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# *First Press*

## *First Presbyterian Church*

*December 2018/January 2019*

### **CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP**

Celebrate the Birth of Christ  
with Lessons & Carols

7:00 PM

Monday, December 24



### **Christmas Program December 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:15 a.m.**



MARK YOUR CALENDARS TODAY for December 16th!  
The proclamation of the Good News of the Gospel in  
worship will take the form of a play:  
"Christmas Letters"

Following worship everyone is invited to join us for a Soup Luncheon fundraiser  
for the July Senior High mission trip to Worthington, MN.

### **Christmas Joy Offering**

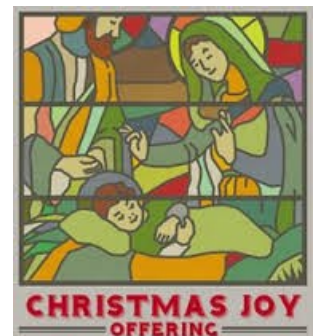
This Christmas season, PC (USA) & First Presbyterian Church will focus on the Joy Gift Offering. The Joy Offering is taken during Advent to support past, present, and future leaders in the Presbyterian church:

**The Assistance Program** helps current and past church workers and their families who are in financial need.

**Schools and Colleges Equipping Communities of Color of the Presbyterian Church** (U.S.A.) helps open doors for students who might not be able to go to college without this help.

**The Leadership Development for Leaders of Color** helps promote people of color and women.

Please place your contribution any Sunday in the envelopes provided in the pews. In addition, the Christmas Eve offering will be dedicated to the glory of God at work through this Joy offering. This year's goal is **\$1500**. Our hope is to provide far more. May God bless our hearts with generosity.



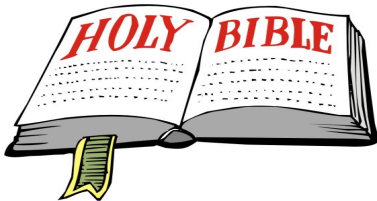
# Christian Education



## Christmas Program Rehearsal Schedule

**Sunday, Dec. 9** 12:30-1:30 p.m.  
**Saturday, Dec. 15** 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
Dress rehearsal  
**Sunday, Dec. 16** Program is presented during worship

Love the Lord your God  
with All Your Heart, Soul,  
Mind, and Strength



You are invited and encouraged to join the Adult Sunday School in the coming months as we seek to deepen our love of God.

**December:** We will be finishing our stimulating study of Paul's letter to the Romans.

**January:** Bradley Longfield will be leading a study of the Apostles' Creed, a succinct summary of the core of the biblical faith.

**February:** Timothy Slemmons will guide us through a study of Malachi, the last book of the Old Testament.

**March, April, and May:** Beth McCaw and John Eby will help us strengthen our prayer life by consideration of *Kneeling with Giants: Learning to Pray with History's Best Teachers* by Gary Hansen.

Make this rewarding time of fellowship and learning a regular discipline in your life.



## Christmas Letters

The CE committee invites you to worship on Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> when the Christmas play will be presented. Sunday School participants will help us think about the different people involved in the Nativity story.

**SUNDAY, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**10:15 a.m.**

From a collection by Gail Gaymer Martin called *Come, See the Wonder: Four Complete Christmas Programs for Schools and Churches* © 1997

Revised by Linda Longfield  
(2018, First Presbyterian Church, Dubuque IA)

## Christmas Program Luncheon



Following the Christmas program, you are invited to a delicious luncheon. All the food is provided!! Please come enjoy food and fellowship and support the youth's mission trip.

**ATTENTION! ATTENTION!**

***There will not be Sunday School on Dec. 30th.***

Please enjoy the time with your family. Come ready to learn more about the saving love of Jesus Christ on Sunday, January 6th at 9:00am.



# Mission

*Your Mission and Stewardship Committee continues to prayerfully coordinate our mission and stewardship efforts. December is a time when we distribute our church tithe to international, national, and local mission efforts.*

## Mission Notes & Upcoming Events

- The next **Café Ministry** opportunity for FPC is **January 31**.
- **Mission/Stewardship Committee** meets **December 11, 3:45pm** at church.
- **Thanks to Jean Holdener** for agreeing to be our **DACU representative**. The next meeting is **January 22, 2019**.

## MANDARIN MINISTRY

國語事工

The Mandarin Ministry in Dubuque which runs out of Westminster Presbyterian Church continues to seek discernment for its long-term sustainability. Tina and Moses Wu had to return to Taiwan for a time, but expect to be back soon. The report notes there is a strong attendance for their table tennis outreach ministry, lots of home meals with acquaintances, 3 baptisms, and a small but certain core group. Let's continue to pray for this ministry.

## IT'S ALMOST TIME TO HUDDLE UP FOR SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY!!

**February 2, 2019**

Did you know that more than 48 million Americans, including 15 million children, suffer from hunger? Souper Bowl of Caring is a youth movement across the nation working to fight hunger and poverty in our communities. It takes place around the time of the Super Bowl football game.

At FPC, the Middle School Sunday School class will once again spearhead our efforts. Last year we raised \$728 and collected 183 cans of food for the Dubuque Food Pantry. Nationwide, 3,769 groups generated \$8,127,435 in cash and food items for local charities.

***Don't stand on the sidelines! Gear up to help!***



## Worship

### Ordination and Installation of Deacons and Elders

During worship on Sunday, January 6, we will be ordaining and installing new elders and deacons. New elders include Kristen Eby, Sandy Spencer, and Tom Boelk. Our new deacons are Deb Stant and Hannah Eby. We are most grateful for their willingness to serve.

Special thanks to Chris Daniels, Bob Monthey, and Rachel Vander Broek for their service on the Session and Steve Foxen and Terri Gronau for their ministry as deacons.

*"As each has received a gift, employ it for one another."*  
1 Peter: 4:10



***O Sing to the Lord a New Song;  
for He hath done marvelous things... Psalm 98***

*With all of the changes and transitions we have experienced in our church family over the past few months, many areas of our ministries have been affected. You may have noticed that the choir has lost several of its dedicated members. Thus, I am reaching out to all who can come and join us so that we may continue to offer forth an anthem every Sunday.*

*We practice two Wednesdays/month and meet prior to the start of worship at 10 am. We welcome those that can be there every week as well as those that could join us on a partial schedule. The music in this congregation has always been a very special part of worship and we need help to make certain that this continues. Please give your prayerful consideration and then come join our small but mighty voices!*

**JOIN THE CHOIR!**



# Clerk of Session



## Transition News

Good news!! Our Ministry Information Form has been uploaded onto the Presbyterian Church's national database, and the committee is beginning to receive applications. Please pray for the committee as it discerns whom God is calling to serve as our next pastor.



## Annual Congregational Meeting: January 28

Our Annual Congregational meeting will be held on January 28, following worship to receive the reports found in the Annual Report. Please plan to attend this enlightening meeting.

*Dear Friends,*

*Greetings from Fort Collins, Colorado! Our move went well and we continue to settle in. We are enjoying retirement and love our surroundings. Our house is located near the foothills. We are in walking distance to several hiking trails. The mornings are crisp and fresh and the afternoons are warm and sunny, although, we did wake up to three inches of snow one morning!*

*We miss our church family and friends and we continue to keep FPC in our prayers as you continue to search for a pastor.*

*Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!*

*Love, joy and peace, Lyle and Rachel Vander Broek*



## FPC WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

November	2017	2018
1 <sup>st</sup>	61	75
2 <sup>nd</sup>	73	65
3 <sup>rd</sup>	73	66
4 <sup>th</sup>	75	48



To support the mission and ministry of our church, we need \$12,892 per month.

Offerings received through November 25th totaled \$11,201.56.

## WEATHER BAD? IS CHURCH CANCELED? SEE BELOW HOW TO FIND OUT...

Here are ways you can find out if an event at FPC is being cancelled due to inclement weather:

- **Call the church office (582-4494) after 7:30am on Sunday mornings.**
- **Watch your email for an all-church announcement.**
- **Or you can watch for a notice on KCRG, KWVL, KDTH (and others)**

# December 2018

Deacons of the Month: Terri Gronau & Suzanne Heber

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 DECEMBER 8:00am Men's Breakfast @ Sunshine  9:00am Decorate the church for Advent
2 1st Sunday of Advent Food for the 1st 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: Rev. Timothy Slemmons, preaching Sacrament of Holy Communion	3	4 11:30am Young at Heart @ Village Inn	5 6:30pm Choir	6	7 1:30pm Manor Care: Tom Jack	8 8:30am Congl. Life 9:00am Deacons
9 2nd Sunday of Advent Supplies for the 2nd 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: Annalee Ward, preaching 11:30am PNC 12:30pm Christmas Play rehearsal	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 3rd Sunday of Advent 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: Presentation of Christmas Program 11:30am Soup Luncheon Fundraiser	17	18 6:30pm Session	19 6:30pm Choir	20	21	22
23 4th Sunday of Advent 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: Rev. Beth McCaw, preaching 1:30pm Bethany Home worship: Tom Jack & Kristen Eby	24 Christmas Eve  7:00pm Christmas Eve Service of Lessons & Carols	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28	29
30 9:00am NO Sunday School 10:15am Worship: Rev. Daniel Emmert, preaching	31	1 JANUARY New Year's Day 11:30am Young at Heart @ Village Inn	2 6:30pm Choir	3	4 1:30pm Manor Care: Tom Jack	5 8:00am Men's Breakfast @ Sunshine

# January 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 9:00am NO Sunday School 10:15am Worship: Rev. Daniel Emmert, preaching	31	1 JANUARY New Year's Day 11:30am Young at Heart @ Village Inn	2 6:30pm Choir	3	4 1:30pm Manor Care: Tom Jack	5 8:00am Men's Breakfast @ Sunshine
6 Food for the 1st 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: Rev. Beth McCaw, preaching Sacrament of Holy Communion	7	8 4:15pm CE @ Foxen's	9 6:30pm Choir	10	11	12 8:30am Congl. Life 9:00am Deacons
13 Supplies for the 2nd 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: Rev. Marsha Wilfong, preaching	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: Rev. Timothy Slemmons, preaching	21	22	23 6:30pm Choir	24	25	26
27 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: Rev. Dana Perreard, preaching Annual Congregational Meeting 1:30pm Bethany Home: Tom Jack & Jill Klinebriel	28	29	30	31 5:00pm Café Ministry @ 1st Congregational 7:00pm Children of Abraham @ St. Anthony's	1 FEBRUARY 1:30pm Manor Care: Tom Jack	2 8:00am Men's Breakfast @ Sunshine

## Birthdays & Anniversaries—December

Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

- 2 Joplin Hallstoos
- 16 Tracy Wildermuth
- 17 Tom Boelk  
Dick Muntz
- 18 Terri Gronau
- 23 Linda Longfield
- 24 Victoria Slemmons
- 27 Joyce McClain  
Delores Muntz  
Micah Dillman
- 28 Tim Slemmons
- 29 Joel Samuels
- 30 Kate Biekert
- 31 Sherry Heer

*If we missed anyone's special date, please contact the church office  
so we can celebrate with you!*

## Birthdays & Anniversaries—January

Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

- 3 Brennan Tesdahl
- 4 Dick & Delores Muntz
- 7 Jayson Shaffer
- 8 Scott McCaw
- 10 Sara Blair
- 11 Franklin Yartey  
Sam Daniels
- 17 Roger & Susan Ebertz
- 18 Debbie Stant  
Bobby McCaw
- 19 VeNita Fawcett  
John Wehrspann
- 20 Sam Morales  
Lupe Morales  
Brian & Sharon Hallstoos
- 22 David McClain
- 23 Audrey Okey
- 24 Jonah Brehm  
Elias Brehm

*If we missed anyone's special date, please contact the church office  
so we can celebrate with you!*

## PREACHING SCHEDULE

*Thanks so much to those listed below for proclaiming the Word in the coming months while we are engaged in a pastoral search. We praise God for your gifts and generosity!*

### DECEMBER

December 2	Rev. Timothy Slemmons
December 9	Elder, Annalee Ward
December 16	Christmas Play, Sunday School participants
December 23	Rev. Beth McCaw
December 24	Service of Lessons & Carols
December 30	Rev. Daniel Emmert

### JANUARY

January 6	Rev. Beth McCaw
January 13	Rev. Marsha Wilfong
January 20	Rev. Timothy Slemmons
January 27	Rev. Dana Perreard

## OFFICE HOURS

### Secretary:

Mon. 9:00-1:00pm  
Wed. 9:00-1:00pm  
Thu. 9:00-1:00pm



### Holiday Office Hours for the Secretary

Ginger Vander Broek will be out of the office  
Dec. 24th—January 1st.



## Food for the First December/January



The Dubuque Food Pantry needs your help. All non-perishables are welcome especially macaroni & cheese, tuna and other canned meat, soup, peanut butter & jelly, cereal, rice, pasta, boxed potatoes, #3 baby food, diapers (size 3-5), and baby wipes.

Please place your donations to Food for the First in the basket in the Narthex. Your generous donations assist those in need in our neighborhood and help to make their lives a little brighter.

**Thank You!**  
Mission Committee

## “Supplies for the Second”

While serving at the Domestic Violence Center we learned how we can help by providing supplies that are always needed: toilet paper, paper towels, boxes of tissues, toilet bowl cleaner, cleaning products like Windex, laundry detergent, diapers.

**This month’s needs: cleaning wipes,  
paper towels, glass cleaner, and  
shampoo/conditioner.**



Please bring your “Supplies for the Second” to the church and place them in the basket in the narthex the second Sunday of each month. Terri Gronau delivers them to the collection site.

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