



The Good News

of First Presbyterian Church for December 2019

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be upon his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9.6 [NIV])

Advent and Christmas 2019

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church for our Advent and Christmas activities. May each of you experience the true meaning of this special season as we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

December 1 8:30 and 11 a.m.

~ **Services of Worship and Communion**

Message: "Spoiling the Christmas Spirit"

Rev. T. J. Parlette

4 p.m.

Congregational Hymn Sing

Join the church family for an informal chance to sing hymns together. We'll explore the Advent resources in our hymnal, learn background information, and sing favorite hymns.

December 7 3 p.m.

~ **An afternoon of Christmas caroling**

Join us for good old-fashioned Christmas caroling for all ages. After caroling we'll return to the church to warm up and enjoy fellowship while we enjoy hot chocolate, apple cider, and cookies.

December 8 8:30 and 11 a.m.

~ **Services of Worship**

Message: "Humming in the Darkness"

Rev. T. J. Parlette

December 13 7:30 p.m.

**A Festival of Music presents
"And Glory Shone Around"
by The Rose Ensemble**

In its final season after 23 years, the Rose Ensemble is sure to please with this special opportunity. Come enjoy a program highlighting American Christmas music and culture presented by one of the most engaging professional music ensembles anywhere.

December 15 8:30 and 11 a.m.

~ **Services of Lessons and Carols**

Worship will be led by the Calvin, Chancel, and Youth Choirs with orchestra, handbells, and organ. The service, including the reading of nine lessons, carols and anthems, is based on the traditional English services of the same name. Join us for this meaningful addition to your Advent worship life!

December 22 8:30 and 11 a.m.

~ **Services of Worship**

Message: Rev. Jay Rowland

December 24 (Christmas Eve) 4:00 p.m.

~ **Christmas Eve Worship**

Children's Christmas Program

11:00 p.m.

~ **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

Message: Rev. T. J. Parlette

On the eve of Christ's birth, we meet to quietly celebrate the meaning of this event in our lives. Join us for a Christmas Eve service of scripture, song, and candlelight. The candlelight service at 11 p.m. will be preceded by a prelude beginning at 10:30 p.m. Nursery care will be provided at the 4 p.m. service only.

December 25 (Christmas)

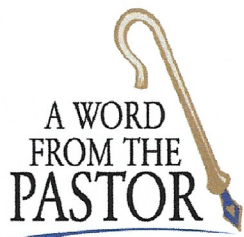
Pause in the midst of your busy day to celebrate with family and friends the birth of our Lord and savior, for unto you was born this day in the city of David a savior, who is Christ your Lord. No services will be held at the church.

December 29 11 a.m. only

~ **Service of Worship**

Christmas in Poetry and Prose

Welcome to a special service of Christmas carols and liturgy on the first Sunday after Christmas. No Sunday school or choir rehearsals. Child care will be provided.



A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

by Rev. T. J. Parlette

December 2019

As I write this I am preparing to put out the new Advent Devotional Guide from Presbyterians Today. It's called "Straw for the Manger." I had never heard this before, but evidently there is an Advent tradition in some places of preparing the manger for

Jesus' birth by slowly adding straw during the Advent season. The tradition may have originated in Eastern Europe, possibly in Poland.

The Editor of Presbyterians Today, Donna Frischknecht Jackson tells a wonderful story about how she introduced this practice in one of her first church's, one in a rural setting. She writes in the forward of the Devotional: "I loved this idea so much that I introduced "straw in the manger" to the children in the first church I served. A young father with carpentry skills made me a manger, and since I was in a farming community, all I had to do was make a request from the pulpit for straw. However, I mistakenly asked for "hay." The matriarch of one of the farm families shook her head in dismay at the former Manhattanite who was now a country pastor and shouted, in the middle of my request, that I wanted straw, not hay. Hay was the feed for animals, she explained later. Straw was the bedding."

During the Sundays of Advent this year, we will be preparing our own manger by adding straw each week. I invite you, as you arrive for worship, to take a piece of straw and place it in the manger to symbolize your preparation for Jesus' coming arrival. By Christmas Eve, we will have the manger ready for the Christmas Pageant at the 4:00 service! So make sure to pick up your copy of "Straw in the Manger" (if you haven't already) and begin your season of preparation.

Peace, T. J.

A Festival of Music announces bonus December concert And Glory Shone Around: An Early-American Christmas

The Festival of Music committee announces the addition of an exclusive bonus concert on Friday, December 13 at 7:30 p.m. *The Rose Ensemble*, a world-renowned ensemble of professional musicians, will present its program: *And Glory Shone Around: An Early-American Christmas!*

The Ensemble will fill the sanctuary with over 300 years of American harmony: Appalachian ballads, Colonial carols, Shaker hymns, Irish fiddle tunes, and plenty of Kentucky foot-stomping! Discover the music that gave birth to Bluegrass.

Stewardship Alive!

Coming attraction

Advent, which marks the beginning of the church year, is "the first gleam of Christmas," writes W.E. Sangster. "It heralds the entrance of the Divine into human history; it is heaven descending to earth; it is a great event casting its brilliance before it." Sangster adds: "It is as though a trumpeter had taken his stand upon the turrets of time and announced the coming of the King. 'Get ready,' he seems to say. 'Get ready. He is coming!'"

~ NewsletterNewsletter / December 2019

Financial Statement / October 2019

Balance (10/1/19)	\$ 83,788.48
Receipts (October)	+ 47,657.97
Disbursements (October)	- 63,568.10
Balance (10/31/19)	\$ 67,878.33



First Presbyterian Church
512 SW 3rd Street
Post Office Box 906
Rochester, MN 55903
Telephone: 507/282-1618
FAX: 507/288-0809; e-mail: web@FPCRochester.org

The Good News is published the first of each month for members and friends of First Presbyterian Church (FPC).

The newsletter tells the story of the church, promotes its programs, and publicizes opportunities to live out one's faith.

Deadline for submission of material is the fifteenth of the preceding month.

Church Staff

Pastor	Thomas J. (T.J.) Parlette
Associate Pastor	Jay P. Rowland
Director of Music	John E. Stender
Director of Music Emeritus	Lee J. Afdahl
Coordinator of Youth and Christian Education	Susanna L. Stone
Office Administrator	Susan K. Kruger
Facility Manager	Harry E. Coleman
Custodian	Tyler Sczurek
Part-time music assistants	Katie Kuisle (Calvin and Cherub Choirs) Janine Yanisch (First Players)
Part-time custodians/security	Than Boutelle, Vera Brooks, Sally Evans, Tami Rinn
Child Care Workers	Maria Alma Candido, Esther Lebron, Brenda Thorson
Newsletter Editor	Carol J. Evans
Parish Associates	Roger Ring, Carol Shaffer, James Walker

Sunday services of worship at 8:30 and 11 a.m.

Education classes: Sundays at 9:40 a.m.

Office hours: Monday-Thursday, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.;
Friday, 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m.; Saturday, 9:30 a.m.-noon

Visit our WEB site at www.FPCRochester.org.

The mission of First Presbyterian Church of Rochester is to reflect God's love for all people by proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Hymn sing December 1 marks beginning of Advent

Please plan to attend a hymn sing for Advent on Sunday, December 1 at 4 p.m. in the sanctuary. It's important for us to remember that our hymnal is a valuable devotional resource for church AND home, and should not be limited to Sunday morning for use!

Come for a relaxed gathering to sing together 'as in days of old' and casually consider deeper background information about some of our favorite Advent music and moods.

~ John Stender / Director of Music

Here we come a-caroling ...

Join us December 7 for caroling, fellowship, and cookies



Please join us for Cookies and Caroling on Saturday, December 7 from 3-6 p.m. Bring a dozen or two of your favorite Christmas cookies. We will visit some of our Care members and some places like Dorothy Day House, then gather back in the social hall to share cookies and a warm beverage. You can sign up in the atrium on November 24 and December 1 to "Carol" or "Cookie" or do both!

~ Allyson Maurer / Welcoming and Nurturing Committee

Use the Alternative Christmas Giving option for family and friends

Most of us have a family member or friend who is difficult to shop for. What do you do for someone who has all the socks and tech gadgets they need?

The Mission Committee suggests selecting a gift from the Presbyterian Giving Catalog which can benefit someone in poverty in another country in honor of your family or friend. There are many choices from livestock, water projects, tools and education options.

The Mission Committee will have catalogs available in the atrium on November 24 and December 1, 2019.

~ Phyllis Schmid / Mission Committee

Social Concerns Committee invites congregation to join them at listening session on hate and bias-based crime

The Social Concerns Committee invites you to join them at a community listening session about hate and bias-based crime in Minnesota. The session, on December 3 from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Church (1727 Walden Lane SW / Rochester), is one of a series of community meetings being hosted throughout the state by the MN Attorney General's office. Contact LucindaClements@me.com to receive the informational e-mail.

~ Lucinda Cutrer / Social Concerns Committee

2019 Sharing Tree brings Christmas spirit to many



We are again offering you an opportunity to help children, families and those that are homeless in our community during the Christmas season. Until December 8 a Christmas tree in the atrium will be decorated with colored gift tags, each color representing a charitable organization in Rochester.

The organizations we are supporting this year include:

1. **Childhood Cancer Community** assists families who have encountered a childhood cancer diagnosis.
2. **Medcity Foundation** (Kristina Wright-Peterson's organization) provides general assistance to blood cancer patients and their families. This includes lodging, food and other financial needs.
3. **Alternative Learning Center (ALC) Daycare** provides gifts for infant children whose high school parents are finishing high school credits at the ALC.
4. **Family Promise** (also known as Interfaith Hospitality Network) provides assistance for homeless families in the way of housing, meals, daycare, and employment.

Select a gift tag off the tree and purchase the item or items on the tag. As far as wrapping and delivering the gifts follow the instructions on the tag. It is important that you attach the tag to the gift when you return it to the church office so we know to which organization the gift should be delivered. The tag will indicate the deadline for returning the gifts to the church.

Instead of purchasing a gift there is also the option of purchasing a gift card from one of our local stores or restaurants. Put the card in an envelope and drop it off in the church office.

Any questions please contact me at rksaling@msn.com.

Thank you for your generosity,

~ Ruth Saling / Social Concerns Committee

Save December 1 for Advent Creations

Join us in the social hall on Sunday, December 1 from 9:40-10:50 a.m. for Advent Creations. Advent Creations is open to all ages and is an opportunity to use your creativity to create Advent and Christmas crafts! Kids under the age of 8 will need adult supervision.

This year there will be numerous craft stations set up so feel free to roam from one station to the next. Some of the crafts may even make good Christmas gifts!

Note: There will be NO youth Sunday School on December 1, but the children's choirs will still meet at their regularly scheduled times: Calvin Choir (grades 2-5) 9:40-10:20; Cherub Choir (Age 4-Grade 1) 10:20-10:50. The nursery will be open during Advent Creations.



Ministry of Music

John Stender, Director of Music
Katie Kuisle, Cherub and Calvin Choirs
Janine Yanisch, First Players

*Music acts like a magic key,
to which the most tightly closed heart opens.
(Maria Augusta von Trapp)*

I count the four-week season of Advent one of the most meaningful times of the church year for worship and music. Preparation and expectation, even longing, are healthy expressions of our hope in this season. The often meditative nature of the Advent season (accentuated by good Minnesota winter weather) is one that makes me inwardly question how I daily live in hope that I might remain focused on what is truly valuable.

I very much look forward to two important opportunities for us to gather and musically explore the season. Please plan to attend a **hymn-sing for the Advent season on Sunday, December 1 at 4 p.m.** (See more information on page 3.)

The music program has been busily preparing for our **annual Lessons and Carols worship services on Sunday, December 15.** For church musicians, this tradition requires a great deal of creativity and investment of time and heart. The choirs and orchestra and I look forward to sharing this Advent-focused collection of pieces with you. The Lessons and Carols order of worship presents a unique opportunity for leadership as readers, choirs, and instrumentalists guide the listener by tracing the history of our salvation.

~ John Stender

First Players bands schedule Winter Concert



Janine Yanisch
First Players
Director

Please come to our December 16 concert here at FPC. The concert is at 7 p.m. and will feature the Beginning Band in their very first performance (so exciting!) and the Concert Band playing a variety of songs. There will be a reception following in the social hall and all are welcome to attend!

Concert Band plays at Homeward Bound concert

The First Players Concert Band played to a large audience on Saturday, November 16 as part of the Homeward Bound concert put on by Family Promise. This event benefitted homeless families in Rochester and featured numerous church choirs, a homeschool choir, handbell choir, and the Rochester Pops Orchestra. Our students did a fantastic job, for a great cause!

Peace, Janine

You are invited to a noontime recital at Christ United Methodist on Tuesday, December 3 at 12:15 p.m. for a 30-minute program by organist Lee J. Afdahl, Director of Music Emeritus at First Presbyterian.

Singing and ringing schedule for December			
	8:30	11:00	Both
December 1.	Chancel Choir		Jubilate Deo
December 7.	Orchestra for Lessons and Carols rehearses from 10 a.m.-noon		
December 8.	Chancel Choir	Cherub Choir	
December 14.	Full rehearsal for Lessons and Carols from 9 a.m.-noon Orchestra, Calvin and Chancel Choirs, Jubilate Deo and Joyous Praise handbells		
December 15.	<i>Service of Lessons and Carols</i> at both hours with Calvin and Chancel Choirs, Joyous Praise and Jubilate Deo handbells, orchestra		
December 22.	Chancel Choir		Alleluia Rngs
December 24.	<i>Christmas Eve</i>		
	Services of worship at 4 p.m. and 11 p.m.		
	3 p.m.:	All youth and children's choirs and bell choirs warm up	
	4 p.m.:	Service of worship and Children's Pageant with Calvin and Cherub Choirs and Joyous Praise	
	10 p.m.:	Chancel Choir and Jubilate Deo warm up	
	10:30 p.m.:	Prelude with soloists, ensembles, ringers and choir	
	11 p.m.:	Candlelight Service with Chancel Choir and Jubilate Deo	
<i>NO rehearsals on December 25 or 26, January 1 or 2</i>			
January 27.	<i>One service of worship at 11 a.m. No Sunday School or choir rehearsals</i>		
January 5.	<i>Services of worship at 8:30 and 11 a.m.</i>		

The Rochester Flute Choir continues to rehearse weekly on Wednesday evenings at First Presbyterian. A Holiday Concert will be held Saturday, December 7, 2019 at 2 p.m. All are welcome to attend!

Sitter Service rescheduled to December 6

For the first time we will offer Sitter Service in December. Originally scheduled for December 13, we have changed the night to December 6 at 5:30 p.m. so Sitters can attend The Rose Ensemble concert on December 13.

Sign up in the atrium on Sunday, December 1 or in the church office or by contacting **Sarah Edgerton** (edgertonsarah@gmail.com or 507-536-9637) or **Cindy Kunzman** (507-421-5055 or xiaidikunzman@aol.com) by Tuesday, December 3.

All children (6 months to 10 years) of members or regular attendees are welcome (also grandchildren). Older children may come and help if they have younger siblings attending. Anyone wishing to help be a volunteer Sitter, please contact **Sarah Edgerton or Cindy Kunzman**.

This is a one-year trial event. If it's successful both from the number of children attending and from our ability to recruit volunteer sitters, we may consider offering it again next year.

~ Sarah and Cindy / Sitter Service Coordinators



December 2019 Youth Group News

Susanna Stone
Coordinator of Youth
& Christian Education

Congratulations to Susanna Stone, Jake Wright, and Teddy Stone-Wright on the birth of their son and brother, Charles Eugene Stone-Wright, October 25. Susanna has been on maternity leave, but we expect her back at work on December 1.

November was a busy month for Youth Group as they decorated cards with **Mary Huie**, gave thanks to special people within our church, learned about the Presbyterian Youth Triennium from **Adam Gyura**, and played games. The youth were led by **Jay Rowland** and **Dan Wentz** during Susanna's absence in November and were well-fed by members of the Deacons who provided 4 weeks of meals for the youth group. Many thanks to those who prepared and served food!

December promises to be another busy month for the Youth Group. We will prepare college care packages, wrap presents for children involved with Childhood Cancer Community, decorate cookies for Bear Creek Services, hold our traditional White Elephant Christmas party, enjoy some fun and games, and take the time to continue growing in fellowship with God and each other.

Note: Due to winter break, there will be no youth activities on December 27 and January 4. Youth activities resume on January 11.

Christmas Joy Offering to be received December 22

One of the most powerful things that Christians claim is that God saw the great needs of the world and offered a perfect gift – a gift that brought God and humanity closer together. God's perfect gift to us, Jesus Christ, offered the power of being with us. According to Matthew's Gospel, one of the names given to Jesus is Emmanuel, "God with us." In Jesus, God shared our human experience and chose to be with those who were often overlooked, left out, vulnerable, or in need.

We offer our gifts during this Advent season through the Christmas Joy Offering. Because God is with us, we see the potential of students of color who will become leaders and we seek to come alongside them, to encourage them, to be with them.

★ 50% of your gifts make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. This offering supports Menaul School in Albuquerque, New Mexico; Presbyterian Pan-American School in Kingsville, Texas; and Stillman College, Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Many of the students at these schools are the first in their families to enroll in higher education.

★ 50% of your offering assists current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions.

The offering will be received Sunday, December 22, although you can give through the end of January. Note "Joy Offering" on your donation.

~ Sylvia Swede / Mission Committee

Adult education ~ Sundays / 9:40-10:45 a.m.	
Members have asked for in-depth studies and here are several great opportunities covering a wide variety of topics and interests!	
Bible Study (South Fireside)	The Kerygma Class continues a study of <i>The Jesus Movement and the World of the Early Church</i> . The class is led by Jane Goodfriend and Ruth Walts .
Current Issues (Lounge)	<i>Current Events: Fighting the Tide of History</i> will be the overall theme for the 2019-2020 year, The discussion is led by Al Depman .
Bible Study ~ Wednesdays / 6:30-7:30 p.m.	
Bible Study (Sheldon Jackson Lounge)	December 4 and 18 Nutcracker Story led by Rev. T. J. Parlette December 11 <i>The Three Essential Elements of Saving Faith</i> led by Al Depman December 25 No class / Merry Christmas!

Christmas Eve offering supports Deacons' activities

The offering we receive on Christmas Eve supports the work of the Deacons in the coming year, including flowers for members in the hospital, rides and wheelchair van service to worship and other activities at FPC, parking passes for Mayo parking lots for people visiting members in the hospital, HomeTouch subscription for homebound members, funeral coffees, and food vouchers for assistance requests.

FPC Christmas Pageant Information

As has been done for the past few years, this year's FPC Christmas Pageant will take place during the 4 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

All kids are invited to be a part of the Pageant (and any out of town grandkids or relatives are welcome, too!); children need not be regular Sunday School or choir attendees to participate in the Pageant. The one requirement is that anyone participating in the Christmas Pageant must attend rehearsal on Sunday, December 22 from 9:40-10:50 a.m.

We are also looking for Christmas Pageant volunteers. Please let **Susanna Stone** or **John Stender** know if you have any questions or are interested in helping assist with the pageant in any way!

Annual Reports due January 13

Each year our church activities are summarized in the "Annual Reports to the Congregation." This year these reports must be available to the congregation on January 19, the Sunday prior to the annual meeting on January 26. If you are responsible for writing a report on some facet of our church life, please note they are due **Monday, January 13**. The best ones are sent (prior to the deadline) to Carol via e-mail (fpc_carol@hotmail.com) or as a Word attachment to an e-mail! Thank you for your help!

Congregational elects new officers

At the Congregational Meeting November 10 we elected new officers to these positions:

Deacon in the Class of 2022: **Jane Murl**

Elder in the Class of 2020: **Lucinda Clements**

Elder in the Class of 2022: **Jason Wobig and Jay Youmans**

Endowment Committee Class of 2022: **Jason Wobig**

Nominating Committee Class of 2000:

Shelley Steger, Melissa Wobig, Lindsey Zetsche

There are still a number of openings in all Classes. We have volunteers for some of the openings, but the Nominating Committee is continuing to work on filling all the positions. If you would volunteer to be considered or would like to suggest someone, please let **Joe Doppler, Rev. Parlette, or Rev. Rowland** know.

from the FPC Parish Nursing program

December: Making Time for what matters



The holidays can often become a season of autopilot. We fall into our usual patterns - rushing around to buy presents, attending the required parties, sending and receiving cards, and at the very least turning on the Christmas music!

You may have heard the "big rocks-little rocks" analogy when it comes to time. If your life is a bottle you are filling, you want to make sure to put in the big rocks first - spending time with God, family, health activities. Then fill in with smaller rocks - career, hobbies - and finally pebbles - social media perhaps.

The same goes at the holidays. Make sure to prioritize the important things. Don't sacrifice meaningful blocs of screen-free time with loved ones for something of less lasting. Prioritize time with the ones and the One that matters most this Advent. they're like little cholesterol sponges. Your heart will thank you.

~ Ariel Boswell / FPC Parish Nursing coordinator

Your Church Library: Featured Books for December

Advent presents the opportunity to seek. To set aside time for spiritual guidance, reflection and contemplation. Sometimes it helps to have a book on hand. A good book can deliver meaningful space and material for reflection and contemplation in preparation for the appearance of Jesus. The FPC library contains some worthy companions. There's a variety of genres - poetry, non-fiction, novel, children's, etc. There's something special awaiting your attention. We've gathered these books together and placed them on the mobile book cart in the atrium. Among the gems:

Songs for the Waiting - Devotions Inspired by the Hymns of Advent by Magrey R. Devega

Our hymnal *Glory to God* has twenty-five Advent hymns. While some are familiar, others may not be. Using Advent hymns and the powerful words of Scripture as a guide, *Songs for the Waiting* takes readers into the spirit of anticipation and preparation central to Advent.

Blue Christmas - Devotions of Light in a Season of Darkness by Todd Outcalt

Covering the 28 days of Advent and Christmas Day, each devotion includes a scripture selection, meditation, prayer, and suggested Advent action. "Not all Christmases are white; some are blue," author Todd Outcalt writes. While celebrations and gatherings abound, those who are hurting feel conflicted and even alienated. In these honest devotions, readers are led to name their reality, sit with difficult experiences, and acknowledge losses, in light of Jesus' promise "blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."

Mary of Nazareth, a work of fiction by Marek Halter is based on extensive historical and biblical scholarship (according to the leaf notes).

The Roads from Bethlehem - Christmas Literature from Writers Ancient and Modern

spans a diversity of voices, time, genre and place offering multiple dimensions of Jesus' birth.

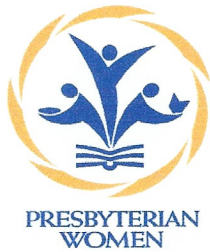
Something a bit more mainstream is *A Family Christmas* an anthology compiled by Caroline Kennedy. She gathers poetry, prose, scripture, lyrics and other forms written by authors ranging from Truman Capote, to Groucho Mark, to Martin Luther King, Jr., to E.B. White to Charles Dickens.

Roger A. Bullard's *Messiah: The Gospel according to Handel's Oratorio* is a wonderful exploration of Handel's glorious work.

The First Christmas by Marcus Borg & John Dominic Crossan is an excellent study of the Scriptures, well-written and easy-to-read.

In The Dark Streets Shineth—A 1941 Christmas Eve Story by David McCullough includes a DVD of the author narrating with songs by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir.

~ Jay Rowland / Associate Pastor



News from Presbyterian Women

* *Sylvia Swede, facilitator*

Circles continue in December. New members are always welcome.

The 2019-2020 Horizons Bible Study is *Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments*.

Esther Circle: Monday, December 16 at noon in the lounge for our annual Christmas Pot Luck Luncheon. Please bring a dish to share at the lunch. Organizers are **Barb Boyer, Alice Kerr, Susie McClocklin** and **Elizabeth Remfert**.

Priscilla Circle: Wednesday, December 18 at 11 a.m. in the social hall for a Christmas Brunch. Project: Mission and Social Concerns Projects.

Ruth Circle: Saturday, December 21 at 11 a.m. in the lounge. Devotions: **Mary Huie**. Program: **Marion Pitts** will present lesson #4 in the Bible Study "Love Carved In Stone." Please note change in time. Following the lesson we will have a Christmas lunch at 12:30 at the Marriott Hotel. All are welcome.

Prayer Shawl Ministry: Thursday, December 14 at 1 p.m. in the lounge. Join us for knitting, crocheting and fellowship! Please contact **Elizabeth Remfert** (269-5272) or **Susie McClocklin** (288-7772) if you or someone you know would find comfort from a prayer shawl.

Boxtops for Education changes submission protocol

The Boxtops for Education program is changing!

For several years we have saved Boxtops for Education for Kemmerer Village, a childcare agency of the Presbyterian Church in Assumption, Illinois. The money earned goes to their educational program.

Now, instead of clipping, you can scan your receipt. The Boxtops for Education team has worked hard to build a user-friendly Boxtops mobile app (available now on the App Store and Google Play) that allows you to scan your store receipt, find participating products, and instantly add Boxtops to Kemmerer Village earnings online.

If you have clipped the traditional Boxtops, please put them in the container in the foyer. Kemmerer can still earn cash for all clipped Boxtops until they expire. Better yet, you can double dip during the packaging transition by both clipping traditional Boxtops and scanning your store receipt containing participating products.

Thanks for helping Kemmerer's school get what it needs!

~ *Sylvia Swede / PW coordinator*

Church Family News

Anniversaries

Congratulations to **Richard and Janice Bennett** who will celebrate their 56th wedding anniversary December 1.

Congratulations to **Don and Barbara Cain** who will celebrate their 67th wedding anniversary December 6.

Congratulations to **Robert and Susan McClocklin** who will celebrate their 53rd wedding anniversary December 17.

Birthday

Happy Birthday to **Lynn Postier**, who will celebrate her 92nd birthday December 23.

Death

We extend our condolences to the family and friends of **Beverly Olander**, who died November 18.

Calling all crafters!



The Crafters Group will meet Wednesday, December 18 at 3 p.m. in the social hall. Come join us as we make cards for FPC's C.A.R.E. members of the congregation. All materials (including ideas) are supplied.

~ *Mary Huie (282-9712) /
Crafters coordinator*

Celebrate Advent, donate to the Poinsettia Fund

Help celebrate the Advent season with a \$15 donation to the Poinsettia Fund. The plants will decorate the sanctuary in December and then be delivered by the Deacons to our many C.A.R.E. members. To contribute, put your check for \$15 (note for poinsettias on the memo line) in the offering plate or mail it to the church office.

Thank you!

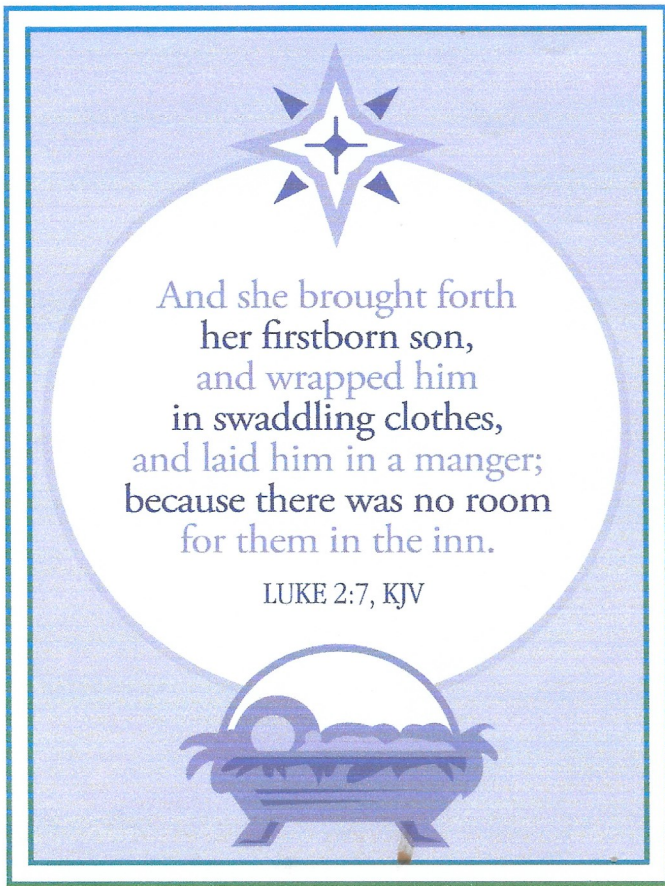
~ *Judy Felten / Chancel Guild*

Wild hope

What keeps the wild hope of Christmas alive year after year in a world notorious for dashing all hopes is the haunting dream that the child who was born that day may yet be born again even in us.

~ *Frederick Buechner*

"To you" — to me! to us all! — "is born this day ... a Savior" (Luke 2:11, NRSV). Thank you, Lord!



First Presbyterian Church
 P. O. Box 906
 Rochester, Minnesota 55903-0906

Non-Profit Org.
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December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Communion Worship (8:30 & 11 a.m.) Jubilate Deo (both) 8:30 AM Chancel Choir sings 9:30 AM Blood Pressure check 9:40 AM Advent Creations 4:00 PM Hymn Sing	2 FPC@Community Food Response	3 Most committees meet/ check w/lead elder 9:30 AM Staff meeting 11:00 AM Grief Support Grp 6:00 PM Listening Session on hate/bias-based crimes 7:00 PM Deacons/south fireside	4 Wednesday activities as usual FPC@Friendship Place 1:00 PM Charter House worship and communion 5:00 PM Recorder Ensemble (5-6:30) 6:30 PM Bible Study (led by TJParlette)	5 6:15 PM JubilateDeo Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	6 5:30 PM Sitter Service (5:30-9:30 p.m.)	7 10:00 AM Orchestra rehearsal for L&C (10-noon) 2:00 PM Holiday Concert/ Rochester Flute Choir 3:00 PM Cookies and Caroling (W&N)
8 Worship (8:30 & 11 a.m.) 8:30 AM Chancel Choir sings 11:00 AM Cherub Choir sings	9	10 9:30 AM Staff meeting 1:30 PM Kitchen Guild	11 Wednesday activities as usual FPC@Friendship Place 5:00 PM Recorder Ensemble (5-6:30) 6:30 PM Bible Study/lounge	12 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group 6:15 PM JubilateDeo Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	13 7:30 PM The Rose Ensemble Concert	14 9:00 AM Full rehearsal for L&C (9-noon)
15 Lessons & Carols Worship (8:30 & 11 a.m.) Jubilate Deo (both) Chancel/Calvin sing (both) Joyous Praise rings (both) Orchestra (both)	16 Newsletter items due 1:00 PM Esther Circle/lounge 7:00 PM First Players Winter Concert	17 9:30 AM Staff meeting 7:00 PM Session/Fireside Rm	18 Wednesday activities as usual FPC@Friendship Place 11:00 AM Priscilla Circle brunch 3:00 PM Crafters Group/SHall 5:00 PM Recorder Ensemble (5-6:30) 6:30 PM Bible Study (led by TJParlette)	19 6:15 PM JubilateDeo Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	20	21 Winter begins 10:00 AM Ruth Circle/lounge
22 Joy Offering Worship (8:30 & 11 a.m.) Alleluia Rngs rings (both) 8:30 AM Chancel Choir sings 9:40 AM SS/all ages except youth (rehearsing) 9:40 AM Youth rehearse for Christmas Eve pageant	23 NO school/flex confer...	24 Christmas Eve 4:00 PM Children's Pageant 4:00 PM Calvin/Cherub/Joyous Praise 11:00 PM Candlelight Worship 11:00 PM ChancelYth/Jubilate Deo Church closes at noon	25 Merry Christmas! Church closed	26	27	28
29 Worship 11 a.m. only! NO choir rehearsals NO Sunday school	30 No school / Winter break (12/23/19-1/3/20)	31 New Year's Eve Sudanese New Year party (8 p.m.-3 a.m.) Church closes at noon	Sunday morning schedule 12/1-12/22 Worship at 8:30 and 11 a.m. Sunday school / all ages at 9:40 a.m. Cherub Choir at 10:20 a.m. Calvin Choir at 9:40 a.m.		Wednesday youth schedule 12/4-12/18 4:15 p.m. Alleluia Ringers (grades 2-5) 5:00 p.m. Youth Choir (grades 6-12) 5:45 p.m. Middle/High School youth 7:00 p.m. J Praise bells (intergenerational)	