

First Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church

December 14, 2025

CCLI License #399806

Worship

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

Mrs. Kathy Weiss

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Jonathan Williams

ENTERING WORSHIP

Call to Worship

Psalm 135:1-3

¹Praise the LORD! Praise the name of the LORD, give praise, O servants of the LORD, ²who stand in the house of the LORD, in the courts of the house of our God! ³Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good; sing to his name, for it is pleasant!

***Song of Praise**

Red Trinity Hymnal #195

“Joy To the World! The Lord Is Come”

APPROACHING GOD

***Prayer of Adoration and Confession with 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, for ever. *Amen.*

***Assurance of Pardon**

John 5:24

Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

***Confession of Faith**

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic** and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. *Amen.*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Tithes and Offerings

***Doxology**

Red Trinity Hymnal #731

*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.*

Children's Sermon

Pastoral Prayer

MEANS OF GRACE

***Psalm**

Blue ARP Psalter #145A

"I'll Give You Praise, My God, O King"

***Prayer for Illumination**

***Scripture Reading**

Pew Bible page 977

Ephesians 4:7-16

Sermon

"The Necessity Of the Church"

Prayer of Application

RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL

***Hymn of Response**

Red Trinity Hymnal #208

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

***Free Offer of the Gospel**

***Benediction**

2 Corinthians 13:14

¹⁴The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

LEAVING WORSHIP

Congregational Response

*May the peace of God our heav'nly Father, and the grace of Christ the risen Son,
And the fellowship of God the Spirit keep our hearts and minds within His love,
And to Him be praise for His glorious reign. From the depths of earth to the heights of heav'n
We declare the name of the Lamb once slain, Christ Eternal, the King of Kings.*

"Benediction" / Stuart Townend and Keith Getty / © 2005 Thank You Music

Sermon Notes



The Necessity of the Church - Ephesians 4:7-16




1. The Victory of the Church

2. The Ministry of the Church

3. The Growth of the Church

December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
30 CARE	1	2 8:30 LCHC show-case rehearsal	3 6:00 WFN
7 COMMUNION 12:15 AE Circle No PM Worship 5:00 Choir Rehearsal	8	9 6:30 GIG Discipleship	10 6:00 WFN
14 12:15 Diaconate No PM Worship 5:00 Choir Rehearsal	15	16	17 6:00 Last WFN
21 5:00 Christmas Music Celebration	22	23 7:00 Session	24  6:00 Christmas Eve Service
28 MISSIONS No PM Worship	29	30	31 

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 8:30 LCHC show- case / Christmas party	5	6
11 3:00 JL Circle	12	13
18	19	20 8:00 Men's Pray- er Breakfast 10:00 Choir Re- hearsal
25 	26 	27
1 	2 	3



ANNIVERSARIES

6– Ed & Nancy Ogburn
18– Sam & Susan Prete
29– Jonathan & Caroline Williams

BIRTHDAYS

1– Betty Allen
9– Reuben Screpetis
10– Naomi Screpetis
12– Emily Tindal
16– Rebekah Carson
17– Holly Rivers
24– Brant Avant
26– Lathan Rivers
28– Spencer Sims
30– Geri Brazell

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:15 Officer meeting
10:00 Morning Worship
11:15 Sunday School
5:00 Evening Worship
6:00 Fellowship
7:00 Youth

Announcements

PRAYER REQUESTS The reverse side of our attendance card is for all prayer requests. Members and visitors are encouraged to fill out the card and place it in the offering plate as you exit Worship.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

There will be a called session meeting in the Library to receive new members this morning, after Sunday School. The regularly scheduled session meeting will be on Tuesday at 7 pm.

The diaconate will meet this afternoon at 12:15 pm.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP This week will be our last Wednesday Family Night for 2025. Remember to sign up on the bulletin board or the church website. We will begin again January 7, 2026.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS Those elected to serve as elders and deacons during the congregational meeting will be installed on December 21 during morning Worship.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION Our Christmas music program and church Christmas party will be held Sunday, December 21. Join us in the Sanctuary for a time of music and a message at 5PM, then move to the Fellowship Hall for a snack supper. Bring your favorite finger foods/small bites/sweets to share.

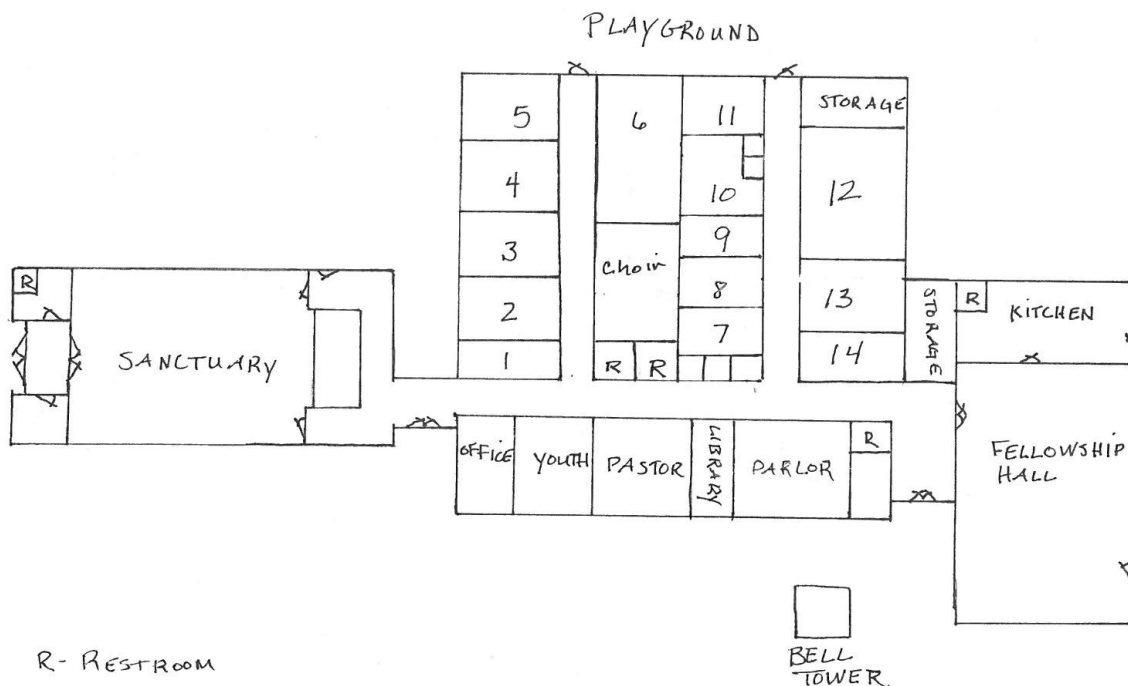
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE We will have our Christmas Eve Worship service at 6PM.

Visitor Information

Welcome to First ARP Church. If you are a first time visitor, we would like to have a record of your visit with us. Please fill out an attendance card located in the pew in front of you and place it in the offering plate as it is passed.

Childcare is available in room #1 for children age 2 and under at the start of morning Worship. Children ages 3-4 are dismissed to Sunday School following the Children's Sermon. Busy Bags are available at the side entrance of the church during morning Worship. We enjoy the sound of children in Worship, but if you have need of it, a quiet room is available at the rear of the sanctuary. Sunday School for all ages begins at 11:15.

CHURCH MAP



Prayer Guide

December 14

JB Powell– Finished Chemotherapy/ continued radiation, Will Jones- Biopsy results, Dell Ghent
- Continued recovery

December 7

Jonathan Williams– Studies and upcoming test, Those grieving during the holidays, Those receiving treatment for health issues

November 30

Esther Shields– Chemotherapy, Will Jones– CT scan on jaw

November 23

Family of Tom Arant, Benny Brazell– Upcoming scans, Sam Huey– Nerve block procedure, Dell Ghent– New treatment for pain, Jay Kaufman (Stacy Pokopac's step dad)- Pacemaker

November 16

Doug Patterson– Continued improvement/ now home, J.B. Powell - Strength during treatments

Chronic Illnesses

Tanya McCree

Nursing Home/ Shut Ins

Betty Arant, Pat McEachern, Charles Montgomery, Richard Robinson, Pat Scruggs, Clovis Steele

Missionaries

Phil Baer, Rebekah Carson, Justin & Gillian Brickey

Church Planters

King's Church (Columbia), Arsenal Hill (Columbia)

COMMITTEES and CHAIRMEN

Fellowship– Sam Prete	Outreach– Richard Crawford	Discipleship– Stewart Screpetis
Missions- Sam Huey	Worship– David Pokopac	Building– Doug Patterson
Grounds– TBD	Safety– Walt Watford	Internal Needs– Debbie Dickson

Financials

December 7, 2025	
Attendance AM	67/7
General Fund	\$4,579
Total GF contributions this month	\$4,579
Missions Fund	\$10

ONLINE GIVING If you would like to make contributions online, visit our website at **FirstARPLancaster.org/Giving** to make a one time or repeating contribution. Contact the church office with any questions. If you prefer to download the VancoMobile app, search for “First Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church” and use the invite code TPVK5P.



HOPE FOOD PANTRY Current food needs: grits, beef stew, Jiffy mix, spaghetti pasta, jelly, & spaghetti sauce. Please bring pantry items and place them on the shelves near the Fellowship Hall. Remember to avoid glass containers and oversized family portions.

Volunteers

Childcare December 14

10:00

Nursery

Available

Toddlers

Katey Powell/ Greta Cureton

11:00

Nursery

Available

Toddlers

Susan Cauthen

Elementary

Lynn Moore/ Nancy Ogburn

December 21

Nursery

Available

Toddlers

Caroline Williams/ Mott Henley

Nursery

Available

Toddlers

Susan Cauthen

Elementary

Susan Prete/ Miranda Bohler

Officers December

Elder

Stewart Screpetis

Elder

David Pokopac

Captain

Glenn Rhyne

Co-Captain

Richard Shields

Usher

Ed Ogburn

Usher

January

Richard Crawford

Sam Prete

Jim Davis

Glenn Rhyne

Sam Prete

Staff

Pastor- Rev. Jonathan Williams

2026

Secretary-Mrs. Stacy Pokopac

2027

2028

Elders

Richard Crawford

Sam Prete

David Pokopac

Stewart Screpetis

Mike Cauthen

Ed Ogburn

Deacons

Debbie Dickson

Doug Patterson

Jim Davis-VC

Glenn Rhyne

Mark Caskey

Walt Watford

An Associate Reformed Family Serving God, Lancaster, and the World

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<http://www.firstarplancaster.org>