

First Presbyterian Church of Redwood Falls

Celebrating 150 Years

December 24, 2017 ~ 10:15 am ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent

Ministers: The members of the congregation

Pastor: Rev. Scott Prouty

Our Vision Statement of the First Presbyterian Church of Redwood Falls is: God's timeless love transforms each of us to joyously continue the ministry of Jesus Christ in our community and in our world.

Assemble in God's Name

Prelude

Advent Candle Lighting Service

Confirmation student Hunter Rebstock and his family

Hymn #134 *"Joy to the World"*

Hymn #121 *"O Little Town of Bethlehem"* (Stanza 1 & 2)

Call to Worship

L: A child has been born for us,

P: a son given to us,

L: authority rests upon his shoulder, and he is named:

P: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Prayer of Invocation

All glory to You, great God, for the gifts of Your Son, whom You sent to save us. With singing angels, let us praise Your name, and tell the earth his story, that all may believe, rejoice, and bow down, acknowledging Your love; who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Hymn #133 *"O Come, All Ye Faithful"*

Hymn #113 *"Angels We Have Heard on High"*

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession in Unison

Lord of Christmas Peace, we have done wrong. We have tarnished the gift You gave freely. We have buried You so deeply in our hearts, the world doesn't see You. We have not followed Christ, we have ignored Your teachings, we have lived lives of apathy against Your love, we have built fences and fortresses to push people

away, and we have silenced the screams of those in need. Forgive us, we pray. Free us from our sin. Free us from our captivity. Free us to a life lived in joy through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Time for Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

L: Here is Good News! God is willing to cleanse us from our pride, our blindness, our stubborn insistence on having things "our way". Through God's grace we are washed and forgiven.

P: Thanks be to God! Hallelujah! Amen.

*Response Hymn #519 *"You Are My Strength When I am Weak"*

*Share the Peace of Christ with One Another

(Members and guests, please pass the attendance pad from left to right)

Proclaim God's Word

Hymn #127

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Hymn #143

"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

Moment for Children

Special Music

"Some Children See Him"

Rev. Scott Prouty

Peggy Dolezal

Announcements, Sharing of Joys and Concerns

The Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Give Thanks To God

God's Tithes and Your Offering Received

Offertory

*Response Hymn #144 *"In the Bleak Mid-Winter"* (Stanza 4)

*Offertory Prayer

Go in God's Name

*Hymn #123

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" (Stanza 1 & 5)

*Benediction

Postlude

(* Asterisk signifies to please stand if you are able.)

Ushers for December: Dan Fuhr, Randy & Lynn Juell, Brent Prouty, Aaron Rohlik,
Keegan & Kyron Mammen, Marty Caraway

Deacon of December: Julie Reinstra

Greeting You Today: Tom & Barb Stough, Maynard & Joyce Nolting

Our Televised Worship Services ~ Tune in to NU-Telecom - channel 3, and Media-com - channel 8, on Mondays at 10 am, and Wednesdays at 7 pm.

Per-Capita ~ Per capita brings Presbyterians together – literally! Presbyterians are connected in many ways, including our church government. We believe we discern best what God is calling us to do when we gather as councils, *“seek[ing] together to find and represent the will of Christ”* (Book of Order F-3.0204). Per-capita makes it possible for Presbyterians to govern ourselves the way we do. When each Presbytery church member pays per-capita, it is split three ways between the Presbytery, the Synod and the General Assembly. Per-capita supports Book of Order mandated programs. For example; per-capita supports the work of committees, administration, building maintenance, trainings plus more. When the Presbytery hosts a leadership training and retreats, per-capita dollars help them fund it. When the Presbytery has Presbytery committee members plan, strategize, visit congregations and support pastors, per-capita dollars help fund it. Per-capita dollars are not always spent in the most flashy manner, but they are spent with thought, prayer and the health of our congregations and pastors in mind. In November we pay \$9,149.64 to Presbytery for Per-Capita. That comes to \$40.13 per member.

Christmas Eve ~ Join us **tonight** for our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 5 pm, followed by our Christmas Eve Friendship Dinner from 6-7 pm.

Church Calendar

Sunday, December 24:

Christmas Eve

10:15 am: Morning Worship

5:00 pm: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

6-7:00 pm: Christmas Eve Friendship Dinner

Monday, December 25:

Christmas Day - Church Office Closed

December 25-January 3: Pastor Scott will be on vacation. Rev. Anna Williamson of Renville will cover in case of a Pastoral Emergency. (320-305-0346)

Saturday, December 30:

Nursery Deep Cleaning

Sunday, December 31:

Christmas Eve

10:15 am: Morning Worship with Marlene Ramey

Pray For The Following:

Pray for expecting parents of our Church Family: Curt & Claire Meyers

Pray for the unchurched and lonely.

Pray for people living in our communities, the disenfranchised and people in other countries.

Pray for those who are having financial or marital difficulties.

Pray for those grieving the loss of a loved one.

Pray for those seeking employment.

Pray for our leaders at the city, county, state and national level and all military personnel.

Pray for those in need of food, medicine and shelter.

Pray for our church leaders and teachers.

Pray for our local, national, world political leaders.

Birthdays: Today - Jerilyn Kodet, 30th - Rick Kramer, Savannah Carroll

Members of our Church Family in Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities:

Muriel Moon, Millie Bunting, Gordon Alexander, Jeanette Kotval

All Those Fighting Cancer: Wendy Nolting, Tom & Dawn Umscheid (Pam Prouty's cousins),

Clayton Wolf, Kathy Tiffany (Glen Tiffany's wife/Donna Potter's sister-in-law)

Pray for all those fighting other diseases:

Shellie Mammen (Lupus), Corrine Gertsema (multiple sclerosis)

If you know of something/someone to add to the Prayer List, please contact the church office.

Curious?

The Skinny on how it works. There are two options:

1. On your smart phone, go to your app store and download a QR Code Reader and Scanner. Scan the code and it will take you directly to the online donation page.
2. On your laptop or desktop computer, go to our church website at <http://fpcrwf.org/> and click on the 'Give Now' button in the upper right hand corner to make a one time or ongoing donation.

There are no setup fees or monthly fees, so getting started is free! There is a 2% administrative fee for all gifts received; this fee is for the reasonable and customary costs of operation and is to help ensure the continued viability of the program and its services.



Sign-Up Sheets ~ Sign-up sheets for Sunday morning breakfast and Wednesday night meals are in the Narthex! Please sign-up where you can!

The Chimes ~ Starting in January, in an attempt to cut back on the cost of postage and paper, the Chimes will be sent out via email. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for email addresses. There is also a sign-up sheet for those of you that wish to have a paper copy printed for you to pick up in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the church office.

150th Anniversary History Tidbit (Janean McKay)

Christmas at the First Presbyterian Church

The birth of the Christ Child has always been celebrated. The children have had a program of memory work and music during an Advent Sunday service. Bible land costumes were improvised but in the 1960s a set of various robes was made and sent from India. Many more have been added through the years. The junior choir has been an important part of the program. Bunny Nolting was director first, then Louise Matchette, Lynn Corrow and now Ann Tiffany. The senior choir has had a Christmas cantata since 1942 during one of the Advent church services. Both the junior and senior choirs have had robes and collars.

Robert Moon, a church member skilled in metal work, made the Advent wreath on a stand. There are spaces for purple fabric hangings if they are desired. Through the last decades various church members or families have begun the church service during the Advent season with a special reading and lighting the candles representing that Sunday of the season.

For many years Bea and Tom Tyson would bring a real evergreen cut near their cabin in northern MN to be used as a Christmas tree. After a Twin Cities fire, live Christmas trees were banned in Minnesota public buildings. A&W Furniture donated two artificial trees to our church in 2001. It was at the time of the 9/11 in New York City and much was made of the significance. Decorations vary from year to year purchased or donated as memorial gifts. About that time pew candle holders with glass globes became part of the decorations. These candles are used as part of the Christmas Eve candle light service. Each person attending receives a candle to be lit during the last hymn.

In early years most community churches celebrated with a mid-night Christmas Eve service. In the 1980's 1st Presbyterian decided to have a 5 pm service while children were awake and it was convenient to come. Businesses protested that it took away their late sales. But the church was packed with people of all denominations and now most area churches have joined with their own service at about this time. In later years we have had a soup supper/fellowship following the service. This has been well attended and has become part of the Christmas tradition.

On December 4, 2016, our Student Intern Amy Levinski officiated at a Blue Christmas service of Lament. This service allows us to recognize we are not alone as we publicly grieve the losses we experience daily and keep within our private lives.

If you have missed any history tidbits... remember bulletins are on our website... fpcrwf.org