office: [office@fpcboonton.org](mailto:office@fpcboonton.org))

\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (adapted from Isaiah 11, a Creed)  
**Jesus has taught us to speak of hope as the coming of God’s Kingdom. We believe that God is at work in our world turning hopeless and evil situations into good. We believe that goodness and justice and love will triumph in the end, and that tyranny and oppression cannot last forever. One day ‘all tears will be wiped away’ and ‘the lamb will lie down with the lion.’ True peace and true reconciliation are not only desirable, they are assured and guaranteed. This is our faith, and our hope. Amen.**

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER: (In unison)

**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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

OFFERTORY “*My Lord, He Is A Comin’ Soon*” Patti Drennan

\* PRESENTATION AND DOXOLOGY: (In unison)  
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below.  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

### GOD’S PEOPLE GO INTO THE WORLD

\* HYMN # Blue 29 “*Go Tell It on the Mountain*” African American Spiritual

\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*” arr. Mark Kellner

**Pastor:** The Rev. Nathaniel Fryer  
**Organist/Choir Director:** Sarah Jane Zollner  
**Voice of The Sheep:** Spencer Keoppel

**Liturgist: Sue Lyon** lives in Boonton with her husband Mike. As a child she attended the Presbyterian Church of Westfield. Mike and she lived and raised 3 kids in Mt. Lakes and attended the Community Church. Their kids live in NJ now and she loves being “Grammy” to 6 grandchildren. Sue most recently worked as a Memory Care Director, but sometimes works as a companion with Seniors Helping Seniors. She loves dogs and fosters puppies for a rescue group. She volunteers as a trained Stephen Minister and as a support group facilitator for Alzheimer’s NJ. For fun, she plays pickleball, tennis, and paddle and always has a craft project. Sue and Mike spend summers at the shore and have recently enjoyed traveling. She continues to fly and surf fish even though the fish don’t cooperate.

## PRAYERS

*“We thank you, God, for...”*

**GALE BLACK** Thank you for your prayers! The surgeon thinks the cancer is gone, praise God!

**JOHN SERAFIN** had successful stent surgery.

### *Prayer Concerns*

*“Loving Lord, we pray for...”*

**(INSERT YOUR NAME HERE)** and lift up to God your needs and concerns.

**ARLENE LANGDON** is in the hospital and needs prayers for her health.

**BRAEDON** (friend of the Troiani's) has developmental issues.

**CODY** (Marilyn Ward's great grandson) improved but is still critical. Prayers for strength/healing.

**ALLIE BEDNORZ** (Linda Blank's niece) appreciates your continued prayers. While still experiencing pain, she is more active and adjusting to her new normal.

**BETTY TILLI'S FRIENDS**, one who's battling lymphoma is waiting for pet scan results, and another who has a malignant node on her lung and had surgery 11/28. Prayers for healing and effective treatment.

**BOB HOFFMAN** is requesting prayers for his health.

**DEBBIE DIXON** (Meg Meyer's friend) has gone home to rehab after over 6 weeks in the hospital. Please continue to pray for her recovery.

**DON KEARNEY** needs prayer for renewed strength and relief from pain.

**EMMIE** (Evelyn's great niece) is home from the hospital but will be receiving chemo twice a week.

**GENE SARDONI** (Judy Caggiano's friend) the cancer is gone but he is having recovery issues.

**HEIDI** (Betty Tilly's friend's daughter) had surgery and is waiting for results to see if she needs chemo.

**JOHN PIZAR** (Kathy's husband/Shavaun's dad) Please pray for John as he recovers from a mini stroke.

**JOHN & SANDY** (Betty Tilly's cousins) John had cardiac catheterization on 12/13 and Sandy had ablation surgery 12/19. Prayers for a speedy recovery.

**MIKE STORA** needs prayers for his health.

**MORGAN** (Cassie Thompson's friend) is going through a difficult time. Prayers are appreciated.

**MORGAN HANNA** (Gail Coe's grand-daughter) Continued prayers for relief from pain.

**RESIDENTS OF THE NJ STATE FIREMEN'S HOME** – pray for their families & caregivers.

*“Prayers for those with Cancer...”*

**ANNA ZULLI** (Diane Kearney's friend), **BOB DUFFELL** (Kim Robbins' friend's dad), **CAROLYN TARDIF** (Meg Meyer's friend), **DAN G** (Betty Tilly's S-I-L), **DAVID** (Betty Tilly's friend's son), **EINAR BORGSTROM**, **FRED LAYMAN** (Marisa Crozier's friend), **GEORGE HORNICKEL** (the Blank's cousin), **HEIDI** (Betty Tilly's friend's daughter), **JOHN ENRIGHT** (Jack Thompson's friend), **MARISA LAPLACA** (Bea Beatty's coworker), **MAX** (food pantry volunteer's son-in-law), **MILES** (Trish Herrera's friend's grandson), **NEIR** (The Troiani's friend), **ROBERT NERLINE, SR.**, **TERESA** (Leslie Smith-Ficaro's friend), & **A GATEWAY VOLUNTEER** (anonymous).

*“And God Shall Wipe Away the Tears...”*

**CELIA** (Trish Herrera's M-I-L) passed away in November at the age of 95. Prayers for the Herrera Family.

*Please send updates to previous prayers to [office@fpchoonton.org](mailto:office@fpchoonton.org)*

*On Communion Sundays, new prayer requests may not be prayed for during worship,  
but will be held up in prayer during the week.*

**Welcome to the First Presbyterian Church of Boonton**  
**We are glad you are worshiping with us today!**

**Mission Outreach:**

**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS** – If you ordered poinsettias, **after the Christmas Eve Service**, you may take the poinsettia with you, or ask a Deacon to deliver it to a homebound member.

**DOVER FAITH KITCHEN** - **Mon. 12/22** - Call Deb Stora if interested in volunteering: 201-602-9567.

**MEAL TRAIN** is an opportunity to provide a meal for a person or a family in their time of need. Please email Lois Merritt at [loisann139@optonline.net](mailto:loisann139@optonline.net) if you would like to volunteer to provide a meal or if you are in need of a meal.

**MISSIONS** - We are always accepting Mission Donations through Breeze or they can be mailed to or dropped off at the office.

**Worship:**

**WORSHIP FLOWERS NEEDED** You can sign up on the chart by the bridge doors. One or both of these arrangements are delivered to the sick and homebound each week and bring connection and cheer. The office will contact you regarding the \$40 flower donation and bulletin dedication.

**HEARING AIDS/RECEIVERS** and **PEW PILLOWS** for additional back support, are available during worship service. Please ask an usher for assistance with these.

**Fellowship:**

**PRAYER GROUP** will meet again sometime in January.

**COFFEE HOUR** – is hosted today by Congregational Life. Join us in the library for a great time of fellowship and a hot chocolate bar!! Please consider **sponsoring or hosting** coffee hour. You can sign up on the board next to the office (or consider donating to the jar in the library). **Leftover Sunday 12/28!** Bring your Holiday Leftovers to share during coffee hour!

**“WELCOME TO THE FAMILY” Dinners**-Welcome our new pastor into our church family in a small group gathering for a meal at members’ homes. Modeled after our “Dinner for Eight” events - the host provides the main course and guests bring sides, salads, desserts or appetizers. It will be an evening of good company, delicious food and an opportunity to get to know Nathaniel and strengthen personal connections among our church family. There will be a sign-up sheet on Sundays or contact Marisa Crozier or Barbara Lanigan. The next date available to host is **Sat. 1/10. Sun. 1/25** will be brunch.

**STEWARDSHIP** - We invite you to prayerfully consider three ways you can help. Consider increasing your regular giving for 2026 by at least \$30 per month, or more if you are able, to help those who may not be in a position to do so. Explore additional ways to support the ministry of our church, including through the many giving opportunities available via The Presbyterian Foundation.



Breeze online giving code

The Congregational Life Committee would like to thank all of you who helped make the Christmas dinner a great success! It truly “takes a village”, and we couldn’t have done it without you.



*Christmas* **EVE SERVICE**

**Wednesday 12/24 9:00 pm**

*candlelight  
service*

& Communion

## First Presbyterian Church Calendar

### December 21 – December 28

LG Recess 12/22/25-1/5/26

#### Sunday

9:15 – 9:40am      Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)  
10 – 11am          Worship (Sanctuary and online) Fourth Sunday of Advent - LOVE  
11 – 11:30am      Coffee Hour (Library)  
11:30am – 12:30pm      Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room/Sanctuary)  
7 – 8pm              AA (Reighart)

#### Monday

11 – 12:30pm      Dover Faith (offsite)  
7:30 – 10pm        NA - Lost and Found Group (Reighart)

#### Wednesday

Christmas Eve  
2 – 4pm              Coffee & Services (Gateway) / 3 – 5pm Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry  
8 – 8:45pm        Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)  
9 – 10pm            Candlelight Service (Sanctuary)

#### Thursday/Friday

Christmas Day Office Closed Thursday and Friday

#### Saturday

8 – 11am            Coffee & Services (Gateway)  
9 – 11am            Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry

#### Sunday

10 – 11am          Worship (Sanctuary and online)  
11 – 11:30am      Coffee Hour – Leftover Sunday (Library)

\*The calendar can also be found on our website under news and events

#### Upcoming Events

Please see our bulletin board on the bridge for upcoming church events,  
and the bridge doors for other local events

**VACATION:** Sandy, our office administrator, will be out of the office from  
Dec. 26<sup>th</sup> – Jan 5<sup>th</sup>. Please email her any requests by Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
Pastor's 'in office' hours: Monday – Wednesday 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.