



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

December 23, 2020

**Worship**  
Join us weekly on  
our website:  
[Firstprescf.org](http://Firstprescf.org)

**This Weekend's Worship –  
First Sunday of Christmas**

Sermon: Silent No More!  
First Lesson: Isaiah 61:10-62:3  
Second Lesson: Luke 2.22-40  
Preacher: Rev Dr. Dee Cooper, Interim  
Executive Presbyter, Heartland Presbytery

**Christmas Eve Worship and Fellowship**

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**



Celebrating Christmas will be quite different this year, but the “reason for the season” continues. Pastor Julie and Pastor Bob, from the Mennonite congregation, will lead a service of lessons and carols. We will have a recording of our Christmas Eve candlelight service posted as we do our Sunday Services. Have a candle or other light source ready for our “Silent Night”! An **order of worship** for the Christmas Eve service is attached to this email. The worship video link will be sent via email.

While we won't be able to gather in the way would like, we do have a couple of opportunities to fellowship together via Zoom on December 24.

**3:00 pm - Christmas Eve Zoom Fellowship  
hosted by First Presbyterian**

We will gather live via Zoom for a special Christmas Eve Fellowship at 3:00pm. We would love to see your face! Wear your Christmas regalia, bring your favorite holiday drink and invite a friend.

[Zoom Christmas Eve Fellowship](#)

Meeting ID: 966 8577 9412  
Passcode: 080065  
Phone in: 1-312-626-6799

**7:00 pm - Christmas Eve Service Worship Party  
hosted by Cedar Falls Mennonites**

We will gather to worship together while watching the Christmas Eve service Zoom. The service will be followed by a time of fellowship.

<https://uni.zoom.us/j/98026353229>



**Church Birthdays**  
Dec 31-Jenny Connolly,  
Jan. 1-Jean Boller

**For your prayers...**  
Marlys Folkers' grand-  
son Eli

Marlys Folkers' brother,  
Dorothy Lakin

**Zoom Meetings**  
**Christmas Eve, Dec. 24**  
(<see link) 3:00 pm  
Fellowship Hour Zoom

**Sunday, December 27**  
11:00 am (link below)  
[Fellowship Hour.](#)

**No SHINE Dec. 30**  
**Wednesday, Jan. 6**  
6:15-7:00 pm Elemen-  
tary SHINE Zoom

## Thanks for serving last week:

**Organist:** Louann Flaherty

**Worship Leader:** Kevin Thedens

**Vocals:** Steve Moon

## Year-End Notes

- The office will be closed on Thursday and Friday, December 24 & 25 and Jan. 1 and at noon on Dec. 31.
- The deadline for sending in your 2020 offerings is **Wednesday, December 30, 3:00 pm!** The final deposit will be taken to the bank the next morning.

## Lectionary Study Suspended until January 11, 2021

Our lectionary study is taking a break until the new year. Look for announcements in early January to sign up for a spot when we return!

## Dear Friends,

During this season of thanks, we owe you a long overdue “thank you” for your support and donation of \$245 for our Annual Block Party “popsicle drop.” We do appreciate your support.

Your donation helps us to be here to listen, guide and care for students and staff and UNI and Allen College.

We also wish to say a huge “Thank You” for your generous financial gift of \$3474.49 for Threehouse Collaborative Ministries. Your generosity enables us to be here to listen, guide and care for today’s students and staff.

With heartfelt thanks,

David Glenn-Burns

Director and Campus Minister

*The popsicle drop monies were from individual donations. The second gift was from the Presbytery Mission Grant and our church’s pledged portion.*

## First Presbyterian Book Study

The book study group from First Presbyterian is planning on starting up again after the first of the year with Zoom discussions of the book **Caste--The Origins of Our Discontents** by Isabel Wilkerson. This book examines the unspoken caste system that has shaped America and shows how our lives today are still defined by a hierarchy of human divisions. It ends with ways America can move beyond these destructive separations toward hope in our common humanity. All are welcome to join in.

## Prayer for the First Sunday of Christmas

Holy One, giver of all light, lift up our hearts and minds to Christ, the morning star that never fades.

By the light of your Holy Spirit reveal to us your saving Word and lead us to offer our lives to you in service and in love through Jesus Christ. Amen.

## Thank You

Friends,

The adorable Advent Wreath brings me great joy! Thank you to those who created it and to Pastor Julie for the delivery. I will treasure it as a remembrance of my church family. It is a brightness in this unique holiday season.

Love, Mary McCalley

## A Huge Thank You

We did it virtually! It was certainly a different year for Adopt-A-Family but we pulled it off together. We helped a Waterloo family with two boys and a single mother. With everyone’s generosity we were able to furnish school uniforms, shoes, boots, toys, comforter, sheets, and many other essential items including a generous Hy-Vee gift card. Thanks once again for showing your caring and giving spirits at Christmas. It definitely made a difference for this family this Christmas.

Sincerely, Sue Weinberg and Julie Rokes

## The Grand Sweep Bible Study

We will continue our journey through the Bible with the Grand Sweep Bible Study beginning Tuesday, January 12. The class is led by the pastors from the PCUSA churches in the Cedar Valley. We pick up our reading with the New Testament. New travelers are welcome on our journey through God’s word. We begin with the gospels and will work our way through to the final ‘Amen’ of Revelation by the middle of April. The class meets weekly on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. and lasts until 7:30 p.m. The class will be shared via Zoom at 6:00 each Tuesday night. The link is recurring and can be found in our weekly emails. Missing a few classes is fine.

## Christmas Joy Offering

By supporting the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor God’s gift of Jesus Christ in the following ways:

- 50% of your gifts to Christmas Joy provide assistance for current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial need.
- 50% of your offering makes it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.