

Looking ahead

January 7 - Choir performs, Puppets, fellowship

January 14 - Children's choir

January 21 - Choir performs

Christmas Blessing to you and your family

First Presbyterian Church
Winnebago, Illinois
December 24, 2017
10:30 a.m.

Liturgical color is purple for the season of penitence and preparation

PREPARING FOR THE WORD

Prelude “Away in a Manger/There's a Song in the Air” L. Shackley

Welcome/Announcements

Call to Worship: **Unison Reading**
Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the LORD God made us and has declared us holy. The prophet Isaiah said that the people would see a great light. Matthew proclaimed that Emmanuel, God with us, would open a holy pathway for sinful people. This morning we enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise because the LORD is good and his love endures forever. I will praise the Lord joyfully as I look forward to Christ's birthday. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Candle Renee Rittmeyer, Avery Schaller

*Hymn “Advent Song” (v.4) insert

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

Assurance of Pardon: **Unison Reading**
Merciful and gracious Light of the World, I have obeyed your Word and humbly approached you with praise and adoration. On this Christmas Eve I ask for your forgiveness and for an awakening to the miracle of your birth. By faith in you and your mercy and grace, I am forgiven and pardoned from my sins. In Jesus name, Amen.

Announcements

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

All groups meet at the church unless otherwise specified.

The church offices will be closed Monday, December 25.

Pastor Carroll is in the office on Tuesday morning and Wednesday afternoon. His email is: pastor1@thewfpc.org

Sunday school classes will not meet next week.

No choir practice until January 10.

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, Pastor 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.

2018 Offertory envelopes are on the table in the narthex.

Annual reports are due by Wednesday, January 10.

Remember or honor loved ones by sponsoring flowers and/or bulletins. Sign up sheets are on the bulletin board. Bulletins are \$20 / Flowers are \$15 (1) or \$25 (2) arrangement(s).

Benediction

Unison Reading

This morning we have given praise to the Lord through Christmas Carols and opened our hearts to the beauty of worshipful music. We have heard a message of hope spoken once again against the challenge of sin in the world. We now depart and go forward in God's love and strength to share the glorious news that Christ is born. May the Lord bless us with Christ's grace so that we can share the peace of God with others on Christmas Day. Amen.

Postlude “Voluntary on 'In dulci jublio” James Mansfield

All music in our bulletin is protected under CCLI#1409680

Church phone number	815-335-2051
Pastoral Cell	815-742-7503
Attendance	122
Offerings	\$2005.00
2018 per capita is \$36.34 per member	

SHARING THE WORD THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Every member a minister...

Accompanist	Karen Niemeier
Projectionist	Renee Rittmeyer
Ushers	Jim & Rita Mitchell, Chuck Rittmeyer
Greeters	The Rittmeyer Family
Acolyte	Taggert Freimuth

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

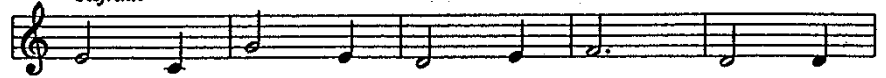


wait - ing	has	be - gun;	we	have	start - ed
hum - ble	shep - herds,	who	filled	with	won - der
heaven - ly	har - mo - ny;	an - gels	sing - ing		
joy	for - ev - er - more;	Christ Child	in	a	
don - key,	sheep,	and	cow;	birth - day	can - dles



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	bles - sed	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
7.77 with Refrain

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*Gloria Patri #579

*Hymn "O Come, All Ye Faithful" #41

Sharing of Joys and Concerns
Pastoral Prayer

Presentation of Gifts and Offerings
"On Christmas Day in the Morn" P. L. Harris

*Doxology #592

*Prayer of Dedication **Unison prayer**
Loving Creator, we are especially grateful to worship you on this wondrous Christmas Eve. We marvel at your blessings and your gracious love. With heartfelt thanks that you gave us your holy Son we present our gifts, tithes, and offerings. Please bless what we have generously given so that the good news of Christ's birth will be heard around the world. In your most holy name we pray, Amen.

*Hymn "Joy to the World" #40

Passing of the Peace

RECEIVING THE WORD

Scripture: Luke 2:1-14 (KJV)

Message: "Christ's Birth: The Beginning of our Eternal Gift"
Dr. Carroll Smith

*Hymn "Go Tell It On The Mountain" #29

Leader: On this wondrous Christmas Eve we sincerely approach the Lord's Table with awe, praise and gratitude. It is a marvelous experience to approach the Lord's Table and celebrate Holy Communion with all of God's people in the church universal. We express genuine gratefulness to our Savior for His love, compassion, and sacrifice so that we have pardon from sin. On this blessed Christmas Eve, all of God's people are invited to commemorate Holy Communion with hearts filled with joy so that we can show the world that Jesus is Savior.

People: In this hour of anticipation, as we wait to celebrate Christ's birth, we enter holy communion with thankfulness that Christ has made us worthy to approach the Lord's Table in obedience to God's Holy Word. We remember the great sacrifice that Jesus made to provide us grace, mercy, and forgiveness.

***Unison:* We eat this bread and drink this cup with love and gratitude as we proclaim Christ's saving power to the world. We lift up our hearts and voices to Christ the Lord and offer thanks for His sacrifice that has granted us salvation.**

Blessing of the Bread and Cup

Receiving of the Holy Communion coming forward

Prayer after Communion **Unison Prayer**
Most loving God, thank you for allowing us to be worthy to celebrate Holy Communion with all of your people in the church universal. We appreciate the wonderful opportunity to be renewed through your Holy Spirit so that we can share the good news of salvation to others. Please keep us steadfast in your holy pathway as we celebrate your birthday during this holiday season. We ask all of these things in your most holy name, Amen.