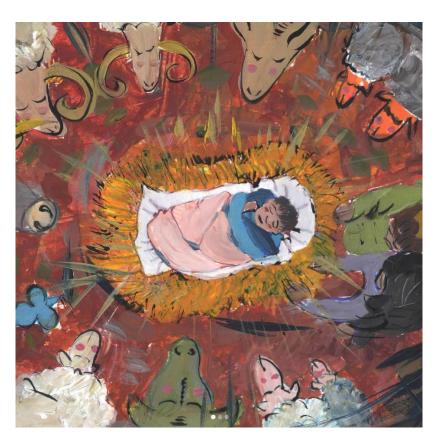


Energy • Intelligence • Imagination • Love

Fourth Sunday of Advent / Christmas Eve A Family Service of Chaos, Costumes, and Carols December 24, 2023 at 9:30 AM



"Manger" (2021) Liz Valente



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.

Fourth Sunday of Advent / Christmas Eve 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.

A Family Service of Chaos, Costumes, and Carols

Prelude Prelude on "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"

Arr. Alex Gilson

Welcome

The Rev. Dr. Kristopher D. Schondelmeyer

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle, the Candle of Love

FPC Youth

Hear the words of the apostle Paul as they are found in the 13th chapter of first Corinthians:

"And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love. Make love your aim."

In the last three weeks we have lit candles of hope, peace, and joy. This week we light the fourth candle of advent, the candle of love. The light from these candles represents the light of god's love that came to dwell in the world with the birth of Jesus Christ. Jesus is a light that can never be extinguished because god's love can never be put out.

One: Let us pray.

All: Loving God, just like the light of these candles burn, may your great love for us burn in our hearts this Advent and Christmas season. For we ask this in Jesus' loving name. 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.)

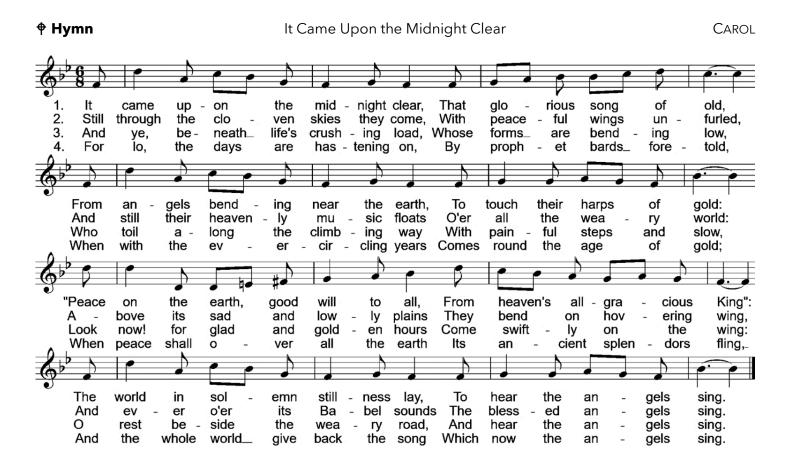
Introit

Little Star (Venite Adoremus Dominum)
The Kirkwood Choir

G. Gilpin

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.

First Lesson Isaiah 11:1-3



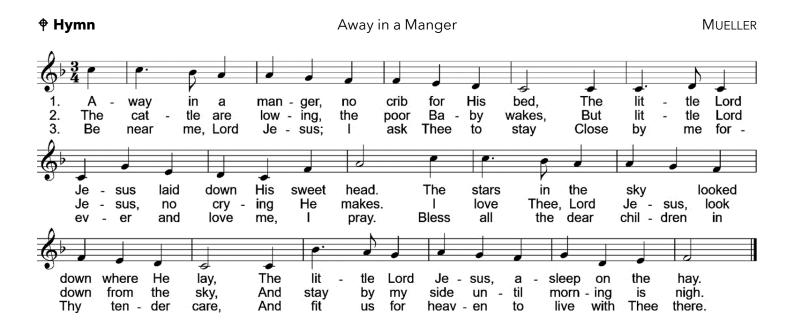
Second LessonLuke 1:26-28, 30-35, 46-49

Third Lesson Luke 2:1-7

The time came for her to deliver her child.
And she gave birth to her firstborn son
and wrapped him in bands of cloth
and laid him in a manger,
because there was no place for them in the inn.

Blessing of Babies

(During the singing of Away in a Manger, parents with infants, or young children who have not received a special Christmas blessing due to the pandemic, are invited to bring their babies to the Chancel to receive a blessing from the Pastor. Please tell the Pastor the child's name. The pastor will then use anointing oil to offer a special Christmas blessing for each young child. Please note: this is not the same as baptism. If you are interested in having your child baptized, we would love to be a part of that special occasion. Please contact the church office to set up a meeting with the pastor.)



Fourth Lesson Luke 2:8-14

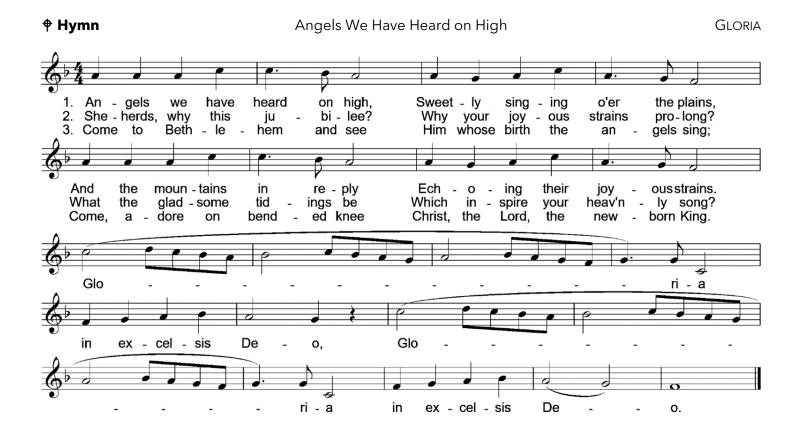
Anthem

Chatter With The Angel Band
The Kirkwood and Cherub Choirs

Arr. Shelly Cooper

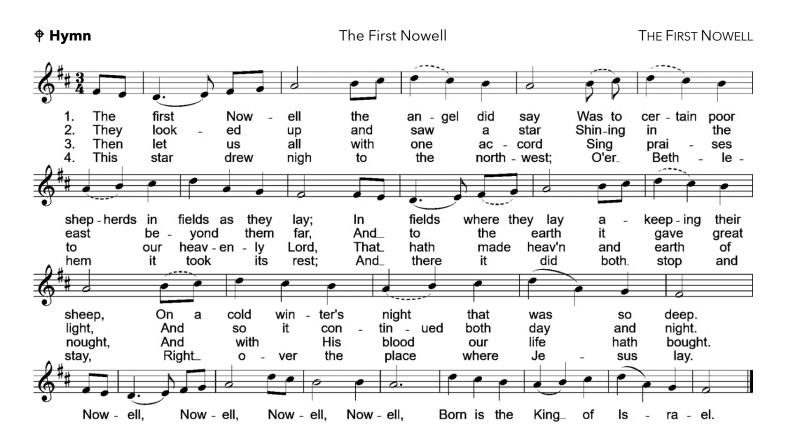
And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!'

Fifth Lesson Luke 2:15-20



Sermon

"Ist es schon Weihnachten?" The Rev. Dr. Kristopher Schondelmeyer



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

In dulci jubilo, BWV 608

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Prayer of Dedication

Lighting of the Fifth Advent Candle, the Christ Candle

The Schondelmeyer family

In these four weeks of Advent, we have lit candles of hope, peace, joy, and love. Today, we light the final candle letting us know that the advent is over. The Christ candle lets us know that Christ has come!

The light from these candles represents the light of Christ that came to dwell in the world with the birth of Jesus, the Christ. The light of Christ dwells in the world still today through each one of us. Jesus is a light that can never be extinguished because god's love can never be put out.

One: Let us pray.

All: Loving God, just like the light of these candles burn, may the hope, peace, joy, and love of Christ burn in our hearts this Christmas season. May we share the light of Christ with neighbors near and far. For we ask this in Jesus' loving name. Amen.



Out of the darkness God spoke to the world and God said,

"Let there be light."

We celebrate that in the birth of Christ God gives us the Light of the World.

Unto us a child is born, unto us peace has come.

Know in your hearts that God's grace and God's love will never end.

God's grace and God's love lives in you...in your heart.

May you know that you have the power to add beauty and grace unto this world.

May you discover all your gifts and share them generously.

May you use your life to share the light of God's love.

Go out into the world with great joy that

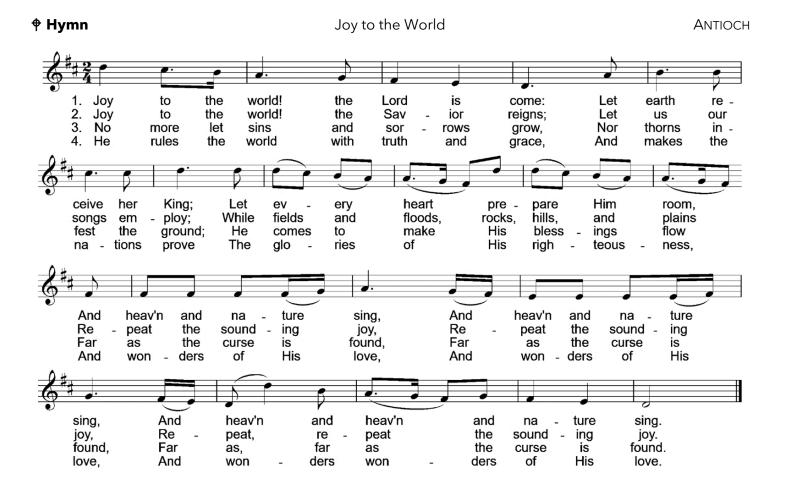
the love of God,

the grace of Christ,

and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit

will be with you this holy day and forevermore.

Merry Christmas!



Postlude

Postlude on Go Tell It On The Mountain

Arr. Norah Duncan IV (b. 1952)

WORSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS

Worship Hosts - Nancy Chapman (Lead Host), Pete Madden, Wava Madden, Chris Pitcher

Sound/Video Technicians - Mitch Doremus, Jim Middleton

Copyright Information

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

Norah Duncan IV, Arr., "Go Tell It on the Mountain" (©2017 GIA Publications, Inc.)

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

Sunday, December 24

Nursery Closed

Worship Service 9:30 AM

Christmas Eve of Lessons and Carols 7:30 - 8:30 PM

Sanctuary & Online Sanctuary & Online

Monday, December 25

Office Closed All Day

Tuesday, December 26

Office Closed All Day

Wednesday, December 6

Office Closed All Day

Thursday, December 7

Office Closed All Day

Friday, December 8

Office Closed All Day

Saturday, December 9

Office Closed All Day



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.

Are You Interested in Joining FPC?

Are you excited about the new things that are happening here at FPC? Are you a new visitor or long-time attender who is not yet a member? Would you like to transfer your membership from another church to First Pres.? Please speak with Pastor Kris about the process for making a commitment to the FPC community. This is a wonderful church, and we are blessed as we welcome new members like you.

December Office Hours

The church building will be closed December 25th to December 30th for a staff holiday week per our personnel policy. The Finance Office will be the only office open the last week of December.

Pastor Kris will be in the pulpit on Sunday, December 31. Then, he will be taking vacation time from January 1 through January 7.

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.

Carnival Season at First Pres. is Coming Soon - January 21 at 9:30 AM

Celebrate with a Carnival-themed worship service on Sunday, January 21st at 9:30 AM with New Orleans music, Mardi Gras fun, and a delicious brunch after worship. In the United States the principal Carnival celebration is in New Orleans, where the Carnival season opens on Twelfth Night (January 6) and climaxes with the Mardi Gras festivities commencing 10 days before Shrove Tuesday. We have invited husband and wife Jazz duo Jeff (piano) and Anne (flute, vocals) Barnhart to be guest artists along with our Sanctuary Choir and organist, Alex Gilson, to lead this jazzy musical service. Our Sunday School children will get in on the action for the family friendly annual celebration. Be prepared for great music and delicious food! Immediately following the service, follow the parade down into Fellowship Hall for a light meal including Jambalaya, and piece of the famous King Cake. A free-will offering for brunch will be taken.

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.

- 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.

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 is in need of towels, sheets, and diapers. Donations can be dropped off at church during regular business hours. Thanks!



Christian Education at FPC

We are excited to offer opportunities for education and faith formation throughout the year. The following will be available most Sundays through the end of May 2024.

Adult Christian Education - Our Adult Christian Education class meets following the worship service in Von Maur Hall. We have a lot of exciting topics lined up and would love for you to join us!

Youth and Children's Sunday School - This year we are offering three separate classes following the worship service! The breakup of classes is pre-k - 2^{nd} grade (Fireplace Room), 3^{rd} - 5^{th} grade (Room 311), and 6^{th} - 12^{th} grade (Room 302/youth room).

Confirmation - Pastor Kris and Kristy are leading the 2024 confirmation class this year. Confirmation is open to any youth in 7th through 12th grade and generally meets from 5 to 7 PM on the 1st and 3rd Sunday evening of the month. Dinner will be served.

Youth Group - Our youth group is open to any youth in 6^{th} through 12^{th} grade! Meetings are generally from 5 to 7 PM on the 2^{nd} and 4^{th} Sunday of the month. Dinner will be served.

More information on these programs, including seasonal calendars, are available in the First Press newsletter and on the church website. If you have any questions, or would like help getting involved, please contact Director of Christian Education, Kristy Woodrow, at woodrow@fpcdavenport.org.

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.



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, MN, 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**



Year-End Reminder

We ask all of our members to fulfill their 2023 pledge prior to December 31. Donors must deliver checks on or by Friday, December 30, in order to claim a charitable contribution deduction for 2023. Checks that are placed in the church offering during the first worship service in 2024 (January 7) will not qualify for a charitable deduction in 2023, even if the check is predated to or actually written in 2023. However, under the so-called "mailbox exception," checks that are written, mailed, and postmarked in 2023 will be deductible in 2023 though they are not received by the church until 2024. As always, thank you for your continued support of First Presbyterian Church. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Finance Office at olson@fpcdavenport.org or 563.326.1691 Ext. 219.

Ways to Give to First Presbyterian Church

It is your generous financial commitment to First Pres that allows FPC to continue its ministries and missions to help support church members, community, and staff. With new technology and changes in tax law, the very meaningful act of placing your gift in the offering plate each Sunday is no longer the only way to financially support FPC. For anyone looking for alternative ways to give, below are additional options to give to FPC:

- Donate online by visiting www.fpcdavenport.org
- Required Minimum Distributions (RMD)
- Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD)
- Gifting Stock

As always, thank you for your continued support of First Presbyterian Church. For specific instructions or if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Finance Office at olson@fpcdavenport.org or 563.326.1691 Ext. 219.

Christmas Flowers 2023

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 Memory of Lucy Hartmann, Scott Menzel, Wayne & Lois Menzel and Wade & Ella Hartmann Given by Paul & Paula Hartmann

In Memory of Don & Marie Cox, Wendell & Emily Jacobsmeier, Bob Sutherland, and Paul Cox Given by Theresa & Sean Jacobsmeier and kids

In Memory of Forest & Beaulah Fowler, Vernell & Dorothea Brownie and Bruce Darland Given by Dianna Darland and The Jacobsmeier Family

In Memory of our parents Jean & Binc Bawden and Lucille & Harlen Kardel Given by Ron & Susie Kardel

In Memory of Norman & Ruth Mary Lau and Nels & Rhoda Evans Given by Kim & Sue Evans

In Memory of Bud & Lorrie Darland Given by Dianna Darland, Theresa & Sean Jacobsmeier and kids

In Memory of Sandy & Mickey Meeks Given by Dianna Darland, Theresa & Sean Jacobsmeier and kids

In Memory of Robert J. Martin & Carolyn Martin Doran Given by John & Kathy Martin

In Memory of my parents, Helen & Bill Chapman Given by Nancy Chapman

In Memory of my husband, Douglas Whalen Given by Angella Whalen

In Memory of Scott Sherwood Given by Jeanne Sherwood and Family

In Memory of Robert Francois, Jr. Given by Mary Ann Francois and Family

In Memory of Mom Given by Steve, Sarah, and Susie

In Memory of Ken & Joan McKay Given by Their Family

In Memory of Ward Shawver Given by Janet Shawver Parker

In Memory of Ken & Joan McKay Given by Dan & Meredith Ellard

In Memory of Roberta Darbyshire Given by Hobart Darbyshire

In Honor of Julia Pedigo, James Pedigo Given by Carol Phoenix n Martin Doran chin Chapman alen

In Honor of Carrie, Deborah, Tim, and Rebecca Given by Richard & Beverly Koos In loving Memory of my mother and stepfather, Crystal & Winfred Duckett Given by Angella Whalen



In Memory of Ben, Marion, and Joel Steckel and Darrel Orman Given by Jed & Melanie Steckel's Families

In loving Memory of Crystal & Winfred Duckett Given by Tecora (Louis) Murry, Brayden & Kristen Murray

In loving Memory of Pat & Don Anthony Given by Tecora (Louis) Murry, Brayden & Kristen Murray

In loving Memory of my grandparents, Pat & Don Anthony Given by Angella Whalen

In loving Memory of Crystal & Winfred Duckett Given by Mathew Marilyn Munn (Erica) and families

In loving Memory of Pat & Don Anthony Given by Mathew Marilyn Munn (Erica) and families

In loving Memory of my loving husband and our father Douglas Whalen Given by Angella Whalen, Tessa (Adam) Morrison, D.J. & Kayden Whalen (Danielle Harms), Corralle Whalen (Zach Mitchell), Norah, Luna, Archer Mitchell, Crystal Whalen & Brooklyn Nickell

In loving Memory of my mother and stepfather, Crystal & Winfred Duckett Given by their grandchildren & great-grandchildren Tessa (Adam) Morrison, D.J. & Kayden Whalen (Danielle Harms), Corralle Whalen (Zach Mitchell), Norah, Luna, Archer Mitchell, Crystal Whalen & Brooklyn Nickell

In Memory of Pat & Don Anthony, Crystal & Winifred Duckett Given by Matthew Munn and Family

In Memory of Howards & Eileen Meadors Given by Linda Meadors, Jennifer & Heather Salisbury

In Memory of John Phoenix, Ruth & Harold Pedigo Given by Carol Phoenix

In Memory of Christine Johnson and Kathy Price Given by Brian and Kathlynn Price

In Memory of my mother, June Hartley Given by Vicki Stegall

In Memory of Merle & Easter Rhines Given by Richard & Beverly Koos

In Memory of Emmerick & Leona Koos Given by Richard & Beverly Koos

In Memory of Mrs. Lola J. Paulsen, mother and grandmother and Ms. Rachel J. D'Auben, daughter and sister

Given by Pamela J. Paulsen

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors!

In Memory of Ray & Viola Bawden, John "Tim" Bawden, Binc &Jean Bawden Given by Joyce Bawden, Mike & Caroline Bawden

In Memory of CC & Ione Garber, Shirly Flood, Keith Garber, Bill Garber, Dick Garber Given by Joyce Bawden, Mike, Pete, and Cindy Bawden

In Honor of Joyce Bawden, Karl & Carmen Kammann Given by Mike & Caroline Bawden, Christian, Tim, Madeline, and Gray Bawden

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		
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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 Jim DeReus Patrick Downing David Bowles Edwards Michael Ferris RuthAnn Tobey-Brown Jim Woods	Class of 2024 Peter Bawden Paula Burnett Kirk Christie Nancy Foster Bev Koos Diane Roebuck	Class of 2025 Dan Breinich Nancy Chapman Bonnie Johnson Nathan Kabel Kristine Oswald Mark Ruebling
Jim Woods	Diane Roebuck Karla Ruiter Jay Williams	Mark Ruebling Vicki Stegall Clerk of Session
		Mark Jones
S Class of 2022	Class of 2024	Class of 2025
Class of 2023	Class of 2024	Class of 2025

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	·	