Announcements

Wed, Dec 2	**SPC Social 1:30**
	Session 7:30
Thurs, Dec 3	**KD Lunch**
Sun, Dec 6	**White Gift Service**
Thurs, Dec 10	**Christmas Cards**
Thurs, Dec 24	**Christmas Eve Services 5 & 6:30pm**

Next Sunday is White Gift Sunday. We will collect gifts for those in need in our community. Please do not wrap the gifts and they may be place them under the Giving Tree. They will be reorganized after being dropped off to best serve those who receive them.

PCC Wall Calendar The 2027 wall calendar shows how the church lives out the proclamation of Good News through Presbyterian ministries in Canada and with international partners. **The calendars are available at the office for $6.00.**

Hi, everyone; As previously mentioned, our budget deficit to Oct.31, 2026 was $41,413.22 which includes a couple of larger maintenance items completed this year. Some of those costs will be transferred to other funds for our year end, but we are still facing a larger deficit than we did in November 2025. With your help, plus some very special gifts, we were able to balance our 2025 budget by the end of last year. To work towards that same goal this year,
we will once again be setting up our "pledge" tree as a visible reminder of the progress towards that goal. This represents one component of our 2026 budget challenge. A couple of years ago, we introduced a new element to our pledge tree. This involves adding a name to a "star" of someone we wish to remember this Christmas season and hanging it on our tree as a tribute to someone we are missing or thinking about. This does not involve a pledge but rather serves as a shared reminder of those special people.
Thank-you, and we wish you and your families the best of the Christmas season. Your F&P Committee.

MISSION MOMENT

Dona Antoine was worried when her baby Doriana started to show serious symptoms like swelling, diarrhea, vomiting and trouble urinating. Her health worsened quickly. Initially, Dona tried a traditional healer. When that failed, she took Doriana to various clinics, but nothing helped. Feeling desperate, Dona followed a community health worker's advice and took Doriana to a hospital operated by PWS&D's partner in Haiti, Zanmi Lasante, where she was admitted to the malnutrition program. She received six days of intensive therapeutic feeding, a transition to home care, and has now fully recovered. This project, funded through Canadian Foodgrains Bank, is saving the lives of many children in Haiti every year.

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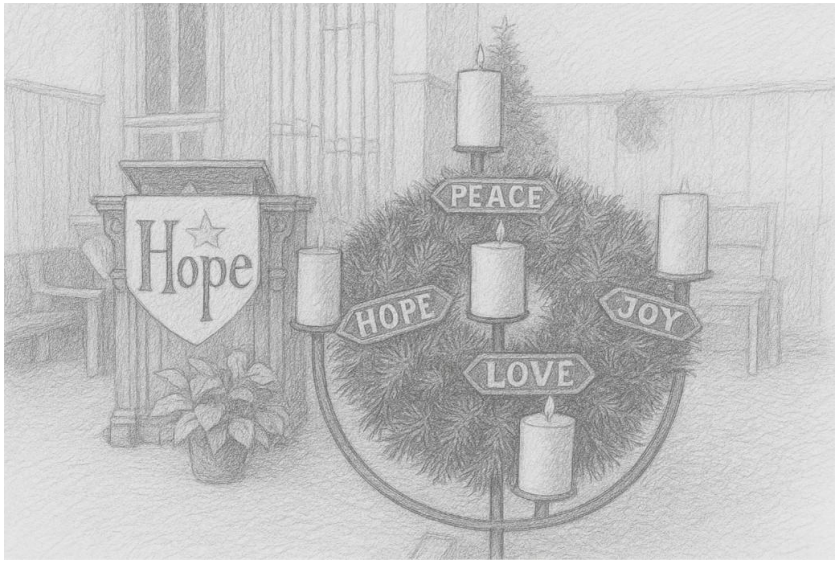

First
Sunday of Advent



~ November 29th, 2026 ~

Our Approach to God

Call to Worship:

The days are growing darker, and the world waits for the light.
We come to worship, watching and waiting for God.

Christ calls us to stay awake, to pay attention, and to live with hope.
We lift our eyes, for God is drawing near!

So let us open our hearts to the promise of Advent.
We wait in hope, we watch in faith, and we welcome the coming of Christ.
(based on Mark 13:24-37)

Hymn **#122 Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel** *(vs. 1, 5, 6 & 7)*

Advent Litany & Candle Lighting
Hymn **#114 Hope is a star** *(verse 1)*

Assurance of God's Love

Welcome & Announcements

Children's Time & Hymn **#109 All Earth Is Waiting**

Listening for God's Word

Prayer for Understanding

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9

The Word of God in Scripture. The Word of God among us.
The Word of God within us.
Thanks be to God.

Ministry of Music: *"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"*

Sermon: *"Tear Open the Heavens!"*

Our Response to God's Word

Stewardship Moment
Reflection / Doxology & the Presentation of Gifts / Prayer

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures high & low
Praise God in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word and Spirit one.

Experiencing God's Word

The Sacrament of Communion
Invitation to the Table
Hymn **#145 In the Bleak Mid-Winter**
Great Prayer of Thanksgiving
Words of Institution
Distribution of the Elements
Pastoral Prayer after Communion
Hymn **#110 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**



Benediction & Dismissal: ***Hope is Shining*** *(Valerie Mackenzie)*

Postlude

* *

As you prepare for this morning's service to begin, you are invited to reflect on the following…



"Advent: the time to listen for footsteps—you can't hear footsteps when you're running yourself."
~ Bill Mckibben (Author & Environmentalist)

What are you longing for these days? Not what you want for Christmas, but what your heart is genuinely yearning for?

Things to pray for this week…

We pray that our hope is nourished during Advent as we prepare to receive Christ among us again.



Tuesday (December 1st) is **World AIDS Day**. We pray for the people around the world who are affected by HIV and AIDS. May they feel God's love and healing as they access support through PWS&D and its partners.

Thursday (December 3rd) is the **International Day of Persons with Disabilities**. We give thanks for the gifts and presence of persons with disabilities and pray for God's guidance that we all work to shape communities that are inclusive and accessible, where all people may flourish and share their gifts with dignity.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, gracious God – Creator of light, Giver of life, Source of hope: In the beginning you said, "*Let there be light,*" and the shadows of chaos fled. In every age, when fear rises like a blazing furnace, you do not abandon your people. You walk with us through trials, speaking courage to the faithful, lighting a path where none seemed possible.

In this Advent season, as we watch and wait for your promised Messiah, we remember all who trusted your appearing – prophets who called us back when we bowed to lesser powers, exiles who discovered that even in the fire your presence is stronger than every threat. For your steadfast love that upholds creation and us, we join the song of heaven and earth:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Mighty and merciful God, in Jesus Christ your light took flesh and dwelt among us. In the child of Bethlehem, you came not with coercive power but with vulnerable love. You shone in our darkness, comforting the lowly, confronting injustice, and calling all people into freedom and trust. He showed us how to live with the courage of those three exiles – refusing the claims of false rulers and clinging to your kingdom of peace.

As we gather at his table, we give thanks for his life among us – for teachings that stretch us, for compassion that restores us, for hope that strengthens us when the flames of life feel fierce. And so, remembering Christ's birth, ministry, death, and resurrection, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ was promised. Christ was born.
Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

God of Advent hope and Christmas joy: Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine. May this meal unite us with Christ and with all who refuse the idols of fear, domination, and despair. Make us a people who walk into the world with the quiet courage of those who know you are with us always – in the calm and in the fire – until the day when all creation is made new and your reign of peace is fully revealed.

Gather our prayers with all the longing and all the love you plant in us, as we pray the prayer Jesus taught us:

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,
the power and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9 (NRSVUE)

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
2 as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence.
4 From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
5 You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
6 We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
7 There is no one who calls on your name
or attempts to take hold of you,
for you have hidden your face from us
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
8 Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
9 Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.