

December 20, 2020
Fourth Sunday of Advent

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR MEDITATION

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26
Luke 1:26-38

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.
Isaiah 9:2

The Church Gathers To...

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Katie Styr

Preparation for Worship

Worshippers are invited to meditate silently during the following prelude.

Prelude

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

Praise Almighty God

Call to Worship *(and lighting of Advent candle)*

The Greim Family

Joy to the world!

Our God is coming to bring us good news.

May we sing songs of praise and gladness together.

We know that our Savior reigns, giving us reasons to celebrate each and every day.

In this season of Advent, we prepare for the joy that God brings into our lives.

We light the candle of joy, and rejoice that Jesus Christ will soon be born!





1. "Sleep - ers, wake!" A voice as - tounds us; the shout of ram - part
 2. Zi - on hears the watch - men sing - ing; her heart with joy - ful
 3. Lamb of God, the heavens a - dore you; let saints and an - gels



guards sur - rounds us: "A - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, a - rise!"
 hope is spring - ing; she wakes and hur - ries through the night.
 sing be - fore you, as harps and cym - bals swell the sound.



Mid - night's peace their cry has bro - ken, their ur - gent sum - mons
 Forth he comes, her Bride - groom glo - rious in strength of grace, in
 Twelve great pearls, the cit - y's por - tals: through them we stream to



clear - ly spo - ken: "The time has come, O maid - ens wise!
 truth vic - to - rious: her star is risen, her light grows bright.
 join the im - mor - tals as we with joy your throne sur - round.



Rise up, and give us light; the Bride - groom is in
 Now come, most wor - thy Lord, God's Son, in - car - nate
 No eye has known the sight, no ear heard such de -



sight. Al - le - lu - ia! Your lamps pre - pare and has - ten there,
 Word, Al - le - lu - ia! We fol - low all and heed your call
 light: Al - le - lu - ia! There - fore we sing to greet our King;



that you the wed - ding feast may share."
 to come in - to the ban - quet hall.
 for ev - er let our prais - es ring.

Confess to a Forgiving Creator

Prayer of Confession

Dear God, as the prophets announced the coming of a Savior for the world, we admit our doubts in this present time of uncertainty and hard times. Forgive us when our doubts take us away from obedient faith. Forgive us if we prefer the darkness instead of your light. We turn to you in love and trust. Restore to us the joy of our salvation in this Advent season, and show us how to share your light and grace by your Spirit within us. In Christ we pray, amen.

Assurance of Pardon

God has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins, through Christ we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Listen for God's Word

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 9:1-3, 6-9

Luke 1:46b-55

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Light and Salvation

Rev. Pat Halverson

Respond to God's Word

Affirmation of Faith *(from A Brief Statement of Faith)*

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives.

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image to live as one community.

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.

With believers in every time and place,

we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Offering Our Gifts and Lives to God

In the gift of money, we offer something of our work and selves to God.

To donate, please visit the church website, fpcdavenport.org, and click on "Donate Now," use the link: <https://bit.ly/2V8nEgm>, or mail your check in to the church office

Once in Royal David's City

Arr. Richard Walters

Tenor - Dave Bowles Edwards, Piano - Alex Gilson

Presentation of Our Gifts and Lives to God

Please sing the Doxology.

Prayer of Dedication

God, as you came to us in Christ, we offer to you in Christ's name these gifts to be used to help bring the good news in word and deed to many. May these gifts be used to bring light to this present darkness.
Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

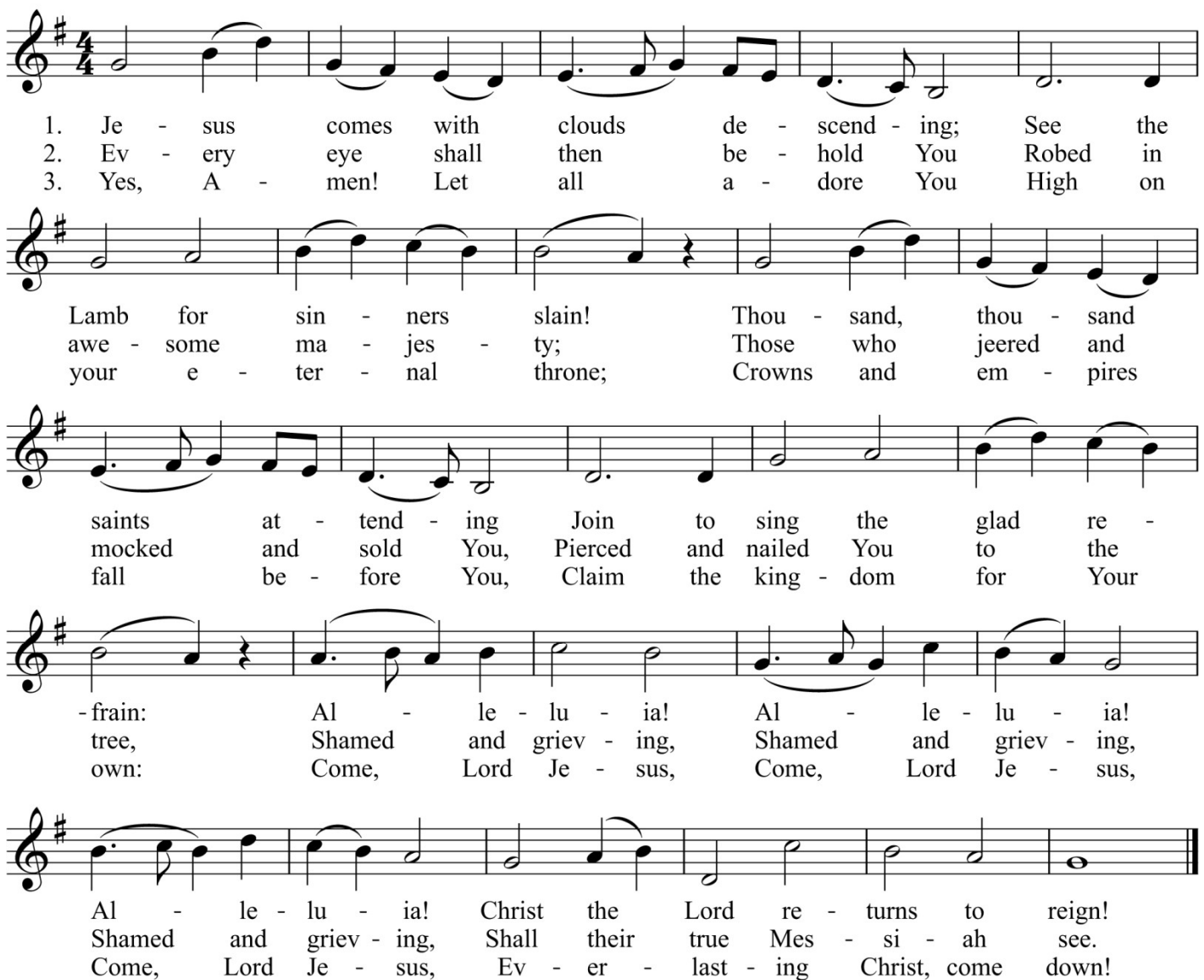
The Lord's Prayer

Go To Serve With God's Blessing

Hymn

Jesus Comes With Clouds Descending

HELMSLEY



1. Je - sus comes with clouds de - scend - ing; See the
2. Ev - ery eye shall then be - hold You Robed in
3. Yes, A - men! Let all a - dore You High on

Lamb for sin - ners slain! Thou - sand, thou - sand
awe - some ma - jes - ty; Those who jeered and
your e - ter - nal throne; Crowns and em - pires

saints at - tend - ing Join to sing the glad re -
mocked and sold You, Pierced to and nailed You to the
fall be - fore You, Claim the king - dom for Your

- frain: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
tree, Shamed and griev - ing, Shamed and griev - ing,
own: Come, Lord Je - sus, Come, Lord Je - sus,

Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign!
Shamed and griev - ing, Shall their true Mes - si - ah see.
Come, Lord Je - sus, Ev - er - last - ing Christ, come down!

Benediction

Rev. Pat Halverson

Postlude

Nun komm der Heiden Heiland, BWV 660

J. S. Bach

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Death: Jacqueline Mae Butcher – December 8, 2020

Prayers are Welcome for: Sharon Boron; family of Jacqueline Mae Butcher; Judy Fritz and family (*death of mother Madelyn Tornquist*); family of Harold W. Jackson; family of Barbara Melby; Duane Timm and Jeff Gomez; Judith Wade (*death of brother John William Gerst*); Jim Woods (death of mother); families and victims of abuse, addiction, violence, loss, suicide, COVID-19, and all recent natural disasters.

Christmas Joy Offering: The Perfect Gift

God saw the great needs of the world and offered a perfect gift, Jesus Christ. In Jesus, we receive the perfect gift of God being with us, and of being with those in need—the gift of being together when we are near, and being together when we are apart.

When we give to the Christmas Joy Offering, we share our love with the leaders of our Church — past, present and future. We step forward to be with young people of color who attend Stillman College (Tuscaloosa, Alabama), Presbyterian Pan American School (Kingsville, Texas), and the Menaul School (Albuquerque, New Mexico), providing financial support for their education and leadership development. We also step forward to be with church workers and their families who have faithfully served the church but find themselves in critical financial need because of changing health situations or an emergency.

50% of your gifts make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

50% of your gifts provide assistance for current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs.

Thank you for your gift to the Christmas Joy Offering — for when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

Please give on the church website or mail in your donation.

Adult Christian Education (ACE): “People, Look East” - A Four-Part Study of Advent Hymns

Director of Music Matt Bishop continues his four-week ACE study on Advent hymns over Zoom at 10:45 AM. This interactive presentation covers in depth 1-2 hymns each week from multiple perspectives: discussion of the text, the historical and biblical contexts surrounding the text, and an investigation into the music and how the hymns have been adapted beyond the realm of basic hymn singing. The presentations utilize a resource titled “People, Look East” from The Presbyterian Leader. The schedule of the lessons mirrors the singing of these hymns as part of our Sunday morning worship:

Today: “‘Sleepers, Wake!’ A Voice Astounds Us”

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86534524349?pwd=ZkZHRkdMVIVweHJWdHpNdXp3WmR4UT09>. You may also join by phone by dialing (312)626-6799 and inputting the Meeting ID (865 3452 4349) and the Passcode (ACE).

Blue Christmas Service - Today, 6:00 PM on Zoom

A Blue Christmas service is a time of contemplation and calm worship where Christians can lift up their grief from the year and find solace in God. If you’ve had a year that makes holiday joy hard, or just need a break from having it all put together, join us for song and prayer. This service will be a chance to remember those who have passed away in 2020, as well as the fear, anxiety, and loss which can make Christmas a difficult time for some. You are invited to join us for a time to worship and ask for God’s comforting presence.

Join us on Zoom at: <https://zoom.us/j/93696223181?pwd=a0N6Qy8rYkRCd1dQOUltV3NrT2cyQT09> or to call in dial 312-626-6799 and enter the meeting ID: 936 9622 3181 and passcode: 363576.

Videos Wanted for Church Christmas Card

It’s been a long time since we’ve seen each other, so we’re preparing a video Christmas card and need your help! Please record yourself or your family saying a quick one sentence greeting (like “Merry Christmas!” “Happy Holidays!” “We miss you!” “God loves you!” “Happy Birthday, Jesus!”, etc). Send those messages to Katie at styrt@fpcdavenport.org by December 21. If you’re not sure about recording but want to send a greeting, contact Katie and we’ll work something out!

Bible Basics 201 - Tuesdays, 6:15 pm

This Advent, we'll explore Fratelli Tutti, Pope Francis' new encyclical, and its lessons for all Christians. Anyone is welcome to take part in this class!

December 22: Chapters 7-8

In January, we'll share a three-part study of the Book of Hebrews. This letter was written to Jewish Christians living in Jerusalem, and is an elegantly-written exploration of Christ's role in the world.

January 5: Hebrews 1-4

January 12: Hebrews 5-8

January 19: Hebrews 9-13

January 26: The Jordan River

We'll meet 6:15-7:15 PM on Tuesdays over Zoom until further notice. The Zoom address will stay the same.

Join online: <https://zoom.us/j/98965381440?pwd=TUdyMXltRTMrRXdFWnBEZ0NEKzBYUT09>

Meeting ID: 989 6538 1440

Passcode: 240979

Poinsettia Pick Up

If you would like to take home the poinsettia you donated, please stop by the church no later than noon on Wednesday, December 23 to do so. Rev. Pat Halverson will deliver the remaining flowers to shut-ins that afternoon.

The Christmas Services of First Presbyterian Church - Thursday, December 24, 2020

4:00 PM Christmas Eve Zoom Pageant

Join us for a children's pageant on Zoom! Each family is invited to pick up bags with costumes and other Christmas goodies. We'll come together for a relaxed retelling of the Christmas story with lots of participation, movement, and fun! You can pick up your bag between 9:00 AM and noon from December 21-23. If you need another pick-up time, just contact Pastor Katie and we'll make sure your family gets their goodies! Anybody and everybody who wants to tell the Christmas story together is welcome to join us, so feel free to grab bags for your grandkids. Join us on Zoom at meeting ID 993 4898 1656 (the password is the church's zip code).

7:00 PM Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols Service

This year, our traditional service of scripture, prayer, and carols will be available online. This service will be pre-recorded, so that we can have as many musicians as possible! Join us for a Facebook watch party at 7:00 PM on Christmas Eve, or watch the service later in the evening with your family. We will celebrate Holy Communion virtually, so have your elements ready.

9:00 PM Christmas Eve Drive-Through

At 9:00 PM, the church will host a Drive-Through Christmas Eve experience. Load up your household to drive along a path lined with luminaries along the church property, and stop briefly at various stations to hear masked carolers and other Christmas music and receive candles and a book of prayers and devotions.

Kirkwood Choir Schedule – Wednesdays, 6:00-6:30 PM

Kirkwood Choir meets on scheduled Wednesdays from 6:00-6:30 PM via Zoom. Please contact Linda Bengfort for further information.

December 24 – IN RECESS

December 30 – IN RECESS

Church Offices (Mostly) Closed – Monday, December 28 - Friday, January 1

Our amazing Finance Director Kristine Olson will be available during the week, but all other church offices will be closed. Please call Kristine to schedule an appointment.

Congregational Meeting – Sunday, January 3, 11:00 AM

The Session has called a special Congregational Meeting for Sunday, January 3, 2021 at 11:00 AM. The purpose of the meeting will be the election of officers. Those being nominated to serve as Elders are Mike Ferris, Ruth Ann Tobey Brown, Jim Woods, Patrick Downing, David Edwards, Jeff Ehrmann, and Jim Dereus. Those being nominated to serve as Deacons are Ted Brown, Matt Hennes, Siobhan Wood, Katrina Williams, Erin Sodawasser, John Gere, and Al Frolich. The nominees for the 2021 Nominating Committee will be presented next week.

The meeting will be held over Zoom. You must be present at the meeting to vote. Sixty (60) members are needed for a quorum.

Topic: FPC Davenport Congregational Meeting

Time: Jan 3, 2021 11:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96501005951?pwd=Nlc5dEVMNzRoT1FTei9iaHBqclhZQT09>

Meeting ID: 965 0100 5951

Passcode: 883275

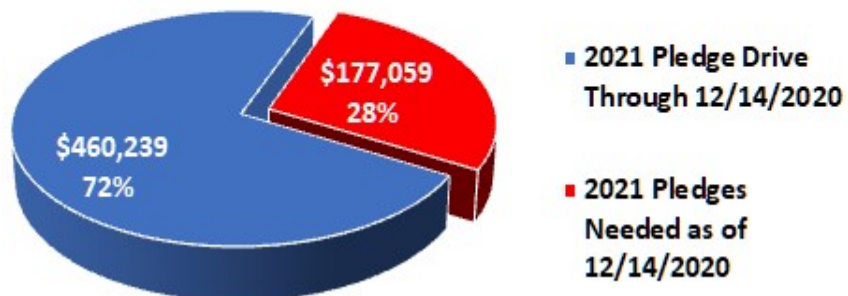
You can also join by phone by dialing 312-626-6799 and entering the meeting ID and Passcode

Church Officer Training – Sunday, January 10, 1:00 PM

It's official – we're sharing officer training with three other churches, and doing it over Zoom. We're still planning the event, but it'll be on Sunday, January 10 at 1:00 PM.

2021 Stewardship Update

Amount Pledged as of 12/14/2020



A sincere thank you to everyone who has returned their 2021 Stewardship Cards or set-up their online pledges! Your generosity and commitment to the many missions of FPC has resulted in a total of \$460,239 confirmed pledges as of December 14, 2020. This is a great start, but we are still \$177,059 short of matching the 2020 Pledge drive. There is still time to turn in your card or set-up your online pledge. Please contact Kristine Olson, Finance Manager, at olson@fpdavenport.org or (563) 326-1691 x219 if you have any questions.

Sunday School is Online!

Attention parents! Join us on Zoom for Sunday School! We meet from 10:30-11:00 AM every Sunday for Bible stories, sharing, and learning together. For security, the Zoom link is being emailed - please be sure to register for Sunday school (or contact Pastor Katie) so we can get your kids involved! There will be no Sunday School on December 27.

Cherubs and MusikGarten – Sundays, 10:30 AM and 11:00 AM

Cherubs and MusikGarten continue to meet this fall on Zoom at new times to coincide with our Sunday School schedule. MusikGarten will meet from 10:30-11:00 AM. Infants through three year-olds and their parents are invited to come to MusikGarten. Cherubs will meet from 11:00-11:15 AM following their Sunday School class that begins at 10:30 AM. Cherubs are in pre-school and Kindergarten. If you have questions about either group, contact Kathy Middleton (kathrynbl5@gmail.com; 563-505-0471.)

Christian Education for Youth (CEFY) Spring 2021

Kirkwood Club Schedule

Save the date for our upcoming Kirkwood Club activities! We'll meet on Wednesdays from 6:00-6:45.

January 27

March 24

February 24

April 28

Hope to see you there! To get Kirkwood Club updates, email Katie at styrt@fpcdavenport.org, or text @fpcdkids to 81010.

Youth Group Schedule Update

Until COVID rates go down, ACT and EPIC will be meeting monthly for games and activities.

Save the date for youth group fellowship activities! Everyone is welcome. We'll also have service activities, time and date *To Be Announced* depending on the project. We'll meet Sundays from 1:00 - 1:45 PM.

January 24

March 28

February 21

April 18

To get youth group updates, email Katie at styrt@fpcdavenport.org, or text @612thgra to 81010 (or add @612thgra on the Remind app).

Join Online!

For more information, see the e-news, church website or Facebook:

Worship Watch Party - Sundays, 9:30 AM

Midweek Prayer - Wednesdays, 12:00 PM, via Facebook

2021 Per Capita - \$38 per member

Per Capita is the annual contribution each Presbyterian makes to support our denomination's local, national, and international ministries. 2021 Per Capita due is \$38 per member, which is the same amount due for 2020. A member is one who has been confirmed or has been welcomed into the congregation by confession of faith, letter of transfer from another congregation, or reaffirmation of faith. If you wish to pre-pay your 2021 Per Capita prior to December 31, 2020, please indicate as such with your payment. You can submit your annual Per Capita by mail or you can pay online.

Session Highlights – December 2020

- Approved the membership of David Bowles Edwards by letter of transfer.
- Received a report from the Nominating Committee which included a full slate of Elders and Deacons to begin their service in 2021. We are thankful for those accepting these nominations. Election of officers will be done at a Congregational Meeting on January 3, 2021.
- Received an early report from the Synod Administrative Review Committee (ARC). It included the recommendation that a team be established to identify a potential facilitator(s) for a reconciliation process. The team will include the Co-Moderators of the Presbytery of East Iowa (Rev. Lori Wunder and Rev. Dan Jessop), three elders from FPC, and our current Moderator, Rev. Pam Saturnia. The Session selected Elders Tom Spitzfaden, Mike Ferris, and Diane Roebuck to serve on this team. A recommendation on a facilitator is to be forwarded to the Synod ARC no later than January 15, 2021. The full report from the ARC is expected by the end of January.
- The Session approved the following statement: "The Session of First Presbyterian Church Davenport condemns the vandalism and expressions of hate directed toward Temple Emanuel on Thursday, December 10, 2020. The use of Christian scripture to attack a Jewish community is shameful. We stand in support of the members of the Temple Emanuel congregation."
- Financially, the church will end the year with income exceeding expenses. Much of this is due to a marked reduction in expenses (no sanctuary worship and current vacancy of the head of staff). We have also been using more money from custodial funds and have received income from sources that are not expected in 2021.

- Projections are that 2021 will be a difficult year financially. Pledges are significantly below a year ago. If you have not pledged for 2021, please consider doing so. Current pledges represent only 72% of 2020 pledges.
- The Session prayed for and thanked those Elders who are completing their service to the congregation this year. We are grateful for the contributions of Elders Pam Paulsen, Samantha Crow, Barbara Ehrmann, Dick Koos, and Matt Hennes. Matt Hennes is resigning from the Session in order to serve on the Board of Deacons.



Christmas Flowers 2020

The poinsettias that grace the chancel and surround the Nativity figures in the narthex are given in memory or honor of the following loved ones who are held in grateful affection.

In Loving Memory Of

John Bates, Greg Bates, Q. & Mildred Wallace, and Ruth & Harvey Bates, given by Jo Bates

Paul Eckert, given by Beverly Eckert

Robert Francois and Jeffrey Francois, given by Mary Ann Francois

Christine Johnson and Kathy Price, given by Brian, Kathlynn, Aidan, and Keian Price

Lois & Orv Kahler and Jim DeKalb, given by Alan & Lynnell Haverkamp

Kenneth & Dorothy Kinney and Henry & Miriam Lamb, given by Rob & Kathy Lamb

Alice & Alfred Magnusson, given by their daughter, Jane Magnusson

Don Magnusson, given by his sister, Jane Magnusson

Ken & Joan McCay, given by their Loving Family

John Norton, given by Vivian Norton

Lola J. Paulsen and Rachel J. D' Auben, given by Pam Paulsen

Ronald & Alice Ruiter, John & Martha Ruiter, Alvin & Helen Stueland, and Amos & Helen Folkedahl, given by Karla R. Ruiter

Nancy Van Hook, given by Craig Van Hook

LeGene Vaughn, given by her daughter, Nancy Foster

Grandma & Grandpa Oswald and Grandpa Sodawasser, given by Kristine, Erin & Patrick, and Ian

In Honor Of

Matt & Caitlin Bishop for their heart and dedication to the Music Ministry of First Presbyterian Church! From The Sanctuary Choir

The Chancel Guild wishes to thank all those who through their donations made it possible to beautify the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church this Christmas Season. Due to pre-recording of services, families may arrange to pick up a plant by 2:00 PM on Wednesday, December 23 to enjoy at home this unforgettable Christmas Season.