

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 who are mourning the death of someone special

Those recovering from illness, injury, or surgery

Those facing chronic health issues

Those battling cancer

Those struggling with depression, grief, sorrow, or bullying

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)

Missionaries

Traveling mercies during the holiday season

We offer prayers of joy and thanksgiving for:

Paquita Ditzler for passing her citizenship test!

Judy Sheridan and Jean Holdener (birthdays)

THE WEEK IN BRIEF
(events at FPC unless noted)

Sun., December 22	4th Sunday of Advent
9:00am	Sunday School for all ages
10:15am	Worship: Rev. Marsha Wilfong, preaching Bethany Home, Tom Jack & TBD
1:30pm	
Tue., December 24	5:30pm Christmas Eve Service of Lessons & Carols
Wed., December 25	Christmas Day
Sun., December 29	NO Sunday School
10:15am	Worship: Rev. Beth McCaw, preaching

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).

Holiday Admin Office Hours Ginger Vander Broek is out of the office 12/23-27

Lectionary Readings for December 29th:

Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148

Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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(563) 582-4494 firstpresdbq@gmail.com www.firstpresdbq.org

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

10:15am Founded 1847 4th Sunday of Advent December 22, 2019



Announcements Rev. John Armstrong

Prelude “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear” arr. Warriner

For Prayer and Reflection:
God of all wisdom, our hearts yearn for the warmth of your love, and our minds search for the light of your Word. Increase our longing for Christ our Savior, and strengthen us to grow in love, that at the dawn of his coming we may rejoice in his presence and welcome the light of his truth. Amen.

Lighting the Advent Candle Leon & Betty Thompson

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.

Opening Prayer

***Hymn of Praise**
Hymn #160 “Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn” Rejoice, Rejoice

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession
Lord God, here in this place where your light illumines and exposes our life and thought, we celebrate your Son, who is the light of the world. In his penetrating light we acknowledge our darkness; in his constant grace, our careless love; in his generous giving, our selfishness; in his equal justice, our prejudice; in his fortitude, our fearfulness; in his inclusive love, our divisions; in his pure sacrifice, our soiling sins. But in his cross is our forgiveness, and in his resurrection, our enduring hope.

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

Declaration of Forgiveness

*Gloria Patri #734

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading Isaiah 61:1-7 p. 1157

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 and sing 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 Matthew 1:18-25 p. 1497

Sermon “A Father’s Dream: the Birth of a Son”

*Hymn of Response
Hymn #185 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” Mendelssohn

*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 “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” arr. Livingston
*Doxology #34
*Prayer of Dedication

*Sending Hymn
Hymn #189 “Angels, from the Realms of Glory” Regent Square

*Charge & Benediction

*Postlude “Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella” arr. West
*Those who are able, please stand.

Leaders in Worship:
Kristen Eby, Music Director
Rev. John Armstrong, liturgist
Rev. Marsha Wilfong, preacher

Welcoming you to First Presbyterian Church today:
Tom Boelk, greeter
Tom Boelk & Tracy Wildermuth, Coffee Fellowship hosts
Florence Siefker & Courtney Schnoor, nursery attendants

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)

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

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

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 \$1,000.

SUNDAY SCHOOL REMINDER: There will be no Sunday School Dec.29. We’ll see you in the new year starting on Jan. 5.

HELP NEEDED AFTER WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY, Dec. 29th to help take down and pack up holiday decorations until next Advent season.

WE ARE IN NEED OF COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS! 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!

THANK YOU to TRACY WILDERMUTH for the gift bags filled with yummy treats, colored pencils, and notepads. The love and care expressed through these gifts are much appreciated by the church family.

THANK YOU to the CONGREGATIONAL LIFE Committee for a wonderful time of fellowship following worship last Sunday. Everyone enjoyed the delicious food and the time to visit.

THANK YOU to the CAST of the CHRISTMAS program! The congregation sincerely appreciates the time you put into preparing and presenting the message of hope and the call to reach out to those in need. Thank you.

THANKS to the CAROLERS who brought good tidings of great joy as they caroled to some of our members last Saturday. It was much appreciated!

TRANSITION NEWS: The PNC continues to pray for God’s guidance as they discern who is to lead this congregation into the future. Please continue to hold our church family and the PNC in your prayers.

PREACHING SCHEDULE FOR THE NEXT FEW WEEKS:
Dec. 24, 5:30pm - Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols
Dec. 29 - Rev. Beth McCaw
Jan. 5 - Rev. John Armstrong
Jan. 12 - Rev. Marsha Wilfong

To support the mission and ministry of our church, we need \$13,564 per month. Offerings received through December 15th totaled \$10,012.99.