

First Presbyterian Church

January 25, 2026

Welcome



Welcome to this sanctuary.

Welcome to this time of worship and wonder.

Welcome to this family of faith.

We're glad you're here today and pray that your experience with us in worship is both challenging and uplifting!

Our ushers are available to assist you as needed.

For more information about First Presbyterian Church, we invite you to visit our website. There you will find out the ways to keep in touch, how we live our faith, our different partnerships and so much more.

Our website address is: www.firstpresracine.org

If you're interested in receiving news about the church, please call 262.632.1686 or email: shelley@firstpresracine.org

Rev. Darren Utley—Church Pastor
pastordarren@firstpresracine.org

Today's Service

PASTOR—Rev. Darren Utley

LITURGIST—Jen Seversen

MUSICIANS—*Alejandro Alumbreros, Mark Paffrath, Dave Titus*

MEDIA TECH SPECIALIST—Steve Comeau

*Please stand as you are able.

[**Bold type**] indicates text to be spoken by the congregation.

[***Bold italic type***] indicates song to be sung by the congregation.



We Gather to Worship

As a courtesy to everyone, please mute your mobile device.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jen Seversen

Welcome! May you find God's love, peace, grace, and joy as we worship today.

PRELUDE

Prelude | *George Winston*

POEM OF INVITATION

From Healing IV | *Wendell Berry*

Good work finds the way between pride and despair.

It graces with health. It heals with grace.

It preserves the given so that it remains a gift.

By it, we lose loneliness:

we clasp the hands of those who go before us,
and the hands of those who come after us;

we enter the little circle of each other's arms,

and the larger circle of lovers whose hands are joined in a dance,

and the larger circle of all creatures, passing in and out of life, who move also in a dance,
to a music so subtle and vast that no ear hears it except in fragments.

*OPENING HYMN

Will You Come and Follow Me

[GtG Hymn #726]

Alejandro Alumbreros, Mark Paffrath, Dave Titus

THE LORD'S PRAYER/PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen

*ACT OF PRAISE

Seed, Scattered and Sown

[GtG Hymn #531, v. 3]

*Seed, scattered and sown; wheat, gathered and grown;
bread, broken and shared as one, the living bread of God.*

*Vine, fruit of the land; wine, work of our hands;
one cup that is shared by all, the living cup,
the living bread of God.*

*As wheat upon the hills
was gathered and was grown,
so may the church of God
be gathered into one.*

*Seed, scattered and sown; wheat, gathered and grown;
bread, broken and shared as one, the living bread of God.*

*Vine, fruit of the land; wine, work of our hands;
one cup that is shared by all, the living cup,
the living bread of God.*

*PASSING THE PEACE

As Christ welcomed everyone,
no matter what their background or social standing;
as Christ welcomed enemies & friends, outcasts & leaders,
foreigners & neighbors, let us open our hearts and homes and lives.
Let us be like Christ to everyone we meet.
Peace be with you.
And also with you.

Proclaiming the Word

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 4:12-23

[NT 3-4]

Responding to the Word

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Born in the Night, Mary's Child

*SONG OF RESPONSE

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light
[GtG Hymn #377]

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We have seen the valley.
We have seen a sky without stars.
We have seen the longest night, and still we believe.
We believe in a with-us God.
We believe in the hope of tomorrow.
We believe that good news is louder than fear.
We believe this good news is for all people.
So even when our knees shake,
even when our voice trembles,
even when fear is all around us,
we will hold onto that good news.
We will reach for each other.
We will look for God in our midst.
We will sing songs of joy.
We will proclaim: Unto us, love is born.
We have seen the longest night,
and we have seen unimaginable love.
So still, we believe. Amen.

OFFERING/OFFERTORY

You Walk Along Our Shoreline

*DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Amen!*

Going Forth to Minister

*CLOSING HYMN

Healer of Our Every Ill
[GtG Hymn #795]

*BENEDICTION

*SUNG BLESSING

Sometimes a Light Surprises
[GtG Hymn #800, v. 3]

*It can bring with it nothing but He will bear us through;
Who gives the lilies clothing will clothe His people, too;
Beneath the spreading heavens no creature but is fed;
And He who feeds the ravens will give His children bread.*

POSTLUDE

Fanfare-Postlude | *Michael Yenny*



Prayer Matters

Heartfelt thoughts and prayers for all who have recently experienced the loss of a friend or family member. May they know peace and comfort during these difficult times.

Prayers of comfort & healing for Jen Seversen, Don Tobias, Elie Hunt, Jeremy Nitz, Peggy Taylor, Ginny Holle, Ken Schacht, Vi Shufelt, Sheila Lawrence, Peggy Wagner, Ed Lehmann, Austin Moulds, Mac & Marilyn MacCaughey, Ellen Easley, Sandra Hopkins, Kay Mahl, Mary Johnson, Leah Fisher, Barb Stevenson, Evelyn Vanderheyden.

As they deal with physical, emotional and/or spiritual issues, please pray for Mary Ann—mother of Cheryl Nitz; Mark—son of Sharon Campbell; Josephine—aunt of Georgia Herrera; David—friend and Dan & Joyce—parents of Shelley Maurer; Jack Flynn and Mary—sister of Gretchen Hermann; Ainara—sister of Alejandro Alumbreros; David—brother of Ed Lehmann; the paternal grandfather of Autumn Eifert; Carol—sister of Ginny Holle; Chad—son of Sheila Lawrence; the grandfather of Jay Perrone; Amy—daughter of Jim & Bonnie Eastman and sister of Jenny Eastman; Nancy—girlfriend of Ken Schacht; Elena & Ezequiel Romero—parents of Deb Utley; Masako—mother of Fumi Nakayama; Nancy—mother of Gloria Zember; John—son of Mac & Marilyn MacCaughey; Ramona, Steve, Susan, Sandra, John, Liz and Gabby—friends & family of the Galles; Richard—brother of Steve Comeau; John—husband of Sandy Hawley; Chuck—husband of Sue Pehlivanian; Laurel—niece of Curt & Victoria Vollman; Meyer Schaal; Tim—family member of Sheila Lawrence; Scott Mohn—friend of the Paffrath family.

Prayers for those in the service — Evan Humphreys, Col. Jay Brooke, Jared Smith, Jordan Smith, Nicholas Hansen.

Thank you for your continued prayers for everyone. They are powerful!



Annual Meeting of the Congregational

NEXT SUNDAY—FEBRUARY 1ST
LL Dining Room - directly following worship

The annual meeting will be followed by...

The First Annual Dennis Reeser Memorial Chili Tasting Event

As with so many Church fellowship gatherings, the man behind the scenes getting everything set up and working correctly was Dennis Reeser. His amazing generosity of time coupled with a fantastic skill set and wonderful sense of humor added so much joy to our Church Family. There is not a First Pres event where he does not come to mind, and he is deeply missed. So, plan to come and eat some chili, spread some joy, help feed some hungry people with your free-will offering and raise a spoon to the memory of our friend who showed us daily what love in action looks like.

This week...

Sun., Jan. 25 th	9:30AM 10:40AM	Worship Service Fellowship
Mon., Jan. 26 th	9:00AM	Staff Meeting via Zoom
Tues., Jan. 27 th	10:00AM 6:30PM	Delivery for Food Pantry Session Meeting
Wed., Jan. 28 th	4:00PM 7:00PM	Food Pantry Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Sun., Feb. 1 st	9:30AM 10:40AM	Worship Service Annual Meeting and Chili Tasting— <i>LL-Dining Room</i>