

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.firstpresidiowacity.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, squirmy, 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.

10 December 2023
2nd Sunday in Advent
Hope

Greeting

Psalm 118: 24

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

Prelude

Comfort, Comfort, Now My People

Ellen Coman

✦ Gathering Prayer

In these short days, we wait. We wait for the daylight, for the warmth, for the time to sow once more.

We wait for Christ's birth as we wait for Christ's return.

We wait to hear the story of God's continuing creation.

Warmed by the fire of the Holy Spirit, we wait together.

Come and Worship. **Come and Worship!**

✦ Gathering Hymn 96

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

✦ Call to Confession

On this of all mornings, remember and heed the Baptist's call: turn your hearts toward God. Make your path straight by confessing your sins to 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 heeded the call of John the Baptizer. We have avoided facing our fears. We have not looked at ourselves and asked whether we were making the choices of the people we want to be. We have been content to avoid the appearance of conflict while letting our disagreements fester. We have accepted the quiet of peace rather than the resolution of reconciliation. In this hour, help us to face our fears, one another, and you. Amen.

✦ Time of Individual Confession

✦ Words of Assurance

Hear the Good News. John proclaimed and Christ fulfilled, and now we live in the assurance that forgiveness is there for all of us. **Amen.**

✦ Confessional Response 87 *Comfort, Comfort Now My People (v 1)*

"Comfort, comfort now my peo-ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.

"Com-fort those who sit in dark-ness mourn-ing un-der sor-row's load. To my peo-ple now pr-claim that my par-don waits for them! Tell them that their sins I cov-er, and their war-fare now is o-ver."

✠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.*)

Prayer for Illumination

Holy Spirit, let us listen once more to these words, perceiving their meaning behind the music we know so well. Amen.

The First Lesson

Isaiah 40:1-11 Pew Bible Old Testament, p.626

Response

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

Children's Time

All children, if they are so moved, are invited to join Pastor Nathan near 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.

With John the Baptist, we cry out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord! Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

Closing song:

**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).**

The Second Lesson

Mark 1:1-8 Pew Bible, New Testament, p. 30

Response

The words of the prophets for the people of God. | **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 96

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

Message

"Different Kinds of Peace"

Pastor Nathan Willard

Preparation for Prayer 88

O Come, O Come Emmanuel (v2)

O come, thou Wis-dom from on high, who or-derst all things might-i-ly: to us the path of knowl-edge show; and teach us in her ways to go.

Prayers of the People and Silent Prayer

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

Preparation for Prayer 88

O Come, O Come Emmanuel (v7)

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind; bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.

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

Prepare the Royal Highway

Zach Unke



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

✦ **Doxology (tune: 607)**

**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 generosity and compassion, on this day when we celebrate in their absence the Big Things our choir does, we dedicate our gifts to sharing your particular and peculiar song throughout the world. Amen.

Commissioning

✦ **Sending Hymn 20**

All Things Bright and Beautiful

✦ **Charge and Blessing**

Postlude

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Greg Bottomley

Advent Liturgy © Office of Theology and Worship, PC (USA)
Doxology © 1995 The Pilgrim Press
Reprinted and streamed with OneLicense.net license A-703444

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP THIS MORNING

Preacher: Pastor Nathan Willard
Ministry of Music: Melissa Moll
Liturgist: Debbie Beermann
Ushers: Sharon Raffensperger
Elder: Nancy Ross
Fellowship: Purple Deacon Team



**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!***

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 extra cards on the Narthex table so take as many as you like!) Invite someone to join you, or simply hang on the fridge as a reminder.



From Your Endowment Committee:

Have you ever heard that “wills are for wealthy people?” That’s right! But they are also for “poor people” and for everyone in between.

- Your will relates to everything God has entrusted with you, and it can be a powerful statement of your Christian stewardship.
- Have you had your will prepared?

For more info, contact Bob & Millie Youngquist at endowment@fisrtpresioiwacuity.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 donation. From December 3 through December 24, 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 rack/seat in front of you.

FPC's week at a glance

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
- 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

Monday, 11 December

- 7:00 Worship and Arts Ministry, Coover

Tuesday, 12 December

- 10:00 North Liberty Mom's Group, Nursery
- 6:30 Deacon Chili Supper & Mtg., Ryerson, Kitchen

Wednesday, 13 December

- 7:00 Men's Group, Zoom
- 10:30 Staff Mtg., Coover
- 5:30 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal, Ryerson, Kitchen

Thursday, 14 December

- 11:15 Taste Our Cookin', Ryerson, Kitchen
- 1:00 Advent Bible Study, Coover
- 7:00 Finance Committee Mtg., Zoom

Saturday, 16 December

- 11:00 Compeer Social Event, Ryerson, Kitchen

Sunday, 17 December

- 8:00 JuBellation, Choir Room
- 9:00 Childcare, Nursery
- 9:00 Advent Activities, Ryerson
- 9:00 Breakfast Fundraiser for Summer 2024, Ryerson Hall
- 9:45 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 10:30 Worship, Sanctuary
- 11:30 Fellowship, Ryerson Hall
- 4:00 Big Event Christmas Party, Ryerson, Kitchen
- 6:00 Pizza Party, Ryerson Hall, Kitchen



Please join us in fellowship on Sunday, December 17 to recognize and thank Melissa Moll for her years of service to our church and congregation. We have been blessed to have her share her gift of music during worship

and on special occasions the last eight years. A reception will follow the Sunday service.

First Presbyterian Church Staff

PASTOR

Nathan Willard

nathan.willard@firstpreswacivacy.org

DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Anna Sheetz

anna.sheetz@firstpreswacivacy.org

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Tammy Schroeder

tammy.schroeder@firstpreswacivacy.org

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

J. Kyle Coleman

kyle.coleman@firstpreswacivacy.org

ORGANIST

Melissa Moll

melissa.moll@firstpreswacivacy.org

SEXTON

Gerald Hill

gerald.hill@firstpreswacivacy.org

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Tammy Foster

tammy.foster@firstpreswacivacy.org

MANAGER OF FINANCE & PURCHASING

Krista Livingston

finance@firstpreswacivacy.org

ENDOWMENT & MEMORIAL

COORDINATORS

Bob & Millie Youngquist

endowment@firstpreswacivacy.org