

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

10:00 AM

December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022

*<sup>7</sup> Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. <sup>8</sup> You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. James 5:7-8*

**PRELUDE**

Debbe Picerno

**OPENING LED BY THE CHOIR**

**CALL TO WORSHIP AND ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING**

L: Love is more than a flicker within the human heart.

**P: Lord, Reveal your love, and make us new.**

L: In a hurried world with little time for others, Advent calls us to remember that...

**P: Love is patient.**

L: In a world where often we become consumed by our own interests, Advent calls us to remember that...

**P: Love is kind.**

L: In a world where often we are quick to anger and slow to forgive, Advent calls us to remember that...

**P: Love is not easily angered, and through love we come to forgive.**

L: This Advent let us behold the love of God embodied in our Savior's birth.

**P: God is love. Whoever lives in love, lives in God, and God in them.**

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

**\*HYMNS**

**"Of the Father's Love Begotten"**

**No. 240**

**"Sing We Now of Christmas"**

**No. 275**

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God of Tender Mercies, You have called us to walk with You, work with You, and follow You. However, there are times we'd prefer to go it alone, or to pattern our lives around penultimate heroes. Forgive us for drowning out Your voice, or for lazing about in the good news of our faith without considering the deep commitment into which You call us. By Your Holy Spirit make us whole, through Christ our Lord, Amen. (Silent Confession)**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

L: Believe the good news of the Gospel

**P: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

**\*CONFESSION RESPONSE:**

**"Gloria Patri"**

**CALL TO OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**

**\*OFFERING RESPONSE:**

**"Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus"**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON**

**Deuteronomy 18:15-19**

**ANTHEM**

**"O Holy Night"**

**String Duet By: Meghan Bortmes & Alison Smith**

**SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON**

**Matthew 1:18-25**

**SERMON**

**"Fear Not, Joseph!"**

**Rev. Dr. Stephen Franklin**

**\*CONFESSION OF FAITH**

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**\*HYMN**

**"How Deep the Father's Love"**

**POSTLUDE**

Debbe Picerno

**\*Those who are able please stand.**

*Chancel Flowers today are in appreciation of the Choir, Vicki Georgic, Debbe Picerno, & Timmi Longdon presented by Ron & Diane Sweet.*

**Ushers:** Trustees

**Welcome Desk:** Autumn Moore

**Liturgist:** Roger Wolfe

**Greeters:** Mary Jane McDowell

**Fellowship Hour:** Mary Jane McDowell

**Child Care:** Sarah Tarr

**THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR**

<b>Sunday:</b>	<b>10 AM</b>	Worship
	<b>11:10 AM</b>	Sunday School
	<b>12 PM</b>	Club 35
	<b>2 PM</b>	Christmas Caroling at New Haven
	<b>3-4:30 PM</b>	Youth Group
<b>Monday:</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>	Men's Bible Study
<b>Tuesday:</b>	<b>1 PM</b>	Quilting
	<b>6:30 PM</b>	Session Meeting
<b>Wednesday:</b>	<b>9 AM</b>	Coffee & Conversation
<b>December 18<sup>th</sup>:</b>	<b>10 AM</b>	Worship
	<b>11:10 AM</b>	Sunday School
	<b>6:30 PM</b>	Youth Group

**CHRISTMAS SERVICES-** We will have our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM and also our regularly scheduled worship on Christmas Day, December 25<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM.

**CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES** – are available in the library for pick up. Some envelope numbers have changed this year. If you do not currently use offering envelopes, but would like to, please take a box that is not labeled and write your name and the number on the provided list. Please see Kala in the office with any questions. Thank you!

**VOICE-** VOICE will not be accepting regular donations in December but they will be accepting Christmas gift donations. There is a wish list of items in the Library and on the bulletin board. Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> will be the last day to put gifts in the donation box.

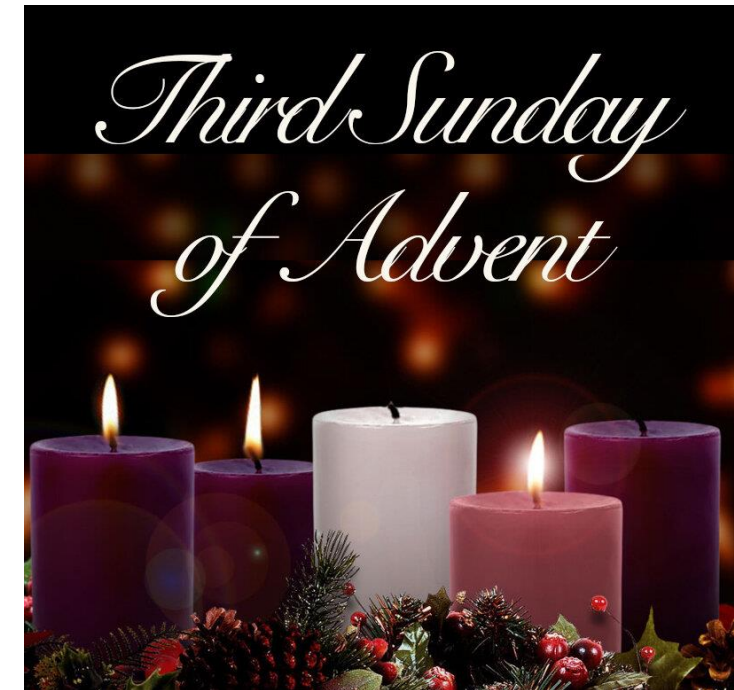
**AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE-** Our next blood drive will be held on Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup> from 12-5 PM at Meridian Firehall. If we are able to donate 20 units of blood, they will donate \$250 to our Youth Group. Please sign up at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org)

**YOUTH GROUP & CLUB 35-** Today at 12 will be the Club 35 Christmas Party followed by Christmas Caroling at New Haven at 2 PM. Then the Youth Group Christmas Party will be from 3-4:30 PM. Please see Pastor Mike for more details.

# Meridian Presbyterian Church

[www.meridianpres.org](http://www.meridianpres.org)

724-482-2630



**December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022**  
**“Fear Not, Joseph!”**  
**Rev. Dr. Stephen Franklin**