

*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**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

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.

GOING FORTH TO MINISTER

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" [8]

*CLOSING HYMN

*BENEDICTION

*SUNG BLESSING

[20 v. 3]

**Watchman, tell us of the night,
For the morning seems to dawn,
Traveler, darkness takes its flight,
Doubt and terror are withdrawn.
Watchman, let your wanderings cease;
Hasten to your quiet home.
Traveler, lo, the Prince of Peace,
Lo, the Son of God is born.**

POSTLUDE

Alejandro Alumbremos

**Please stand as able.*

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

share God's



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN STAFF — JOYFULLY SERVING

- ALL OF US - Ministers
- REV. GILLIAN WEIGHTON - Senior Pastor
- REV. STEVE FRINGER - Visitation Pastor
- ALEJANDRO ALUMBREROS - Organist & Choir Director
- NANCY BUCK - Handbell Choir Director
- DORIS DESCHLER - Financial Secretary
- DODIE KERKMAN - Sexton
- SHELLEY MAURER - Church Secretary
- MARK PAFFRATH - Music Leader
- PEGGY TAYLOR - Parish Nurse



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 17, 2017

9:30 A.M.

GATHERING WITH PRAISE

PRELUDE *Alejandro Alumbremos*

FIRST THOUGHT
“For Jesus, peace seems to have meant not the absence of struggle but the presence of love.”

Frederick Buechner

One: The Lord be with you.
All: **And also with you.**

HYMN **“On Jordan’s Bank” [10]**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE *Peggy Wagner, Sarah and Malea Pina*

One: We light this third Advent candle and we rejoice in the blessings of this season

All: **We rejoice in the assurance that God is coming and light will overcome darkness, love overcome hatred**

One: As we trust in God, our hearts are filled with peace

All: **And our lives are filled with joy and anticipation**

One: So may God kindle within us compassion for others and hope for our world.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

WELCOME

Welcome! Whoever you are, wherever you come from and whatever you have done or failed to do, welcome to this place where we celebrate the love of God and are inspired by the hospitality of Jesus Christ. May you find God’s love, peace and grace as we worship together.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *Jeff Leavell*

God whose patience puts up with our waywardness, forgive us. We confess our lack of faith in Your loving power and Your loving presence. We look around us and all that we see is what we don’t have. We fail to notice the daily blessings You lavish upon us. Clear our blindness to the needs of others. Strengthen us and move us from lame excuses for not serving You. Help us to truly listen to one another, not with our pat answers ready, but with loving and generous hearts. Heal us and make us ready to truly be Your disciples. In Jesus’ Name, we pray. ~ Amen

(Let us continue to pray in silence.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Friends, hear the good news of the Gospel.
All: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

*ACT OF PRAISE

[28 v. 3]

**Good Christian friends, rejoice
With heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave;
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
To gain the everlasting hall
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!**

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

TIME FOR ALL AGES

HANDBELL CHOIR

**“Christmas Lullaby”
arr/Kevin McChesney**

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 35:1-10 [O.T. p. 663]

SERMON

**“Little Big Hope”
Rev. Gillian Weighton**

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PASSING THE PEACE

One: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
All: **And also with you.**

(During this time the children and their teachers may leave for Sunday School.)

*SONG OF RESPONSE

“I Cannot Tell” [Renew 160]

OFFERING/OFFERTORY



From Daytime Circle—There will be thirteen people representing Daytime Circle and our church will be attending the “Story of the Nutcracker” Ballet together today for the 1:30 performance at UW-Parkside. We are happy to be supporting the Classical Dance Arts Studio and the youth members of our church who will be dancing in this today.

Also, please join us for our monthly Newsletter Party this Tuesday the 19th at noon. Lunch will be provided by Shelley and others.

Thank you and Merry Christmas to all who help with this!



A hearty thank you to all those that attended the Christmas Open House and shared cookies & snacks. The remaining cookies, sold after church on Sunday the 3rd, were delicious and helped us raise even more money. Our church family raised just shy of \$400.00 to support our Sack Lunch program at First Presbyterian. Thanks to the Mission Committee for helping to organize this event.

Prayer

Prayers for our church family—including Larry and Ellen Cardwell, Marlene Wilson, Don and Nancy Tobias, David Perkins, Darrell Sutton, Maggie Seater, Ollie Hopkins, Beth Elzinga, and Annette Anderson. Please keep Adam Reiss—son of Ellen Cardwell, Stephen Goodall—grandson of Ollie and Sandy Hopkins, Hannah Yale and Kevin Liszewski—daughter & son-in-law of Debbie Yale, Mary Larscheidt—sister of Carrie Massey, Mary Jensen—sister of Elaine Jacobson, Lucille Von Rotz—mother of Diane Lehmann, and the mother of Nicole Higgs in your prayers.

Prayers for our military—Scott Pence, Lt. Col Jay Brooke, Nicholas Hansen, Jordan Smith, Chad Lawrence, Kyle Sondergaard.

Prayers for our friends— Lt. Col. Matt Brooke—Army, Retired, Ben and Ethan. And healing prayers for those who are going through rough times—whether emotionally, physically or spiritually.

And a special prayer for all those who lend a helping hand to make the world a brighter place for others.



Welcome to this sanctuary.
Welcome to this time of
worship and wonder.
Welcome to this
family of faith.

**WELCOME TO
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
We're glad you're here today
and pray that your experience
with us in worship is both
challenging and uplifting!

9:30^{AM}—Worship
10:15^{AM}—Sunday School

Fellowship to follow
in Ihrman Hall.

*Nursery care is available during
worship service in Room 205.*

Senior Pastor
Rev. Gillian Weighton
PastorGillian@FirstPresRacine.org

Visitation Pastor
Rev. Steve Fringer
SCFringer@Hotmail.com

716 College Avenue
Racine, WI 53403
262.632.1686

www. FirstPresRacine.org
Office@FirstPresRacine.org

GET THE WEEKLY “E-VOTIONAL”

To receive our mid-week E-votional
along with news about what’s going
on in the church, call/email the office
and ask to be added to the list!

Join us for the **ADVENT TAIZÉ SERVICE** this Thursday the 21st at 6:00^{PM}. Gift yourself with some space for peaceful reflection during the hectic holiday season. Our Advent (pronounced “Tezzay”) service provides an opportunity to gather in our sanctuary in a contemplative, prayerful setting. Candlelight, simple songs, and a period of silence all contribute to a time to reflect and to open oneself to God.

Pastor Gillian will lead the service, which lasts about 45 minutes. Music will be provided by Ami Bouterse-soprano, Alejandro Alumbrosos-pianist, and vocal music students. A freewill offering will be accepted.

All are welcome!



December 17, 2017

GREETERS: *Ken Nakayama and Karin Roach*

USHERS: *Dennis & Nancy Reeser, Julia Reeser, Ken Schacht, Pam Wortley*

PERK-N-POUR: *Dave & Ginny Holle*

LITURGIST: *Jeff Leavell*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 17, 2017

Sun., Dec. 17	9:30 ^{AM}	Worship
	11:30 ^{AM}	Delivery of baskets to homes
Mon., Dec. 18		<i>Office Closed</i>
Tue., Dec. 19	11:00 ^{AM}	Staff Meeting
	12:00 ^{PM}	Newsletter Prep Party and Appreciation Lunch
	7:00 ^{PM}	Session Meeting
Wed., Dec. 20	12:00 ^{PM} to 1:00 ^{PM}	Bible Study
	5:00 ^{PM} to 7:00 ^{PM}	Food Pantry
	7:00 ^{PM}	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
Thu., Dec. 21	2:00 ^{PM} to 4:00 ^{PM}	Food Pantry
	6:00 ^{PM}	Advent Taizé Service

Please join us Sunday, December 24th:

9:30^{AM} *Music Worship and Scripture—Matthew 1:18-25*

6:30^{PM} *Candlelight Worship and Communion*



Today's flowers are in memory and celebration of Adrienne Paffrath's birthday on December 22nd.



Annual reports are due on Friday, December 29, 2017.

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE FOR THE FOOD PANTRY:

WED., DEC. 20TH — *Kate Gleason, Maria Hansen, Megan Humphreys, Mac MacCaughey, Julia Reeser*

THURS., DEC. 21ST — *Helen Kim, Myrna Kryger, Betsy Walton*

(If you cannot make your shift, please find a sub and let LuAnn or Karin know.)



Mmmmm, stew!

For the remainder of December, we need to provide our clients with hearty soups, beef stews, corned beef hash, meaty chilies and, per usual, peanut butter! As always, thank you!

A NOTE FROM B&G



We've recently noticed that a few things aren't being turned off after use.

Remember to turn off the lights— even if you aren't the one to turn them on. And, when exiting the washroom, make sure the water is not running—either in the sink or the commode. Also, when leaving the building, please be sure the doors are shut completely and locked behind you.

This is our church and **all** of us are responsible for its care. Thank you!

On Sunday January 14, 2017, after worship in the Chapel, the Cuba Committee will meet to continue our discussions and plans to further the Cuba Mission effort. Please join us if you are interested in serving on Committee or if you just want to learn more about the plans for 2018 and our Cuba Partnership. All are welcome.

If you are not able to attend but you have an idea or suggestion please contact Ben Neal, a seasoned Cuba Traveler.



IN MEMORY OF

GIVEN BY

Barbara M. Rowe Mary Jane Johnston
 Grace Shin Robert & Helen Kim
 Our Loved Ones Les & Ann Lucareli
 Our Loved Ones Jeff & Shelley Maurer
 Lee Wheat, Dolores Moore,
 Andy Moore Bob & Nancy Moore
 Elisabeth Muir,
 Robert Muir The Muir Family
 Mr. & Mrs. A.R. Myers—parents Ellen Myers
 Our Parents Andy & Denise Park
 Our Loved Ones Cathy & Dave Perkins
 Our Loved Ones The Reeser Family
 Our Parents John & Patt Reitsma
 Ed & Barb Rowe,
 Van & Jan Antwerp Mary & Eric Ringwalt
 Our Parents Jerry & Nancy Ritter
 Our Parents Dave & Judy Rowland
 Paul Schuler, Janet Archer,
 George Carlisle Mary Lou Schuler
 Jim Shufelt, Ricky Shufelt,
 Bev Shufelt Vi Shufelt
 Mr. & Mrs. W. G. Schlichting,
 Susan Polzin Mary Soley
 Bob Seater—father Sally (Seater) Toepfer
 Don Tredwell Anne Tredwell
 John Hunter Gillian Weighton
 Eileen & Bruce Wortley The Wortley Family

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS



IN HONOR OF**GIVEN BY**

Lucas Orion Callahan Lissy & Bill Blandford
 The Handbell Choir Nancy Buck
 Mark & Lisa Campbell Sharon Campbell
 All who have helped and supported us during
 this past year, with our gratitude Larry & Ellen Cardwell
 Our Children & Granddaughters Armin & Juanita Clobes
 David & Judy Rowland The Daniels Family
 Our Family Warren & Nancy DeKraay
 Barb & Jim Fisher,
 George & LeEllen Stolp Keri & David Fisher
 Our Parents Steve & LuAnn Hansen
 Our Children & Grandchildren Dave & Ginny Holle
 Our Children Sandra & Ollie Hopkins
 Marlene Wilson,
 Yvonne Massey Kathi Wilson & Carrie Massey
 Our Family Jeff & Shelley Maurer
 Dave & Judy Rowland John Rowland & Nancy
 Our Children & Grandchildren John & Patt Reitsma
 Janice Ingram—sister,
 Pastor Gillian Weighton Linda & Vic Schubert
 Maggie Seater—mother Sally (Seater) Toepfer
 Elie Hunt Brodie & Henry

IN MEMORY OF**GIVEN BY**

The Beloved We've Lost The Alumbros-Bouterse Family
 William & Mary Armstrong,
 Fred & Herberta Kautz Bruce & Barbara Armstrong
 Adrienne Paffrath Pat Badger
 John & Geraldine Brooke,
 Herman & Elizabeth Nelson (our parents) John & Linnea Brooke
 Jerry Buck,
 Suzanne and Gregg Nancy Buck
 Harvey & Shirley Smith,
 David Campbell Sharon Campbell
 Kenneth E. Clark Vivian Clark
 Eleanor & Campbell Stuckeman,
 Ruth and Gib Easley Dave & Ellen Easley
 Our Parents Bud & Mary Eastman
 John Eifert Bev Eifert & Family
 Bob & Dorothy Fringer Steve Fringer
 Cynthia Wylie Gleason, Kenneth J. Gleason Kate Gleason
 Philip R. Guion, Jean L. Guion,
 Ken Jensen The Edward P. Guion Family
 Trudy Gibson,
 Ellen Smith Georgia & Jim Hall
 Rodney C. Elliott—father & grandfather,
 Anne Harris—sister & aunt Harris Family
 June Hewlette Marge Henze
 Our Parents Dave & Ginny Holle
 Our Parents Sandra & Ollie Hopkins
 Norm Jacobson,
 Patty Jacobson Ciha Elaine Jacobson