

January 3, 2021
Second Sunday of Christmas

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR MEDITATION

Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Galatians 4:4-7

Psalm 148
Luke 2:22-40

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

“From [Christ’s] fullness, we have received grace upon grace.”
John 1:16

The Church Gathers To...

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Pat Halverson

Preparation for Worship

Worshippers are invited to meditate silently during the following prelude.

Prelude

Joy to the World

Praise Almighty God

Call to Worship *(Ana Gobendale)*

People of the world, it is time to celebrate new beginnings.

We step into the new year with faith!

People of faith, it is time to look ahead in hope.

We step into the unknown with hope!

People of hope, it is time to walk in the footsteps of Jesus.

We step forward together as God’s family!



1. As with glad-ness men of old did the guid-ing star be-hold;
2. As with joy-ful steps they sped, Sav-ior, to thy low-ly bed,
3. As they of-fered gifts most rare at thy man-ger, rude and bare,
4. Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-ery day keep us in the nar-row way;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright;
 there to bend the knee be-fore thee, whom heaven and earth a-dore;
 so may we with ho-ly joy, pure and free from sin's al-loy,
 and when earth-ly things are past, bring our ran-somed souls at last



so, most gra-cious Lord, may we ev-er-more be led to thee.
 so may we with will-ing feet ev-er seek thy mer-cy seat.
 all our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heaven-ly king.
 where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo-ry hide.

Children's Message

Rev. Pat Halverson

Confess to a Forgiving Creator

Prayer of Confession

God, the source of all good, we know we are a blessed people. But we admit, we miss previous blessings that we often took for granted. Forgive us if we have lacked gratitude for what all we do have. Forgive us for coveting the blessings others have. Help us to find the good even in this time of loss. May we to rely on you for what we need, and share your goodness to us with others. Fill us with hope for another year of trusting in you. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

In Christ we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace. **Thanks be to God.**

Listen for God's Word

Scripture Readings

Jeremiah 31:7-12

John 1:10-18

Ephesians 1:3-14

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Every Spiritual Blessing

Rev. Pat Halverson

Respond to God's Word

Affirmation of Faith (*from the Belhar Confession*)

We believe in the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects and cares for the church through Word and Spirit. This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end. We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints called from the entire human family. We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ; that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells. To the one and only God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be the honor and the glory for ever and ever.

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

The Star Carol

Alfred Burt

Tenor - Dave Bowles Edwards, Piano - Alex Gilson

Presentation of Our Gifts and Lives to God

Please sing the Doxology.

Prayer of Dedication

Loving God, as we begin this year, we set aside a portion of the "first fruits" of your blessings to us. May we be faithful in giving and in using these gifts for your work in our community and in the world. 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

Go Tell It on the Mountain

GO TELL IT

Go, tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and ev - ery - where;

Fine

go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

1. While shep-herds kept their watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2. The shep-herds feared and trem - bled when lo! a - bove the earth
3. Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,

to Refrain

be - hold, through-out the heav - ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

Benediction

Rev. Pat Halverson

Postlude

Prelude, Fugue and Chaconne in C Major, BuxWV 137

Dietrich Buxtehude

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Death: Cathie Nichols, December 17, 2020

Prayers are Welcome for: Sharon Boron; family of Jacqueline Mae Butcher; Judy Fritz and family (*death of mother Madelyn Tornquist*); family of Rose Galitz (*death of mother of Marianne Marcek*); family of Harold W. Jackson; family of Barbara Melby; family of Cathie Nichols; 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; FPC members and all other healthcare professionals receiving the COVID vaccine – Marty Bowles Edwards, Nate Curl, Jeff Gomez and Julie Grothusen. We give thanks for the more widespread availability of the vaccine to come in the new year.

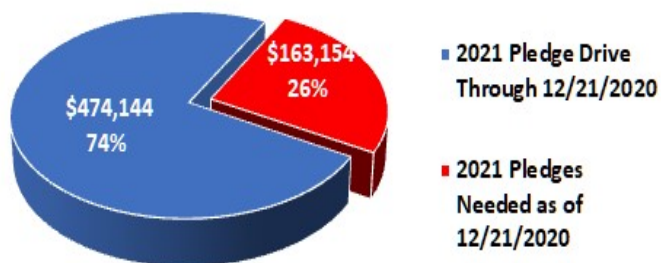


David Bowles Edwards

Certificate of Transfer

After graduating from Iowa State University with a degree in vocal performance, David moved home and found work with the River Bandits, landed a role in FPC's production of "How to Succeed in Business" and has continued singing at church and finding local business employment, now at Cookies and Dreams. David has had his companion dog, Navy, for two years now and enjoys disc golf, kayaking, sports, and continuing to serve with FPC Davenport.

Amount Pledged as of 12/21/2020



2021 Stewardship Update

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 \$474,144 confirmed pledges as of December 21, 2020. This is a great start, but we are still \$163,154 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.

Bible Basics 201 - Tuesdays, 6:15 pm

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

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.

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

Kirkwood Choir is currently IN RECESS, but meets on scheduled Wednesdays from 6:00-6:30 pm via Zoom. Please contact Linda Bengfort for further information.

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.