

THE *Wonder* OF CHRISTMAS
ADVENT 2021



First Presbyterian Church
OF LAKE FOREST

November 28, 2021
First Sunday of Advent

Sending well-equipped disciples of Jesus into the world—compassionate, generous, resilient and wise

Prayer of Preparation

God of hope, open our eyes to the gift of wonder this season and help us to limit those things that distract us so that we may focus on you. Amen.

Prelude

Star Rising

Erik Santos, 2002

The Welcome

Introit *NO. 105 (stanza 1)*

People, Look East

TUNE: FRENCH FOLK MELODY
Eleanor Farjeon

*People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able;
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Guest, is on the way.*

*Call to Worship

Leader: Behold, we are a people who dwell in darkness.

People: Our understanding is clouded, a mere shadow of truth.

Leader: Illumine our darkness by the light of your Christ.

People: Then we shall see and be radiant.

Leader: When the true light which enlightens everyone has come into the world.

People: Come, Lord Jesus! Let it be so.

*Hymn of Praise NO. 82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

TUNE: HYFRYDOL

*The 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.

Lighting the Candle of Hope

The Darling Family

Leader: Christians around the world begin this day to await the advent of Christ. We join with a joyous and hopeful throng in lighting the Advent candles, symbols of our faith and signs of God's love.

People: We gather as a people of Hope.

Leader: Our hope is greatest when we acknowledge the love with which God holds us. A love that offers forgiveness for our sinfulness, and reconciliation when we ask for forgiveness.

People: We approach God with contrite and thankful hearts, that open us to the hope found in the forgiveness we receive.

Leader: As we light the first Advent candle, let it stand for hope based not on wishful thinking, but on deep conviction. We believe, we have seen, we have received the Promise and the Great Gift, and therefore, in the midst of darkness and imperfection, we hope.

Prayer: God of the winter sky, place a star on our horizon. Raise us to glimpse your wonder, to be struck in awe and to marvel at your love. God of hope, place a star on our horizon and a song in our hearts. In Jesus' name. Amen!

Sung Response NO. 105 (stanza 4)

People, Look East

TUNE: BESANÇON

***Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Star, is on the way.***

*Passing the Peace of Christ

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

— THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM —

Rev. Kristie W. Finley

Receiving the sacrament of baptism are
Audrey Lincoln Costin and Katherine Elliott Costin,
children of Allison (McCoy) and Christopher Costin.

Congregational Question

Leader: Friends, do we, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture these children by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging them to know and follow Jesus, and to be faithful members of his church?

People: **We do.**

The Baptism

The Charge

The Welcome

People: **With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you into Christ's church.
We are all members of the household of God and family through
Jesus Christ.**

SUNG RESPONSE, No. 188 (stanza 1)

Jesus Loves Me!

TUNE: JESUS LOVES ME

*Jesus loves me, this I know,
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong.
They are weak, but He is strong.*

Refrain

*Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.*

Prayer for Illumination

Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Spirit prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we may see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 60:1-3

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage."

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to Christ.

Anthem

Thou Shalt Know Him

Mark Sirett, 1995

*Thou shalt know him when he comes,
Not by any din of drums.
Nor his manners, nor his airs,
Nor by anything he wears.*

*Thou shalt know him when he comes,
Not by his crown or by his gown,
But his coming known shall be,
by the holy harmony which his coming makes in thee*

*Thou shalt know him when he comes.
Amen. Amen.*

Sermon

"The Wonder of a Star"

Rev. Clinton G. Roberts

*Hymn NO. 97

Watchman, Tell Us of The Night

TUNE: ABERYSTWYTH

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayers

Offering

'Twas In the Moon of Wintertime

David Cherwien, 1981

*Doxology

TUNE: OLD HUNDREDTH

*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.*

*Prayer

God of star and sign, lead us this Advent along the paths of peace. Guide us in the ways of truth. Place in us words of kindness. Kindle in us a candle of hope. God of star and sign, place your light upon our path. Amen.

*Hymn of Sending NO. 152

What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright

TUNE: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

*Charge and Benediction

*Postlude

How Brightly Shines the Morning Star

Johann Pachelbel, 1653-1706

SERMON
NOTES



SERMON NOTES



SERMON NOTES



Coming up...



Advent Wreath Making Open House!

Today, November 28, 2:00 – 5:00 PM, Fellowship Hall

Join us this afternoon in Fellowship Hall to make a special Advent wreath for your home!



Joy Ride + Christmas Open House

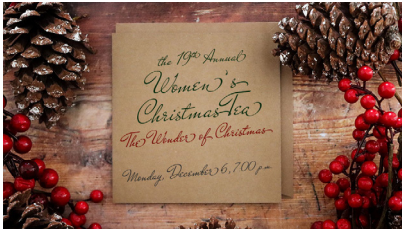
Sunday, December 5, 3:00 - 6:00 PM

Our Joy Ride Advent Scavenger Hunt is back with a Christmas Open House! A festive scavenger hunt, Christmas carols, and fellowship to celebrate the season.

3:00 PM, Open House at the Manse

4:30 PM, Scavenger Hunt begins at the Deerpath lot

5:30 PM, Christmas Carol Sing begins.



Women's Christmas Tea

Monday, December 6, 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary

Join us for the annual Women's Christmas Tea's program, with speaker Megan McKenna of Boys & Girls Club of Lake County, and bring home a Tea-inspired favor! To support our Tea's mission partner, we invite you to bring gift cards, pre-packaged snacks for the Boys & Girls Club of Lake County. Register online at firstchurchlf.org/christmastea.

View our Weekly Schedule of ministries, and find details and Zoom links on our church website: www.firstchurchlf.org/ministries

Church Website: www.firstchurchlf.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/firstchurchlf

Instagram, Twitter, YouTube: [@firstchurchlf](https://www.instagram.com/firstchurchlf)

This Week's Calendar

TODAY

- 8:30 AM An Advent of Hope (FIDE), S. Parlor/Zoom
10:00 Worship, Sanctuary
10:15 Children's Faith Building, Second Floor
Middle School Sunday School, Stuart Room
2:00 PM Advent Wreath Making Open House
7:00 Senior High Youth Group, Youth Lounge

MON

No meetings scheduled

TUE

- 1:00 PM Adult Bible Study, Zoom
Prayer Shawl Ministry, South Parlor
6:00 Lakeminster Ringers, Sanctuary
6:30 Memorial Committee, Great Room
7:00 Women's Evening Bible Study, Zoom
7:00 Cub Scout Pack 46, Fellowship Hall

WED

- 10:00 AM Wed. Women's Bible Study, South Parlor/Zoom
4:15 PM Carol Choir, Music Room
5:00 Cherub Choir, Music Room
5:00 Confirmation Class, Stuart Room
5:30 Wednesday Night Supper, Fellowship Hall
5:30 Chancel Bells, Sanctuary
6:00 Children's Faith Building, Youth Lounge
7:00 Taize, Sanctuary

THURS

- 6:00 AM Daybreakers Men's Ministry, S. Parlor/Zoom
5:30 PM Children's Dir. Search Team, S. Parlor/Zoom
7:00 APNC, South Parlor
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Reearsal, Music Room

FRI

- 7:00 AM Men of Corinth Study, Great Room/Zoom
1:00 PM Lakeminster Ringers Rehearsal, Sanctuary
4:00 Lakeminster Ringers Concert, Lake Forest Place



Give

Give online or fulfill your pledge:
scan the QR code
or go to FirstChurchLF.org/give.

Pastor on call Pastor Clint, 630.220.7814
Pastor Clint's day off is on Monday.
Pastor Kristie's day off is on Friday.

Worship Participants

Rev. Clinton G. Roberts
Rev. Kristie W. Finley
Jim Cochrane
Sarah Seccombe
Dr. Tom Tropp
Dr. Barry Wenger
The Darling Family
Choral Scholars
Alex McDowell
Aaron Helms

Serve, Learn & Connect

For our weekly ministries and Zoom links
firstchurchlf.org/ministries

Share Joys & Concerns

Kristie Finley 224.544.1967

Home Communion

Kristie Finley 224.544.1967

Arrange a Baptism

Sarah Seccombe 224.544.1958

Member Engagement

Lynnette Hinch engagement@firstchurchlf.org

Mission

Stewart Kerr 224.544.1968

Elders

Mike Adams
Paul Bergmann
Renee Borkowski
Koen Brown
Donna Coffin
Scott Crawford
Emma Darling
Paul Darling
John Gescheidle
Lynnette Hinch

John Johnson
Laura Johnson
Bruce Keith
Sally McDonald
Brian O'Keane
Diane Quinn
Kendall Severson
Nina Strnad
Mary Watanabe *Clerk*
Anne Winebrenner

Deacons

Bill Allen
Nancy Anderson
Katy Borkowski
Mallory Ciarrocchi
Dorothy Chantler
Susan Daly
Wendy Darling
Peg Gronau
Sharon Haltom
Nancy Hamming
Jeff Hinch
Hildo Hoogcarspel
Cindy Johnson

Dick Johnson
Susan McDowell
John McNicholas
Lisa Murray
John Noble
Tiffany Notz
Darcy Traynor
Sherry Trenchard
Joan Vie
Gale Strenger Wayne
Moderator
Brian Zeeman



First Presbyterian Church
OF LAKE FOREST

700 North Sheridan Road, Lake Forest, IL 60045
847.234.6250 | FIRSTCHURCHLF.ORG

Staff

Rev. Clinton G. Roberts *croberts@firstchurchlf.org*
Senior Pastor, Head of Staff

Rev. Kristie W. Finley *kfinley@firstchurchlf.org*
Associate Pastor for Congregational Life + Engagement

Jim Cochrane *jcochrane@firstchurchlf.org*
Director of Youth + Young Adult Faith Formation

Dr. Thomas J. Tropp *ttropp@firstchurchlf.org*
Director of Music + Arts Ministry

Dr. Barry J. Wenger *bwenger@firstchurchlf.org*
Organist + Director of Handbell Choirs

Susan Noble *snoble@firstchurchlf.org*
Director of Children's Music

Sarah Seccombe *sseccombe@firstchurchlf.org*
Director of Children's Faith Formation

Kane Q. Kowalik *kkowalik@firstchurchlf.org*
Director of Communications

Jan McNicholas *jmcnicholas@firstchurchlf.org*
Director of Business Operations

Stewart Kerr *skerr@firstchurchlf.org*
Director of Mission

Suzie Brunner *sbrunner@firstchurchlf.org*
Director of Preschool

Dina Price *dprice@firstchurchlf.org*
Office Assistant

Lenka Vrazda *lvrazda@firstchurchlf.org*
Financial Associate

Patrick Goymerac *pgoymerac@firstchurchlf.org*
Financial Accounting Manager

Rick Day *rday@firstchurchlf.org*
AV Support + Production Leader

Cat Rodriguez *custodian@firstchurchlf.org*
Custodian

Guillermo Montufar *custodian@firstchurchlf.org*
Custodian