



First Presbyterian Church of Mineral Ridge

**4th Sunday in Advent
December 18, 2022**

Welcome to our church! It is a joy to worship with you on 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 #85 (GtG)

Light four candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness. He is coming; tell the glad tidings.
Let your lights be shining.

We Gather as God's People

OPENING PRAYER – *Let us pray.*

God of Grace and Surprise, the most High Lord of all.
You have a surprising preference for those who are

small and humble. You chose Mary, the unassuming virgin from Nazareth to become the mother of your son, Jesus. Thank you for fulfilling your promise given by the prophets of old--the sign of reconciliation in and through Jesus, our Lord. Through your holy spirit, give us hearts filled with love that we may be open to you. Give us hearts to be ready, like Mary, to serve you and your plans. Come to us and give yourself to us through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

We are waiting on you, God. We are still waiting.

The darkness is deeper, but look! The star is beginning to shine.

The everlasting light is creeping closer.

Hope is in the air. Peace is promised. Joy is on the tips of our tongues.

Love is coming. Love divine, all loves excelling.

We are waiting on love. And Love is waiting on us.

***HYMN #41** *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,

O come ye, O come ye to Beth-le-hem;

Come and behold him, born the King of angels; (Refrain)

Refrain: *O come, let us adore him,*
 O come, let us adore him,
 O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

*Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given.*

Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing; (Refrain)

*Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest; (Refrain)*

CALL TO CONFESSION – *Please be seated.*

God has a vision of a time and place where enemies become friends, where the world is full of God's hope and peace. But we know how we resist living in such a kingdom and our eyes are blinded. Recognizing our need for true peace, both with others and within our own selves, let us confess those ways we have distanced ourselves from God.

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

Great God, as we behold the birth of Jesus again, we are mindful of how we have failed to receive the fullness of that gift. The story points us to your glory, yet we struggle to join in the song of praise and thanksgiving. We are distracted and confused, so focused on things that matter little that we overlook the good news of great joy that you have prepared. Tell us again that the Savior is born. Tell us again that we are forgiven. Tell us again that our lives can be abundant in faith, hope and love because of what you have given us in Jesus Christ. Amen.

KYRIE #572

“Lord have mercy upon us, Christ have mercy upon us, Lord have mercy up on us.”

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

The angel tells Joseph that the child forming in Mary's womb is to be named Jesus. "Call him Jesus," the angel says, "For he will save the people from their sins." From his birth through his resurrection, from age to age, Jesus is about salvation. This is good news!

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

SUNG RESPONSE

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

*Kindergarten and younger children may now leave with
Olivia Meyers for Story Circle in Fellowship Hall.*

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION— *Let us pray.*

Gracious God, illumine these words by your Spirit that we might hear what you would have us hear and be who you would us be, for the sake of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

FIRST READING

Psalms 89:1-4, 19-26

I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, for ever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations. I declare that your steadfast love is established for ever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

You said, 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to my servant David: "I will establish your descendants for ever, and build your throne for all generations." Then you spoke in a vision to your faithful one, and said: 'I have set the crown on one who is mighty, I have exalted one chosen from the

people. I have found my servant David; with my holy oil I have anointed him; my hand shall always remain with him; my arm also shall strengthen him.

The enemy shall not outwit him, the wicked shall not humble him. I will crush his foes before him and strike down those who hate him. My faithfulness and steadfast love shall be with him; and in my name his horn shall be exalted. I will set his hand on the sea and his right hand on the rivers. He shall cry to me, “You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation!”

*The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.***

SECOND READING *Matthew 1:18-25*

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’ All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ‘Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel’, which means, ‘God is with us.’ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his

wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

*The Word of God for the People of God. **Amen.***

SERMON

Rev. Kori Robbins

We Respond to God's Love

***HYMN #19**

To A Maid Engaged to Joseph

*To a maid engaged to Joseph, the angel Gabriel came.
"Fear not," the angel told her, "I come to bring good news,
Good news I come to tell you, good news, I say, good news."*

*"For you are highly favored by God the Lord of all,
who even now is with you. You are on earth most blest,
you are most blest, most blessed, God chose you, you are
blest!"*

*But Mary was most troubled to hear the angel's word.
What was the angel saying? It troubled her to hear,
To hear the angel's message, It troubled her to hear.*

*"Fear not, for God is with you, and you shall bear a child.
His name shall be called Jesus, God's offspring from on high.
And he shall reign forever, Forever reign on high."*

*"How shall this be?" said Mary, "I am not yet a wife."
The angel answered quickly, "The pow'r of the Most High
will come upon you shortly, your child will be God's child."*

*As Mary heard the angel she wondered at his words.
"Behold, I am your handmaid," she said unto her God,
"So be it, I am ready according to your Word."*

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus. His faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God. He was the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel, the beginning of the new creation, and the pioneer of the new humanity. He gave history its meaning and direction and called the church to be his servant for the reconciliation of the world.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE – *You may be seated.*

Trusting indeed that you are always there, we pray to you now as your Son taught us, saying together,

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.

CALL FOR OFFERING

In the kingdom of God, we find that generosity of spirit, generosity of possessions & the radical sharing of skills are practiced openly. All gifts are important to God, so as the offering plate comes around, place your hand over it, committing to God that you will use your time, talent and treasures for furthering the work of God's kingdom.

OFFERTORY

***RESPONSE OF PRAISE #324**

Open my mouth and let me bear
Gladly the warm truth everywhere;
Open my heart and let me prepare
Love with Thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for Thee, ready my God,
Thy will to see;
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit Divine!

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

**O God, with faith and hope, we offer these gifts.
Use them, even as you use, to accomplish your
purposes in Jesus Christ, whose birth we celebrate
and whose Lordship we praise. Amen.**

We Go Out to Serve God

***HYMN #749 (GtG)** *Come! Live in the Light*

*Come! live in the light!
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom,
to live in the freedom of the city of God! **Refrain***

*Refrain: We are called to act with justice.
 We are called to love tenderly.
 We are called to serve one another,
 to walk humbly with God.*

*Come! Open your heart!
Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hopeless,
so hatred and violence will be no more! **Refrain***

Sing! Sing a new song!

Sing of that great day when all will be one!

*God will reign and we'll walk with each other as sisters
and brothers united in love! **Refrain***

***BENEDICTION**

***CLOSING RESPONSE #743**

Step by Step

O God, You are my God and I will ever praise You

O God, You are my God and I will ever praise You

I will seek You in the morning

And I will learn to walk in Your ways

And step by step You'll lead me

And I will follow You all of my days

Prayer List

MEMBERS TO REMEMBER

Mary Alice Seaborn

Marlyne Young

Helen Redmond

Shirley Dull

PRAYERS FOR HEALTH, SUPPORT AND CONCERN

Betty Garland

Logan Morris (Infant Great-Grandson of Tom Morris)

Megan Taylor (Carole's cousin)

Amos Rodgers & Cody Tittle (Marlene's friends)

James Tincher (Marlene's son)

Bill Reddersen (Ted & Darlene Smith's friend)

David Giudici (Emily Pugh's friend)

Clayton & Eileen (Bev Myers' family friends)

Barb and Alan (friends of Suzie McCabe)

Linda Lukehart (Betty Garland's Daughter)

Paul Stevens (Bev Myers' son)

Jim Flores (Marty O'Neill's boyfriend)

Karen (Sue McCabe's friend)

Matt Smith (Kathy Graham's friend)

Dennis Copanic (Val Copanic's father)

Dennis Eggert (January Rendes' father)

Graig Colantone (Nicole Pugh's father)

Dareen Craver-Angeloff (Rodney's mother)

Cheryl Fisher (Bev Meyers' Daughter)

Ella McBride (friend of Sherri Craver)

Tom Crozier

Bill Happney

The Keeley family

Shannon Poole (daughter of Sherry and Tim Gleason)

Tony Rozzo (Meyers' Friend)

Samara Fabian

PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD

Eastminster Presbytery and staff
Our Mineral Ridge Church Family
Niles Community Services
Warren & Youngstown Rescue Missions
Coronavirus caregivers and patients
Refugees
Rev. Kade Mastra (Indonesian Partner)
Peace and healing for our country
Casa de Buen Trato
Needles's Eye
Ukraine
World Leaders
Jed and Jenny Koball (Peru)
Our PC(USA) coworkers
Revs. Scott & Elmarie Parker

Announcements

Christmas Eve Worship will begin at 5:30pm on Saturday December 24th.

Please note: No regular Worship on Christmas Day, Sunday December 25th. Breakfast treats and Bible study will take place at 10:30am in Fellowship Hall. Hope to see you there.

Christmas Flowers & Memorials

In Memory of

Albert & Mary Grady
John F. & Betty Brodie

Walter & Fayma Jones &
Brothers Thomas E. Jones &
Edward A. Jones

George & Ann Kaschak,
Shirley Craig

Grandma & Grandpa
Postlethwait, Grandma Craig,
Grandma & Grandpa Kaschak

Madeline Keeley,
Frank Keeley

Grandparents

June Keeley, Madeline Keeley,
Frank Keeley, Bud Keeley

Given by

Tom & Shirley Brodie

Lenora K. Jones

The Kaschak Family

Jeff, Brooke, Lonnie &
Dirk

Bryan, Melissa, Tyler &
Dillan Keeley

Bryan & Melissa Keeley

Terry Keeley & Family

In Memory of

Our Parents

Our Parents

Daryl Moore

Family Members

Family

Mary Johnson,
Harwood & Lou Rendes

William Rummell

Loved Ones

In Honor of

Grandpa Craig

Our Family

Debbie Rendes

Given by

Diane & Joe Koch

Darryl & Jane Meyers

Lisa Sorg & Alyssa
Strange

Marty O'Neill

Tom & Helen Redmond

Mark, January &
Andrew Rendes

Carole Rummell

Ted & Darlene Smith

Given by

Jeff, Brooke, Lonnie &
Dirk

Darryl & Jane Meyers

Mark, January &
Andrew Rendes

Responsibilities

Pastor- Rev. Kori Robbins

Liturgist- Darlene Smith

Elder- Jane Meyers

Deacon- January Rendes

Music- Anita Miller

Story Circle Attendant- Olivia Meyers

Media- Alyssa Strange

Thank you for your generosity

December 11th \$3,837

December 4th \$1,851.66

November 27th \$1,317

Birthday Wishes



12/19 Judy Henniger



THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, December 18	9:15am	Church School
	9:30am	Tiny Tots
	10:30am	Worship /Fellowship
Monday, December 19	7:00pm	Al-Anon & Al-Ateen
Saturday, December 24	5:30pm	Christmas Eve Service
Sunday, December 25	10:30am	Light Breakfast Fellowship Hall

Staff

Pastor

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

Christian Education

Carole Rummell

Head of Personnel

Jane Meyers

Administrative Assistant

April Dahl
330-652-5712

Custodians

April Mohn/
James Boyce

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

Admin@FPCMR.org

Phone

330-652-5712