



First Presbyterian Church

Energy • Intelligence • Imagination • Love

First Sunday of Christmas
December 31, 2023 at 9:30 AM



AI Generated

A congregation of the
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A)



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.



COVENANT NETWORK
OF PRESBYTERIANS

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 Šakówinj, 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.

First Sunday of Christmas

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

While Shepherds Watched

Gordon Young
(1919-1998)

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

Meditation on "The Coventry Carol"

David Lasky
(b. 1957)

✠ Call to Worship

Kristine Oswald, Liturgist

One: When Jesus was born to Mary and Joseph,

All: God was there.

One: When Jesus was presented at the temple,

All: God was there.

One: When Simeon held Jesus in his arms,

All: God was there.

One: When Anna recognized Jesus in the temple,

All: God was there.

One: In our lives and in our worship,

All: God is there.

One: In the future that we cannot see,

All: God will still be there...offering love, offering peace.

✠ 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.)



1. Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King.
 2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
 3. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ - teous - ness!

Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
 Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of the vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all He brings, Risen with heal - ing in His wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see; Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty,
 Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that we no more may die,

With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
 Born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us sec - ond birth.

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

Call to Confession

In the birth of Christ, we receive one who is 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

All: Holy God, we know that you have been present to us throughout all of history, even throughout our own histories. You promise to be with us in our future, yet often we live as if we don't believe you. As Simeon recognized in Jesus the salvation of his people, we recognize in Jesus' Way our own wholeness and health, yet we often fail to follow. As Anna recognized in Jesus the redemption of her people, we recognize in Jesus God's saving grace for us, yet we often fail to rejoice and to share this good news. Forgive us, O God. Make us wise and joyful and strong so that we might live in the understanding of your never-ending love. Amen.

A Time of Silence

(Please take this time in silence to offer your own prayers of confession-confessing your need for God and naming those barriers that keep you from knowing life as God's beloved child.)

Assurance

One: The scriptures promise that God will make all things new.

All: As God makes the year new, may we also be made new by God's love and forgiveness in Jesus, who is the Christ. Amen

Listening for the Word

Children's Message

Rev. Dr. Schondelmeyer

Prayer for Illumination

Living God, help us to hear your holy Word that we may truly understand; that, understanding, we may believe, and believing, we may follow in all faithfulness and obedience; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Lesson

Psalm 148

¹ Praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord from the heavens;
 praise him in the heights!
² Praise him, all his angels;
 praise him, all his host!
³ Praise him, sun and moon;
 praise him, all you shining stars!
⁴ Praise him, you highest heavens
 and you waters above the heavens!
⁵ Let them praise the name of the Lord,
 for he commanded and they were created.
⁶ He established them forever and ever;
 he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.^[a]
⁷ Praise the Lord from the earth,
 you sea monsters and all deeps,
⁸ fire and hail, snow and frost,
 stormy wind fulfilling his command!
⁹ Mountains and all hills,
 fruit trees and all cedars!
¹⁰ Wild animals and all cattle,
 creeping things and flying birds!
¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples,
 princes and all rulers of the earth!
¹² Young men and women alike,
 old and young together!
¹³ Let them praise the name of the LORD,
 for his name alone is exalted;
 his glory is above earth and heaven.
¹⁴ He has raised up a horn for his people,
 praise for all his faithful,
 for the people of Israel who are close to him.
Praise the Lord!

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

²² When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), ²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word,
³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,
³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
³² a light for revelation to the gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel."

³³ And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul, too."

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"The Wisdom of Elders"
The Rev. Dr. Kristopher D. Schondelmeyer

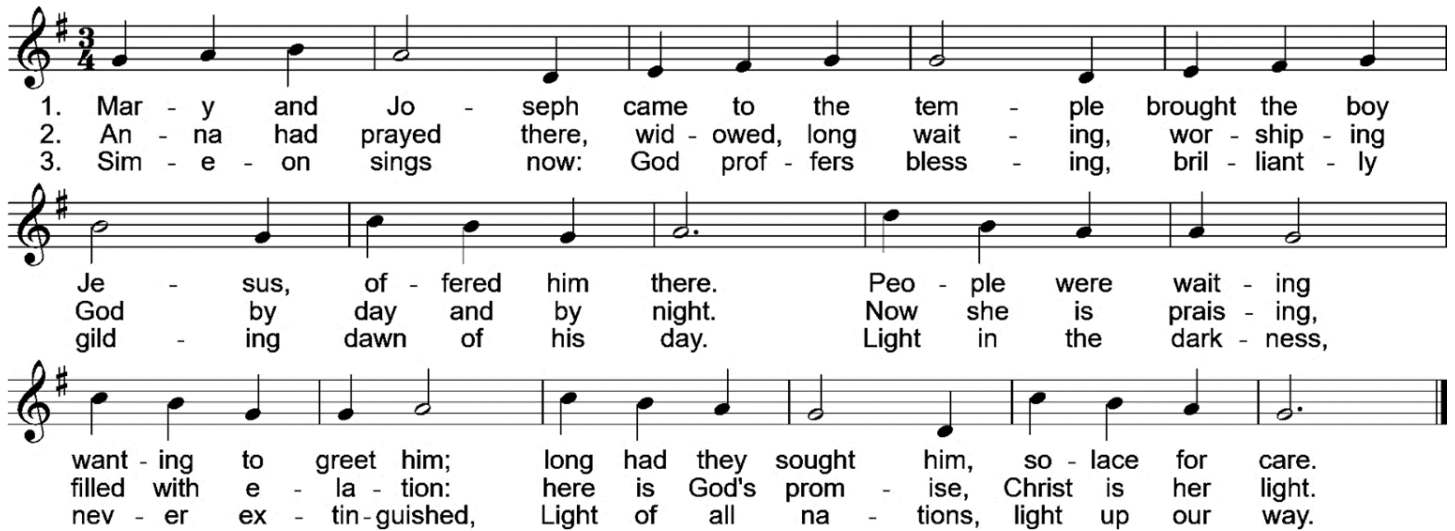
*The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom,
and the favor of God was upon him.*

Responding to the Word

✦ Hymn

Mary and Joseph Came to the Temple

EVENING HYMN



1. Mar - y and Jo - seph came to the tem - ple brought the boy
2. An - na had prayed there, wid - owed, long wait - ing, wor - ship - ing
3. Sim - e - on sings now: God prof - fers bless - ing, bril - liant - ly

Je - sus, of - fered him there. Peo - ple were wait - ing
God by day and by night. Now she is prais - ing,
gild - ing dawn of his day. Light in the dark - ness,

want - ing to greet him; long had they sought him, so - lace for care.
filled with e - la - tion: here is God's prom - ise, Christ is her light.
nev - er ex - tin - guished, Light of all na - tions, light up our way.

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

Noël VI

Louis-Claude d'Aquin
(1694-1772)

*Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven.*

Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all crea - tures here be - low; praise
God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host; Cre - a - tor, Christ, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Prayer of Dedication

♣ Hymn

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

SICILIAN MARINERS



1. Lord, dis - miss us with Thy bless - ing; Fill our hearts with
2. Thanks we give and ad o - ra - tion us, For Thy gos - pel's
3. So that when Thy love shall call us, Sav - ior, from the
joy and peace; Let us each, Thy love pos - sess - ing,
joy - ful sound; May the fruits of Thy sal - va - tion
world a - way, Let no fear of death ap - pall us,
Tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace. O re - fresh us,
In our hearts and lives a - bound. Ev - er faith - ful,
Glad Thy sum - mons to o - bey. May we ev - er,
O re - fresh us, Trav - eling through this wil - der - ness.
Ev - er faith - ful, To the truth may we be found;
May we ev - er Reign with Thee in end - less day.

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Still, Still, Still

Paul Manz
(1919-2009)

WORSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS

Worship Hosts - Jed Steckel (Lead Host), Jim Woods, Sara Turner, Mel Steckel

Sound/Video Technicians - Mitch Doremus, Jim Middleton

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

Gordon Young, "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks" Copyright 1970 Theodore Presser Co.

David Lasky, "Meditation on The Coventry Carol" Copyright 1989 Belwin-Mills Publishing Corp.

Paul Manz, "Still, Still, Still" Copyright 1987 MorningStar Music Publishers.

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 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 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 31

Nursery Open	8:45 - 12:15 PM	CE Building 3 rd Floor
Worship Service	9:30 AM	Sanctuary & Online
Scout Troops 7 & 1107 Meeting	7:00 - 8:30 PM	CE Building

Monday, January 1

Office Closed	All Day	
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Tuesday, January 2

Caring Closet	9:00 - Noon	CE Building 1 st Floor
Caring Closet Lunches	11:00 AM - 1:00 PM	CE Building Entrance
Staff Meeting	12:00 - 1:00 PM	Von Maur Hall
Church Worship Planning	1:00 - 2:00 PM	Von Maur Hall

Wednesday, January 3

Pickle Ball	9:00 - 11:00 AM	Gym
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Thursday, January 4

TOPS	5:30 - 7:30 PM	Von Maur Hall
Vesper Bells Rehearsal	6:00 - 7:00 PM	Chapel
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	7:00 - 9:00 PM	Choir Room

Friday, January 5

Caring Closet	2:00 - 5:00 PM	CE Building 1 st Floor
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Saturday, January 6

No Scheduled Activities

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

Pastor Kris on Vacation

Pastor Kris will be taking vacation time from January 1 through January 7.

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

Celebrate with a Carnival-themed worship service on Sunday, January 21 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 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 to lead this jazzy musical service.

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!

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.

Bible Basics will be in recess on 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 2022 pledge prior to December 31. Donors must deliver checks on or by Friday, December 30, in order to claim a charitable contribution deduction for 2022. Checks that are placed in the church offering during the first worship service in 2023 (January 1) will not qualify for a charitable deduction in 2022, even if the check is predated to or actually written in 2022. However, under the so-called "mailbox exception," checks that are written, mailed, and postmarked in 2022 will be deductible in 2022 though they are not received by the church until 2023. 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.

FPC STAFF

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

Our Staff

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

* Part-time employee

ELDERS AND DEACONS

Elders

<i>Class of 2023</i>	<i>Class of 2024</i>	<i>Class of 2025</i>
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	
		<i>Clerk of Session</i>
		Mark Jones

Deacons

<i>Class of 2023</i>	<i>Class of 2024</i>	<i>Class of 2025</i>
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 Lehnher	Sherry Williams	Terri Sheetz
Erin Sodawasser-Hermiston		
Katrina Williams		