

December 1, 2023

## First Presbyterian Church

608 Nebraska Street, Sioux City, Iowa 51101



### In This Issue:

December Worship Info	1
Message from Pastor Bedford	2
Mary's Music Notes	3
Previous month's attendance	4
Financial Report	4
December Birthdays	5
Christmas schedule	5
FPC News	6 - 8
December Volunteers	9
December Calendar	10
Church Contact Information	11

## December Worship Service Info



**Sunday, Dec 3—1st Sunday of Advent  
Luke 4:14-22; What is Coming? Good News!**

**Sunday, Dec 10—2nd Sunday of Advent  
Luke 1:46-55; What is Coming? Justice!**

**Sunday, Dec 17—3rd Sunday of Advent  
Galatians 4:4-7; What is Coming? Redemption!**

**Sunday, Dec 24—4th Sunday of Advent  
Titus 3:4-7; What is Coming? New Life!**

**Sunday, Dec 24— Early & Late Service  
Luke 2:1-20; What is Coming? A Child**

**Sunday, Dec 31—1st Sunday of Christmas  
Welcome Pastor Volkens**

Friends,

“The Lord Is Coming.” Those mysterious words are vague enough to leave room for a lot of interpretation, and that interpretation would often depend on someone’s own view of what they had coming to them! Many times during the history of the people of Israel, they knew they were falling short of the glory of God, but they wouldn’t do anything about it. Often it took the words of a prophet to make them remember the consequences of forgetting their covenant with God. Imagine parents on vacation leaving their teenaged kids alone in their home. The kids start to party with their friends, doing everything their parents told them not to do. Then they get a phone call from their parents who say they’re coming home RIGHT NOW! That’s often how the people of Israel felt when a prophet like Isaiah told them, “The Lord Is Coming.”

*For the LORD will come in fire, and His chariots like the whirlwind, to pay back His anger in fury, and His rebuke in flames of fire. For by fire will the LORD execute judgment, and by His sword, on all flesh;*

from Isaiah 66:15-16

This may be why, as the Gospel of John says, the world did not know or accept Jesus when He came into the world (John 1:10-11). He was simply too different from what they’d come to expect from the coming of the Lord. He was humble. He was gentle. Yes, the Lord was coming, but in Jesus Christ, the Lord was coming to offer wonderful things. The Lord’s judgment was coming; not the judgment of the powerful over the oppressed, but God’s perfect judgment, with righteousness, equity, and truth for all people. The Lord’s righteousness was coming; not our own flawed attempts to be good people, but the undeniable righteousness of God’s love and grace. The Lord’s king was coming; not a king to rule over us as a tyrant, but to stand beside us as an ally and friend. So this new, different coming of the Lord would call for the kinder, gentler imagery which we have come to associate with Emmanuel; “God with us”.

*... say to the cities of Judah, ‘Here is your God!’ See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and His arm rules for Him; His reward is with Him, and His recompense before Him. He will feed His flock like a shepherd;*

from Isaiah 40:9-11

Friends, this is one of the fundamental messages of Advent; in Jesus Christ, the Lord has come. But as Christians, we know we can interpret this message as “tidings of comfort and joy.” The Lord has come into this world, bringing God’s righteousness, God’s inheritance, and God’s salvation for all of us. And just as it has been for us every year of our lives, this is still Good News!

*Sing and rejoice, O daughter Zion! For lo, I will come and dwell in your midst, says the LORD.*

Zechariah 2:10



In Christ,  
Pastor Mark

## *Mary's Music Notes—*

Blessings to all our music members - choir, youth and handbells - your music has been outstanding and wonderful praise to our Lord!!! All of you add so much to worship services.



Looking ahead.....

December 3 Choir

December 10 Choir

December 17 Handbells

December 24 10:30 Choir

4:30 Betsy Stewart and Rohlena Children

7:30 Vocal Quartet

December 31 Special Music - if you would like to volunteer, please contact Mary

January 7 Choir/12th Night Ring Festival

January 14 Choir

January 21 Handbells

January 28 Choir

***Mary Benton, Director of Music***

### **REMINDER**

***Your church office will be closed Monday, December 25th as well as Monday, January 1st 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, 2023



2023  
Per Capita  
amount  
is \$48.76

### Income

All pledges, non-pledges & loose collection	\$ 269,239.29
Other operating income	\$ 12,913.78
Restricted donations	\$ 2,945.89
Per Capita	\$ 1,601.67
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 286,700.63</b>

### Disbursements

Mission	\$ 21,982.20
Ministry*	\$ 100,687.93
Music	\$ 35,339.80
Christian Discipleship	\$ 354.48
Building & Grounds	\$ 86,026.77
Office and Admin	\$ 16,259.89
Assessment	\$ 14,666.10
Other**	\$ 30,260.62
Personnel Payroll	\$ 105,128.43
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$ 410,706.22</b>

---

**Gain or Loss** **\$ (124,005.59)**

\* '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

Nov 5	63 in sanctuary
Nov 12	77 in sanctuary
Nov 19	83 in sanctuary
Nov 26	47 in sanctuary

Attention women of First Presbyterian Church!

The recently formed "Women's Circle" will celebrate the season with a Christmas Party on December 5th. The fun starts at 6:30 pm at Patrice Johnson's house (309 West Pinehurst Trail, Dakota Dunes).

Guests are asked to bring an appetizer to share and two-dozen of their favorite cookies. We are having a cookie exchange so bring a container to haul your treats home. Please join us for some holiday cheer and fellowship.



## December birthdays

2nd - Staci Smith	20th - Chris Ellis
9th - Margaret Behrens	21st - Anne Cowley
9th - Eric Johnson	22nd- Jen Preston
16th - Tim Hynds	23rd - Quentin Durward
20th - Paul Gregory	25th - Helena Lawrence
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 [finance@1stpresby.com](mailto:finance@1stpresby.com).*



Sunday, December 17th is our Christmas Joy offering Sunday. There will be special offering envelopes in the bulletin that day. Thank you for your gift!

## Christmas Joy Offering

### Christmas Schedule

DECEMBER 24TH

10:30 A.M. – Morning Worship Service, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

4:30 AND 7:30 p.m. - Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Pastor Mark will be on vacation from Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> through Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup>. In case of pastoral emergency, please contact Rev. David Koehler at 712-730-4478.

The **CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED** both Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> and Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup> as our staff enjoys the holidays with their families.

There will be **NO WEDNESDAY EVENING ACTIVITIES** on December 27<sup>th</sup>. No dinner, Bible study, handbell choir practice or choir practice.

# SCOUT TROOP 225, BSA

CHARTERED BY KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS #5660

## CHRISTMAS TREE PICKUP & DISPOSAL

\$15.00 FOR 1ST TREE

\$10.00 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL TREE

SIOUX CITY, DAKOTA DUNES, N. SIOUX CITY, & S. SIOUX CITY

WHEN: DEC 30. (BAD WEATHER DATE IS JAN 6)

Trees must be on curb and clean of all decorations by 8:30am

TO ORDER YOUR PICK-UP CONTACT

ROBYN MELLANG @ 712-485-4289 OR [ROBYN-K989@GMAIL.COM](mailto:ROBYN-K989@GMAIL.COM)





# Holiday Cookie & Candy Walk & Craft Sale



## *Westminster Presbyterian Church*

2915 Glenn Ave.

**Sat., December 9th ... 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!



**SOUP & DESSERT SUPPER**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2023**

**4:30—7:00 pm**

**Rustin Avenue Community Church, Sioux City, IA**

**2901 Leech Avenue**

**Adults: \$10.00    10 & under: \$4.00**

## STEWARDSHIP

As of today, November 27, 2023 we have received 42 pledges for a total of \$276,740.00.

Our budget for 2024 is \$485,853.00.

Please prayerfully consider your 2024 pledge. Thank you.



**MEMBER CARE CORNER**

Month of December:

Sunday Fellowship Coffee: Music/Worship Committee

Wednesday Night Dinners\*\*\*: Barb Davis (402-679-6640)

Lunch Bunch: Not hosting in December-Enjoy dinners with your family & friends

Fellowship between Christmas Eve services contact Patty Rarick for details

Prayer Shawls: Volunteers are needed to crochet or knit more shawls. Please contact a committee member if you would like to know more details. Ron Rohlena has donated yarn for this project & a pattern is available.

Month of January:

Sunday Fellowship Coffee: Christian Discipleship

Wednesday Night Dinners\*\*\*: Building and Grounds Committee

\*\*The session committees that are hosting the Sunday coffee and Wednesday dinners will gladly take anyone from the congregation that would like to volunteer to help for a meal. If you are interested, please contact a committee member serving that month. \*\*\*



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](mailto:Patty.Rarick@gmail.com)  
 Cell 605-670-2707

Please come and help decorate the Sanctuary on Saturday, December 2nd for the Christmas season. We will begin at 9:30 AM.  
 Thank you!!



**Acolytes:**

Dec 3: Sage Pierson  
 Dec 10: Harper Rohlena  
 Dec 17: Hazel Rohlena  
 Dec 24: Emmett Rohlena  
 Dec 24: Early - Need volunteer  
 Dec 24: Late - Need volunteer  
 Dec 31: Need volunteer

**Lectors:**

Dec 3: Gerald Messersmith  
 Dec 10: Pat Anderson  
 Dec 17: Randy Benton  
 Dec 24: Judy Vos  
 Dec 24: Early service - need volunteer  
 Dec 24: Late service - need volunteer  
 Dec 31: Lowell Vos

**Tellers:**

Dec 3: Jeff Stanley & Vikki Jacobs  
 Dec 10: Lance Eybers & Curtis Burns  
 Dec 17: Jeff Stanley & Sarah Steill  
 Dec 24: Kathy Zebert & Brenda Bradley  
 Dec 31: Sarah Steill & Vikki Jacobs

**Greeter/Usher:**

Dec 3: Anne Cowley, Kathleen Morfitt, Butch & Mary Floyd  
 Dec 10: Vicki Ackerman, Juliana Mayne, Lowell & Judy Vos  
 Dec 18: Butch & Mary Floyd, Neva Pierce, Barb Davis  
 Dec 24: Michael & Andrea Rohlena family  
 Dec 24: Early service - need volunteers  
 Dec 24: Late service - need volunteers  
 Dec 31: Bob & Pat Anderson, Neva Pierce

**We're looking for a smart phone or tablet to use for recording our church services and events. If you have a device that you're not using, please consider donating it to our church. Just contact Pastor Mark. Thanks!**

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



**2023**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><u>Notes:</u></p> <p><i>*Your office staff will be at work Monday thru Thursday 9:00 am to 4:30 pm</i></p> <p><i>*Office closes each Friday at Noon.</i></p> <p><i>* Childcare offered during Sunday worship &amp; Wednesday evenings</i></p>					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Choir 9:30 Bible Study 10:00 Coffee 10:30 Worship 11:30 Member Care	<b>4</b> 5:30 Bldg. & Grounds	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 5:30 Meal 6:00 Handbells 6:15 Bible Study	<b>7</b> 7:00 SSC Madrigal	<b>8</b> 7:00 SSC Madrigal	<b>9</b> 9:30 Decorating the Sanctuary
<b>10</b> 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Choir 9:30 Bible Study 10:00 Coffee 10:30 Worship	<b>11</b> 5:30 Personnel	<b>12</b> 4:30 Christian Discipleship	<b>13</b> 5:30 Meal 6:00 Handbells 6:15 Bible Study	<b>14</b> 6:00 Staff Xmas dinner	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Handbells 9:30 Bible Study 10:00 Coffee 10:30 Worship 11:30 Deacons 11:30 Mission	<b>18</b> 12:15 Admin/Fin 5:00 Staff 5:30 Music & Worship	<b>19</b> 7:00 Session	<b>20</b> 5:30 Meal 6:00 Handbells 6:15 Bible Study	<b>21</b> Newsletter deadline	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24/31</b> 10:00 Coffee 10:30 Worship 4:30 Early Service 7:30 Late Service  10:00 Coffee 10:30 Worship	<b>25</b> <i>Office Closed</i>  <i>Pastor Mark out</i>	<b>26</b> <i>Print Newsletter</i>  <i>Pastor Mark out</i>	<b>27</b> <i>No Activities</i>  <i>Pastor Mark out</i>	<b>28</b>  <i>Pastor Mark out</i> <i>Karen Out</i>	<b>29</b>  <i>Pastor Mark out</i> <i>Karen out</i>	<b>30</b>

# 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](http://www.1stpresby.com)  
Office email: [office@1stpresby.com](mailto:office@1stpresby.com)  
Pastor: [pastor@1stpresby.com](mailto:pastor@1stpresby.com)  
[Twitter@1stChurchSCIA](https://twitter.com/1stChurchSCIA)

Office Administrator [finance@1stpresby.com](mailto: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..... Sarah Brown  
Office Admin/Finance Mgr.....Karen Heinemann  
Custodians.....Rick Heinemann

### 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.*