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First Press

First Presbyterian Church

The Rev. Dr. Katherine M. Achtemeier, Pastor
December 2017/January 2018



Please Join Us!
(Please note the new time)

**Christmas Eve Service of
Lessons and Carols**

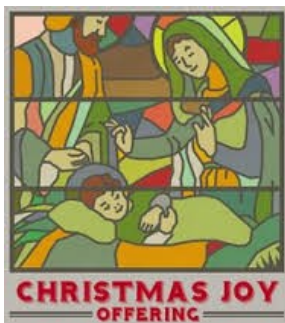
Sunday, December 24th at 5:00pm



Christmas Program
December 10th at 10:15 a.m.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS TODAY for December 10th!
The proclamation of the Good News of the Gospel in
worship will take the form of a play:
"God's Christmas Vessels."

Following worship everyone is invited to enjoy
BODACIOUS snacks during Coffee Hour in the Coffee Hour Room.



Christmas Joy Offering

This Christmas season, PC (USA) & First Presbyterian Church will focus on the Joy Gift Offering.

Who are the beneficiaries of the JOY offering?

Beneficiaries are the racial-ethnic schools of the PC(USA) and current and retired Presbyterian church workers who need critical assistance.

How can I contribute to the JOY offering?

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.

What is the goal for the amount to be collected?

This year's goal is **\$1500**. Our hope is to provide far more. May God bless our hearts with generosity.

In the Life of the Church



ATTENTION! ATTENTION!

There will **not** be Sunday School on Sunday, Dec. 31st. Please enjoy the time with your family and come ready to learn more about the saving love of Jesus Christ. Attend Sunday School on Sunday, January 7th.

Adult Sunday School

Join us Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall as we continue with NT Wright's "Luke for Everyone." This study is led by multiple teachers. It isn't too late to jump in and learn about Luke.



The 3 S's

The Sunday School Opening Advent Project is collecting items for St. John's "Almost Home." You can add these items to your Advent shopping list: new **SOCKS** for babies, children, men, and women, large sized hand **SANITIZER**, **SHAMPOO** (large, not travel size).



If you are looking to donate more, here are a few more ideas of needed items: regular ground coffee, tall kitchen bags, and boxes of tissues.



Our last Sunday to collect is December 24th. Thank you!

CAFÉ MINISTRY UPDATE!

The 5th Thursday in November, several volunteers from First Pres (including our confirmands and their mentors) helped serve a delicious meal to over 100 hungry people. Café Ministry is one of the reminders that mission and service is not a seasonal event. Café Ministry serves on average 130 people a meal.

If you have never contributed in the past, this is a fairly simple way to help minister to the needs of the hungry in Dubuque. **The next opportunity is March 29th.**



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING is February 4, 2018



What is Souper Bowl of Caring? It is a program where youth across the nation work to fight hunger and poverty in their own communities around the time of the Super Bowl football game. More than 49.1 million Americans, including 16.7 million children, suffer from hunger.

At FPC, youth will once again spearhead our efforts. Last year we raised \$576 and collected 130 non-perishable items for the Dubuque Food Pantry. Nationwide, 6,539 groups collected **\$10,115,062** in cash and food items for local charities. Don't stand on the sidelines! Gear up to help!

In the Life of the Church

Christmas Elves at Work

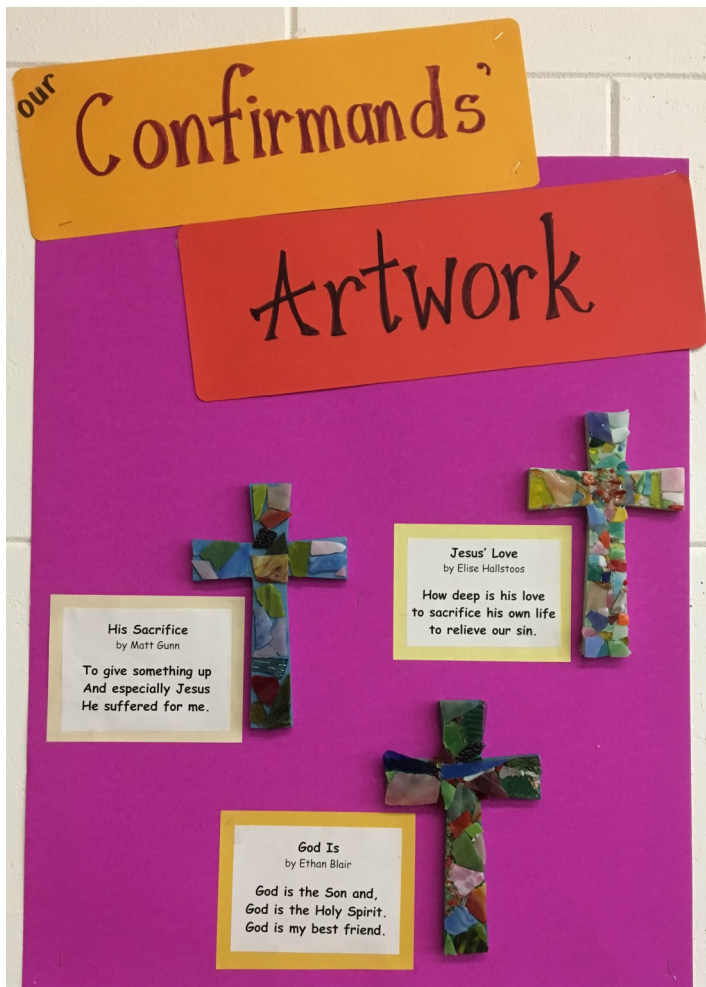
On Thursday, November 30th, the elves of FPC were hard at work decorating the church for the Advent season under the direction of Rachel Vander Broek.

Harold & Cherie Daniels, Steve Foxen, David & Sue Marx, Victoria Slemmons, and Debbie Stant were there with Rachel hanging garland, lighting the tree, and generally bringing Christmas cheer to every corner! Thank you!



Confirmation Class Update

The Confirmation class has been studying the Apostles' Creed and reflecting on what these words mean in our lives. When we discussed how "[Jesus] suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried", we also made stained glass crosses and wrote poems about the salvation we have in Christ. (*See the crosses hanging in the Coffee Hour room.*) This is an incredible group of committed young people who are taking this class very seriously, asking thought-provoking questions, and are earnestly seeking to know what it means to follow Jesus. Please continue to pray for the students in Confirmation, their mentors and teachers.



God Is

by Ethan Blair

**God is the Son and,
God is the Holy Spirit.
God is my best friend.**

Jesus' Love

by Elise Hallstoos

**How deep is his love
to sacrifice his own life
to relieve our sin.**

His Sacrifice

by Matt Gunn

**To give something up
And especially Jesus
He suffered for me.**

Birthdays & Anniversaries—December

Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

- 2 Joplin Hallstoos
- 13 Julie (Dillman) Hartzfield
- 16 Tracy Wildermuth
- 17 Tom Boelk
Dick Muntz
- 18 Terri Gronau
- 21 Andrew Sheppard
- 23 Linda Longfield
- 24 Victoria Slemmons
- 27 Joyce McClain
Delores Muntz
Micah Dillman
- 28 Tim Slemmons
- 29 Joel Samuels
Nathaniel Sheppard
- 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 Hannah 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!

OFFICE HOURS

Pastor:

Mon. (afternoon)
Tues. 9AM—2PM
Wed. (by appt.)
Thurs. (by appt.)



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. 25th—January 2nd. She will resume normal office hours on January 3rd.

PREACHING SCHEDULE

DECEMBER

December 3	Rev. Dr. Katherine Achtemeier
December 10	Christmas Play
December 17	Student Pastor, Jennifer Pattee
December 24	Rev. Dr. Katherine Achtemeier
December 31	Student Pastor, Jennifer Pattee

PREACHING SCHEDULE

JANUARY

January 7	Rev. Dr. Katherine Achtemeier
January 14	Rev. Dr. Katherine Achtemeier
January 21	Rev. Dr. Katherine Achtemeier
January 28	TBA

December 2017

Deacons of the Month: Terri Gronau & Joyce McClain

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 9:00am Sunday School for All Ages 10:15am Worship: preacher, Student Pastor, Jennifer Pattee 1:30pm Bethany Home: Student Pastor & Kristen Eby	27	28 6:30pm Session	29	30 9:00am Decorating for Advent season 5:00pm Café Ministry	1 December 1:30pm Manor Care: Student Pastor & Amanda Eby	2 8:00am Men's Breakfast @ Sunshine
3 9:00am Sunday School for All Ages 10:15am Worship: Rev. Achtemeier, preaching Sacrament of Holy Communion 11:30am Lay Committee 1:30-3:00pm Play rehearsal	4 6:30pm DDCO @ St. Patrick's	5 11:30am Young at Heart @ Village Inn	6 6:30pm Choir	7	8	9 8:30am Congl Life 9:00am Deacons 1:00-3:00pm Christmas play dress rehearsal
10 9:00am Sunday School for All Ages 10:15am Worship: Christmas Program presented Bodacious Coffee Hour	11 3:45pm Mission/ Stewardship	12 Pastor out of office	13	14	15	16
17 9:00am Sunday School for All Ages 10:15am Worship: preacher Student Pastor, Jennifer Pattee	18	19	20 6:30pm Choir	21	22	23
24 Christmas Eve 9:00am Sunday School for All Ages 10:15am Worship: Rev. Achtemeier, preaching 1:30pm Bethany Home: Pastor & Kristen Eby 5:00pm Christmas Eve worship	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28	29	30
31 NO Sunday School 10:15am Worship: preacher Student Pastor, Jennifer Pattee Officer Installation	1	2 11:30am Young at Heart @ Village Inn	3 6:30pm Choir	4	5 1:30pm Manor Care	6 8:00am Men's Breakfast @ Sunshine

January 2018

Deacons of the Month: TBD

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 NO Sunday School 10:15am Worship: preacher Student Pastor, Jennifer Pattee Officer Installation	1 JANUARY	2 11:30am Young at Heart @ Village Inn	3 6:30pm Choir	4	5 1:30pm Manor Care: Pastor & Jill Klinebriel	6 8:00am Men's Break- fast @ Sunshine
7 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: Rev. Achtemeier, preaching Sacrament of Holy Communion	8 Annual Reports due from committee chairs	9	10	11	12	13 8:30am Cong. Life 9:00am Deacons 10:00am-12:00pm Confirmation
14 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: Rev. Achtemeier, preaching	15	16	17 6:30pm Choir	18	19	20
21 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: Dr. Lyle Vander Broek, preaching	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:15am Worship: Rev. Achtemeier, preaching Annual Congregational Meeting 1:30 Bethany Home	29	30	31	1 FEBRUARY	2 1:30pm Manor Care	3 8:00am Men's Break- fast @ Sunshine

Clerk of Session

A Prayer for Advent



Blessed Lord Jesus, give us thankful hearts today for you, our choicest gift, our dearest guest. Let not our souls be busy inns that have no room for you, but quiet homes of prayer and praise where you may find fit company, where the needful cares of life are wisely ordered and put away, and wide, sweet spaces, kept for you, where holy thoughts pass up and down, and fervent longings watch for and wait your coming.

So, when you come again, O Blessed One, may you find all things ready, and your servants waiting for no new master, but for one long loved and known. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. Amen

A Book of Simple Prayers

FPC WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

November	2016	2017
1 st	67	61
2 nd	70	73
3 rd	60	73
4 th	75	75
5 th	n/a	n/a

Per Capita

Each year FPC pays John Knox Presbytery a "per capita" for each member of the church. This money goes to support the work and ministry of John Knox Presbytery, the Synod of Lakes

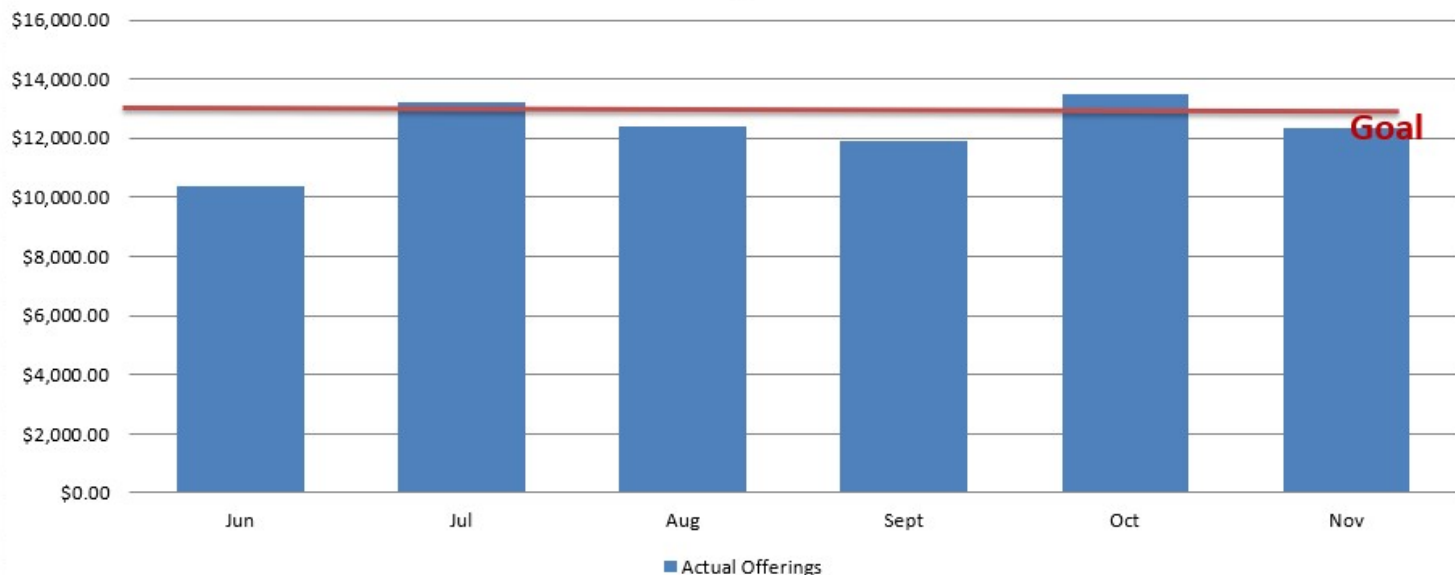
and Prairies, and the General Assembly. This year that amount is \$31 per member. If you would like to help defray the cost to the church, please place your check in the offering plate and make a note on the memo line: "Per capita."

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

If you are wondering if an event at FPC is being cancelled due to inclement weather, here are ways you can 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 for: fpcdbq.webs.com**
(This link is also available on the home page of the church website <http://www.firstpresdbq.org>).
- **Or you can watch for a notice on KCRG, KWVL, KDTH (and others)**

Offering Totals



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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