

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# THE PULSE

CLASSES FOR ALL AGES - 9:00 A.M.

SUNDAY WORSHIP - 10:30 A.M.

[www.firstpresbymc.com](http://www.firstpresbymc.com)

## A Note from Pastor Paul

We are entering the season of Advent, and with Advent we also enter a new year in the liturgical calendar. The church year is a kind of spiritual journey, with the life of Christ as the model. We begin with the promise of the coming of a Messiah and continue through the birth, epiphany, and baptism of Jesus. The year reaches its climax after Holy Week in the celebration of resurrection at Easter, and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Finally, as we celebrated last Sunday, the year reaches its culmination in the Reign of Christ.

Advent is the beginning of this annual journey. We begin with uncertainty, with longing, and with hope. It is a season of a heightened awareness of all that we long for—from the personal to the global. We are not only aware of what we long for, but we reflect on the root of those longings. We want a strained relationship between family members to be restored, and we think about the nature of reconciliation. We long for a reduction in cases of gun violence, and we think about the nature of peace. We drop some change in the Salvation Army kettle or contribute some canned goods to the food bank, and we think about hungry people around the world.

At the outset of another year's journey, we look back and remember how Christ has come into our world, and how God has been present to us in the past. And then we step out in hope, not certainty and not even optimism, but a hope that is rooted in our longings for peace and reconciliation and a hope that is grounded in the God who loves us and has come to us, is coming to us still. We look for the Christ who comes in the stranger, in the child, in the loved one who is setting out on that final journey that leads through death and into a new life. We receive the Christ who satisfies our deepest longings.

Even though it is practically impossible to avoid the extravaganza of holiday shopping and noise and glitter and overstimulation, I invite you to find some quiet times during this Advent season to reflect on what it means that we welcome Emmanuel—"God with us"—into our hearts and our lives and into our communities and our world.



## Upcoming Dates

### Wednesday, NOVEMBER 29

Bible Study—10:20 am

Choir Rehearsal—7:00 pm

### Friday, DECEMBER 1

Community Kitchen—9am-12:30pm

### Saturday, DECEMBER 2

Church Advent Decorating—9:30 am

PALS at Prime N' Wine—5:30 pm

### Sunday, DEC. 3—1st Sunday of Advent

Lighthouse Kids &amp; Adult Ed.—9:00 am

Worship—10:30 am, Communion

Joyful Ringers Play

Hawkeye Harvest Food Bank Sunday

Confirmation—Noon

### Monday, DECEMBER 4

Mission Ministry Team—5:00 pm

### Tuesday, DECEMBER 5

Special Needs &amp; Endowment—1:30 pm

Adult Ed. Ministry Team—6:00 pm

### Wednesday, DECEMBER 6

Bible Study—10:20 am

E@T Night—6:00 pm

Choir Rehearsal—7:00 pm

### Thursday, DECEMBER 7

Session—7:00 pm

### Saturday, DECEMBER 9

Eat, Pray, Love Group—9:00 am

### Sunday, Dec. 10—2nd Sunday of Advent

Lighthouse Kids &amp; Adult Ed.—9:00 am

Worship—10:30 am

Confirmation—Noon

(Upcoming Dates cont. on page 2)

## Upcoming Dates (continued)

Tuesday, DECEMBER 12

Coffee and Conversation—9:00 am

Wednesday, DECEMBER 13

Bible Study—10:20 am

Christmas Caroling—6:00 pm

Choir Rehearsal—7:00 pm

Sunday, DECEMBER 17

Lighthouse Kids & Adult Ed.—9:00 am

Worship—10:30 am

Confirmation—Noon

Monday, DECEMBER 18

Newsletter articles due—Noon

Wednesday, DECEMBER 20

Bible Study—10:20 am

Choir Rehearsal—7:00 pm



We are making available Advent Devotions from the Presbyterian Outlook. Each week begins with a brief reflection on the week's theme, written by Jill Duffield. Each day there is a scripture reading and a prayer for the day and a suggestion for how to live out our biblical faith. It is a great way to begin each day of Advent, and prepare for the coming of Christ into our lives and world. Pick up your copy on the welcome table in the narthex.

## Christmas Eve Service



We will celebrate the birth of Jesus of Nazareth on Christmas Eve, at 5:00 pm, with carols, readings, and Silent Night by candlelight.

## Christmas Cantata



On Sunday morning, December 24, during the 10:30 am worship, the Choir of the Kirk, under the direction of Dennis Lee, will present the cantata "What Sweeter Music," by John Leavitt. It follows a Lessons and Carols format, with gospel readings from the Christmas story woven into the musical. The carols are arrangements of some familiar Christmas carols, and will include choir and instrumentalists.



It's that time of year, when we support one of the vital ministries of our community, the Salvation Army, in their annual Kettle Campaign. We have been assigned three dates, December 1, 4, and 18, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, at Shopko and Hy-Vee West. There is a sign up poster in the Friendship Room or narthex, with 2-hour slots. Please consider signing up with your family or friends, ringing a bell, greeting holiday shoppers, and helping raise some funds for one of the most committed helping agencies in our community.

## Advent Kickoff Party!

Fellowship Hall—All Ages

**Sunday, December 3, at 9:00 am**



The Advent season is a great time to connect deeper with our faith, families, and friends; and we've got all sorts of ways to help you celebrate! Join us on the First Sunday in Advent (12/3) and check out ALL the different ways you can celebrate.

**Want to make an Advent wreath?** We've got 'em!  
**Want coloring sheets for each week?** We've got 'em!  
**Want to find scriptures/devotionals?** We've got 'em!  
So come drink some hot cocoa, enjoy some Christmas music and prepare yourself for a wonderful Advent!

*With the love of Jesus Christ, First Presbyterian Church welcomes you just as you are — a child of God.*

## Adult Ed. in Advent

During the season of Advent, we will be returning to readings from "The Life of Meaning." Each reading will focus on "Hope." Copies of the book or of individual readings are available in the church office, or at the first gathering. We meet on Sundays, at 9:00 am, in the Meeting Place.

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## Christmas Caroling

Wednesday, December 13, 6:00 pm

Everyone is invited to come with us as we go-a-caroling around town. We'll stop and visit some of our church members who are at Good Shepherd and Heritage Care Centers. We'll leave from the Friendship Room at 6:00 pm, and there will be hot chocolate and apple cider at the church afterwards.



## Lighthouse Kids

Preschool—6th grade  
Sundays at 9:00 am

Join us as we celebrate the season of Advent!

Each Sunday morning we will use our time to make the season a little brighter for those around us.

- 12/3—Advent Kickoff Party!—Donut Sunday
- 12/10—Set up Giving Tree
- 12/17—Make Christmas Cards
- 12/24—Decorate Christmas Cookies

Come join us, and let your light shine bright!

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## E@T Night

Wednesday, December 6 @ 6:00 pm

Sometimes it takes a party...  
to think about who matters to us.

This month we'll spend some time talking about the story of the Prodigal Son. We'll reflect on what gets in our way of celebrating those around us, instead of finding joy like the father does when his son returns.

E@T stands for Everyone at Table and that's what the evening is really about, being together at the table.

Each month there will be dinner served (free will donation) and a table activity after the meal.

Everyone is welcome!



Please keep the following people  
in your prayers:

**Raymond Gabaldon**,  
Claudia Collier's brother-in-law;  
**Olivia Sorenson; Dick Smith;**  
**Shirley Dean; Steve Adair; Julie Eaton**, daughter of  
Lee and Judy Butler; **Kelly Koenen**, daughter of  
Bob and Sarah Kress; **Don Lee**, Dennis Lee's father.

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## November Birthdays

29—Greg Shirk

30—Cal Dorenkamp, Brian Jones

## December Birthdays

6—Penny Anderson

7—Rusty Davenport

8—Adriana Attleson

11—Paige Echelberger

12—Suzanne Hofstrand

13—Britney Davis, Bill Jellema,  
Carol Kelly

15—Carol Foster

21—Lynn Ullrich

27—Bruce Dunker

28—Kativa Weitzel

29—Jerry McArthur

30—Merritt Balmer

31—Ruth Dalton

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## PALS

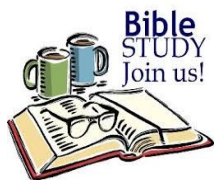


Well, the temps are dropping and we are beginning to think about the holidays. We have decided not to have a PALS get together in November, but hope that

on Saturday, December 2, at 5:30 pm you will join us at the Prime and Wine. Please note that December 2nd is a Saturday! We hope that everyone can take a deep breath and relax with friends during this busy season. Please let Adriana or the Kresses know if you will be joining us.

## Wednesday Bible Study Readings

Wednesdays at 10:20 am



What a wonderful way to enjoy Bible study! Come join us in the Friendship Room as we look at the upcoming Sunday scripture. We laugh, share, and learn about God working in us.

### November 29

Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

### December 6

Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13  
2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

### December 13

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126 (or Luke 1:46b-55)  
1 Thess. 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

## Presbytery Mission Trip – Beaumont, TX

February 3 - 10 | Cost \$100/participant

After all the severe flooding this summer, we're heading down to Texas to help serve with PDA. We'll be working in the Beaumont area, and staying at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church.



Participants will be responsible for lodging and travel to Beaumont and back, and there are firm registration limits, so participants will be accepted on a first come, first served basis.

Further details for the trip will be sent to participants and offered at an orientation meeting. To receive a registration form, please contact Jeannie in the Presbytery Office at 319-233-1747 or northiowapresby@gmail.com.

## The Grace Café Cookbooks



The last of the church cookbooks are out for sale and can be found in the Friendship Room. The cost is \$15.00 and they would make great Christmas gifts! Get yours today!

## 2018 Pledges

Those wishing to prepay 2018 pledges may do so by issuing a check **dated and postmarked prior to December 31, 2017**. Checks can be mailed prior to the 31st, or may be brought to the church office **before noon** on January 2, 2018. Please note on your check the amount to be applied to your 2018 stewardship pledge and/or per capita pledge. Thank you.

## Prayers For the Churches

The Committee on Ministry invites all congregations in the Presbytery of North Central Iowa to be in prayers for one another throughout the year. We hope in this way to share the spirit and power of prayers as we reflect on our oneness in Jesus Christ. The following are the churches to pray for this month:



- Dec. 3—East Friesland, Ackley: Lynn Arends, CRE
- December 10—St. Paul's, Washburn:  
Rev. Dr. Clemens Bartollas
- December 17—For those Elders and Pastors  
who have gone before us in 2017
- December 31—Pray for the Presbytery Staff

