



**FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
December 14, 2025  
*THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT / CHRISTMAS CANTATA*

**Rev. Mark Gabbard**  
**Liturgist—Brenda Ransom**  
**Music Director: Kay Boyne / Guitar: David Blackburn**

---



OUR APPROACH TO GOD

PRELUDE	“What Child Is This / Jesu, Joy Of Man’s Desiring”	(McDonald)
INTROIT	“Ring the Bells”	(Bollback)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Happy are those whose help is in the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God.

**Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever.**

The Lord sets the prisoners free, opens the eyes of the blind, and lifts up those who are bowed down.

**The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations.**

**Praise the Lord!**

Let us worship God!

PRAYER OF PRAISE AND ADORATION

You are a God of bounteous gifts, O Lord, and we bless your name. You bestow mercies without end. Your people stand upright; you give sight to the blind. You have no patience with injustice, and the meek you do not turn away. We open our hearts to your presence, and our doors to the stranger. We gather as your people, brought together by your grace and made one by your love.

✠ HYMN “O Come, All Ye Faithful” **#249**

✠ **ADVENT 3 - JOY** (Lamar and Charmaine Styer)

Last Sunday we lit the candle of Hope, remembering the hope which comes in Christ, and we lit the candle of Peace, remembering God’s dream of a peaceful world. (Light Candles). Today we light the third candle of Advent, the candle of Joy.

In Advent, we are in a time of waiting. Like the Israelites who wandered through the Wilderness, waiting to come into the Promised Land, we wait for the coming of the Joy of Ages. We wait for the day



Narrator: Melissa Gabbard

Soloists: Judy Bawks, David Blackburn, Jackie Tastor and Alicia Cottle.

✠ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**Let us say what we believe.**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended to heaven and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

The Prayers of the People

**The Lord's Prayer**

OFFERTORY      "Christ is Christmas"      (Erb)

✠ DOXOLOGY      #814

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him, all creatures here below. Praise Him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

✠ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**We offer ourselves, O God, as messengers of peace and goodwill. Where war threatens and strife is real, we seek by grace to demonstrate your reconciling love. When hostilities persist and your people are alienated, our gift is Christ's promise of intercession and accord. May our words be combined with commitment to act, and our actions conform to your abiding desire.**

✠ HYMN      "Joy to the World"      #270

✠ BENEDICTION

✠ POSTLUDE      "Gloria in Excelsis Deo"      (Kendell)

## **WE WELCOME EVERYONE TO THE FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH!**

We pray you'll be nourished in faith as you hear God's message for you. Jesus welcomed everyone; that is our aim, too. Whether you're here for the first time or the thousandth, we count ourselves blessed by your presence. Persons interested in more information about the First United Presbyterian Church, or in joining this congregation, are invited to fill out a 'Welcome' card found in the pews, or to call the church office. Please be sure to sign our Guest Book near the entrance to the Sanctuary. Thank you for worshipping with us today.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

- ✦ Sunday Worship - 10:00 AM  
The nursery is available for your use during the worship service.
- ✦ A Celtic cross (✦) preceding a service element indicates the congregation should stand.
- ✦ **Bold** indicates congregation participation.
- ✦ If you need the Pastor after office hours, please call the church and leave a message on the Pastor's voicemail. If you call during office hours and he is not available, the staff may be able to provide his cell #.
- ✦ Pre-service refreshments are available each Sunday in the Westminster Room.

FOR THE  **HEARING IMPAIRED**

Hearing assistance devices are available. If you would like to use a receiver, please ask an Usher for assistance.



***The Purpose of the First United Presbyterian Church is to:  
Invite people to know and glorify God  
Grow together as followers of Christ  
Serve others through the power of the Holy Spirit***

***We ask that you remember these people in your prayer throughout the coming week:***



Rob Baker, Marge Simpkins, Dee Leuvoy,  
Geraldine Carnahan,  
Mackenzie (Kalchik) Paul,  
Crisanne Riordan,  
Ronan Mouw, Dr. Pat Newhouse,  
all missionaries, and all members of the  
U.S. Armed Forces.

***Please keep us up to date on your prayer request.***  
*Unless we are informed otherwise, names are listed for 2 weeks.*

***FUPC Meetings/Groups—standard gathering times / or as noted***

Choir Practice—Every Wednesday at 5:00pm / every Sunday at 9:00am

Circle 3—2nd Thursday at 9:30am (WR)

Deacons—2nd Sunday at 11:15am (WR)

Men's Study Group—Every Friday at 9:00am (WR)

Presbyterian Women—3rd Tuesday at Noon (SH)

Session—3rd Monday at 5:30pm (WR)

Textile Social Group—1st, 3rd & 4th Thursdays at 9:30am (SH)

Trustees—3rd Monday at 5:30pm (LB)

Women's Bible Study—1st, 3rd & 4th Wednesdays at 9:30am (WR)

**Minister:** Rev. Mark D. Gabbard / [pastor@soopresbyterian.org](mailto:pastor@soopresbyterian.org)

**Commissioned Ruling Elder:** Brenda Ransom

**Clerk of Session:** Julie Walsh

**President of Trustees:** Leanne Deuman

**Chairman of Deacons:** Jeanne Shibley

**Music Director/Organist:** Kay Boyne / *Guitarist: David Blackburn*

**Administrative Assistant:** Maria Price / [office@soopresbyterian.org](mailto:office@soopresbyterian.org)

**Sexton:** Jason Fuller

**Office Hours:** 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM, Monday-Friday

**Pastor's Office Hours:** 9:15 AM to 12:00 PM, Monday-Friday

*555 Bingham Ave.*

*Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783*

*906/632-7771 / [soopresbyterian.org](http://soopresbyterian.org)*



**ATTENTION ALL COMMITTEE**

**CHAIRPERSONS:** Just a friendly reminder to begin working on your annual reports. Reports are due January 6<sup>th</sup>.

**CHIMES DEADLINE** this month will be Wednesday at 1:00PM.

**THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS OFFERING** will go to our FUPC Food Pantry.

**THE HIAWATHALAND COMMUNITY CHORUS CONCERTS WILL BE HELD:**

This evening at 7:00PM at the Rudyard Christian Reformed Church, 17970 S Tilson Rd, Rudyard and again on Tuesday the 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM at the St. Joseph Catholic Church, 606 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., Sault Ste. Marie. Both are being directed by David Erfourth.

**THE SIMPLY GIVE PROGRAM** at Meijer, for our Food Pantry, will run through December 27<sup>th</sup>. You may take a gift card from the church (located on the table in front of the bulletin board) or pick one up in the checkout lane at Meijer and contribute in amounts of \$10. If you rather not deal with going to Meijer, you can give the money to Doris Boogerd.

**THE DEACONS ARE COLLECTING** new socks to distribute to the community this winter. Help warm a set of toes and place a pair of socks on our sock tree in the narthex until January 11<sup>th</sup>.

**THERE ARE OPEN DATES AVAILABLE** for hosting "Cookies & Coffee" and "Soup & Sandwich" Sundays. The list is on the bulletin board across from the office. Please contact Maria in the church office if you are available to serve on one of these Sundays. Thank you.

**THE FOOD PANTRY** is seeking clean, gently used jackets and coats to distribute on the scheduled Food Pantry distribution days. Donations may be dropped off at the church workroom. Thank you!

# UPCOMING EVENTS



## **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

- December 21<sup>st</sup> - Fourth Sunday of Advent
- December 24<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service / Communion & Christmas Offering
- December 28<sup>th</sup> – First Sunday after Christmas
- January 4<sup>th</sup> – Epiphany of the Lord

## *This Week at a Glance*

### **Sunday, 12/14**

9:00am - Coffee Hour (WR)  
9:15am - Choir Practice (S)  
10:00am - Worship Service (S)

**\*3rd Sunday of Advent**

**\*Christmas Cantata**

**\*11:00am Endowment Dinner**

### **Monday, 12/15**

5:30pm – Session Meeting (WR)  
7:00pm - Scout Troop #105 (SH)

### **Tuesday, 12/16**

12:00pm – PW Meeting (SH)

### **Wednesday, 12/17**

9:30am – Women’s Bible (WR)  
5:00pm - Choir Practice (S)

### **Thursday, 12/18**

9:30am – Textile Social (SH)

### **Friday, 12/19**

9:00am – Men’s Study Group (WR)

### **Saturday, 12/20**

7:00pm - AA

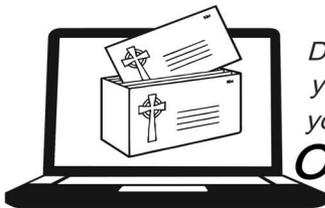
### **Sunday, 12/21**

9:00am - Coffee Hour (WR)  
9:15am - Choir Practice (S)  
10:00am - Worship Service (S)

**4th Sunday of Advent**

10:15am - Sunday School

WR-Westminster Room, MR-Music Room, S-Sanctuary, LB-Library, SH-Social Hall



*Did you know  
you can give  
your offerings*

**ONLINE ?**

Scan this QR code

