



Hershey Presbyterian
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (PCA)

November 30, 2025
The First Sunday of Advent

This Month's Front Cover

Georges de La Tour (French, 1593-1652). The Repentant Magdalen. c. 1635/1640. Oil on canvas, overall dimensions 44.5 in. x 36.5 in., framed 56 in x 49 in. x 4.25 in. Ailsa Mellon Bruce Fund. National Gallery, Washington, D.C. Accession Number: 1974.52.1. In the public domain.

On the artwork: "In Georges de La Tour's somber canvas Mary [Magdalen] is shown in profile seated at a table. A candle is the source of light in the composition, but the light also carries a spiritual meaning as it casts a golden glow on the saint's face and the objects assembled on the table. The candlelight silhouettes Mary's left hand which rests on a skull that is placed on a book. The skull is reflected in a mirror. The skull and mirror are emblems of *vanitas*, implying the transience of life. The simplification of forms, reduced palette, and attention to details evoke a haunting silence that is unique to La Tour's work. La Tour's intense naturalism rendered religious allegory accessible to every viewer. Although his work is deeply spiritual in tone, the solidity and massing of the forms reveal the same emphasis on clarity and symmetry that pervaded contemporary history painting and was a hallmark of French baroque art." www.nga.gov/artworks/54386-repentant-magdalen

On today's theme: We will be talking about repentance and our need for a Savior. Although Mary Magdalene's story occurs during Jesus's public ministry (see Luke 8:1-3; Mark 15:40, 47; 16:1, [9]), in works of art, she has often come to embody repentance. Our Shorter Catechism describes "repentance unto life" as "a saving grace whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, does, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience" (Q&A 87).

Perhaps that is why one person describing La Tour's painting, said: "[Mary's] fingers delicately explore the surface of the skull...giving a visual depiction of what is taking place in her mind. Similarly, the mirror reflecting the skull...shows us what she is reflecting upon: *death*. The skull rests upon an enormous book, perhaps a symbol of the Book of Judgment (Rev 20:11-15) or the Law whose ministry is one of death (2 Cor 3:7).... The candle symbolizes knowledge, revelation, and light. ... [N]otice that the light is blocked to us, the viewer. [A]n important lesson: the light of repentance will only be cast upon *us* once we face the reality of our own sin, guilt, and death...."

May this Advent season be a time in which your heart is stirred by the glorious grace of God in the sending of his Son, leading you to a true repentance!



Hershey Presbyterian Church (PCA) desires to be a welcoming, grace-filled, all-nations community of Jesus Christ in the Presbyterian tradition. We seek to love God and our neighbor as we make disciples of Jesus Christ who are learning to *worship God, proclaim Christ, and love others.*

Preparing to Worship God

Welcome

Welcome to Hershey PCA! We are glad you have come to worship God with us as we come to him through Jesus Christ, our Savior and King.

A **Nursery** for children age infant through 3 years old is provided on the Lower Level of the Education Bldg. Today's Nursery Workers are Eve Dolon and Vicki Gehron.

A **Junior Church** for children aged 4-Grade 2 is offered on the Lower Level of the Education Bldg. beginning during the hymn before the sermon. Today's Junior Church Teacher is Paul Hepperle.

Thank you to all who participate in making this worship service possible (worship service participants may include in alphabetical order: Ruth Adams (greeter), Ephraim Church (violin), Isaiah Church (violin), Jericho Church (sound), Thaddaeus Church (viola), Nora Dolon (vocals), Dave Eakin (vocals), Peter Gibble (viola), Joe Kearns (leading worship), Bonnie Kertland (vocals), David Kertland (preaching), Nathanael Marengo (clarinet), Kentaro Minagawa (greeter), Don Wood (vocals), Cooper Yingst (trumpet), Jeb Yingst (sound), Nick Yingst (piano).

Today's Ushers are Ephraim Church, Joe Kearns, and Brad Weaver.

Counters are Nora Dolon and Crystal Basom.

Throughout the service: the light face type is read by the leader; the **bold face type** is read by the congregation.

Prelude

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candle

Isaiah 1:18-20

Read by: The Waybright Family

Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD:

though your sins are like scarlet,

they shall be as white as snow;

though they are red like crimson,

they shall become like wool.

If you are willing and obedient,

you shall eat the good of the land;

but if you refuse and rebel,

you shall be eaten by the sword;

for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

Praising God

*Call to Worship:

Isaiah 59:20

*"[A] Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who turn from transgression,"
declares the LORD.*

*Response of Praise:

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music. The first system contains five verses of lyrics. The second system contains a single line of lyrics. The third system is marked 'REFRAIN' and contains a single line of lyrics. The music features various melodic lines for each voice part, with some parts having rests. The lyrics are printed below the corresponding musical staves.

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2. O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes, on
3. O come, thou Rod of Jes - se, free thine own from Sa - tan's
4. O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us by thy
5. O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come and o - pen wide our

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here,
Si - nai's height, in an - cient times didst give the law
• tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple save,
draw - ing night; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,
heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that leads on high,

REFRAIN
un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
• and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -
and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
and close the path to mis - er - y.



Latin antiphons, 12th cent.
Latin hymn, 1710
Tr. by John Mason Neale, 1851; alt. 1961

VENI EMMANUEL L.M.ref.
Plainsong, 13th cent.
Arr. by Thomas Helmore, 1856

Prayer of Adoration & Invocation

*Confession of Faith:

Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39

If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ... ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*Gloria Patri

**Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son,
and to the Ho-ly Ghost:
as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be,
world with-out end.
A-men, a-men.**

Facing Up to Our Sin before God

Reading of God's Standard

Matthew 11:20-26

Then [Jesus] began to denounce the cities where most of his mighty works had been done, because they did not repent.²¹ "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes."²² But I tell you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you.²³ And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You will be brought down to Hades. For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.²⁴ But I tell you that it will be more tolerable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom than for you."

²⁵At that time Jesus declared, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children;²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

Confession of Sin

From Psalm 51:1-4, 10-12; in Unison

"Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. ... Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit."

Declaration of Pardon in Christ

Matthew 11:27-30

²⁸Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Offering Our Prayers to God

Prayer of Intercession & the Lord's Prayer

Hershey PCA Prayer Requests for the Week of November 23 - 30

Intercession for the World:

- **In the Local Community:** Hershey Area Small Businesses
- **Civil Government:** Dauphin County Commissioner George Hartwick
- **Unreached People Group:** Besya of South Asia

Population: 13,900; Language: Bengali; Religion: Islam & Hindu

"...pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." (Matt. 9:38)

Intercession for the Church (God's People):

- **Health issues:** Catherine S.
- **Leaders of Our Congregation:** Sunday School and Jr Church Teachers
- **Supported Missionary or Organizations:** Matt & Joanna Dabiero (RUF, Penn State)

The Lord's Prayer:

We will close our prayer with this version of the Lord's Prayer in unison.

**"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.**

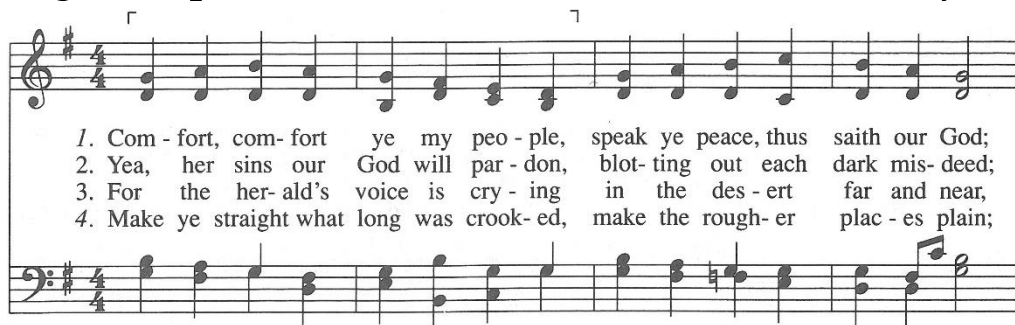
Presentation of Our Tithes & Offerings

Offertory:

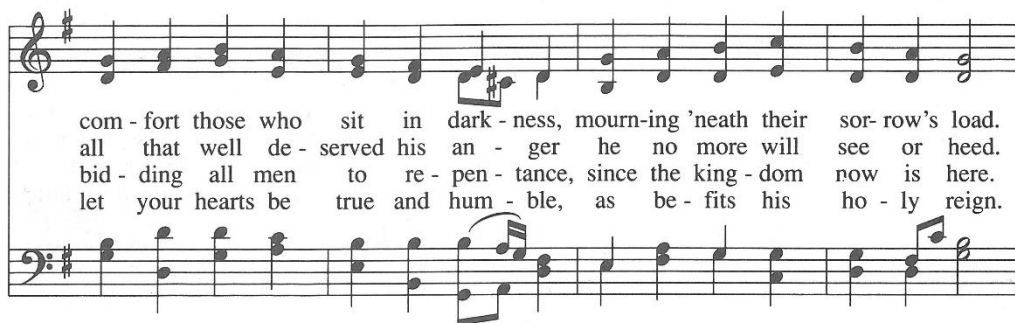
During this hymn, children from 4 years old through Grade 2 are welcome to attend Junior Church in the lower level of the education building. The Junior Church teacher will meet the children in the narthex.

*Song of Preparation:

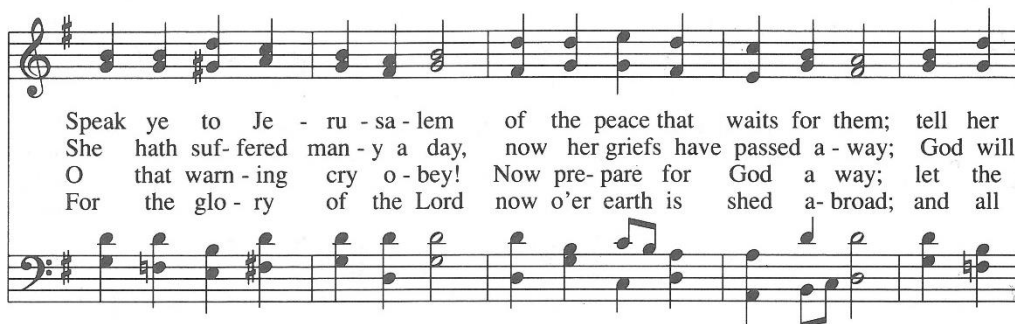
Comfort, Comfort Ye My People



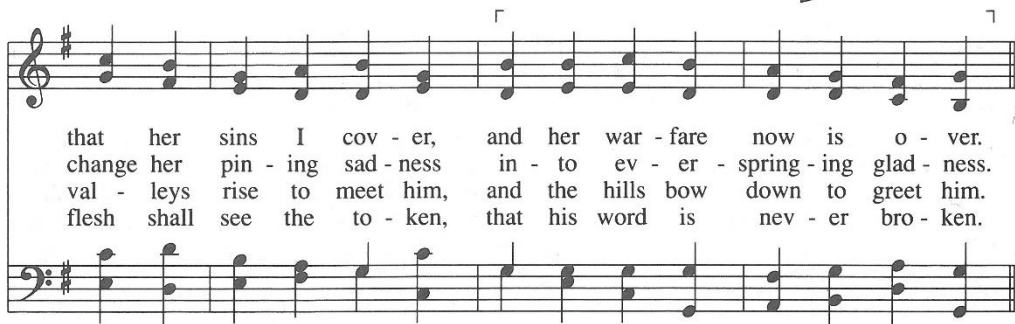
1. Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
 2. Yea, her sins our God will par - don, blot - ting out each dark mis - deed;
 3. For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
 4. Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er plac - es plain;



com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, mourn - ing 'neath their sor - row's load.
 all that well de - served his an - ger he no more will see or heed.
 bid - ding all men to re - pen - tance, since the king - dom now is here.
 let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits his ho - ly reign.



Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them; tell her
 She hath suf - fered man - y a day, now her griefs have passed a - way; God will
 O that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way; let the
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad; and all



that her sins I cov - er, and her war - fare now is o - ver.
 change her pin - ing sad - ness in - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
 val - leys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him.
 flesh shall see the to - ken, that his word is nev - er bro - ken.

THIRSTING 8.7.8.7.7.8.8.
 Louis Bourgeois, 1551
 Arr. by Henry A. Bruinsma; alt. 1990

Johannes Olearius, 1671
 Tr. by Catherine Winkworth, 1863

Listening to God's Word

***Prayer for Illumination**

In this prayer, we ask the Lord to open our eyes and hearts to his Word.

Reading of Scripture

Zechariah 1:1-17

In the eighth month, in the second year of Darius, the word of the LORD came to the prophet Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, son of Iddo, saying, ² “The LORD was very angry with your fathers. ³ Therefore say to them, Thus declares the LORD of hosts: Return to me, says the LORD of hosts, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. ⁴ Do not be like your fathers, to whom the former prophets cried out, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, Return from your evil ways and from your evil deeds.’ But they did not hear or pay attention to me, declares the LORD. ⁵ Your fathers, where are they? And the prophets, do they live forever? ⁶ But my words and my statutes, which I commanded my servants the prophets, did they not overtake your fathers? So they repented and said, ‘As the LORD of hosts purposed to deal with us for our ways and deeds, so has he dealt with us.’”

⁷ *On the twenty-fourth day of the eleventh month, which is the month of Shebat, in the second year of Darius, the word of the LORD came to the prophet Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, son of Iddo, saying, ⁸ “I saw in the night, and behold, a man riding on a red horse! He was standing among the myrtle trees in the glen, and behind him were red, sorrel, and white horses. ⁹ Then I said, ‘What are these, my lord?’ The angel who talked with me said to me, ‘I will show you what they are.’ ¹⁰ So the man who was standing among the myrtle trees answered, ‘These are they whom the LORD has sent to patrol the earth.’ ¹¹ And they answered the angel of the LORD who was standing among the myrtle trees, and said, ‘We have patrolled the earth, and behold, all the earth remains at rest.’ ¹² Then the angel of the LORD said, ‘O LORD of hosts, how long will you have no mercy on Jerusalem and the cities of Judah, against which you have been angry these seventy years?’ ¹³ And the LORD answered gracious and comforting words to the angel who talked with me. ¹⁴ So the angel who talked with me said to me, ‘Cry out, Thus says the LORD of hosts: I am exceedingly jealous for Jerusalem and for Zion. ¹⁵ And I am exceedingly angry with the nations that are at ease; for*

while I was angry but a little, they furthered the disaster. ¹⁶ Therefore, thus says the LORD, I have returned to Jerusalem with mercy; my house shall be built in it, declares the LORD of hosts, and the measuring line shall be stretched out over Jerusalem. ¹⁷ Cry out again, Thus says the LORD of hosts: My cities shall again overflow with prosperity, and the LORD will again comfort Zion and again choose Jerusalem.'"

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

***Congregation: Thanks be to God!**

Sermon:

Advent: Returning to Hope

Today's Text: Zechariah 1:1-17; Pastor David Kertland

1. Return to _____

2. _____ love

Preparing for the Lord's Supper

Prayer of Application

The sermon concludes with a prayer asking the Lord to help us to be those who listen to his word and obey it. "...be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." (James 1:22)

Receiving Provision from God

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Invitation & Warning (see below)

Prayer

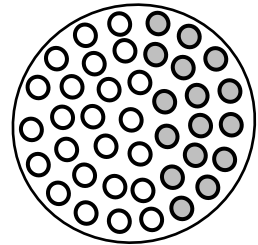
Words of Institution:

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

"[T]he Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, 'This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."

Receiving of the Elements

About the elements: Our communion servers will be handing out the elements, which are in two stacked communion cups. The top cups have the juice or wine, and the bottom cups all have gluten-free bread. As a server comes to you, please take a cup of your preference. The clear cups are filled with grape juice; the purple-tinted cups are filled with wine.



white circles = grape juice in clear cups
gray circles = wine in purple cups

Prayer

Hershey Presbyterian Church (PCA) welcomes to receive the Holy Supper all baptized Christians who actively trust in Jesus Christ for salvation, who are willing to forsake their sin and obey Christ, and who are members in good standing of an evangelical church that proclaims the gospel or who have been approved by our Session after indicating a desire to participate (BCO 58-4). Children should await communicant membership before participating.

Let this table, and our communion together, point you to Jesus—to hold out your empty and faltering hands to him, to receive grace from him, to allow him to feed and strengthen you, and to remind you that, if you are in Christ, He is *for you* and *will help you* as you seek to follow him this week.

If you are not a believer in Jesus today, we are glad that you are here with us this morning! We invite you to stay and observe this part of the service, but ask that you do not participate. It is a celebration of the Christian's union with the risen Jesus. As the bread and wine are received by the congregation, we invite you to cry out to Jesus and pray the following prayer (or one like it):

Prayer of Belief: "Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared to admit, but in Jesus I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared to hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you and rest on you alone for my salvation."

Have you prayed this prayer for the first time this morning? If so, let someone near you know! Also, feel free to talk to our pastor who can suggest ways for you to take next steps in the faith.

Receiving God's Blessing

***Song of Dedication & Service:**

Come, Ye Sinners



1. Come, ye sin - ners, poor and need - y, weak and wound - ed, sick and sore;
2. Come, ye thirst - y, come and wel - come, God's free boun - ty glo - ri - fy;
3. Come, ye wea - ry, heav - y - la - den, lost and ru - ined by the fall;
4. Let not con - science make you lin - ger, nor of fit - ness fond - ly dream;



Je - sus read - y stands to save you, full of pit - y, love, and pow'r.
true be - lief and true re - pen - tance, ev - 'ry grace that brings you nigh.
if you tar - ry till you're bet - ter, you will nev - er come at all.
all the fit - ness he re - quir - eth is to feel your need of him.



I will a - rise and go to Je - sus; he will em - brace me in his arms;



in the arms of my dear Sav - ior, oh, there are ten thou - sand charms.



RESTORATION
87 87 with refrain

Words: Joseph Hart, 1759, alt.; ref. Caleb Taylor, 1804
Music: Southern Harmony, 1835; harm. O. F. Pugh, 1905

Being Sent to Serve God

*Benediction:

Numbers 6:24-26

The LORD bless you and keep you;

²⁵ the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;

²⁶ the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Amen.

*Postlude

To our guests this morning: We are glad that you have joined us for worship today. We hope you can stay a little while for conversation with our pastor and other Hershey PCA members and friends.

After the service, greet someone you don't know. We encourage you to look for others you don't know and welcome them in the name of Christ! The time after worship is a great time for mutual, one-another ministry in Christ!

Today's Service Information

- 1) **Artwork:** Cover: Georges de La Tour (French, 1593-1652). *The Repentant Magdalen*. c. 1635/1640. Oil on canvas, overall dimensions 44.5 in. x 36.5 in., framed 56 in x 49 in. x 4.25 in. Ailsa Mellon Bruce Fund. National Gallery, Washington, D.C. Accession Number: 1974.52.1. Accessed on 11/25/2025. In the public domain.
- 2) **Music:** "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" (194) and "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People" (197) are reprinted from *The Trinity Hymnal* (Great Commission Publications, Atlanta, GA, 2000). "Come, Ye Sinners" (98) is reprinted from *The Sing! Hymnal* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway and Nashville, TN: Getty Music, 2025). Music used by permission: CCLI License #20711820 and CCLI Streaming License #20711837.
- 3) **Quotes:** Page 2: www.nga.gov/artworks/54386-repentant-magdalen and marcjsims.com/2022/09/19/art-explained-the-repentant-magdalen. Some of the quotes describing worship elements are from: *Leading in Prayer: A Workbook for Ministers* (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1995). See references on individual pages. Biblical quotes are from the English Standard Version (ESV) unless otherwise noted.
- 4) **The "Invitation to the Lord's Supper"** and the communion page information was, in part, modified from the practice of Redeemer PCA in NYC (2008) and Westminster PCA in Lancaster, PA (2015).

* Congregation standing, as personal ability allows.



Hershey Presbyterian Church (PCA)

is a member congregation of the Susquehanna Valley Presbytery
of the Presbyterian Church in America (www.pcanet.org).



HersheyPresbyterian
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