

<i>God’s People Gather to Worship</i> 8:30AM Faith In the Morning		
Welcome and News of our Church Family		
Minute for Mission		
Call to Worship	Holly Wilks, Worship Coordinator	
Lighting the Advent Candle		
† Opening Songs	<i>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</i> <i>Joy To the World (Unspeakable Joy)</i>	
Invitation to Confession		
Prayer of Confession		
Silent Prayer		
Assurance of Pardon		
Passing of the Peace		
Time for Little Presbyterians		
Centering Song	<i>Come Now, O Prince of Peace</i>	
First Scripture Lesson	Isaiah 35:1–10	
Centering Song	<i>Come Now, O Prince of Peace</i>	
Second Scripture Lesson:	James 5:7–10; Matthew 11:2–11	
Sermon	“Joy In the Wilderness”	Dr. Bowe
Special Music	<i>Breath of Heaven (Mary’s Song)</i> Stephen Sivley and Leah McKinney	
† Offering/Prayer of Dedication		
Affirmation of Faith: (Adapted From Psalm 146:5-10)		
Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer		
† Closing Song	<i>Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee</i>	
† Benediction		
† Those who are able may stand.		

The words for the Call to Worship and other unison or responsive readings will be on the screen and are also included in the 10:30AM service bulletin found to the right of this page.

God's People Gather to Worship
10:30AM Traditional Worship

Welcome and News of our Church Family

Prelude *Nöel Joyeux*
Arr. Gordon Young, Stephen Sivley, Organ

Introit *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*
Liturgy of St. James, Sanctuary Choir

Minute for Mission

† Call to Worship Jack Chapman, Liturgist
L: The promise of God's joy draws near, even in dry and weary places.
A: We come longing for joy that is deeper than circumstances.
L: The wilderness rejoices, and the desert begins to bloom.
A: God is at work where we least expect it.
L: In Christ, joy takes flesh and walks among us.
A: We discover a joy that strengthens weak hands and steadies fearful hearts.

Lighting the Advent Candle
Reader 1: Today we light the third candle of Advent, the candle of joy. This candle is rose, or pink, and it is different.
Reader 2: The other candles remind us that Advent is a season of waiting. This candle reminds us that we do not wait alone, and not without rest.
Reader 3: Here, joy breaks in. Not because the journey is finished, but because God is near, and we are carried by hope.
Prayer: God of joy, teach us how to rest even as we wait. When the wilderness feels long and our strength feels thin, remind us that your joy meets us along the way. As this rose candle burns, settle our hearts in your nearness, through Christ, our joy and our peace. Amen.

† Opening Hymn 40 *Joy to the World*

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession:
God of mercy, we confess that we are often restless in our waiting. We look for quick answers instead of trusting your timing, and we cling to control when you call us to hope. We confess the ways we have grown weary, impatient, or closed to the joy you offer us even now. Meet us in the wilderness of our lives, forgive what holds us back, and restore in us a willing spirit. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Silent Prayer		
Assurance of Pardon		
† Congregational Response	<i>Come Now, O Prince of Peace</i>	
Passing of the Peace		
Time for Little Presbyterians		
Prayer of Illumination		
First Scripture Lesson	Isaiah 35:1–10	
Anthem	<i>Joy Has Dawned</i> Keith and Kristen Getty, Arr. Lloyd Larson, Sanctuary Choir	
Second Scripture Lesson:	James 5:7–10; Matthew 11:2–11	
Sermon	“Joy In the Wilderness”	Dr. Bowe
† Second Hymn 53	<i>What Child Is This</i>	
Presentation of our Gifts, Tithes, and Offerings		
† Doxology Hymn 592	<i>Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow</i>	
† Prayer of Dedication		
Affirmation of Faith: (Adapted From Psalm 146:5-10)		
We put our hope in the Lord our God, the One who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them. The Lord remains faithful forever. God executes justice for the oppressed and gives food to those who hunger. The Lord sets the prisoners free, opens the eyes of the blind, and lifts up those who are bowed down. The Lord watches over the stranger, upholds the orphan and the widow, and brings justice to the vulnerable. The Lord reigns forever, our God from generation to generation. Hallelujah.		
Prayers of the People and Lord’s Prayer		
† Closing Hymn 464	<i>Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee</i>	
Benediction		
Response	<i>On This Day, Earth Shall Ring</i> Sanctuary Choir	
Postlude	<i>God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen</i> Arr. Diane Bish, Sivley, Organ	
† Those who are able may stand.		

A big thank you to all who bring items every month for Faith's food pantry! The food goes into the Elderly Mission Project boxes which are packed and delivered monthly by Faith volunteers to seniors who need extra food toward the end of the month. The **Item of the Month for December is pasta sauce**. If you want to plan ahead, the **Item of the Month for January is individual packets of instant oatmeal**. You are making a difference!



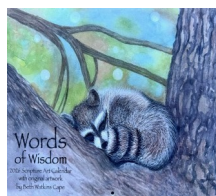
The Session meets today at 1:30 in Room 109.
The Worship Committee will not meet this month.

The Church Office will be closed on Thursday, Dec. 25th and Friday, Dec. 26th.

2026 Calendars by Billy Spears are ready. All the months are nature-themed and show off God's handiwork. Billy says, "God gave me the equipment, the wherewithal to go to so many beautiful & unusual places, whatever talent I may have, and last, but certainly not least, the subject matter!" Billy's email is spearsw70@gmail.com. He will have wall calendars for \$15 each and desk calendars for \$8 each. with 100% of the profits going to the Elderly Mission Project. Please make checks to Faith Presbyterian Church Line Item #2916 (EMP).



The 2026 Words of Wisdom Calendars are ready! The original artwork by Beth Cape includes inspirational scripture for each month. Calendars are available in two sizes and will be in the Fellowship Hall and the Narthex for the next few weeks. Each family is invited to take a calendar (one per family). Calendars are also available for purchase for gift giving. See Beth or Jim for purchase or see the website www.bethcape.com for more information. Proceeds from calendar sales will go to Life-Song for Orphans, Ukraine.



Visitor Information Cards can be found in the pew racks. Place them in the offering plate to request information about one of Faith's many ministries.

Hearing Aids Available – We provide hearing aids for the service. An usher will be happy to assist you.

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Faith Church takes a **Christmas Eve Offering** each year. This year there are three recipients: the Christmas Joy Offering which is denominational, Second Mile which is local, and the Medical Benevolence Fund which is global. The offering will be collected through Christmas. To donate, put #2940 in the memo line.

The goal of the **Christmas Joy Offering** is to assist church workers and their families in their time of critical financial need and students of color in their time of promise at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges — opening doors for healing and doors for opportunity.

The mission of **Second Mile** is to connect every individual to the love of Jesus and create lasting change by building relationships, strengthening schools and families, and bridging gaps in neighborhoods in part of Huntsville.

The **Medical Benevolence Fund** develops dependable, locally-owned sources of quality medical care by working with medical ministries of churches in lower-income countries in Africa, the Caribbean, and the Middle East.



Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
in the Sanctuary at 5PM on
Wednesday, Dec. 24th, 2025
followed by a Reception in the
Fellowship Hall.



Choir meets every Wednesday at 6:45.

Musikgarten Class for Babies and Toddlers meets Saturdays at 9:15AM in Room 215. There will be no classes until 2026.

Wednesday, Dec. 24th—Candlelight Christmas Eve Service in the Sanctuary at 5PM followed by a Reception in the Fellowship Hall.

Sunday, Dec. 28th—One Service at 10:30AM in the Fellowship Hall.

Thursday Morning Bible Studies:

Women's Bible Study at 9:00-10:00AM in the Franklin Center.
Men's Bible Study at 11:00AM-Noon in the Parlor.

Faith Presbyterian Church

Welcome to Worship



Engage, Nurture, Bless

*Faith Presbyterian Church wishes to **engage** the community with meaningful worship, **nurture** this wonderful community with lasting discipleship and warm fellowship, and **bless** the larger world with an amazing heart for mission.*

December 14, 2025

Dr. Michael Bowe—Pastor

Stephen Sivley—Director of Music Ministry

Dr. Beth Cape — Dir. of Christian Ed. and Evangelism

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