



*The Word  
of the  
LORD  
is tried*

PSALM 18:30



# First Christian Church

*(Disciples of Christ)*

61 Walnut Ridge Road  
Charleroi, PA 15022

Church: (724) 489-9014  
Pastor's Cell: (724) 316-9255

Pastor Dennis J. Stitch

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**December 10, 2023**  
**Second Sunday of Advent - Peace**

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**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Cora Russell

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Cora Russell

LEADER: In the middle of dark times, our Lord cries out:

PEOPLE: **"Comfort, comfort my people!"**

LEADER: When it seems as though we cannot see the light at the end of the tunnel,

PEOPLE: **Our Lord says to us, "Be at peace, for your time of difficulty has ended."**

LEADER: We await the time of comfort and peace!

PEOPLE: **We give thanks for God's compassion and never-failing love.**

**\*SONG OF PRAISE**

**Hymnal #194 (all verses)**

**"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"**

**\*INVOCATION AND 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 trespasses,  
As we forgive those who trespass against us,  
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.  
Amen.

## **GLORIA PATRI**

Glory be to the Father  
and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen, Amen.

## **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

Advent 2 – Candle of Peace – Nancy Lessman & Karin Brightwell

LEADER: In this season of Advent, we pray for God's peace.

**PEOPLE: Christ is our light and the source of our peace.**

LEADER: We witness the hostility between nations and neighbors.

**PEOPLE: Christ is our light and the source of our peace.**

LEADER: We see a world full of fractured relationships and unforgiving hearts.

**PEOPLE: Christ is our light and the source of our peace.**

LEADER: We seek relief from our own inner turmoil and restlessness.

**PEOPLE: Christ is our light and the source of our peace.**

## **PRAYER HYMN**

**HYMNAL #178 (all verses)**

**“O Little Town of Bethlehem”**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (Joys/Concerns)**

Pastor Dennis

**PRAYER FOR JOYS AND CONCERNS**

Pastor Dennis

## **PASTOR DENNIS' ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES**

### **The Service of the Word**

**\*SCRIPTURE**                      **Isaiah 9:6 NLT**                      **Pastor Dennis**

**6 For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

**"Is Your Heart Prepared for a King," Robert Lau**

**SERMON**                      **Prince of PEACE**                      **Pastor Dennis**

**OFFERING REMINDER**                      **Pastor Dennis**

**OFFERING COLLECTION**

**\*PRAISE RESPONSE- 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 OVER OFFERING**

### **The Service of the Table**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**                      **Pastor Dennis**

**COMMUNION HYMN**                      **Hymnal #180 (all 3 verses)**  
**"What Child Is This, Who, Laid to Rest?"**

**PRAYER FOR THE LOAF AND CUP**                      **Elders**

**THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

## Going Forth in Love and Service

### INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP/WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

#### HYMN OF INVITATION

Hymnal #184 (all verses)

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

#### \*BENEDICTION

May God's peace be with you.

May God's peace be with me.

May God's peace be with us.

#### \*CLOSING PRAYER Numbers 6:24-27

24 The Lord bless you and keep you;

25 The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you,

26 The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace

27 So they will put my name on the children of Israel and I will bless them.

(\* ) Those who are able please stand.

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Mary Lou Lachman is asking the congregation to send her daughter Lauri a Christmas Card. Her current address is: Lauri Garman, c/o Brian Lachman, 1382 Rosepointe Drive, York, PA 17404. Lauri had her first treatment for pancreatic cancer. Thank you!

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In John 14:27, He states, *"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."*

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## Under Long-Term Care

<i>Our Leaders*</i>	<i>Marlene Celaschi*</i>	<i>Sophia Renk*</i>
<i>Our Troops*</i>	<i>Ellis &amp; Darla White*</i>	<i>Betty Jo Matesich*</i>
<i>Our Church*</i>	<i>Bill &amp; Garnet Krutz*</i>	<i>Nancy Lessman*</i>
<i>Universities*</i>	<i>Rocky Renk*</i>	<i>Ken &amp; Sherry Ballentyne*</i>
<i>Grace Vandernitte*</i>	<i>Father Bob Hanna*</i>	<i>Kristin Colvin*</i>
<i>Justin Sutch*</i>	<i>Missy Pendleton*</i>	<i>Miley Ava Delval*</i>
<i>Karin Brightwell*</i>	<i>Joseph Wojcik*</i>	<i>Grethen &amp; Tom Speece*</i>
<i>Lila &amp; Adelyn Risch</i>	<i>Alicia Hruby*</i>	<i>Sarah Matay*</i>
<i>Bertha Zollars*</i>	<i>Jack Sharp*</i>	<i>Gage Peters*</i>
<i>Lois Buberniak*</i>	<i>Hannah Simpson*</i>	<i>Cindy Buckley*</i>
<i>Michael Erdely*</i>	<i>Laverne Giordanengo*</i>	<i>Dave &amp; Chrissy Zoltun*</i>
<i>Tanner Riley*</i>	<i>Patty Strychalski*</i>	<i>Deanna Shingleton*</i>
<i>Jessica Beimel*</i>	<i>Terri Brownfield*</i>	<i>Richard Evans*</i>
<i>Heather Simpson*</i>	<i>Victor Angelo*</i>	<i>Judy Gaisbacher*</i>
<i>Small Businesses*</i>	<i>Christian Colleges*</i>	<i>Mary Jo Short*</i>
<i>Brian Stillwagon*</i>	<i>Bob Gilpin*</i>	<i>Margie D'Antonio*</i>
<i>Joe &amp; Betty Jo Rapp*</i>	<i>Karl &amp; Dorothy Semekoski*</i>	<i>Sam &amp; Jane Semekoski *</i>
<i>Bre Randolph*</i>	<i>Tonya Kepich*</i>	<i>Josh Cramer*</i>
<i>Andrew DeBroeck*</i>	<i>Jesse &amp; Joseph Bird*</i>	<i>Connie Siranni*</i>
<i>Rudy Guy*</i>	<i>Matt Sezawich*</i>	<i>Melanie Slattery*</i>
<i>Gene Kite*</i>	<i>Kelly Weaver*</i>	<i>Rev. Chuck House*</i>
<i>Ingri Humphrey*</i>	<i>Betty Draganac*</i>	<i>Sydney Weaver*</i>
<i>Jake Hurley*</i>	<i>Lauren Snyder*</i>	<i>Mary Mannella* Valerie's Mom</i>
<i>Joan Caldwell*</i>	<i>Janet Hellner-Burriss*</i>	<i>Mike Lee*</i>
<i>Emily Denny*</i>	<i>Ed Yuhas*</i>	<i>Lauri Garman*</i>
<i>Shelby Kostelac*</i>		

**WORSHIP NOTES:**

10/28 - Continued

Andrew (left) and I (right) have been battling cancer and winning the fight. So far, Andrew is the one who is still in a hospital. Working out here is his gift to the world. Thank you for all your prayers and please keep praying that he will be a part of the celebration of Andrew's recovery and the weather conditions and the weather conditions.

Community Night - 10/28/2017 - 10:00 PM

Prayer for the Week of 10/28/2017

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## **JOYS - Continued**

\* Andrew DeBroeck (our former organist) has been battling cancer and winning the fight. Scans shows no cancer at the present time. Next scan in 3 months. Working part time as he gains his strength back. Thanks for all your prayers and please keep praying. May be back for a visit in December or January depending on his strength and the weather conditions.

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**Community Night Fundraiser – Hoss’s in BV,  
January 14, 2024, 11 AM – 9 PM - Rob “Chief 63”  
Memorial Fund – Group #130159 - for Terri  
Greenlee’s husband.**

She has given the office tickets to this event to give to the waitress that day before you place your order. Hoss’s will then donate 20-25% to the above fund.

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Praying for peace is simple. First, place your trust in God as the true source of peace Who transcends all worldly concerns. Then, make your request for peace known to God in whatever personal sense you need. We have gathered a collection of historic and modern prayers for peace to use as inspiration or guiding words. Add or edit your words as relevant to your life. Experience the transformative power of prayers for peace, providing a serene refuge for believers seeking tranquility.

**Prayer for Inner Peace:** Prince of Peace, I come before you with a heart burdened and restless. Grant me the inner peace that surpasses all understanding. Calm the storms within me and fill me with the assurance of your presence. Help me to cast my anxieties upon you and to trust in your perfect peace. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

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## **PRAYER CONCERNS**

- \* For Sue Latour's Aunt Aggie (Dec. 2 – her Dad's sister) and Aunt Frannie (Dec. 6 – her Dad's sister-in-law), both passed away. Pray for their family and friends.
  - \* For Terri Greenlee who is trying to get her sinusitis/asthma under control –Dr.'s wisdom. She will be having a hip replacement on Jan. 22, 2024.  
Requested by: Terri Greenlee
  - \* For Chuck Moreland recovering from severe bladder infection. Requested by: Nancy Horrell (his granddaughter)
  - \* Beth's friend, Bill Murphy, is not going to make it. He is now on hospice care. Requested by: Beth Hughes
  - \* For Bob Riley, brother-in-law, having very serious health concerns.  
Requested by: Marla & Ed Gould
  - \* For family of my friend going through personal issues. Requested by: Mary Valla
  - \* For the family and friend of Senia Lowther (Joan Santini's niece) who passed away on Dec. 1 from her battle with cancer. Requested by: Joan
  - \* For the family and friends of Louise Fernandez (aunt and spouse of our Uncle Bob) who passed away Monday, Nov. 27. Requested by: Paula Barndollar and Mary
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## **LUNCH/BRUNCH CELEBRATION – DECEMBER 17, 2023**

Please bring a covered dish to share, as we get into the Christmas Season let us celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and the joy it brings us to be together at this Holy Season.

If you have any red & green, please wear it that day.

Thank you!

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## **JOYS**

- \* Lauren Hermann got a full ride, 4 year scholarship to Seton Hill College.
- \* Jake Caldwell has been offered a position, upon graduation in May, at Bechtel. Pap & I are very proud of him and his accomplishments.
- \* My sister Pam came home last Sunday, and recovering and feeling much better. Requested by: Beth Hughes.
- \* Erica & Russell Curtis are the proud parents of Arianna Wendy Curtis on Dec. 1, 2023. They now have 2 daughters. If you would like to send a card their address is: 53 Deerwood Drive, Groton, CT 06340.

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**PRAYER LETTERS** can be signed in person. They are located in the narthex. Leave Margie D'Antonio a prayer request address (in the spiral book) and she will send a prayer letter. Please print clearly. A prayer letter just might make someone's day.

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### **ELDER'S EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUND**

This fund was established for **ACTIVE MEMBERS** of our church who have financial emergencies and may need help with food, rent, car repairs, utilities, etc. **ACTIVE MEMBER MEANS REGULAR ATTENDANCE AT CHURCH AND/OR FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE CHURCH.** Two requests per calendar year only from January-December will be considered. **NO CASH IS GIVEN!**

If you have a need, please contact Paula Barndollar or Diane Rusak.

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**Birthdays:** Dec. 10 – Cindy Dunmeyer, Dec. 13 - Kristin Colvin,  
Dec. 17 – Declan Blair

**Anniversaries:** Erica & Russell Curtis

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## **COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CANTATA** **“Silent Was the Night,” Lani Smith**

Here, at First Christian Church, **TODAY at 3 PM**, under the direction of Sherry Erdely, and accompanist, Becky Hofmeister, and narrator, Dennis Caldwell.

This cantata affords an opportunity to capture the calm, quiet, celebration of Christmas. A time to reflect on the importance of Jesus' birth.

Immediately following the cantata, you are invited to a tasting party in the church's social hall. Thank you to all the choir participants for this wonderful event.

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*Today's Bulletin Cover is in Memory of  
James & Katherine Waggoner.*

*Given by: Karin Brightwell*

**Serving the Church Today**

<b>Minister</b>	Pastor, Dennis J. Stitch
<b>Worship Leader</b>	Cora Russell
<b>Organist/Pianist/Director</b>	Sherry Erdely
<b>Elders</b>	Debbie Caldwell Dennis Caldwell
<b>Greeter(s)</b>	Allen Ritchey
<b>Deacons</b>	Ron Bird Nancy Lessman

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Welcome this morning to First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Charleroi, where God's **GRACE** reigns. We are... **G**od-centered, **R**espectful, **A**ccepting, **C**ommunity-oriented and **E**ncouraging on most days. On other days, we try harder to be a better Christian. Be strong in the LORD! Love one another!

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**Follow us on Facebook** at First Christian Church, Charleroi, PA, or join us on the web at [www.FCC-Charleroi.com](http://www.FCC-Charleroi.com).

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**STEWARDSHIP REMINDER**

If you happen to miss a Sunday, please don't forget that our lights are still on, the furnace and air conditioner are still in use, the custodian has cleaned the church, and the bills still need to be paid. *Please remember to make up your pledge/offering.* Thank you.

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**BULLETIN COVER REQUEST SHEET (IN HONOR OR IN MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE, FRIEND, or OCCASION)** is available. SIGN UP SHEET AND PAYMENT ENVELOPE (\$10) ON TABLE OUTSIDE THE NARTHEX. Please write or print clearly!!! Thank you

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# TODAY: SUNDAY, December 10, 2023

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

### Sunday 12/10

10:40 AM

10:45 AM

3:00 PM

Elders' prayer before worship  
FCC Worship Service – Advent #2  
Community Choral Cantata – “Silent Was the Night,” Lani Smith – Refreshments following the Cantata.

### Monday 12/11

6-8 PM

Girl Scouts

### Wednesday 12/13

6:30-7:45 PM

7:45-8:30 PM

Community Choir Cantata Practice  
FCC Choir Practice

### Thursday 12/14

7:00 PM

FCC Board Meeting – All are welcome.

### Friday 12/15

**MOVIE NIGHT CANCELLED**

### Sunday 12/17

10:40 AM

10:45 AM

Elders' prayer before worship  
FCC Worship Service – Advent #3  
Lunch/Brunch immediately after worship to fellowship with everyone.

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## Unified Giving Update (2023)

Current Fund	<u>Offerings</u>	<u>Missions/Outreach</u>
	\$ 2,525.17	\$ 84.83

	12/3;
Attendance (In Church)	64
Facebook Live	15
Conference Call	0