

First Presbyterian Church of Redwood Falls

Celebrating 150 Years

December 3, 2017 ~ 10:15 am ~ First 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

Choral Introit

Advent Candle Lighting Service

Confirmation Student Ella Fuhr and her family

Hymn #88

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (Stanza 1)

Call to Worship

L: Now, in this holy season of Advent, we wait.

P: For the faithful God is coming to us.

L: Now, in this season of waiting, we listen.

P: For the faithful Word speaks of good news to us.

L: Now, in the waiting and listening, we watch.

P: For the faithful Spirit is moving among us.

Prayer of Invocation

You could feed us bitterness, Approaching God, but You choose to serve us with the Bread of heaven; You could hand us a hot cup of Your tears, but You touch the Cup of hope to our lips. All the stars fall down to shine the way for You, Babe of Bethlehem, as the powers of the world tremble at Your approach. You tear open our hardened hearts so You can come in and live with us forever. Advent's Spirit: You unclog our ears so we can hear the songs of the angels; You wipe the grit from our eyes so we can see the One who is coming to us. God in Community, Holy in One, help us to wait patiently, and hopefully, as we worship You today. Amen.

*Hymn #105

"People, Look East"

*Call to Confession

Advent is the season of preparing, of waiting, of hoping, so let us confess to the One who comes, our impatient, toe-tapping, instant-gratification-filled lives, as we pray, saying...

*Prayer of Confession in Unison

L: God who is drawing near to us: we live in a world of violence, which we do not condemn enough;

P: Come to us, with Your peace.

L: We are filled with the best of intentions, but are unable to follow through with action;

P: Come to us, with Your will.

L: We are sinners, who are afraid to gaze into Your mirror of grace;

P: Come to us, with Your mercy.

L: Word of Flesh;

P: have mercy.

L: Friend of the poor;

P: have mercy.

L: Bridegroom of the faithful;

P: have mercy.

*Time for Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

L: In this season of waiting, the Good News is this: mercy, new life, hope, and joy are the gifts we receive from our God.

P: Thanks be to the God of Advent, who came in the Child, who is with us in the Spirit, who will come again in glory! 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

Prayer of Illumination

Responsive Reading

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19

Page 704

Moment for Children

Hunger Fund Offering (Hymn #115 Away in the Manger)

Dorie Oja

Gospel Lesson Sermon

Mark 13:24-37

Page 1215

*Hymn #695

"Change My Heart, O God" (Sing three times)

*Affirmation of Faith: The Apostle's Creed (Page 35 in Hymnal)

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 #658 "God is So Good" (vs. 1&2)

*Offertory Prayer

God-who-gifts-us, You do so, not so we might have more, but that we might care for those who have so little; not so we might splurge, but that we might share. In the waiting of Advent, may we see the wanting, and use our resources to fill their lives with hope, grace, and joy. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Go in God's Name

Anthem

"If We Truly Believe"

Chancel Choir

Holy Communion

*Benediction

Choral Response

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

Communion Servers for December: Scott Kohler, Fred & Jenny Bloedow,
Randy & Lynn Juell, Leon King, Laura Kohler

Deacon of December: Julie Reinstra

Greeting You Today: Robb & Robin Schneider, Kory & Brittany Schneider

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.

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.

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 Friendship Dinner ~ We are looking for donations of meat/cheese trays and Christmas desserts. If you would like to donate one of these, please contact Pastor Scott. We are also asking that if you plan to attend the Christmas Eve Friendship Dinner, please RSVP to Pastor Scott. We would like to make sure we have enough food on hand. Thank you.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing ~ We have claimed Saturday, December 9, from 9am-7pm to ring the Salvation Army Bell at Tersteeg’s. If you would like to sign up for a two hour slot, please see the sheet in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Laura Kohler at 640-0209.

Quilts ~ Looking for a cozy holiday gift?! Something to warm the heart and toes of a loved one?! The Piecemakers have a gift just for you... Stop in the Youth Chapel and choose from a large selection of quilts! Quilts will be on display and available for purchase for the next couple of weeks. Feel free to contact Char or Marlys if you are looking for something that isn’t displayed.

Share the Spirit ~ The Deacons have put up their Mittens and More trees in the Narthex! Let’s collect more than ever before! Share the Spirit is happy to accept donations of new toys, new books, new quilts, new socks, new hats and mittens. Please, no other clothing items or shoes/boots. All donations are distributed to families in Redwood County.

Congregational Meeting ~ Following worship **today**, we will have a congregational meeting to approve the nominations for 2018 along with the Pastor’s package. Everyone is urged to attend this meeting.

January Friendship Dinner ~ Families of the congregation with last names starting with R-T are in charge of the January Friendship Dinner. Following the Congregational Meeting **today**, you are asked to meet in the Parlor to plan this dinner.

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 - Mackenzie Toomer, 5th - Tom Stough, 8th - Travis Rebstock

Members of our Church Family in Season’s Hospice House: Elizabeth Stancer

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

Muriel Moon, Millie Bunting, Gordon Alexander, Jeanette Kotval

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

Kathy Lueckert (Scott Prouty’s friend), Clayton Wolf

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.

150th Anniversary History Tidbit (Janean McKay)

Special Offerings

One Great Hour of Sharing: This offering is considered a special Advent/Easter offering. The money is used throughout the church-wide for disaster relief, hunger and self development. Envelopes are in the church bulletin or in the pew racks during the Advent season.

Hunger Fund Offering: This offering is considered part of the One Great Hour collection. Our church chooses to collect a Hunger Offering each Sunday when communion is served. Rev Tjaden suggested it's a token of giving to others and Christ has given for us. Children collect the offering after the Children's Sermon on those Sundays. One/half of the money is given to the Presbyterian Hunger Fund and the other half is used to support the local Fellowship Dinners.

Christmas Joy Offering: This offering is collected during the Advent season or at Christmas. The money is used by the church-wide Board of Pensions for current and retired church workers in time of need and to support racial ethnic schools and students. Special envelopes are distributed at this time.

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

Curious?

If you have seen this image in the bulletin and in the Chimes and don't know what it means or what to do with it here are the details...



The Presbyterian Foundation offers an Online Giving Program to PC(USA) congregations that allows you to make donations to your church online. We now have that option available for you. We know that people share their blessings in many ways with the church. Some donate grain or stocks, others give cash or write a check. This online option is just another way for you to share your generosity and fulfill your calling to serve our Lord by supporting the different programs we offer through our congregation;

worship, faith formation, mission work and our physical space in our community.

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.

Church Calendar

Sunday, December 3:	8:45 am:	Breakfast
	9:00 am:	Sunday School
	9:15 am:	Choir Practice
	10:15 am:	Worship with Holy Communion
	Following Worship:	Congregational Meeting-Approve Nominations & Pastor's Package
Following Congregational Meeting:		January Friendship Dinner Planning Meeting
		Packing Weekend Food Bags
	7:00 pm:	Confirmation
Monday, December 4:	Noon:	Pastor - Rotary
	2:00 pm:	Pastor visits Dorothy Symes
	3:00 pm:	Pastor visits Lucille Byram
	6:30 pm:	Mission Committee Meeting
	7:00 pm:	Outreach Committee Meeting/Pastor visits Rick & Denise Siegfried
Tuesday, December 5:	9:30 am:	Pastor visits Gordon & Ardis Alexander
	10:30 am:	Pastor visits Muriel Moon
	11:00 am:	Pastor visits Elizabeth Stancer
	2:00 pm:	Pastor visits Janet Minkel
	3:00 pm:	Pastor visits Millie Bunting
	4:00 pm:	Pastor visits Darlene Garrison
	6:30 pm:	Stewardship Committee Meeting
Wednesday, December 6:	9:00 am:	Piecemaker's Christmas Party
	5:15 pm:	Youth Club
	6:00 pm:	Meal
	6:30 pm:	Youth Faith in Action
	7:15 pm:	Choir Practice
Thursday, December 7:	7:00 pm:	Pastor visits Robb & Robin Schneider
Friday, December 8:	7:00 a m:	Pastor - Dollar for Scholars Meeting
Sunday, December 10:	8:45 am:	Breakfast
	9:00 am:	Sunday School
	9:15 am:	Choir Practice
	10:15 am:	Children's Christmas Program
	7:00 pm:	Confirmation