

# 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.

**December 17, 2023 ~ Third Sunday of Advent**

**Assemble in God’s Name**

**Prelude:** Presbyterian Piano Players: Addy & Trevin Sharpe, Henry Bentson

**Ringin**g of the Church Bell

**Welcome**

**Advent Candle Lighting Reading:** *Confirmation student Kaden Hicks & his Family*

Joy Creator of the stars of night, Your people's everlasting light, O Christ, redeemer of us all, we pray You hear us when we call.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth, and set lights in the sky – sun and moon and stars. By these stars, our ancestors charted their journeys. By these stars, they knew God was with them.

Today we light three candles to bring the fire of the stars down from heaven to earth, to nestle among the greens.

We name this candle Hope. *(Light a purple candle.)* We name this candle Peace. *(Light a purple candle.)* We name this candle Joy. *(Light the pink candle.)*

We, too, are on a journey, and we do not always know the way. But we chart our path by the star of joy. Even when despair is all around us and apathy seems the order of the day, we set our face steadily towards the light.

Listen now to the prophecy of Isaiah: *“The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion – to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit”* (Isaiah 61:1-3).

Lord Jesus, as we search for signs of joy this week, help us to become the signs of joy that others are searching for. As these candles are but a glimpse of the light of the heavens, help us to be a glimpse of heaven’s joy. Amen.

**Hymn #134 “Joy to the World”** *(Vs. 1)*

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king; let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.*

**Call to Worship:** Elliott Klavetter

L: Jesus said, “I am the light of the world.”

P: “Whoever follows me will never walk without light but will have the light of life.”

**Prayer of Invocation**

For the blessings of this day, arise, shine, for the Light of the World has come! In Your light, may we see life clearly and in Your service find perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**\*Hymn #121 “O Little Town of Bethlehem”**

**\*Call to Confession**

We who have received much have not always been grateful. We who have been called to work with God for the good of others as well as ourselves have often been selfish. We who have been called to live in the light often choose darkness. In the knowledge of our weakness, ignorance and deliberate choice, let us confess our sins to Almighty God.

**\*Prayer of Confession**

Through Jesus Christ, Your light shines in the darkness. We love the darkness, though. We let our sins to grow in the darkness while we avoid the light and fail to let Your light shine through us. Cleanse us with Your pure light, O Lord, as we confess our sins to You.

**\*Time for Silent Prayers of Confession**

**\*Assurance of Pardon:** (Isaiah 12:3-4)

The Light has come into the world and the darkness shall not overcome it! God did not send His Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. Rejoice! Beloved children of God, we are forgiven! Alleluia! Amen!

**\*Responsive Hymn #128 “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”** *(vs. 1)*

*Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall; oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all. Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing: Christ the babe is Lord of all! Christ the babe is Lord of all!*

**Call for the Offering**

**God’s Tithes and Your Offering Received**

**Offertory**

**“There Was Love”**

Chancel Choir

**\*Response Hymn #136 “Go Tell It on the Mountain”** *(Vs. 1)*

*Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

**\*Offertory Prayer**

Oh, God, accept my tithes, my offerings and my whole life. I pray that You will help me to walk in the light because You, Lord, are in the light. Amen.

**Announcements, Sharing of Joys and Concerns**

**Pastoral Prayer and The Lord’s Prayer**

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

**“The Christmas Star”**

Narrators: August & Corrine Danielson, Elliott Klavetter, Henry Bentson

*Jingle Bells*  
*This Little Light of Mine*  
*A New Star / Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star*  
*Glory Be to God!*  
*Kneel With the Shepherd*  
*One Small Babe*  
*Christmas Gloria*  
*Happy Birthday, Jesus!*

Pearl, Lily and Beverly Alexander  
Simon and Anne-Marie Danielson  
Naomi Hustad  
Emma, Harper, Haven and Taylee Johanneck  
Peter Milbradt  
Thomas Miller  
Trevin, Addy and Grayson Sharpe

**\*Postlude:** Elaine Hagen

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

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**December Ushers: Head Usher:** Dan Fuhr, Shari, Max & Lucas Fuhr, Brent Prouty,  
Aaron & Amber Rohlik, Keegan, Shellie, Kyron & Ethin Mammen, Ralph Revier

**Deacons of the Month:** Scott Goodyear

**Today’s Greeter:** Nate & Val Stephens

**December Money Counter:** Tony Miller



**Thank You ~** Thank you Elaine Hagen for the beautiful bulletin cover!

**Thank You ~** *Dear Deacons and FPC Family; Thank you so much for the gift box! It was such a nice pick me up during the end of my busy semester. I will have to use the Qdoba gift card when I'm back home because the closest Qdoba is in Colorado :) I am looking forward to celebrating Christmas at home. See you all soon! ~ Thanks again, Julia Prouty*

**Jewelry...** Corrine Gertsema was gifted a lot of new jewelry from a friend. She would like to pass it out to people in need at her home from noon to 5 pm, on Sunday, December 17. Her address is 405 E Flynn St. Her phone number is 507-627-2313, if you have any questions.

**Help Needed ~** We are looking for more individuals to learn how to use the church camera. If you are interested, please let Pastor Scott or Lee Davis know. Thanks! Pastor Scott

**Position Opening ~** We are still looking for a church custodian!!! Please stop into/or call the church office for more information!!!

**Bible Study ~** We have two weekly Bible studies on Wednesdays. At 7 am, we read and study the Old Testament (Psalms) and at 2 pm, the New Testament (1 John).

**Ruby's Pantry ~** Our next Ruby's Pantry distribution will be Tuesday, December 19, from 4:30-6 pm. Volunteers are needed! Please sign up to help!

**Christmas Eve ~** Reminder: There is NO morning worship. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: 5 pm, Christmas Eve Friendship Dinner: 6pm! You are welcome to join us on Christmas Eve following worship for a time of food and fellowship. We will have different soups, meat and cheese trays, and Christmas desserts please sign up in the narthex so we know you are coming. If you would be willing to work or donate food there is a sign up sheet in the narthex too! Thanks! Pastor Scott

**2024 Per-Capita:** \$45.00/\$9.80: General Assembly, \$5.50: Synod, \$29.70: Presbytery

**January Chimes Deadline:** TODAY  
**Annual Report Deadline:** January 5, 2024  
**Annual Meeting:** January 21, 2024

	<u><b>Looking at the Week Ahead</b></u>
<b>Sunday, December 17:</b>	<b>Chimes Deadline</b> 9:00 am: Sunday School 9:15 am: Choir Practice 10:15 am: Worship - Christmas Celebration Following Worship: Packing Weekend Food Bags - <i>Hicks</i> 2:00 pm: Pastor Scott officiates a wedding 6:00 pm: YFA Christmas Party
<b>Monday, December 18:</b>	11:00 am: Pastor Scott has Rotary Board Meeting Noon: Pastor Scott has Rotary
<b>Tuesday, December 19:</b>	4:30-6:00 pm: Ruby's Pantry
<b>Wednesday, December 20:</b>	7:00 am: Old Testament Bible Study 2:00 pm: New Testament Bible Study 6:00 pm: Confirmation/ <i>Meal: Brozek</i>
<b>Thursday, December 21:</b>	9:30 am: Pastor Scott visits Rosemary Bennett 11:00 am: Pastor Scott visits Wayne Mann Noon: Pastor Scott visits Merlin Goudy 1:30 pm: Pastor Scott visits Jenifer Hindt 3:00 pm: Pastor Scott visits Sally Dording 4:00 pm: Pastor Scott visits Doreen Steenblock
<b>Sunday, December 24:</b>	5:00 pm: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 6:00 pm: Christmas Eve Friendship Dinner
<b>Monday, December 25:</b>	<b>Christmas Day - Church Office Closed</b>
<b>December 25-January 2: Pastor Scott will be out of the office.</b>	

**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 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:** *18th: Ivis Robertson, 20th: Grayson Sharpe, 21st: Kylan Bahr,  
22nd: Lois Davis, Brenda Johnson, 23rd: Blake Stephens*

**Members of our Church Family in Nursing Homes, Assisted Living or Other Facilities:**  
*Bob & Bunny Nolting, Sue Tiffany*

**All Those Fighting Cancer:** *Ralph Revier, Mark Pankonin (Shari Fuhr's brother),  
Sally Sisk (Julie Fiala's sister)*

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

**Pastor: Rev. Scott Prouty**

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