



# **First Presbyterian Church of Mineral Ridge**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent**

**December 17, 2023**

**Christmas Program Day!**

Welcome to our church! It is a joy to worship with you this morning. Please join us after worship in Fellowship Hall for coffee and conversation.

*\*Please stand in body or in spirit.*

**PRELUDE**

**RINGING OF THE BELL**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

**SUNG RESPONSE #90 (GtG)**

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.  
Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!

## ***We Gather as God's People***

**OPENING PRAYER** – *Let us pray.*

Amazing God, long ago, you gathered a group of unlikely outsiders—Mary, Joseph, shepherds, and others to be part of a great miracle: the birth of Jesus, our Savior. Today You have sought us out and brought us to the manger. You have interrupted our routines with Your Good News. You have gathered this unlikely assortment of folk to become a holy people, a community of faith. We want to respond. Show us how. Help us receive your renewing love as we praise You for offering us salvation in the name of Jesus.  
**Amen.**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** – *Please stand and join me in the call to worship.*

Our God can part the sea.

**God can bring water from a rock,  
and provide bread in the desert.**

Our God can walk on water.

**He can heal the sick,  
and turn water into wine.**

Our God sets the stars in the sky.

**God hears our voice when we cry,  
and is closer than our own breath.**

There is nothing our God cannot do.

**Let us stand in awe. Let us worship God with  
wonder.**

## **CALL TO CONFESSION** – *Please be seated.*

*If you spend any time with a child, you will quickly notice that children see the world differently. For a child, a ladybug is a miracle. A pine tree is a wonder. Curiosity is a love language, and water is not only for survival, but for joy. As adults, we forget this language of awe and wonder, and when we do, we distance ourselves from God. In confession, we have the opportunity to close that distance. So let us return to God with hearts wide open. Let us return to God, first in silent prayer.*

## **UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION** - *Please join me in the unison prayer of confession.*

**Holy God, somewhere in our childhood we face pressure to outgrow awe. We turn into adults who obsess over data and facts. We praise those who have answers, and assume that wonder is an answerless game. Forgive us for closing that door to you. Remind us that the kingdom of God belongs to children. Teach us the ways of awe and wonder, so that like Zechariah, when we find ourselves speechless, our first words will be words of praise. With hearts open wide, we pray, amen.**

## **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Family of faith, just as we marvel at mountains and newborns, at sunrises and sunsets, God marvels at us. There is nothing you could do or leave undone that could prevent God from loving you. So, hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

**We are forgiven.**

**We are loved.**

**We belong to God. Amen.**

## ***We Respond to God's Love***

### **OFFERTORY**

*Our offering baskets today are at the back. Please drop your offering envelope in before or after the service.*

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION** – *Please join me in saying the prayer of dedication.*

**God of new life, out of the abundance of our lives we offer these gifts to you. Through your blessing and our willingness to share, may these offerings become a source for hope and love in this church family, and in the community beyond us, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

# **CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

**Narration**

**Scripture Reading**      **John 1:1-4, 5, 9-14, 18**

**SONG**                      **This Little Light of Mine**

**Narration**

**Scripture Readings**      **Luke 1:26-38**

**SONG**                      **Here I Am, Lord (v. 1 & 3)**

**Narration**

**SONG**                      **O Little Town of Bethlehem (v. 1 & 2)**

**Narration**

**SONG**                      **Away in a Manger (v. 1 & 2)**

**Narration**

**SONG**                      **Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (v. 1 & 3)**

*(All the other angels move to the front.)*

**Narration**

**SONG**                      **O Come, All Ye Faithful (v. 1 & 2)**

*(All shepherds move to the front.)*

**Narration**

**SONG**            **Do You Hear What I Hear? (v. 1 & 2)**  
*(All animals move to the front.)*

**Narration**

**SONG**            **Go Tell It On the Mountain (v. 1 & 2)**  
*(All the townspeople move to the front)*

**Proclamation of the Good News**

**SONG**            **Joy to the World (v. 1, 2, & 4)**

***Merry Christmas!***

**\*BENEDICTION**

# ***Prayer List***

## **MEMBERS TO REMEMBER**

Mary Alice Seaborn

Marlyne Young

Helen Redmond

Shirley Dull

## **PRAYERS FOR HEALTH, SUPPORT AND CONCERN**

*Names will be taken off after 6 weeks, unless noted.*

Megan Taylor (Carole's cousin)

Amos Rodgers & Cody Tittle (Marlene's friends)

James Tincher (Marlene's son)

Clayton & Eileen (Bev Myers' family friends)

Paul Stevens (Bev Myers' son)

Dennis Copanic (Val Copanic's father)

Graig Colantone (Nicole Pugh's father)

Dareen Craver-Angeloff (Rodney's mother)

Cheryl Fisher (Bev Meyers' Daughter)

Ella McBride (friend of Sherri Craver)

Bonnie Jorza (Linda Frayer's Sister-in-Law)

Cheryl Beanblossom (Valerie Copanic's sister)

Alan & Patty Bray (friend of Keeley Family)

Joan Williams

Rusty Garland

Kathy Garland

Cindi Farina (Marty O'Neill's friend)

Vince Fazio (Marty O'Neill's friend)

Rich Pilla (Lisa Sorg's step-dad)

Jodi Jorgensen (Lisa Sorg's friend)

Shirley Brodie

Mary Jane Hileman

Mason Blackburn (Mary J. Shaffer's friend)

## **PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD**

Eastminster Presbytery and staff  
Our Mineral Ridge Church Family  
Niles Community Services  
Warren & Youngstown Rescue Missions  
Refugees throughout the world  
Rev. Kade Mastra (Indonesian Partner)  
Peace and healing for our country  
Casa de Buen Trato  
Ukraine  
World Leaders  
Jed and Jenny Koball (Peru)  
Our PC(USA) coworkers  
Revs. Scott & Elmarie Parker  
Victims of natural disasters  
Citizens of Israel/Palestine

## **Announcements**

*Information sent after Thursday at 9 am may not make it into  
the bulletin.*

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Reminder: Next Sunday December 24<sup>th</sup>, there will be two services taking place. Our regularly scheduled 10:30am service will take place along with our 5pm Christmas Eve service with special music provided by Larry Harris. Please join us as we celebrate the birth of the baby Jesus.

Cindy Kaschak and Debbie Rendes are seeking donations for the cookie table that will be featured after each of the Christmas Eve worship services. If you would like to donate please contact either of them.



The Christmas season can bring up many complex feelings. For those who wish for a quiet, reflective space, we are offering drop-in prayer hours. Please join us for a service of prayer on the Longest Night, Thursday December 21st. Come anytime between 6pm-8pm.



### **Birthday Wishes**

Jaret Bunch 12/17

Judi Henniger 12/19



### **Thank you for your Generosity**

*We need \$3,000 weekly to make our budget!*

December 10<sup>th</sup> \$4,441.25

December 03<sup>rd</sup> \$2,783

November 26<sup>th</sup> \$682



### **Responsibilities**

**Pastor** Rev. Kori Robbins

**Liturgist** January Rendes

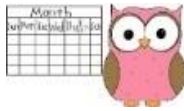
**Elder** Brian Williams

**Deacon** Melissa Keeley

**Music** Anita Miller

**Story Circle** Olivia

**Media** Alyssa Strange



## **THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> 9:15am Church School  
(3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent) 10:30am Worship/  
Fellowship

Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm Al-Anon/Ateen

Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> 10:30am Worship/  
(4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent) Cookie Table



Christmas Eve 5:00pm Christmas Service/  
Cookie Table

## **Staff**

### **Pastor**

Reverend Kori Robbins  
(406)-560-5548  
Pastor@FPCMR.org

### **Christian Educator**

Carole Rummell

### **Administrative Assistant**

April Dahl  
330-652-5712

### **Custodian**

Patty Postlethwait

### **Story Circle Attendant**

Olivia Meyers

### **Media**

Alyssa Strange

## **Hours**

### **Pastor's Office Hours**

Monday-Thursday  
9am-3pm

### **General Office Hours**

Tuesday/Thursday  
9am-1pm

## **Church Info**

**Address-** 3654 Main Street  
Mineral Ridge, OH 44440

### **Email (office)**

Admin@FPCMR.org

### **Phone**

330-652-5712

### **Website**

www.fpcmr.org

**Clerk of Session:** mrfpcclerk@gmail.com