1st Sunday of Advent
Hope

Worship of the Living God

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Welcome & Greeting — Rev. Hannah Ostlund

†Call to Worship — Lighting the Candles of Advent
Ronnie and Katie Church and family

†Song — *Here I Am To Worship*
Tim Hughes

Confession of Sin — Rev. Josh Musser Gritter

Assurance of Forgiveness

†Response — *Glory Be to the Father*
John Stafford

Proclamation of the Word

Children's Message

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture: Psalm 130

Scripture: Mark 13:24-37

Sermon — Rev. Hannah Ostlund

Moment for Reflection

Responding to the Word

†Affirmation of Faith
Rev. Lara Musser Gritter

Prayers of the People

Announcements

Offering

Offertory — Emma Blackwell

Advent Hymn
Christy Nockels | arr. Jeff Moore

†Doxology — *Doxology (Alleluia)*
Chris Cleveland | Thomas Ken

Communion

Communion Music — *Remembrance*
Matt Maher | Matt Redman

†Prayer after Communion

Sending to share the Word

†Song — *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (Soothe Our Weary Souls)*
Charles Wesley | Rowland Prichard

†Benediction

Postlude

†Those who are able are invited to stand.

The flowers this morning are given to the glory of God, and in anticipation of Advent, which brings the good news that a failing humanity can be reconciled to a holy God. They are given by the Julie Steele Flower Fund.

JOYS AND CONCERNS: Rosalie Laughlin, Betty Carli, Acey Worthy

Jeff Richard and family on the death of his father, Francis Harrison Richard, on November 10.

CONTINUING CONCERNS: Preston and Glenda Askew, Bill Baker, Bill Carter, Myrna Crocker, Alice Edwards (Tracy Smith's mother), Scott Hay, Bob Lewis, Elayne McCoy, Harold Mesimer, Martha Michael, Wib Manuel, Mary Ann McCubbin (Cindi Graham's friend), Frank Saunders, John Smith, Jesse Tart, Bill Troxler, Jeanette Whitley

BIRTHDAYS: Parker Jenkins, David Whitley, Sharon Hoffman, Janet Loeblein, Gabe Steinman, John Drye, Mark Grover, Barry Sang, Graham Smith, Kathy Vestal

ANNIVERSARY: Jeff and Lyn Beaver

Ministry Focus

WE ARE SO GLAD YOU ARE HERE!

FRIENDSHIP PADS in your rows are for recording attendance and for visitors to share their information so that we can share about God's work here.
CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY CLIPBOARDS are in the back of the room on the Welcome Table.
CHILDCARE (ages 4 and under) is available in the Nursery in our Family Life Center (see an usher for directions).
ASSISTED HEARING DEVICES are available from an usher.

COMMUNION

The living Christ encounters us in the ordinary elements of Communion. The invitation to the Lord's Supper is extended by Christ and is open to all – believers and doubters, young children and adults, members and non-members. To highlight this gracious welcome of all, only non-alcoholic juice is served, and gluten-free bread is available. If you would like to refrain from the feast, you may cross your arms, and a blessing will be offered to you. If you cannot come forward, a minister will serve you in your seat. If you feel so moved to respond, people often reply with "Amen" or "Thanks be to God."

Communion Elder: Donna Beaver

CHURCH LIFE

WE ARE DEEPLY ROOTED

EVERYONE:
CHRISTMAS STAR TREE: Help children in Rowan County have a brighter Christmas. Stop by the Star Tree (Sanctuary Narthex or Lewis Hall foyer), choose a star, record your name on the list, and then purchase a $30 gift. Return them to church in a gift bag with the star attached. Do not gift wrap the presents. Deadline to return: December 6.

ADVENT GATHERINGS: Stop by for our annual Advent Gatherings, a time for fellowship and snacks in Fellowship Hall. Sundays, November 29, December 6, 13, and 20, 9:15-10:00. *Hot chocolate will also be available in the Lewis Hall foyer during Advent, sponsored by the Mary and Martha class.

OVERTON TEACHER GIFT BAG PACKING: Join in to help pack holiday gift bags for the Overton teachers and staff on Friday, December 4, at 10 AM, in the Welcome Center. Enjoy some great fellowship while preparing gifts for the hard-working teachers and staff at Overton Elementary School.

FAMILY CHRISTMAS DINNER: Join us for our annual Christmas dinner in Lewis Hall on Sunday, December 13, at 5:00. Last names A-E bring desserts and last names F-Z bring side dishes. Wear your ugly Christmas sweater and enjoy great food, fellowship, and fun.

Ministry Focus

POINSETTIA & WREATH SPONSOR TIME: Tis the season to sponsor our poinsettias ($10) and wreaths ($15). Please include your dedication. Sign up with the QR Code. All poinsettias need to be taken home after the services on Christmas Eve.

CHILDREN:

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS PARTY: All children from 3 years old to 5th grade are invited to join us on Sunday, December 20, in classroom 206 from 9:45 to 10:45 for a birthday party for baby Jesus! We'll have treats and fun!

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sundays, 9:45-10:45 in Classroom 206. 3s through 5th grade.

FIRST KIDS: Wednesdays, 5:30-7:00 in Fellowship Hall. Potty-trained 3s through 5th grade. Dinner, Bible lessons, music, crafts, science, and more!

YOUTH:

LIVING THROUGH DISCIPLESHIP: Sundays, 9:45, in Classroom 223. Snacks, Bible study, & fellowship.

GROUP: Sundays, 5:00, in Classroom 223. Snacks, study, & fellowship.

YOUNG ADULTS:

YA CHRISTMAS PARTY: December 18, 6:00-9:00, join Pastor Hannah for food, fellowship, and fun at her home. Sign up now!

ADULTS:

MILITARY ADDRESSES NEEDED: Blessing Bunch will be sending out Christmas Cards soon. We need addresses for members in the military. Call the church office before Nov.30

JOY: Just Older Youth will attend the free Christmas service of Lessons and Carols at Catawba College in Keppel Auditorium on Tuesday, December 1. Meet in the Peeler Crystal Lounge at 6:00 so we can sit together in the auditorium. After the service, we will head to Culver's for ice cream or other desserts. Contact the church to sign up for this event.

LONGEST NIGHT: Our Longest Night service will be held on Sunday, December 20, at 7:00 pm, in Lewis Hall. This is a service of prayer, music, and reflection.

MEN: Bible Study. Tuesdays, 6:30 AM in Classroom 201 with Pastor Josh.

MOMS: Mom's Village. 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 5:30-7:00, in Classroom 223. A time of dinner, fellowship, sharing, and caring. Childcare is available.

YOUNG PARENTS: Devotional Drop-In. Sunday School, Sundays at 9:45, in the Kirby Library. Refreshments, time to connect with other parents, and a chance to reflect on our faith together.

PARENTS: First Parents, on the 1st Wednesdays of the month, 5:45-6:45, with Pastor Lara. Drop your kids off at First Kids, then enjoy food and fellowship with other parents at Crafty Buffalo.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN: Join these ladies for Bible Study on the 1st Mondays of the month in Fellowship Hall, now through May. Contact moderator Denise Fink for more information.

YOGA: Wednesdays, 9:15-10:15. Certified instructor. All levels. $10 suggested donation.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sundays, 9:45-10:45. Various classes. Ask a pastor for class suggestions to find your right fit.

WE HAVE A HEALTHY CORE

GIVING UPDATE:
2026 Budgeted Pledges through 11-30-26: $1,056,427
2026 Year-to-Date Received: $995,951

WE ARE BRANCHING OUT

THREE WIDE Foundation is seeking volunteers for the December 15 dinner event in Lewis Hall. Areas of need are: Prayer, Serving, Set-up, Clean-up, Desserts, and, most importantly, showing the love of Christ to our participants. Contact Steve Thomas at threewidefoundation@gmail.com. Thank you!

FOOD PANTRY: Rowan Helping Ministries food donation days are the 1st Sundays of each month. They always need peanut butter, cereals, and canned goods. Next donation days: Sunday, December 6 and January 3.

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First Presbyterian Church

Where God's Love is Alive for Mission

November 29, 2026
8:30 AM



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MISSION PRIORITIES

Spirit-Centered Discipleship
Hands-On Local Mission
Friendships Across Differences
Embracing the Unchurched