

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Schaller, Iowa 10:00 A. M.
December 31, 2023 First Sunday after Christmas
Rev. Ken Fells

PRELUDE Janice Ploeger, Organist

CANDLELIGHTING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Elder

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Elder: Let us rejoice, for the morning has dawned. A new day has been born, and we are newly alive to enjoy it.

People: We know the beauty of God's creation and the wonder of the human family. We remember those whose love shaped our lives and those who have walked alongside us.

Elder: We gather in this place to worship God, to share prayers and gifts and to pledge ourselves to God's work in the world.

People: May God bless us so that what we do in this time together may be honest, holy, and filled with hope.

*HYMN "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" #1

INVOCATION (Please be seated) (UNISON) Pastor

God of wonder, we gather together to praise you, offering you not only our thanks and praise, but our minds, hearts, abilities, and wills. In your grace you offer us forgiveness and strength through Jesus to acknowledge and overcome the temptations of sin. We are humbled by your care for us. We are drawn to the warmth of your love and acceptance just as people coming in from the cold are drawn to a fire. Fill us with the holy fire of your spirit so we may take warmth and light of your presence to all around us. May we strive to be as faithful to you as you are to us. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON) Elder

God of the future: you are coming in power to bring nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom. We have lived casual lives and ignored your promised judgment. Judge us, O God, for we have been slow to serve you. Forgive us, for the sake of your faithful servant Jesus, whose triumph we want and eagerly wait for. (Time of silent prayer) Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Pastor

*GLORIA PATRI #623

SCRIPTURE LESSON

First Reading: Isaiah 61:10-62:3 Pastor

I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet, till her vindication shines out like the dawn, her salvation like a blazing torch. The nations will see your vindication, and all kings your glory; you will be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will bestow. You will be a crown of splendor in the LORD's hand, a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

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

Gospel Lesson: Luke 2:22-40 Elder

When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), and to offer a sacrifice in keeping

with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.” Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.” The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.” There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CHILDRENS TIME

HYMN

“Lord, Speak to Me”

#450

PEOPLE WHO CARE

Who: 100 People Who Care Sac County

What: January Meeting

Where: Early United Methodist Church, 402 Hickory St.

When: Sunday, January 14th, 2024 at 4:00 pm

NEW JOYS & CONCERNS:

The Darold Jacobson Family

CONTINUING JOYS AND CONCERNS:

Our Pastor

Our Church

Our School

Purple Gang

Doug O'Bannon & Family

Shari O'Bannon

Joyce Deloach

Michael's sister needs prayers for the Raven Dumones family who died of breast cancer at 31 and left behind a husband and 4 children.

Jane Bisenius

(Loss of her sister and aunt)

Betty & Harlan Roeder

Willie Lang

Randy Leask

Joan Martin

Shelly Fenner (Phil & Sue Diersen's daughter)

Denny Miller

Steve Schaefer

Carol Swanson Poston (has walking boot)

Karla Hustedt and her family

Ken Fells Jr.

Dennis Pfrimmer & Family

George & Darlene Franzkowiak

Carol Wendel

Mark Diersen

Dexter Meseck

Malia Meyer

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCHES

December 31, 2023 Pray for those Elders and Pastors who have gone before us in 2023

SERMON

"Wait on the Lord"

*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 "Because He Lives" #213

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION SONG "Freely, Freely" (V. 1) #447

*EXTINGUISHING OF CANDLES

*POSTLUDE

(*Those who are able please stand.)

2023 PER CAPITA

2023 Per Capita amount is \$48.35. It is a very important way we can contribute to the operation and mission of the Presbyterian Church. Session encourages all members to contribute. Please mark your check "Per Capita".

December 31st Elder: Janice Ploeger

ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 2023

- 31 Sunday (New Years Eve) Rev. Fells will be filling the Pulpit
9:00 am Sunday School Classes
10:00 am In-Person Worship in Sanctuary
(Masks are optional)
- 07 Sunday (Rev. Duane Queen will be filling the Pulpit)

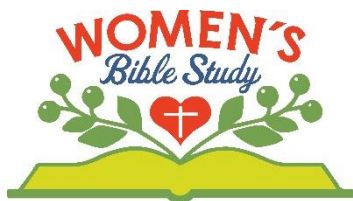
ANNUAL REPORTS DUE TO DENISE

NO Sunday School Classes
10:00 am In-Person Worship in Sanctuary
(Masks are optional)

**Rev. Michael Sydnor will be on vacation from
December 25th thru January 8th!**

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a congregational meeting on January 14th which will serve as the annual meeting. There is a snow date of January 21st. We will approve terms of call, elect officers, and discuss reports from last year. The budget will be discussed as an information item.



NEW LADIES BIBLE STUDY

Ladies Bible Study "Developing Inner Strength". We will be meeting for lesson #1 on Wednesday, January 10th at 6:00 pm. All are

invited!



PLEASE mark your checks Presbyterian and in the memo line mark Christmas Joy Offering. Please give generously. Mail your checks to First Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 69, Schaller, IA 51053 or you can drop the check off at the State Bank.

MAILING ADDRESSES

Bonnie Currie (New Address)
(Wakefield Health Care Center, 306 Ash Street, Wakefield, NE 68784
Brett Currie
4327 Nakoma Rd, Apt 333 Madison, WI 53711
Shane Reimers
2015 Strawberry Lane, Sioux City, IA 51104
Wanda Jeppeson (Methodist Manor)

BIRTHDAY WISHES:

Jordan Grothe (Jan. 2nd)
David Sydnor (Jan. 5th)
Brett Currie (Jan. 12th)
Dylan Johannsen (Jan. 15th)
Dan Bailey (Jan. 23rd)
Bonnie Currie (Jan. 27th)
Carolyn Young (Jan. 28th)
Denise King (Jan. 28th)
Shane Reimers (Jan. 30th)

ANNIVERSARY WISHES:

Melvin & Dorothy Ploeger (Jan. 26th)

Elder for January 7th: Julie Langner

Elder for January 14th: Mark McDonough

