

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD'S LOVE

GREETING (PSALM 25:4-5)

Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

WELCOME / OPENING PRAYER

✦CALL TO WORSHIP (BASED ON HAGGAI 2:4-7)

Leader: Take courage, all you people of the land, says the Lord; work, for I am with you, says the Lord of hosts

People: *According to the promise that God has made, the Lord's spirit abides among us. We shall not fear.*

Leader: For thus says the Lord of hosts: Once again, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land; and I will shake all the nations.

People: *So that the desire of all nations shall come, and I will fill this house with splendor, says the Lord of hosts.*

✦SONG OF PRAISE

HYMN # 154 – O COME, O COME EMMANUEL

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Barb and Natalie Lintner, LeeAnne and Morris Kindel

✦ADVENT SONG *CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT*, w/m by Bernadette Farrell, refrain with vs. 1 & 2 only

Refrain: *Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church, gathered today.*

**1) Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see. Refrain**

**2) Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us. Make us your living voice. Refrain.**

✦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

SCRIPTURE READING

MATTHEW 1:18-25

Willard Burks, reader

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.*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

All children are invited to come to the front for the Children's Message. Afterwards, preschool and elementary-aged children may go to Children's Chapel.

(As the children come forward for the Children's message, ushers will collect any written prayer requests. Forms are located in the pew pockets near the center aisle. Please raise your hand to let the ushers know to collect your prayer request.)

✦SONG OF FAITH

HYMN # 181 – OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN

SERIES: WHEN THE NT CONNECTS WITH THE OT AND ME

SCRIPTURE READING

ISAIAH 7:1-17, 8:16-17

SERMON

"SHARED TESTIMONIES OF HOPE"

Rev. Dr. Brad Busiek

WE EMBRACE GOD'S LOVE

OFFERING

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 choose to indicate your presence or desire to connect by placing a blue connect card 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 (PHILIPPIANS 4:23)

✦GRATEFUL RESPONSE

HYMN # 160 – AWAKE! AWAKE, AND GREET THE NEW MORN

✦POSTLUDE

✦ Those who would like to stand, are invited to stand.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome! We are glad you have joined us today and hope you feel welcomed and loved! Everyone is invited to gather in the Fellowship Hall for conversation and refreshments right after the service.

Advent Bible Study - Wednesday mornings at 10am, December 11, and 18. All are welcome!

Gresham Community Choir Concert - today, December 8, 3pm at Reynolds High School. The concert is also a food drive for our food pantry. Please bring non-perishable food items for admission to the concert.

Scrooge: The Musical at Smith Memorial Presbyterian Church - Performances are today at 3:00 pm, this Friday (12/13) and Saturday (12/14) at 7pm; and then again next Sunday (12/15) at 3pm. Invite your friends and family and reserve your tickets online today! <https://www.ticketleap.events/tickets/grieveproductions/scrooge-the-musical-2024>.

Tuesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight, 7:00 pm - A traditional Christmas Eve service featuring beautiful music, a timely sermon, a communion celebration, and lighting candles while we sing "Silent Night." The evening service will feature an extended musical prelude beginning at 6:30 pm.

Pledge Cards - If you have not yet returned a giving pledge card for 2025, please consider doing so. The session is planning ministry activities for next year, and projecting available resources is really helpful.

The Christmas Joy Offering is one of four special offerings distributed by the Presbyterian Church USA. It provides assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and develops future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. If you would like to participate in the Christmas Joy offering, please label it "Christmas Joy" or use a purple envelope located on the entry table and in the pew pockets.

Year-end giving — As a reminder, the last day you can submit your donations to the church to receive credit on your 2024 taxes is December 31. You can drop any extra offerings in the plate during worship or you can mail a check to the church at Smith Memorial Presbyterian Church, PO Box 69; Fairview, OR 97024 (The envelope must be postmarked by December 31.)

December Schedule Changes

There will be no 3rd Wednesday Community Dinner this month.
The food pantry will be closed on Saturday, December 28

| REGULAR HAPPENINGS AT SMITH MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | | | | |
|--|-----------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Day | Time | Event | Place | Contact |
| 2nd Sunday (12/8) | 11:30 - 1:00pm | Deacon's Meeting | Upper Room | Connie Erickson |
| One Sunday a Month | After worship | Sunday Funday | Location varies | Pastor Brad |
| Every Other Monday | 6:30 - 8:00pm | Summer Youth Group | Location varies | Pastor Brad |
| Tuesday | 10:30 - 11:30am | Gentle Exercise | Fellowship Hall | Linda Murphy |
| Wednesday | 10:00 - 11:30am | Bible Study | Fellowship Hall | Lyn Palmer |
| Wednesday | 10:00 - 3:00pm | Sewing Group | Upper Room | Gayle Burke |
| 3rd Wed. (12/18) | 5:30 - 6:30pm | No Community Dinner in Dec. | Fellowship Hall | Pastor Brad |
| Thursday | 10:30 - 11:30am | Gentle Exercise | Fellowship Hall | Linda Murphy |
| Thursday | 5:30 - 7:00pm | Bible Study (resumes in January) | Bachelor Home | Brenda Haran |
| 2nd/4th Thurs (12/12) | 12:00 - 2:00pm | Knit and Crochet | Fireside Room | Joyce Botsch |
| Friday | 9:30 - 11:30am | Food Pantry Prep | Church campus | Julie Weindel |
| Saturday | 10:00 - 12:30pm | Food Pantry Distribution | Church campus | Julie Weindel |
| 3rd Saturday (12/21) | 1:30pm | Outriggers | Fellowship Hall | Barbara Lintner |

NEXT WEEK'S (DECEMBER 15) SUNDAY SERVANTS

| | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Greeters | Connie Erickson and Sherri Burks | Special Helper | Steve Marker |
| Ushers | Willard Burks and Larry Schneider | Scripture Reader | Natalie Lintner |
| Children's Chapel | Leesa Pomazi and Janet Emch | Refreshments | Deacon Celebration |
| To receive weekly announcements and bulletins via email, subscribe at http://eepurl.com/pNMUP | | | |

WELCOME TO SMITH MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



DECEMBER 8, 2024

Smith Memorial Presbyterian Church
2420 NE Fairview Avenue; Fairview, OR 97024
www.smithmemorialpres.org + 503-667-6800