

Bethany Presbyterian, Johnstown, PA
MORNING WORSHIP
November 30, 2025 1st Sunday of Advent– Hope

CALL TO WORSHIP*

L: We may not know when,

P: but you are coming to us, grace overflowing from your heart, O God.

L: We may not know who,

P: but your hope will be shared by the least likely people, Friend of the poor.

L: We may not know how,

P: but your peace will transform our angry words into warm welcomes, our bitterness into cups of love, Spirit of Joy.

INTROIT "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" verse #1 #123

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING – HOPE The Vozsnyak Family
A Candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,
a candle of hope in December's dark night.
While angels sing blessing from heaven's starry sky,
our hearts we prepare now for Jesus in nigh.
(Sung to the tune of Away In A Manger)

CALL TO RECONCILIATION*

We may not know the time, but our every moment is held in God's hands. We may not do and say what we should or could, but God offers us words of forgiveness. Join me as we pray together, saying,

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION*

Sometimes it is hard for us to take you seriously, God of our lives. With terrorism stalking us, how can we think of turning bombers into shelters for the homeless? With bullies using the airwaves to threaten those around us, how could we not respond with anger and vindictive slights? With our hopes turned to ashes, how can we become beacons of light for those in the shadows?

Forgive us, God of holy seasons, and have mercy. In the days to come, may we discover the grace which has always been ours, so we can share it with others. May we taste the sweet goodness of your love, and feed those around us. May we be filled with the peace of your Spirit, so we may expect

you to come in those we least expect, in places which surprise us, in moments we overlook, just as you did in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

***SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON*

L: Reach out and touch the kingdom, for it is right next to you. Breathe in, and feel the Spirit of peace and hope. Trust and believe this good news: God is nearer than you might ever imagine.

P: Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! We can set aside our differences and embrace everyone, we can seek peace for all in our lives, our neighborhoods, our world.

L: Friends, Believe the Good News

ALL: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen

***GLORIA PATRI**

#623

CHURCH NEWS

***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

(Please greet your neighbor by saying, "The Peace of Christ be With You.")

REDEDICATION OF SELF AND SUBSTANCE

Offertory

***Doxology**

#625

Prayer of Dedication*

Our gifts seem so insignificant considering the need, so paltry when we look at the brokenness around us. But in the days to come, you promise to take them so that others might be fed, clothed, housed, and embraced in your grace and hope. Amen.

LESSONS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

First Lesson	Isaiah 2:1-5	p.587
Second Lesson	Romans 13:11-14	p.987
Gospel Lesson	Matthew 24:36-44	p.859

MESSAGE

Reverend Jim Farrer

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

HYMN "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" #124

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and the PASTORAL PRAYER

L: Hear our prayers, O Lord. **P: And let our cry come unto Thee.**

L: Let us bless the Lord! **P: Thanks be to God.**

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

(All who believe are welcome to join in the celebration of Holy Communion)

(Please see bulletin insert)

BENEDICTION/SENDING*

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" verses 2-4 #123

**Those who are able please stand.*

***© Rev. Thom Shuman*

"A Candle is Burning" is by Sandra Dean, 1986.

ORGANISTS: John Griffin and Elaine Bilger

Hope is the basis for taking responsibility; for claiming our capacity to create, to make a genuinely new thing. It is also the springboard for trying to act justly; and for accepting absolutely our incorporation into each other. It is not simply that we share with each other a common humanity, but that individually we have no humanity without each other.

— Sara Maitland, *A Big-Enough God*



Offering: 11/23
Attendance: 17
Local 828.00
Benev. 58.00
Improv. 49.00
Total 945.00

Sunday November 30th
 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
First Sunday in Advent

Sunday December 7th
 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

Orders for Christmas Poinsettias are now being accepted. The cost is \$10 each and orders are due by next Sunday December 7th. Please use the order form found in your bulletin. You can also place an order on the church website.

Come Join In Food, Fun, and Fellowship! The annual Church Christmas Party will be held on Sunday December 14th after Worship. Those attending are asked to bring a covered dish to share. Feel free to bring your family and friends.

The Festival Of The Nativity will be held December 5th-7th from 6-9 p.m. each night at First Presbyterian Church in Downtown Johnstown. All are invited to attend.

The West End Food Pantry is in need of non-perishable food items to keep their shelves full. Donations can be placed in the boxes by the Blaine St. entrance. Monetary Donations can be placed in the offering plate. The pantry will likely see increased need over the coming weeks, so all donations are appreciated.

Ed Sheets is collecting small shipping boxes. If you have any you no longer need, you can place them on the table in the back of the chapel. Thanks in advance for your assistance.



Concerns: Keep the following people in your prayers...	
Dawna Sheets	Bobbie Johnson
Jeanne Lehman	Barry Ross
Marie Whorl	Dave & Karen Vivis
Bev Holbay	Joshua Holbay Family
Mark Todero	Dominic Serratore
Carl Newfield	Jim Kuntz
Beverly Rager	Jimmy Stormant
Frank Cassat	Bruce Torrence
Nancy Kahl	All Shut- Ins
Linda Hayes	All in Nursing Homes
Jessie Rager	All First Responders
Bill & Patty Gramling	All Service Men & Women
Mike & Charlotte Jean	All Healthcare Professionals

To Place Announcements Or Concerns List Names in the bulletin please email bethanyjtown@hotmail.com.

Visit Our Website (www.bethanyjohnstown.com) or follow us on Facebook (Bethany Presbyterian Church- Johnstown, PA) for- the latest news, information and much more!

Sign Ups for 2025 Lay Leaders are still being accepted. If you are interested in helping out, please sign up on the back bulletin board.

Orders are still being taken for 2025 Flower and Bulletin Sponsorships. Order forms and more information can be found on the back bulletin board and can be placed in the offering plate. Orders can also be placed on the church website.

Military Christmas Care Packages

We are collecting items to send to our local service men and women who were recently deployed to the southern boarder. The following are some of the items we are collecting. If you are interested in donating, you can bring items to the church. Thank you in advance for your support!

- Small Hand Sanitizers
- Individual Wet Wipes
- Sunscreen
- Bug Spray
- Powdered Gatorade and Propel Packets
- Bath Poofs
- Small Shampoo
- Small Body Wash
- Deodorant
- Disposable Rubber Gloves
- Chapstick
- Toothbrushes & Toothpaste
- Disposable Razors
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Hand Lotion

Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

Orders are now being accepted for Christmas Poinsettias. The cost is \$10 each and orders are due by Sunday December 7th. Orders and payment can be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church.

Name:

of Poinsettias _____ x \$10 Each = \$_____ Total

In Memory Of:

In Honor Of:

Other:

Given By: