

Sundays

Nursery Care 9:00 a.m.

Breakfast 9:00 a.m.

Christian Education 9:30 a.m.

Worship 10:30 a.m.

Fellowship following service.

Youth activities 4:00 p.m.

2701 Rochester Avenue

Iowa City, IA 52245

319-351-2660

www.firstpresioiowacity.org

Welcome to FPC.

Our prayer is that all will be blessed by the Word read and proclaimed as we are bound together by the Spirit as a community of faith. Children are invited to participate in our worship and welcome as loved, squirming, laughing, crying children of God. We have busy bags for younger children and binders for young readers to help them in their journey, and a staffed nursery is available for children under 5.

✦ *Please rise, in body or spirit.*

***Bold lines** are spoken or sung by **All**. Non-bold lines are spoken or sung by one.*

Please be seated by a Gathered Community Pad and sign in so that we may have a record of your time with us.



We seek to share the good news of Jesus Christ and his call to the realm of God: the practice of justice, mercy and faith. Our mission is represented by the Celtic cross, a shepherd's crook, the extension of the right arm of fellowship into the world and the church's hospitality toward the world.

3 December 2023
1st Sunday in Advent

Prelude

Oratorio de Noel

Camille Saint-Saens

Greeting

Psalm 118:24

This is the day that the Lord has made | **We will rejoice and be glad in it.**

✦ Gathering Hymn 140

Once in Royal David's City

arr. Duane Funderbunk

On this hymn we will have a mix of congregational and choral singing.

Verse 1: Congregation, Verses 2-3: Choir, Verse 4: Congregation

✦ Call to Confession

We come together assured that Jesus feels for all our sadness and shares in like manner all our gladness. Knowing this and trusting in Christ's presence, let us confess our sins before God and neighbor.

✦ Prayer of Communal Confession

Gracious and most merciful God, we have sinned against you in thought and word and deed, both in what we have done and in what we have left undone. We have not trusted God through our periods of loneliness and isolation. We have despaired that Christ will ever return, and acted as if he will not. In the midst of declining church attendance, we have let our hope wither, rather than being energized and challenged by it. Help us to hear the prophet's words and believe that justice and righteousness will follow in our wake.

✦ Time of Individual Confession

✦ Words of Assurance

Hear the Good News. Isaiah's promise was fulfilled in Christ Jesus, and we are forgiven to build Christ's world together. Amen.

✦ Confessional Response Hymn 119 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

✦ The Peace

The peace of Jesus Christ be with you. | **And also with you.**

(The people may exchange signs of Christ's peace and reconciling love.)

Anthem

Spirit of the Season

Silvestri/Hamilton

Prayer for Illumination

Holy Spirit, help us to hear the challenge of this prophet's words and seek to understand what it means for us. Amen.

The Lesson

Isaiah 59:15-21



Want to give
online?
Scan our QR
Code or text
FPCIC to 73256

Response

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. | **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

Comfort, Comfort

arr. Cathy Moglebust

Children's Time and Advent Wreath Lighting

All children, if they are so moved, are invited to join Pastor Nathan at the Advent wreath.

We give thanks for the light of Christ, shining in the lives of all God's people. With the prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah, we watch and wait for the coming of Christ who will bring light and peace to all the world.

As we close, please join in our Advent song, to the tune of Frère Jacques

Light of Jesus (echo: light of Jesus), show the way (show the way).

Shine in us forever (shine in us forever); this we pray (this we pray).

Anthem

Night of the Father's Love

Pepper Choplin

Message

The Challenge and the Comfort

Pastor Nathan Willard

Hymn 121

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

During the prayers of the people, please respond to the words "God in your mercy" with "Hear our prayer."

The 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

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Lord of All

arr. Chris Jones

✠Doxology (tune: 607)

OLD HUNDRETH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen**

✠Prayer of Dedication

God of all hope, peace, joy, and love, we dedicate these gifts to living your gospel story not only during Advent, but through the whole of the coming year. Amen.

Commissioning

Anthem

Sussex Carol

arr. Elaine Hagenberg

✠Charge and Blessing

Postlude

In dulci jubilo

J.S. Bach arr. Stradal



Thursday, December 7: **1pm**

"Jesus, the Child of David," a study on Matthew 1-2

Thursday, December 14: **1pm**

"Jesus, the Servant Leader," a study on Luke 2

Thursday, December 21: **1pm**

"Emmanuel, "a study on the harmony of the scriptures

In the pews are schedules of the Weekday and Sunday Advent activities.
Please take these cards and share them with your friends and family,
 (there are extras on the Narthex table
 - take as many as you like!)
invite someone to join you, or simply hang on the fridge as a reminder.



From Your Endowment Committee:

Avoiding probate or minimizing estate taxes at death require proper planning.

When you are doing this planning, consider making a gift to your Church.

For more info, contact Bob & Millie Youngquist at endowment@firs-presiowacity.org

The Christmas Joy Offering SPECIAL OFFERINGS

By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering of the Presbyterian Church (USA), you honor God's gift of Jesus Christ by aiding current and retired church workers in their time of need, and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges that equip communities of color.

Please prayerfully consider making a Christmas Joy Offering. From December 3rd through December 24th, go to <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/christmas-joy/>, or donate by check (memo line- Christmas Joy) or cash during Sunday worship using a Christmas Joy Offering envelope found in the pew/seat in front of you.



The K-2nd Grade Sunday School Class will be presenting their Nativity again this year!
 Come and see them on Sunday, December 10 from 10-10:30 a.m., right before worship!



The Cookie Walk is just around the corner...have you signed up to bake cookies? You still can, signup sheets are in Ryerson Hall, or by contacting Deb at Deb.Boland@gmail.com.

If baking cookies is **NOT** your thing but you love to decorate them? Join us in Ryerson Hall on Wednesday, December 6 at 5:30pm to decorate cookies.

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP THIS MORNING

Preacher: Pastor Nathan Willard

Ministry of Music: JuBELLation, Melissa Moll
J. Kyle Coleman and
Katelyn Peterson, FPC Sanctuary
Choir, FPC Marion Chancel Choir,
Guest Orchestra

Liturgist: Steve Schomberg

Ushers: Dave Van Dusseldorp,
Debbie Beermann

Elder: John Barr

Fellowship: Sanctuary Choir



**Breakfast Fundraiser for
Summer Trips 2024
Sunday, December 17;
9-10:15 a.m.**

This Summer, the Christian Education Ministry is looking forward to a week at Stronghold for our youth, our first Intergenerational Mission Trip, AND Scholarships for the newly renamed Bear Creek Camp (formerly known as Camp Wyoming). Please consider joining The Christian Education Ministry and families as we raise funds to defer these costs!

Come eat and watch the CE Ministry Year 2023 Slide Show Stay for Worship and be blessed by the Christmas Pageant!

What a spectacular morning!

FPC's week at a glance

Sunday, 3 December

8:00 JuBellation, Choir Room
9:00 Childcare, Nursery
9:00 Advent Activities, Ryerson
9:00 Breakfast & Good Morning, Ryerson, Kitchen
9:30 Parents Group, Pastor's Place
9:30 Bible Study, Coover
9:30 3rd-6th Grade, Young Youth Room
9:30 K-2nd Grade, Beach Room
9:30 Wired Word, Room 14, Hybrid
10:00 Blood Pressure Screening, Ryerson
10:30 Worship and Christmas Music Exchange, Sanctuary
11:30 Fellowship, Ryerson Hall
11:35 Blood Pressure Screening, Ryerson
12:00 Christmas Pageant Practice, Ryerson, Coover
4:00 The 3Gs, Young Youth Room
6:00 Sunday Night Dinner, Ryerson Hall, Kitchen
6:45 The 3Ts, Young Youth Room

Wednesday, 6 December

7:00 Men's Group, Zoom
10:30 Staff Meeting, Coover
5:30 Cookie Decorating at FPC, Ryerson, Kitchen
6:30 CE meeting, Beach Rm
7:00 Sanctuary Choir

Friday, 8 December

Set up for the Cookie Walk

Saturday, 9 December

9:00 Cookie Walk, Ryerson, Kitchen

Sunday, 10 December

8:00 JuBellation, Choir Room
9:00 Childcare, Nursery
9:00 Advent Activities, Ryerson
9:00 Breakfast & Good Morning, Ryerson Hall
9:00 Sanctuary Choir Exchange to Marion FPC
9:30 Parents Group, Pastor's Place
9:30 Bible Study, Coover Lounge
9:30 3rd-6th Grade Sunday School, Young Youth Room
9:30 K-2nd Grade Sunday School, Beach Room
9:30 Wired Word, Room 14, Hybrid
9:45 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
10:30 Worship, Sanctuary
11:30 Fellowship, Ryerson Hall
12:00 Christmas Pageant Practice, Ryerson, Coover
4:00 Caroling Night, Young Youth Room
6:00 Sunday Night Dinner, Ryerson Hall, Kitchen

First Presbyterian Church Staff

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