November 29, 2026, 11am
Olean First Presbyterian Church

First Sunday in Advent



Rev. Dr. Bruce Levine, Pastor
Rick Snyder, Organist

Children are always welcome in worship. Following Children's Time, children are invited to Sunday School. An asterisk (*) indicates those who are able are invited to stand. ***Bold type*** *indicates a congregational response.*

Prelude ~ *Rorate Coeli* ~ Pietro Yon

Good Morning Saints

Announcements

Choral Introit

God is good
Every day
And every day
God is good

Call to Worship

In God's house, we can be joyful.
We can be grateful.
We can be hopeful.
In God's house, we can be weary.
We can be anxious.
We can be grieving.
In God's house, we can be honest—
inspired or tired,
delighted or doubtful,
connected or curious,
and everything in between.
This is God's house. You are welcome exactly as you are.
Let us worship our loving God.

Prayer of the Day

God of power unexpected, we want you to tear open the heavens and come down; to make mountains quake, water boil, and stars to fall until all nations tremble at your presence! But you, you will not perform according to our wants and whims. Instead you come like the sound of sheer silence: Thin. Quiet. Instead you are born among us as an infant. Instead you show us how love is made perfect in weakness. So we will stay alert, or at least we will try, because we are your people and there is no other God besides you. Amen.

Lighting of the First **Advent** Candle ~ Teddy and Nathaniel McClellan

A: How does a weary world hope?

B: By telling stories of hope, by lighting candles in the night, and planting seeds in the winter that will bloom in the spring. By praying for children as they grow, and picking up trash on the sidewalk. By insisting that small acts can make a difference.

A: There are a million ways to practice hope. So today we light the candle of hope as a reminder and a charge.

B: With God's help, may we bring hope into a weary world. Amen.

Advent Song ~ *Light One Candle* ~ Natalie Sleeth

Light one candle for hope, one bright candle for hope.
He brings hope to every heart. He comes! He Comes!

*Opening Hymn ~ *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* ~ No. 82

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.



Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Call to Confession

Let us confess our sins before God, the source of grace and peace.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Hear the good news of the gospel: God loves you, and you are forgiven.

Our God Is an Awesome God ~ No. 616

Our God is an awesome God
who reigns from heaven above
with wisdom, power, and love;
our God is an awesome God!

Children's Time

Prayers of the People

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.

Presentation of the Offering

**Doxology* ~ No. 606

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

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Anthem ~ *Prepare Ye* ~ Karin Shovic

Passing of the Peace

Prayer for Illumination ~ *Listen to the Word That God Has Spoken* ~ No. 455

Listen to the word that God has spoken;
listen to the One who is close at hand;
listen to the voice that began creation;
listen even if you don't understand.

Scripture Readings ~

Isaiah 64:1-9

[1]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.

6We 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. 7There 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. 8Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. 9Do 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, 25and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
26Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. 27Then he will send out the angels, and gather his 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. 29So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 30Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. 31Heaven 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. 33Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. 34It 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. 35Therefore, 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, 36or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. 37And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

The Word of God
The Word of Life

Message

Music for Meditation

*Hymn ~ *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* ~ No. 88

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.

O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
who orderest all things mightily:
to us the path of knowledge show;
and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.



O come, thou Root of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save
and give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

*Benediction

*Choral Benediction

Postlude ~ *March of the Three Kings* ~ Roger Wilson

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Please stay after worship and join us for Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall next to the Sanctuary. All are welcome!

Question of the Week: The word "**Advent**" comes from a Latin word "adventus". What does it mean in English? Answer in next week's bulletin!

Answer to: What does **tares** mean?
They are the weeds that grow among grain crops.

Christmas Memorials 2026

Due Sunday, December 6th

Order forms are in Fellowship Hall

Prayer List~ *Please keep these friends and family members in prayer.*

Joe Hovey	Emily Kennedy	Matt Isenberg
Phil Smith	Martin Hatch	Craig Polson
Christy Kissick	Pete Reding	Chase Ewoldt
Sally Belloli	Diane Trippany	Avrie Sinesiou
Joseph Kwiatkowski	Alyssa Daly and Family	Renee Ensell
Ken Stebbins	Punkie & Craig Sinesiou	Kim Whitney
Judi Blair	John & Rachel Wheaton	Kristen Gibbs
Thomas Burian	Sylvia Lynch	Bruce Levine
Cataleya Casas	Ron Register	Julie Barnes
Don Caldwell	Ada Grace Oncken	Jennifer Gale

Please let the office know who should be removed and who needs to be added.
Thank you for your help!

Church Calendar for the week of 11/29/26

Sunday – Nov. 29	9:30am Bible Study 11am Worship Noon Deck the Halls
Monday – Nov. 30	Noon Community Advent Study 7pm Interfaith Community Meeting
Tuesday – Dec. 1	5pm Pastor Bruce's Research Group at Church 5pm LIB in Fellowship Hall for Gathering
Wednesday – Dec. 2	6:30pm Scouts
Thursday – Dec. 3	5pm Finance Committee Meeting 5:30pm Bring Your Own Dinner Fellowship Meal 6:30pm Scouts 6:30pm Vespers Chapel Service 7pm Bible Study 7pm Choir
Friday – Dec. 4	10am Coffee & Conversation at Tim Hortons
Sunday – Dec. 6 *Communion*	9:30am Bible Study 11am Worship 2:30pm Eden Heights Worship Service

🎂 **Birthdays**

3 Matt Lang, Barbara Taft

✨ **Anniversaries**

Deck the Halls
Today
Right After Church

Pizza will be provided for those helping to decorate for the Christmas season!



PW Christmas Gathering
at Beef 'n' Barrel
Wedsenday, December 9th
at Noon

All women of the congregation are invited to come celebrate the holiday together. Please sign-up in Fellowship Hall.



Sunday, December 13th
Soup provided for the carolers after worship. Meet at the Pines at 1pm and then on to Eden Heights at 1:30pm. Please sign-up in Fellowship Hall.

Isaiah 64:1-9

Q Q F B Q C F C R T C V H M D S S H S T
B T C N V S S Q I K I R G V W N K W H I
E L B M E R T M G E E V U J O E K A Y C
A T H I N G S O H H T S D C R V G T Q I
E S E L D N I K T L C H L J F A O E R W
J T Z U Q A V A E R J V D G E E I R D D
X R E I J T F A O G M W K G A H V U I Q
P I B C U N I D U B A O K Y E R U I F X
O R W N R A D V S E C W U E P R M B L S
R E N E B J L E N Z L B L N G O V E H V
D H A N D L Y R E R N P T X T E T H N F
Z Z F N A F X S S K Z A O N Z A V T X T
Z H P I F Z W A S D M B W E P H I G E O
L J R Z H H A R V G M K I E P C C N Y R
I L E U Q M V I R K A D I F S S L I S B
D T S N L X Z E K N T Q D M S O G A I B
W N E A Q Z R S V X X X V G L N M C Y V
K T N K V D I N I Q U I T I E S X E J Q
J V C N K M W S N O I T A N J F I R E R
E G E N R E B M E M E R V M V X F T S J

ADVERSARIES
AWESOME
CLAY
FATHER
FIRE
GARMENT
HAND
HEAVENS
INIQUITIES
KINDLES
MOUNTAINS
NATIONS
PEOPLE
POTTER
PRESENCE
REMEMBER
RIGHTEOUSNESS
THINGS
TREMBLE
WATER

Mark 13:24-37

R D T P S N E V A E H W N N S F Y N Y H
Z G X B G G N D E L S L A H R R C R R M
I Y E U H O W F E H T F L E V H M W O C
L Q D N A O E A T C T F P T F T D I L P
I Q T Q Z F V R E E X E R D G R L V G O
S L L I T E A L A Q E G B U M Z I Z B W
H M V N S E E R J K X Z K I O V I I O E
X M G O R U H M R I U Z D Y I H A K A R
P P A O O A V O T J D N P O P N P I N H
E P T M G X O S N A I R Z S U W C U G M
P A H F D D D D D G O F C K F G P S E T
Q A E Y E C W L H O S G M I Y X E Y L L
R T R M A K B T S D K J G K W H W T S Y
S D G L R Q A T H H U T S D C L A D L I
S D U O L C E W N F R D A N R I T O M A
K J N F O R O W A E Q T A L E B C O O M
H F P R S K T D E M B R J W H A H K S M
U T V J J L F I N Y B E M I T E R F R P
F Z E V E N I N G P W U T W A W L E Y R
L P O F S G G Z A Y B B U B F B C G M O

ANGELS
AWAKE
BRANCHES
CLOUDS
DOORKEEPER
EARTH
ELECT
EVENING
FATHER
FIG TREE
GATHER
GLORY
HEAVEN
HOUR
LEAVES
MIDNIGHT
MOON
POWER
ROOSTER
WATCH