

First Presbyterian Church of Redwood Falls

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.

November 28, 2021 ~ First Sunday of Advent

Ministers: The members of the congregation

Pastor: Rev. Scott Prouty

Assemble in God's Name

Prelude: Karen Speros

Ringing of the Church Bell

Advent Candle Service: Confirmation Student Max Bentson & Family

L: Today we light the first candle of the Advent wreath.

(Light one purple candle)

L: This is the candle of HOPE. With Christians around the world, we use this light to help us prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of God's Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. May we receive God's light as we hear the words of the prophet Isaiah:

L: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined."—Isaiah 9:2

L: Let us pray: Lord as we look to the birth of Jesus, grant that the light of your love for us will help us to become lights in the lives of those around us. Prepare our hearts for the joy and gladness of your coming, for Jesus is our hope. Amen.

L: Let us sing Verses 1, 5, 6 and 7 of Hymn# 88 "O Come, O Come Emmanuel."

***Hymn #88** **"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"** (vs. 1, 5, 6 & 7)

1 *O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.*

Refrain: *Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

5 *O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. [Refrain]*

6 *O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. [Refrain]*

7 *O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind; bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace. [Refrain]*

Call to Worship

L: Because of You, Righteous God, we begin our journey to Bethlehem,

P: trusting that You will lead us down the paths of faithfulness.

L: For You, Child Jesus, we wait,

P: on this day of anticipation and hope, in the days of doubt and worry.

L: With You, Spirit of Advent, we serve,

P: those for whom this season is not one of joy; those whose lives are empty of family and friends.

Prayer of Invocation

Faithful God, Your promises stand unshaken through all generations. Renew us in hope, that we may be awake and alert as we watch for the glorious return of Jesus Christ, our judge and Savior, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

***Hymn #82**

"Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"

1 *Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.*

2 *Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king, born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.*

*Call of Confession

If only our hurtful words, our damaging actions, our foolish choices would just go away. But they don't, and so we offer them, as well as ourselves, to God for forgiveness and for our healing. Please join me, as we pray together praying,

*Prayer of Confession

Holy One of God, forgive us for we are quick to stray. We seek that which does not bring us fulfillment. We acknowledge that in this season of giving, we are tempted by that which is made by human hands. Help us, O God, to remain faithful to You. Keep us ever focused on all that is eternal – on love, mercy and faithfulness. Direct our sights to Jesus, to His birth and to His return. To the glory of God Almighty. Amen.

*Time for Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

The Lord is just and righteous. The Lord will save us from our sins. Believe the Good News! In Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven! And God will strengthen our hearts in holiness. Amen.

***Response Hymn #581 "Gloria Patri"**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

***Share the Peace of Christ with One Another**

Proclaim God's Word

Prayer of Illumination

Responsive Reading: Psalm 25:1-10

I offer you my heart, Lord God, 2 and I trust you. Don't make me ashamed or let enemies defeat me. 3 Don't disappoint any of your worshipers, but disappoint all deceitful liars. 4 Show me your paths and teach me to follow; 5 guide me by your truth and instruct me. You keep me safe, and I always trust you. 6 Please, Lord, remember, you have always been patient and kind. 7 Forget each wrong I did when I was young. Show how truly kind you are and remember me. 8 You are honest and merciful, and you teach sinners how to follow your path. 9 You lead humble people to do what is right and to stay on your path. 10 In everything you do, you are kind and faithful to everyone who keeps our agreement with you.

Gospel Reading: Luke 21:25-36

Strange things will happen to the sun, moon, and stars. The nations on earth will be afraid of the roaring sea and tides, and they won't know what to do. 26 People will be so frightened that they will faint because of what is happening to the world. Every power in the sky will be shaken.[a] 27 Then the Son of Man will be seen, coming in a cloud with great power and glory. 28 When all of this starts happening, stand up straight and be brave. You will soon be set free.

29 Then Jesus told them a story:

When you see a fig tree or any other tree 30 putting out leaves, you know that summer will soon come. 31 So, when you see these things happening, you know that God's kingdom will soon be here. 32 You can be sure that some of the people of this generation will still be alive when all of this takes place. 33 The sky and the earth won't last forever, but my words will.

34 Don't spend all of your time thinking about eating or drinking or worrying about life. If you do, the final day will suddenly catch you 35 like a trap. That day will surprise everyone on earth. 36 Watch out and keep praying that you can escape all that is going to happen and that the Son of Man will be pleased with you.

Sermon

***Hymn #354**

“Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory”

1 Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord; he is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored; he has loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift sword. God's truth is marching on.

Refrain: Glory, glory hallelujah! Glory, glory hallelujah! Glory, glory hallelujah! God's truth is marching on.

2 God has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat and is sifting out all human hearts before the judgment seat; O be swift, my soul, to answer; O be jubilant my feet! Our God is marching on. **[Refrain]**

3 In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea, with a glory in his bosom that transfigures you and me; as he died to make us holy, let us live to make all free, while God is marching on. **[Refrain]**

Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed (Page 35 in Hymnal)

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand
of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.

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: Karen Speros

***Response Hymn #144 “In the Bleak Mid Winter” (vs. 4)**

4 What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

***Offertory Prayer**

Because of You, Abundant God, we have blessings to offer to others. May You use our gifts to restore hope to the despairing, to feed the hungry, and to fill the empty hearts of the lonely. This we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.

***Hymn #145**

“What Child is This”

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

2 Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding? Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading. Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you. Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!

3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him. The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him. Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby. Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

***Benediction**

***Postlude:** Karen Speros

***Please stand in body or spirit.**

Year of Equality

Did you know? Pearl S. Buck, Noble Prize winning author of The Good Earth, served as a Presbyterian missionary to China from 1914-1932. Ms. Buck championed fair treatment for all people through her writing. Disgusted with anti-Asian prejudice in the international adoption community at the time, and concerned about the plight of Asian orphans, Pearl founded Welcome House, the first international interracial adoption agency. She also founded orphanages South Korea, the Philippines, Vietnam, and Thailand.

Equality Library

“An intelligent heart acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.” Proverbs 18:15
It can be hard to understand the complexities of racism in 21st century America, and even harder to know what to do about it. Thankfully, God has provided us with many guides for the journey! Please check out a book from the “Equality Library” and read up. The books are located in the narthex, at the top of the stairs.
-The Matthew 25 Committee

Mittens & More Trees ~ We are collecting items for Share the Spirit with our Mittens & More Trees in the Narthex. Please donate new items including; toys, arts/crafts supplies, games, puzzles, quilts, blankets, hats, mittens, gloves and scarves. **The trees will be up until December 5!** Thank you!

Holiday Gifts ~ 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 **today**, and choose from a large selection of quilts! **There will be a half-off table of quilts available for donation to Share the Spirit.**

Imagination Library ~ Are you an "Imagination Angel"?! It only takes \$30 to bless a child for one year with the gift of reading. You can mail donations to First Presbyterian Church, PO Box 444, RWF, MN or give online at <https://donate.imaginationlibrary.com/> (make sure to designate Redwood Area to receive your donation).

Checks should be written to: First Presbyterian Church with "Imagination Library" in the memo line.
Thank you!

Reminder: Just a reminder that December is the last month you can donate to the Deacon's Backpacks for Mexico project!

November Ushers: Head Usher Fred Bloedow, Jenny Bloedow, Shaun & Becky Bruns, Kevin Zaske, Shannon Sweetman, Nicole VanderLinden, Dave Gertsema

December Communion Servers: Ruling Elder Scott Kohler, Fred & Jenny Bloedow, Nathan Stephens, Karen Speros, Leon King, Kathy Peterson

December Ushers: Head Usher Dan Fuhr, Ella & Max Fuhr, Randy & Lynn Juell, Brent Prouty, Aaron Rohlik, Paige Paplow, Keegan, Shellie & Kyron Mammen, Pete Fuhr

Deacon of the Month: Kathy Peterson, **Today's Greeters:** Robb & Robin Schneider, Kory & Brittany Schneider



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Looking at the Week Ahead:

Sunday, November 28: 10:15 am: Worship

Wednesday, December 1: 9:00 am: Piecemakers

3:45 pm: Youth Club

6:00 pm: Confirmation

7:00 pm: 4Hs - Shopping for Share the Spirit

Thursday, December 2: Pastor Scott: Meeting in Willmar

Friday, December 3: Afternoon: Pastor Scott visits Lucille Byram

Sunday, December 5: Second Sunday of Advent

9:00 am: Sunday School

9:15 am: Choir Practice

10:15 am: Worship

Following Worship: Congregational Meeting

Our Sunday morning service is on our local channels...

Nuvera (Channel 3), Media-Com (Channel 8): Mondays at 10 am, Wednesdays at 7 pm!

Pray for The Following:

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 - Joanne Carroll, 29th - Lori Rebstock, 30th - Ryan Quinn

December 1st - Connie Bentson, Shari Fuhr, 2nd - Shyla Burg, Maybe Juell, 3rd - Mackenzie Toomer

Members of our Church Family in Nursing Homes, Assisted Living or Other Facilities:

Millie Bunting, Jeanette Kotval, Bob & Bunny Nolting, Ardis Alexander,

Dorothy Symes, Lucille Byram, Joyce McKay, Janean McKay

All Those Fighting Cancer: Julie Fiala's sister, Jill Nelson

Pray for all those fighting other diseases: Shellie Mammen (lupus),

Corrine Gertsema (multiple sclerosis), Tripp Meyers (epilepsy)

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

Financial Update From the Stewardship Committee

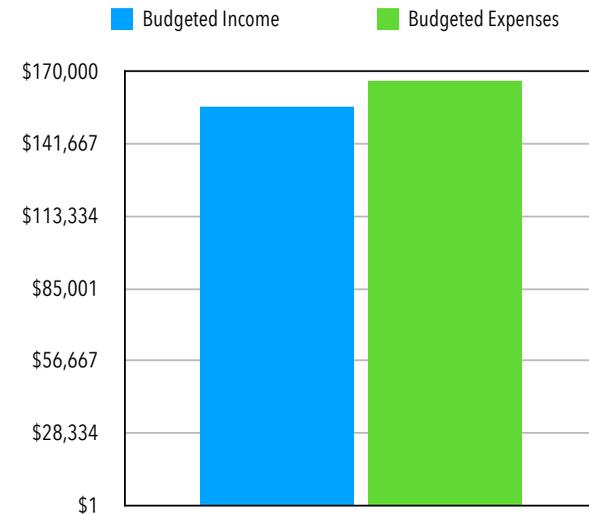
If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any of committee members.

~ Moderator Scott Kohler, Richard Aakre, Bob Alexander & Dan Fuhr

Budgeted Income vs Expense \$214,162 2021 Budget
As of 11/22/21

What we have taken in.
\$156,031
collected as of 11/22/21

What we have spent.
\$166,083



\$10,052
Deficit