

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Please take a moment during the Prelude to silence your cell phones and quietly prepare yourself for worship.

WELCOME AND MINUTES FOR MINISTRY

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: Jeremiah said, “I am only a boy.”

People: Moses said, “Who am I to do this work?”

Leader: Mary said, “How can this be?”

People: We often say, “But God, I am afraid.”

Leader: Even when we are afraid, God invites us closer. So may we trust the Inviter. May we heed God’s invitation. May we summon our courage and sing God’s praise.

People: Let us worship our courageous, inviting, calling God. Amen!

*ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING:

Leader: In a world full of fear, where do you see glimmers of joy?

People: We see glimmers of joy in birthday candles and homemade cards. We see joy in the laughter of children and the delight of grandparents. We see joy in meals around the table and in the singing of Christmas songs.

Leader: You are right. Even in a fearful world, joy is all around us. Today we light the candle of joy as a reminder of this good news. May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world, joy is here. Joy is real. We only have to look for it.

All: Thanks be to God for this good news! Amen.

*PRAYER OF INVITATION

*HYMN “Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus” Hymnal 82

RECEIVING FORGIVENESS FROM GOD AND EACH OTHER

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Courageous God, you invite us to live into our call. You invite us to act, to serve, and to trust. Instead of responding with a resounding “yes,” we often hide our face. We dig our heels in. We look for someone else to volunteer. Spark courage

in us. Remind us that every person is capable of making a difference. Remind us that even when we’re scared, we are not alone. You invite us forward. With baby steps we hope, we pray, amen.

*WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Family of faith, no matter where your path has led you in the past, today is a new day. So join me in declaring this good news: We are known. We are forgiven! We are sent to serve. May we step forward in faith, always moving closer to God’s call.

All: Amen.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

HEARING THE WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:26-39 Pew Bible p.723
Jeremiah 1:4-10 Pew Bible p.533

MESSAGE Pastor Blake Severson

*HYMN “Called as Partners in Christ’s Service” Hymnal 761

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
THE LORD’S PRAYER
INVITATION TO THE OFFERING
OFFERING OURSELVES TO GOD
OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” Hymnal 606

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

GOING INTO THE WORLD


*HYMN “My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout” Hymnal 100


*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

**Those who are able please stand*

WELCOME to worship – we are glad that you’re here! If you are visiting today and would like to share your contact information with the office, there are welcome cards in the pew pockets. Please fill one out and place it in the offering plate during the collection time. Everyone is invited to stay after worship for coffee, snacks, and fellowship in the narthex.

 LARGE PRINT HYMNALS with a black cover are on the small bookcase in the rear of the sanctuary.

 Children up to Kindergarten age are welcome in the nursery. There are clipboards with coloring pages in the narthex if your children wish to stay in the sanctuary.

The communion table flowers for December are sponsored by Kim and Jim Arlington.

Cover Artist’s Statement, *Mary’s Yes* by Lisle Gwynn Garrity: In this image, we see the angel greeting Mary in the form of dappled light. Mary’s back is turned to the angel, but we see her in the process of pivoting toward the warmth of the cascading light. I imagine this is the moment after the angel responds to her initial question, “How can this be?” After hearing the angel’s response, Mary closes her eyes, imagining her cousin Elizabeth and perhaps her many ancestors holding her up as she prepares to step forward. The wrap around her head carries the angel’s good news, anointing her with the promise that fear won’t stop her. Embroidered along her neckline is Mary’s willing response: “Here I am.” Her lantern earring is a sign to each of us, to anyone who is fearful. It’s as if Mary herself becomes a lantern, emanating courage in the face of a fearful calling, lighting a way forward.



*Eagle River Presbyterian Church
December 14, 2025*



Welcome to Eagle River Presbyterian Church

December 14, 2025

Weekly Walk

Sunday	10:00 am	Worship
Sunday	10:15 am	Children's Sunday school
Sunday	11:30 am	PNC meeting
Sunday	11:30 am	New members class
Monday	7:30 pm	Zoom Advent study
Tuesday	10:30 am	Prayer ministry
Wednesday	9:30 am	Coffee hour at church

Last week's In-Person Attendance ----- 47

Year-to-Date Regular Income ----- \$238,486.73

Year-to-Date Regular Expenses ----- \$237,297.53

Christmas carolers are needed! Instead of a full choir on Christmas Eve, an ensemble will lead some favorite Christmas carols. There will only be two rehearsals: next Sunday, December 21st, right after worship, and 5:30 pm on Christmas Eve. Now is your chance to list a couple of your favorite carols, to be included in the service. Use the small green paper and place it in the offering plate during the collection time.



no-rehearsal CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



Next Sunday is our **no-rehearsal Christmas pageant**. Bring children with you to church, or be prepared to possibly play a part in the pageant! There will be costumes available in the narthex before worship.

During Advent, we have the opportunity to give to the **Christmas Joy** denominational offering. Half of this offering goes to support current and retired church workers in times of financial need. The other half goes to support students

at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. If you would like to donate through the congregation, please write "Christmas Joy" on the memo of your check.



This is the last week to order! **Next Sunday**, poinsettias will adorn the Sanctuary, in memory or in honor of loved ones. If you would like to sponsor a poinsettia, please include cash or check for \$12 and the name of your loved one(s) and drop it in the offering plate or by the church office. Poinsettias can be taken home after the Christmas Eve service. A list of honorees will be published in the bulletin.

I/We (Name) _____
would like to purchase #(_____) poinsettia(s).

The cost of each poinsettia is \$12.

Please note the honoree name(s) below:
