

First Presbyterian Church

149 Broad Street

Tonawanda, New York 14150 ~ 2111

Church: (716) 692-1319

Elder Nancy Rolando

Come, Worship the Lord, Our God

4th Sunday after Epiphany

CCLI License # 2839486

February 2, 2025

10:30am

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

With powerful words and dramatic gestures,
with a quiet conversation and a gentle touch,
**we respond to God's call to offer
healing and hope to our world.**

With courage to face the injustices around us,
with the willingness to go into the brokenness,
**we fulfill the call of Jesus
to engage in faithful obedience.**

With the patience of a teacher of six-year-olds,
with the gentleness of a nurse helping a patient,
**we become the Spirit's refuge
for all who live in worry and fear.**

GATHERING PRAYER

God of life, death, and resurrection, we are grateful for life and all its gifts. Increase in us the stuff that life is made of—faith, hope, and love, but especially love—that we may abide with you eternally through Jesus Christ, our lover and our lord. Amen.

***HYMN: "O God, You Search Me" #29**

O God, You Search Me

CALL TO CONFESSION

Arrogance, envy, harsh words, empty hands, pleasure in doing what we know is wrong – these are what we often use to fill our lives. Let us confess in faith, trusting in the hope that God's love restores us and makes us whole. Please join me, praying,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Ah, Lord God, we do not know how to speak words of hope, because we listen to the purveyors of fear. We do not know how to be loving because our role models are ridicule and anger. We do not know how to be faithful to you, because at an early age, we learned to trust the promises of all the false prophets who entice us with their simple thoughts.

But you know how to forgive, God of kindness, so we pray you would pour out your mercy upon us. May faith abide in us, so we may serve others even as you have served us; may hope abide in us, so we may surround the broken with your compassion and grace; may love abide in us, not only in these moments of brokenness, but in every moment of our life with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who abides in us.

Silence is kept

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The good news is that, in our God, we find that safe place for our lives. In God's forgiveness, we are offered the healing we need.

**In God's acceptance, we discover the love in which we may abide in every moment of our lives.
Thanks be to God! Amen.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy Spirit, as the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah in his time, bring this word now to us. Touch our mouths and our hearts with your word today, that we may build on it in our lives, in the church, and in your world. Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 1:4-10 A prophet to the nations

⁴Now the word of the LORD came to me saying, ⁵"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

⁶Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy."

⁷But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a boy,' for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. ⁸Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD."

⁹Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me, "Now I have put my words in your mouth. ¹⁰See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

Responsive Psalm 71:1-6 You have been my strength

¹In you, O LORD, I take refuge;

let me never be put to shame.

²In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me;

incline your ear to me and save me.

³Be to me a rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me,

for you are my rock and my fortress.

⁴Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked,

from the grasp of the unjust and cruel.

⁵For you, O Lord, are my hope,

my trust, O LORD, from my youth.

⁶From my birth I have leaned upon you, my protector since my mother's womb.

My praise is continually of you.

Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Without love, a noisy gong

¹If I speak in the tongues of humans and of angels but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²And if I have prophetic powers and understand all mysteries and all knowledge and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. ³If I give away all my possessions and if I hand over my body so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; ⁶it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. ⁷It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part, ¹⁰but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end.

¹¹When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹²For now we see only a reflection, as in a mirror, but

then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³And now faith, hope, and love remain, these three, and the greatest of these is love.

SERMON: "What Does Love Look Like?"

Elder Nancy Rolando

SERMON HYMN: "Though I May Speak" #693

GIFT OF LOVE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE 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.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Friends, let us love not only in our words but also in our deeds through the tithes and offerings that we give today.

THE OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY: "In the Bleak Midwinter" #144 (vs 4)

CRANHAM

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We do not need to speak in tongues, but to offer words of encouragement. We do not have to be know-it-alls, but those who work to lift the burdens off those around us. We do not need to give everything, but we will join our gifts with those of others to reach out, in love, to those who have nothing. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: "I Danced in the Morning" #157

LORD OF THE DANCE

CHARGE

God touches our mouths,

so we may go to share the good news.

Jesus touches our hands,

so we may serve all in need of life and hope.

The Spirit touches our hearts,

so we may be a haven for those

who are longing for acceptance and love.

BENEDICTION

We would like to thank Elder Nancy Rolando for sharing her gifts with us today.

Volunteers This Week:

Liturgist: Sue Schurr
 Tech: Betsy Crocker
 Usher(s): Linda Barry
 Greeter(s): Diane & Bob Eshelman
 Coffee Hour: Terry DeLuca

Volunteers Next Week 2/9/25

Liturgist: Pat Loeswick
 Tech: Betsy Crocker
 Usher(s): Jessica Schurr & Billy Welch
 Greeter(s): Janet Schurr
 Coffee Hour: Nancy Rolando, Pat Loeswick

PRAYER CONCERNS

The prayer concerns have recently been updated. If you have a prayer request, please contact **Pastor Rebecca at 315-317-6140 or the church office at 716-692-1319.**

CALENDAR

Sunday, Feb 2

9:30am All Age Faith Formation (Parlor)
 10:30 am Sunday Worship for all ages (Sanctuary)
 11:30am Coffee Fellowship for all ages (Parlor)

Monday, Feb 3

10:00 am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)
 6:00pm Church Stretch

Tuesday, Feb 4

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours
 10:00am-11:30am God Loves Me Storytime

Wednesday, Feb 5

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours
 12:00pm UFO (Parlor)

Thursday, Feb 6

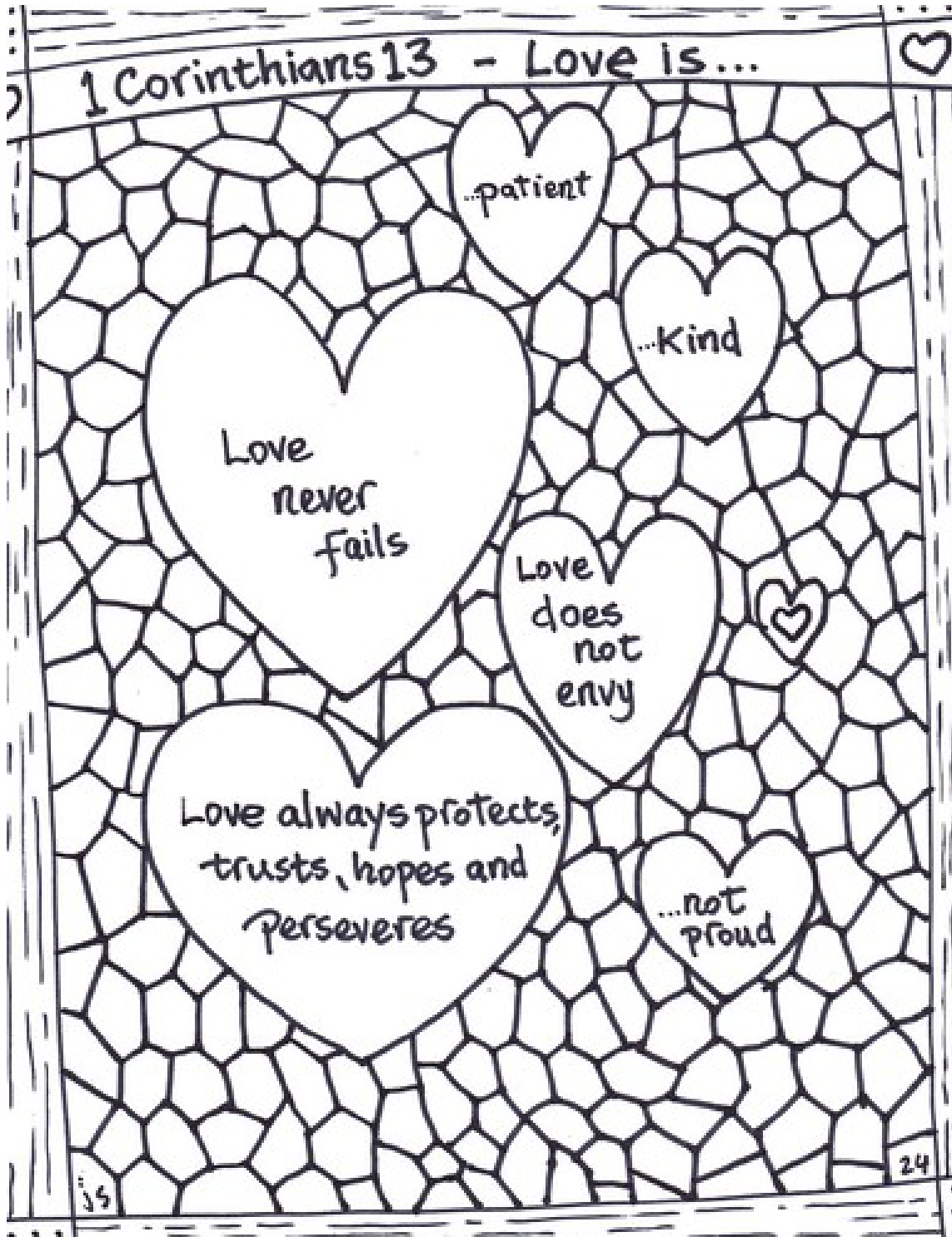
10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)
 6:00pm-8:00pm Choirs Practice

Saturday, Feb 8

10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)

Sunday, Feb 9

9:30am All Age Faith Formation (Parlor)
 10:30 am Sunday Worship for all ages (Sanctuary)
 11:30am Coffee Fellowship for all ages (Parlor)



Portions of the liturgy by Thom M. Shuman and Feasting on the Word. Images by Rev. John Stuart, stushieart.com.