

First Presbyterian Church - Lake Park, Iowa

www.fpclakepark.org

Worship Service 10:30 am

Dec. 18, 2022 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Musical Prelude – Time to prepare your heart for Worship

Announcements

Lighting of Advent Candle and Advent Prayer:

L: Today we look to living in God, we celebrate the gift of Peace! Let us walk in the Light of God's peace. Let the nations beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks and let us walk in the Light of Our God!! (Isaiah 2:4)

C: May the peace of God, which is beyond understanding, guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus! (Phillipians 4:7)

(Light all purple and pink candles)

All: Most High God, for you nothing is impossible.

Through a poor young woman in a small town,

You give birth to your realm of endless glory.

By your Holy Spirit,

Fill us with new life and hope and

Overshadow us with your power and grace

So that we, like Mary, might be your servants,

Bearing witness to the promise of your Word;

Through Jesus Christ, who is coming to reign.

Amen. (Luke 1:26-38)

Call to Worship: *(read responsively, stand if able)*

Leader: All creation holds its breath

C: The time is almost here

Leader: The heavenly choir of angels waits for its cue to sing

C: Excitement is all around us

All: We gather to make ready our hearts for the coming of Christ

Hymn of Praise: "O Come All Ye Faithful" #249 *(remain standing)*

Call to Confession: (Leader) *(remain standing if able)*

Annual Turkey Dinner Announcement

As you are all aware, the intention of our fundraiser this year was for the funds to be used to pay down the church roof loan.

We are SO PLEASED to announce that through many of you giving over the past months in combination with an extremely generous anonymous donation:

**Donations for this year's fundraiser
totaled \$10,402.26 for our church
OUR ROOF LOAN HAS BEEN
PAID IN FULL**

Praise God from whom all BLESSINGS flow

Sunday Quote to Ponder:

If you feel you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping in a tent with a mosquito – African Proverb

Or just take note of the difference one anonymous donor has made, or the birth of one little baby in a manger. Never underestimate the power of one single soul. Your actions count. BE THE CHANGE



***GOING TO BE ALONE ON CHRISTMAS? FAMILY NOT COMING HOME?
WE WOULD LOVE TO COOK FOR YOU!***

***JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS DINNER AT THE LAKE PARK
UMC FELLOWSHIP HALL ON DEC. 25TH SERVING 11:30 - 1:00
HOSTED BY GARY&JUDY TABER, MATT&LISA CARSTENSEN, & EMMA
PLEASE CALL TO RSVP SO WE KNOW HOW MUCH FOOD TO PREPARE.
JUDY 712-330-3831, GARY 712-260-1318
MATT 712-346-8312 OR LISA 712-330-0967***

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Reading of Scriptures: (*stand if able*)
Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25 (page 1497)

Sermon: A Story of Faith

Affirmation of Faith: The Apostle's Creed

Christmas Joy Offering: supports Church Leaders – past, present, future

Offertory: Doxology #815

Prayer for Tithes and Offering (*Leader*)

Lord, let our congregation be a witness to you: immersed in scripture, constant in prayer, joyful in worship, generous in giving. Accept these gifts we offer and use them to further your kingdom on earth, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord

All: Amen

Prayers: Sharing of Joys and Concerns; Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Thanksgiving (*read responsively*)

Leader: For the faithfulness of Mary

C: For the courage of Joseph

All: We give thanks

Leader: For the blessing of faith-filled relationships

C: For the loving care which surrounds us as a result

All: We give thanks

Leader: Above all, for the gift of your son Jesus Christ,

C: For the truth of his Word and the example of his life

Leader: For his dying, through which he overcame death;

C: For his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom

All: We give thanks, Amen

Benediction

Closing Hymn: "O Thou Joyful, O Thou Wonderful" #282 (*stand if able*)

MINISTRY LEADERS

Worship Music: Denise Lev **Worship Leader:** Donna Flint
+ All members are ministers of Jesus Christ +

12/11/22 - Attendance: 21

Regular Offering: \$442 *Turkey Dinner (Total):* \$10,402

***Reminder: Per Capita for 2022 - \$43.00; Per Capita 2022 Pd: 23**

From our Presbytery: Pray for Theological
Institutions in the PC (USA)



If you have Pastoral Needs, please call the Church
Office 712-832-3401

Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday 8:00 – 11:00 am
For urgent matters outside of office hours contact
Church Secretary Marcy Troendle (712) 320-3508

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- **Sun Dec. 18: Christmas Joy Offering** at 10:30 Service
- **Thu Dec. 22: Newsletter deadline** 11:00 am
- **Sat Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Scripture and Song Service**
6:30 pm candle light service – First Presbyterian Church
- **Sun Dec. 25: Communion Sunday and Christmas Sunday**
SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 am Worship Leader – Rev Mark Volkers
Communion Setup: Marcia Schumacher, Assistant: Ken Byers
- **Sun Dec. 25: Christmas Dinner** Lake Park United Methodist
Church Fellowship Hall serving 11:30 – 1:00 *details on back page*
- **Sun Jan. 1, 2023: Sunday Worship Service**
SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 am Worship Leader – Al Grigg

Birthdays to Remember this week:

Donna Stoltenberg – TODAY December 18th

Rhonda Roseboom – December 19th

Nicole McClain – December 20th

Chandler Brons – December 25th

ATTENTION:

Christmas Joy Offering: TODAY!!!

Sunday, December 18th is our final Special Offering for 2022. The Christmas Joy Offering supports our Church Leaders – past, present, and future! Your gifts here will reflect our generous God by supporting the leaders sharing God’s Word about our precious gift from above. When we all do a little, it adds up to a lot! The offering envelope was in last Sunday’s bulletin with extra envelopes at the Deacon station today as you enter the sanctuary. Return yours today, and please give generously. *Every generous act of giving...is from above. – James 1:17*

Advent Wreath Lighters:

December 18 – Dick & Loretta McClain
December 25 – Jim & Marilyn Kessler

Thank You to those involved in decorating our Church for Christmas!

Poinsettias – The poinsettias adorning our sanctuary are from:

Kurt & Bonnie Anderson – in Memory of Loved Ones
Betty McClure – in Bud’s Memory
Terry Wiese – in Memory of Wayne Wiese
Lesleigh Wiese – in Memory of Dennis Wiese, Glenn & Ardith Ehret
Dick & Loretta McClain – for God’s Blessing to All
Ken & Marvel Byers – in Memory of our parents and Brian Byers
Jeanie Hawn – in Memory of my parents and brother

There is still a sign-up sheet in the Narthex poinsettias in 6” pot (only white remain) with bow and foil wrap available for \$20.00 each for the 2022 season. Write in your name and honorary/memorial message.

December Food Bank: Our monthly community Food Bank in December served 61 families, with a total of 110 people. Serving others; being the hands and feet of Jesus: this is why we are here!

Walkers Welcome – The church is available for walking weekly Tues thru Fri from 8:00 – 10:00 AM thru March. The Fireside room can be used for breaks, cool down, or fellowship. Any weather-related schedule changes will be relayed by way of a call chain.

Prayer of Confession (*Unison, remain standing if able*)

**Holy God, we so often place our trust
In the things we can see, and touch, and easily believe.
But you did not ask us to believe what is easy,
You have asked us to believe what is true!
Forgive us, Holy One, when we doubt the ways you work.
Forgive us when we find it hard to believe an ancient story.
Forgive us when we question how you chose to enter the world,
Born as one of us.
Forgive our lack of faith and belief in ways
Which seem so impossible to believe.
Help us to look in faith, open our belief,
And set aside our doubts that you sent your Son –
The one who has come to set us all free.
We offer these prayers in the name of your Son,
Emmanuel, God with us. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon (*read responsively*)

L: Friends believe this good news- through Jesus Christ we are forgiven
C: Thanks be to God. (Take a breath) Amen.

Gloria Patri # 812

Special Music

Prayer for Illumination (Leader)

Draw us close, Holy Spirit, as the Scriptures are read and the Word is proclaimed. Let the word of faith be on our lips and in our hearts, and let all other words slip away. May there be one voice we hear today — the voice of truth and grace.

All: Amen.

Reading of Scriptures

Epistle: Hebrews 11:1-12 (pages 1874-1875)

Hymn: “My Faith Looks up to Thee” # 539 (*remain seated*)