



*E-Link*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

December 3, 2025

10:00 am

Sunday Worship

[Firstprescf.org](http://Firstprescf.org)



# Out of the Blue

## Advent 2025

**Sunday, December 7 @10:00am**

Out of the Blue: Wild New Life

Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-10, Matthew 3:1-12

Our Advent Series, *Out of the Blue*, gathers our shared imagination around moments of surprise, occasions of awe, and instances of inspiration when we discover the astonishment of God's work and God's purposes. This is a worship series about upturned expectations, feeling off-guard, and unanticipated invitations. It invites us to consider what we know – and, more often, what we do not know – about what it means to follow God.

This third Sunday in our series will focus on how we are called to live a wild new life. John's words in Matthew 3, recall how the long-awaited savior surprised the people: how he defied their expectations, how he resurrected their hope, how he made the empire tremble and earthly power crumble. During this Advent season, we prepare for Jesus' incarnation among us, are ready for the surprises that will come our way? When such wonders burst into leaf among us, will we recognize them? Where are they already appearing?

### 2026 Pledge Update

The 2026 pledge campaign response continues to be very good. Thank you to all who have turned in your pledges.

The number of 2026 pledges received so far is 81% of the total 2025 pledges. The 2026 pledges received are averaging 3.3% higher than the 2025 pledges from the same pledging units. The 2026 pledged dollar amount so far is 92% of the total amount pledged for 2025.

Every pledge is important. For those that have not yet turned in a 2026 pledge, please do so as soon as possible so that we can finalize our programs and budget for 2026.

Kevin Thedens  
Stewardship Committee

### Church Birthdays

Dec. 4-Bonnie Bicket, 6-Ann Crawford, 7-Mark Mortenson, 9-Jane Seeley, 11-Dick Goering

### Weather Notice:

Cancellations will be broadcast on KWWL, by email, Facebook, and a message on our voicemail.

### Upcoming Events...

*Sunday, December 14*

Christmas Program

Adopt-a-Family Deadline

Poinsettia Deadline

*Wednesday, December 17*

3:00-5:00 pm

Christmas Caroling

*Wednesday, December 24*

**Christmas Eve Worship**

4:30 pm with the

Cedar Falls Mennonites

*Tuesday, December 30*

3:00 pm

**2025 Financial Giving**

**Deadline**

(Allow 3 days for Paypal)

**Sign up anytime online:**

**Worship Leader Sign Up:**

[Sign Up: Worship Leaders](#)

*Or sign up in the narthex!*

**Sunday Supper Sign Up:**

[jean\\_seeland@vccv.org](mailto:jean_seeland@vccv.org)

## Thanks for serving last week:

**Snow & Ice Removal:** Gary Clark, Kirk Eastman, Gary Sabey, Jim Seeley

## Information Requested

Jenny Allen would like to hire someone to clear out her father's driveway but hasn't been able to find anyone. Please contact her if you have any suggestions.

## Member Anniversaries

Roger Dean, 12/1/75	50 yrs
Dave & Sue Luck, 12/1/75	50 yrs
Viola Polk, 12/7/55	70 yrs
Jill & Mark Mortenson, 12/11/05	20 yrs

## Calling All Children and Youth!

The Christmas program practice is Sunday, December 7 after worship. Afterward, we'll have a pizza lunch for participants and their families.

## SHINE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Our annual SHINE Kids Christmas program will be Sunday, December 14 during worship! It will be fun for all, with treats provided following the service.



## Upcoming schedule

### Wednesday, December 3

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, sanctuary

### Thursday, December 4

1:00 pm Esther Circle, dining room

3:00 pm Sarah Circle, classroom

### Friday, December 5

10:00 am Investment Committee, library

10:30 am 2026 Budget Committee, library

### Sunday, December 7

10:00 am Worship, sanctuary

11:15 am Program Rehearsal, sanctuary

### Monday, December 8

1:00 pm CVJC Steering Cte, library

7:00 pm PEO, dining room

### Tuesday, December 9

6:00 pm Session Meeting, library

### Wednesday, December 10

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, sanctuary

## Thank You

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for the prayers and cards I received at the time of my knee surgery. I really appreciated all the kind gestures. I feel very blessed to have this congregation in my life. Sue Weinberg

## Christmas Poinsettia Sponsors

You can 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 17 and in the narthex. Any donations beyond cost will go toward the sanctuary decorations fund. **The deadline is Sunday, December 14.**



## Spreading Christmas Joy!

Join us for Christmas caroling to our homebound on Wednesday, December 17 from 3:00-5:00. We will meet at the church. Songbooks provided. No sign up is needed.

## Upcoming Worship Services

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

Sunday, December 28: Worship will be in the dining room at 10:00 am. Coffee and cinnamon rolls will be available.

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.

## Christmas Giving Opportunities

**Adopt-A-Family:** All the gifts have been taken for this year. Thank you everyone! Please remember to return wrapped gifts to the church by **Sunday, December 14.**

**Newcomer Family:** We are collecting monetary donations to purchase necessities and perhaps gifts for Christmas. Donations can be made out to First Presbyterian with "Newcomer" in the memo. **DEADLINE: Sunday, December 14.**