



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

December 14, 2022

10:30 am
Sunday Worship
Firstprescf.org



Sunday, December 18, 2022

“Celebrating When Love Came Down” – Interactive Storytelling

—The Fourth Sunday of Advent—

“When Love Came Down”

Our SHINE Families will guide us through God’s ultimate story of love breaking into our world in the form of a vulnerable baby. The congregation will join in the storytelling, embodying our commitment to “unite in love.”

Worshipping from home? Join in the fun by preparing your worship space with a light source (candle, lamp, flashlight) and choose a character to play: Mary, Joseph, a sheep, a shepherd, an angel, or a wise one (costumes encouraged but not required ☺).

Prayer of Preparation

Isaiah spoke to a people called chosen, to a tribe called Israel, with a light of hope. Gabriel came to a town called Nazareth, to a girl called Mary, with a light of joy. Mary went to a place called Bethlehem, to a stable called a nursery, with a light of love. In this fourth week of Advent, we pray to shine forth holy light of love.



Church Birthdays

Dec. 11-Dick Goering,
17-Lynette Cline,
22-Jewell Hays

For Your Prayers...

Brad Jensen’s father

Notice...

Christmas Caroling is this Sunday, Dec. 18, 2-4 pm. See pg. 2 for details.

Christmas Eve Worship is Saturday, Dec. 24, 4:30 pm. A family-friendly space will be in the chapel (the nursery will be closed.)

Financial giving for 2022 must be received by 3:30 pm on **Thursday, December 29**. Allow 5 business days prior for any PayPal donations!!

Sign up anytime online:

Greeter Sign Up:

[Sign Up : Greeters](#)

Worship Leader Sign Up:

[Sign Up: Worship Leaders](#)

Or sign up in the narthex!

Cultivate Faith Joy Playlist Advent week 3. Take a break together! Enjoy a story, make a craft, bake a snack, or choose a new mealtime blessing. These are short little additions to your existing daily rhythm, meant to help you cultivate faith together as a family. Click the graphics to access the links.

- read a story (click here for wondering questions)
- try finger knitting (tutorial starts at 2 min)
- pop some popcorn and talk about how you can share joy in your neighborhood this week
- light your candle and pray

Thanks for serving last week:

Worship Leader: Carol Dotseth

Computer Operator: Scott Connolly

Videographer: Kevin Thedens

Greeters: Tom & Jeverna Mulligan

Snow Removal: Jim Seeley

Adopt-A-Family Coordinators: Julie Rokes, Sue Weinberg

Advent/Christmas Program

Our Advent Program is this Sunday, December 18 during the worship service. Come see our children's musical talents! There will be treats in the narthex following the program.



Upcoming Worship Services

Christmas Eve: candlelight worship service Saturday, December 24, **4:30 pm** in the sanctuary with the Mennonites. The nursery will be closed, but a family-friendly space will be in the chapel. The service will also be live streamed on Facebook.

Christmas Day: Worship will be in the dining room at 10:30 am with a carol sing, coffee and cinnamon rolls.

New Year's Day: Worship will be 10:30 am in the dining room with communion at the tables.

Upcoming schedule

Wednesday, December 14

10:30 am Deacons gift bag assembly, dining room

Sunday, December 18

10:30 am Worship, sanctuary
-Advent/Christmas Program

11:40 am Fellowship Treats, narthex

Thursday, December 22

5:30 pm Bear Care Daycare Party, dining room

Saturday, December 24

4:30 pm Christmas Eve Service, sanctuary

Sunday, December 25

10:30 am Worship and Carol Sing, dining room
- coffee and cinnamon rolls served

Monday, December 26

— office closed

Christmas Caroling

The choir is planning to put together a small (less than 10) group of singers to carol to 4-5 of our shut-in church members. We will meet at the church at 2:00 this Sunday and be finished before 4:00. We will sing 3-4 familiar carols in unison and we will all wear masks to keep everyone safe. If you are interested in joining us contact Brad Jensen .



Your Presence Wanted!

Isn't it good to see a friendly face and receive a warm greeting from church friends on Sunday morning! For those who are visiting, or perhaps haven't joined us for a while, this is especially important and may make the difference in whether or not they return.



It's easy to sign up either on the sign up sheet in the narthex or online using the link on the front page of our weekly newsletter: [Sign Up : Greeters](#)

You want to help but can't commit to signing up? When you see a new face or a worshipper who hasn't been with us for a while, make a special effort to walk over before or after the service, and give them a warm welcome.

It takes help from the whole congregation to make everyone feel welcome, so let's **ALL** be greeters!

Thank You

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so very much for all your expressions of caring over the past month as we dealt with Sandy's eye issues and moved Brad's father, Bob, into his Willowood apartment. It has been a challenging time for us, and we have really appreciated your caring support. Your many cards, phone calls, texts, and emails made the days brighter. Many of you helped us out with a variety of things and we are so grateful for all you've done. We want to say a big thank you to Connie Herbon and Jenny Allen for all the extra support you've so graciously given our family.

Our sincere thanks to all,

Sandy and Brad Jensen

Update from Working for Justice: Breaking Bias

December 2022

On October 5, we welcomed guest speaker, Rev. Le Anne Clausen de Montes, M.A., M.Div., CPS from Mason City, where she is Ministry Advocate for Accessibility, Equality, Inclusion and Welcome. This was an in-person meeting at the church. We had previously met with Rev. Clausen de Montes on Zoom in September and decided to continue our discussion about opportunities to work for justice in our community while also increasing congregational vitality.

On October 19, we held a discussion led by Pastor Julie which was a continuation of the previous meeting. Pastor Julie introduced a guide called *"Building an Inclusive Church, A Welcoming Toolkit 3.0"*. We discussed One-to-One Visits, which are described in the toolkit, as well as in the book, *Organizing Church: Grassroots Practices for Embodying Change in Your Congregation, Your Community, and Our World* by Tim Conder & Dan Rhodes, which Working for Justice group members read over the summer.

At meetings on November 2 and 16 and December 7, group members practiced one-to-one visits using "graceful engagement" as described in *"Building an Inclusive Church, A Welcoming Toolkit 3.0"*.

We have concluded our meetings for 2022 and will resume meeting on January 4, 2023. Our scheduled meetings for January and February 2023 will be via Zoom on the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 10-11 AM. Congregation members are always welcome to join us.

Report submitted by Sandy Jensen

Christmas Poinsettia Sponsors

You can still sponsor this year's poinsettia arrangement in memory or honor of a loved one. Loved one's names will be featured in our newsletter on December 21 and in the narthex. You may donate any amount. Any donations beyond cost will go toward sanctuary decorations. **The deadline is this Sunday, December 18.** Forms are in the narthex.

Thank You

Dear Friends of the Northeast Iowa Food Bank,
The Food Bank envisions a world where hunger is alleviated. With your donation you are helping feed children, families and seniors facing food insecurity. We want to say thank you for your contribution of \$1075 to the Food Bank to help those in need. We are excited to partner together in the fight to end hunger in Northeast Iowa. Thank you again for your donation to help feed your community.
Barbara Prather, Executive Director
Alisha Rulapaugh, Director of Engagement



Christmas Joy Offering

The Christmas Joy Offering reflects that God is with us, through the generous gifts that support church leaders among us who have pointed us to God. 50% of your gifts assists current and retired church workers with critical financial need. The other 50% goes to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

Financial Giving Deadline!

Financial giving for 2022 must be received by 3:30 pm on **Thursday, December 29.** Allow 5 business days for any PayPal donations!!

Year End Reports

Annual reports from our Ministry Teams are due into the office on Friday, January 13 by noon. Please have reports in a Word or Excel format and email to: office@firstprescf.org. Thank you!