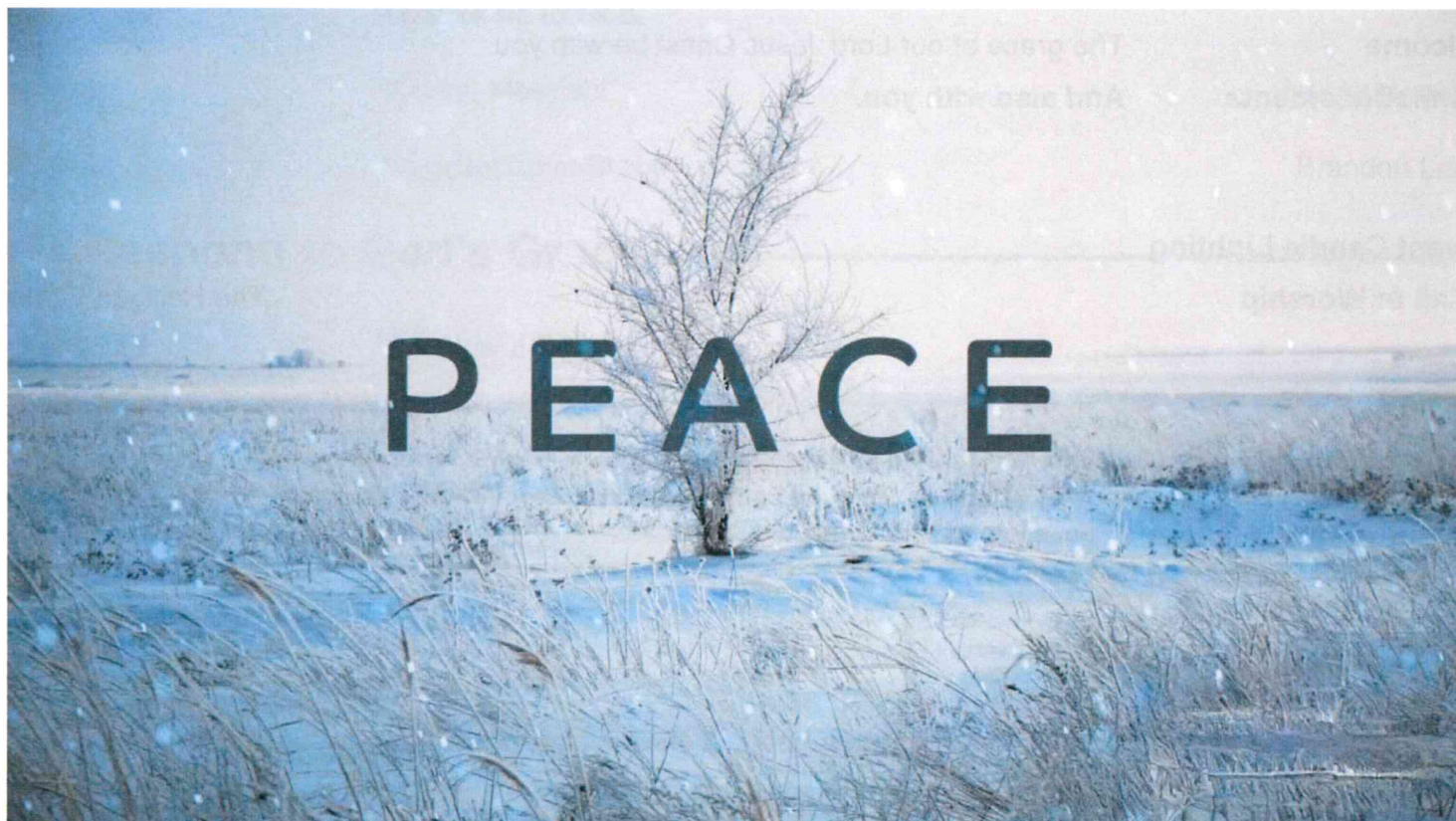


UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 7, 2025
2nd Sunday of Advent



"The message of the Incarnation is not to behold an innocent baby resplendent in inertia, but rather to take sides with a God who agitates for reform and shatters the *status quo*."
~ Doris Donnelly

Sunday Worship
10:00 am

Office Hours
Tuesday – Friday
8:30 am – 12 Noon, 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
541-926-5551



330 Fifth Avenue Southwest
Albany, OR 97321

We Gather in God's Name

Prelude

*You are invited to make the transition from getting here to being here. Be still and know that God is God.
We are claimed by Christ in the waters of baptism; the light of Christ shines in our lives and in the world.*

Welcome

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

& Announcements

And also with you.

Advent Candle Lighting

& Call to Worship

The Halligan Family

+ Gathering Song 366

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

We Offer Our Gratitude

Prayer of Confession

Mary Stevens

In the days that have been, O God, we admit we have walked along crooked paths strewn with our selfishness and greed, our prejudice and our apathy. We confess that we have hidden from the light—from the light which exposes everything, the love and the hate, the good deeds and the harmful ones. On this day we admit to you our failings, where we have wandered, when we have not listened, how we have not heard or seen. In the days to come, remind us of your love and grace. Show us your power to transform hearts and minds. Fill us with peace that we will take your peace into this weary world. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Sung Response 448

"Peace of God Be with You"

+ Sharing the Peace of Christ

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

As you are willing and able, please greet one another with signs of peace.

We Listen & Receive

Time with the Young Church

*Children of all ages are invited to come forward.
Nursery and Children's Worship info is on the back of the bulletin.*

Scripture Reading

Matthew 3:1-12
This is the gospel of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem

"Come, Messiah!"

by Lloyd Larson

Sermon

"Tangled Up in Brood"

Brandon Lewis

We Respond to God's Grace

Hymn 129

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Invitation to the Offering

We are grateful for your sharing part of your Sunday with us, and for the gifts of time, talent, and treasure that you share. Offering boxes are at the rear of the sanctuary for those willing and able to help support the ministry of this congregation.

Offertory

+ Presentation of Gifts & Hymn 606

"Doxology"

The Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Table
Prayer of Thanksgiving & The Lord's Prayer
Communion of the People

You are welcome to receive communion by intinction – a sign of the body of the Church acting together, moving as a community towards the Table. Please exit your pew to your left, receive a piece of bread from one of the stations, dip it in the cup, and partake of both elements together. Please return to the other end of the pew after receiving communion. If you are unable to come forward, we will gladly bring communion to you.

**The station under the Rich Young Ruler window offers gluten-free bread and juice.*

Communion Hymn 92 "While We Are Waiting, Come"
Prayer

We Are Sent in God's Love

+ Closing Hymn 87

"Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

+ Benediction

+ Benediction Song

"Go with God"

Welcome

We are delighted that you have added to the joy of worship this morning at United Presbyterian Church. We proclaim that ALL people are created in the image of God and affirm that each person is a beloved child of God, worthy of God's love and grace. We welcome all, celebrating our differences while finding unity in Jesus Christ. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey - whatever grief, joy, or doubts you may bring today—you are welcome here.

Announcements

December's Shopping Cart Mission: The annual Socks & Underwear Drive for FISH has begun! During the month of December, we will be collecting **NEW socks and underwear**. To help restock the clothes closet at **FISH**. Please put your donations in the shopping cart next to the elevator.

The 46th Annual Christmas Parlour Tour will be Sunday, Dec. 14 2025 from 2-7 p.m. Our beloved church will be part of the tour and we need volunteers to help bake, decorate, and welcome the visitors take a step back into the past. **Sign up on the form on the information table if you want to help.**

Upcoming Events

Sunday 10:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m. 4:30 a.m.	December 7 Sunday Worship Historic Tour Meeting Jill Hickenlooper Music Recital
Monday 5:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	December 8 Stewardship & Finance Committee ACT Practice
Tuesday 10:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	December 9 Sabbath Circle Book Study ACT Practice
Wednesday 5:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	December 10 Youth Group ACT Practice
Thursday 12:30 p.m. 1:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	December 11 YOGA Women's Book Study Linn-Benton Food Share ACT Practice
Friday 4:30 p.m.	December 12 4H Sewing Meeting

Serving Today

Thank you to all who served in worship today.

Guest Pianist— Andrea Recek

Liturgist — The Halligan Family / Mary Stevens

Ushers—Ann Rietmann, Retha Larson, Jacque Deeds and Roger Kroening

Coffee Hour — Gathering Committee

Children's Programs — Aleena Chappell, Kaitlyn Banuet, Holly Halligan, Melissa Sipe and Hillary Lewis.

Children's Programs

We are thrilled that you have chosen to bring your family to worship with ours! We believe children soak up the love of God even when they draw and color, read and create, or rest their head in your lap. Please feel welcome to visit our Children's Space located in the Round Room in the back of the sanctuary.

Children's Nursery (Age 0 – 4 yrs)

This is open for infants to 4 years old. In this age, we help guide these curious minds in play and encourage exploration in their environment.

Godly Play (Age 5 – 9 yrs)

Godly play is for children 5 - 9 years old. This is where the children learn about God through stories and explore their own thoughts by having free choice of activities that include a variety of crafts, art, song, and games.

Creative Minds (10 yrs +)

This program is for the youth 10 years old and up in the congregation. Creative Minds uses a combination of technology (such as Minecraft), different art media, games, and service projects to explore their relationship with God, encourage them to grow in their faith, spirituality, and community.

Local Outreach | Ways to Serve

Linn Benton Food Share—Packing boxes of food for families who suffer from food insecurities. The next time will be **Thursday, December 11 at 5:00 - 7:00 pm** at the Linn Benton Food Share Warehouse, 33900 Looney Ln., Tangent, OR 97389.

Prayers & Praise

Please send prayers of comfort and healing for:

Julie Charron
Shirley Harrison
Chrys Hulshof
David Mote
Mike Rogers
Bill Sissel

CHURCH STAFF

Brandon Lewis, *Pastor*
Tami Van Ras, *Pastoral Assistant*
Sienna Bogart, *Director of Children's Place*
Meredith Hanson, *Children's Ministries Director*
Deborah Beier, *Office Manager*
Kason Stevens, *Facilities-Manager*
Michelle Mayers, *Music Coordinator/Choir Director*
Tao Li, *Pianist*
Chris Misa, *AV Tech*
Logan Breese, *Bus Driver*