



A thrill of HOPE

Celebrating the season of Advent together

11am Worship Service

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF NORMAL, IL

NOVEMBER 30, 2025

firstpresnormal.org

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11AM ORDER OF WORSHIP

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS	Rev. Elissa Bailey
ADVENT CANDLE LITURGY & LIGHTING	Hoffman Family
SONG O Come, O Come Emmanuel	
PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE	Julia White
SONG Jesus Name Above All Names	
SCRIPTURE Jeremiah 33:14-16	Dave Cobert
TIME WITH CHILDREN	Rev. Elissa Bailey
SCRIPTURE Luke 21:25-36	Rev. Karol Schilling
MESSAGE Looking for the Fig Tree	
AFFIRMATION OF FAITH FOR ADVENT	
SONG Jesus Messiah	
COMMUNITY PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER	Rev. Elissa Bailey
MOMENT FOR MISSION Christmas Joy Offering	Dave Cobert
OFFERING INVITATION	Dave Cobert
OFFERING REFLECTION TIME	
SONG Light Of The World	
BLESSING	Rev. Karol Schilling

WORSHIP NOTES

Advent Candle Liturgy and Offering Prayer UMC Discipleship Ministries.
Confession and Assurance: Thom Shuman. Affirmation of Faith:
Rev. Nathan Nettleton.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mark your calendars and get plugged in!

PLEDGE CARD REMINDER

Please submit your pledge card for 2026 if you haven't already done so. It is very helpful for Session to have an expectation of funds as they plan for our ministries for 2026. Contact Barb Lemmon, Finance Coordinator, with questions.

TODAY | 10 YEARS OF ADVENT DEVOTIONALS WITH JULIA WHITE

Join our very own Julia White as she shares some themes and excerpts from her 10th annual Advent devotional, "Echoes of Advent." Join us in the lounge today at 9:45am. Free copies of the devotional are available at the Welcome Center.

DEC. 5 & 6 | KEMMERER VILLAGE - ADOPT A CHILD'S WISHLIST

All the children's wishlists have been adopted - thank you! For gift delivery, we ask that you place your gifts in an OPEN gift bag WITHOUT tissue paper and attach the child's name to the bag. The drop-off dates are 12/5, 1-2:30pm, and 12/6 from 10am-noon. Contact Jenny Hoffman at (309) 825-7321 with any questions.

DEC. 6 | BLESSINGS CHRISTMAS GATHERING (CHILDCARE AVAILABLE)

The women's Annual Christmas Gathering will be Saturday, December 6, 9-11:30am. The BLESSINGS actresses will put on a play that will tickle your funny bone as well as your heart. Enjoy Christmas carols, fellowship, a continental breakfast, and a copy of Julia White's Advent devotional. There is no fee to attend, but please consider donating to Bringing Hope Ministry - an outreach for women who are victims of illicit massage parlors. Please RSVP online by December 1.

DEC. 7 | ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS 3-WEEK VIDEO SERIES

The Christmas spirit is marked by kindness and generosity—in words, actions, and gifts. But when Christmas is over—it seems like the Christmas spirit goes with it. Why can't this attitude of kindness be part of our lives year-round? And is this really how God meant for us to celebrate Jesus' arrival on earth? What if we had the Christmas spirit all year? In this 3-week video series from Live a Better Story, we'll look at the Christmas story—one marked by generosity—and discover what that means for us. Sign up online by Thursday, December 4.

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DEC. 7 | NOISY OFFERING

Our November Noisy Offering will take place on December 7 to accommodate our guest (and recipient) - Kemmerer Village! They will share a little bit about their mission and ministry to children with our church family that morning in both services! Come with your nickels and dimes and let's bless their important work!

DEC. 7 | ADVENT SERIES BEGINS - A TRIO OF CONCERTS

- Each concert begins at 4pm with a reception to follow in the Great Hall
- Dec. 07: Chicago Recorder Trio: Winter's Charm: Baroque Delights and Seasonal Joy
- Dec. 14: A Trio of Organists: Brian Tanaka, Louie Jones, and Philip Enge
- Dec. 21: Festive Trio of Organ, Vocal, (featuring Kate Tombaugh, mezzosoprano) and congregational carols

DEC. 7 | KIDS OF THE KINGDOM

Children in grades K-5 are welcome to join us for cookie decorating from 2-3pm, as part of our annual Camp Fundraiser happening on December 14! We will gather in the lower fellowship hall to make creative frosting designs and enjoy a sweet treat!

DEC. 9 | FAIRVIEW ANGEL TREE

All the children from our Fairview Angel Tree have been adopted! Thank you! Please place your unwrapped gifts in a large bag with the number tag on it. Gifts are due back to the church no later than Tuesday, December 9th. Thank you!

DEC. 14 | KNIT-CROCHET MINISTRY ARTISAN SALE & SILENT AUCTION

The Knit-Crochet Ministry is hosting its Artisan Sale on Sunday, December 14. Leading up to this annual event (and to raise money for Home Sweet Home's The Bridge shelter village project), we are going to hold a Silent Auction of three lovely items. You will have an opportunity to bid on a handmade quilt, a full-size afghan, and a stained glass 10" holiday lantern on Nov. 30, Dec. 7 and 14. Items being held for silent auction will be on display and bidding sheets will be available.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sun. Nov. 30	9:30am 9:45am 11am	Coffee Fellowship Adult Discipleship Hour Contemporary Worship Service Sanctuary
Tue Dec. 2	2:45pm	PASS After School Program Great Hall
Wed. Dec. 3	1pm 4:30pm 5:30pm 6:30pm	Bible in a Year Discussion Group Library Worship Band Rehearsal Congregational Care Team Checkin Library Chancel Choir Sanctuary
Thu. Dec. 4	9am 2:45pm 5:15pm 6pm	Book Group Library PASS After School Program Great Hall Serving Meals at Safe Harbor New Women Library
Fri. Dec. 5	11:15am	Worship Band Rehearsal Sanctuary
Sat. Dec. 6	9am	Blessings Christmas Gathering Great Hall

CONTACT OUR CHURCH STAFF

Senior Pastor - Matt Wilcox (on sabbatical, Oct. 1-Dec. 31)..... mwilcox@firstpresnormal.org
 Associate Pastor, Acting Head of Staff - Karol Schilling..... kschilling@firstpresnormal.org
 Director of Music - Phil Enge penge@firstpresnormal.org
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SIGN-UPS




Scan the QR code with your phone's camera. When a link pops up, tap it with your finger.

We affirm that all people are children of God and are created in the image of God. Believing this, we welcome all individuals into the life, community, and ministry of First Pres. This includes people of every age, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, physical or mental ability, economic status, political belief, background, and past experience. No one is excluded, marginalized, or held outside the warm welcome of this congregation. You can find our full statement of affirmation & inclusion on our website.