

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROCHELLE

November 29, 2026

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1100 CALVIN ROAD // ROCHELLE, IL 61068
PHONE: 815-562-7053 WEB: PLACEFORGRACE.COM

Welcome

November 29, 2026 - 9:00am
First Sunday of Advent: Hope

Welcome and Announcements - Kathy Olson

Time of Preparation for Worship

Hanging of the Greens
Call to Worship - Kathy Olson
Leader: Advent is here again, another year. How shall we prepare?
People: With branches of cedar, the tree of excellence and strength.
Leader: How should we prepare our house for Christ's coming?
People: With pine and fir leaves that are ever-living.
Leader: How should we prepare our house for the Prophet from Galilee?
People: With holly and ivy, which tell of his passion, his death, and his resurrection.
Leader: How should we prepare our hearts for this revelation of God?
People: By hearing again the words of the prophets and the promises of God.
Leader: For in Jesus' story, we see revealed the transforming power of God
People: And we are reminded anew of God's vision of wholeness, justice, and peace for allcreation. Let us worship God.

Song: O Come All Ye Faithful

Introduction - Sue Sevedge & Hudson Slattengren
Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9:2, 6–7 - Callie Ackland
Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

The Evergreens and the Wreaths - Mike Chunko
Song: Holy Forever: Christmas Version (Chris Tomlin)

The Greens of Christ's Passion: Holly and Ivy - Hal & Sheri Warren
Scripture Reading: Isaiah 53:1–6 - Hal Warren
Song: The Holly and the Ivy

The Light of the World: Advent Candles and the Christ Candle
Scripture Reading: Isaiah 60:2–3 - Deb Schiller
The Advent Candle - Jeana Valdivieso
Advent Reading and Candle Lighting - Alyssa and Evan Tracy
Song: Here I am to Worship

The Colors of the Season: Paraments - Mike Chunko

The Chrismon Tree - Jeana Valdivieso & Kids
Song: "Joseph's Song" - Hal Warren with solo by Rich Robertson

Blessing of the Christmas Tree - Kathy Olson
Leader: Loving God, we come with joy to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, whose path of justice and righteousness lights the way for all who follow him.
People: May this tree, arrayed in splendor, remind us of the life-giving love of Christ,
Leader: that we may always rejoice in the new life shining in our hearts. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Scripture Reading: John 1:1–5, 9–14 - John Haselton
Message : The Mystery of the Incarnation
Offering and Doxology
Prayers of the People - Deb Schiller

Song: Joy to the World (Unspeakable Joy)
Blessing for the First Week of Advent

Our Go ' N Serve team is getting ready to go serve in Puerto Rico this summer! Please be praying for our team, the people we will serve with and alongside, and our travels.

Our team of 31 participants is :

Students: Aaron Hernandez, Annalyce Harris, Caleb Johnson, Campbell Adolph, Cooper Holmgren, Elizabeth Rowley, Emma Svela, Giselle Hernandez, Gracee Holmgren, Grayson Campbell, Ivan Xelhua, Josie Slattengren, Kayl True, Megan Johnson, Nolan Johnson, Quinn Miller, Reed Rowley, Rylie Thomas, Schekina Gati, Sydney Burke, and Taylor Burke

Chaperones: Jared Burke, Julia Harris, Kara Burke, Lori Hughey, Mark Hughey, Matt Svela, Mike Koolidge, Sara Slattengren, Tarah Holmgren and Toni Rowley

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Please join us in prayer.

A group meets in the prayer room to lift our church in prayer as we go through this time of transition. We are asking God for His will, His way and His almighty favor. Stop in to hold our church in prayer.

Sundays: 8:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. & Wednesdays 11:00 a.m.

Jeremiah 29:12 You will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you

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Anyone who is interested in recent Session minutes is welcome to view them in a binder in the office.

LIBRARY NEWS

As you are probably already aware, we recently put newly purchased books in the library. Some are new authors to us, but looked into their biographies, backgrounds, etc. before ordering. Glad to see that several of these books have already been taken out more than once. In fact, there is actually one with a waiting list.

Two of the new fiction books are by Jim Kraus, "author of the award-winning and bestselling novel, The Dog That Talked to God." (Yes, that's one of them and it's been out constantly.) The other one is The Cat That God Sent, which I recently read.

It's about a young man who has just arrived as the new pastor in a very small town. They are not aware that he was fired from his last position. Also, arriving at the church is a cat of "unknown origins and breed – but of great perception." Other main characters are the local lady veterinarian, and a runaway young girl who shows up at the church seeking help, among others. This young minister needs to regain his faith and as he starts to preach with doubts, it seems the cat who sits on a chair on the platform, listening to his sermons draws many curious outsiders; even those who don't usually attend church. This cat also has a way of steering this young preacher and others in the right direction.

"The Cat That God Sent is a whimiscal and thoroughly delightful story that will make you smile. But don't be deceived; there are some great truths clinging to the cat hair inside this novel."
I couldn't have said it better. An enjoyable read.
Judy Schermerhorn of the Library Committee

CHURCH *calendar*

SUNDAY, November 29
1st Sunday of Advent
9:00 a.m. Worship
10:00 a.m. Adult Ed, Sunday School
5:30 p.m. Mission Trip Meeting
6:30 p.m. High School Youth Group
6:00 p.m. Chunko Small Group
7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

MONDAY, November 30
10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study
6:30 p.m. Middle School Youth Group

TUESDAY, December 1
7:00 p.m. Session

WEDNESDAY, December 2
11:00 a.m. Prayer Meeting
6:00 a.m. Choir
7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

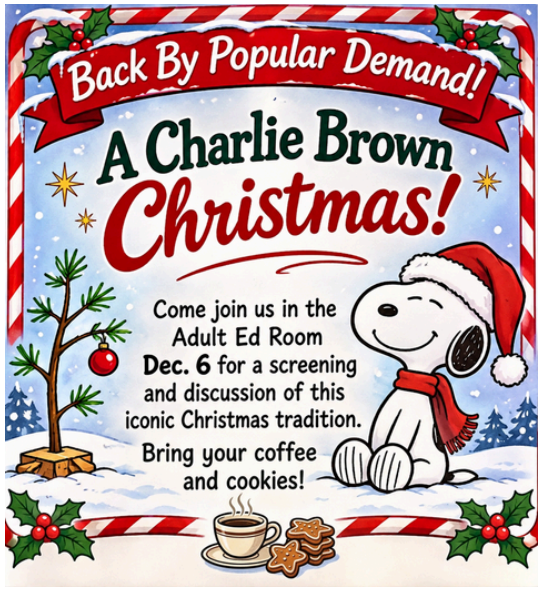
THURSDAY, December 3
7:00 a.m. Kiwanis
4:00 p.m. 2-5th Grade Youth Group
6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts

SATURDAY, December 5
7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

SUNDAY, December 6
2nd Sunday of Advent
9:00 a.m. Worship
10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour, Adult Ed, Sunday School
6:30 p.m. High School Youth Group
6:00 p.m. Chunko Small Group
7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

We had a great group to go Feed My Starving Children on Saturday. They packed enough food for 71 kids to eat everyday for 1 year!





We have Sunday School classes for all ages!
After Serivce until 10:45/11:00

Pre-K - 2nd Grade : Children's Classroom
3-5th Grade : Small Group Classroom
Middle & High School : "Red Couch" Room
Adult Ed : Adult Ed Classroom