

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PASSING THE PEACE

One: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

\*SONG OF RESPONSE

**"Go, Tell It On the Mountain" [29]**

OFFERING/OFFERTORY

\*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

\*CLOSING HYMN

**"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing [31]**

\*BENEDICTION

\*SUNG BLESSING

**[51 v.3]**

**As we watched at dead of night,  
There appeared a wondrous light;  
Angels singing "Peace on earth"  
Told us of the Savior's birth  
Hail that ever blessed morn,  
Hail redemption's happy dawn  
Sing through all Jerusalem;  
Christ is born in Bethlehem.**

POSTLUDE

*Alejandro Alumbros*

*\*Please stand as able.*

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



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 24, 2017

9:30 A.M.

## GATHERING WITH PRAISE

### FIRST THOUGHT

“Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy is to have the real spirit of Christmas.”

*Calvin Coolidge*

### PRELUDE

*Alejandro Alumbremos*

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

### HANDBELL CHOIR PROCESSIONAL

*“Carol of the Bells”  
Arr//Line, Kevin McChesney*

### \*HYMN

**“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear” [38]**

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE *Evelyn Alumbremos and Emma DeGroot*

One: On this eve of Christmas, we light the fourth candle of Advent, the candle of peace.

**All: We join with people throughout the world to watch and wait for the coming of the Prince of Peace.**

One: When Jesus was born, the angels sang of peace on earth and goodwill to all people.

**All: Let us commit our lives to working for peace on earth and may we be generous in showing goodwill to all.**

One: Dear God, hear this our prayer on Christmas Eve.

### \*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

*Lissy Blandford*

**God of new beginnings, You came into this world to offer us new life and life eternal. Hear our praise and prayers this Christmas Eve. Speak to us through the familiar carols and fill our hearts with the joy and peace of this season. Remind us that Jesus came to such a world as this, a world that is far from perfect but a world that is loved by You. May Jesus be born in each of us this day so that we know Your forgiveness and be filled with Your joy and assured of Your everlasting love. May the celebrations of this day inspire us anew to follow in the way of Jesus whose birth is, as always, good news for us all. ~ 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

[36 v. 4]

**What can I give Him, Poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd. I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
Yet what I can I give Him; Give my heart.**

### PROCLAIMING THE WORD

### PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

### CHANCEL CHOIR

**“The Many Moods of Christmas: Suite 3”  
*Traditional Carols arranged by  
Robert Shaw and Robert Russell Bennett***

### SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 1:18-25 [N.T. p. 1]

### SPECIAL MUSIC

**“Every Star Shall Sing a Carol”  
*Written by Sydney Carter*  
**Musical Performers:**  
*Pat Badger  
Annli Nakayama  
Mark Paffrath***

### HOMILY

**THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE FOR THE FOOD PANTRY:**

WED., DEC. 27<sup>TH</sup> — *John & Linnea Brooke, Megan Humphreys, Linda Schubert*  
THURS., DEC. 28<sup>TH</sup> — *Nancy Hennessey, Ginny Holle, Mary Jane Johnston, Mary Ringwalt*

(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!

Thank you for supporting our Cuban Partnership by purchasing photo cards of our Cuba trip. You have purchased \$180 in card sales and this money has been donated to the Cuba Fund. After the first of the year you will see a card rack with cards for continued support of this mission. ¡Muchas gracias!



*Annual report summaries are due this Friday the 29<sup>th</sup>.*



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<sup>AM</sup>—Worship  
10:15<sup>AM</sup>—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

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**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!

**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



December 24, 2017

GREETERS: *Mary Eastman and Bev Eifert*

USHERS: *John & Linnea Brooke, Bud Eastman, Bob & Nancy Moore*

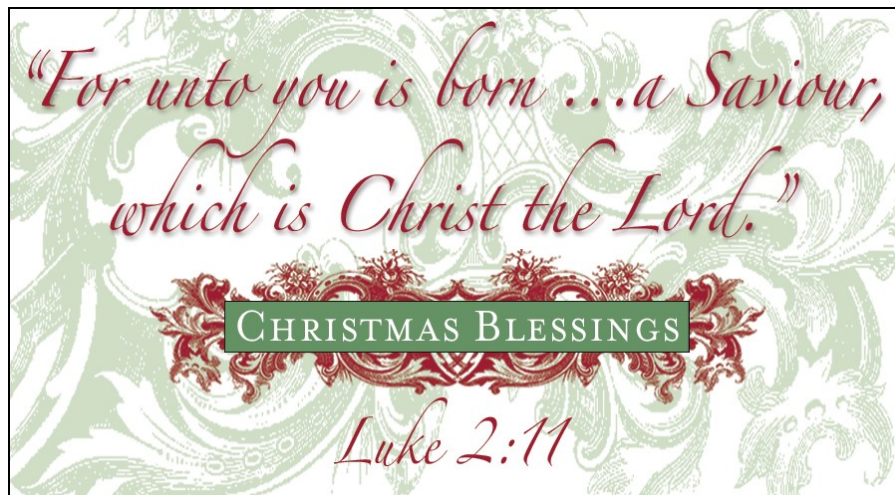
PERK-N-POUR: *Deb Yale*

LITURGIST: *Lissy Blandford*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 24, 2017

Sun., Dec. 24	9:30 <sup>AM</sup> Musical Worship
	6:30 <sup>PM</sup> Candlelight Worship with Communion
Mon., Dec. 25	<i>MERRY CHRISTMAS</i>
Tue., Dec. 26	<i>No Staff Meeting</i>
Wed., Dec. 27	<i>No Bible Study</i>
	5:00 <sup>PM</sup> to 7:00 <sup>PM</sup> Food Pantry
Thu., Dec. 28	2:00 <sup>PM</sup> to 4:00 <sup>PM</sup> Food Pantry
Fri., Dec. 29	<i>Annual Report Deadline</i>

Please join us December 31<sup>st</sup> at 9:30<sup>AM</sup> for Worship.



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.



The beautiful **CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS** will be on display through this evening's service at 6:30<sup>PM</sup>. At that time, you are welcome to take your poinsettia plant home with you.

*An additional "In Memory" is for Mr. & Mrs. Harold Keebler—from their loving daughter, Karen Ruggaber.*