



First Presbyterian Church

Energy • Intelligence • Imagination • Love

**Second Sunday of Advent
A Service of Advent Lessons and Carols
December 7, 2025 at 9:30 AM**



Absolon Stumme (1450-1510), *Tree of Jesse* (1499) | Muzeum Narodowe (Warsaw)

A congregation of the
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A)



Welcome to First Presbyterian Church of Davenport

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church of Davenport, a church where EVERYONE is welcome. On behalf of the entire First Pres family, we want you to know that we are so glad you're here. We are a proud congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA), where We Choose WELCOME!

We welcome followers of Jesus who are solid in their faith, and we welcome questioning believers seeking deeper meaning in their life. We welcome those who come from different faith backgrounds, such as Methodists, Lutherans, and Catholics, and those with no faith background at all; for we are all one in Christ Jesus. No matter where you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome here!

We hope you experience the warmth and friendliness of our congregation. It is a place that long-term members have described as their spiritual home for generations. It is also a place where people newer to our community of faith have found a safe and sacred space for themselves and their families.

Nursery care is available during the worship service for children (birth through kindergarten). The nursery is staffed by trained and background-checked caregivers from 8:15 AM to 11:30 AM. The nursery is on the third floor of the Christian Education (CE) building. Ask a worship host if you need assistance locating this space.

Kirkwood Choir is offered during the service, after the Children's Message. Kirkwood Choir provides music for worship throughout the program year.

MusikGarten, a program for parents/caregivers and young children (birth through kindergarten), is provided after the service in room #310 of the CE building. MusikGarten is our unique program that allows participation in a fun, energetic environment while instilling a love and understanding of music in young children. Check today's bulletin for schedule.

Sunday School classes for children, youth, and adults are offered after the service. Children and youth Sunday school is located on the third floor of the CE building. High School youth are encouraged to be helpers in the elementary classes. Adult Sunday school is in Von Maur Hall. Please ask a worship host if you need assistance locating these spaces.



Our Session (church council) has adopted a bold vision of creating safe and sacred space for all. We aren't perfect at it, but we are joyfully beginning to live into this new vision. We are an open and affirming congregation, and a proud member of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians (covnetpres.org). The Session and members of First Pres extend a sincere welcome to persons of all races, nationalities, genders, and sexual orientations. This includes an open invitation to membership, the sacraments of baptism and communion, marriage, funerals, memorial services, and service as an officer of the church.



We are a Matthew 25 church in the PC(USA). Matthew 25 congregations identify themselves as working toward one or more of three goals: building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty.

Land Acknowledgement: First Presbyterian Church gratefully acknowledges the Indigenous Peoples on whose ancestral homelands we gather, as well as the diverse and vibrant Indigenous communities who make Iowa and Illinois their home today. The communities we serve through our ministries occupy the traditional homelands of the people of the Kiiikaapoi, Myaamia, Očhéthi Šakówiŋ, Peoria, Sauk, and Meskwaki nations. We honor these and numerous Indigenous tribes who first made the banks of the Mississippi River a center for arts and commerce.

✠ Worshipers who are comfortably able are invited to stand in body or spirit.

Bold indicates congregational response

Second Sunday of Advent Lesson and Carols Sunday

To help you get to know the people sitting in your pew/row,
Please complete the Friendship Pad and pass it to your neighbors.

*As we begin worship, please silence your cell phones.
Take a quiet moment to center yourself in the presence of God.
We invite you to meditate silently on art, music, and Scripture.*

An Advent Service of Lessons and Carols

Prelude

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland

J. S. Bach
(1685-1750)

♣ Processional Hymn

Once in Royal David's City

IRBY

(Choir) 1. Once in royal David's city stood a
(Choir) 2. He came down to earth from hea-ven who is
(Congregation) 3. And our eyes at last shall see him through his
(Congregation) 4. Not in that poor low-ly sta-ble, with the
low-ly cat-tle shed, where a moth-er laid her ba-by in a
God and Lord of all, And his shel-ter was a sta-ble, and his
own re-deem-ing love, For that child so dear and gen-tle is our
ox-en stand-ing by, We shall see him; but in hea-ven, set at
man-ger for his bed; Ma-ry was that mo-ther
cra-dle was a stall. With the poor, and meek and
Lord in heav'n a-bove; And he leads his child-ren
God's right hand on high; When like stars his child-ren
mild, Je-sus on Christ, her lit-tle child.
low-ly, lived on the earth, where he shall wait a
on the place where he is gone.
crowned all in white shall wait a round.

Welcome

The Rev. Dr. Kristopher Schondelmeyer

Bidding Prayer

The Rev. Dr. Kristopher Schondelmeyer

Lord's Prayer

Our Creator who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kin-dom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kin-dom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Wagschal Family

On the first Sunday of Advent, we traditionally light the candle of Hope—remembering Isaiah’s vision of a Servant who would come not shouting or striving, not breaking what is bruised, but gently restoring all things. Because of that promise, the prophet urged all creation to “sing to the Lord a new song.” And so today, we light Hope’s flame and take up that song again—a song that rises above fear and despair.

For the second Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of Peace, listening for the quiet notes of God’s promise—a melody that stills the storm, softens hard hearts, and brings all things into harmony.

(Light two purple candles.)

Let us pray. Peace is not just the absence of conflict; it is the presence of Christ—gentle, healing, and sure. Come, Prince of Peace. Teach us your song. Let your peace be born again in us. Amen.

Offertory

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!

Malcolm Archer
(b. 1952)



To share your pledge or offering, you may place it in the offering plate as it is passed down the aisle. If it is more convenient for you, please visit the church website at www.fpcdavenport.org, and click on “Donate Now,” or you may donate directly from your smartphone by scanning the QR code with your phone’s camera.

Carol

The Holly and the Ivy

English carol
arr. Reginald Jacques (1894-1969)

The holly and the ivy,
when they are both full grown,
of all the trees that are in the wood,
the holly bears the crown.

*O, the rising of the sun
and the running of the deer,
the playing of the merry organ,
sweet singing in the choir.*

The holly bears a blossom
as white as the lily flower,
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
to be our sweet Saviour. *(Refrain)*

The holly bears a berry
as red as any blood,
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
for to do us sinners good. *(Refrain)*

The holly bears a prickle
as sharp as any thorn,
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
on Christmas Day in the morn. *(Refrain)*

The holly bears a bark
as bitter as any gall,
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
for to redeem us all. *(Refrain)*

First Lesson

Isaiah 40:1-8

Nancy Chapman

To God's people in exile in a faraway land, the prophet Isaiah announces good news: God is coming back, and is bringing the exiles home!

Carol

A Tender Shoot

Kerensa Briggs (b. 1991)

Text: Otto Goldschmidt (1829-1907)

Adapted from a 14th-century English text

Translated: William Bartholomew (1793-1867)

A tender shoot has started
up from a root of grace,
as ancient seers imparted
from Jesse's holy race;
it blooms without a blight,
blooms in the cold bleak winter
turning our darkness into light.

This shoot, Isaiah taught us,
from Jesse's root should spring;
the Virgin Mary brought us
the branch of which we sing;
our God of endless might
gave her this child to save us,
thus turning darkness into light.

Second Lesson

Jeremiah 23:5-6

Jeffrey Gomez

The prophet Jeremiah offers hope for a righteous branch, a just king who is yet to come.

♠ **Hymn**

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ES IST EIN ROS

1. Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath sprung,
2. I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the rose I have in mind;
3. This flower, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness fills the air,
of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing, by the faith - ful proph - ets sung.
with Mar - y we be - hold it, the vir - gin moth - er kind.
dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - ery - where.
It came, a flower - et bright, a - mid the cold of
To show God's love a - right God, she bore sin for us death a
En - fleshed, yet ver - y God, from sin and death he
win - ter, when half spent was the night.
Sav - ior, when half spent was the night.
saves us and light - ens ev - ery load.

Third Lesson

Zechariah 9:9-10

Judy Hawthorne

To a nation of war and weapons, God promises a king who will establish a reign of peace.

Carol

A Spotless Rose

Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

Text: 14th-century English

A spotless Rose is blowing,
sprung from a tender root,
of ancient seers' foreshowing,
of Jesse promised fruit;
its fairest bud unfolds to light
amid the cold, cold winter
and in the dark midnight.

The Rose which I am singing,
whereof Isaiah said,
is from its sweet root springing
in Mary, purest Maid;
for through our God's great love and might
the blessed babe she bares us
in a cold, cold winter's night.

Glen Roebuck, tenor soloist

Fourth Lesson

Haggai 2:6-9

Kirk Christie

The prophet Haggai promises to God's people a temple even more glorious than the temple of old.

♣ **Hymn**

Savior of the Nations, Come

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

1. Sav - ior of the na - tons, come; vir - gin's
 2. From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds; back to
 3. Now your man - ger, shin - ing bright, hal - lows
 4. Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, vir - gin's

son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, O
 God his path - way leads; out to van - quish
 night with new - born light. Night can not this
 son, in - car - nate Word! To the ho - ly

heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
 death's com - mand, back to our reign at God's right hand.
 light sub - due; let our faith shine ev - er new.
 Trin - i - ty praise we sing e - ter - nal - ly.

Fifth Lesson

Isaiah 35:1-6

Diana Miller-Bur

Prophet Isaiah proclaims renewal for both the land and God's people on the coming day of redemption.

Carol

Halcyon Days

Melissa Dunphy (b. 1980)
Text: Jacqueline Goldfinger (b. 1985)

Sacred days draw near, traditions hallowed and wan,
well-worn prayers embrace their heirs when love returns as embers.
Dreams delayed, hopes frayed in the blue nights of winter,
daybreak dreams of reunions lost.
Rise up, tattered and torn! Rise up, barren and reborn!
Go forth in peace, bring joy to the dawn,
and grace, turn your face upon us.

Sixth Lesson

Luke 1:26-35, 38

Bonnie Parriott

Angel Gabriel announces to the Virgin Mary that she will give birth to a ruler whose reign shall never end.

Carol

Today the Virgin

John Tavener (1944-2013)
Text: Mother Thekla (1918-2011)

Today the Virgin comes to the cave
to give birth to the Word eternal:

*Rejoice, O World,
with the Angels and the Shepherds,
give glory to the Child!
Alleluia!*

Mary my wife, O Mary my wife!
What do I see?
I took you blameless before the Lord
from the priests of the Temple.
What do I see? (*Refrain*)

Joseph the Bridegroom, O Joseph the Bridegroom!
Do not fear.

God in his mercy has come down to earth.
He takes flesh in my womb
for all the world to see. (*Refrain*)

Mary my Bride, O Mary my Bride,
What do I see?
You, a virgin giving birth.
Strange mystery! (*Refrain*)

Joseph the Bridegroom, O Joseph the Bridegroom!
Do not fear.

God in his mercy has come down to earth.
He takes flesh in my womb
for all the world to see. (*Refrain*)

Warned by the Angel,
we believe that Mary gives birth inexplicable
to the infant, Christ, our God. (*Refrain*)

♣ Hymn

My Soul Gives Glory to My God

MORNING SONG

1. My soul gives glo - ry great to my God. My
 2. My God has done great things for me: yes,
 3. From age to age, to all who fear, such
 4. Love casts the might - y from their thrones, pro -
 5. Praise God, whose lov - ing cov - e - nant sup -

heart pours out its praise. God lift - ed up my
 ho - ly is this name. All peo - ple will de -
 mer - cy love im - parts, dis - pens - ing jus - tice
 notes the in - se - cure, leaves hun - gry spir - its
 ports those in dis - tress, re - mem - ber - ing past

low - li - ness in man - y mar - ve - lous ways.
 clare me blessed, and bless - ings they shall claim.
 far and near, dis - miss - ing self - ish hearts.
 sat - is - fied, the rich seem sud - den - ly poor.
 prom - is - es with pres - ent faith - ful - ness.

Seventh Lesson

Mark 1:1-15

Chris Connolly

Jesus proclaims the coming of the kin-dom of God.

Carol

Winter Light

Joanna Forbes L'Estrange (b. 1971)

Text: Angier Brock (b. 1947)

One fretful and dangerous winter
 in the dark of King Herod's dread
 a child was born in a stable.
 Let there be light, God said.

Light poured through a willing Mary
 and wailed in her baby's first cry,
 light cornered the carpenter Joseph
 and plumbed his faith utterly.

Light shattered the peace of shepherds
 tending sheep in the craggy wild
 and steadied three dusty magi
 making slow way toward the child.

Though conflict and dread live on
 and new dangers roam the land
 a light still shines in the darkness,
 the winter light where we stand.

May it waken us from slumber
 and guide us through the dark night,
 may it fit us for willing labor,
 join hope to a faith burning bright.

For the winter light is the Christ-child,
 God enfleshed become Savior and friend,
 and the cry of life is a cry of love,
 Let there be LIGHT! Amen.

♣ **Blessing**

The Rev. Dr. Kristopher Schondelmeyer

One: Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage;
 hold fast that which is good;
 render to no one evil for evil;
 strengthen the fainthearted;
 support the weak;
 help the afflicted; honor everyone;
 love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

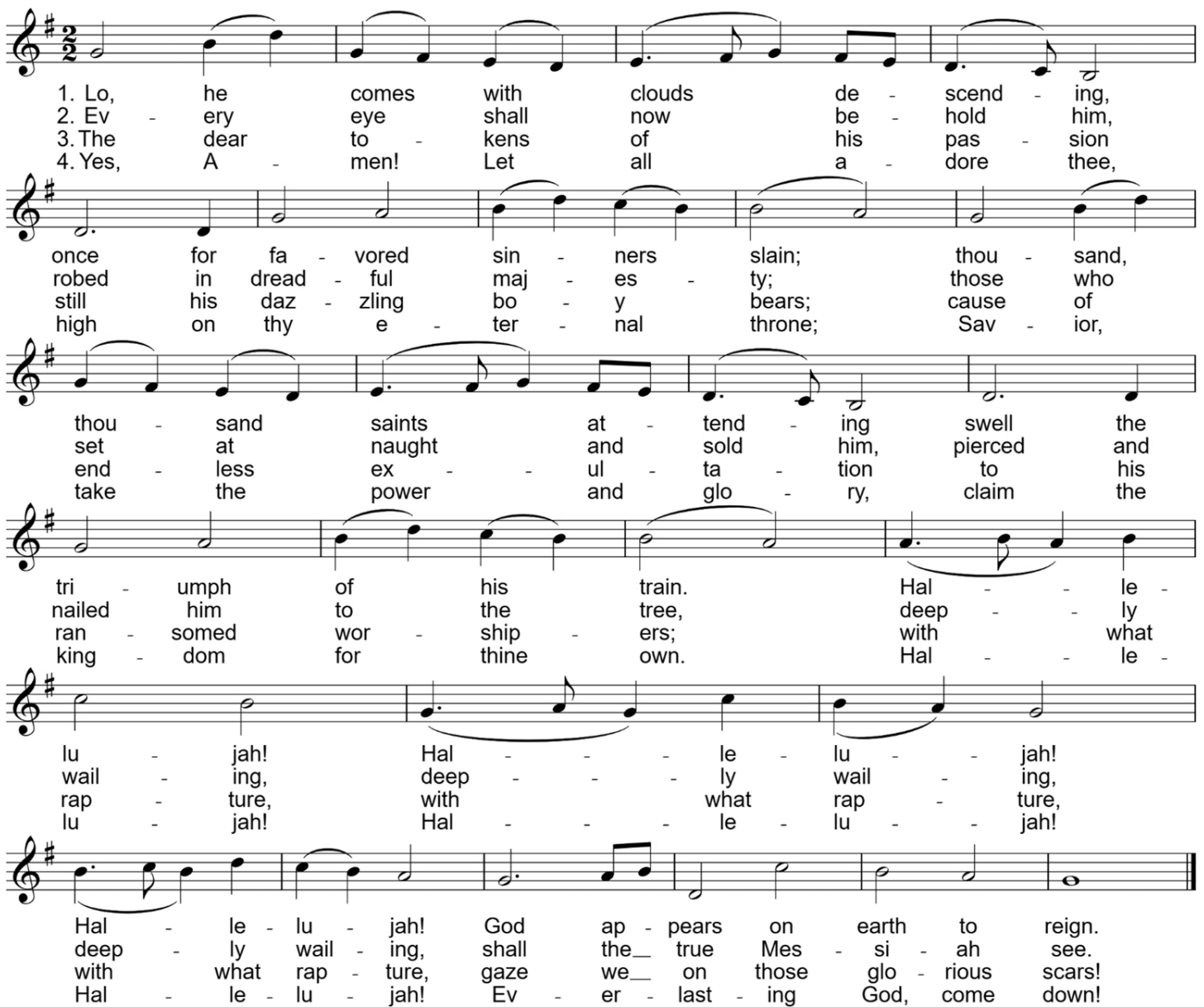
And the blessing of God Almighty, the Creator, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

All: Amen.

♣ **Recessional Hymn**

Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending

HELMSLEY



1. Lo, he comes with clouds de - scend - ing,
 2. Ev - every eye shall now be - hold him,
 3. The dear to - kens of his pas - sion thee,
 4. Yes, A - men! Let all a - dore thee,
 once for fa - vored sin - ners slain; thou - sand,
 robed in dread - ful maj - es - ty; those who
 still his daz - zling bo - y bears; cause of
 high on thy e - ter - nal throne; Sav - ior,
 thou - sand saints at - tend - ing swell the
 set at naught and sold - ing him, and
 end - less ex - ul - ta - tion pierced the
 take the power and glo - ry, claim the
 tri - umph of his train. Hal - le - lu - y!
 nailed him to wor - ship thine own. Hal - le - lu - y!
 ran - somed dom for the ship - ers; with what
 king - dom for thine own. Hal - le - lu - y!
 lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah!
 wail - ing, Hal - le - lu - y!
 rap - ture, with what rap - ture,
 lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah!
 God ap - pears on earth to reign.
 Hal - le - lu - y! wail - ing, shall the true Mes - si - ah see.
 with what rap - ture, gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
 Hal - le - lu - jah! Ev - er - last - ing God, come down!

Postlude

Veni, Emmanuel

Robert J. Powell
 (b. 1954)

WORSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS

THE FPC CHAMBER CHORALE

Sopranos:

Marty Bowles Edwards
Dawn Hickenbottom
Tricia Humphries
Julia Meyer
Heidi Pedersen
Kathlynn Price

Altos:

Samantha Crow
Anna Gilson
Sarah Greim
Wendy Hammen
Linda Ruebling
Cheryl Schipull

Tenors:

Steve Arp
Alex Gilson
Glen Roebuck
Mark Ruebling

Basses:

Ted Brown
Jim DeReus
Patrick Downing
Dave Pedersen

Worship Hosts - Pamela Paulsen (Lead Host), Judy Guenther, Marilyn Jorgenson

Sound/Video Technicians - Mitch Doremus, Jim Middleton

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JOYS & CONCERNS

In Our Prayers: families and victims of gun violence; the people of Ukraine, Israel and Palestine, all who groan under oppression, and those in need of God's healing grace; Harold Saunders, Alan Haverkamp, Linda Bengfort, Brenda Boyd, Shawn Lambrecht (son of Cathy Lambrecht), Jim Woods, Carol Phoenix, Julie Pedigo (sister of Carol Phoenix), and Wayne Hean.

(Names will be listed in the list above for 30 days unless otherwise requested.)

Mission Partners: Humility Homes and Services; Churches United; Habitat for Humanity Quad Cities; and P.U.N.C.H.

Hospital Visits: The Pastors and Deacons make hospital visits when patients give permission.

In-Touch Information: For anyone who is homebound and would enjoy contact from one of First Presbyterian's In-Touch members, please contact Deacon Colleen Dueñas (563-514-6396).

Printed Prayer Requests: Require permission from the person(s) in need of prayer before prayers are printed in the bulletin. The best way to assure a hospital visit or a prayer is to contact the church office directly (563-326-1691).

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Visit the First Pres website to view the full calendar

www.fpcdavenport.org/calendar

Sunday, December 7

Nursery Open	8:15 AM - 11:30 AM	CE Building 3 rd Floor
Worship Service	9:30 AM	Sanctuary & Online
Kirkwood Choir	9:45 AM - 10:30 AM	CE Building 3 rd Floor
Koos Celebration	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Fellowship Hall
Sunday School	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	CE Building 3 rd Floor
Fellowship Hour	10:35 AM - 11:30 AM	Fellowship Hall
Musikgarten	10:35 AM - 11:05 AM	CE Building 3 rd Floor
Adult Sunday School	10:45 AM - 11:30 AM	Von Maur Hall
Quad City Youth Choir	3:30 PM - 5:00 PM	Choir Room
Youth Group	5:00 PM - 7:00 PM	CE Building 3 rd Floor
Scout Troop 7 Meeting	7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	Gym

Monday, December 8

Pickle Ball	9:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Gym
Staff Meeting	11:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Von Maur Hall
Foundation Board of Trustees	4:30 PM - 6:00 PM	
Congregational Fellowship Meeting	5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	
Deacons' Outreach	6:30 PM - 7:00 PM	Parlor
Member Care Meeting	6:30 PM - 7:00 PM	Library
Mission Connection	6:30 PM - 7:00 PM	Von Maur Hall
Board of Deacons	7:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Von Maur Hall

Tuesday, December 9

Caring Closet & Lunches	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM	CE Building 1 st Floor
Adult Spiritual Growth Committee	3:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Zoom
APNC Meeting	6:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Parlor
Cub Scout Meeting	6:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Fellowship Hall
Finance Meeting	7:00 PM - 8:45 PM	Zoom

Wednesday, December 10

Pickle Ball	9:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Gym
Women of Hope Bible Study	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Parlor
DELP Meeting	5:30 PM - 6:30 PM	Parlor
Bible Basics 201	6:15 PM - 7:15 PM	Zoom
Blue Christmas Service	7:30 PM - 8:15 PM	Sanctuary

Thursday, December 11

Sermon Talks	9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Von Maur Hall
Clean Team	10:00 PM - 12:00 PM	FPC Building
TOPS	5:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Von Maur Hall
Vesper Bells Rehearsal	6:00 PM - 6:45 PM	Chapel
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Choir Room

Friday, December 12

Caring Closet	2:00 PM - 5:00 PM	CE Building 1 st Floor
Alex Gilson's Students' Piano Recital	6:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Sanctuary

Saturday, December 13

Caring Closet	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM	CE Building 1 st Floor
Young Adult Christmas Party	6:00 PM - 6:00 PM	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Birthday Celebration for Dick Koos

Today, we are all invited to celebrate Dick Koos' 90th birthday. Come join us after worship in the Fellowship Hall for cake!

Blue Christmas Service: Do Not Be Afraid

For many, the holiday season carries grief, stress, or the ache of absence. Our Blue Christmas service on **Wednesday, December 10, 2025 at 7:30 PM** creates a gentle, reflective space to acknowledge those feelings before God. Through quiet music, Scripture, candlelight, and prayer, we will seek comfort, make room for lament, and hold one another in hope.

All are welcome—whether you are carrying fresh sorrow, walking with family or a friend through a hard season, or simply needing a quieter way to enter Christmas. Come as you are and rest in the promise that “the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.”

Young Adult Christmas Party

You're invited to a Young Adult Christmas Gathering for ages 18-50, at First Presbyterian Church on **Saturday, December 13**, from **6-8 PM!**

We're planning a fun evening featuring a gingerbread house contest, a white elephant gift exchange, and an ugly Christmas sweater competition. Prizes will be awarded, and food and snacks will be provided.

Friends and significant others are welcome. If you know someone who hasn't received an invitation, please feel free to invite them and let us know who they are.

We hope to see you there to reconnect with familiar faces or meet new friends!

Christmas Poinsettias 2025

In the tradition of past Christmas seasons, we will brighten the Sanctuary with poinsettias given in memory or honor of loved ones. To be part of this wonderful tradition, please complete the Christmas Poinsettias 2025 form and drop it in the offering plate. You can also participate by going to FPC's website and clicking the "Donate Online" link or by contacting Kristine Olson in the church office.

The deadline for making a donation is **Monday, December 15 by noon.**



Manna and More - December 14 Celebrate Joy This Advent!

Mark your calendars and plan to stay after worship on **Sunday, December 14** for a special Manna and More gathering! We'll come together for a cheerful time of **meal sharing, warm fellowship, and Advent reflection** centered on the radiant word "**Joy.**"

Come enjoy delicious food, good company, and the bright hope that Joy brings as we journey toward Christmas. The menu will include waffles, sausage, a few pancakes, strawberry compote, toppings, fresh fruit, gluten-free choices and assorted beverages. Bring your stories, your laughter, and your Advent spirit—let's fill the room with celebration! We can't wait to share this joyful feast with you!

Interested in receiving Sermon Transcripts?

If you are interested in receiving a sermon transcript from Pastor Kris to better understand the good news he is sharing, please email Diana Miller-Bur (millerbur@fpcdavenport.org) to be added to the email distribution list.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Youth Ministry - Sponsor a Dinner

All FPC youth (and friends) in 6th - 12th grades are invited to join us for Youth Group. We will meet **most Sunday evenings** from **5:00 PM to 7:00 PM**. Dinner will be served.

The Youth Group is looking for families or individuals to **sponsor** a dinner(s) for us on Sunday nights at 5pm. If you would like to donate money (suggested donation: \$50) for our Youth Group to buy pizza or would be willing to provide a meal (for approximately 15-20 youth and mentors) please reach out to Abby Schondelmeyer.



Donations? https://fpcdavenport.breezechms.com/give/online?fund_id=1965301

Questions? Please contact Abby Schondelmeyer: cefy@fpcdavenport.org.

MISSION & SERVICE

Angel Tree

Believe it or not it's almost that time of year when we start thinking about Christmas and how we might provide for those unable to provide for themselves. FPC's tradition of supporting the Angel Tree Project will continue this year. We are once again teaming up with *Bethany for Children and Families* to provide Christmas gifts to Quad City children and families who receive *Bethany* services. *Bethany's* social workers and therapists have submitted names for gifts this year.

Gift tags are available before and after services. Total gifts for each child/person should not exceed \$45. Gifts should be **returned** to FPC unwrapped and with the 'angel' attached by **Monday, December 8**. Our gifts will be delivered to *Bethany* December 10. They will wrap and deliver them to each child's/person's caregiver in time for Christmas. If you have any questions, please contact the Church office.

Christmas Joy Offering



Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we lift up past, present, and future leaders of the church. God has blessed the church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. This Offering provides support for Presbyterian church workers and their families in their time of need and leadership development and education for communities of color at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

To make a donation, Scan the QR code or visit our website at

https://fpcdavenport.breezechms.com/give/online?fund_id=1965314

The FPC Caring Closet - Updated Requests

Caring Closet Request:

- Our shoppers at the FPC Caring Closet are **in need of winter items** especially **jackets and coats**. We appreciate all that you do for our neighbors!
- Hygiene products such as diapers, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, body wash, and feminine pads. The Dollar Tree provides a great variety. We also need towels and sheets of all sizes. Thank you for your continued support!

Holiday Closures for The Caring Closet: The Caring Closet will be closed for the Christmas break beginning December 23 through January 5.

Need a Ride? We're Building a Ride Team!

In recent weeks we've received several requests from different members for rides—to Sunday worship, medical appointments, the grocery store, etc. We'd love to form a small team of volunteer drivers to help members stay connected and cared for.

Ways to help (pick any):

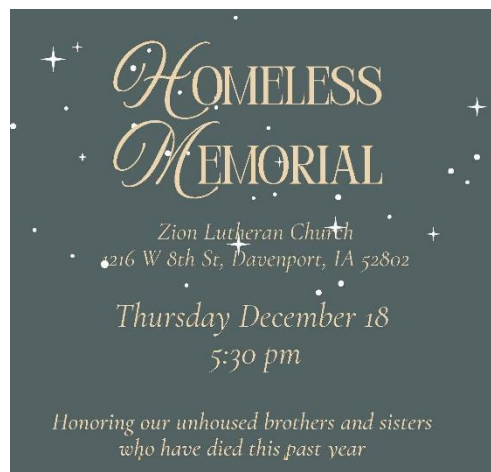
- Sunday morning rides to church (one way or round-trip)
- Weekday appointments (as you're available)
- Quick errands/grocery runs for those who need a hand

If you're willing to be on the "Ride Team" list—even occasionally—please contact the church office at: office@fpcdavenport.org

Basic expectations: a valid driver's license, no major driving violations, and personal auto insurance as the church is not responsible for accidents. Thank you for helping our church be the hands and feet of Christ—one ride at a time!

Session Highlights for November 2025

- Pastor Kris led a devotion with Session and Staff after reading Proverbs 16:9. He posed the questions: perhaps the interruptions in our lives are an opportunity to do God's work and how do we remain open to the Spirit that is trying to guide us?
- Finance reports that the 2025 end of year deficit is projected to be \$32K, the budgeted projection was originally a deficit of \$87K.
- Session approved the Salary and Benefits for the new Associate Pastor position.
- Session approved the cost (\$50k - \$100k), as well as the Request For Qualifications, for hiring an architectural firm to create a master plan for renovating FPC to align with our discerned goals.



ADULT SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Women of Hope Bible Study

If you are interested in a Bible study with lots of discussion and interesting topics, Women of Hope meets the **second Wednesday of every month at 10:00 AM** in the church parlor. The theme is different every year and the study used is provided by Presbyterian Women. It links readers in a shared experience with ecumenical friends and partners and is the only Bible study created with Presbyterian women and our ecumenical siblings in mind.

This year's study is called "Let Justice Roll Down - God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation." It covers everything from environmental justice to water justice, climate change to intergenerational justice. No advance preparation is required. Anyone interested in this type of study is encouraged to contact the church office at office@fpcdavenport.org or 563-326-1691 x200. All are welcome!

Bible Basics for December

Join us on Wednesdays at 6:15PM on Zoom. In December, we will be watching and discussing videos on Christmas related topics. All are welcome. We will be in recess on December 24 and December 31.

Please contact Mark Jones for more information. (markandkarla75@gmail.com)
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88116875549?pwd=S5SbGSYHmyd1K9PpwHcroiUagPPkwj.1>
Meeting ID: 881 1687 5549 Passcode: 630481

Sermon Talks w/ Pastor Kris

Sermon Talks is a midweek daytime Bible study led by Pastor Kris where participants explore the Scripture passage for the upcoming Sunday sermon. Through open discussion and shared reflection, the group engages deeply with the text—asking questions, making connections, and preparing hearts and minds to hear God's Word in worship. Sermon Talks is **offered every Thursday (unless otherwise stated) from 9:00 - 10:00 AM** in Von Maur Hall. A Zoom option is not available. All are welcome to join the conversation.

Contemplative Prayer Group - In Recess until January 2026

The Contemplative Prayer Group will not be meeting again until January 2026. Please look out for an announcement in early January on when the group will next meet.

Adult Sunday School: The Language of Advent - Starts Today!

We invite you to join Pastor Kris this Advent season for a four-week study series titled *The Language of Advent*. Together, we will explore the scriptural etymology—the biblical roots and meanings—of the four great themes of the season: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Guided by video resources from the BibleProject and grounded in our call as followers of Christ, we'll listen for how these ancient words still speak life and promise today. The class meets on Sundays after worship in Von Maur Hall.

FPC STAFF

First Presbyterian Church ♦ 1702 Iowa Street ♦ Davenport, Iowa 52803 ♦ Phone: 563-326-1691

Our Staff

Rev. Dr. Kris Schondelmeyer, <i>Pastor/Head of Staff</i>	Ext 230	schondelmeyer@fpcdavenport.org
Rev. Pat Halverson*, <i>Parish Associate</i>		
Marty Bowles-Edwards*, <i>Co-Director of Christian Education</i>		cefy@fpcdavenport.org
Abby Schondelmeyer* <i>Co-Director of Christian Education</i>		cefy@fpcdavenport.org
Kathy Knox*, <i>Nursery Caregiver</i>		
Deanna Herman*, <i>Nursery Caregiver</i>		
Matt Bishop, <i>Director of Music & Arts</i>	Ext 201	bishop@fpcdavenport.org
Alex Gilson, <i>Principal Organist & Assistant Director of Music</i>	Ext 223	gilson@fpcdavenport.org
Linda Bengfort*, <i>Assistant Choral Director</i>		
Kathy Middleton*, <i>Assistant Choral Director for Children</i>		
Jim Middleton*, <i>Director of Office Administration</i>		office@fpcdavenport.org
Diana Miller-Bur*, <i>Administrative Assistant to the Pastor</i>	Ext 235	millerbur@fpcdavenport.org
Kristine Olson, <i>Director of Financial and Business Administration</i>	Ext 219	olson@fpcdavenport.org
Tammy Versluis*, <i>Accounting Assistant</i>		
Darren Long, <i>Director of Building and Grounds</i>	Ext 205	long@fpcdavenport.org
Chad Dean*, <i>Custodian</i>		

* Part-time employee

ELDERS AND DEACONS

Elders

<i>Class of 2025</i>	<i>Class of 2026</i>	<i>Class of 2027</i>	<i>Co-Clerks of Session</i>
Dan Breinich	Dianna Darland	Dan Darland	Julia Meyer
Nancy Chapman	Denny Jorgenson	Craig Foster	Mark Jones
Bonnie Johnson	Kathy Knox	Paula Hartmann	
Nathan Kabel	Cathy Pratscher-Woods	Sharon Simmonds	
Zoe McCullum	Jed Steckel	Jay Williams	
Julia Meyer		Erin Yingling	
Kristine Oswald			
Mark Ruebling			
Vicki Stegall			

Deacons

<i>Class of 2025</i>	<i>Class of 2026</i>	<i>Class of 2027</i>
Colleen Dueñas (<i>Vice Moderator</i>)	Andy Bowles Edwards	Elizabeth Breinich
Terri Sheetz (<i>Moderator</i>)	Lois Boyer	Andrew Darland
Doug Wells	Connie Connolly	Steve Earp
	John Gere	Sue Ervin
	Al Frohlich	Heidi Pedersen
	Bob Lehnerr	Mason Pedersen
	Amy Saskowski	Sherry Williams
	Sarah Soenksen	
	Katrina Williams	