

10:00 AM

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 14th, 2025

⁵ Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God. ⁶ He is the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them—he remains faithful forever.
Psalm 146:5-6

PRELUDE

Debbe Picerno

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: During Advent, we wait for the one promised in scripture.

P: And he will be called the Prince of Peace.

L: We wait for the one who can turn discord into perfect harmony.

P: And he will be called the Prince of Peace.

L: We wait for the one who can replace hate with love, and anger with understanding.

P: And he will be called the Prince of Peace.

L: We wait for the one who can replace division with unity, and war with peace.

P: And he will be called the Prince of Peace.

*OPENING PRAYER

*HYMNS

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”
“All Glory be to Christ”

No. 240

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Precious Lord, We frequently live our lives with such small mindsets. We confess that we walk in dark places, trapped deep in our interior worlds of fear, failings and distractions. Meanwhile, we miss the coming King, poised to bring joy to the earth. Forgive us for being stuck in our comfortable and dormant routines. Bring us into a life full of Your presence. Illuminate our vision, so that we can once again behold our greatest love. We wait in eager anticipation for Jesus, the assurance of our salvation. Glory to God in the highest! 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:

“Doxology”

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CONFIRMATION

ORDINATION & INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN’S SERMON

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Jeremiah 29:10-14

ANTHEM

“Sweet Mary of Nazareth”

By: Choir

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

SERMON

“Joy in the Unexpected”

Rev. Dr. Stephen Franklin

*CONFESSION OF FAITH

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*HYMN

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You”

No. 271

POSTLUDE

Debbe Picerno

*Those who are able please stand.

The Tarr family will be lighting the advent candles today.

Ushers: Trustees

Welcome Desk: Sue Freund & Sadie Tarr

Liturgist: Barry Coley

Greeters: Cindy Musko

Fellowship Hour: Lori McCann

Childcare: Sarah Murtha

<i><u>THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR</u></i>		
Sunday:	10 AM	Worship
	11 AM	Sunday School
	11 AM	Confirmation Reception
	5 PM	Caroling @ New Haven
	6-8 PM	Youth Group Christmas Party
Tuesday:	1 PM	Quilting
Wednesday:	9 AM	Coffee & Conversation
	6:30 PM	Choir
Saturday:	10 AM	Grief Fellowship Hour

ORDINATION & INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS- Today we celebrate those whom the Lord has called to serve our congregation in the coming years. To the office of elder we ordain and install Kristen Kwiatkowski and install Charlotte Smedley. To the office of deacon, we ordain and install Timmi Longdon, Pam Greb, Nancy Kummer, and Carolyn Street.

CONFIRMATION- Today we rejoice with our ten confirmation students as they become new covenant partners who by their profession of faith commit to live out their faith with us: David Barton, Lucy Doutt, JD Franklin, Adam Mason, Ben Mason, Sutton Patrick, Aaron Sproule, Brielle Siefker, Vincent Statzer, and Molly Tarr. We will have cake to celebrate with them after worship in the gathering space.

CHILDREN SINGING- The children will be singing during worship on Sunday, December 21st, we will have practice at 11:45 as usual today.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES- We will have Candlelight Christmas Eve Services at 4:30 & 7 PM this year. We hope you will join us!

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE- Today we will have Sunday School today following a short cake reception. Next week, Dec 21st the Club 35 group will have their Christmas party from 11-12:30. Our PreK-2nd grade will have Sunday School as usual. There will be no Sunday school Dec 28th and will resume in January.

MIKE BARTON'S ORDINATION & INSTALLATION SERVICE- Come help us celebrate Pastor Mike's ordination & installation on Sunday, January 4th at 4 PM at the church with dinner served afterwards. Please signup in the Fellowship Room if you would like to attend the dinner. Please reach out to Kala if you would like to help with the dinner.

Meridian Presbyterian Church

www.meridianpres.org
724-482-2630



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“Joy in the Unexpected”
Rev. Dr. Stephen Franklin