



THE STEEPLE

DECEMBER 2024

FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WINTERSSET, IA

The mission of the First United Presbyterian Church is to make disciples of all people for the glory of God through teaching, caring and worshipping.



More than colorful lights. More than the festive tree or the presents underneath. More than the crystalline snow that often comes with a white Christmas. More than even the special meals with family and friends during this season. It is the music, for me, that so embodies this season. And no, I am not talking about that canned music that we often hear in the malls and elevators.

The sound of Sunday morning carols, or a small group of people singing door to door. It is the children sharing their annual Christmas program or the adults a Cantata. It is Silent Night on Christmas Eve. It is hearing the song that Mary sang when she met up with Elizabeth or the great chorus of angels singing to the shepherds on that Bethlehem hillside.

Music allow us to capture all the different emotions of the season. The glory of the angelic hosts, the mystery of the magi and the wonder of a young mother can all be found in the great carols of the season.

One does not need to be a musical aficionado to appreciate its power in our lives. Enjoy the music of this season and may it bring expression to your faith. During the Sundays of Advent, we will hear the children tell the story and we will join with them in song. We will also hear the singing found in the gospel of Luke: The Song of Mary (the Magnificat), the angels song to the shepherds and the Song of the prophet Simeon.

Pastor Dave

We pray for...

We pray for...

Nolan Collins

Pat Kuhns

Tish McKee

Don Stanley

Ruth Wagley

Ilene Holmes

Those known only to God

*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation,
by prayer and petition,*

With thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

Philippians 4:6



BIRTHDAYS

Pat Dickerson Dec 4

Suzanne Null Dec 9

Rush Smith Dec 12

Connor Pashek Dec 17

Jake Jacobs Dec 19

ANNIVERSARIES

Don & Kay Stanley Dec 26

Annual Report



into the church office by **Sunday, December 15.** The Annual Meeting will be **Sunday, January 19, 2025.**

It is hard to believe that the end of 2024 is close at hand. That means it is time to start thinking about reports for the Annual Report. Please plan on turning all reports

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

December 1 – 10:15 AM

Kevin de Regnier

Worship Leader

Communion

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

First Sunday of Advent

December 8 – 10:15 AM

Kevin de Regnier

Worship Leader

Second Sunday of Advent

December 15 – 10:15 AM

Rev. Dave Endriss

Worship Leader

Congregational Meeting

Third Sunday of Advent

December 22 – 10:15 AM

Kevin de Regnier

Worship Leader

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24 – 7:00 PM

Rev. Dave Endriss

Worship Leader

Communion

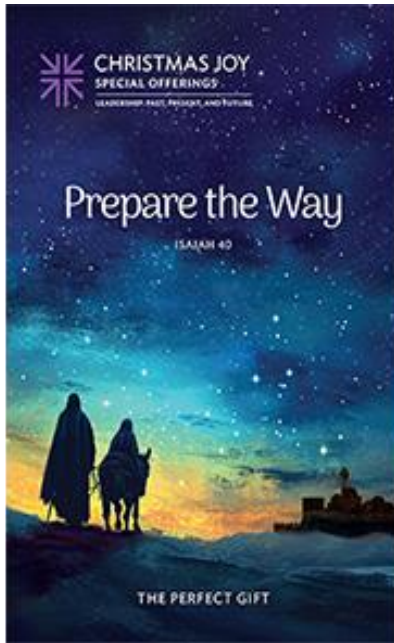
Christmas Eve



Christmas Eve
SERVICE

**Candlelight &
Communion**

7:00 p.m.



By giving to the **Christmas Joy Offering**, you honor God's gift of Jesus Christ by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years. **Please give as you are able on December 22 or any time in December. Earmark your check "Joy Offering."**



Dickerson's Annual Christmas Party

You Are Invited! Please come for food, fun and fellowship at the Dickerson's (402 W. Benton) annual Christmas party following the Christmas Eve Service.

**Ecumenical Service
Sunday, December 29
10:30 am
First United Methodist Church
(No worship at First United
Presbyterian Church)**



CHRISTMAS PLATES FOR SHUT-INS

Evening Guild will be preparing "Christmas Fruit and Cookie Plates" for our congregation shut-ins on Wednesday, December 4. We are asking for cookie donations. We request the cookie donations be left in the kitchen the day before or first thing in the morning of December 4. The Cookie and Fruit baskets will be delivered that afternoon. Also, if you would like to donate to the cost of fruit and supplies, all would be welcome!

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
FOLLOWING WORSHIP ON
DECEMBER 15 FOR THE PURPOSE OF
ELECTING OFFICERS.**



On Monday, December 9, Madonna Circle will have its annual Christmas party. We are each donating a toy to CRISP. Please take an unwrapped toy to the fellowship hall at 7 o'clock and join us for a few Christmas goodies.



Bring a friend! Plan to enjoy the Children's Christmas Program. "The Little Star" during worship on December 1.

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JOSEPH'S LULLABY

This manger for your bed
 You have a long road before You
 Rest Your little head
 Can You feel the weight of Your
 glory?
 Do You understand the price?
 Or does the Father guard Your heart
 for now
 So You can sleep tonight?
 Go to sleep my Son
 Go and chase Your dreams
 This world can wait for one more
 moment
 Go and sleep in peace
 I believe the glory of Heaven
 Is lying in my arms tonight
 But Lord, I ask that He for just this
 moment
 Simply be my child
 Go to sleep my Son
 Baby, close Your eyes
 Soon enough You'll save the day
 But for now, dear Child of mine
 Oh my Jesus, Sleep tight

MercyMe

Advent Wreath Lighting



ADVENT Lighting of the Advent Wreath is a very special tradition in the church. We light candles each Sunday of Advent, symbolizing the Hope, Love, Peace and Joy that the birth of Christ brings to this world. Thank you to these folks who will do the lighting this season:

- Dec. 1 – Kevin & Rae
- Dec. 8 – Don & Kay, Bristol
- Dec. 15 – Ethel Lee & Ruth
- Dec. 22 – PLEASE SIGN UP FOR THIS DATE!
- Dec. 24 – Pat, Mike, Andrea and Brian

Waiting...not one of my best attributes. But this is a season of waiting...a time to focus on the upcoming birth of Jesus. Be still...stay quiet and listen to the stillness in the quiet moments of waiting on the Lord. Is it easy? Notsomuch. In this age of instant gratification, waiting is not a popular thing to have to do. Yet David instructs us to "Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord." (Psalm 27:14 NIV) David knew it wasn't always easy. He tells us to "take heart" as we wait for the Lord. So use this month to take heart, to wait and to listen. God is teaching us, refreshing our spirit, and renewing our hope and faith in this season of wait. The King is coming... - Dalene

DECEMBER 2024

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|-----------------------------|---|---|---------------------------------|-----|-----|
| 1 1st Sunday of Advent 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Worship CHRISTMAS PROGRAM Communion 11:15 a.m. Fellowship | 2 | 3 6:30 pm Session | 4 Artful Devotions Evening Guild Cookies/ Packing/ Delivery 10 am Coffee 5:00 pm Bible Study | 5 7 pm Property & Finance | 6 | 7 |
| 8 2nd Sunday of Advent 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Fellowship | 9 7 pm Madonna Circle | 10 | 11 Artful Devotions 10 am Coffee 5:00 pm Bible Study | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 3rd Sunday of Advent 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Fellowship ANNUAL REPORTS DUE | 16 | 17 | 18 Artful Devotions 10 am Coffee 5:00 pm Bible Study | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 4th Sunday of Advent 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Fellowship | 23 | 24 Christmas Eve 7:00 pm Service 8:15 pm Dickerson's party | 25 Merry Christmas  | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 Ecumenical Service at First United Methodist Church (No worship at 1UPC) | 30 | 31 New Year's Eve | | | | |

OFFICE CLOSED