Morning Worship ╬ November 26, 2023 ╬ 10:30 a.m. ╬

Please complete the Red Friendship Book and pass it to others in your pew. Please note any concerns on the yellow prayer cards and place those in the offering plate.

Where indicated by the asterisk (*), please stand if you can do so comfortably.

Prelude

Welcome Rev. Doug Hagler

Passing the Peace

Announcements Sarah Shulman

Minute for Alternative Gift Greeting Cards Sandy Heidel

Call to Worship (leader; **unison**) by Patrick of Ireland (389-461)

Jacqui Busch

Lord, be with us this day—within us to purify us;

above us to draw us up;

beneath us to sustain us;

before us to lead us;

behind us to restrain us;

around us to protect us.

Amen.

(Please be seated.)

Prayer of Confession (unison)

This is the covenant God made with us: that God would put the law within us, and write it upon our hearts, and would be our God, and we would be God's people. God forgives the wrong we have done, and the good we leave undone. In penitence and faith, let us silently confess our sins to God.

1. continued...

^{*} Hymn # 187: "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" (see page 14)

(Silent prayer and reflection)

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.

The old life has gone; a new life has begun.

I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: Amen.

* Gloria Patri (Children may come forward now for the children's message.)
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.

(Please be seated.)

Children's Sermon

Following the message children may go to their Sunday School rooms, to the church nursery room or they may stay with their family in worship.

Call to the Word

"Thy Word is Living"

Choir

Prayer for Illumination

Jacqui Busch

Leader: Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. **Amen.**

Listen for what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Jacqui Busch

^{34:11}For thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. ¹²As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall ² continued...

lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

²⁰Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, ²²I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

²³I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

Reading: Matthew 25:31-46

Jacqui Busch

^{25:31}"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³ and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; 35 for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴²for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' ⁴⁴Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' ⁴⁵Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' ⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Leader: This is the word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Sermon

Rev. Doug Hagler

* Hymn # 274: "You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd" (see page 15)

(Please be seated.)

Call to Offering

Leader: With what shall we come before the Holy One, and bow ourselves before God on high? God has shown us what is good. Let us present ourselves to God as those who have been delivered from death to life.

Offertory: "Reckless Love"

Praise Team By Cory Asbury

Elder: Jewell Baker

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

* Prayer of Dedication

(Please be seated.)

Joys and Concerns

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

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.

- * Hymn # 320: "The Church of Christ in Every Age" (see page 16)
- * Benediction

Postlude: "You Never Let Go"

Praise Team By Matt & Beth Redman

Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers in the sanctuary are given today to the glory of God.

Upcoming Scripture Readings

Dec. 3rd: Various readings with the musical selections

Dec. 10th: 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

ANTIRACISM BOOK CLUB: Zoom with the Antiracism Book Club when they meet again TONIGHT, Sunday, November 26th. Discussion will flow from the book *We Remain: Race, Racism, and the Story of the American Indian* by Keith R. Burich. Join us at 7:00 PM and discover how much there is to learn! Newcomers are welcome! Contact Pastor Doug if interested – Pastor145@comcast.net.

QUEER CIRCLE: The next Queer Circle gathering will be by Zoom at 7:00 PM on Monday, November 27th. On the agenda is discussion of the book "The Book of Queer Prophets: 24 Writers on Sexuality and Religion" edited by Ruth Hunt. There's an open invitation to everyone interested in learning more about gender, sexual orientation, Christian faith, and related issues. Talk to Pastor Doug, Jacqui Busch, or Sarah Shulman for more information.

CHRISTMAS DECORATING: The Worship & Music Committee will be decorating the church for Advent/Christmas on Saturday, December 2nd, from 9:30 AM-12:00 noon. There will be decorations for all ages to be part of the event. SPECIAL note: We would like to display our big tree this year. Assembly takes several strong people to put it up. If you can help with the tree on December 2nd, please let Maggie know by Tuesday, November 28th - call 610-933-8816 or email secretaryfpc145@gmail.com.

SPECIAL ADVENT COMMUNION SERVICE: On Sunday, December 3rd, the FPC Choir will be presenting "The Desert Shall Rejoice", an Advent communion service based on the Book of Isaiah and original poetry composed by our own Jacqui Busch. The readings and original poetry will be framed with anthems and antiphons sung by our choir, congregational hymns, and Advent candle lighting. Please mark your calendars and be sure to join us at the 10:30 AM worship service for this special introduction to the Advent season.

STAR TREE & CHRISTMAS DINNERS: Yes Virginia, there is a Santa Claus...and it's us! This year we will help 6 local families have a Merry Christmas. Use this Star Tree Sign-Up Genius link to pick gifts and food items your able to donate -

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050F4AADA722A1FB6-star2. Please be sure to attach the number (letter-number) to your gift bag and return it (unwrapped) to the church on or before Sunday, December 3rd. Thanks from the MAC Committee elves!

NOMINEES NEEDED: Last call! The Nominating Committee is in search of new Members At Large to serve 2024-2025. Remember, if you are interested, you can nominate yourself! Use the bulletin insert to submit nominees to the main office TODAY, Sunday, December 3rd.

CONFIRMATION CLASS: This is a reminder to FPC's young disciples. The next Confirmation class will be on Sunday, December 3rd, from 12:00 PM-2:00 PM. Please attend the full worship service and then meet in the third floor classroom for lunch and learning.

ALTERNATIVE GIFT GREETING CARDS: Want to support a great cause and give a unique card to a special person? Alternative Gift Greeting Cards let you do both. They make wonderful teacher gifts, stocking stuffers, and are perfect for the person who has everything. This year's choices are Heifer International, PACS, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, CWS Blankets, and Citizen Advocacy. The cards are \$5.00 each and can be purchased before and after church in the narthex, and in the church office during the week.

PROPERTY CLEAN-UP DAY: Need some exercise? Help us clean up the church grounds. For a good workout, join fellow volunteers from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM on Saturday, December 9th. Rake, sweep, trim, and beautify our property. Bring gloves, rakes, leaf blowers, tarps, and anything else that would make it easier to get leaves into a pickup truck. Many hands would be appreciated and more fun!

GOOD WORKS LUNCH PACKING: On December 9th, parents and children are invited to gather in Fellowship Hall/the kitchen to prepare and pack lunches along with our Sunday School teachers. The meals will be delivered to Good Works crews working in our area. Packing will start at 8:00 AM and deliveries will be made at 10:00 AM. Donating items on Friday, the 8th, is another way to participate. Sign up by using this link - https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090444ADAD2CA5FF2-46019838-good. To learn more about Good Works, visit GoodWorksInc.org.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: A Congregational Meeting has been called for Sunday, December 10th, at 11:45 AM (following the worship service.) The purpose of this meeting is to present the nominees for the next class of Elders and Deacons, and to vote on this slate of officers.

CAROLING & COCOA: The Parish Life Committee will host our annual Caroling & Cocoa gathering on Sunday, December 10th. Please plan to join us for singing led by Rebecca Barkley, hot cocoa, and maybe some yummy goodies too. Meet for the merriment at 4:00 PM on the steps in front of church. Come have some holiday fun!

PUB THEOLOGY: At Pub Theology, experience some engaging conversation of current events and God in today's world. Be social. Be perplexed. Be a part of some fun fellowship! This gathering starts at 7:00 PM on Sunday, December 10th, at The Foodery, 325 Bridge St, Phoenixville.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL/BIBLE STUDY: There are some scheduling and content changes to share regarding Adult Sunday School/Bible Study. Dec. 3rd - 8:30 AM start time; Dec. 10th - 8:00 AM start time; Dec. 24th & 31st - no session; Jan. 7th - sessions resume at 8:30 AM. The book for the Advent Study will be *The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem* by Adam Hamilton. New learners are always welcome. This is a short series and a great way to "get your feet wet." If interested, please contact Sue Casey for a book and the Zoom link.

GRANT WRITING: The Church Growth Committee is reengaging the Grant Writing portion of their committee. If you are interested in helping out in any part of the Grant Writing process (it could be just finding grants to apply for), we would love your help! Our initial focus will be on grants for security, website refresh, and membership development (new and current). If you are interested, please let Kristin know at kristin.c.craven@gmail.com by Monday, December 4th.

PLEDGE FULFILLMENT: This is the time of year that our Finance Committee works to balance everything and close the books for the year as we look forward to 2024. Know that we appreciate your financial commitment to First Presbyterian Church throughout this past year. We ask that you please take a moment to reflect on your giving and prayerfully consider fulfilling your 2023 pledge. Thank you for all that your do and for your faithful support. - The Stewardship Committee

2024 PLEDGE CAMPAIGN: The 2024 Pledge Campaign - The Stewardship Committee would like to thank everyone who has completed and returned their pledge card for 2024. If you have not yet turned in your pledge card, please know that it is not too late! We ask that you take a

moment to reflect on your giving for the coming year. Your generous and faithful offerings help to support the ministry and the many good works of FPC. By completing your pledge card, your are helping the Finance Committee as they plan for 2024. Completed cards may be returned by mail, dropped off at the church office, or placed in the offering plate on Sunday morning. If you need a pledge card, please call the church office at 610-933-8816.

SCRIP GIFT CARDS: Let the Stewardship Committee help you with your Christmas shopping, while at the same time provide you the opportunity to support our church. We are placing orders for gift cards every Wednesday, beginning December 1. (Orders will be placed 12/1, 12/8, 12/15, and 12/22) If you would like to place an order, please call Lynne Williams at 610-415-1581 (home) or 610-955-4749 (cell). You may mail your check to Lynne, drop it off at her home, (14 Schofield Road, Phoenixville, PA 19460), or see her at church on Sunday morning. Orders and checks must be received by the day before the orders are placed (Nov. 30, Dec.7, Dec. 14 & Dec. 21). Please make checks payable to "First Presbyterian Church DR". You do not need to fill out an order form. We will do that for you. Happy Christmas Shopping! As always, thank you for continuing to support this program.

BOOKS THROUGH BARS UPDATE: Please note there will be no Books Through Bars trip in December. The next volunteer opportunity will be the third Saturday in January, the 16th.

PRAYER CHAIN: The Prayer Chain ministry is in need of a new organizer. This position offers a special way to stay connected with FPC congregants without having to be onsite. For more details about how to lead our Prayer Angels, please contact the main office at secretaryfpc145@gmail.com or 610-933-8816.

Prayer Requests

Joys:

Concerns: Helen Harrop, Denny L.

GRATITUDE JOURNAL: During our year-long journey of gratitude, we invite you to record your responses in a journal so you can reflect at the end of the year. This week's prompt is: **How are you thankful for past versions of yourself?** If you would like to share your reflection (1-2 minutes) after a specific prompt or something you are grateful for, please let us know and we can let you share! *The Church Growth Committee*

ADVENT / CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE:

1st Sunday – Dec. 3rd 4th Sunday – Dec. 24th

2nd Sunday – Dec. 10th 10:30am Advent! Pageant! Christmas!

3rd Sunday – Dec. 17th 9:00 pm Candlelight! Communion! Christmas!

Rehearsals for the Christmas Pageant are taking place during Sunday School classes. To help with planning, parents please confirm your availability on December 24th by completing this poll - https://rallly.co/invite/toZylCFv B7Yt. Thank you.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Dec. 1: Grace Kennedy

Dec. 4: Joe Beregi,

Nicholas Sinapius

Dec. 11: Kathy Bacon

Dec. 7: Sandy Lusch

Dec. 8: John Marosek

Dec. 16: Jeff McLaughlin

Dec. 10: Marian Bayus, **Dec. 20:** Lyra Morris

Linnea Gulden Dec. 24: George Cockerill

This Week in the Life of the Church

Sunday, November 26 (*Childcare available.)

8:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study - Zoom

10:30 a.m. *WORSHIP SERVICE with Rev. Doug Hagler, In person and via YouTube

10:45 a.m. *Sunday School classes

7:00 p.m. Antiracism Book Club - Zoom

Monday, November 27

9:00 a.m. People to People Clothing Ministry (Fellowship Hall)

12:30 p.m. Staff Meeting – Zoom

7:00 p.m. Queer Circle - Zoom

6:30 p.m. Zumba Class (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, November 28

6:30 p.m. Zumba class (Fellowship Hall)

7:30 p.m. Session Meeting - Zoom

Wednesday, November 29

7:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

Thursday, November 30

9:00 a.m. People to People Clothing Ministry (Fellowship Hall)

10:00 a.m. People to People Food Ministry (Kitchen)

7:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal (Choir Room)

Friday, December 1

9:00 a.m. Women, Infants & Children (Fellowship Hall)

Saturday, December 2

9:30 a.m. Zumba Class (Fellowship Hall)

9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Christmas Decorating (Meet in the Sanctuary)

Sunday, December 3 (*Childcare available.)

FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT

8:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study - Zoom

10:30 a.m. *SPECIAL COMMUNION ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICE

with Rev. Doug Hagler, in-person and via YouTube

10:45 a.m. *Sunday School classes

12:00 p.m. Confirmation Class (3rd Floor Classroom)

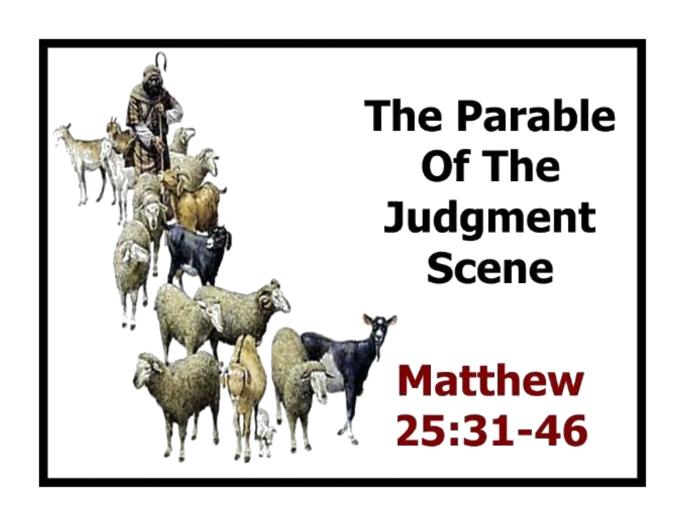
12:00 p.m. Deacons' Meeting

Nursery & Sunday School: The church nursery is located on the 2nd floor of the main building in room 209 and is available for children ages infant-3 years. All children 3 years and older are invited to attend Sunday School during worship (children will depart fellowship hall for their classrooms immediately following the Children's Sermon), with ages 3-5 in room 210, ages 6-8 in room 208, and grades 5 and older in the third-floor class-room. Sunday School is from 10:45am–11:45am.

Restrooms: The church restrooms are located on the first & second floors of the main building. Ushers can help direct you to the restrooms.

For Hearing Assistance: If you wish to use a wireless assistive listening device to better hear the service, see one of the ushers.

Large Print Bulletins are available from an usher.



Rev. Douglas Hagler, Pastor145@comcast.net; 415-300-7912 (cell)

Diane Legnini, Director of Music

Sarah Shulman, Praise Team Leader

Maggie O'Malley, Office Manager & Communications Coordinator,

Secretaryfpc145@gmail.com & FPCcommunications@comcast.net

Jeff McLaughlin, Children & Youth Coordinator,

fpcchildrenandyouth@gmail.com

Church Treasurer: fpctreasurer145@gmail.com

Church Telephone: 610-933-8816 Website: FPC-Phoenixville.org

Elders on Session

Deacons

Ken Brown

Kevin Carrabine

Kathryn Grocki

Roger Warwick

Jewell Baker (Clerk)

George Cockerill

Jeff McLaughlin

Adam Smith

Karin Goodman

Cassy Gulden

Jill Kleppinger

Jeanie Osterhoudt

Jen Johnson

Kathy Thais

Gail Schnaedter

Ellen Williams

Kristin Craven

Gail Landazuri

Mona Sabia (Chairperson)

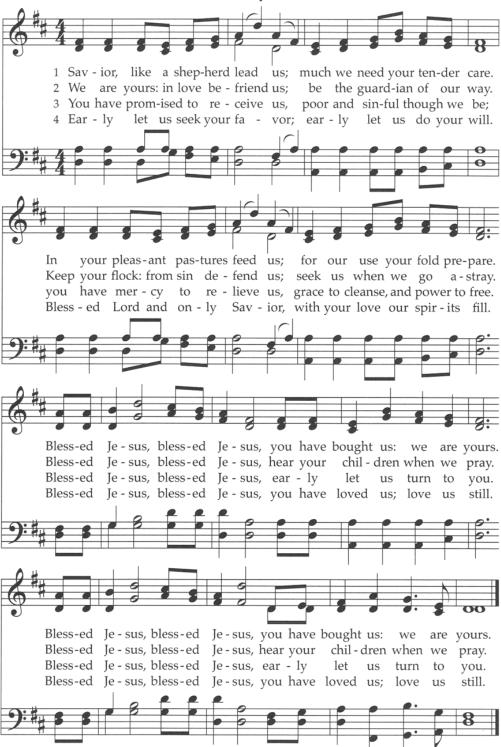
Paulette Mark

Lucinda Parrish

Lynne Williams

Bob Wittrock

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us 187



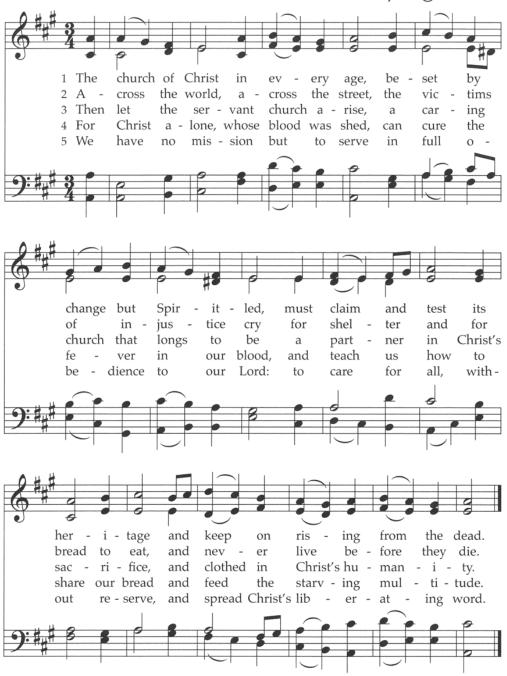
This unattributed hymn, like many that are now meaningful to adults, was written for children and develops shepherd imagery from Psalm 23 and John 10:1–18. The tune, composed for these words, was originally named for the text but has come to be known by the composer's name.

You, Lord, Are Both Lamb 274 and Shepherd



When it was first published, the author called this text "Christus Paradox," because so many attributes of Christ stand in tension with each other. Mindful of the works of Søren Kierkegaard, she drafted it on a commuter bus after "a particularly bad day" of prison ministry.

320 The Church of Christ in Every Age



In this challenging text by a British Methodist minister, the odd-numbered stanzas develop the image of "the servant church," while the second surveys the many needs and the fourth describes the true source of strength for the task.



NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee requests names from the congregation to form the Nominating Committee **Members At Large**, to serve during the calendar year 2024 until the 2025 Congregational meeting.

The Nominating Committee is composed of two Elders appointed by Session, one of which must be currently serving on Session; one Deacon representative appointed by the board, and **four at-large members of the congregation.** The congregation votes on these four nominations. It is this new Nominating Committee that will find the next slate of officers.

Please submit names to the church office no later than Sunday, Dec. 3rd.

Thank you from the 2023 Nominating Committee:	
Adam Smith, Moderator	
Karin Goodman, 2 nd Elder	
Deacon: Ellen Williams	
Members at Large: Sue Casey, Lew Osterhoudt,	
Bob Russell, Becky Sinapius	
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First Presbyterian Church of Phoenixville 145 Main Street, Phoenixville, PA 19460 610-933-8816 † secretaryfpc145@gmail.com FPC-Phoenixville.org