

# First Presbyterian Church

101 S. Center St., Marshalltown, Iowa 50158

E-mail [church@fpcmarshalltown.org](mailto:church@fpcmarshalltown.org)

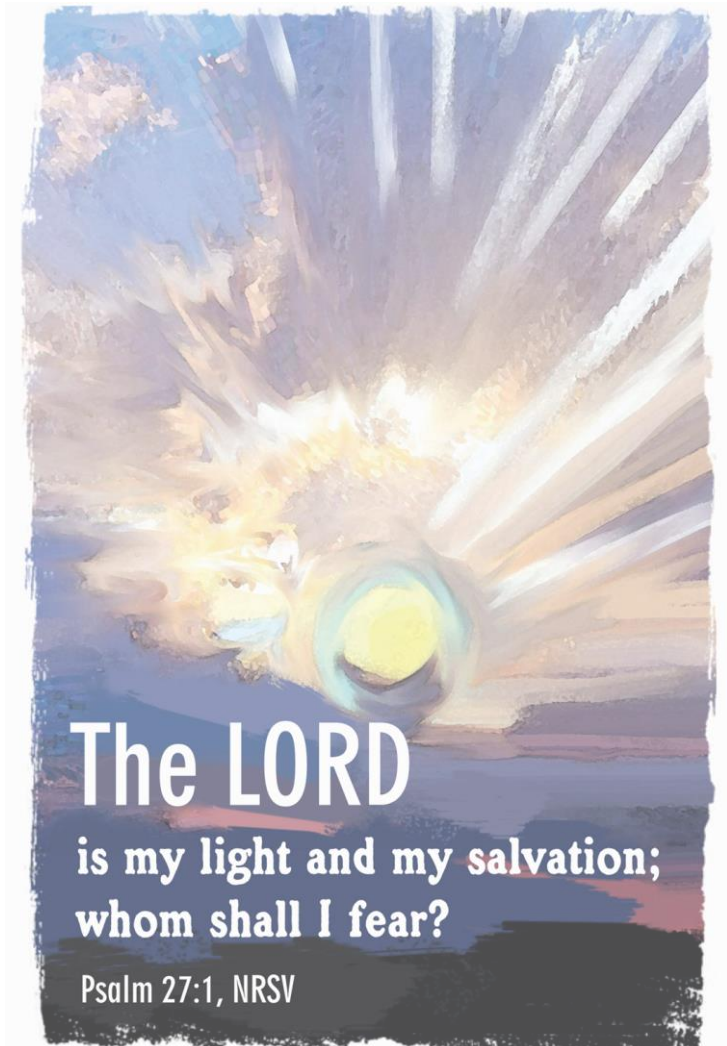
[www.fpcmarshalltown.org](http://www.fpcmarshalltown.org)



Phone 641-753-5929

**9:00 a.m.**

**December 31, 2023**



## The LORD

is my light and my **salvation**;  
whom shall I fear?

Psalm 27:1, NRSV

Those who are able are invited to stand.

## PRELUDE

### CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 8)

Leader: LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

**People: You have set your glory in the heavens.**

Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.

**When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?**

You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor.

**You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet:**

all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild, the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.

**LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

## SONG OF DEVOTION

Betsy Wirin

### PRAYER OF INVOCATION

O God, our guide and guardian, as we come to the end of another busy holiday season, we know you have led us apart from the busy world into the quiet of your house. Grant us grace to worship you in spirit and in truth, to the comfort of our souls and the upbuilding of every good purpose and holy desire. In this coming year, enable us to do more perfectly the work to which you have called us. In this next year, make us more like Jesus so may we worship you not with our lips only at this hour, but in word and deed all the days of our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

- GREETING
- SONGS OF PRAISE

*Your Grace is Enough  
How Great is Our God*

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

When we gather to praise God, we remember that we are people who have preferred our wills to his. Accepting his power to become new persons in Christ, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

## **SILENT PRAYER**

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Holy and merciful God, as we look back on a year gone by, we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against you. You alone know just how often we have sinned by wandering from your ways, by wasting your gifts, by forgetting your love.

**Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry for all we have done to displease you. Forgive our sins.**

At the beginning of a new year we often think about changes we want to make in our lives. Holy Spirit, help us to make the most important changes by becoming more like you.

**Lead us to live in your light and walk in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen**

### **DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS (Isaiah 44:21-22)**

Remember these things, O Jacob, and Israel, for you are my servant; I formed you, you are my servant; O Israel, you will not be forgotten by me. I have swept away your transgressions like a cloud, and your sins like mist; return to me, for I have redeemed you.

### **READING OF THE LAW (Exodus 20:1-17)**

As God's forgiven people, how are we to live? Hear now the Word of God:

God spoke all these words: "I am the LORD your God. You shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

You shall not bow down to them or worship them. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God. Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.  
You shall not commit adultery.  
You shall not steal.  
You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.  
You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not  
covet your neighbor's wife, or anything that belongs to your  
neighbor."

## HYMN

#288    *We Three Kings*

## MORNING PRAYERS

Pastoral 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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, amen.***

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

## OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Offertory

- *Doxology*
- *And Blessing (remain standing and hold hands)*

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 27

(p.864)

SERMON: "Seeking the Lord's Face"

Pastor Bryan Kunz

# *LET US LIVE IN THE POWER OF CHRIST*

## SONG OF RESPONSE

#294    *One Day*

## LIFE OF THE CONGREGATION

- **BENEDICTION**
- **ORGAN RESPONSE**
- **POSTLUDE**

### **Joys and Concerns**

- **Jean Bower**, hospitalized with low sodium
- **Carissa King**, flare-up of her inflammatory eye condition
- **Oliver Young**, who is recovering at home from seizures

### **Continuing Joys and Concerns**

- **Marla Grossman, Linda Kauffman, Oliver Ni, Joyce Anderegg, Mike Sanderson, Reese Buschbom, Steve Anderegg, Tedra Henze, Caroline Kauffman, Sue Pelong** – Bert Tice's sister, **Barb Wollam, Christy Hardacre** - Carolyn Wilkinson's daughter, **Mercedes Love, Yasuyo Smith, Reena Pearson, Sophie Attiogbe** continued recovery
- Peace in **Israel/Palestine, South Sudan, Ukraine**, and throughout the world
- The continued search for an **Associate Pastor**
- **Missionaries** supported by First Presbyterian Church
- **Shawn & Nancy Paul/MorningStar Mission**, their ministry in Central America and around the world

Please pray for everyone on our list. Thank you for keeping us informed about joys and concerns. We'd rather get several calls than none.

Phone the church at 753-5929 or e-mail [Bryan@fpcmarshalltown.org](mailto:Bryan@fpcmarshalltown.org)

Please let us know if you'd like the **prayer chain** activated.

**Worship Leader today:** Bill Eilers

**Next Sunday:** Valerie King

**Greeters today:** John & Lisa Simpson

**Next Sunday:** Diane & Keith Oleson

**Doorman & Greeter:** Dave Freel

**Deacons today:** Pat & Nancy Kremer

**Next Sunday:** Diane & Keith Oleson

**Fellowship Hosts:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Next Sunday:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Nursery today:** Madi Stull & Bethany Wirin

**Next Sunday:** Madi Stull & Megan Turbiville

**Cup Washers today:** Bryan & Larissa Kunz

**Next Sunday:** Jacob Jorgensen

**Donuts today:** Case Hegeman

**Next Sunday:** Jim & Bonnie Grimmus

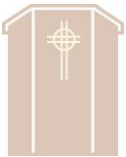
**AV today:** Steve Anderson

**Next Sunday:** Diane Broshar

## Announcements

**Altar flowers** today are poinsettias for Advent.

**On the presbytery's prayer list** for this week are churches searching for a pastor.



Plan to be at church or watching online next Sunday, January 7, 2024, when **associate pastor candidate Ben DeBoer** will preach. Church members will have the opportunity to vote to call Ben as our associate pastor the following Sunday, January 14, 2024, during the congregational meeting called for that purpose. This meeting will also be available on Zoom.

The 2023 Annual Meeting will be held **January 21, 2024**, immediately following worship in person and via Zoom. Please submit annual reports by January 7<sup>th</sup>.



Altar Flowers

The altar flower calendar is open for 2024! Flowers will remain \$26.75 per bouquet or \$53.50 for both. You may sign up on the clipboard in Fellowship Hall, on the poster in the Narthex, or by calling the church office.

Like everything else, the cost of donuts has gone up. Donuts will be \$50 in 2024.



Do you have something you want to share with your family? 'News from the Pews' bulletin board in the narthex is there for you to share.

## **Calendar for This Week Dec. 31, 2023 – Jan. 7, 2024**

### **SUNDAY**

8:40 AM Prayer – Conference Room

9:00 AM Worship

### **MONDAY**

New Year's Day

Office Closed

### **TUESDAY**

6:00 PM Worship & Music Committee

### **WEDNESDAY**

6:30 PM Bell Choir

7:30 PM Choir

8:30 PM Praise Team

### **THURSDAY**

8:30 AM Flapjacks – Lower Lounge

### **FRIDAY**

### **SATURDAY**

7:30 AM Men's Group – Fellowship Hall

### **NEXT SUNDAY**

Ben DeBoer here

8:40 AM Prayer – Conference Room

9:00 AM Worship

10:15 AM Sunday School – all ages

## *Members in mission, making a difference*

Pastor  
Interim Director of Youth Discipleship  
Secretary/Newsletter Editor  
Organist  
Pianist  
Custodian  
Nursery

Rev. Bryan Kunz  
Carissa King  
Michelle Wilkinson  
Wynona Anderson  
Marsha Bristley  
Debbie Armstrong  
Madi Stull

### **Session Elders**

Steve Anderson  
Terry Buzbee  
Don Feld  
Ashley Johnson  
Roger Schoell  
Lee Wilkinson

Greg Brown  
Doug Cooper  
Tedra Henze  
Tracy Ostrem  
Ross Turbiville

### **Deacons**

Doug & Jinita Boyd  
Ruth Feld  
Jackie Hughes  
Barb McBride  
Paul & Karin Podhajsky  
Karen Schoell  
Roberta Tice

Larry & Judy Erion  
Jim Grimmus  
Pat & Nancy Kremer  
Keith & Diane Oleson  
Terri Rottink  
Marlene Snyder

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E-mail: [church@fpcmarshalltown.org](mailto:church@fpcmarshalltown.org) (Office)  
[bryan@fpcmarshalltown.org](mailto:bryan@fpcmarshalltown.org) (Pastor)

Church activities may be video recorded and livestreamed online.

