

Announcements

Our Church Website: <http://www.thewfpc.org>

All groups meet at the church unless otherwise specified.

Pastor Carroll is in the office on Wednesday and Thursday mornings. His email is: pastor1@thewfpc.org

Workcampers are selling \$10 Anna's Bucks again this year. Please see Jake Smith, Logan Gray, or Barb Whitney.

Installation of new officers will be during fellowship on January 7. Meet our new moderator, Stephen Bowie.

The Session of First Presbyterian Church has called for a Special Congregational Meeting, Sunday, January 7, immediately following the worship service. The purpose of this meeting is for electing of one additional officer for the Session.

The Jr. High Sunday school class has been sponsoring a canned goods and paper products drive for the Rockford Rescue Mission. Items are due **TODAY!** Thank you for supporting our youth!

Card Shower! A very special lady turns 95 on December 22. Take a moment to send her a card and help make her day extra special. Evelyn is the mother of Deb Storey, grandmother of Traci Storey and the great grandmother of Angelica, Emma and Jonavan Storey.

Evelyn Dirksen
c/o Medina Nursing Center
402 S. Center St.
Durand, IL 61024

2018 Offertory envelopes are on the table in the narthex.

Annual reports are due by Wednesday, January 10.

**First Presbyterian Church
Winnebago, Illinois
December 17, 2017
10:30 a.m.**

Liturgical color is purple for the season of penitence and preparation

PREPARING FOR THE WORD

Prelude

Welcome/Announcements

Call to Worship: from Psalm 36 **Unison Reading**
Your love, LORD, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies. For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light. I am grateful that you shared the light of your Son with me. This morning I worship you in spirit and truth so that I can truly glorify Jesus Christ my Savior, Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Candle Michael Cunningham, Logan Gray

*Hymn "Advent Song" (v.3) insert

Prayer of Adoration and Confession: **The Lord's Prayer**

Assurance of Forgiveness: **Unison Prayer**
Most gracious Savior, remind us of your mercy, grace, and salvation. Enable us to accept your forgiveness so that we can assist others to receive the gracious pardon that you have granted us this morning. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

*Gloria Patri #579

Benediction **Unison Reading**
Thank you Lord that we have received your most holy word through the children's message about Christ. We are grateful for the inspiration of the Holy Spirit that has blessed us with God's most holy presence. As we leave this service, we will take the children's message of Christ to our community so that the Lord can be glorified. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

Postlude

All music in our bulletin is protected under CCLI#1409680

Church phone number 815-335-2051
Pastoral Cell 815-742-7503
Attendance 152
Offerings \$4746.88
2018 per capita is \$36.34 per member

SHARING THE WORD THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Every member a minister...

Accompanist / Choir Director Michelle West
Projectionist Rachel Rittmeyer
Ushers Volunteers and Chuck Rittmeyer
Greeters Brian & Stacy Weavel
Acolyte Mitchel Cunningham

Looking ahead...

December 24 - 10: 30 a.m. Regular worship service
December 24 - 4 p.m. family worship service ***at Middle Creek***
December 24 - 10: 30 p.m. Candle light worship service

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*Hymn

“He Came Down”

insert

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

He Came Down

137

He came down that we may have love; he
 came down that we may have love; he came down that we may
 have love; hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er-more.

Leader: Why did he come?

Additional stanzas:

- ... that we may have light
- ... that we may have peace
- ... that we may have joy

THE GRACE OF JESUS CHRIST

2090

Advent Song
(Light the Advent Candle)

1. Light the Ad - vent can - dle, one: Now the
2. Light the Ad - vent can - dle, two: Think of
3. Light the Ad - vent can - dle, three: Think of
4. Light the Ad - vent can - dle, four: Think of
5. Light the Christ - mas can - dles, now: Sing of

wait - ing has be - gun; we have start - ed
 hum - ble shep - herds, who filled with won - der
 heaven - ly har - mo - ny; an - gels sing - ing
 joy for - ev - er - more; Christ Child in a
 don - key, sheep, and cow; birth - day can - dles

on our way, time to think of Christ - mas day.
 at the sight of the child of Christ - mas night.
 “Peace on earth” at the bless - ed Sav - ior’s birth.
 sta - ble born, gift of love that Christ - mas morn.
 for the King, let the al - le - lu - ias ring.

Refrain

Can - dle, can - dle, burn - ing bright, shin - ing

in the cold win - ter night; can - dle, can - dle,

burn - ing bright, fill our hearts with Christ - mas light.

WORDS: Mary Lu Walker (Luke 2:1-20)
 MUSIC: Mary Lu Walker
 ©1975 Mary Lu Walker

ADVENT CANDLE SONG
 77.77 with Refrain

Sharing of Joys and Concerns concluding with **Unison Prayer**
Most Gracious Creator, thank you for the joys in our daily living. We also thank you for the words of Paul where he encourages us to bring our cares to you. This re-affirms your promises that you will grant us the strength that we need in our times of struggle. We proclaim our gratitude for the joys and we present our concerns to you in faith. We entrust these requests to you so that healing and grace can be manifested in all of our lives. In the name of Jesus our Lord we pray, Amen.

Presentation of Gifts and Offerings

*Doxology #592

*Prayer of Dedication **Unison prayer**
Loving and generous God, we appreciate the opportunity to worship you with our gifts, offerings, and tithes. Open our eyes and hearts and grant us wisdom as we share your blessings and your grace through these donations. In this Advent season, inspire us to help us others through our time, talents, and skills. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

*Hymn "Hark The Herald Angels Sing" #31

Passing of the Peace

RECEIVING THE WORD

Message: "Joy Story"
performed by the Sunday school classes

JOY STORY CAST

In order of Appearance:

MOM:	Bev Williams
SHEREE:	Sheree Sensel
STEPHY:	Stephanie Freimuth
SARGE:	Brady Schaller
PRIVATE:	Logan Smith
SOLDIER:	Taggert Freimuth
CRAYONS:	Autumn Smith Isabelle Gray Madyson Goike Mikayla Gray
TEDDY:	Breanna Smith
TROLL:	Tianna Mitchell
CAT:	Hayden Thompson
MINION:	Zachary Newkirk
TRAIN:	Charlotte Maher
ASTRONAUT:	Ryan Ackerman
NINJA:	Riley Starkey
BARBIE:	Thea Mitchell
BALLERINA:	Grace Erb
COWGIRL:	Joe Erb
COWBOY:	
SCENERY:	Mitchel Cunningham
STAGE CONSTRUCTION:	Paul Haefflinger Ted Busch
DIRECTOR:	April Haefflinger