



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

December 30, 2020

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

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

Sermon: To Become Children of God

Scripture: Genesis 1:1-5, John 1:1-18

We will be partaking in communion together this Sunday. You are invited to prepare your table with elements representing the bread and the wine. What other meaningful items could you add to your table for the service?

**Pastor's Ponderings - A Prayer for the New Year**

In just two sleeps we will wake up to a new year. 2020 will have gone and the vast expanse of 2021 will be before us. We look back and rejoice for moments of healing, hope, laughter and growth. Many of us also look back at days that have tried us; moments of grief, ill-health, strained relationships, and loneliness. No matter how we feel about the last days, or weeks, or months, we pause at the beginning of this new year to reorient ourselves to God. May this new year be one where we are attentive to God's prompting in our lives.

How is God calling us, assuring us, and challenging us? Below is a prayer for this New Year written by Rev. Kate Dunn. Join me in welcoming 2021 and laying to rest the anxiety of 2020.

Let's pray...

Gracious and loving God, Emmanuel, God with us, we pause to remember the year closing behind us, and prepare our hearts for the year ahead.

Throughout these many months marked by the Covid-19 pandemic, a politically rancorous election, mass unemployment, economic devastation, and a national reckoning on systemic racism, you have walked beside us, our refuge and strength in trouble, our comforter in sorrow, our friend in loneliness, our companion in joy, our challenger in complacency, and our guide in the pursuit of justice and peace.

We acknowledge with grateful hearts the blessings we have received from you this year.

For every experience that has brought us a fresh realization of your presence, we thank you.

For the sense of dependence that has accompanied our increased awareness of human frailty, for the spirit of penitence when we have strayed from your path for hearts that are restless until they find their rest in you, we thank you.

For home, friends, and the gift of community, for technology that has kept us connected with each other, for valiant health care and essential workers, for truth tellers, justice seekers and peacemakers we thank you. For the earth that nourishes us, for sun and moon and stars, for the Bible, that tells us the story of your loving purpose, for the church that witnesses to your continuing presence, for the Holy Spirit, that is even now speaking in our hearts, we thank you.

For whatever private and personal experiences the year has brought, through which you have taught us lessons we needed to learn, we thank you.

Above all, we thank you for the revelation of your love made known to us in Jesus Christ. O God, as we move forward into the New Year, empower us to let go of what lies behind us, and prepare our hearts for all that lies ahead, that we may be your faithful followers, trusting that you remain closer to us than our own breath, and that your love will never let us go. Amen.

**Church Birthdays**

Dec 31-Jenny Connolly,  
Jan. 1-Jean Boller, 4-Rob Cline, 8-John & Michelle Luzaich, 9-Caryl Nielsen

**For your prayers...**

**Mel Reimer**

**Caryl Nielsen**

**Marlys Folkers'** grandson Eli

**Marlys Folkers'** brother, Delmar Benning

**Zoom Meetings**

**Sunday, January 3**

11:00 am (**NOTE!** New link below effective through May)

[Fellowship Hour.](#)

**Tuesday, January 5**

7:00 pm CYF Team Meeting

Wednesday, January 6

6:15 pm Elementary Aged SHINE

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

**Thursday, January 7**

6:30 pm Esther Circle

**Ministry Team annual reports are due Friday, January 8!**

### Thanks for serving last week:

**Snow Shoveling:** Jim Seeley, Gary Sabey, Kirk Eastman, Gary Clark

**Worship Leaders:** Eric Braley, Pete McCart, John Luziach

**Pianists:** Louann Flaherty, Connie Herbon

**Vocalist:** Sarah Burke, Beth Culberson, Steve Moon

*Thanks to all who served throughout the year, which included our 'normal' church life early this year and those who helped us adapt after the virus.*

**Bulletin boards-**Sandy Lawry, Jill Mortenson, Shirley Hill

**Office recycling:** Doug & Sandy Lawry

**Office help-**Nancy Hoppe, 'Pete' & Bruce McCart

**Sunday coffee (Jan-Mar)-**Jean Boller

**Piano tuning:** Doug Herbon

**DVD Recordings and Podcast (Jan-Mar):** Tim King, Neal Leeper, Brock Swarbrick

**Video Recording & Editing:** Eric Braley, Brad Wells, Neal Leeper

**Changing paraments, flower and liturgical decorations arrangements-**Connie Herbon, Dave and Sue Luck, Phil Batchelder

**Second Sunday Concert (Jan-Mar):** Kirk Eastman, Jeverna Mulligan, Brock Swarbrick-posters

**Thermostat setting-**Jim Seeley, **plants-**Jane Seeley

**Communion preparer coordinator-**Julie Rokes

**Sunday Drivers (Jan-Mar):** Phil Batchelder, Tim King, Rob Cline, Jim Seeley, Tom Mulligan

### Save the Date for the Annual Meeting – January 31

Our annual meeting will occur on January 31. We will be voting on our budget, the pastor's terms of call, and new officers. Please save the date and look for forthcoming information on ways you can participate in this important meeting. We are working on a variety of ways for members to attend and vote.

### IMPORTANT FELLOWSHIP HOUR CHANGE!

There is a NEW Zoom link for our Sunday Fellowship Hour. This link will be the same, reoccurring link through May and will be in our regular Friday email.

Topic: Fellowship Hour

Time: **Jan 3, 2021 11:00 AM** Central Time

The new Zoom Fellowship Link:

[https://zoom.us/j/97475746240?](https://zoom.us/j/97475746240?pwd=RXlwT1FncXhuMTk4MlZ3OGc4NEdDUT09)

[pwd=RXlwT1FncXhuMTk4MlZ3OGc4NEdDUT09](https://zoom.us/j/97475746240?pwd=RXlwT1FncXhuMTk4MlZ3OGc4NEdDUT09)

Meeting ID: 974 7574 6240

Passcode: 504524

To Phone In: 1-312-626-6799

### Prayer for the Second Sunday of Christmas

God of glory,  
your Word made a home with us  
so that we might be at home in you.  
Gather your children from the farthest places in the  
world and lead us to that home  
where the human race can become a human family;  
through Jesus Christ and in the Spirit,  
one God now and forever. Amen.

### Lectionary Study Returns on January 11, 2021!

Our lectionary study is starting back up in-person on January 11. Each Monday we will explore the sermon texts for the following Sunday. It is always a good time of conversation and fellowship.

Check out the **available slots** at this link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D48A8AC2EABFCC16-lectionary1>

Please make sure to sign up so that we are sure to stay within our COVID-19 protocol. Masks and distancing are required.

### First Presbyterian Book Study

The First Presbyterian Book Group is 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.

### The Grand Sweep Bible Study

The Grand Sweep Bible Study will resume Tuesday, January 12. 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 via Zoom weekly on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. and lasts until 7:30 p.m. The link is recurring and is in our weekly emails.

Click beginning Jan. 12 to join: [Grand Sweep Bible Study](#)

To phone in: 1-301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 815 8301 9014

Passcode: 398420

### Snow Shovelers Needed!

We need you! If you are willing to be on a calling list to help shovel the church sidewalks, please contact the office.



### Thank You

Dear Friends of First Presbyterian Church,  
It has been so uplifting to receive your cards and caring thoughts concerning the death of our mother. Mom was always there for her children and grandchildren, but willing to experience new adventures. She loved being included in the November Deacon's Dinner, getting cards and visits from our members. Thank you again for your prayers and caring thoughts. She will be greatly missed.  
The Luck and Wersinger families

### Worship Leaders Needed

We are looking for people to lead worship with Pastor Julie on Thursdays at approximately 3:30 pm. Please sign on the Google doc: [Worship Leaders](#) or call the office.



### Santa Spottings

Margaret Clark snapped this photo of Santa's reindeer in the field behind their home, stopping for a quick refueling before finishing their appointed rounds.

(Margaret counted 12, so apparently a few extra guest joined in!)

**Send us your photos** of Presbyterians in action! We love seeing your selfies and snapshots of encounters with other Presbyterians; whether it be socializing, learning or doing mission work. Please send your photos to Lynette at [office@firstprescf.org](mailto:office@firstprescf.org).