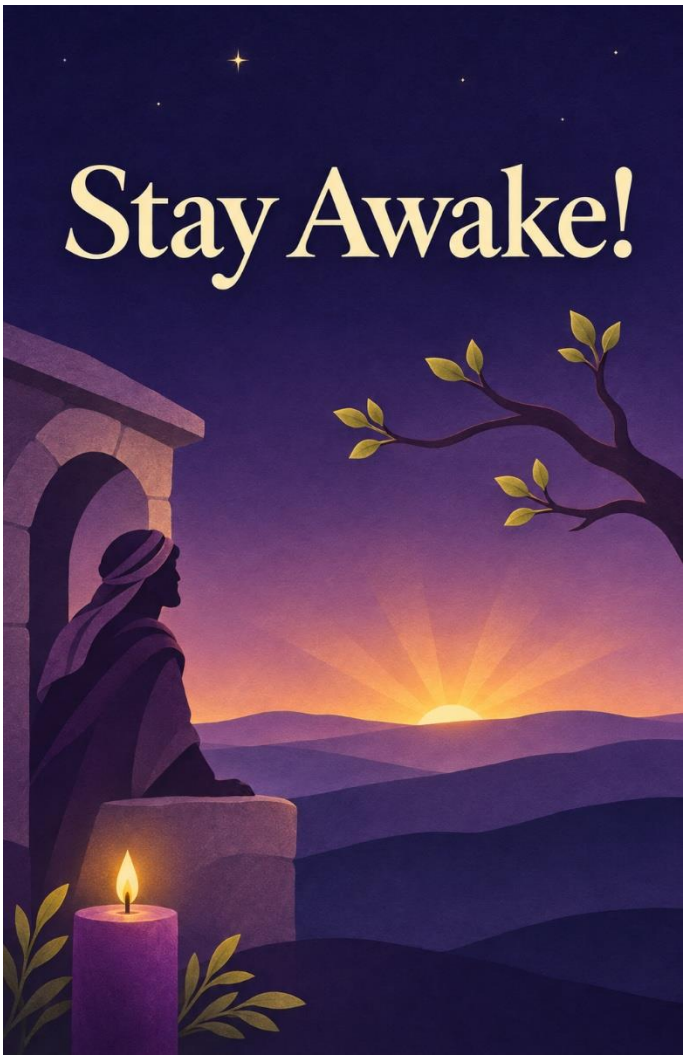
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
GROVE CITY

10:00 am
November 29th, 2026



We Gather to Praise Our God

**Please rise in body or spirit*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: The peace of Christ be always with you,
People: **And also with you!**

PRELUDE *"Sleepers Wake!" A Voice Astounds Us* Johann Sebastian Bach

CHORAL INTROIT #84 *Creator of the Stars of Night* (st. 1)

Creator of the stars of night, your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, redeemer of us all, we pray you, hear us when we call.
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CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before
Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.
P: Stir up your might, and come to save us!
Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we might be saved.

L: O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
You have fed them with the bread of tears,
and given them tears to drink in full measure.
P: Let your hand be upon us that we may be made strong.
Then we will never turn back. Give us life, and we will call on your name.

***HYMN #107** *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

O come, O Come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
Music Arr. © 1990 John Weaver. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

P: Stir up your might, and come to save us! Shepherd God, we have become like those who are unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We fade like a leaf and our iniquities, like wind, take us away. We do not call on your name or grasp hold of your plan for us. Yet you, O Lord, are our Father; we are the clay and you are our potter; we are the work of your hand. Remove our guilt from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation. Enable us to allow you to shape our lives and lead our paths. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

L: There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set me free from the law of sin and death. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:
P: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

***RESPONSE #113** *Angels We Have Heard on High (refrain)*

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Music © 1937, ren. 1965. H. Augustine Smith Jr., from the New Church Hymnal, Fleming H. Revell Company, a div. of Baker Publishing Group. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

We Hear God's Word

CHILDREN'S TIME
Following Children's Time, children ages 3 & up will be met by their teachers in the back of the sanctuary for Sunday School.

SCRIPTURE READINGS Isaiah 64:1-9 & Mark 13:24-37

L: The word of the Lord.
P: Thanks be to God.

SERMON *"Stay Awake!"* Rev. Gary Brose

We Respond in Thanksgiving and Dedication

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (Christmas Creed from Latin America)

**I believe in Jesus Christ and in the power of the gospel,
which began in Bethlehem.
I believe in the one whose spirit glorified a small village, of whose coming the shepherds saw the sign, and for whom there was not room in the inn.
I believe in the one whose life changed the course of history, for whom the kings of the earth had no power, and who was not understood by the proud.
I believe in the one to whom the poor, the oppressed, the discouraged, the afflicted, the sick, the blind, the leprous gave welcome and accepted as Lord and Savior.
I believe in the one who with love changed the hearts of the proud and with his life showed that it is more important to serve than to be served and that the greatest glory is giving your life for others.
I believe in peace, which is not the absence of war, but justice among all people and nations and love among all.
I believe in reconciliation, forgiveness,
and the transforming power of the gospel.
I believe that Christmas is strength and power, and that this world can change if with humility and with faith we kneel before the manger.
I believe that I must be the first one to do so.**

***HYMN #357** *The Days are Surely Coming*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

You may put a donation to the church in the offering plate.
Please take a moment to touch the plate as it is passed and recommit yourself as a disciple.

ANTHEM *Is Your Heart Prepared for a King* Robert Lau

In the quiet of the night, or in morning's early light, is your heart prepared for a King?
Will you hear an angel sing? Will your own hosannas ring?
Is your heart prepared for a King?

Wait! Watch! Pray for the One who brings hope to a wearied earth…
Who brings peace by his birth.

Can you see the shining star? Does it call you from afar?
Is your heart prepared for a King?
In the babe of whom we sing born to be our God and King?
Will you watch? Will you pray? Is your heart prepared for a King?

Text: © 1993, Shawnee Press

***DOXOLOGY #143** *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* (st. 4)

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising to the 'ternal Three in One:
come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!
Text & Music: Public Domain

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

CALL TO PRAYER #121 *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (st.4, first two lines)

O little child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
Text & Music: Public Domain

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

We Depart To Share the Good News

***SENDING HYMN #82** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

***CHARGE & BLESSING**

CHORAL RESPONSE #79 *Light Dawns on a Weary World* (refrain)

The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;
The hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!
We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,
As all the world in wonder echoes *shalom*.
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POSTLUDE *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn* arr. Mark Sedio

Leading Worship Today

Pastor: Rev. Gary Brose Liturgist: Rick Puderbaugh Ushers: Bart Starner, Helen Huntington	Technology: Hannah Stewart, Kirk Bohanan, Doug Ebner Worship Music: Chris Dederer, Director of Music FPCGC Chancel Choir

News & Announcements



Next week: Churchwide Holiday Potluck - December 6th!
Join us on December 6th after service for a festive time of food, fellowship, and holiday cheer! Hosted by the Membership Committee, this churchwide gathering is a wonderful opportunity to connect and celebrate the season together.
Please bring a dish to share. Whether it's a favorite holiday recipe, a savory side, or a sweet treat, we look forward to sharing a delicious meal with you.

CARD OUTREACH
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GROVE CITY

Card Outreach Ministry
Card Outreach Ministry will be meeting on **December 10th at 1PM** in room C3. Please join us as we prepare cards for upcoming birthdays, and the holidays! No experience needed! We will show you everything you need to know!

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS
PLANNING OUR 2027 GIVING

Great is Thy Faithfulness
Thank you to all who have submitted an estimate of giving for our ministry in 2027. We have received 25 estimates so far, and 21 of them are increases over 2026 -- thank you for *stepping up!!* You can still submit an estimate of your own giving to the church for 2027; these estimates are not binding commitments, but they do help us to plan. Use the card in the back of the sanctuary or go to the FPCGC app.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH GROVE CITY
DIRECTORY 2027

Directory 2027
Updating your information in the directory is EASY, just check out the printed directory in the narthex and put a check mark next to your name if your information is correct! Please verify your information by **December 13th!**

LUNCH TOGETHER
FPC GROVE CITY

Lunch Together
Join other church members and friends for lunch on Wednesdays at 12pm. No RSVP required. See to the right for each week's location. Questions? Call Ken Simeral (cell 740-317-9476).

December 2nd: Olive Garden
December 9th: Fiesta Mariachi (Georgesville)
December 16th: 3 Brothers
December 23rd : Bob Evans (Georgesville)
December 30th: IHOP
January 6th: Sunny Street Café
January 13th: Broadway Standard
January 20th: Planks

This Week's Scripture

Isaiah 64:1-9

64 O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
2 as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence.
4 From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
5 You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
6 We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
7 There is no one who calls on your name
or attempts to take hold of you,
for you have hidden your face from us
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
8 Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
9 Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Mark 13:24-37

24 "But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
25 and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
26 "Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. 27 Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.
28 "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 30 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.
32 "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. 34 It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. 35 Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, 36 or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. 37 And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

From The Office

Want to sponsor flowers on Sunday?
Celebrate a special event or honor the memory of someone dear by sponsoring flowers for **$40**. Give through your usual method—check, cash, or online. Please mark your giving envelope "Flower Sponsorship" or select that option in the online giving portal.
To reserve your date, write your name on the calendar outside the church office. Then complete a green card, located below the flower sponsorship calendar, with the dedication you would like announced and included in the bulletin.

First Presbyterian Church of Grove City

"To Know Christ and Make Him Known"

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