

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 Room next to the sanctuary immediately following the service.

† TO KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS †

Those recovering from illness, injury, or surgery

Those facing chronic health issues

Those battling cancer

Those struggling with depression

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)

Missionaries

We offer prayers of joy and thanksgiving for:

We share joy with Paquita Ditzler for passing her citizenship test!

Tracy Wildermuth, Tom Boelk, Dick Muntz, and Terri Gronau (birthdays)

THE WEEK IN BRIEF

(events at FPC unless noted)

Sun., December 15

9:00am

10:15am

3rd Sunday of Advent

Sunday School for all ages

Worship:

Presentation of the Christmas play

Wed., December 18

6:30pm

Choir

Sun., December 22

9:00am

10:15am

4th Sunday of Advent

Sunday School for all ages

Worship:

Rev. Marsha Wilfong, preaching

1:30pm

Bethany Home, Tom Jack & TBD

Tue., December 24

5:30pm

Christmas Eve Service of Lessons & Carols

Banners Currently Hanging in the Sanctuary

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

West Wall - Isaiah 43:1 (in memory of Barb Stant)

North Wall - Epiphany - Isaiah 60:1

Deacons for the month of December: Mark & Deb Stant

For pastoral emergencies, please contact the Rev. John Armstrong at 605-354-3891 or Armstrongfpcdbq@gmail.com. Office hours are Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00am-12:00pm or by appointment.

Prayer Chain Change: You may now email, text, or call prayer requests to Rev. John Armstrong (see contact information above).

Admin Office Hours for Ginger Vander Broek are Monday, Wednesday & Thursday 9:00-1:00pm. *Ginger will be out of the office Dec. 23-27.*

Lectionary Readings for December 22nd:

Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1684 Iowa St., Dubuque, IA 52001

(563) 582-4494

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www.firstpresdbq.org

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

10:15am

Founded 1847

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2019

MERRY CHRISTMAS

TRACY

Announcements

Minute for Mission

“Joy Offering”

Betty Thompson

Prelude

“Hanging of the Greens”

arr. Walz

For Prayer and Reflection as We Prepare our Hearts for Worship

“How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv’n! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav’n. No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive Him still the dear Christ enters in.” (Phillip Brooks)

Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Holdener Family

Call to Worship

(Psalm 47:1, 6-7)

Clap your hands, all you nations;

Shout to God with cries of joy.

Sing praises to God, sing praises;

Sing praises to our King, sing praises.

For God is the King of all the earth;

Sing to him a psalm of praise.

Opening Prayer

*Songs of Praise

Hymn #182

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Adeste Fideles

Hymn #491

“Open Our Eyes”

Cull/Allen

Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus,

To reach out and touch him, and say that we love him.

Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen,
Open our eyes Lord, we want to see Jesus.

**Call to Confession*

**Prayer of Confession*
God of our salvation, you straighten the winding ways of our hearts and smooth the paths made rough by sin. We confess that we have not watched for your coming into the world and have missed the signs of your kingdom in our midst. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us faith to welcome your advent and keep our hearts awake and watchful. We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near, your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

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

**Declaration of Forgiveness*

**Gloria Patri* #734

Prayer for Illumination

<i>Old Testament Lesson</i>	Psalm 25:1-5	p. 863
<i>Choral Anthem</i>	“Invocation for Advent”	<i>Besig/Price</i>

(Children through age 5 are invited to the nursery.)

<i>Gospel Lesson</i>	Matthew 25:31-40	p. 1542
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Proclamation “Waiting for the Christmas Guest” by Janet Meili (©1978)
A dramatic adaptation of the poem “How the Great Guest Came” by Edwin Markham
Modified for FPC by Linda Longfield

**Hymn of Response*
#203 “Away in a Manger” (verse 1 cast only then the congregation joins in)

**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

The Lord’s Prayer (This can be found in the back cover of the hymnal.)

The Offering
Offertory “Sussex Carol” *arr. Larkin*
**Doxology* #34
**Prayer of Dedication*

**Sending Hymn*
Hymn #159 “The King of Glory Comes” *Promised One*

**Charge & Benediction*

**Postlude* “Go Tell It on the Mountain” *arr. Hayes*

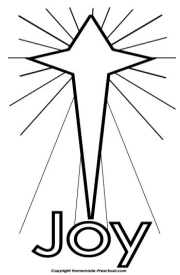
**Those who are able, please stand.*

Leaders in Worship:
Kristen Eby, *Pianist* and Jill Klinebriel, *Choir Director*
Bradley & Linda Longfield and Terri Gronau, *Worship Leaders*
FPC Sunday School Program Participants, *Preachers*

Welcoming you to First Presbyterian Church today:
Tom Boelk, *Greeter*
Congregational Life Committee, *Coffee Hour Hosts*
Courtney Schnoor and Florence Siefker, *Nursery*

THANK YOU to the Sunday School participants who proclaim God’s Word today

Conrad	Joe Klinebriel	Margaret	Jill Klinebriel
Hans	Mark Stant	Gertrude	Deb Stant
Beggar	Sam Morales	Rich Person	Beth Foxen
Landlord	Thomas Blair	Old Woman	Sara Blair
Woman’s Son	Ethan Blair	Lost child	Sam Klinebriel
Mary	Deb Stant	Joseph	Mark Stant
Innkeeper	Audrey Holdener		
Shepherds	Jean, Michael, and Chris Holdener		
Angels	Makenzie & Michelle Daniels, Beth Foxen		
Wise Men	Sam and Chris Daniels, Bryan Blair		
Voice of God	Bradley Longfield		
Director	Linda Longfield		



Who We Are
First Presbyterian Church 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

CHRISTMAS PLAY TODAY. God’s message for us today will be provided through a Christmas play. Following Worship, the Congregational Life committee invites everyone to stay for a holiday Coffee Hour.

POINSETTIA ORDERS are due ***TODAY***. Please see the bulletin insert. Poinsettias will be available for pick up following worship on the 29th.

THE JOY OFFERING supports the PC(USA)’s commitment to education and leadership development through the support of racial ethnic schools and colleges, *and* helps subsidize the support of retired ministers and their families facing medical crises. Our First Pres goal is \$1000.

OUR BULLETIN ADVENT ART is provided by participants in our First Pres Sunday School. Please take time to thank *your* artist for his or her gift.

WE ARE IN NEED OF COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS! *Most urgently for Dec. 22* but there are many open dates through January. Please check out the sign up sheet in the Coffee Hour room. Thank you for supporting this special ministry!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE OF LESSONS and CAROLS will be held on Tuesday, December 24th at 5:30pm. Join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Lord and Savior, with scripture and music.

THANK YOU to everyone who brought items for Supplies for the 2nd. All items benefit the ministry of the Domestic Violence Shelter.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED to the ordination of Kathleen Ann Rupert to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (USA) on Sunday, December 15, at 3:00pm at Community Presbyterian Church (106 S. Reynolds St., Postville, IA). Reception to follow.

PREACHING SCHEDULE FOR THE NEXT FEW WEEKS:
Dec. 22 - Rev. Marsha Wilfong
Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols @ 5:30pm
Dec. 29 - Rev. Beth McCaw
Jan. 5 - Rev. John Armstrong

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

- ◆ Call the church office (582-4494) after 7:30AM on Sunday mornings.
- ◆ Watch your email for an all-church announcement.
- ◆ Check this FPC link: firstpcdbq.webs.com (This link is also available on the church website <http://www.firstpresdbq.org>)
- ◆ Notice hopefully provided on KCRG, KWWL, KDTH (and others)

To support the mission and ministry of our church, we need \$13,564 per month.
Offerings received through December 1st totaled \$4,275.10.