

COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

505 West Broadway
Plainview, MN 55964

Sunday, December 14th, 2025

Third Sunday in Advent





Welcome to Community Presbyterian Church!

Sunday, December 14th, 2025
Third Sunday in Advent

Gathering

PRELUDE

Joan Lee, Organ

WORDS OF WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Mark Rich

Be patient! The time is coming when we will celebrate the birth of Jesus,

When we will sing and rejoice, dancing with everlasting joy.

But for now, be patient, as we wait in this time called Advent,

When God speaks through dreams and visions, and we are invited to dance down the holy way into the kingdom.

Let us worship our God!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Lindsay Hammer-Bartley Family

Let us prepare for Christ's coming by singing our Advent song:

Candle, Candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;

Candle, Candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.

Please join me:

“Rejoice in the Lord always:

Again I will say, Rejoice.”

The world says, “Worry,”

and we say, “Rejoice.”

The news says, “Fear,”

and we say, “Rejoice.”

The world says, “Be happy,”

and the church says, “Be faithful.”

As we light our third Advent candle,

We pray for hope, peace, and joy.

Come now, O Child of Mary.

Come now, O Prince of Joy.

(The third candle, the Candle of Joy – is lit)

Let us sing together:

Verse 3: ***Light the Advent candle, three: Think of heavenly harmony;***

Angels singing “Peace on earth” At the blessed Savior’s birth.

Refrain: ***Candle, Candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;***

Candle, Candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.

PRAYER OF PRAISE AND ADORATION

Mark Rich

Let us pray together:

God who approaches: you gather the ignored, so you can accomplish the unexpected for a world which no longer cares; with bread broken into pieces, you restore your shattered creation; as you let go of your Child, our emptiness is filled with immeasurable grace. Breath of the Joy of Advent; we thank you and praise you for your unrelenting Love of us and your gift of Jesus Christ. AMEN.

OPENING SONG "A Song 'Fore Christmas"

Janice Jurgenson

CALL TO CONFESSION

Mark Rich

There is no need to wait in long lines.

God is always willing to listen – to our hearts as well as our voices,

As we admit how we have not cared as we could, have not shared as we should. Let us join, as we pray, saying the prayer of confession:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Mark Rich

Let us pray together:

This season is supposed to be so holy, God of Christmas, yet the ding of sales pitches turns us into cynical grumps. As we drive down the streets, the decorations on all the houses keep us from seeing the loneliness of the widower, the strained faces of those

who fear the future. We are so determined to find just the right gift or card which speaks of joy, we forget that you came so long ago to offer justice to those who have none.

Be patient with us, God of our hearts, as we struggle to speak for the voiceless, to walk with those who have lost their way, to let go of our certainty of what really happened so long ago, and listen to the songs of children which speak of that peace which really can bring reconciliation, of that grace which really can offer hope, of that Love which really came to us that night in Bethlehem, in the birth of Jesus, our Brother, Our Savior. Amen.

INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor Denise

Hear the Good News God speaks to you:

I love you;

I forgive you;

I restore you to new life.

We will not ignore the fact that God comes; not to condemn, but to comfort us; not to scold, but to speak tenderly to us of hope, of Love, of joy.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

GLORY TO GOD #581 Gloria Patri "Glory Be to the Father" found in the purple *Glory to God* Presbyterian hymnal.

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

Pastor Denise

A CIRCLE OF PRAYER FOR CPC

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Mark Rich

Let us pray together:

Holy God, Author of all wisdom, we come to your Word with gratitude and humility. Grant us openness of mind to listen with new understanding. Grant us sensitivity of heart to receive what we hear. Grant us willingness of spirit to live our response daily. In Jesus' name. Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 64: 1-8

Mark Rich

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 1: 46-56

THE EPISTLE LESSON

James 5: 7-10

SERMON “Are We There Yet?”

Pastor Denise Dunbar-Perkins

Responding

HYMN #494 “Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts”
(Verses 1, 3, & 5)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (The Apostle's 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.

CALL TO PRAYER #83 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" (Verse 1)

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

May the Creator of the Holy Way be with you.

And also with you.

Do not be afraid, people of God, but lift your hearts to the Holy One.

Our hearts will be filled with God's hope and grace.

Children of God, offer songs of goodness to the One who keeps faith forever.

We offer glad praises to the One who comes with justice.

...We sing our carols to you:

***Holy, holy, holy are you, God who does great things.
All creation shall rejoice, offering you praise.
Hosanna in the highest!***

***Blessed is the One who keeps your promises.
Hosanna in the highest!***

We bear witness to the holy way of faith which is a mystery:

Christ has died, trusting that your weakness destroys death;

Christ was raised, telling us of the resurrection he had seen and heard;

Christ will come again, to lead us home by the holy way of God.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Pastor Denise

OFFERINGS OF LOVE AND THANKSGIVING

December Mission of the Month: Supportive Living Solutions

DOXOLOGY: #606 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" found in the purple *Glory to God* Presbyterian hymnal.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We pray that with our gifts, as well as our lives, we will tell of those who are given voice, those who are put back on their feet, those who show us the way, and those who offer us grace and hope, as well. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Sending

DEPARTING HYMN #87 "Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

BENEDICTION

Pastor Denise

BENEDICTION SONG #92 "While We Are Waiting, Come" (Verse 1)

POSTLUDE

Joan Lee, Organ

GREETERS: Steve & Stephanie Kreofsky

Mission of the Month for December: Supportive Living Solutions

Supportive Living Solutions has multiple tiers of support for those experiencing homelessness, mental illness, or other disabilities.

The Housing First Solution provides supportive, apartment-based housing for adults experiencing long term homelessness, mental illness, chemical dependency or other disability. Services include housing, job search and resume building, appointments and medical information management, education budgeting and life skills development, resources for chemical dependence recovery, and monthly tenant meeting events.

The Recovery Advantage provides housing for men living with chemical dependency or substance use disorder, who are seeking a life of sobriety. This program is designed to ease the transition from in-patient treatment and allows more time to focus on recovery.

They also offer In-Home-Solution programs for individuals with a focus on increasing independence, achieving personal goals, securing and maintaining housing, and reducing the need for crisis intervention.

Lastly, they provide a 24-hour community based Customized Living housing and services for adults living with a serious and persistent mental illness, or other disability. Individuals maintain independence while also being a part of the larger community.

Financial Information

Mission of the Month for December: Supportive Living Solutions

	<u>General</u>	<u>Mission</u>
12-07-2025	3,165.00	25.00
TOTAL	3,165.00	25.00

Thank you for your continued support of our church and its ministry!

PRAYER LIST

- Prayers for Farhad Kosari, who had knee replacement surgery.
- Prayers for the family of Carol Eidenschink, who passed away October 12.
- Prayers for Zac and John Zabel as they adjust to living in the nursing home.
- Prayers for Ron Byler with his recent diagnosis.
- Prayers for Alyssa Kreofsky, who is in a lot of pain and has kidney disease.
- Prayers for Joe & Julie Flanagan, for Joe's health.
- Prayers for Bonnie's niece Debra, with breast and bone cancer.
- Prayers for Tim's brother, Scott, with health problems.
- Prayers for Ali, Pastor Amy and Farhad's friend who has cancer.
- Prayers for Voni Distad, Janice's friend who is going through cancer treatment.
- Prayers for peace in our own country.



This week in the life of Community Presbyterian Church:

Sunday, December 14

Worship at 10:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship

11:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship

Session Meeting after Church

2:30 Christmas Tea

Monday, December 15

Office Hours 10:00-2:00

Tuesday, December 16

Office Hours 10:00-2:00

Wednesday, December 17

Office Hours 10:00-2:00

Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary

Thursday, December 18

Office Hours 10:00-2:00

Friday, December 19

Office Closed

Saturday, December 20

Office Closed

Sunday, December 21

10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary

11:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

Julie & Joe Flanagan

Dec. 2

Howard & Rosemary Gray

Dec. 7

Denise Dunbar-Perkins

Dec. 7

Alex Bartley

Dec. 11

Kennedy Jensen

Dec. 18

Bruce Firzlaff

Dec. 20

John & Zac Zabel

Dec. 29

Betsy Dewey

Dec. 30



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