

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
DECEMBER 28, 2025

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD’S LOVE

GREETING (GENESIS 1:1-4a) Berni Mueller
In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good.

WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER Jacque McAlevy

✠ **CALL TO WORSHIP** (PSALM 148:1-4, 13)
Leader: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!
People: Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!
Leader: Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!
People: Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!
Leader: Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven. Let us worship God!

✠ **SONG OF PRAISE** HYMN # 189 – ANGELS, FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

CALL TO CONFESSION (EPHESIANS 5:8-14)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
Holy and merciful God, as we gather together in your presence, we are thankful for your light that shines in the darkness. Yet, we admit that too often we live as though the darkness still has claim on us. Search us, O God, and reveal what does not belong to the light of Christ. Wake us from our sleep. Cleanse us by your grace. Renew our minds and redirect our steps, that we may live as true children of light. Bless us in this new year as we seek to follow you. Hear now our silent prayers of confession...

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (ISAIAH 63:7-9)

✠ **GRATEFUL RESPONSE** HYMN # 231 – ARISE, YOUR LIGHT IS COME!

✠ **PASSING OF THE PEACE** “May the peace of Christ be with you....And, also with you”
At this time, the congregation may greet each other with peace.

WE PROCLAIM GOD’S LOVE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING JOHN 1:1-18
Leader: Blessed are those who hear and keep what is written,
in the light of Jesus, the Word made flesh.
People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON *GRACE UPON GRACE:*
STARTING 2026 IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST
Shela Sullivan

WE EMBRACE GOD’S LOVE

OFFERING HYMN # 229 – THE FIRST NOEL, verses 1,2, and 6 only
In response to God’s love, we are invited to reflect on how we might give thanks to God through the sharing of our time, talents, and treasures. (During this time, offering plates will be passed down the pews. There is no obligation to give. You may also indicate your presence and let us know you would like to connect or volunteer by placing a gold connect form in the offering plate.)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, 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

WE ARE SENT OUT TO SHARE GOD’S LOVE IN THE WORLD

✠ **CHARGE AND BLESSING** (1 THESSALONIANS 5:5-11)

✠ **SONG OF DEDICATION** HYMN # 249 – AMEN, AMEN

✠ **POSTLUDE**

✠ *Those who would like to stand, are invited to stand.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome Everyone! We are glad you have joined us for worship and hope the Holy Spirit meets you here today. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall after worship for coffee, juice, and treats.

Please Welcome Our Guest Worship Leader—Shela Sullivan

Shela Sullivan is a traveling Presbyterian Pastor, originally from Penang Island, Malaysia. She was born into a Hindu family and grew up in a Chinese village. Shela went to Methodist Girls’ School Penang - where she was exposed to Christianity and accepted Christ as her personal Savior. She graduated from the University of Phoenix with a Bachelor’s in Business and Marketing, a Master’s in Spiritual Formation from George Fox University (Seminary), and Congregational Leadership from the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary. Currently, Shela is pursuing a Doctoral Program, Leadership in Global Perspective. Shela serves as a Category Manager for a utility company in Portland, Oregon. She enjoys her day job and is blessed to work for a company with good values. Shela is the founder of Come2Cana Ministry, operating as a Spiritual Mentor. She considers herself to be an Oregonian because she loves the rain. She is married to David Sullivan.

Christmas Joy Offering - This PCUSA special offering provides support for Presbyterian church workers and their families in their time of need and leadership development and education for communities of color at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. To donate, look for the purple envelopes in the pews, or write a memo on your donation check payable to SMPC.

Year-End Giving - As a reminder, the last day you can submit your donations to the church to receive credit on your 2025 taxes is December 31. You can drop any extra offerings in the plate during worship, donate online at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZWRB>, or mail a check to SMPC at PO Box 69; Fairview, OR 97024. (Must be postmarked by December 31)

A Look Ahead - Sunday, January 25 - Congregational Meeting After Worship

This meeting is for the purpose of receiving the annual report and 2026 budget, voting on the pastor's terms of call, and electing new elder/deacons.

REGULAR HAPPENINGS AT SMPC (<i>schedule changes in italics</i>)					
Day (next date)		Time	Event	Place	Contact
Sundays		11:45 - 12:15pm	Voice Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary	Michael Day
2nd Sunday (1/11/26)		11:30 - 1:00pm	Deacon's Meeting	Upper Room	Marty Strange
2nd Sunday (1/11/26)		After worship	Family Funday	Fellowship Hall	Pastor Brad
Tuesdays		10:30 -11:30am	<i>Gentle Exercise canceled</i>	Fellowship Hall	Linda Murphy
Wednesdays		10:00 -11:30am	<i>Bible Study canceled</i>	<i>Fellowship Hall</i>	Lyn Palmer
Wednesdays		10:00 - 3:00pm	<i>Sewing Group canceled</i>	Upper Room	Gayle Burke
Wednesdays		6:00 - 8:00pm	<i>Youth Group canceled</i>	Church Campus	Pastor Brad
3rd Wednesday (1/21/26)		5:30 - 6:30pm	Community Dinner	Fellowship Hall	Pastor Brad
Thursdays		10:30 -11:30am	<i>Gentle Exercise canceled</i>	Fellowship Hall	Linda Murphy
Thursdays		2:15-3:45pm	<i>Line Dancing canceled</i>	Fellowship Hall	Janet Emch
2 nd /4 th Thursday (1/8/26)		12:00 - 2:00pm	<i>Yarn & Thread canceled</i>	Fireside Room	Joyce Botsch
Fridays		9:30 - 11:30am	Food Pantry Prep	Church campus	Julie Weindel
Saturdays		10:00 - 12:30pm	<i>Food Pantry—Drive Thru Only 1/3</i>	Church campus	Julie Weindel
3rd Saturday (1/17/26)		Time Varies	Outriggers	Location Varies	Barb Lintner
5th Sunday (3/29/26)		After Worship	All Church Potluck	Fellowship Hall	Janet Emch
NEXT WEEK'S (JANUARY 4) SUNDAY SERVANTS					
Greeters	Alicia Campbell and Lyn Palmer		Opening Prayer	Sonja Flener	
Ushers	Jon Bachelder and Sandy Bachelder		Scripture Reader	Meg Linhardt	
Special Helper	Carla Jones		Counters	Lyn Palmer & Alicia Campbell	
Refreshments	Outriggers				
To receive weekly announcements and bulletins via email, subscribe at http://eepurl.com/pNMUP					

WELCOME TO
SMITH MEMORIAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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DECEMBER 28, 2025

Smith Memorial Presbyterian Church
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www.smithmemorialpres.org + 503-667-6800