

WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Grace and peace to each of you in the name of Jesus Christ. We welcome you to this worship service. If you are a guest, please sign the guest book in the back of the sanctuary or fill out a visitor’s card in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate. We would love to greet you by name. We invite you to join us every Sunday morning for Sunday School at 9:00 a.m. during the school year, and worship at 10:15 a.m.

A Time of Fellowship

You are warmly invited to join us for a time of fellowship and treats in the Coffee Hour room next to the sanctuary immediately following the service.

† TO KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS †

Those recovering

Those grieving

Those facing health issues

Those battling cancer

For premature births

For healthy pregnancies

Missionaries

Those struggling with depression, grief, or sorrow

Those dealing with natural disasters

Those suffering from religious persecution

Refugees around the world needing a safe place to live

The Pastor Nominating Committee

We offer prayers of joy and thanksgiving for:

Those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries

THE WEEK IN BRIEF

(events at FPC unless noted)

Sun., December 9

9:00am

Sunday School for all ages

Supplies for the 2nd

10:15am

Worship:
Dr. Annalee Ward, preaching

11:30am

PNC

12:30pm

Christmas Play rehearsal

Sat., December 15

11:00am

Christmas Play Dress rehearsal

Sun., December 16

9:00am

Sunday School for all ages

10:15am

Worship: Christmas Program,
“Christmas Letters” presented

11:30am

Soup Luncheon Fundraiser

Banners Currently Hanging in the Sanctuary

South Wall - Advent/Christmas - Isaiah 9:6 (in memory of Doris Walske)

West Wall - Epiphany - Isaiah 60:1

North Wall - Romans 12:9 (in memory of Leroy Vogt)

Deacons for the month of December: Terri Gronau & Suzanne Heber

For pastoral emergencies this week, please contact Rev. Bradley Longfield at blongfie@dbq.edu

Prayer Chain requests may be emailed or called to the church (582-4494), or emailed to Linda at fpcdbqlongfield@gmail.com

Office Hours for Ginger Vander Broek are Mon., Wed., Thu. 9:00am-1:00pm.

Lectionary Readings for December 16th:

Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6

Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

10:15am

Founded 1847
2nd Sunday in Advent

December 9, 2018



Announcements

Linda Longfield

Minute for Mission

Joy Offering

Chris Daniels

Prelude

For Prayer and Reflection:

(Phil. 1:9-11)

May our love abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that we may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ - to the glory and praise of God.

Lighting the Advent Candle

The Middle School Sunday School Class

Call to Worship

Christ is the image of the invisible God

The first-born of all creation.

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell

Making peace by the blood of his cross.

Opening Prayer

*Song of Praise

“Days of Elijah”

McClurkin

These are the days of Elijah. Declaring the word of the Lord.

And these are the days of Your servant, Moses

Righteousness being restored

And though these are the days of great trial
Of famine and darkness and sword
Still we are the voice in the desert crying
Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

Refrain: Behold He comes, riding on the clouds
Shining like the sun, at the trumpet call
Lift your voice, it's the year of Jubilee
For out of Zion's hill, salvation comes

These are the days of Ezekiel
Of dry bones becoming as flesh
And these are the days of Your servant, David
Rebuilding the temple of praise

And these are the days of the harvest
The fields they are white in your world
And we are the laborers in the vineyard
Declaring the Word of the Lord (Refrain)

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

It is never easy for us to confess our sins, Waiting God. There are the hurts we have caused to our families and friends, which we would like to forget. There are those we believe are impossible to love, and so we don't try. There are people who live on the edge of our society, and we ignore their cries for help. Forgive us, God, who comes near to us. When we have lost our way, show us yours. Lead us in humility down the streets of your kingdom. Teach us your truth, so we might be able to keep your Word, revealed to us in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

Silent Confession (*Here let each worshiper offer silent, personal prayers of confession*)

Declaration of Forgiveness

**Gloria Patri #734*

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading Luke 3:1-6 p. 1593

Choral Anthem “Invocation for Advent” Besig/Price

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, come and bring an end to our darkness. Emmanuel, Emmanuel, come and fill our hearts with your light. We watch and wait for you to come, according to God’s Word, to show the way and make us one, and heal our troubled world. Emmanuel, Emmanuel, come and bring an end to our sadness. Emmanuel, Emmanuel, come and fill our lives with your love. Our hearts prepare to welcome you as Savior, Lord and King. We long to share the hope and truth that you alone can bring. Emmanuel, Emmanuel, come and bring an end to our emptiness. Emmanuel, Emmanuel, come and fill our hearts, come and fill our world with your peace.

Children's Message (Children through age 5 are invited to the nursery)

Second Reading Malachi 2:17-3:7a p. 1489

Sermon “Prepared”

**Hymn of Response*
Hymn #152 “Prepare the Way, O Zion” *Bereden Vag For Herran*

****Affirmation of Faith*** ***“The Apostles’ Creed”***
I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (Back cover of hymnal)

The Offering
Offertory
**Doxology #34*
**Prayer of Dedication*

**Sending Hymn*
Hymn #156 “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry” *Puer Nobis*

**Charge & Benediction*

***Postlude**
**Those who are able, please stand.*

Leaders in Worship:

Jill Klinebriel, *Choir Director*; Callie Mescher, *pianist*
Bryan Blair, *liturgist*; Dr. Annalee Ward, *preacher*

Welcoming you to First Presbyterian Church today:

Terri Gronau, *greeter*
Tim & Victoria Slemmons, *Coffee Fellowship host*
Courtney Schnoor & Florence Siefker, *nursery*

Who We Are

"We love because God first loved us." 1 John 4:19

First Presbyterian is a community of people who are experiencing the Father's love in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit. We are called through the Scriptures to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. In thankful response for all God has done for us, we serve our church, neighborhood, and world through ministries of worship, nurture, education and outreach.

IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

TRANSITION NEWS: The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) meets today to discuss the Personal Information Forms (resumés) received so far from the Presbyterian national database. Please pray for the PNC as they discern whom God is calling to lead our church.

PLAY PRACTICE for the CHRISTMAS PLAY is TODAY at 12:30-1:30 p.m. and next Saturday, December 15, 11:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. (dress rehearsal). We will present the play as part of worship on December 16.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING TODAY! If you would like to bring Christmas cheer to some of our members who don't get out as much as before, please join us at 1:30 p.m. for an hour or so of fun and fellowship!

YOU'RE INVITED TO A DELICIOUS LUNCH on December 16, following worship. All of the food is provided by our Senior Highs and the Congregational Life Committee. The Senior Highs will take a free-will offering to help defray the cost of going to Worthington, MN, next summer as part of a Group Mission Trip Workcamp. We give thanks for their willingness to help those in need. Please come enjoy food and fellowship and support our mission-minded youth.

SUNDAY SCHOOL classes are held every Sunday for all ages. The Bible is the center of our curriculum, and dedicated teachers strive to tell students about God's love revealed in Jesus Christ. Please join us each Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE of LESSONS and CAROLS will be held on Monday, December 24 at 7:00 p.m. Join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Lord and Savior, with Scripture and music.

'TIS THE SEASON for many wonderful musical concerts at our local colleges and universities. PLEASE check out the bulletin board in the Coffee Hour room for dates and details.

PREACHING SCHEDULE THE NEXT FEW WEEKS:

Dec. 16 - Christmas Program

Dec. 23 - Beth McCaw

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve service of Lessons and Carols @ 7:00pm

Dec. 30 - Dan Emmert

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS are needed for January. Please sign up in the Coffee Hour room to serve.

To support the mission and ministry of our church, we need \$12,892 per month.
Offerings received through December 2nd totaled \$3,959.84.