

December 1, 2022

First Presbyterian Church

608 Nebraska Street, Sioux City, Iowa 51101



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December Worship Service Info



Sunday, Dec 4—2nd Sunday of Advent
1 Peter 2:1-3; The Taste of Christmas

Sunday, Dec 11—3rd Sunday of Advent
Psalm 147:12-18; The Feel of Christmas

Sunday, Dec 18—4th Sunday of Advent
Psalm 150; The Sound of Christmas

Christmas Eve, Dec 24— Early & Late Service
John 1:1-9; The Light of Christmas

Sunday, Dec 25—Christmas Day
Luke 2:21-40; And THEN What Happened?

The apostle Paul said something strange to members of the church in Corinth –

For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved ... a fragrance from life to life.

From 2 Corinthians 2:15-16

How can Christians be a fragrance? Sure, we all may have known someone who had their own peculiar smell, either from lack of bathing or from too much cologne. I once knew an Italian chef who seemed to walk around in his own cloud of garlic vapors! But how can a Christian be the aroma of Christ?

First we have to realize that all of our five senses, including our sense of smell, are important to God (we'll be talking more about this during worship through the season of Advent). When God was giving Moses instructions for the creation of the tabernacle (a portable temple for the Hebrews as they traveled through the wilderness), God gave specific instructions about what aromas people would smell there -

The LORD spoke to Moses: Take the finest spices: of liquid myrrh ... of sweet-smelling cinnamon ... of aromatic cane, and of cassia ... and a hin of olive oil; and you shall make of these a sacred anointing-oil blended as by the perfumer; it shall be a holy anointing-oil ... Take sweet spices, stacte, and onycha, and galbanum, sweet spices with pure frankincense ... and make an incense blended as by the perfumer, seasoned with salt, pure and holy;

From Exodus 30:22-25, 34-35

To God, these particular fragrances, that people would ONLY smell in the tabernacle, would make it a special, sacred place; set aside for worship. Churches continued this tradition through the use of incense in their worship spaces, making the smells of smoke, spices and perfume a part of people's relationship with God. People would come to associate these scents with the presence of the Lord.

So what special smell should we have as Christians? Maybe it's not how we smell, but just the sensation of being around us that Paul is comparing to fragrance. I used to live near a bakery which had vents blowing the hot air from their kitchen out onto the sidewalk, so that anyone walking by smelled fresh baked bread, cookies and pastries. To people passing by, that aroma was proof of what they could receive inside. In the same way, Paul says that we can be "the aroma of Christ". By living according to Christ's word and Christ's example, we can be that evidence to everyone we meet of what faith in Christ can offer them. We can make God's love something they can experience for themselves; something tangible that will make them want more. Even though we may not smell like Jesus, as Christians we can still give the people around us the experience of knowing Christ.

But thanks be to God, who ... through us spreads in every place the fragrance that comes from knowing him.

From 2 Corinthians 2:14

In Christ,
Pastor Mark

Mary's Music Notes—

Looking ahead.....

Dec. 4 Kids/Choir

Dec. 11 Choir

Dec. 18 Handbells

Dec. 21 Handbell Practice/ NO Choir Practice

Dec. 24 Early Service - Besty Stewart

Late Service - Rachael's Vocal Quartet

Dec. 25 Betsy Stewart

Dec. 28 No practices

Jan. 1 TBD - if you have something to share or have a family member visiting that would like to share, please let me know

Jan. 4 Handbell and Choir practices

Jan. 8 Choir/12th Night Ring Handbell Festival @ Eppley Auditorium

All are always welcome to join our music groups whenever it works for you!

Mary Benton, Director of Music



REMINDER

Your church office will be closed Monday, December 26th as well as Monday, January 2nd in observance of the holidays.

On behalf of your office staff—we would like to wish you all a Very Blessed and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Income & Disbursement Summary Through October 31, 2022

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

**2022
Per Capita
amount
is \$42.48**

Income

All pledges, non-pledges & loose collection	\$ 291,670.26
Other operating income	\$ 13,367.45
Restricted donations	\$ 2,011.11
Per Capita	\$ 1,468.16
Total Income	\$ 308,516.98

Disbursements

Mission	\$ 24,462.82
Ministry*	\$ 99,170.05
Music	\$ 5,534.90
Christian Discipleship	\$ 1,167.13
Building & Grounds	\$ 86,148.99
Office and Admin	\$ 14,626.43
Assessment	\$ 13,133.40
Other**	\$ 30,028.18
Personnel Payroll	\$ 109,055.05
Total Disbursements	\$ 383,326.95

Gain or Loss	\$ (74,809.97)
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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.



Previous Months Worship Attendance Report

Oct 30	67 in sanctuary
Nov 6	71 in sanctuary
Nov 13	60 in sanctuary
Nov 20	76 in sanctuary
Nov 27	57 in sanctuary

The following donations were taken to Mary Treglia by Kim & Lauren Messersmith:

Children's

Gloves - 36 pairs; Hats - 21

Hat & Glove Sets - 20

Coats - 5; Shirts - 7

The following were taken to Eric's Closet at the Soup Kitchen by Kathy Zebert

Adult

Gloves - 11; Hats - 8

Scarfs - 14; Coats - 3

Shirts/Sweaters - 10



December birthdays

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



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 finance@1stpresby.com.



Sunday, December 11th is our Christmas Joy offering Sunday. There will be special offering envelopes in the bulletin that day. Thank you for your gift!

Friends,

In the story of God, as we tell it, there is a barrier that exists between the Created world and its Creator. A wall. Sin, we say, separates us from God, and separation from God is unbearable. And our story goes on to say that God, seeing that we had no hope in ourselves of getting over or through or around what separates us, offered us a gift in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, who opens a door — a door we could not open ourselves.

A perfect gift!

The Christmas Joy Offering opens doors of opportunity for the leaders who are shaped and supported through our gifts — doors that lead to hopeful futures for young people at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color and relief for church workers and their families when emergency needs arise.

As we give generously to the Christmas Joy Offering, we seek to not only meet needs, but to meet people, to come through the door that generosity opens. We open the door to celebrate the “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us”! We open the door with each and every student who has already begun to inspire and lead the world. We open the door with each and every church worker who has helped share God’s story with the world.

Christmas Joy Offering

STEWARDSHIP



As of today, November 23, 2022 we have received 39 pledges for a total of \$181,935.00.

Our budget for 2023 is \$473,701.00.

If you have not returned your pledge form and still would like to do so, I have included one below.

Please prayerfully consider your 2023 pledge and return the form in the collection plate or by mail. Thank you.

MY COMMITMENT TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FOR 2023

In grateful recognition that all my time, treasure, and ability come from God,

I gladly join with others in the support of Christ's church.

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____

I pledge \$ _____ for the worship, education, pastoral service, church upkeep, and mission of the church.

To be paid _____ Per Week _____ Per Month _____ Other _____

I understand that I can adjust this commitment at any time by contacting the church office.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Please keep a copy of this pledge as a reminder of your commitment to the work of Christ for 2023

After worship on Sunday, December 4th, we will hold a **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** in the sanctuary. We will be asking the congregation to elect new officers and to approve a proposed budget for 2023. Lunch will be served afterwards.

Christmas Schedule

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

December 24th at 6:30 and 11:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

December 25th at 10:30 a.m.

Pastor Mark will be on vacation from Monday, December 26th through Monday, January 2nd. In case of pastoral emergency, please contact Rev. David Koehler at 712-730-4478.

The **CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED** both Monday, December 26th and Monday, January 1st as our staff enjoys the holidays with their families.

There will be **NO WEDNESDAY EVENING ACTIVITIES** on December 28th. No dinner, Bible study, handbell choir practice or choir practice.



Holiday Cookie & Candy Walk & Craft Sale

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2915 Glenn Ave.

Sat., December 10th ... 9– 11am

Come early for best selection and to finish your holiday gift shopping !

Home Made Cookies & Candy

\$7.00 per pound

We'll do the work –

You enjoy the season!



Dear Church Family,

The Member Care Committee is planning a fellowship time on Christmas Eve for those wanting to stay at the church between the two services. We will enjoy food, games & fellowship together.

If interested and for planning purposes, please let Patty & Jeff Rarick know. Their contact information is below.

Patty.Rarick@gmail.com

Cell 605-670-2707



Curt & Mary Burns delivered these chancel flowers to Marti Calhoun. Look at that smile!

If you would like to order chancel flowers and bring a smile to one of our shut-ins on a Sunday, please contact Mandy Ellis (712)203-1280.



Thank you to our decorating committee for getting us new, beautiful Christmas decorations and a new tree for our sanctuary. Please enjoy these pictures and how wonderful the sanctuary looks.

**Bible Carriers:**

Dec 4: Emmett Rohlena
 Dec 11: Harper Rohlena
 Dec 18: Sage Pierson
 Dec 24: Early—Sya Bates
 Dec 24: Late—Need volunteer
 Dec 25: Need volunteer

Acolytes:

Dec 4: Harper Rohlena
 Dec 11: Hazel Rohlena
 Dec 18: Aidan Hunt
 Dec 24: Early - Sage Pierson
 Dec 24: Late - Need volunteer
 Dec 25: Need volunteer

Tellers:

Dec 5: Brenda Bradley & Vikki Jacobs
 Dec 12: Kathy Zebert & Carol Smith
 Dec 19: Suzan Stewart & Carol Smith
 Dec 27: Vikki Jacobs & Jeff Stanley

Greeter/Usher:

Dec 4: Kevin & Dacia Bates, Bob & Pat Anderson
 Dec 11: Michael & Andrea Rohlena family
 Dec 18: Butch & Mary Floyd, Neva Pierce, Barb Davis
 Dec 24: Early service - need volunteers
 Dec 24: Late service - Juliana Mayne
 Dec 25: Lowell & Judy Vos

Lectors:

Dec 4: John Mayne
 Dec 11: Anne Cowley
 Dec 18: Andrea Rohlena
 Dec 24: Early service - need volunteer
 Dec 24: Late service - need volunteer
 Dec 25: Linda Williams

In case of an emergency in the First Presbyterian Family please contact the church office. If after hours please contact Pastor Bedford at 309-644-0794.

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



2022

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	2	3
4 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Choir 9:30 Bible Study 10:00 Coffee 10:30 Worship 11:30 Congregational Meeting & Dinner following	5 5:30 Bldg. & Grounds	6	7 5:30 Meal 6:00 Handbells 6:15 Bible Study 7:00 Choir	8 7:00 Christian Discipleship	9	10 10:00 Genealogy
11 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Choir 9:30 Bible Study 10:00 Coffee 10:30 Worship 11:30 Lunch Bunch	12	13 5:00 Staff Xmas dinner	14 5:30 Meal 6:00 Handbells 6:15 Bible Study	15 4:30 Memorial	16	17
18 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Handbells 9:30 Bible Study 10:00 Coffee 10:30 Worship 11:30 Deacons 11:30 Mission	19 12:15 Admin/Fin 5:00 Staff 5:30 Music & Worship	20 7:00 Session	21 5:30 Meal 6:00 Handbells 6:15 Bible Study	22 <i>Newsletter dead-line</i>	23	24 6:30 Service 11:00 Service
25 10:00 Coffee 10:30 Worship	26 <i>Office Closed</i> <i>Pastor Mark out</i>	27 <i>Print Newsletter</i> <i>Pastor Mark out</i>	28 <i>No Activities</i> <i>Pastor Mark out</i>	29 <i>Pastor Mark out</i>	30 <i>Pastor Mark out</i>	31

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.....
Office Admin/Finance Mgr.....Karen Heinemann
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.



Hello December



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