

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Schaller, Iowa

10:00 A. M.

First Sunday of Advent

November 26, 2023

Rev. Michael Sydnor

### PRELUDE

Janice Ploeger, Organist

### LIGHTING THE FIRST CANDLE – THE CANDLE OF HOPE

First Sunday in Advent

Mark McDonough Family

Reader 1: In the days of exile and uncertainty, the prophet Isaiah cried out: O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence. As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. (Isaiah 64:1-3)

Reader 2: In the midst of our own encounters with uncertainty and upheaval and our longing for deliverance, Jesus calls to us, “Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come” (Mark 13:35).

**Congregation: We wait as people surprised again and again by God who shakes us out of our complacency and wakes us up to the work of the king-dom all around us.**

Reader 1: We light this candle as a sign of our shocking hope. May we stay awake to God’s activity in the world as we wait in expectation that even now God is with us, working to restore us to the fullness of life with God and one another. Amen.

(Light a purple candle.)

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elder

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Elder: Awake from your sleep: salvation is near!

People: The night is far gone; the day is at hand.<sup>1</sup>

Elder: Let us worship God

\*HYMN “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” #123

INVOCATION (Please be seated) Pastor

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON):

**God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world.<sup>2</sup> (Time of silent prayer). Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Pastor

\*GLORIA PATRI #623

### SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Old Testament: Isaiah 64:1-9 Pastor

**Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you! As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. Since ancient times**

<sup>1</sup> Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 176). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

<sup>2</sup> Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 167). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him. You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways. But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry. How then can we be saved? All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and have given us over to our sins. Yet you, LORD, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be angry beyond measure, LORD; do not remember our sins forever. Oh, look on us, we pray, for we are all your people.

Leader:           The Word of the Lord.

People:           Thanks be to God.

**Gospel: Mark 13:24-37**

**Elder**

“But in those days, following that distress, “ ‘the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’ “At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens. “Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. It’s like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. “Therefore keep watch because you do not

## NEW JOYS & CONCERNS:

The Kathy Rasmussen Family  
(Carol Wendel's Sister)  
Steve Schaefer  
(Methodist Manor for Therapy)

## CONTINUING JOYS AND CONCERNS:

Our Pastor  
Our Church  
Our School  
Purple Gang  
Doug O'Bannon & Family  
Shari O'Bannon  
Joyce Deloach  
Willie Lang  
(starting treatments on Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>)  
Randy Leask  
Carol Swanson Poston  
Karla Hustedt and her family  
Ken Fells Jr.  
Dennis Pfrimmer & Family  
George & Darlene Franzkowiak  
Carol Wendel  
Mark Diersen  
Dexter Meseck  
Malia Meyer  
  
Shut-Ins?  
Bonnie Currie  
Brett Currie  
Shane Reimers

## PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCHES

**November 26, 2023** - First, Sioux City – Rev. Mark Bedford

**December 3, 2023** - First, Lake Park

know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!' ”

Leader: The Word of the Lord.  
People: Thanks be to God.

## CHILDREN'S TIME

**HYMN** “The Solid Rock” # 404

**SERMON** “Can You See It?”

## \*APOSTLE'S CREED

## MINUTE FOR MISSION

## SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Prayers of Intercession

The Lord's Prayer

Congregational Response #421 (Verse 1)

## PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY #625

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\***HYMN** “Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!” # 233

## \*BENEDICTION

\***BENEDICTION SONG** “Freely, Freely” (V. 1) #447

## \*EXTINGUISHING OF CANDLES

## \*POSTLUDE

(\*Those who are able please stand.)

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

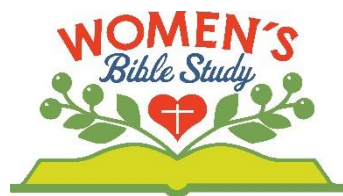
### November 2023

26 Sunday (First Sunday of Advent)  
9:00 am Sunday School Classes  
10:00 am In-Person Worship in Sanctuary  
(Masks are optional)  
11:00 am Coffee Fellowship  
(Judy Fells & Jane Bisenius)

29 Wednesday  
3:30-5:30 pm Purple Gang  
6:00 pm Ladies Bible Study

### December 2023

03 Sunday (Second Sunday of Advent)  
9:00 am Sunday School Classes  
9:00 am Confirmation Class  
10:00 am In-Person Worship in Sanctuary  
(Masks are optional)



### Ladies Bible Study

Ladies Bible Study. "Developing Inner Strength". We will meet together Wednesday, November 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

We will pass out books, have a time of devotion and prayer, and will also discuss when we want to meet in the future. All are invited!



Poinsettias

Please help provide our church with a festive look by sharing poinsettias for the season.



## THE GIVING TREE

We have tags this year and we need your help! All you have to do is pick a tag, get a gift and return the gift with the tag attached! It can be wrapped or bagged! All gifts must be brought back to the church by Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Let' spread some Holiday Cheer this year!!



## SHARE THE WARMTH

The snowman is waiting for your gifts of warmth, which includes warm clothing items such as pajamas, mittens, caps, underwear, scarves, and boots to keep others warm. In all sizes. Please have all your gifts of warmth at the church no later than Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>.



## PURPLE GANG

Purple Gang meets on Wednesday's from 3:30-5:30 p.m. for grades K-5th.

We are thrilled to give your children an opportunity to talk, eat, and play with their friends outside of a school setting. We will maintain our policy of cancelling a Purple Gang event if the school closes due to weather or illness.

## NOVEMBER & DECEMBER SERVERS:

Marilyn King  
Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>

Phil & Susan Diersen  
Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>

Kirk & Julie Langner  
Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>

NO PURPLE GANG  
Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> & Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>



**November 26<sup>th</sup> thru December 25<sup>th</sup>**

### **THE PERFECT GIFT**

When Jesus was born among us, he came as a helpless baby destined to bring joy, peace and salvation to his people. This child, God's Word made flesh — fully human and fully God — became one of us. One with us. One among us. In all of our vulnerabilities, struggles and triumphs, Jesus became one of us —leading us, knowing us, connecting us to himself and to each other, and offering us his gift of eternal life.

The perfect gift.

Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we reflect God's perfect gift to us, with generous support of church leaders among us — past, present and future — who have pointed us to God.

We honor and celebrate leaders like retired pastors, church workers and their families who have faithfully guided and led us but who now find themselves in critical financial need. We honor and celebrate emerging leaders like students in schools and colleges equipping communities of color, who develop leadership skills as they pursue their education and prepare to bring their gifts in service to the world God loves so much.

Jesus' example as a child born to be among us and lead us to eternal life provides a pattern for us to follow as we celebrate those who have led us in the past and will lead us into the future. Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we come together to support past, present and future leaders, embodying God's perfect gift to us, Jesus Christ.



**Christmas Joy Offering envelopes will be found in the pew pockets throughout the season of Advent to put your donation in or please or**

**please mark your check "JOY". Please give generously.**



### **BIRTHDAY WISHES:**

- Scott Currie (Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>)
- Ashley Kestel (Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>)
- John W. Franken (Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>)
- Missy Kestel (Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>)
- Florene Cork (Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>)
- Joann Reimers (Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>)
- Jim McDonough (Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>)
- David Siebrecht (Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>)
- Bruce Mentzer (Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>)

### **ANNIVERSARY WISHES:**

- Ken & Judy Fells (Nov. 26<sup>th</sup>)

### **FOOD PANTRY:**

**REMINDER: WHEN BRINGING FOOD ITEMS FOR THE FOOD PANTRY, PLEASE CHECK THE EXPIRATION DATES.**



### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

**November 26<sup>th</sup>**

Mark McDonough Family

**December 10<sup>th</sup>**

Kirk & Julie Langner

**December 24<sup>th</sup>**

Franken Family

**December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Pyle Family

**December 17<sup>th</sup>**

Jacobson Family

### DECEMBER ELDERS OF THE MONTH

Jane Bisenius – (Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>)

Julie Langner – (Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>)

(Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>)

Julie Langner - (Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>)

(Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>)

### Celebrate the Light

Bursting through December nights  
that could be long and cold,  
our Christmas lights bring warmth and joy  
with colors soft or bold.

Cascading from the rooftops,  
and from trees both small and tall,  
the lights cry out, "We have good news!  
We want to shout to all.

"You've seen the darkness earth can hold,  
the sorrow, war and fear;  
but God has sent his Son for all,  
to show his Love is here.

"The darkness can't put out God's Light.  
Christ's with us day by day,  
illuminating paths so we  
can follow in his way."

Light homes and streets and candles.  
Make your world shine clear and bright.  
God's love surrounds and blesses us.  
Come, celebrate God's Light!

—Peggy Ferrell

# COOKIE WALK



December 9  
9:00 am to 1:00 pm



Lakeside Presbyterian Church  
110 E 3rd St, Storm Lake, IA



Selling a variety of homemade  
cookies and candies



All proceeds will go to support **An Angel's Touch**, a nonprofit charitable organization. The mission statement of An Angel's Touch is to improve the lives of the elderly, children and those with special needs who are impoverished, distressed and underserved, or underprivileged by giving one small gift at a time with heartfelt love and caring. An Angel's Touch was created to continue carrying forward the love and kindness Ronnie and Janette Willer shared for others.

**Don't miss your chance to enjoy some delicious cookies and also to help those in need! An Ange's Touch cookie walk December 9th. See details above. Your own containers are welcome!**

