

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Schaller, Iowa **10:00 A. M.**
Second Sunday of Advent **December 7, 2025**
Jay Grogan

PRELUDE **Janice Ploeger, Organist**

**LIGHTING THE FIRST CANDLE – THE CANDLE OF HOPE &
LIGHTING THE SECOND CANDLE – THE CANDLE OF PEACE**
(SEE INSERT) **(The Pyle Family)**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS **Elder**

CALL TO WORSHIP **Elder**

Elder: A voice cries out in the wilderness:
People: Prepare the way of the Lord!¹
Elder: Let us worship God.

***HYMN** **“Joy to the World!”** **# 125**

INVOCATION (Please be seated) **Jay**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON): **Elder**

Prince of Peace, the wars and rumors of wars betray our addiction to violence, our destructive and dehumanizing ways. We deserve your judgement and condemnation. Yet, you remain faithful, a steadfast source of peace amid our warring madness. Holy God, turn us from evil. Return us to Christ and his path of peace. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. ² (Time of silent prayer). Amen.

¹ Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 177).
Presbyterian
Publishing. Kindle Edition.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON **Pastor**

*** GLORIA PATRI** **#623**

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

First Reading: Malachi 3:1-4 **Elder**

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

Old Testament: I Kings 19:1-18 (NASB 1995 Edition) **Jay**

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

HYMN **“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”** **# 51**

SERMON **“The Blues”** **Jay**

***APOSTLE’S CREED**

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS **Jay**

Prayers of Intercession

The Lord's Prayer

Congregational Response **#421** (Verse 1)

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS **Jay**

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY** **#625**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***HYMN** **“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”** **# 138**

² © Presbyterian Outlook, 2024 Liturgy written by Teri McDowell Ott
and provided for free distribution.

***BENEDICTION**

Jay

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

***EXTINGUISHING OF CANDLES**

***POSTLUDE**

(*Those who are able please stand.)



CHALLENGE FUND

We received another anonymous \$10,000 matching gift challenge to the Church. For every dollar you contribute, the donor will match it up to a maximum amount of

\$10,000. So please make your contributions between now and December 29th, 2025. If you wish to mail a check, you can use the following address: First Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 69, Schaller, IA 51053, or you can drop the check off at the State Bank of Schaller. PLEASE mark your checks “Challenge Fund” on the memo line.

The donor does wish to restrict the use of these funds solely for the benefit of the local church body and not be used for any purpose beyond the local church body of Schaller.

YTD: \$8,300

2025 PER CAPITA

2025 Per Capita amount is \$55.70. 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”.

LIGHTING THE FIRST CANDLE THE CANDLE OF HOPE

READER: Our soul waits for the Lord; He is our help and shield.
Our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy
name. Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even
as we hope in you. (Psalm 33:20-22)

Leader: Something's coming.

People: We're waiting. We're eager.

Leader: It's more than presents.

People: It's more than lights.

Leader: We open the Book of Hope and read the promise.

People: God will be with us.

Leader: Our hearts are glad; we trust God's holy name.

People: God's never-ending love surrounds us.

Leader: Today we light the candle of Hope.

(Light the first candle.)

People: Our hope is in the Lord. (Light the Purple Candle)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

December 14th

Bruce & Jackie Mentzer

December 21st

Judy Fells & Jane Bisenius

December 24th

John & Brenna Franken

LIGHTING THE SECOND CANDLE THE CANDLE OF PEACE

READER: Let me hear what God the Lord will speak for he will
speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who
turn to him in their hearts. Surely his salvation is at
hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in
our land. Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other. (Psalm
85:8-10)

Leader: Can you hear it?

People: What is it?

Leader: God's Word is coming.

People: We're listening. We're eager to hear.

Leader: A voice cries out and declares the Promise of Peace.

People: We stand in awe.

Leader: Things are going to even out in the world.

People: All people will embrace each other.

Leader: Today we light the candle of Peace
(Light the Second Purple Candle.)

People: Our peace comes from God.

ANGEL TOUCH COOKIE SALE: SWEET FELLOWSHIP

Let us do your Christmas baking!

On Saturday, December 13th, take part in our cookie sale. Fill a box
with a variety of homemade cookies to bless your family, neighbors
or a friend in need. Bakers, please bring your cookies to Denise
King's house by [Friday, Dec. 12th]. Proceeds will go to a good cause.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING (Nov. 30th- Dec 24th)

OUR GIFTS AT WORK:

SUPPORTING OUR PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

The Christmas Joy Offering honors the faithfulness of current and retired church workers and their families in need. Thanks in part to support from this Offering, church workers can receive critical financial assistance to support them through life's challenging circumstances. These generous actions bear witness to our faithful response to God's charge to love one another as Christ commanded.



Christmas Joy Offering envelopes and children's coin boxes can be found in

the back of the Sanctuary throughout the season of Advent, PLEASE mark your check "JOY". Please give generously.

The Schaller-Early-Nemaha Community Food Pantry (Mission Project)

The Food Pantry, which our church supports, is collecting Hy Vee (Storm Lake only) grocery and gas receipts. You will find a bucket at the Library, the Presbyterian Church, and at the Methodist Church. This runs until the end of April. Our Food Pantry will earn a percentage of the receipts and will be reimbursed with a check from Des Moines. This money may help cover costs to maintain our Food Pantry. Please drop all your HyVee receipts in one of the buckets.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAY'S

Ashley Kestel (3rd); John W. Franken (3rd); Missy Kestel (6th); Florene Cork (9th); Jim McDonough (20th); David Siebrecht (21st); Bruce Mentzer (26th).

ANNOUNCEMENT

DECEMBER 2025

07 Sunday (Pulpit Supply: Jay Grogan (Carlise, IA)

First and Second Sunday of Advent

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship

10 Wednesday

3:30 p.m. Confirmation Class

14 Sunday (Bev Logsdon filling the pulpit)

Third Sunday of Advent

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship

17 Wednesday

6:00 p.m. Ladies Fellowship

ATTENTION!

Our church is looking for a person or persons to be the Treasurer starting in 2026. Lorna Currie will be retiring, but will stay on to help the new Treasurer. She says it's not a hard job. Having more than one person can act as backup. Please pray about stepping up to help in this capacity!

Elder of the Month for December:

Mark McDonough



THE GIVING TREE

We have 2 tags left 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 14. Let's 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, snowpants, caps, underwear, scarves, socks and boots to keep others warm. In all sizes Please have all your gifts of warmth at the church no later than Sunday, December 14th.



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

Today we begin the season of Advent — a time of waiting, hope and preparation. As we worship, let us open our hearts to the Light that is coming, rejoice in the promises of God and prepare the way for Christ our Lord.

PULPIT SUPPLY FOR DECEMBER

December 21 st	Rev. Ken Fells (Communion)
December 24 th	Jay Grogan (5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service)
December 28 th	Lue Baker

JOYS:

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Jaxon & Skye Franken on the birth of their son Wells Hunter Franken born on December 1st. He weighed 8 lbs. and was 19.7 inches long. Proud grandparents are John & Brenna Franken. Also proud Great-Grandma Betty Franken.

PRAYER CONCERNS:

The Family of Kyle Albers
Jan Langner

(In the loss of her husband Don)

Our Church, Our Session, Our School Kids, Our School Teachers, Rev. Ken Fells, Doug O'Bannon (Liver Surgery), Keith Siebrecht (had hip surgery), Keith Kenny, Denny & LaRae Mauser, Shari O'Bannon, Florene Cork, Deb Langner, Jeremy Plagman, Rod Plagman, Dexter Meseck, Ken Fells Jr., Our Military, First Responders

Thank you for keeping us informed about joys and concerns. Remember, hospitalized members and friends don't always get on the list at the hospital. We'd rather get several calls than none! If you would like to add someone to the prayer list please call Denise King (275-4516).

PRAYER FOR CHURCHES

December 7, 2025 - Pray for Rev. Shawn Harmon,
Commissioned to Overseas Mission Service

December 14, 2025

Theological Institutions in the PC(USA)

On this second Sunday of Advent, we eagerly welcome all who have joined with us in anticipation of the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ. May this time of worship be encouraging and inspirational to all.

