

December 1, 2021

First Presbyterian Church

608 Nebraska Street, Sioux City, Iowa 51101



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December Worship Service Info



Sunday, Dec 5—2nd Sunday of Advent
Luke 1:46-55; Elements of the Story—The Characters

Sunday, Dec 12—3rd Sunday of Advent
Luke 3:1-6; Elements of the Story—The Setting

Sunday, Dec 19—4th Sunday of Advent
1 Corinthians 15:20-28—Elements of the Story—
The Conflict (Children's Christmas Program)

Saturday, Dec 24—Christmas Eve
Lessons & Carols

Saturday, Dec 24—Christmas Eve
Late Service

Sunday, Dec 26—1st Sunday of Christmas
Psalms 150; HYMN SING!

First Presbyterian Church



*This is our mission:
to shine the light
of Christ's love —
through our life together,
with our gifts,
and in our daily lives —
from the heart of Sioux City,
for the sake of God's kingdom
in the world.*

608 Nebraska Street, Sioux City, Iowa 51101

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 8:30 am– 4:30 pm, Fri 9 am-Noon
Tel. 712-255-8919

Web page: www.1stpresby.com
Office email: office@1stpresby.com
Pastor: pastor@1stpresby.com
Twitter@1stChurchSCIA

Office Administrator finance@1stpresby.com

Be sure to check our new Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/902340006496216/>.

Church Staff:

Pastor.....Mark Bedford
Music Director & Organist..... Mary Kay Benton
Adult Choir Director.....Rachael Wragge
Hand Bell Director.....Anne Cowley
Children's Music Director.....Rachael Wragge
Sound Sexton.....Dylan Baier
Sunday School Director.....Heather Rubel
Office Admin/Finance Mgr.....Karen Heinemann
Cook Coordinator.....Adam Strong
Custodians.....Rick Heinemann & Donna Uhl
Childcare.....Emma Shoulders-Gomez, Kaitlyn Skatges & Kelsi Skatges

Deadline Dates for Publications

Weekly Worship Bulletin - each Tuesday at Noon.

Newsletter - one week prior to publication

(goal is to publish one day prior to the last work day of the month, so the deadline is one week prior to that.)

... included on the monthly calendar, but please call the office if you are uncertain.

Information received after deadline will be held for the next publication if still applicable.

Thank you all for your consideration; we appreciate your efforts to respect these deadlines, making it easier for us to complete our work timely and efficiently.

**The Light, our church newsletter,
is your monthly publication of
need-to-know information and events.**

It is available on-line at
(www.1stpresby.com)

And by mail.

To add your name to the mailing list,
please call the church office

712-255-8919

or email

finance@1stpresby.com

Or you can subscribe on the new website!

Got news? ...births, weddings, graduations,
awards, job promotions,
or other news you'd like to share?



Send it to:
finance@1stpresby.com.
We'll be glad to share it for you.

Have you moved?

New... Street address?

....Email address?

....Phone number?

God knows where you are,
but we don't know unless you tell us.

If you have new contact information,
please let us know

so we can update our records —

Please contact the Church Office
at 712-255-8919 or e-mail us at
finance@1stpresby.com.

Thanks so much.

I will utter dark sayings from of old, things that we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us. We will not hide them from their children; we will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and His might, and the wonders that He has done.

from Psalm 78:2-4

Friends,

Over the next few weeks, as we do every year, we will gather and retell a very, very old story. We'll tell this story through scripture and song and drama and prayer. We'll tell it with feasts and gifts and trees and lights and cards and cookies. Through all this, we'll retell the story of the birth of Jesus Christ.

But how often do we really think about the elements of that story? Sure, we all know the plot (expectant couple travels, girl gives birth in a barn, gets unexpected visitors). We know the setting (a road trip from Nazareth to Bethlehem over 2000 years ago). We also know all the characters that we've seen in every Christmas pageant ever. A man and his bride-to-be. A baby. Some shepherds. Some wise men. A busy innkeeper and a ruthless king. A few angels. Santa Claus. Ebenezer Scrooge. Charlie Brown, Rudolph, Frosty, and the Grinch. (Oops, wrong stories!)

Future generations will be told about the Lord, and proclaim His deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that He has done it.

from Psalm 22:30-31

But any good story needs a couple of other elements. It needs a conflict. Some drama between a dastardly villain and a noble hero. And the story needs a resolution. Some climax when good triumphs over evil. These are the parts of any story that may be harder to place. But these conflicts and resolutions are the reason stories keep getting told. A good storyteller builds up the tension of the conflict, ramping up real uncertainty that a happy ending can be possible. And then the storyteller celebrates the resolution with the audience, all breathing a sigh of relief as the characters we've come to love live happily ever after.

That's what makes the story of the Nativity worth telling over and over again every year. The conflict, rather than being just someone in a white hat against someone in a black hat, is nothing less than Good vs. Evil. God, the loving creator of the world, going up against the corruption of that world that separates all people from God. And the resolution? Good news of great joy! Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace and goodwill to all! And the world being reconciled with our Creator, so that God is truly with us.

And, like any great story, no matter how many times it's been told, we love to hear that happy ending.



For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope.

Romans 15:4

In Christ,
Pastor Mark

Mary's Music Notes—



Looking ahead.....

Dec. 5 Choir

Dec. 12 Choir

Dec. 19 Youth/Kids/Handbells

Dec. 24 Early Service - Betsy Stewart

Late Service - Vocal Quartet

Dec. 26 Hymn Sing

Jan. 2 Special Music Nola Rubel

Our main theme at First Presbyterian, is *The Light*. To be the *Light* means to offer hope, encouragement, kindness and compassion - in times of darkness, struggles and everyday life. Leading all of us to God's word is our mission - sharing His light and word every day and in every way. So, as we enjoy this holiday season, remember to help others and be there - keep all in your daily prayers and take time for yourself and family and friends.

Mary Benton, Director of Music



Previous Months Worship Attendance Report

Oct 31	85 in sanctuary
Nov 7	68 in sanctuary
Nov 14	71 in sanctuary
Nov 21	85 in sanctuary
Nov 28	76 in sanctuary

Please join us for our **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES** on Friday, December 24th! Our family service of lessons and carols will be at 6:30 p.m., while our late service will be at 11:00. Both services will feature the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, as well as a candlelight service. Merry Christmas, and may God bless us all in the New Year.

Pastor Mark will be on vacation from Saturday, December 25th through Friday, January 7th. If you need pastoral care during the last week of December, please call Rev. Rex. Wentzel at 712-560-5127. The first month of January, please call Rev. Jan Christensen at 712-541-3586.

On Sunday, December 26th, our worship service will feature a **HYMN SING!** During worship on the 19th, you'll find request slips in our bulletins. Just fill in hymns from our hymnal that you'd like to sing and we'll enjoy a selection of your requests on the 26th!

On Sunday, January 2nd, please welcome **REV. MICHAEL MCCALLUM** to our pulpit.

Income & Disbursement Summary Through October 31, 2021

***Please be
sure and
pay your
Per Capita
this year.***

**2021
Per Capita
amount
is \$42.48**

Income

All pledges, non-pledges & loose collection	\$ 295,698.50
Other operating income	\$ 15,971.68
Restricted donations	\$ 12,123.18
Per Capita	\$ 2,293.80
Total Income	\$ 329,087.16

Disbursements

Mission	\$ 26,118.80
Ministry*	\$ 56,022.70
Music	\$ 4,839.15
Christian Discipleship	\$ 927.61
Building & Grounds	\$ 90,745.81
Office and Admin	\$ 12,063.22
Assessment	\$ 12,815.60
Other**	\$ 34,553.34
Personnel Payroll	\$ 117,672.04
Total Disbursements	\$ 355,758.27

Gain or Loss	\$ (26,671.11)
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* 'Ministry' includes: Pastors salary, worship, outreach, deacon and member care expenses.

** 'Other' includes: Payroll taxes, health insurance, pension and workers compensation insurance.

STEWARDSHIP

Budgeted	\$481,841.00
2022 Pledges	\$240,305.00
% to budget	50%
Pledges received	39

Still Needed \$241,536.00

Have you turned your pledge card in yet?

Wednesday night menus

**December 1— Turkey vegetable soup with
spice cake**

**December 8— Beef stroganoff with salad
and garlic bread**

**December 15— Vegetable beef soup with
sweet rolls and salad**

**December 22— Chicken enchiladas with
Mexican rice and refried beans**



December birthdays

2nd - Staci Moore	20th - Paul Gregory
4th - Gracia Davenport	20th - Chris Ellis
9th - Margaret Behrens	21st - Anne Cowley
9th - Eric Johnson	22nd - Jen Preston
10th - Dick Dickman	23rd - Quentin Durward
16th - Tim Hynds	25th - Helena Lawrence
19th - Alice Speraw	27th - Ralph Reeder



Pssst!

If we do not have your birthday or anniversary information... please call or send it to Karen in the church office at 712-255-8919 or fnance@1stpresby.com.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

The directory will be updated and available in January. It is very important that you let the church office know if any of the following has changed or we don't have:

Your address

Your phone number (please indicate if land-line or cell phone)

You email address

Thank you!

WE'RE BACK!!!!

12th Night Ring will be held again this year on Jan. 9, 2022 at 4:30 pm at Eppley Auditorium on the Morningside College Campus. After being cancelled last year due to Covid, we are excited to be able to ring together for your entertainment. We are also pleased and excited to welcome Cathy Moklebus who has composed a special piece dedicated to Eleanor Tasker who founded 12th Night Ring. She will be directing that piece plus another one that we have chosen for the program. Come hear four Siouxland Bell Choirs join together to ring. Bell-issimo will be taking part and ringing a solo during the program. Admission is FREE!



UNDERWEAR DONATIONS Friends, our Mission Committee is collecting new, packaged underwear for men, women, and children of all sizes. Your donations will benefit the clients of our mission partners like Mary J. Treglia Community House, Safe Place and The Warming Shelter. Just place your donations in the bins in the church hallway before Christmas. Thank you!



Thank you to Suzan Stewart, Pastor Mark and Barb Davis for serving at the Soup Kitchen in November.

If you would like to help please call Karen at the church office.



Youth Chatter

For those who joined and helped plan our older youth bowling, thank you !

If your youth would like to join in our singing practices during the sermon time on Sunday's, please feel free to join Rachel and myself in the music room upstairs. Every Sunday except the Sunday we have bells. We are currently practicing for our youth Christmas program which will be on Sunday, the 19th of December during service. Please feel free to join us. Stay tuned for future youth events as well.

Thank you!

Heather

Director of Christian Education



Good luck to all our youth and young adults as you all finish up your semesters.

Your church family at First Presbyterian Church is praying for you!

Enjoy your Holiday break!



Christmas Eve Fellowship Gathering - Want a place to hang out between the two Christmas Eve services on Friday, December 24th?

As is traditional with our congregation, we will have two church services on Christmas Eve, one at 6:30 pm and one at 11:00 pm. For those who enjoy attending both services, but don't want to spend Christmas Eve driving back and forth to church, a fellowship time is being planned between the services. This will include potluck food, games, and Christmas stories as we spend time with our church family.

If interested, please contact Patty Rarick before/after church services or at her information below:

Cell 605-670-2707 Email patty.rarick@gmail.com

**Coffee Fellowship Hosts:***Finance & Admin***Wednesday Night Meal****Hosts:***Finance & Admin***Bible Carriers:**

Dec 5: Sya Bates

Dec 12: Emmett Rohlena

Dec 19: Nicholas Hynds

Dec 24: Nola Rubel—early

Dec 24: Need volunteer—late

Dec 26: Nola Rubel

Lectors:

Dec 5: John Mayne

Dec 12: Chris Hunt

Dec 19: Michael Rohlena

Dec 24: Suzan Stewart—
early

Dec 24: Judy Vos—late

Dec 26: Lowell Vos

Tellers:

Dec 6: Brenda Bradley & Vicki Jacobs

Dec 13: Kathy Zebert & Ellen Jacobi

Dec 20: Suzan Stewart & Carol Smith

Dec 27: Vicki Jacobs & Jeff Stanley

Acolytes:

Dec 5: Aidan Hunt

Dec 12: Harper Rubel

Dec 19: Nathan Hynds

Dec 24: Pierce Rubel—early

Dec 24: Need a volunteer—late

Dec 26: Pierce Rubel

Greeter/Usher:

Dec 5: Anne Cowley, Neva Pierce & Barb Davis

Dec 12: Julie Eybers—need volunteers

Dec 19: Kevin & Dacia Bates

Dec 24: Mike & Andrea Rohlena family—early

Dec 24: Need volunteers—late service

Dec 26: Julie Eybers & Juliana Mayne

Merry Christmas to you and
your family from your Church
Staff! Rick, Karen & Donna.



In case of an emergency in the
First Presbyterian Family please
contact the church office. If after
hours please contact Karen at 712-
251-2589 and she will notify Pastor
Mark.

Volunteers — If you are unavailable on your scheduled date,
please arrange for a substitute and advise the office.
Thank you for your assistance and consideration.

First Presbyterian Church

Sioux City, Iowa



2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Notes: <i>*Your office staff will be at work Monday thru Thursday 9:00 am to 4:30 pm</i> <i>*Office closes each Friday at Noon.</i> <i>* Childcare offered during Sunday worship & Wednesday evenings</i>			1 5:30 Meal 6:15 Bible Study 6:00 Handbells 7:00 Choir	2 <i>Karen out pm</i>	3 <i>Karen out</i>	4
5 9:30 Bible Study 9:30 Choir 9:30 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee 10:30 Worship	6 5:30 Bldg. & Grounds <i>Rick out & Karen out in am for dr. apt.</i>	7	8 5:30 Meal 6:15 Bible Study 6:00 Handbells 7:00 Choir	9	10 Piano tuned	11 10:00 Genealogy
12 9:30 Bible Study 9:30 Choir 9:30 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee 10:30 Worship 11:30 Mission	13 5:30 Personnel	14 12:00 Member Care 6:00 Staff Xmas dinner	15 5:30 Meal 6:15 Bible Study 6:00 Handbells	16	17	18
19 9:30 Bible Study 9:30 Handbells & Youth 9:30 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee 10:30 Worship 11:30 Christian Discipleship	20 12:15 Admin/Fin 5:00 All Staff mtg. 5:30 Music & Worship	21 7:00 Session	22 5:30 Meal 6:00 Handbells	23	24 6:30 Worship 11:00 Worship <i>Office Closed</i>	25
26 9:30 Bible Study 9:30 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee 10:30 Worship 11:30 Deacons	27 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i> <i>Pastor Mark out</i>	28 <i>Pastor Mark out</i>	29 <i>Print Newsletter</i> <i>No Activities</i> <i>Pastor Mark out</i>	30 <i>Pastor Mark out</i>	31 <i>Office Closed</i>	



*Welcome to First Presbyterian Church.
We hope you'll join us for worship
every Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m.*