

2nd Sunday of Advent

8:50 a.m.

December 6, 2015

Welcome members, friends and visitors to our service this morning. We would ask you all to complete the friendship pad located in your pew. Thank you for your help. Welcome Packets for our visitors and guests are available at the Visitor Center.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME

PRELUDE Eulyn Riemersma & Arla Stover
"Carol of the Bells"

ADVENT READING & LIGHTING OF THE SECOND CANDLE
Dennis & Joyce Colton, Lisa Richter & family

CALL TO WORSHIP --written by John Birch

Leader: In this season of expectation we prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, Messiah.

People: Into the bustle of our lives and the hard to find moments of solitude we prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, Messiah.

Leader: Into our homes and situations along with friends and families we prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, Messiah.

People: Into our hearts, and those often hidden parts of our lives we prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, Messiah.

All: Come, Lord Jesus and meet us in this place.

* HYMN 8

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

* OPENING PRAYER --written by John Birch

Loving God, beneath the surface of your story is an inescapable fact: You entered this world.

As vulnerable as any one of us, you came in order to nail that vulnerability to the cross.

We give you our fears, our insecurities and our sins—

all that can separate us from you— exchanged by your Grace for Love. We cannot comprehend the reasoning, only marvel that Salvation comes to us through a baby born in a stable, and reaches out to a world in need. In this season of anticipation we prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, Messiah. Amen

* GLORIA PATRI

CHILDREN'S TIME Doug Stueven

HYMN 22 (vs 1-2)
"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

SCRIPTURE READING
(Page in the Pew Bibles)

ANTHEM Chancel Choir
"All On A Bethlehem Night"

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:8-20
(Page 1014 in the Pew Bibles)

SERMON Clint Loveall
A Light for All

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH --written by Nathan Nettleton
We believe in God, creator and lover of the earth, origin and destiny of us all.

We believe in Jesus the Christ— God coming to us in the fragile promise of a baby yet unborn— God's laughter in the face of despair, he broke free the captives and is leading the way to the land of promise where justice and peace will flourish.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who implants the seed of truth, brings us to birth as the body of Christ, and empowers us to confront and transform all that is corrupt, degrading and deceitful.

We believe in the coming reign of God. Announced by the Baptist, near to us in Jesus, consummated in

the glorious marriage of earth and heaven, when all who have passed through the world's deep sorrow will be lifted up, robed in righteousness, and gathered into the joyous fulfilment of God's desire.

For the coming of that day on this day, we work and pray: Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

JOYS AND CONCERNS

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you

People: And also with you

Leader: Lift up your hearts

People: We lift them up to the Lord

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give God our thanks
and praise...**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

8th Grade Handbell Choir

"3-fold Amen"

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

OFFERING

Offertory

8th Grade Handbell Choir

"The Little Drummer Boy"

* Doxology

* Prayer of Dedication

* HYMN 13

"Prepare the Way"

* BENEDICTION

"Go Now In Peace"

POSTLUDE

Nordman

"Postludium in F"

* **Those who are able** are invited to stand.



First Presbyterian Church

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Nursery Available for Pre-K and under

- **Large print "BULLETINS AND HYMNALS" are available from an Usher-**
- **Busy Bags available in the Narthex**
- **Coffee is served immediately following the Worship Service in Fellowship Hall.**

Participating in this morning's Reformed service are: Clint Loveall & Michael Gewecke, Pastors; Walter Mendenhall, Liturgist; Eulyne Riemersma, Pianist; Ushers are Jill Jennings, Kelly Swancutt, Ron Niebruegge & Bob Peterson; Greeters are Les & Marlene Noll; Jackie Jenkins, Mike Reekers, Pat Butler & Roger Rieck, Sound; Keith Brockmeyer, Video; Laurie Steinkuehler & Katelyn Brockmeyer are in charge of the Nursery; Jim & Mary Quitno prepared our coffee.

Thank You

We would like to give a HUGE thank you to everyone for their thoughts & prayers during my stay at the hospital! Also to all who generously prepared meals & donated gift cards to us to help during that time. We are so fortunate & thankful to be a part of such a wonderful church family! We have definitely felt the power of prayer, God is Good!

Cassidy & Stacy Howard & Family

Church School Snacks

A sign-up sheet and **PEANUT/ NUT-FREE SNACK LIST** has been placed in the library window. Please take a snack list and sign up for your favorite date!! 5 dozen snacks and 2 large juice (not red) are needed in the Cantina for Church School by 9:45am each Sunday morning.

Message from the Deacons

The Deacons ask for your help in order that we might continue to help with special needs in our congregation and in the community. If you know of any needs, please give them to the attention of Kirk Jensen or any Deacon.

Please use the "Deacon Envelopes" located in the pew racks to make contributions each Communion Sunday for the work of the Deacons. We are the hands and feet of Jesus and may He find us faithful in His service.

FPC Christmas Luncheon

The women of our church and community are invited to attend the Annual Presbyterian Ladies Christmas Luncheon. The date is Thursday, December 10th at 12:30pm. Following the luncheon, a program will be presented by Jennifer Dukes Lee on "Have Yourself a Pre-Approved Christmas." Please join the Presbyterian Women for an afternoon of great food and inspirational fellowship.

Decorating the Tree

Saturday, December 12th at 10:00am, please join us as we decorate the tree for Advent/Christmas. With many hands, this should go quickly! Hopefully this will be a good way to share some time together as we journey toward Christmas. Please plan to join us!

Advent Poinsettias

This year we will be supporting another Mission Project. If you would be willing to share a poinsettia (\$11) with us and/or donate to this year's Mission Project, (\$15), please contact Cheri in the office at 336-1649. Please let her know if this poinsettia is in memory of, or in honor of someone.

Decoration & Light Preparation

On Monday, December 7th at 9:30am please join in going through the Christmas decorations and lights to make sure they are all ready to hang.

Adult Sunday School Classes

Beginning November 8th

- **Faith in Films** ~ led by Jan Bolluyt
- **Reformed Faith 101** ~ led by Clint Loveall

Christmas Celebration

Instead of an evening Youth Christmas Program like we have done in the past, the Christian Education committee will be hosting a Christmas celebration on December 13th during the Christian Education hour between classes. Our festivities will begin at 10:00am and include a Christmas cookie exchange, Christmas goodies, and creating Christmas cards for shut ins and service members. Pre-K-3rd grade students will offer a short musical program at 10:30am and the Confirmation class will also be providing a living nativity to follow.

Christmas Caroling

The congregation will be sharing Christmas carols with shut ins and community members on December 16th starting at 6:00pm. All students and families are invited to join us for our pizza dinner starting at 5:30pm and join us as we share Christmas favorites with others!

High School Christmas Party

This year's High School Christmas Party will be held on December 16th starting at 7:00pm. Join us for a white elephant exchange, Christmas music, Christmas goodies, and Christmas related games. It will be a night full of fun and fellowship. We look forward to seeing you there!



Wednesday, December 9th

Meal: Jambalaya

Meal Crew: WE NEED MEAL CREW WORKERS!!

Adult Classes

- **True Spirituality by Chip Ingram** ~ led by Pam DenHerder
- **A Modern Girl's Guide to Bible Study: A Refreshingly Unique Look at God's Word by Jen Hatmaker** ~ led by Rachele Gewecke
- **Women of Faith: by Eric Metaxas** ~ led by Pastor Clint

Recharge Meal Servers Needed

A sign-up sheet is posted in the narthex and ready for you to sign up to help set up, serve and cleanup for our weekly meals at Recharge (formerly WNF).

Children's Quilts ready to finish

The children's quilts are in the fellowship hall and ready for completion. Please take them home and complete one or as many as you like. In the past these quilts have been given to CAASA, DC Public Health for the New Moms program, LRH for the new babies, Kinship, SL Library, Prospect Hill Presbytery, Full Gospel Mission and the Parkersburg tornado victims. Lap Quilts have been given to Hilltop and Milford Nursing Center. Please help with this project which provides warmth to many members of our community and beyond.

Thank You & A few Fun Facts Operation Christmas Child 2015:

- 1.) A total of 122 boxes were donated by our church family! That's fantastic!
- 2.) 3 youth did a wonderful job giving weekly OCC promotion announcements during worship: Katelyn Brockmeyer, Pressley Cochran-Bray and Annika Stecker!!!
- 3.) Much appreciation to Nadine Hough for making colorful fabric drawstring bags and to Eulyn Riemersma for knitting beautiful caps and darling dolls that could all be included in our shoe box gifts!!
- 4.) On Sun., Nov. 22nd, the Stecker Family helped the OCC Committee load the 122 shoe box gifts that were then delivered to Good News Church in Okoboji. From there they were delivered to Worthington (a Collection Center). Next our area's gifts went to Minneapolis (a Processing Center) and then on to Chicago where they were shipped to these countries: Barbados, Burundi, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Suriname, Tanzania, Togo, Trinidad, and Tobago.

Lakeshore Center Advent Series

Throughout the Sundays in Advent, the Lakeshore Center will be hosting an Advent series called *Finding Refuge in Advent* at 5:30pm. On December 13th they will be having a rep from the Dream Center come and speak about human trafficking. For the activity that night, they will be assembling welcome kits for new guests at the Dream Center. Our church has been asked to help gather items to be included in the welcome kits. **Here are some suggested items:** full size shampoo & conditioner, body wash, bath pouf, toothbrush and toothpaste, Feminine hygiene products, brush/comb, nail clippers/files, snacks, journal w/pen, slippers, books, hot chocolate packs.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 6

- 8:15am-Prayer in the Chapel
- 8:50am-Reformed (1st) Service
- 10:00am-Coffee and fellowship
- 10:10am-Sunday School
- 10:15am-Confirmation
- 11:15am-Reforming (2nd) Service
- 2:00pm-Worship Service at Hawkeye

Monday, December 7

- 9:00am-PW Sewing
- 9:30am-Decoration Preparation
- 5:00pm-Worship Comm Mtg
- 6:30pm-Christian Ed Comm Mtg

Tuesday, December 8

- 1:30pm-Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, December 9

- 5:30pm-Recharge
- 6:45pm-High School Youth
- 7:00pm-2nd Service Rehearsal
- 7:00pm-Handbell practice
- 7:50pm-HS Act II
- 8:00pm-Chancel Choir practice

Thursday, December 10

- 8:00am-Foster Care Review Board
- 9:00am-Men's Bible Study
- 12:30pm-PW Christmas Luncheon

Saturday, December 12

- 10:00am-Decorating of the Tree

Sunday, December 13

- 8:15am-Prayer in the Chapel
- 8:50am-Reformed (1st) Service
- 10:00am-Coffee and fellowship
- 10:10am-Sunday School
- 10:15am-Confirmation
- 11:15am-Reforming (2nd) Service

Rides to and from church for this week is Kirk Huisenga ~ 330-9825, next week is Kirk Jensen~ 320-6997.

Hospital Deacon: Kirk Huisenga

Week of December 13

Reformed (1st) Service

Liturgist: Annika Stecker

Ushers: Jill Jennings, Kelly Swancutt, Ron Niebruegge & Bob Peterson

Greeters: Les & Marlene Noll

Video: Owen Primavera

Nursery 1st: A. Webber & L. Kraus

Nursery 2nd: Lindsay VanderWolde

Coffee: Steve & Jan Richards

Each week we remember First Pres families in prayer, this week

please pray for
Tom & Deb Ditsworth
15430 215th Ave., Spirit Lake
Chris, Bev, Brianna & Brice Pratt
3706 Jackson Ave., Spirit Lake

Please pray for our members and friends of this church family who are facing various health concerns: Maddie DeWitt, Chris Koehler, Nicole Hintz, Ethan Burk, Jody Ferguson, Shane Feist, Grant Vietor, Jim & Judy Arens, Mary Smith, Anita Stockdale, Jamie Nebelsick, Jose Reedy, Barb Hanisch, Jay Anderson, Bill Estes, Kay Monson, Marv & Barb Rohlf, Pat Dalton, Donna VanHolland, Gene Kuehn, Kathy Hoppe, Connie Hoppe, Tom Gruber, Lori Johnson, Marj Roseberry, Marcia Andersen, Mitchell Elmquist, Melinda Gustafson, Talia Patton, Velma Ashburn, Martha Woodard, Connor Rowley, Betty Lamer, Roberta Carlson, Stacy Howard, Mark Voss, Andrew Grau, Hannah Brumley, Audrey Wiersma, Ray & Marilyn Miller, Ruth DeJong, Hannah Poolman, Dean Miller, Karen Holst, Cooper Bartels, Mandy Vicker, Tom Brodie

Please pray for our members and friends who serve in the Armed Forces: Staff SGT **Jamie Lewis**, 1st LT **Whitney Lewis**, 2612 SE 8th St., Moore, OK 73160; SSG **Frederick, Jesse**, 975 Culverson Ct., Clarksville, TN 37040, **Billy Joe Travis**, Sioux City Navy Recruiting Office, Sioux City, IA, **Ryan Mackey**, 829th EN CO, 519th MP BN, APO AE 09342, **Kyle Klaassen**, PFC, 49 Ann St., Milford, IA 51351, SPC **Orvis Nygaard**, Laramie, WY

Missionaries

Revs. Greg and Christine Callison: Greg and Christine were sent out by World Missions as "Pastors-Evangelists-Relief Workers". In addition to sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with Kurds and encouraging followers of Jesus to grow in their faith and obedience to Christ, they also work with IDPs (Internally Displaced People), especially Christians, who have fled to the safe Kurdish region from areas of violence. They are both involved in peacemaking and building bridges between locals and IDPs, also people of various faith and ethnic communities living there. First Presbyterian Church has supported Greg and Christine since 2013.

Habitat for Humanity
PO Box 204, Spencer, IA 51301

Habitat for Humanity International is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian Housing organization. It works in partnership with people in need to build or renovate affordable housing. Local volunteers and donated time/funds/land are utilized to achieve their objectives. The parent organization, through local chapters, has been responsible for building over 1 million houses around the world.

The Northwest Iowa Corridor's chapter includes both Clay & Dickinson Counties and has aided several families in attaining a total of 12 affordable dwellings. Habitat thanks First Pres members for funding and volunteering in many of these builds. Jan Bowles, a member of our church, serves on the Board of the local chapter. The organization is currently looking at a new project in the Milford area.