

First Press

December 2022—January 2023

First Presbyterian Church

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From Our Pastor ~

Advent is here. The time of waiting with hope, joy, and anticipation is here. This season is one that often gets busy and we forget to reason we celebrate it. Its easy to do when most of us even forget that there is still another Holiday between Halloween and Christmas. It's called Thanksgiving. In my home if I allowed it Christmas music, the tree, and other decorations would have been up the day after Halloween. It's a concept that is pushed by our stores and online shopping as well when black Friday deals begin even earlier and earlier every year. With all this going on do we even know what "Advent" even means and why we should do it? I always thought the assumption was its just another Christmas season activity, like the nativity, or eggnog. But no, it has more meaning than that. Advent serves a purpose for us and scripture. Let's be reminded of what each Sunday/candle means for advent

The first candle, which is purple, symbolizes hope. It is sometimes called the "Prophecy Candle" in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. It represents the expectation felt in anticipation of the coming Messiah. The sec-

ond candle, also purple, represents faith. It is called the "Bethlehem Candle" as a reminder of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem. The third candle is pink and symbolizes joy. It is called the "Shepard's Candle," and is pink because rose is a liturgical color for joy. On the fourth week of Advent, we light the final purple candle to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait for the birth of our Savior. This final candle, the "Angel's Candle," symbolizes peace. It reminds us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men." The white candle is placed in the middle of the wreath and lit on Christmas Eve. This candle is called the "Christ Candle" and represents the life of Christ. The color white is for purity—because Christ is our sinless, pure Savior.

This Advent season, lets all slow down and set aside time to focus on the hope, faith, joy, prayer, and redemption that Christ's birth brings.

Pastor Robert Brooks

SESSION REPORT

Session held its regular meetings on
October 12th & November 16th in the
Campbell Library

Communion

Communion was on
October 2, 2022
70 were served by intinction

Next communion
will be December 4th

Funerals

Bob Lager
Bonnie Heasley
Melanie Wangsness
Eleanor Lanz

Weddings

Devon and Rachel Letsche

**The Annual Harvest
Dinner held on Nov 6th
was a great success!**

If you weren't able to join us
you missed a fabulous
meal of roast beef, au gratin potatoes,
bbq beans and dinner rolls.
The "Country Store" was another huge
success.

Special Thanks to everyone for your
donations. We could not
have done it without you!



PW has had a busy couple of months. We have served at 4 funerals at which the families appreciated all of our hard work and good food that we supplied. It is an important ministry that we provide for our congregation.

Women's Bible Study will not be held in December, but will resume again the third Wednesday of January. We hope to see many of you there as it is a great time of learning about the Bible and having fellowship with each other.

We will be starting a new session of PW in January. Dawn Haar will be the new chairman. We still need a co-chairman though. Please consider volunteering for this position as it is an important one if we want to keep our PW going.

Charlene Beckett

Chairman



The bell choir has been practicing on Wednesday evenings at 6:00. We will be playing several new pieces during Church services with a variety of ringing techniques that the choir members are excited to execute. We also have a piece that will be played entirely with the handchimes. You won't want to miss it!

We welcome Pete DeGeest back as a returning ringer, and now have only one open spot. If anyone is interested in playing, please see the director.

Ray Caffee

Bell Choir Director

The **choir** has been gearing up for the Advent and Christmas season. With Christmas on a Sunday this year, it gives us another opportunity to sing a Christmas song for the congregation. We are enjoying our practices—even though the cold and sinus infections have hit various ones of us at different times. We want to remember that "Jesus is the Reason for the Season" and hope our music conveys that message to you. We are always looking for new members, so if you feel like singing with us songbirds—please come to practice on Wed. nights at 7:00 or Sunday mornings at 9:30---we need more voices in our group and would love having you join us!

Janice Palmer, Choir Director

Christian Education



But the angel said to them "Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord". Luke 2:10

We are thankful for all our Christian Education volunteers who prepare lessons every week, help with music and opening, and assist in any way with the spiritual formation of our youth and adults.

The adult Sunday school class began lessons on November 13th with Pastor Brooks leading them.

The senior youth group is studying about being a disciple and going through the book of John. They will decorate the sanctuary Christmas tree the week after Thanksgiving.

The junior youth group have discussed eternal hope. They will decorate the fellowship hall tree after Thanksgiving.

Together with the Lutheran and Methodist youth, both groups had a bonfire/devotion in September and held a prayer vigil for Kayden Hammond.

The preschool through 5th grade kids sang in church November 6th and did a great job! They have been learning about loving God and loving others, how to worship God, and when we make mistakes to turn to God.

A big **THANK YOU** again to Kelly Wagner and Laura Duxbury who have been working hard on the Sunday school Christmas program. Following is the practice schedule:

Program practice schedule:

Sunday, Dec. 4 program practice during Sunday school

Wednesday, Dec. 7 practice from 3:30-5:30

PM Students can ride the bus to the lot and walk over.

Saturday, Dec. 10 – rehearsal 10:00-12:00

Sunday, Dec. 11- program during church.

Report to the basement by 9:45

Sunday School Schedule:

There will be NO Sunday school on December 11 after the program.

Sunday, Dec. 18 Sunday School at regular time

NO Sunday School Dec 25th or Jan 1

Wednesday, Dec. 28 – NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT CLASSES.

Teachers will be in touch about Dec. 21st and Jan. 4th.



Sunday school students who sang in church 11/06/2022

We wish everyone a blessed holiday season!

Submitted by Cecilee Miner

OUR GREETERS AND USHERS



Greeters in December

4 Larry & Janice Arbogast
11-Cecilee, Ariel, & Quinnley Miner
18- Rusty & Jill VanDerWerff
25-Nancy Williams

Ushers in December

Larry & Janice Arbogast
Shaylee & Kaihlyn Anderberg

Deacons in December

Sue Jones
Nancy Williams

Greeters in January

1- Rusty & Jill VanDerWerff
8- Gayle & Robin Vrooman
15-Jeff & Peggy Meyer
22-Chris & Christina Kruml
29-Lance DeHaai family

Ushers in January

Lance & Tanner DeHaai
Gayle & Robin Vrooman

Deacons in January

Curt Johnson & Jim Jones



Birthdays in December

3 – John Niederauer
 Brody Heasley
4 – Dylan Templeton
5 – Bonnie Heasley
6 -- Kelly Johnson
7 – James Waldrop
8 – Serenity Johnson
 Eric Speck
10 – Raymond Caffee
14 – Hannah Caffee
15 – Grace Hofer
 Bernie Rombough
16 – Lance DeHaai,
 Brian Jones
 Kynslee Mushitz
18 – Barb Lager
 Mike Runge
21 – Kaihlyn Anderberg
23 – John E. Bertsch
24 – Glenda Hilmer
26 – Jim Jones
 Carole Skinner
28 – Gayle Vrooman

December Anniversaries

4 – Lester & Rosemary
 Moeller
23 – Bernie & Cindy
 Rombough

Birthdays in January

2 – Rylie Moss
4 – Wilma Jones
 Wanda Stevens
6 – Darin Nelson
 Kelly Johnson
7 -- Sally Resel
8 – Cody Fanning
 Jake Fanning
12 – Philip Testerman
 Briggs Runge
13 - Rilea Mielke
14 – Jim Dyer
18 – Eli Jones
 Tyann Jones
 Jeff Meyer
21 – Tom Miner
 Sylvia Wieseler Johnson
 Jennie Caffee
22 – Sheldon Waldrop
 Hadley Weaver
 Presley Weaver
24 – Carlie Selting
25 – Dawn Haar
26 – Peter DeGeest
24 – Garner Sivertsen
31 – Bennett DeHaai

January Anniversaries

1 – Pete & Dwan DeGeest
22 – Bob & Barb Lager
30 – David & Dee
 Sivertsen