

First Presbyterian Church

101 S. Center St., Marshalltown, Iowa 50158

E-mail church@fpcmarshalltown.org

www.fpcmarshalltown.org



Phone 641-753-5929

9:00 a.m.

December 24, 2023

*Waiting for
Consolation*

LOVE

Herein is LOVE, not that
we loved God, but that he
loved us, and sent his Son.

1 JOHN 4:10, KJV

Those who are able are invited to stand.

PRELUDE *O, How Joyfully!* with *Joy to the World*

arr. C. Berry

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 130:5-7)

Leader: I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his Word I hope. My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning.

People: There is no darkness with you, O Lord.

O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is plenteous redemption.

There is no darkness with you, O Lord.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

There is no darkness with you, O Lord.

SONG OF DEVOTION

Come to Us, O Promised One

Chancel Choir

L. Larson

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Father in heaven, our hearts desire the warmth of your love, and our minds are searching for the light of your Word. Increase our longing for Christ, our Savior, and give us the strength to grow in love, that the dawn of his coming may find us rejoicing in his presence and welcoming the light of his truth. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen

- **GREETING**
- **SONGS OF PRAISE**

Joy Has Dawned

He Shall Reign Forevermore

CALL TO CONFESSION

When Jesus was born of the virgin Mary, he became like us in all things but sin. May we who have been reborn in him be free from our sinful ways. Let us confess our sin to God.

SILENT PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Unison: O promised Christ: We are a world at war. Our peace depends on your coming. We are a sinful people. Our pardon depends on your coming. We are full of good intentions but weak at keeping promises; our only hope of doing God's will is that you should come and help us do it. Lord Christ, our world waits for your peace, for your pardon, and for your grace. Even so: come, Lord Jesus. Amen

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS (based on Ps. 85:9-13)

Surely God's salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky. The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. Righteousness will go before him and will make a path for his steps. In Christ, God's salvation is at hand, and righteousness has come. Thanks be to God!

HYMN

#273 *Good Christian Men, Rejoice*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

SPECIAL MUSIC

Ben Wirin

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.

HYMN

#277 *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

CHILDREN'S SERMON

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Offertory *The Coventry Carol with Away in a Manger*
arr. C. Berry

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

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 2:22-35 (p. 1591)

SERMON: “Waiting for Consolation”
Pastor Bryan Kunz

LET US LIVE IN THE POWER OF CHRIST

SONG OF RESPONSE

#270 *Joy to the World*

LIFE OF THE CONGREGATION

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

Joys and Concerns

- **Carissa King**, flare-up of her inflammatory eye condition
- **Oliver Young**, who is recovering at home from seizures
- **Beverly Free**, recovering from a broken hip and wrist
- **The family of Sheryl Good**, Sue Bryant's sister-in-law, who died 12/11/2023
- **Jan Faber**, recovering from covid

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
- **WellSpring Mission**, their mission in South Sudan

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

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

Worship Leader today: Carissa King

Next Sunday: Bill Eilers

Greeters today: Bill Eilers

Next Sunday: John & Lisa Simpson

Doorman & Greeter: Dave Freel

Deacons today: Jackie Hughes & Bert Tice

Next Sunday: Pat & Nancy Kremer

Fellowship Hosts: Dick & Barb McBride

Next Sunday: _____

Nursery today: Madi Stull & Bethany Wirin

Next Sunday: Madi Stull & _____

Cup Washers today: Dick & Barb McBride

Next Sunday: _____

Donuts today: Doug & Margaret Cooper

Next Sunday: Case Hegeman

AV today: Diane Broshar

Next Sunday: Steve Anderson

Announcements

Altar flowers today are poinsettias for Advent.

On the presbytery's prayer list for this week is **the Synod of Lakes and Prairies Staff**: RE Elona Street-Stewart, Synod Executive; Rev. Deb DeMeester, Leadership Development; RE Jim Koon, Financial Services and Treasurer; Rev. Pam Prouty, Stated Clerk; Amy Hartman, Financial Services Associate; and Gretchen Milloy, Office Coordinator.



If you will be alone on Christmas, Pastor Bryan and Larissa invite you to join them for a special lunch today at **11:15 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Please let them know if you are coming.

Our candlelight communion Christmas Eve service will be at 6:30 p.m. tonight.



Plan to be at church or watching online on 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 7th.



The Greatest Gift

Calendar for This Week Dec. 24 - 31, 2023

SUNDAY Fourth Sunday of Advent
8:40 AM Prayer – Conference Room
9:00 AM Worship
6:30 PM Christmas Eve service

MONDAY Christmas
Office Closed

TUESDAY
Office Closed

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY
8:30 AM Flapjacks – Lower Lounge

FRIDAY

SATURDAY
7:30 AM Men's Group – Fellowship Hall

NEXT SUNDAY
8:40 AM Prayer – Conference Room
9:00 AM Worship



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 (Office)
bryan@fpcmarshalltown.org (Pastor)

Church activities may be video recorded and livestreamed online.



*The poinsettias that dressed the
chancel were given by...*



Steve & Wynona Anderson in celebration of Jesus, King of Kings and Lord of Lords (2).

The Ankrum Family in loving memory of Marlys & Marvin Ankrum.

Matt & Diane Broshar in loving memory of Robert & Joyce Broshar and Robert Bowlin (2).

Mitch, Michelle, Isaac, & Caleb Brown in loving memory of Michelle's parents, John & Rhonda Griffith (2).

Doug & Margaret Cooper in loving memory of Jacqueline Cooper and Carl & Norma Fehrle (2).

Norm & Shirley Egli in celebration of the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Jan Faber & family in celebration of our Savior's birth.

Josh, Allison, Pearl, & Vera Grosvenor in loving memory of Wells Grosvenor.

Pat & Mary Hemming in celebration of the upcoming wedding of our daughter, Dr. Sarah Hemming-Meyer, and Dan Fog.

The Ed Jackson family in loving memory of Mary Lou Jackson (2).

Ron & Linda Kauffman in loving memory of Roger McGrew and Sherry Runge.

Valerie & Rich King in loving memory of Valerie's sister, Melanie.

Nancy & Pat Kremer in loving memory of Rita Nesland, Nancy's dear sister, who we miss very much.

Rich & Arlene Lange in honor of their family.

Bill & Susan Lawyer in celebration of all God's blessings.

The McKibben Family in loving memory of Richard McKibben and Kathryn Dull.

Keith & Diane Oleson in honor of our entire families.

Laverne Paul in loving memory of Deb Paul (2).

Harlan & Marcia Quick in loving memory of Bill and daughter Marci Harrison, Evar & Margaret Anderson, and Stanley & Helen Quick (2).

Andy, Anna, Owen, and Charlie Randall in loving memory of Theresa Randall and Wells Grosvenor (2).

Fred Rinnan in loving memory of his wife, Lola, and his dad, Harold, and mother, Valeria.

Larry & Barb Schrum in loving memory of our parents (2).

John & Lisa Simpson in loving memory of Jim Leonard, Lisa's father.

Fran & Ken Smith, Marilyn & Mike Sanderson, and Robin Harrison in loving memory of Harm & Fanna Roskamp, Maurice & Pearl Forbes, Paul L. Forbes, Sr., and Michael Faron Sanderson.

Fran & Ken Smith and the Harrison families of Robin, Greg, Tony, and Jason in loving memory of Willis D. Harrison, Joel Harrison, R. Elizabeth Harrison, Herbert C. Harrison, Barry Norris, Betty J. Harrison, Joan Harrison, and Robert Tichy.

Marlene Snyder in celebration of the wonderful family at First Presbyterian Church.

Meg Sponseller in loving memory of Lou Sponseller and Vince & Jean McCowen (2).

Steve & Doris Strand in celebration of Jesus' birth.

Matt & Mindy Tullis in celebration of our Lord Jesus.

Vickie Unferth in loving memory of Lester and Arlene Unferth.

Lee & Michelle Wilkinson & Family in loving memory of Mark Wubben, LeRoy Wubben, Ralph Wilkinson, June Balch & Al Balch (2).

The **Wirin Family** in celebration of the birth of our Lord & Savior (2).