

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Schaller, Iowa

10:00 A. M.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025

Rev. Ken Fells

PRELUDE

Janice Ploeger, Organist

LIGHTING THE FOURTH CANDLE – THE CANDLE LOVE

(SEE INSERT)

(Judy Fells & Jane Bisenius)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elder

CALL TO WORSHIP

Elder

Elder: God, the foundation of our lives, is worthy of our thanks and praise.

People: Our hearts are glad, our spirits rejoice!

Elder: God, the cornerstone of our lives, brings order to our chaos.

People: Our hearts are glad, our spirits rejoice!

Elder: God, the rock and redeemer of our lives, calls us to faith and honor.

People: Our hearts are glad, our spirits rejoice!

Elder: Let us worship God in gladness.

***HYMN “Come, Christians, Join to Sing”**

#108

INVOCATION (Please be seated)

Ken

CALL TO CONFESSION

God, who is merciful, shows us our sins so we may confess them and receive the forgiveness God wants to give. Therefore, in humility and repentance, let us confess our sins to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON):

Elder

Dear Lord, what is it in us that dreads your coming? Why do the palms of our hands cover our eyes, lest our souls see you? When the music sounds from far heaven, we tremble; when it sounds like bells, and the truth close by, our very hearts cry out a gladness long forgotten, yet always long remembered. It is our sin that dreads and hides. Our pride cannot bear you. Our falsehood cannot hear you. O Gracious One, come even so, and devastate and empty us, and in your mercy, capture us for you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who hears even our silent cries. Amen. (Frederick Buechner) (Time of silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Ken

***GLORIA PATRI**

#623

CHILDREN’S TIME

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Old Testament: Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19

Elder

New Testament: Romans 1:1-7

Gospel Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

Ken

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN “No One Ever Cared For Me Like Jesus”

#528

SERMON

***APOSTLE’S CREED**

MINUTES FOR MISSION

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Prayers of Intercession

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

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY #625**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

HYMN “In Remembrance of Me” #322

THE LORD’S SUPPER (Insert)

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

***BENEDICTION**

***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.

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".

PULPIT SUPPLY FOR JANUARY-FEBRUARY

January 4	Jay Grogan
January 11	Rev. Ken Fells (Congregational Meeting)
January 18	Melanie Hauser (BV College)
January 25	Rev. Ken Fells (Snow Date for Congregational Meeting)
February 1	Rev. Ken Fells (Communion)
February 8	Jay Grogan
February 15	Norman Prather
February 22	Rev. Dr. Cambria Kaltwasser

DECEMBER BIRTHDAY'S

Jim McDonough (20th)
David Siebrecht (21st)
Bruce Mentzer (26th)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DECEMBER 2025

- 21 Sunday (Pulpit Supply: Rev. Fells) Communion
Fourth Sunday of Advent
9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Worship
- 24 Wednesday (Pulpit Supply: Jay Grogan)
5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
- 28 Sunday (Pulpit Supply: Lue Baker)
10:00 a.m. Worship

CORPORATION/CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a Corporation/Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 11th which will serve as the annual meeting. There is a snow date of January 25th. We will elect officers, treasurers, and discuss reports from last year. The budget will be discussed as an information item.



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

ANNUAL REPORTS

Annual Reports and Nominating Committee Reports are due to Denise no later than January 4th, so she can have them ready. (Reports needed Session, Christian Growth, Ladies Fellowship, Nominating Report, Sunday School, Treasurer's Reports.

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

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.

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!

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.

NEW JOYS & CONCERNS:

CONTINUING JOYS AND CONCERNS:

Our Church
Our Session
Our School Kids
Our School Teachers
Rev. Ken Fells
Doug O'Bannon
Denny & LaRae Mauser
Shari O'Bannon
Florene Cork
Deb Langner
Jeremy Plagman
Rod Plagman
Dexter Meseck
Ken Fells Jr.

Our Military, First Responders, Iowa National Guard

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 21, 2025

Pray for the Commissioned Ruling Elders in the Presbytery

December 28, 2025

Pray for those Elders and Pastors who have gone before us in 2025

LIGHTING THE FOURTH CANDLE THE CANDLE OF LOVE

READER: I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations. I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to my servant David: 'I will establish your descendants forever, and build your throne for all generations.'" (Psalm 89:1-4)

Reader: New life is coming.

People: We can count it in days now.

Reader: God is breaking through.

People: God's Word will change the world.

Reader: We will all be changed by the Language of Love.

People: The covenant has come down Advent-Wreath-Joy through the generations.

Reader: The love of God is never-ending.

People: We give thanks for God's faithfulness.

Reader: Today we light the candle of Love.

(Light the four candles.)

All: We give thanks for God's steadfast Love.

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LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

December 21st

Judy Fells & Jane Bisenius

December 24th

John & Brenna Franken

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December 24th

John & Brenna Franken

The Lord's Supper

The Invitation

Minister: Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God!

People: People will come from east and west and from north and south, and sit at the table in the Kingdom of God.

The Thanksgiving

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Unison Prayer

O God, who called us from death to life; we give ourselves to you; and with the church through all ages, we thank you for your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Thanksgiving after the supper

God our help: we thank you for this supper shared in the spirit with your Son Jesus, who makes us new and strong. Who brings us life eternal. We thank you for giving us all good gifts in him, and pledge ourselves to serve you, even as in Christ you have served us. Amen.

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