



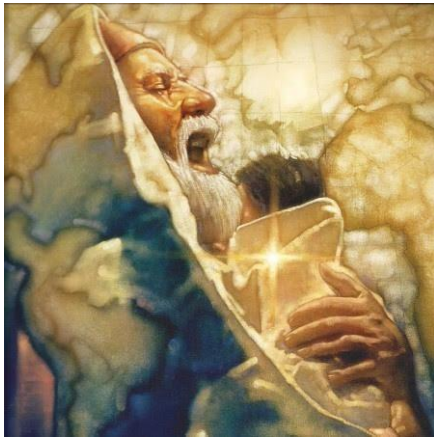
# THE STEEPLE

JANUARY 2026

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 worshiping.*



*“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.”*

*Luke 2:25*



When Mary and Joseph brought their infant son to the temple to be dedicated, they met Simeon who had been promised by the Holy Spirit that he would see the Messiah before he died. He had been looking forward to that day with eager anticipation. When he sees the Christ Child he breaks forth in a song of thanksgiving to God.

If we are honest with ourselves, even our hindsight is rarely 20-20. Our biases, our memories and our rose colored glasses tend to blur the past. Nevertheless, our vision of the past is usually better than our vision for the future. But Simeon was a man who **looked forward!**

Here is a lesson that Simeon can teach us as we move into 2026. Are we prepared to look forward? Are we anticipating what God might be doing in this coming year? The 20<sup>th</sup> century author, Hannah Hurnard, wrote: *“There is something new every day if you look for it.”* Will you join with me this year as we look for something new that God is doing in and among God’s people who worship in this place we know as First United Presbyterian Church?

I look forward to serving with you this coming year. May God continue to do exciting and wondrous things! Then we too will join with Simeon in a song of thanksgiving to God!

- Dave

**SESSION ~ Rev. David Endriss**

Outgoing Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027	Elders Elect Class of 2028
Pam Deichmann Lori Ryner	Ron Berdine Ann Pashek	Mike Dickerson Joe Ekdahl Don Stanley	Craig Deichmann Steve Holmes

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Pastor Dave phone: 515-360-0764  
Dalene phone: 319-530-8373 (texts preferred)  
Dalene email: [dds5160@gmail.com](mailto:dds5160@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.1upcwintersest.org](http://www.1upcwintersest.org)  
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**EPIPHANY, JANUARY 6:** The name Epiphany comes from the Greek epiphaneia, meaning “appearance” or “manifestation,” and refers to the manifestation of Jesus Christ to the world.

The 12 days of Christmas is the period in Christian theology that marks the span between the birth of Christ and the coming of the Magi, the three wise men. It begins on December 25 (Christmas) and runs through January 6.



*Me and my 4 grands... Sunday mean so much more. (Carson, 20; James, 11; Isabella, 10; and Connor, 8)*

As I write this I am listening to Classical Instrumental Christmas AccuRadio on the computer. I love the classics, but sometimes you just want the gentleness of *The Shepherds’ Dance* played by The Nashville Symphony Orchestra rather than *Grandma Got Ran Over By A Reindeer* by Elmo & Patsy. There’s a time and a place for the latter, but I’m at a loss as to when and where that is.

We had our family Christmas last Sunday. This year there were nine of us, including a new addition to the family (almost), my grandson Carson’s fiancé, Hailey. It’s such a blessing to see your family grow. It makes one realize even more that time is unstoppable and moves forward relentlessly, making moments like our time together on

Sunday mean so much more. (Carson, 20; James, 11; Isabella, 10; and Connor, 8)

As you are reading this, I am in Cedar Rapids at my son’s and his family. We went to their church, First Presbyterian in downtown Cedar Rapids for the Christmas Eve service where their family lit the Advent/Christ candle. That’s always a proud moment for this mom/grandma.

So whether you’re still listening to Christmas music or have taken life down a notch because your Christmas celebration is over, remember to keep those moments of the season next to your heart throughout the coming year! *Let the magic of love brighten our smiles and enlighten our souls this holiday season.* Happy New Year! - Dalene

## BIRTHDAYS



Kay Stanley	Jan 2
Sharon Berdine	Jan 10
Connie Banks	Jan 13
David Endriss	Jan 16
Larry Silverthorn	Jan 18
Laura Silverthorn	Jan 30

## ANNIVERSARIES

Steve & Marla Reed Jan 12

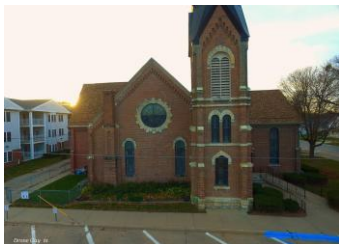
## MADONNA CIRCLE



No Meeting in Jan.

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

January 18, 2026



Following worship all church members and families are invited to attend the annual congregational meeting. Please plan to attend. We'll enjoy a Potluck following the meeting.

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

December 28 – 10:00 AM

Ecumenical Service  
First Christian Church  
**First Sunday of Christmas**

January 4 – 10:15 AM

Kevin de Regnier  
Worship Leader  
Communion  
**Second Sunday of Christmas**

January 11 – 10:15 AM

Rev. Ioan Ittu  
Worship Leader  
**Baptism of the Lord**

January 18 – 10:15 AM

Rev. Dave Endriss  
Worship Leader  
**Second Sunday after  
Epiphany**  
Annual Meeting  
Installation of Officers

January 25 – 10:15 AM

Rev. Sue Blader  
Worship Leader  
**Third Sunday after Epiphany**

## EVENING GUILD



No meeting in January

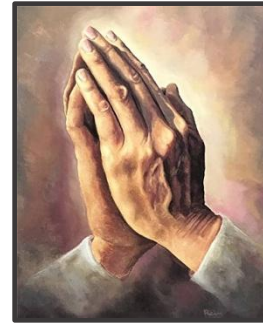
## MONDAY, JANUARY 19<sup>TH</sup>



On January 15, 1929, Martin Luther King, Jr. is born in Atlanta, Georgia, the son of a Baptist minister. King received a doctorate degree in theology and in 1955 helped organize the first major protest of the African-American civil rights movement: the successful Montgomery Bus Boycott. Influenced by Mohandas Gandhi, he advocated civil disobedience and nonviolent resistance to segregation in the South. The peaceful protests he led throughout the American South were often met with violence, but King and his followers persisted, and the movement gained momentum. King became the youngest person to win the Nobel Peace Prize (in 2014 Malala Yousafzai became the youngest to receive the prize at age 17). In the late 1960s, King openly criticized U.S. involvement in Vietnam and turned his efforts to winning economic rights for poor Americans. He was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, on April 4, 1968.



We pray for...  
Diane Blankers  
Nolan Collins  
Jake Jacobs  
Kathy Jackson Sas  
Bob Kuhns  
Pat Kuhns  
Sally Leeper  
Tish McKee  
Dean Schantz  
Hank Stuchel  
Kate Sullivan  
Ruth Wagley  
Roy Smith  
Those known to God only



*"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing,  
give thanks in all circumstances..."*  
- 1 Thessalonians 16-17



*"Let's make one resolution this year: to anchor ourselves to God's grace."*  
- Chuck Swindoll

Why should you stand on just your left foot during the New Year's Eve countdown?

*So you start the New Year on the right foot!*

# JANUARY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Office closed 	2 Office closed	3
4 <b>2<sup>ND</sup> Sunday of Christmas</b> 9:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship Communion Kevin de Regnier 11:15 am Fellowship	5 No Madonna in January	6  <b>Epiphany</b>	7 Artful Devotions No Coffee today 4:00 pm Bible Study No Evening Guild in January	8 7:00 pm Property & Finance	9 4 pm – Debora Kephart's piano student's recital rehearsal	10 7:00 pm Debora Kephart's piano student's recital
11 <b>Baptism of the Lord</b> 9:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship Rev. Ioan Ittu 11:15 am Fellowship	12	13	14 Artful Devotions 10 am Coffee with Pastor Dave 4:00 pm Bible Study	15	16 	17
18 <b>2nd Sunday after Epiphany</b> 9:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship Rev. Dave Endriss <b>ANNUAL MEETING</b> Potluck following meeting	19 	20	21 Artful Devotions 10 am Coffee with Pastor Dave 4:00 pm Bible Study	22	23	24
25 <b>3rd Sunday after Epiphany</b> 9:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship Rev. ??? 11:15 am Fellowship	26	27 6:30 pm Session Meeting	28 Artful Devotions 10 am Coffee with Pastor Dave 4:00 pm Bible Study	29	30	31

*“Sparkling winter sunshine, Faces all aglow, Making resolutions, And angels in the snow ~ Steaming cups of cocoa, A year that’s fresh and new... All of this is magic ~ Unfolding just for you.”*