

***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.

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*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.

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*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 the effects of natural disasters*

*Those suffering from religious persecution*

*Refugees around the world needing a safe place to live*

*Those traveling over the holidays*

*Linda Longfield, Victoria Slemmons, Joyce McClain, Delores Muntz,  
Micah Dillman, Tim Slemmons, and Joel Samuels (birthdays)*

Sun., December 23	9:00am	Sunday School for all ages
	10:15am	Worship: Rev. Beth McCaw, preaching
	1:30pm	Bethany Home: Tom Jack & Kristen Eby
Mon., December 24	6:30pm	Worship participants meet
<i>Christmas Eve</i>	7:00pm	Christmas Eve Service of Lessons & Carols
<i>Ginger Vander Broek will be out of the office 12/24-1/2</i>		
Tue., December 25		<i>Christmas Day</i>
Sun., December 30	9:00am	No Sunday School
	10:15am	Worship: Rev. Daniel Emmert, preaching

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*)

*Lectionary Readings for December 30th:*

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26  
*Psalm 148*  
Colossians 3:12-17;  
Luke 2:41-52

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10:15am      Founded 1847      4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent      December 23, 2018



**For Prayer and Reflection** Diane Karay Tripp

*God of glory, because you disturb our expectations with troublesome greetings, and news of unwanted, improbable events; because we cannot control nor predict the unveiling of your power and its flaring to perfection in a baby born to die; because you enable us at last to accept your promises and to build our lives upon them, with Mary, faithful and trusting, we rejoice and await the unfolding of your plan through Jesus Christ.*

*Call to Worship*

The Lord your God is in your midst,  
**A mighty one who will save.**

He will rejoice over you with gladness.  
**He will quiet you by his love.**

He will exult over you with loud singing.  
**God is love.**

### *Call to Confession*

*Prayer of Confession*  
Who are we, Lord God, that you should come to us? Like those of long ago, we are weary with sin, and our world is cold, and we are not ready to receive you. Yet you have visited your people and re-deemed us in your Son. What a gracious Savior you are – to meet us in our sorry state so that we may be made ready for life with you. As we prepare to celebrate Jesus’ birth, forgive our sin and make our hearts leap for joy at the sound of your word. Move us by your Spirit to bless your wonderful works. We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose promised day draws near, your son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

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

*Declaration of Forgiveness*

*\*Gloria Patri #734*

*Prayer for Illumination*

*First Reading* Micah 5:2-5a p. 1445

*Choral Anthem* “People, Look East” *arr. Leavitt*  
*People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table. People, look east and sing today: Love, the guest, is on the way. Stars keep watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim, Shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together. People, look east and sing today: Love, the star, is on the way. Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Him who brings new life to earth. Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming. People, look east today: Love, the Lord, is on the way. People, look east!*

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

*Second Reading* Luke 1:39-55 p. 1588

*Sermon* “Why Mary Sang”

*\*Hymn of Response*  
Hymn #170 “My Soul Proclaims with Wonder” *Walnut*

*\*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* “In Dulci Jubilo” *arr. Bach/Ryan*  
*\*Doxology #34*  
*\*Prayer of Dedication*

*\*Sending Hymn*  
Hymn #176 “Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates” *Truro*

*\*Charge & Benediction*

*\*Postlude* “Rejoice and Be Merry” *arr. Kendall*  
*\*Those who are able, please stand.*

**Leaders in Worship:**

Kristen Eby, *Music Director*  
Jill Klinebriel, *Choir Director*  
Lesley Sheridan, *liturgist*  
Rev. Beth McCaw, *preacher*

**Welcoming you to First Presbyterian Church today:**

Terri Gronau, *greeter*  
John & Jamie Dillman, *Coffee Fellowship hosts*  
Courtney Schnoor & Florence Siefker, *nursery*

**Who We Are**

“We love because God first loved us.” I 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: We welcome the Reverend John Armstrong as part-time pastor for congregational care. John, a recently retired Presbyterian minister, will be available for pastoral emergencies, visitation, and funerals. John and Jeannie attended FPC while John was in seminary at UDOTS. They recently returned to Dubuque to be nearer family and for Jeannie to begin her work at Hills and Dales as Assistant Health Services Director. Welcome back to FPC, John and Jeannie.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE of LESSONS and CAROLS will be held tomorrow, 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.

THE JOY OFFERING will be collected through Christmas Eve. It benefits Presbyterian racial-ethnic schools and helps provide critical income supplements for retired ministers facing unexpected medical costs. You’ll find envelopes in the pews. Please give generously.

THANKS TO ALL WHO participated in the Christmas program. We appreciate the time and talents you invested to share this insightful look at the Nativity story. Thanks for a job well done!

THANKS to the Senior Highs and the Congregational Life Committee for a wonderful Christmas luncheon. The Senior Highs thank you for your generous support of their mission trip next summer. \$607 was raised to help defray the cost of going to Worthington, MN. Much thanks!!!

THANKS TO TRACY WILDERMUTH for the treat bags given out at the luncheon to children of all ages. What an incredible tradition Tracy continues each year. Thanks for bringing such joy!

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE BEAUTIFUL POINSETTIAS generously donated in memory or in honor of others (please see insert). They can be taken home after worship on Dec. 30.

SUNDAY SCHOOL will NOT meet on December 30. We will resume classes on January 6, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

PREACHING SCHEDULE THE NEXT FEW WEEKS  
Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve service of Lessons and Carols @ 7:00pm  
Dec. 30 - Dan Emmert  
Jan. 6 - Beth McCaw

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS are needed in the new year. 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 17th totaled \$9,520.29.