

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

The Table at First Presbyterian is open to all. Friends from other traditions are welcome to share in the Lord's Supper because Christ is our host. Children who are being nurtured in the faith are also welcome. We invite all to share in this meal in order to be renewed and assured of God's love and grace.

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.

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

As directed by the ushers, please come forward, take a piece of bread, dip it in the cup and partake. Servers are available to bring Communion to those who wish to remain in their seats. Gluten-free crackers are available in each basket.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

All: Dear God, grant to us Your peace that passes all understanding. Send us from this place and this table, renewed and refreshed. Remind us every day that we are Yours and nothing separates us from Your love. Surround us with that love and strengthen to do Your work of bringing Your Kingdom of peace on earth. ~ Amen

GOING FORTH TO MINISTER

*CLOSING HYMN

"Make Way" [Renew 60]

*BENEDICTION

*SUNG BLESSING

[510 v. 5]

**O Jesus, ever with us stay,
Make all our moments calm and bright;
O chase the night of sin away,
Shed o'er the world Thy holy light.**

POSTLUDE

Alejandro Alumbremos

**Please stand as able.*

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



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 3, 2017

9:30 A.M.

GATHERING WITH PRAISE

~Continued from page 2~

PRELUDE

Alejandro Alumbrreros

FIRST THOUGHT

“Nothing that I can do will change the structure of the universe. But maybe, by raising my voice I can help the greatest of all causes—goodwill among all and peace on earth.”

Albert Einstein

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

HYMN

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” [1]

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Bob & Nancy Moore

One: On this first Sunday of Advent, we light this candle, symbol of hope.

All: Jesus Christ, hope of the world shine into the darkness.

One: Let the light of this candle shine on our paths.

All: That through this season of Advent, we might live as lights shining into the world’s darkness.

One: In this and every moment, let us focus on hope,

All: The hope that is found in God’s gift of love to the world, Jesus Christ.

*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

Rev. Steven Fringer

Generous God, we turn our attention to You and acknowledge that there is darkness in the world and in us. Forgive us, we pray. We confess that the suffering, tragedy and pain of the world seems, at times, to overwhelm us. Draw near to us, God, and grant us Your strength to live in hope. We pray that You would enable us to

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work for peace, to restore what is broken and to offer to the world the hope of new life and new beginnings. Forgive us for being impatient and let us keep the faith as we look to the day when our hope will be fulfilled and peace will descend on earth . ~ 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

[515 v. 1]

**Now to Your table spread we come, each one in faith
That You alone provide the words of life and death;
In wine and bread, in promised food
We find Your loving heart, O God.**

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

TIME FOR ALL AGES

CHANCEL CHOIR

“Advent Carol”
by Dale Wood

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 2:1-5 [O.T. p. 631]

SERMON

“Love, Joy, Peace and”
Rev. Gillian Weighton

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

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

prayer

Prayers for our church family—including Larry and Ellen Cardwell, Marlene Wilson, Janet Hoffman, Don and Nancy Tobias, David Perkins, Darrell Sutton, Kathi Wilson, 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.

Additionally, at this difficult time, please keep the friends and family of Chuck Knoedler, the Frank family and Rev. Frederick Marks in your prayers, as they cope with the loss of their loved ones.

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, Karen—friend of Bill & Lissy, and Cousin James in Michigan. 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 order forms for the **CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS** can again be found in today's bulletin. The deadline for ordering is Dec. 10th. They will be on display through our Christmas Eve Service, at 6:30^{pm} on the 24th. At that time, you are welcome to take your poinsettia plant home with you.

Please consider purchasing one (or more) in honor / memory of a loved one.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY MADE PURCHASES—THANK YOU!

Welcome

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 a.m. Worship and Communion
10:15 a.m. 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 3, 2017

GREETERS: *Mary Lou Schuler and Linda Schubert*

USHERS: *Larry Dickerson, Sharon Campbell, LuAnn Hansen,
Jeff Leavell, Jen Severson*

PERK-N-POUR: *Elie Hunt and Peggy Wagner*

LITURGIST: *Rev. Steven Fringer*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 3, 2017

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|--------------|--|--------------------------|
| Sun., Dec. 3 | 9:30 ^{AM} | Worship and Communion |
| | 10:15 ^{AM} to 11:00 ^{AM} | Sunday School |
| Mon., Dec. 4 | | <i>Office Closed</i> |
| Tue., Dec. 5 | 11:00 ^{AM} | Staff Meeting |
| Wed., Dec. 6 | 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. 7 | 2:00 ^{PM} to 4:00 ^{PM} | Food Pantry |

Please join us December 10th at 9:30^{AM} for the second Sunday of Advent—Worship and Christmas Program.

ADULT ED

So, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE AT AUSTIN SEMINARY? — PART TWO

Pastor Gillian will talk about her second class as a student in the D. Min. Program at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

This will take place, in the sanctuary, next Sunday the 10th, directly following fellowship!

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

Per Doris—After today's worship, the 2018 offering envelopes will be available on a table in the northeast corner of the sanctuary. If you are in need of envelopes, please leave your name and mailing address in Doris' mail box. Thank you!

FYI—*office@firstpresracine.org* is the email address for the church office. The old email address is no longer in use.

Reminder—The deadline for articles, notices and schedules to be included in the January newsletter is Thursday, December 14th.



Shopping for a unique holiday gift? Come into our Chapel after church to see the artwork for sale.

Ken Nakayama's photos are \$30 each.

Jen and Sarah Severson's photos are \$25 each.

Checks payable to: First Presbyterian—Art Fund and forward to the office.

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE FOR THE FOOD PANTRY:

WED., DEC. 6TH — *Maria Hansen, Ken Schacht
Elizabeth Tews, Pam Wortley*

THURS., DEC. 7TH — *Barb Armstrong, Helen Kim
Sue Sheehan, Vi Shufelt*



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

We will be collecting items for the Christmas baskets through this Wednesday the 6th.

Join us for the **ADVENT TAIZÉ SERVICE** on Thurs., Dec. 21, 6:00 p.m. Gift yourself with some space for peaceful reflection during the hectic holiday season. Our Advent Taizé (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!

