



**Mission Statement First Presbyterian Church**

**Mountain Home, Arkansas**

**Our mission is to glorify God, reach out to people of all ages and in all levels of spiritual growth in worship, Christian education, music and fellowship. Trumpet the good news we share of God's love and forgiveness, of Jesus Christ and his gospel to people everywhere throughout the local church community and the world.**



***First Presbyterian Church***

***1106 Spring Street***

***Mountain Home, AR 72653***

***"Across from Cooper Park"***

***870-425-3799***

***Website: [www.fpcmh.net](http://www.fpcmh.net)***

***Email: [fpcmh@centurytel.net](mailto:fpcmh@centurytel.net)***

***DECEMBER 3, 2023***

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**





Thank you, to Rev. Cinthia Saul for filling in as guest preacher today.

Today we are pleased to have Rev. Cinthia Jean Saul of Mountain Home as our guest minister. Cindy was ordained in the Presbyterian Church (USA) in 2001 and accepted as member-at-large of Arkansas Presbytery in 2014. She serves on the Presbytery Nominating Committee and Coordinating Team, & recently as delegate to the 225th General Assembly in Louisville via zoom. She has been a friend of this church for many years.

### HOLY COMMUNION

Communion distribution today will be by continuous table. For those who are able, you will be asked to come forward and receive the bread and juice and return to your seat. A container will be provided where you can place the empty cup.

All announcements for the Sunday Bulletin need to be in the secretary's office or emailed to [fpcmh@centurytel.net](mailto:fpcmh@centurytel.net) by noon on Wednesday.

### FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS

Today-Eleanore W, Ellen J, Pat W.

Dec. 10-Christmas Party! Bring finger foods

Dec. 17-Open

Dec. 24-No Fellowship Hour

Dec. 31-Open

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)

God-with-us, even in Advent, we confess that you can seem far away. You are hidden when we need you near. In our hurt, doubt, and fear, we do not try to draw closer to you; instead, we lash out--against you, our neighbor, even those we love. Forgive us we pray, and come to save us! Let your face shine until our tears are dried, our sins are faded, and our hope is restored. After all, we belong to you, and in your hands, we can be made new. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen. *(silent confession)*

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Cinthia Saul

*(Please stand, as able)*

### GLORIA PATRI (UNISON)

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)*

### SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Doug Wells, Lay Reader

### GATHERING OF TITHES AND FIRST FRUITS

(Offering Plates in Narthex)

Doug Wells, Lay Reader

*(Please stand, as able)*

### THE DOXOLOGY (UNISON)

page 592, blue hymnal

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION (UNISON)

Doug Wells, Lay Reader

Faithful God, we thank you that Christ is being revealed in every time and place until he comes again in the fullness of glory. Strengthen our testimony and spiritual gifts; increase generosity in us, we pray, as we wait for the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

### HYMN

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

No. 2

(Please be Seated)

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**Mark 13:24-37**

Doug Wells, Lay Reader

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**HYMN**

**“O Day of God, Draw Nigh”**

**No. 452**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Rev. Cinthia Saul

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER** (Traditional)

page 16, blue hymnal

**POSTLUDE**

“Wake, Awake, For Night Is Flying “

By Cherwien

**SERMON**

**“God is Waiting”**

Rev. Cinthia Saul

*(Please stand, as able)*

**THIS WE BELIEVE (UNISON)**

**Apostle’s Creed**

Page 14 blue hymnal

(Please be Seated)

**SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**INVITATION**

**PRAYER**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**Prayer list for Congregations, Presbytery of AR 2023**

**Mountainburg Church, Mountainburg (Members 145 Est 1934)**

**Active and Retired Ministers**