

# First Presbyterian Church



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512 Third Street SW

Rochester, Minnesota 55902

Phone 507-282-1618

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**Service for the Lord's Day  
December 31, 2023  
First Sunday of Christmas**

**10:00 A.M.**

## *Welcome to worship*

\* \* \* *As a courtesy to others, please silence cell phones.* \* \* \*

## *Gathering*

**Prelude**

Medley of Carols

## **Greeting and Welcome**

Please sign the Opportunity for Friendship register and pass it to the person next to you.

## **Opening Prayer**

**Gracious God, as we prepare to begin this new year, we ask  
for your guidance in all we do. Open our hearts and minds  
to your wisdom and direction for our lives.**

**We want to walk in your ways and fulfill the purpose you have  
for us. Show us the path that leads to righteousness and  
guide our steps as we seek to honor you in all that we do  
this year.**

**In Jesus' name, Amen.**

## **Call to Worship**

Van Jacobsen

*Praise the Lord!*

**Praise God from the heavens.**

*Young men and women alike, old and young together!*

**Let us praise the name of the Lord, whose name alone is  
exalted above earth and heaven.**

*Let us worship the Lord.*

◆ **Hymn 110**

Love Has Come

BRING A TORCH

◆ Please rise as you are able, in body or in spirit.

## Call to Reconciliation

*Jesus, our Lord, came into an indifferent world, yet his life revealed the inner thoughts of many. Let us confess our sins before God and one another that we may receive release from our sin.*

## Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not lived as your faithful children. We have kept silent in the midst of prejudice and hatred. We have been idle in the face of violence and injustice. We have not been a light to the nations, and our lives have not revealed your glory. Forgive us, Merciful God. Repair the ugliness of our sin and restore in us your beautiful grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## Silent Confession

Kyrie (GTG 91, adapt.)

COME EMMANUEL

Two staves of musical notation in G major and 3/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics: 'Come, Lord, come grant us mercy.' The second staff contains the melody for the second line of lyrics: 'Come, Lord, have mercy.' The lyrics are written below the notes.

Come, Lord, come grant us mercy.

Come, Lord, have mercy.

## Words of Life

*Brothers and Sisters, rest assured and know that you are forgiven in Jesus Christ. Amen.*

## Gloria in Excelsis 113

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.  
Glo—ria in excelsis Deo!  
Glo—ria in excelsis Deo!

## Time for Young Worshipers

### ◆ Passing of the Peace

Please refrain from shaking hands and greet each other with a word of peace or a wave of the hand.

*The peace of Christ be with you.*

**And also with you.**

*Let us share a sign of the peace of Christ with one another!*

## *The Word*

### **Prayer for Illumination**

**O Lord, as you led Simeon and Anna to embrace the infant Jesus, guide us, Holy Spirit, by your gracious light that we may welcome your saving Word. Amen.**

### **Reading from the Gospel**

Luke 2:22-40

### **Gospel Acclamation**

Ronald Nelson

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia!

### **Hymn 123**

**It Came Upon a Midnight Clear**

CAROL

### **A Radiant Birth** ***Bright Readings from a Bright Season***

*Winter Solstice*  
James Calvin Schaap

*Spreading Light in Our Wake*  
Paula Huston

*Live Lightly*  
Marilyn McEntyre

### **◆ Hymn 124**

**Still, Still, Still**

STILL, STILL STILL

*Tree at Christman*  
Madeline L'Engle

*A Welcome-Unwelcome Traveler in Narnia*  
Matthew Dickerson

*Live Lovingly*  
Marilyn McEntyre

## **Our Response**

◆ **Hymn 144**

In the Bleak Midwinter

CRANHAM

### **Litany for Year-End Reflection**

Fran Pratt

*God, in everything that's happened this year,*  
**both good and bad,**  
*We know that you were with us,*  
**always loving and present.**  
*We're spending time looking backwards, in hindsight,*  
**assessing our own progress and growth;**  
*What worked, what didn't,*  
**what helped, what hindered.**  
*And we're spending time looking forward, toward the new year*  
**setting intentions and voicing our hopes**  
*What we would like to accomplish and improve,*  
**what we would like to experience and enjoy.**  
*But we are also learning*  
**to be in this moment,**  
*to breathe deeply into our bodies*  
**right here, right now.**  
*Because we know that the doorway to the Community of Heaven*  
**is right now –**  
*Accessible always, no matter the circumstances*  
**timeless and reliable;**  
*And so we celebrate the year –*  
**its beginnings and endings,**  
*its triumphs and failures,*  
**its gifts and its receipts –**  
*By turning our attention to you, Great Present,*  
**Diving Attention, Conscious Now,**  
*And leaning into the eternal flow of Love*  
**As Christ has taught us.**  
*We offer gratitude for each experience,*  
**for each person,**  
*And put our hope in the continued revealing*  
**of the peace, joy, and the love of God. Amen.**

### **Prayers of the People**

#### **The Lord's Prayer**

*Loving God ...*

**Hear our Prayer.**

## Invitation to the Offering

**Offertory**                      Of the Father's Love Begotten                      Wilbur Held

♦ **Offertory Response** (GTG 143, *stanza 4*)                      REGENT SQUARE

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
evermore your voices raising, to the eternal Three in One:  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn king!

♦ **Unison Prayer of Dedication**

**Loving God, we give you thanks for the light of the world,  
Jesus Christ, through whom we have received adoption as  
your children. With Jesus our brother, we dedicate ourselves  
in ministry to the world, that we may live as heirs of your  
promises to the honor and glory of your name. Amen.**

## *Sending*

♦ **Hymn 132**                      Good Christian Friends, Rejoice                      IN DULCI JUBLIO

♦ **Benediction**

**Postlude**                      Carillon on a Ukrainian Carol                      Gerald Near

Today's Readers:

*Judy Felten*

*Otis Laurberg*

*Mark Mueller*

*Dee Tiedemann*

The flowers are given to the Glory of God  
in loving memory of Frances & Aubrey Naylor and Opal & Hilliard Kirby  
by Ginger & Walker Kirby.

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HAPPY  
*New Year*

Praise be  
to his  
*glorious*  
name  
forever;  
may the whole  
earth be filled  
with his *glory*.

Psalm 72:19, NIV



# Stained Glass Window

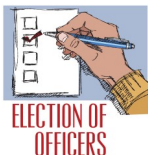
What is happening around FPC ...  
Week of December 31, 2023



## This Week's Calendar

- † **Sunday, December 31**  
Worship—10am in-person & livestreamed  
*A Radiant Birth:*  
*Bright Readings from a Bright Season*  
Rev. T.J. Parlette
- † **Monday, January 1, 2024**  
**Happy New Year!**  
The church office is closed.
- † **Tuesday, January 2, 2024**  
Some committees meet.
- † **Wednesday, January 3, 2024**  
Worship & Communion  
at Charter House—1pm
- † **Saturday, January 6, 2024**  
Church U-D-Decorating Party—9:30am
- † **Sunday, January 7, 2024**  
Worship—8:30am in-person  
Message: *The One Who is to Come*  
Rev. T.J. Parlette  
Christian Formation & Fellowship—9:30am  
Kerygma meets  
Book Discussion led by Roger Ring  
Congregational Meeting—9:45am  
Worship—11am in-person & livestreamed

## CALL TO MEETING



The Session has called a meeting of the congregation for **Sunday, January 7, 2024, at 9:40am** for the purpose of electing officers. The Nominating Committee will propose the names of Jeremy Braun and Karin Braun as Elders in the Class of 2026.

## BOOK DISCUSSION CLASS OFFERED

Are you interested in joining a book study group about purposeful aging? Roger Ring is offering a book study group this winter during the education hour to discuss the book: *Who Do You Want to be When You Grow Old?: The Path to Purposeful Aging*, by Richard Leider and David A. Shapiro, Berrett-Koehler Publishers, Inc., 2021.

Roger has studied the book in two different groups, and asserts that it contains powerful and rewarding themes to engage meaningful conversation and growth, plus inspirational stories. The authors posit: "Purpose is our reason to get up in the morning. The path of purposeful aging is a choice to wake up every day with the intention to grow and give. Compassion is the soul of purpose. To grow whole is to mature spiritually. Aging purposefully is a spiritual practice embodied in lived day-to-day experience."

Is now the time for you to re-imagine how you choose to spend your most precious resource: your time remaining on this earth?

You must purchase your own book. The group will meet on January 7th & 14th, and February 4th, 11th and 25th. Please contact Roger at (507) 358-0209 or via email at [ring.roger@gmail.com](mailto:ring.roger@gmail.com) with any questions.



## STEWARDSHIP 2024

**Campaign Goal:**  
**\$870,000**  
*Pledge Drive*

Of our 315 giving units (individuals, couples and/or families), as of December 28 we have received 144 pledge cards totaling \$523,573. Thank you to everyone who has already pledged. We will be sending out a subsequent request in January. You may easily submit your pledge by emailing [Cindy \(office@fpcrochester.org\)](mailto:office@fpcrochester.org) and indicating the amount of your pledge for 2024.

Jeremy Braun, Stewardship Committee

## COOK FOR A CAUSE AT THE LANDING

*The Landing* is a day center for people who are homeless. They serve an evening meal every day and are looking for groups of 3 people to help prepare, serve and clean up from 4:30-7:00. If you are interested in volunteering, you can go to [www.thelandingmn.org](http://www.thelandingmn.org).

[GET INVOLVED] will take you to a Signup Genius where you can volunteer. Please contact Carol Cook at (701) 741-6053 or [cookce1@gmail.com](mailto:cookce1@gmail.com) if you would like more information.



Carol Cook, Social Concerns Committee

# Church



# Family

## Birthdays...

### 31 December

◆ Al Schuetz

### 01 January

◆ Lee Loessin & Yamei Wang

### 03 January

◆ Dick Bennett, Molly Destro-Borgen,  
Katie Grabow & Kristen Perkins

### 05 January

◆ Todd Johnson & Elizabeth Woolner

### 06 November

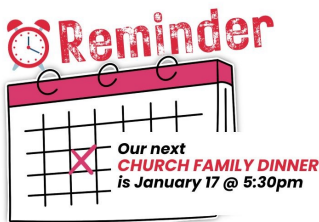
◆ Ashlyn Lee

### 07 November

◆ Juanita Heikes

## Condolences

We offer our condolences to the family and friends of *Joan Krage*, who is a former long-time member of FPC. She died on December 17, 2023, in Aurora, CO.



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Thomas J. (T.J.) Parlette, Senior Pastor  
John E. Stender, Director of Music and Organist  
Lee J. Afdahl, Director of Music Emeritus  
Harry E. Coleman, Facility Manager  
Jesse Copley, Custodian  
Than Boutelle, Custodian/Sunday Host

Cindy Kunzman, Office Manager  
Sarah A. Stender, Music Associate  
Janine M. Yanisch, First Players bands  
Paul Herr, Security  
Margie Schaaf, Sunday Host

Sunday worship in-person and livestreamed on YouTube at 10am;  
Office Hours: Monday through Thursday, 9am – 4pm

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(507) 282-1618; web@fpcrochester.org; www.fpcrochester.org

*First Presbyterian Church is an  
inclusive community celebrating God with:  
†Energy †Intelligence †Imagination †Love*

Member: Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

## Anniversaries

### 01 January

♥ Andrew & JoAnna Pruett

### 02 January

♥ Steven & Sylvia Rogers

### 04 January

♥ Clarke & Tricia Stevens

## UN-DECK THE HALLS



On November 30, many together and decorated the church for the Advent season. We have all enjoyed the festive results. Thank you to **everyone** who helped.

Alas, now it is time to take down all those decorations. Please join us on Saturday, January 6 at 9:30am. With many hands, the job will go quickly. There will be refreshments to help keep you going!

*Bev Lewis and Sally Brooks*

## FLOWERS ON SUNDAY MORNINGS



We currently have a openings on the calendar in 2024 for flower donations in the chancel on Sunday mornings. We currently have openings in January, February, May and November, but dates can sometimes be flexible. Please contact Cindy in the office if you would like to participate in the **Chancel Flower** fund.

*Judy Felten, Chancel Guild*