

Energy • Intelligence • Imagination • Love

Third Sunday of Advent December 17, 2023 at 9:30 AM



Chris Liu | unsplash



Welcome to First Presbyterian Church of Davenport

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church of Davenport, a church where EVERYONE is welcome. On behalf of the entire First Pres family, we want you to know that we are so glad you're here. We are a proud congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA), where We Choose WELCOME!

We welcome followers of Jesus who are solid in their faith, and we welcome questioning believers seeking deeper meaning in their life. We welcome those who come from different faith backgrounds, such as Methodists, Lutherans, and Catholics, and those with no faith background at all; for we are all one in Christ Jesus. No matter where you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome here!

We hope you experience the warmth and friendliness of our congregation. It is a place that long-term members have described as their spiritual home for generations. It is also a place where people newer to our community of faith have found a safe and sacred space for themselves and their families.

Nursery care is available during the worship service for children (birth through age 4). The nursery is staffed by trained and background-checked caregivers from 8:45 AM to 12:15 PM. The nursery is on the third floor of the Christian Education (CE) building. Ask a worship host if you need assistance locating this space.

Kirkwood Choir (1st - 6th grade) and Cherub Choir (PreK - K) is offered during the service, after the Children's Message. Kirkwood Choir provides music for worship throughout the program year.

MusikGarten, a program for parents/caregivers and young children (birth through age 4), is provided after the service in room #310 of the CE building. MusikGarten is our unique program that allows participation in a fun, energetic environment while instilling a love and understanding of music in young children.

Sunday school classes for children, youth, and adults are offered after the service. Children and youth Sunday school is located on the third floor of the CE building. Adult Sunday school is in Von Maur Hall. Please ask a worship host if you need assistance locating these spaces.



Our Session (church council) has adopted a bold vision of creating safe and sacred space for all. We aren't perfect at it, but we are joyfully beginning to live into this new vision. We are an open and

affirming congregation, and a proud member of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians (covnetpres.org). The Session and members of First Pres extend a sincere welcome to all persons regardless of race, nationality, gender, or sexual orientation. This includes an open invitation to membership, the sacraments of baptism and communion, marriage, funerals, memorial services, and service as an officer of the church.



We are a Matthew 25 church in the PC(USA). Matthew 25 congregations identify themselves as working toward one or more of three goals: building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty.

Land Acknowledgement: First Presbyterian Church gratefully acknowledges the Indigenous Peoples on whose ancestral homelands we gather, as well as the diverse and vibrant Indigenous communities who make Iowa and Illinois their home today. The communities we serve through our ministries occupy the traditional homelands of the people of the Kiikaapoi, Myaamia, Očhéthi Šakówiŋ, Peoria, Sauk, and Meskwaki nations. We honor these and numerous Indigenous tribes who first made the banks of the Mississippi River a center for arts and commerce.

Worshipers who are comfortably able are invited to stand in body or spirit.
 Bold indicates congregational response.

Third Sunday of Advent Order of Worship

To help you get to know the people sitting in your pew/row, Please complete the Friendship Pad and pass it to your neighbors.

As we begin worship, please silence your cell phones. Take a quiet moment to center yourself in the presence of God. We invite you to meditate silently on art, music, and Scripture.

Preparing for the Word

Prelude

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Welcome and Announcements

The Rev. Dr. Kristopher D. Schondelmeyer

(Announcements are generally delivered by the pastor. If you have an announcement, you would like us to consider sharing, please send the information with all important details to the church office by noon on Thursday. Announcements will be selected by relevance to church programming and time limitations.)

Prelude Gabriel's Message Paul Manz (1919-2009)

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle, the Candle of Joy

Abby and Chris Pitcher

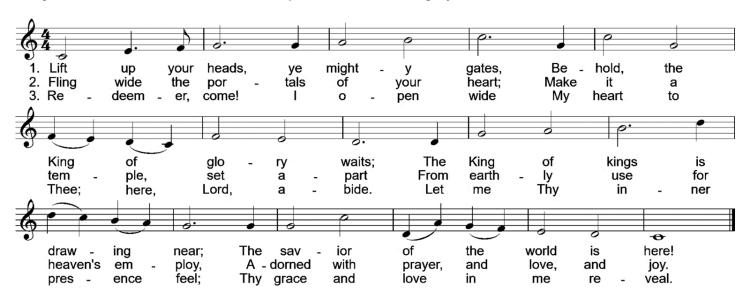
Hear the words of our lord Jesus Christ as they are found in the gospel of John, chapter 15:

"As God has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments you will abide in my love, just as I have kept god's commandments and abide in God's love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."

Two weeks ago, we lit the candle of hope and last week the candle of peace. Today we light the third candle of advent, the candle of joy. In our bible verse for today, Jesus reminds us that our joy is linked to his joy in us. This candle reminds us that Jesus came into the world so that we might know true joy in our lives.

One: Let us pray.

All: Wonderful God, sometimes we forget that one of your purposes in creating us was so we might know joy. This Christmas season is filled with opportunities for joy. Help us experience them, so we might know more of the joy your Son has brought into the world. For we pray in His holy name. Amen.



Call to Confession

In Advent, we prepare for the coming of Christ, full of grace and truth. Trusting in God's unfailing grace, let us tell the truth about ourselves, joining in our prayer of confession.

Prayer of Confession

One: Holy God, Everlasting Father, open our eyes to the presence of your Spirit,

All: Upon us, within us, among us.

One: For our apathy in the presence of oppression,

All: Forgive us.

One: If we have contributed to the broken0heartedness of anyone,

All: Forgive us.

One: For our participation in systems that enslave,

All: Forgive us.

One: When we are deaf to your good news,

All: Have mercy and open our ears.

One: When our mouths remain too tightly closed,

All: Loosen our lips with songs of praise.

One: Hear our prayer, Everlasting Father, and forgive our sins.

All: Hold us in your mercy, now and forever. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

One: We know that when God thinks of us, God does not remember our sin, but through the light of God's own steadfast love and mercy for us, God sees a new creation.

All: Knowing that we are forgiven, may we have the strength to forgive one another. Amen.

† Passing of the Peace

One: May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

(In a way that is comfortable for you, please share the Peace of Christ with those around you.)

Children's Message Kristy Woodrow

Prayer for Illumination

Speak to us, Lord. Speak to us in the waiting, the watching, the hoping, the longing, the sorrow, the sighing, the rejoicing. Speak to us by your Word in these Advent days, and walk with us until the day of your coming. Amen.

First Lesson Isaiah 40:1-11

40 Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,

and cry to her that she has served her term,

that her penalty is paid,

that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

³ A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;

make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up,

and every mountain and hill be made low;

the uneven ground shall become level,

and the rough places a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,

and all flesh shall see it together,

for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All flesh is grass; their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers; the flower fades,

when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;

surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers; the flower fades,

but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news;

lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news,

lift it up, do not fear;

say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

¹⁰ See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him;

his reward is with him and his recompense before him.

¹¹ He will feed his flock like a shepherd;

he will gather the lambs in his arms and carry them in his bosom and gently lead the mother sheep.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Second Lesson John 1:6-8, 19-28

⁶There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but he confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²²Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' "

as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴ Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵ They asked him, "Why, then, are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶ John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷ the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandal." ²⁸ This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Testify to the Light"
The Rev. Dr. Kristopher D. Schondelmeyer

There was a man sent from God whose name was John.

He came as a witness to testify to the light,

so that all might believe through him.

He himself was not the light,

but he came to testify to the light.



Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offering Our Gifts and Lives to God

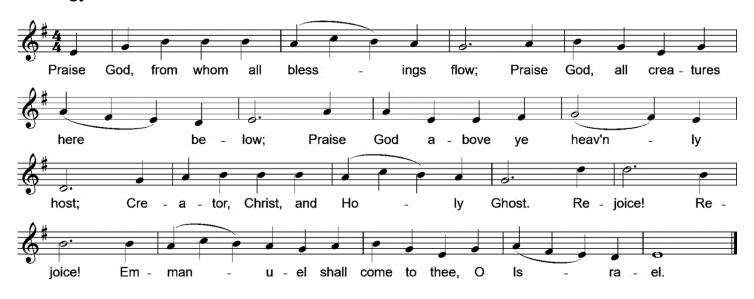


To share your pledge or offering, you may place it in the offering plate as it is passed down the aisle. If it is more convenient for you, please visit the church website at www.fpcdavenport.org, and click on "Donate Now," or you may donate directly from your smartphone by scanning the QR code with your phone's camera. You may also mail your pledge or offering to the church office.

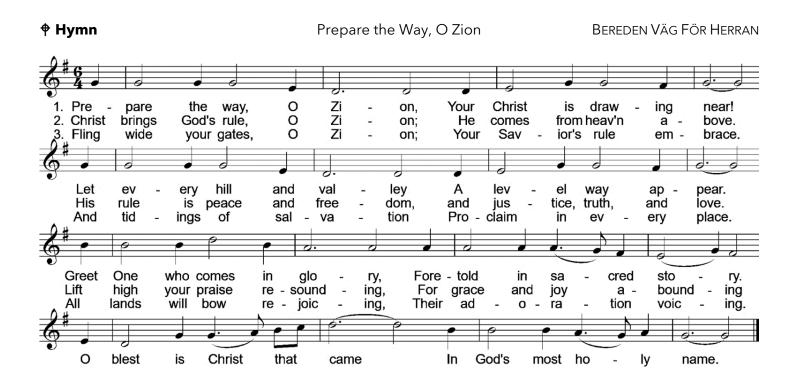
Offertory

Trio super "Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland," BWV 660

J. S. Bach (1685-1750) **Doxology** Veni Emmanuel



Prayer of Dedication



Charge and Benediction

Postlude

"Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland" in organo pleno, BWV 661

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

WORSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS

Worship Hosts - Bob Terrill (Lead Host), Tim Nelson, Cathy Weik-Nelson, Mel Steckel, Luann Field

Sound/Video Technicians - Mitch Doremus, Jim Middleton

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Paul Manz, "Gabriel's Message" (©1990 MorningStar Music Publishers)

Today's liturgical elements are from sources unknown and used in a spirit of gratitude in the worship of God.

JOYS & CONCERNS

In Our Prayers: families and victims of gun violence; the people of Ukraine and all who groan under oppression; for God's presence with all who are grieving the loss of Charles Gilbert Bowles (Marty Bowles Edwards's father), for the friends and family of Barb Thede who passed away November 17th, for those grieving the loss of Donna Middleton (Jim Middleton's mother), and for all in need of God's healing grace.

(Names will be listed in the list above for 30 days unless otherwise requested.)

Mission Partners: Rev. Nestor Eduardo Alvarez Cabrera in Zacapa, Guatemala; Ray of Vision in Harare, Zimbabwe; Veda Gill in Pakistan.

Hospital Visits: The Pastors and Deacons make hospital visits when patients give permission.

In-Touch Information: For anyone who is homebound and would enjoy contact from one of First Presbyterian's In-Touch members, please contact Deacon Colleen Dueñas (563-514-6396).

The Prayer Chain: Connects those who need prayer with those who commit to a ministry of prayer. Contact Mary Ann François (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 contact the church office directly (563-326-1691).

Prayer Shawls: 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 coat rack near the main office.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Visit the First Pres website to view the full calendar

www.fpcdavenport.org/calendar

CE Building

Sunday,	December	17
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Musikgarten	8:30 - 9: 30 AM	Zoom
Nursery Open	8:45 - 12:15 PM	CE Building 3 rd Floor
Worship Service	9:30 AM	Sanctuary & Online
Kirkwood Choir	10:00 - 10:30 AM	CE Building 3 rd Floor
PreK-K Cherub Choir	10:00 - 10:30 AM	CE Building 3 rd Floor
Congregational Meeting	10:30 - 10:45 AM	Sanctuary
Christmas Pageant Rehearsal	10:35 - 11:30 AM	Sanctuary
Tidings of Comfort and Joy:	4:00 - 5:30 PM	Sanctuary
Carols in a Safe Space -		-
FPC Christmas Concert		

Monday, December 18

Scout Troops 7 & 1107 Meeting

Pickleball	9:00 - 11:00 AM	Gym
Session Devotions	6:30 - 7:00 PM	Von Maur Hall & Zoom
Session Meeting	7:00 - 9:00 PM	Von Maur Hall & Zoom

7:00 - 8:30 PM

Tuesday, December 19

Caring Closet	9:00 - Noon	CE Building 1st Floor
Caring Closet Lunches	11:00 AM - 1:00 PM	CE Building Entrance
Staff Christmas Lunch	12:00 - 2:00 PM	Off Campus
 Office Closed for Remainder 	er of the Day	
Troop 7 Committee Meeting	6:30 - 8:00 PM	Fellowship Hall
ACE Meeting	7:00 - 8:30 PM	Von Maur Hall

Wednesday, December 20

Pickle Ball	9:00 - 11:00 AM	Gym
Bible Basics 201	6:15 - 7:15 PM	Zoom

Thursday, December 21

PUNCH Meeting	1:00 - 2:00 PM	Von Maur Hall & Zoom
TOPS	5:30 - 7:30 PM	Von Maur Hall

Friday, December 22

Caring Closet	2:00 - 5:00 PM	CE Building 1st Floor

Saturday, December 23

No Scheduled Activities

Congregational Meeting Scheduled for Today

There will be a Congregational Meeting today immediately following the 9:30 AM church service. This meeting is for the purpose of electing one new Elder for a three-year term.

Elder Nominee: Kathy Knox



Christmas Poinsettias 2023

In the tradition of past Christmas seasons, we will brighten the Sanctuary with poinsettias given in memory or honor of loved ones. To be part of this wonderful tradition, you can participate by going to FPC's website and clicking the "Donate Online" link or by contacting Kristine Olson in the church office. The deadline for making a donation is Monday, December 18 by noon.

Verbal Worship Announcements

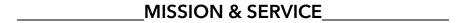
As we find a new sense of vitality and have more going on in the life of FPC, our verbal announcements on Sunday morning need to keep pace. We want to make sure we can communicate as much as possible about the wonderful opportunities here at First Pres. To do that while respecting the liturgy and musical offerings of worship, our first prelude will conclude around 9:25 AM. At that time, Pastor Kris (or whomever is leading worship) will share the verbal welcome and announcements. This will allow our worship to begin closer to our 9:30 AM start time with a second prelude or an introit. Please be in the sanctuary a few minutes early to hear the announcements, and to prepare your hearts and minds for worship to start at 9:30 AM.

Welcome Center

The Welcome and Hospitality Committee has opened a Welcome Center in the back of the sanctuary to help in the greeting of members and visitors to FPC. If you are new and would like information about our church, feel free to stop at the Welcome Center. We would be happy to connect with you. If you are a member who would be willing to assist at the Welcome Center, please speak with Andy Edwards.

Session Highlights - November 2023

- The Session received the news that the Birdies for Charity pledges were received including a \$13K bonus from the Birdies for Charity program.
- Approved money from the Wiebener Fund to be used to help send 4 people to the PC(USA) *Summit of Matthew 25*. FPC is a Matthew 25 Church. Here is a link if you want to learn more about this. https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25-summit-an-invitation-to-innovation/
- Approved changes in the Sesquicentennial Mission Fund and the Memorial Fund which will allow for the expenditure of principal of these funds, as well as interest. The approved changes to the Memorial Fund will also need a vote by the congregation at the Annual Meeting in 2024.
- Pastor Kris will be nominated by the Presbytery to serve as Vice-Moderator of PEIA in 2024.
- The church building will be closed December 25th to December 30th.



Christmas Joy Offering



When we give to the Christmas Joy Offering, we share our love with the leaders of our Church - past, present, and future.

- o 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.
- o 50% of your gifts assist current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs.

Alternative Gift Giving

Looking for the perfect gift? Something unique? Something memorable? Almost everyone we know has enough stuff. Holiday shopping can become so much more meaningful when we give a gift that provides something to someone in need. Parents, friends, and teachers will accept your gift joyfully, knowing it has life changing consequences for the people it benefits.

After worship on the first three Sundays in December, come to the Alternative Gift Giving store in the Fellowship Hall. A child may benefit through education provided by Fishers of Men Ministries, families in developing nations may get access to clean drinking water, and neighbors in need right here in our community may be served through your support of our Caring Closet. The person(s) to whom you give the gift will benefit by not receiving more 'stuff' they don't really need.

Caring Closet Request

Now that the weather is getting colder, there is a growing need for adult winter coats, sweatshirts, and blankets of all sizes. In addition, the Caring Closet needs towels, sheets, and diapers. If anyone has some to donate, we would be most grateful. Donations can be dropped off at church during regular business hours.

Cocoa and Caring ... Warm Hands and Warm Hearts - A Huge Success!



On Tuesday, December 12th between 3 and 5 PM, members of First Pres. passed out hot cocoa, candy canes, warm mittens, gloves, hats, and lots of Christmas spirit. A table was set up outside the front doors of the sanctuary on Kirkwood Boulevard. This event warmed the hearts of our volunteers and neighbors, even if it was cold outside.

Angel Tree Giving: Bethany for Children and Families



Thank you to all who took a tag or tags from the Angel Tree.
Thanks again for helping families in need.
Because of your generosity families in need in the Quad Cities will receive joy this Christmas.

SPIRITUAL	CDOWITH	
SPIRITUAL	GROWIN	

Bible Basics for December

Bible Basics is discussing a new video series called *Reading Biblical Literature, Genesis to Revelation*. Presented by Craig R. Koester, Professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, this is a survey of both OT and NT with insights into the narratives and characters we find there. In December, the stories include King David and King Solomon. We will watch and discuss one 30-minute video each week. All are welcome.

Bible Basics will be in recess on December 27, 2023 and January 3, 2024.

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

Meeting ID: **881 1687 5549** Passcode: **630481**

Youth Ministry Dinner Chefs

Do you have a gift for cooking for groups? We are looking for folks willing to provide dinner for our youth on Sunday nights at 5 pm. You could also sponsor the cost of a pizza dinner if cooking isn't your gift (or if the time just doesn't allow it)! If you can provide, or sponsor, a youth-friendly meal, please sign up here or scan the QR code: http://bit.ly/47La4ny. Trouble with the website? Email or call Kristy and let her know you'd like to provide or sponsor one (or more) dinners.



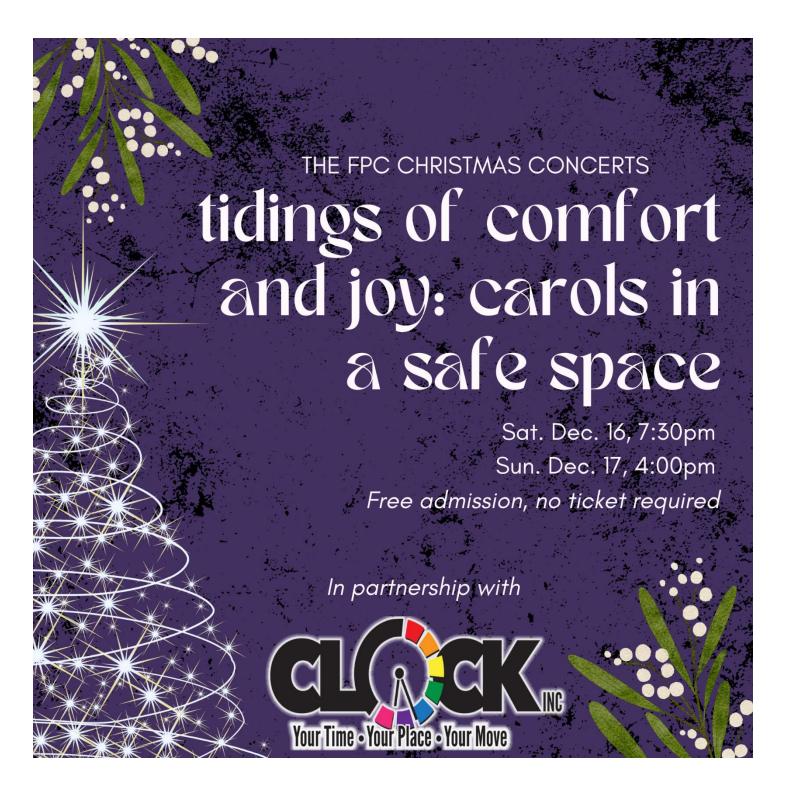
FINANCE

October 2023 Finacials

October 2023 results reflect the extremely successful Birdies for Charity campaign, raising \$172,130, of which \$104,120 is pledge and offering income for 2023. The John Deere Classic 7.5% match of \$12,909.75 will be reflected in the November report. If you have any questions, please contact Kristine in the Finance Office at (563) 326-1691 x219 or via email at olson@fpcdavenport.org.

		October 2023		October 2022				
		Actual		Budget		Actual]	Budget
General Fund Income	\$	142,903	\$	47,027	\$	62,325	\$	46,002
Custodial Accounts Income		3,087		12		5,786		
Compensation Expenses		(53,802)		(61,385)		(49,146)		(55,148)
Non Compensation General Fund Expenses		(14,364)		(16,276)		(16,052)		(14,452)
Custodial Accounts Expenses		(3,087)		12		(5,786)		
Operating Surplus (Deficit)		\$74,737		(\$30,634)		(\$2,873)	j	(\$23,598)
Birdies Donor Challenge				-		-		N .
Pandemic Relief Funds		(<u>-</u>		12		2		-
Net Surplus (Deficit)		\$74,737		(\$30,634)		(\$2,873)	13	(\$23,598)
	2023 Year-To-Date		(4)	2022 Year-To-Date		o-Date		
		Actual		Budget		Actual		Budget
General Fund Income	\$	626,957	\$	547,674	\$	485,636	\$	529,656
Custodial Accounts Income	7.2.4	53,408		4		90,476		42
Compensation Expenses		(559,410)		(603,730)		(437,753)		(498,856)
Non Compensation General Fund Expenses		(155,629)		(187,174)		(191,274)		(228,936)
Custodial Accounts Expenses		(53,408)		<u> </u>		(90,474)		44
Operating Surplus (Deficit)		(\$88,082)	(\$243,230)	(\$143,389)	(3	\$198,136)
Birdies Donor Challenge		100,000	0.5	140 m 180 m	10000	=	150	
Pandemic Relief Funds		151,059		1.0		108,000		108,000
Net Surplus (Deficit)		\$162,977	- 8	(\$243,230)		(\$35,389)	1	(\$90,136)

All numbers are rounded.



There is one final opportunity to experience the 2023 FPC Christmas Concert, "Tidings of Comfort and Joy: Carols in a Safe Space." Please join us today, December 17, at 4:00pm. Seating is general admission (except for PAS Benefactor Patrons, who have reserved seats), so there are no printed tickets to this concert. Come early and sit where you want!

The concert features the Sanctuary Choir, Chamber Chorale, Vesper Bells, and Orchestra in beautiful Christmas music centered around the idea of creating safe and sacred space. We are pleased to partner with Clock Inc., an LGBTQ+ center that provides valuable support and resources in the Quad Cities. We are asking concert attendees to bring monetary donations or toiletry items to support Clock Inc.'s mission.

FPC STAFF

First Presbyterian Church ◆ 1702 Iowa Street ◆ Davenport, Iowa 52803 ◆ Phone: 563-326-1691

Our Staff

Rev. Dr. Kris Schondelmeyer, Pastor/Head of Staff	Ext 230 schondelmeyer@fpcdavenport.org	
Rev. Pat Halverson*, Parish Associate		
Kristy Woodrow, Director of Christian Education	Ext 209	woodrow@fpcdavenport.org
Nichole Kerker*, Nursery Coordinator		
Ruth Yarian*, Nursery Caregiver		
Matt Bishop, Director of Music & Arts	Ext 201	bishop@fpcdavenport.org
Alex Gilson, Principal Organist & Assistant Director of Music	Ext 223	gilson@fpcdavenport.org
Linda Bengfort*, Assistant Choral Director		
Kathy Middleton*, Assistant Choral Director for Children		
Jim Middleton*, Director of Office Administration		office@fpcdavenport.org
Cecily Ferris*, Administrative Assistant Intern		ferris@fpcdavenport.org
Kristine Olson, Director of Financial and Business Administration	Ext 219	olson@fpcdavenport.org
Tammy Verslius*, Accounting Assistant		
Darren Long, Director of Building and Grounds	Ext 205	long@fpcdavenport.org
Chad Dean*, Custodian		
Olivia Orabutt*, Custodian		
		* Part-time employee

ELDERS AND DEACONS

Katrina Williams

Elders

Class of 2023	Class of 2024	Class of 2025
Jim DeReus	Peter Bawden	Dan Breinich
Patrick Downing	Paula Burnett	Nancy Chapman
David Bowles Edwards	Kirk Christie	Bonnie Johnson
Michael Ferris	Nancy Foster	Nathan Kabel
RuthAnn Tobey-Brown	Bev Koos	Kristine Oswald
Jim Woods	Diane Roebuck	Mark Ruebling
	Karla Ruiter	Vicki Stegall
	Jay Williams	G
	,	Clerk of Session
		Mark Jones
ns		
Class of 2023	Class of 2024	Class of 2025
Tod Brown	Paula Hartmann	Mitch Doremus

Deacons

Class of 2023	Class of 2024	Class of 2025
Ted Brown	Paula Hartmann	Mitch Doremus
Al Frohlich	Anna Putman	Colleen Dueñas
John Gere	Glen Roebuck (Moderator)	Julia Meyer
Matthew Hennes	Tom Vaccaro	Kristy Owens
Bob Lehnherr	Sherry Williams	Terri Sheetz
Erin Sodawasser-Hermiston	•	