

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

THE GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY

GREETING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather to worship the Word made flesh,
who fled from the wrath of human powers into Egypt.

The God we worship was a refugee.

We remember the children,
from the time of Christ to today,
caught in the cross-fires of fear and greed.

The God we worship was a refugee.

We gather to dream and build a better world
where all children grow up, all exiles return home.

The God we worship was a refugee.

OPENING PRAYER

Loving Parent God, Jesus shared our flesh and blood, and we share closeness with you. We thank you for making us your children, a divine chosen family. Make visible to us the ties that bind us to each other, to all creatures, and to you. Move us to guard each other's well-being and to treat each other's struggles as our own, that we may live into the perfect kinship already ours through Jesus our brother, woven together by his Spirit. **Amen.**

*HYMN 347

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

PICARDY

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Even in a season of celebration and joy, there is grief and pain. Even as we celebrate God's goodness, we know that we have not always lived it. Even in all of this, Christ comes. Let us pray:

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

Ever-present God, you became our Savior in all our distress. In all the ways we hurt, and all the ways we hurt others, in all the ways we feel neglected and all the ways we neglect others, in all the ways we cry out and all the ways we cause others to cry, you are with us, comforting us and holding us to account. In your love, redeem us once again. Lift us up and grant us your mercy, as you have throughout the generations. Amen.

A brief silence is kept for personal prayer.

PRAYER RESPONSE (HYMN 469) *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying* CHILDREN PRAYING

POURING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATER AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Christ came into this world for us: imperfect humans, perpetual sinners, trying, learning, striving. He came to be tested, so that he might help us as we are tested, to forgive us all our sins. **Praise be to our merciful and faithful high priest!**

*GLORIA PATRI (Hymn 113) Refrain only

GLORIA

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

From the fullness of God we have all received grace upon grace. Let us now share this grace with one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

*SUNG RESPONSE (HYMN 144)

In the Bleak Midwinter

CRANHAM

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Stephanie Dube

May God be with you in worship here.

May God be with you in worship there.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, by the gift of your Holy Spirit, show us the Word made flesh—good news of great joy for all—so that we may sing with the angels: glory in the highest and peace on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Psalm 48 (O.T. p. 518)

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Matthew 2:13-23 (N.T.p. 85)

The Gospel of the Lord. **May Jesus Christ be praised.**

SERMON

Rev. Marilyn Ericksen

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN 147

The First Nowell

THE FIRST NOWELL

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.27)

The one sufficient revelation of God is Jesus Christ, the Word of God incarnate, to whom the Holy Spirit bears unique and authoritative witness through the Holy Scriptures, which are received and obeyed as the word of God written.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

For the church, the world, and all in need, let us pray to the Lord, saying:

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

(the prayers continue...)

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.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Let us return to God the offerings of our life and the gifts of the earth. Freely you have received, freely give.

MUSIC FOR THE OFFERING

*THE DOXOLOGY (Hymn 606)

OLD HUNDREDTH

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know Christ and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. Amen.

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE CREATED ORDER

*HYMN 132

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

IN DULCI JUBILO

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

**Rise in body or spirit*

LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher: *Rev. Marilyn Ericksen*

Liturgist: *Debbie McCoy*

Soloist: *Riley Brosbears*

The Life of the Church

Today we welcome to the pulpit, **Rev. Marilyn Ericksen.**

The Stewardship Campaign goal for 2026 was set at \$475,000 compared to 2025's goal of \$450,000. This increase is due to the great news of having a new Pastor installed in 2026. So far, 52 pledges have been received totaling \$259,740. For the 2025 campaign, 64 pledges were received for a total of \$308,660. Also, giving statements for 2025 through November were sent out a few weeks ago. These were sent out so you can review your current giving. If you have not turned in your pledge for 2026, please do so. Our ministry is funded by the giving of members and friends. Thank you for your generosity.

Year End Giving: The end of the year is quickly approaching. All 2025 donations need to be sent to the office no later than Sunday, January 4th.

Annual Reports from each church committee are due to the church office no later than Thursday, January 8, 2025.

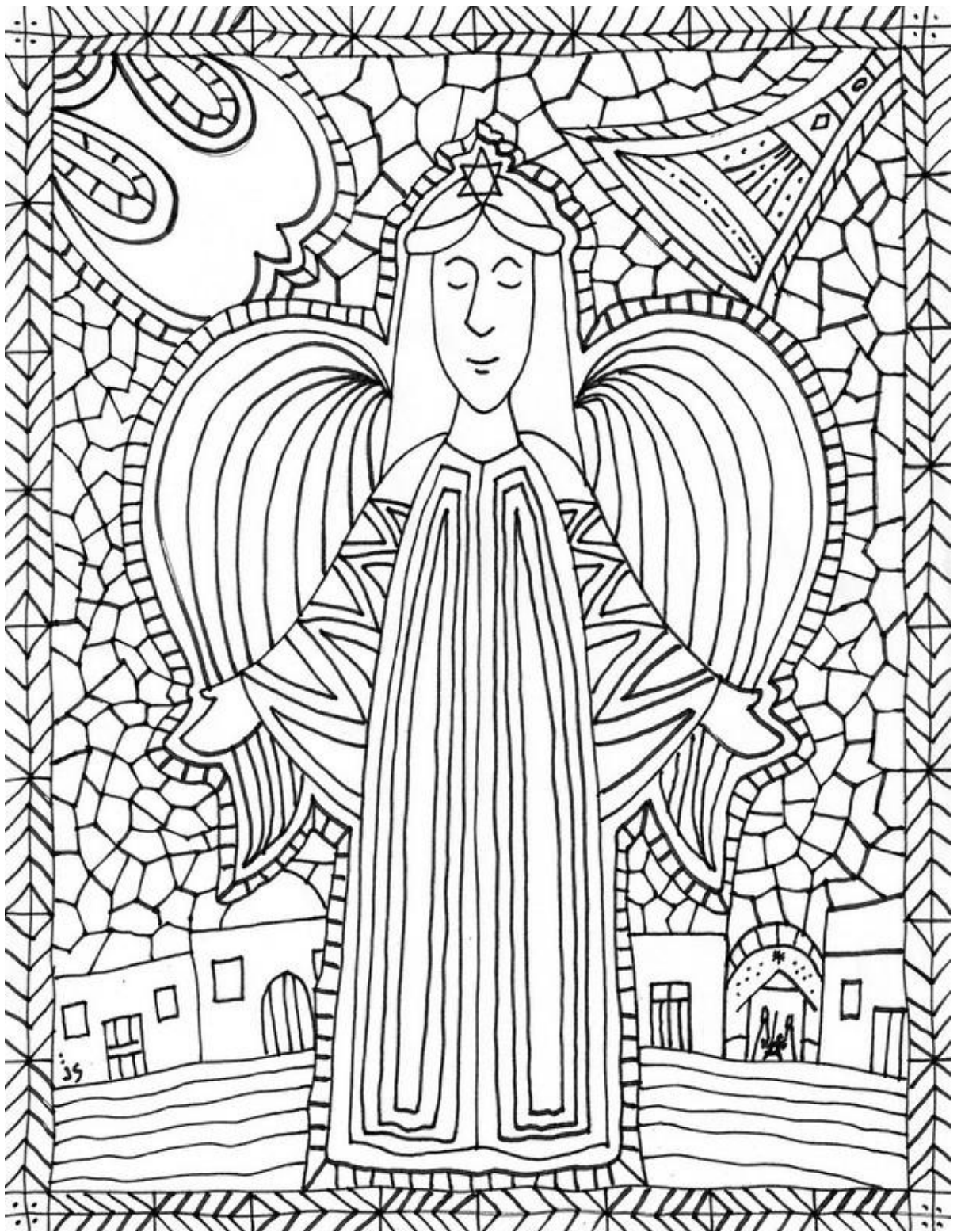
The Church Office will be closed from Wednesday, December 24th until Monday, January 5th.

Printed copies of this week's **PresbyNotes** newsletter are available on the table in the hall.

Financial Update Our ministry is funded by the giving of members and friends. Thank you for your generosity.

Year-To-Date (thru Nov.)	Month To Date (Dec.)	Week of December 21
Income: \$ 611,164.40	Income: \$ 54,042.80	Income: \$ 3,599.00
<u>Expense: \$ 585,093.81</u>	<u>Expense: \$ 28,643.80</u>	<u>Expense: \$ 5,868.14</u>
Balance: \$ 26,070.59	Balance: \$ 25,399.00	Balance: (-\$ 2,269.14)

Keep your pledge current and look for more good news here.





First Presbyterian Church is an inclusive community of faith called to proclaim the good news of the love of Jesus Christ for all people, and to join God in the building of a just, peaceful, and compassionate world.

1328 Griffith Avenue | Owensboro, Kentucky | 270.684.1467



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FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

SESSION

Debbie McCoy, Clerk
Allison Bates
Pat Corkran
Marilyn Ericksen
Tom Furlong
Debbie Hutchinson
Don Preuss
Jerry Price
Patti Price
CeCe Robinson
Mary Lou Taylor

DEACONS

Marilyn Baker
Rayma Bramschreiber
Judy Hughes
Linda Kabalen
Karen Taylor
Patti Burns Taylor

STAFF

Stephanie Dube
Director of Children's &
Youth Ministries

Sasha O'Bryan
Office Manager &
Pastoral Assistant

Patrick Ritsch
Director of Music

Candice Baize
Custodian

Debbie Hutchinson
Bookkeeper