



“Transforming Lives Through the Good News of Jesus Christ”

ARDMORE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Ardmore, Pennsylvania

10:30 A.M., DECEMBER 1, 2024

First Sunday of Advent

We welcome you warmly to Ardmore Presbyterian Church where we strive to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

We are especially thankful for visitors. If you have a **prayer request**, please email it to Rev. Jason Grimes at jgrimes@ardmorepres.org or call 610-642-6650x100.

A recording or live streaming of **Sunday's service** will be posted online at www.ardmorepres.org and on our YouTube page.

Please spread the word to those who are interested in viewing our virtual worship.

In the tradition of the **Presbyterian Church USA**, our church is governed by a group of elders called the Session. Elders are elected by the congregation, and serve for specific terms of service. Together with our pastor, elders are called to exercise leadership, government, spiritual discernment, and discipline, and have responsibilities for the life of the congregation, as well as the whole church.

SESSION

Class of 2024

Chip Cobb, Jr.
Harry Hannigan
Robie Lawlace
Jim Rowe

Class of 2025

Pat Corl
Barry Jeffries
Frank Miller
Ben Yurchak

Class of 2026

Shirley Fishburne
Randy Lawlace
Gary Lovett
Kathy Toal

Donald Poorman,
Clerk of Session

Likewise, our congregation elects members to serve on the diaconate. The ministry of a deacon is first and foremost one of care. Care for those both within and beyond the community of faith. Our deacons visit with members, organize support for those in need, and assist in the care of our church property.

DIACONATE

Class of 2024

Dan Del Duca,
Co-Moderator
Carol Fritz
Sarah Schreiner

Class of 2025

Stephanie McGrory,
Co-Moderator
Jim Coath
Jan Terwiesch

Class of 2026

Kofi Owusu
Barb Wood
Barbara McNutt

*Standing for those who are able.

People's response in bold type.

GATHERING THE PEOPLE OF GOD

PRELUDE

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Jonathan Reuss

The hope of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

Rev. Jason Grimes

PRAYER OF ADORATION

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Revelation 22)

Isla Grant

Jesus says: I am coming soon.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

*HYMN 8

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

TRURO

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Bill, Emily and Henry Waters

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

As the Lord has promised, in days to come
the nations shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;

**Nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war anymore.**

LIGHTING OF THE HOPE CANDLE

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Christ is our Hope. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION (Isaiah 64)

We have all sinned, not one of us is clean; but there is mercy for those who call on the name of the Lord.

Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring Jesus' promised return. We accept lies as truth, choose pride over humility, exploit neighbors, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and seek things that endure when Christ comes to judge the world. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (Isaiah 12)

With joy, let us draw water from the springs of salvation. Give thanks to the Lord!
Call on his name. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE (Romans 15)

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

*RESPONSE, Hymn 11, v. 1 *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You* VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

O Lord, how shall I meet You,
How welcome You aright?
Your people long to greet You,
My hope, my heart's delight!

O kindle, Lord most holy,
A lamp within my breast,
To do in spirit lowly
All that may please You best.

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, our hope and strength,
by the power of your Spirit
prepare the way in our hearts
for the coming of your Word,
so that we may see the glorious signs
of your promise fulfilled;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING, Jeremiah 33:14-18

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

For thus says the LORD: David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel, and the levitical priests shall never lack a man in my presence to offer burnt-offerings, to make grain-offerings, and to make sacrifices for all time.

SECOND READING, I Thessalonians 3:9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

ANTHEM, Chancel Choir *Missa Brevis No. 4 – Kyrie* Healey Willan

Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.
Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THIRD READING, Luke 21:25-36

"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

This is the word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

“Signs of Hope”

Rev. Jason Grimes

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN 1

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

STUTTGART

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

PRESENTATION – Nina Irene Felix

RENUNCIATION AND AFFIRMATION

† Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?

† Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior, trusting in his grace and love?

† Will you be Christ’s faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love?

† Will you devote yourself to the church’s teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of the bread and the prayers?

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (The Apostles’ Creed)

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, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on 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.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER AND 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.

BAPTISM

WELCOME

Nina, through your baptism you have been received into the one holy catholic and apostolic church. May the Holy Spirit nourish your faith as you grow into the full knowledge of Christ.

With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you to share with us in the mission of Jesus Christ for we are all one in him. Amen.

PREPARING TO MAKE OUR OFFERING TO GOD (2 Peter 3)

All things in heaven and earth belong to God,
who is coming in glory to reveal a new creation.

OFFERTORY, Chancel Choir *Missa Brevis No. 4 – Agnus Dei* Healey Willan

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

*DOXOLOGY

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 OF OUR GIFTS

*HYMN 492

Baptized in Water

BUNESSAN

*BLESSING

POSTLUDE

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

Emma Lou Diemer

A Charlie Brown Christmas

TODAY at 12:00 p.m.

Start Advent season by joining us for a church-wide screening of *A Charlie Brown Christmas* with pizza and popcorn after worship in the Mill Creek Room.



Children and adults will enjoy this 25-minute animated Christmas classic. Kids can hunt for clues while watching to complete an illustrated worksheet, and all will join a short, kid-friendly post-movie discussion of the important themes reflected in the movie.

In the following weeks, adults and members of the Youth Group are invited to continue with three more Advent studies based on the movie at the Sunday Morning Adult Small Group's on December 8, 15, and 22. The remaining sessions will cover fairness in life, the love of Jesus, and the true meaning of Christmas.

Come and see what Charlie Brown and his friends can teach us about Christmas!



Poinsettia Dedications

Please fill out a poinsettia card found in the back of the sanctuary or contact the church office to dedicate a poinsettia (\$10 per plant) to a loved one or in commemoration of a special occasion.

The deadline for submission is **Monday, December 9.**

Greening of the Church Saturday, December 7 at 10 a.m.

All hands on deck as we deck the halls
for the Christmas season at APC!

Join us on Saturday morning as we decorate our Sanctuary to
celebrate the coming of Emmanuel.



APC Christmas Party Sunday, December 8, 3 - 5 p.m.

Save the date for the APC Christmas Party
(previously known as Family Advent Night)

Join us as we celebrate Christmas with this fun party
for the APC community!

Activities at the party include: Christmas music performances and carol singing, a take-home Christmas craft, a service project making “blessing bags” for people experiencing homelessness, snacks, and more!

If you would like to contribute to the items for the blessing bags, we would appreciate donations of the following **new** items:

- One-time use hand warmers
- Chapstick
- Hot chocolate or oatmeal packets
- Tissue packs
- Cough drops

You can drop off these items in the back of the sanctuary or in the church office.

We hope you will join us for an afternoon of festive fun!

Advent at Ardmore Presbyterian Church



Please keep these dates in mind for celebrating the
Christmas season at APC.

We hope you will join us for these special events!

December 1st

10:30 a.m. First Sunday of Advent Worship Service

12:00 p.m. A Charlie Brown Christmas Movie Screening and Lunch

December 8th

10:30 a.m. Second Sunday of Advent Worship

3-5:00 p.m. Ardmore Presbyterian Church Christmas Party

December 15th

10:30 a.m. Third Sunday of Advent Worship Service
featuring the Children's Nativity Tableau

December 22nd

10:30 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship Service
featuring the Christmas Cantata

December 24th

5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship Service
10:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols Christmas Eve Service

This Week at APC

- Sun., Dec. 1** 10:30 a.m. First Sunday in Advent Worship Service
 In-Person & Livestreamed at ardmorepres.org/live
 11:45 a.m. Fellowship Time
 11:45 a.m. Youth Choir (Choir Room)
 12:00 p.m. A Charlie Brown Christmas, with pizza! (MCR)
 5:00 p.m. Youth Group (Library)
- Mon., Dec. 2** 1:00 p.m. Prayer Fellowship (Zoom)
 7:30 p.m. Mission Awareness Committee Meeting (MCR)
- Tues., Dec. 3** 6:30 p.m. Fellowship and Outreach Committee Meeting (MCR)
- Wed., Dec. 4** 11:15 a.m. Meditative Walk at Stoneleigh
 (Weather permitting)
 5:00 p.m. Wednesday PLUS (Choir Room)
 Cherub Choir (MCR)
 6:00 p.m. Handbell Choir (Sanctuary)
 7:00 p.m. Christian Education Committee Meeting (MCR)
- Thurs., Dec. 5** 12:30 p.m. Mid-Week Bible Study (Mill Creek Room)
 7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir (Chapel)
- Sat., Dec. 7** 10:00 a.m. Greening of the Church (Sanctuary)
- Sun., Dec. 8** 9:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Small Group (Mill Creek Room)
 10:30 a.m. Lord's Day Worship
 In-Person & Livestreamed at ardmorepres.org/live
 11:45 a.m. Fellowship Time
 12:00 p.m. Youth Choir (Choir Room)
 3:00 p.m. APC Christmas Party



Lift your prayers this week for: Kim O'Rourke, Ross Ellison, Peter Grove, John Abrams, John Polhamus, the Kimrey Family, Phil Jeffries, Jim Dormond, Steve Hibbs, Carolyn Young, the Hsia family and the community of Overbrook Presbyterian Church.

Ongoing Prayers for: Lucille Hannigan, Boots Sheckard, Kate Brooks, Victoria Dean, Jessie DiNome, Rosemary Fisher, Holly Frank, Twila Garletts, Julie Patterson, Chris Rowe, Mary Schreiber, Adrienne Wood, Kathy Toal, Jim Dormond, John Beerbower, Paul Goetsch, Sujatha Manawadu, the Howard Family, Mary Scattergood, the Schreiber Family, Betsy Reif Soto and her son Ezra Soto, and Debbie Young.

We pray for God's provision of healing and wholeness for those who suffer, and God's grace for those who are homebound or living in care facilities. We pray for God's guidance here at APC, with the Church Universal, and all our mission partners. Finally, we lift up our continued prayers for our nation and our world.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Ministers: Entire Congregation

Assisted by:

Rev. Jason Grimes, *Pastor*, jgrimes@ardmorepres.org

Gary Garletts, *Director of Music/Organist*, ggarletts@ardmorepres.org (Ext. 102)

Kaitlyn Waterson, *soprano*; **Courtney Capriotti**, *mezzo-soprano*; **Jim Longacre**, *tenor*; **Tom Sitzler**, *baritone*

Rev. Graham Robinson, *Parish Associate*, gjmtk5@gmail.com

Emily Polhamus, *Church Administrator/Director of Communications*,
epolhamus@ardmorepres.org (Ext. 101)

Irena Reynolds, *Interim Preschool Director*, ireynolds@ardmorepres.org (Ext. 115)

Kristy Cobb, *Finance Manager*, kcobb@ardmorepres.org (Ext. 114)

Bill Waters, *Facilities Manager*, wwaters@ardmorepres.org (Ext. 105)

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Online E-Giving – You may now give to APC at any time by going to the church's website (www.ArdmorePres.org) and click on the green "GIVE NOW" button on the top right corner. Or, you may simply scan the QR code on the left here with your phone. Simply set up a new account and start e-giving today!