



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



1702 Iowa Street
Davenport, IA 52803
A Congregation of the
Presbyterian Church
(U.S.A.)

November 28, 2021
First Sunday of Advent
Worship at 9:30 a.m.

Welcome!

We are an open and affirming congregation, and a proud member of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians (covnetpres.org).



People of all sexual orientations and gender identities are welcome here, along with their families.

We are a
Matthew 25 church



MATTHEW 25

Matthew 25 congregations identify themselves as working toward one or more of three goals: building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism and eradicating systemic poverty.

SCRIPTURES FOR MEDITATION

Psalm 25
Jeremiah 33: 14-16
1 Th. 3: 9-13
Luke 21: 25-36

"In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land."

Jer. 33:15



"The Tree of Jesse," by Nicholas Papas (St. Philip Antiochian Orthodox Church, Houston, Texas). With Jesse at the bottom, this icon features images of (bottom row, left to right) Habakkuk, Micah, Gideon, Ezekiel, Amos, and Balaam, and (top row, left to right) Daniel, Moses, David, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Samuel, with the Virgin Mary and infant Jesus at the center. Learn more about Papas's contemporary iconography at <http://www.saintdemetriuspress.com>.

Preparation for Worship

We invite you to meditate silently on art, music and Scripture.

*Worshippers who are able, please stand. **Bold** indicates congregational response.

The Church Gathers To...

Prelude Prelude on "Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland", BWV 659 J. S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Pat Halverson

Minute for Mission Stewardship Committee Ruling Elder Patrick Downing

Praise Almighty God

Our Staff

Rev. Dr. Kathy Stoner-Lasala

Bridging Pastor

Rev. Sue Howes

Associate Pastor Emerita

Rev. Pat Halverson

Parish Associate

Sarah Greim & Paula Hartmann

** Interim Christian Ed. Coordinators*

Matt Bishop

Director of Music

Alex Gilson

Principal Organist

& Assistant Director of Music

Linda Bengfort*

Assistant Choral Director

Kathy Middleton*

Assistant Choral Director

for Children

Kristine Olson

Finance Manager

Susan Parker

Church Administrative Assistant

Kandis Cooper*

Nursery Coordinator

Darren Long

Facilities & Custodial Supervisor

Kevin Wilson

Custodian

Chad Dean*

Custodian

** Part-time employee*

First Presbyterian Church

1702 Iowa Street

Davenport, Iowa 52803

Phone: 563-326-1691

Outside office hours, this number will go to the pastor on call in case of emergency.

For more information, see the e-news, church website or Facebook www.fpcdavenport.org

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Robert J. Powell, arr., "Postlude on Veni, Emmanuel" (©2000 Augsburg Fortress.)

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Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Greim Family

Reader 1

adapted from Rev. Elissa Bailey, adapted from Spill the Beans

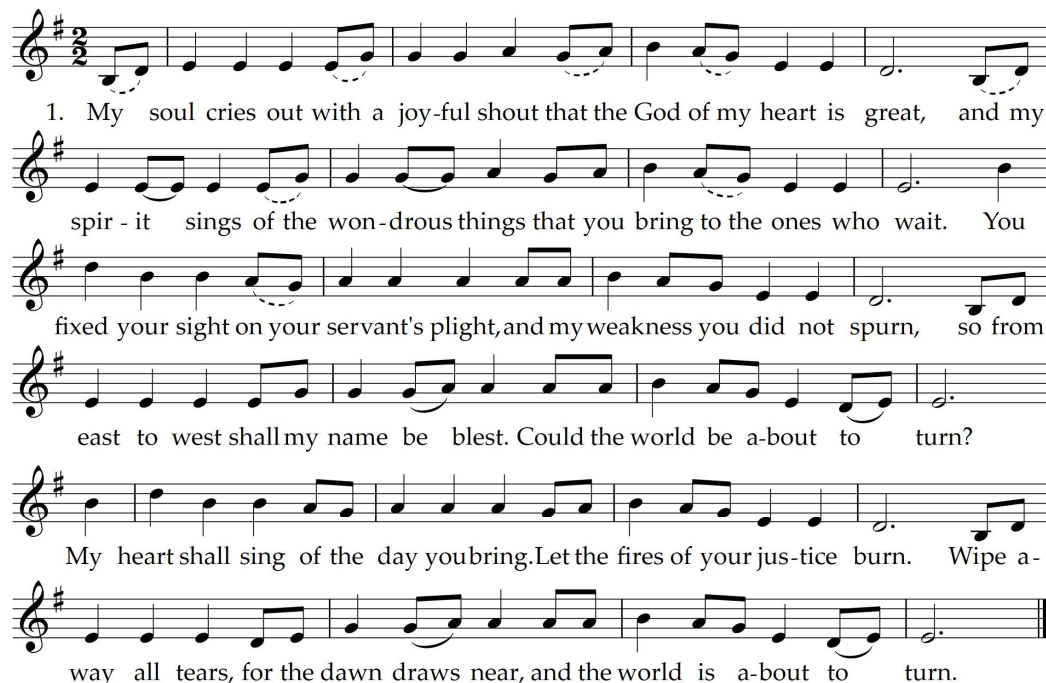
We light this Advent Candle of Hope as we wait for what is to come. This candle reminds us of the promise God has given to us: to send a Savior.

(All sing together)

Hymn

Canticle of the Turning, verse 1

Irish Folk Tune



Reader 2

Let us pray: Almighty God, you know how easily we can go through a day feeling as if there isn't much left of us.

Especially in this busy season,

remind us of the new life and new breath that you have placed in us.

Breathe into us, O God, the Hope that comes from you alone.

And then send us out into a world that sees despair at every turn and guide us as we point to your light.

We ask it in the name of the One we call Hope; Amen.

Call to Worship

from Psalm 25

To you, O LORD, we lift up our souls;
in you we trust.

**May we know your ways, O LORD;
teach us your paths.**

**Lead us in your truth,
for you are the God of our salvation.**

We are mindful of God's mercy and steadfast love.

**We are grateful that you do not remember our sins,
because of your goodness.**

As we worship this day,
may God teach us that we may walk in his ways.

We lift our hearts to worship our God of steadfast love and faithfulness.

***Hymn #9**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2. O come, Thou Day - spring, come and cheer Our spir - its by Thine
 3. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind All peo - ples in one

Is - ra - el, that mourns in low - ly ex - ile
 ad - vent here; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of
 heart and mind; Bid - en - vy, strife, and dis - cord

here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 night, And death's dark shad - ows put to flight. Re - joice! Re -
 cease; Fill the whole world with heav - en's peace.

joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

Confess to a Forgiving Creator***Call to Confession**

Our king of kings and Lord of lords, Jesus Christ longs for us to know life in all its fullness and offers us renewal and refreshment, hope and forgiveness.
 Let us trust in the promise of the gospel as we make our confession:

***Prayer of Confession**

O God, you gave us life and long for our wholeness. We know our failures are many, and we ask that you reveal what pulls us down. Forgive our sins of thought, word and deed, and lead us to restored fellowship with you. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

This is the promise we have from God: "A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you." In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Listen for God's Word**Prayer for Illumination**

Gracious God, illumine these words by your Spirit,
 that we might hear what you would have us hear,
 and be who you would have us be,
 for the sake of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Jeremiah 33:14-16

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Luke 21:25-36

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Children's Message

Ruling Elder Sarah Greim and Friends

JOYS & CONCERNS

In Our Prayers: For comfort, the Family and Friends of those killed and injured in mass motor vehicle accidents in Wisconsin and Texas, Dottie Tavor, Dick Wells and Cheryl McCulloh; and for God's presence with those who are grieving, Kristine Olson, Teresa Lasala, Jim and Lori Lasala, Sarah Hennes, Dorothy Bain, Lynette, Brenda Cole, David Milnes, Hudson Stoner, Rebecca Koos; Barb Thede, families and victims of gun violence, abuse, addiction, violence, loss, suicide, COVID-19, and all recent natural disasters; FPC members and all others receiving the COVID vaccine.

For Your Information:

Mission Partners: Rev. José Pilar Alvarez Cabrera and Rev. Nestor Eduardo Alvarez (*leaders of ILUGUA, Zacapa, Guatemala*); Alice Chikomo in Harare, Zimbabwe; Veda Gill (*Presbyterian Education Board, Pakistan*).

Hospital visits: the Pastors make hospital visits when patients give permission and when pandemic precautions permit.

InTouch Information: If you or a loved one is unable to attend church services and would enjoy a contact from one of First Presbyterian's In-Touch members, please contact Deacon Bev Koos (563-676-0292).

The Prayer Chain connects those in need of prayer with church members who are committed to a ministry of prayer. All requests may be directed to Mary Ann Francois (563-355-5292).

Printed Prayer Requests require permission from the person(s) in need of prayer before prayers are printed in the bulletin. The best way to assure a hospital visit or a prayer is to notify the church office directly (563-326-1691).

Prayer Shawls are available for you to give to those you know who are experiencing a challenge or joy. For your choosing, a variety of shawls are hanging on the coatrack near the main office.

Jeremiah 33: 14-26

"The days are surely coming," says the Lord, "when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days, Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'"

Luke 21: 25-36

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the reign of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Sermon

"How Should We Then Live?"

Rev. Pat Halverson

Respond to God's Word

Affirmation of Faith

from Philippians 2: 5-11

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross. Therefore, God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord!

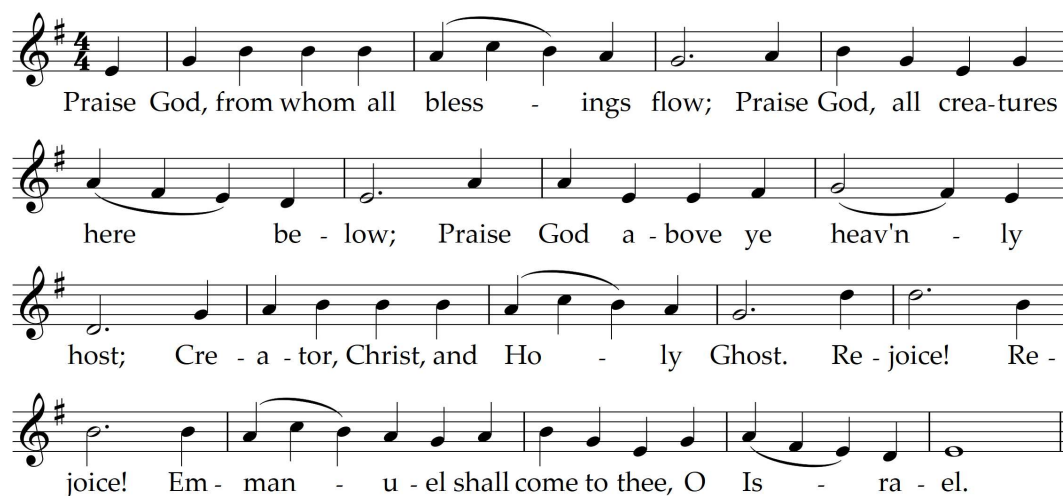
Offering Our Gifts and Lives to God

With gratitude for God's faithfulness and with thanksgiving for all that we have received, let us bring our gifts to God.

Fantasia on "Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern" Dietrich Buxtehude

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.

*Presentation of Our Gifts and Lives to God



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise God, all crea-tures
here be - low; Praise God a - bove ye heav'n - ly
host; Cre - a - tor, Christ, and Ho - ly Ghost. Re - joice! Re -
joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Table Sursum Corda

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 ...

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving The Prayer of Jesus

Confirmation Class

Our God Who is above, Holy is your Name; allow us into Heaven.

May your requests of us be completed in our lives,
as well as where you have spread your word.
Give us this time to fill our souls.
Forgive us for what we have done wrong
and others who have done wrong to us.
Don't let us follow wrongdoings and shield us from harm,
for your home is our home.
Almighty love and glory we give to you now and for eternal life. Amen.

Words of Institution
Communion of the People
Prayer Following Communion

Go To Serve With God's Blessing

*Hymn #8

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

TRURO

1. Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates, Be - hold, the
2. Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; Make it a
3. Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide My heart to

King of glo - ry waits; The King of kings is
tem - ple, set a - part From earth - ly use for
Thee; here, Lord, a - bide. Let me Thy in - ner

draw - ing near; The sav - ior of the world is here!
heaven's em - ploy, A - dorned with prayer, and love, and joy.
pres - ence feel; Thy grace and love in me re - veal.

*Charge and Benediction

Let us go from this place knowing Christ has come to us,
and will come again for us.
Between these two advents...

May the grace of our Lord Jesus,
the love of God,
and the companionship of the Holy Spirit
be with you and abide with you this day and forevermore. Amen

Postlude

Postlude on "Veni, Emmanuel"

Robert J. Powell

Printed contact-free

Pickleball is Back!

Monday and Wednesday

9:00-11:00 AM

We play pickleball in the FPC gym on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:00-11:00 AM. All are welcome to join the fun! Please contact Diane Schroder for more information.

Caring Closet Update

The Caring Closet is open on Tuesday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to noon, and on Friday afternoons from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

We're planning a holiday shopping event for parents on Nov 30 and Dec 7 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

We are collecting the following items:

Toys, games and books (new or gently used)

Clothing (all sizes) especially sweatshirts, sweaters, coats, jackets, scarves, hats and gloves/mittens

Shoes (children and adult)

Boots (children and adult)

Men's and Women's Underwear (all sizes, new)

Socks

Accessories-purses, scarves, jewelry, men's ties and belts

Towels, washcloths

Bedding—sheets, blankets, pillows

Kitchen items

Toiletries (shampoo, conditioner, bath soap, deodorant, feminine hygiene items, etc.)

Disposable diapers (all sizes)

We receive donations during the hours we are open as well as on Sunday mornings from 10:45 - 11:45 a.m.

Session Highlights for October 2021

Elders met with Rev. Beth McCaw our Reconciliation Facilitator on October 18th as part of Beth's process of meeting with individuals and groups in the congregation.

Communion was approved for Sunday, November 28, 2021 (the first Sunday of Advent) and for the 9 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

The church purchased a new snow-blower. Let's hope it is seldom used.

Two items were approved by Session with the hope of increasing communication between Session and the congregation.

An electronic comment/suggestion box is going to be created so that congregational members can submit comments that will then be forwarded to Session.

An informational congregational meeting will be held mid-year from the Annual Congregational Meeting.

The Session approved a policy that all FPC employees be fully-vaccinated for COVID-19 with first shot by November 1, 2021.

Requests for reasonable accommodations for medical reasons that are signed by a licensed medical professional will be considered by the Personnel Committee on a case-by-case basis.

An updated and revised Child Protection Policy was approved.

A new Deacon requested program of holding Giving Tuesdays was approved. Initial items to be requested will be personal hygiene items, underwear, or cash to purchase these same items. Distribution will be through the Caring Closet.

Introducing our Church Administrative Assistant: Susan Parker!



Susan Parker was born in 1966 in Detroit, Michigan. She relocated to the Quad Cities at a very early age.

Susan brings to the table 18 years of experience as an Administrative Assistant. During this time, she has continued to make a difference in her local community, working with local Non-Profit organizations in the Quad Cities area such as Trinity Broadcasting Network.

Susan graduated from Bettendorf High School and is proud to say that she was the first African American woman to graduate from Bettendorf High School.

Susan's experience as a single mother of five children, Michael, Aaron, Jasmine, Stacia, and Christopher, and 11 grandchildren gives her a unique understanding of the barriers and struggles that working families must endure today.

Welcome, Susan!

Chancel Guild Announcement About Poinsettias

In the tradition of past Christmas seasons, the Chancel Guild will brighten the Sanctuary with poinsettias given in memory or honor of loved ones. To be a part of this wonderful tradition, please complete and return the form below to the church office or place in the offering plate. The deadline for making memorials is Wednesday, November 24. You are welcome to pick up your poinsettia after the service on either Sunday, December 26th, or Sunday, January 2nd, or leave it for another congregation member to enjoy.

In Memory or Honor of: _____
(Circle one)

Given by: _____

Called Meeting of the Congregation

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Davenport, Iowa has called a Special Meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, December 12, 2021, immediately following the worship service for the elections of a Pastor Nominating Committee and Pastor Nominating Committee and Church Officers.

Angel Tree Project

The season of giving is upon us! It's time to start thinking about Christmas and how we can help those least fortunate. FPC is teaming up with Bethany for Children and Families to provide new Christmas gifts to Quad City families who receive services through Bethany.

Gift tags will be available for pick up after the service on November 21 and 28th. Each tag includes a child's name, age, size, gender and gift suggestions. You can help by picking up one or more tags, buying suggested gifts, and returning gifts to Fellowship Hall by Wednesday December 8th. Gifts must be new and unwrapped. Total gift for each recipient should not exceed \$45. Bethany will wrap and deliver gifts in time for Christmas.

Bible Basics 201 – December 2021 Lessons

Bible Basics will be in recess on Wednesday, November 24, 2021.

On December 1st, we will begin an Advent/Christmas series. The lessons will look at the gospel stories of Jesus' birth. Here is the link to the lessons: [Incarnation: Fleshing Out the Bible's Christmas Stories - Yale Bible Study](#). Watch the video for each week and then join us for our fellowship and discussion on Wednesdays at 6:15 PM.

December 1: Come Thou Unexpected Jesus – the Gospel of Matthew

December 8: Savior of the World – the Gospel of Luke

December 15: Word Made Flesh – the Gospel of John

Bible Basics 201 will be in recess on December 22 & December 29. We will meet again on January 5, 2022.

Please contact Mark Jones (mkjones@mchsi.com) for more information. Here is the Zoom link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82283095977?pwd=VnJFdmcwcmFJua3hSWEpQanNBVFhFdz09>

Meeting ID: 822 8309 5977

Passcode: 215593

Cocoa and Caring ...

Warm Hands and Warm Heart

Once again, this winter, we will reach out to our First Church neighborhood with hot cocoa, candy canes, warm mittens, gloves, hats and lots of Christmas spirit.

On **Tuesday December 7th between 3 and 5pm**, we will hand out Christmas blessings at a table outside the front doors of the sanctuary on Kirkwood Boulevard.

Now is the time to start bringing donations of these items to place in the container at the back of the church sanctuary. Any questions, call or text Cathy Pratscher-Woods at 563-349-2288.



Weekly Program Schedule

Online Worship Watch Party

Sundays, 9:30 a.m., for more information, see the e-news, church website or Facebook.

MusikGarten

Sunday, November 28 – in RECESS

Online, Sundays, 8:30 a.m.

Cherub Choir and Sunday School

Sunday, November 28 – in RECESS

Sunday, **December 5**, 10:35 – 11:20 a.m. Cherub Choir, CE Building, 3d Floor

Kirkwood Choir and Sunday School

Sunday, November 28 – in RECESS

Sunday, **December 5**, 10:35 – 11:20 a.m. Kirkwood Choir, CE Building, 3d Floor

Confirmation Class

In Recess November 28

10:35 – 11:20 a.m., Fireplace Room

Confirmation Class is for anyone in 7th – 9th Grades

Adult Christian Education

In Recess November 28

Sundays, 10:35 a.m. – 11:20 a.m., Von Maur Hall

Caring Closet

Sundays, Donations received 10:45 – 11:45 a.m.

Chamber Chorale

Sundays, 11:20 a.m. – 12:20 p.m., Choir Room

Sunday, December 5 – In RECESS

Pickle Ball

Monday, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. Gym

Caring Closet

Tuesdays 9:00 a.m. – noon with donations received

Staff Meeting

Wednesday, December 1, 10:00 a.m. Hybrid Zoom

Pickle Ball

Wednesday, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m., Gym

Bible Basics 201

Wednesdays, 6:15 p.m., Zoom

Vesper Bells

Thursdays 6:00 – 6:45 p.m., Chapel

Sanctuary Choir

Thursdays 7:00- 9:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Caring Closet

Fridays 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. with donations received