

Clothing Drive



The high school Sunday School class
is hosting a winter clothing drive
from December 14 through the end of January.
As you receive new clothes during the holidays,
please consider sharing *clean, gently used* items
you no longer wear.

Donations can be brought to the church,
and we'll deliver them to:
The Rockford Rescue Mission.

First Presbyterian Church of Winnebago
208 W. Winnebago St., Winnebago, IL 61088

Phone: 815-335-2051

Office email: thewfpc1@gmail.com

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

Facebook: @thewfpc208

Rev. Lisa Lopez-Meyer

Pastoral cell: 815-742-7503

Welcome to Worship!
First Presbyterian Church
December 28, 2025 - First Sunday after Christmas
10:30 a.m.

Prelude/Welcome/Announcements

*Call to Worship:

In the fullness of time, God became one of us in Jesus Christ.

He was born small and vulnerable. He faced danger and pain.

In Jesus Christ, God experienced the injustice of this world.

His family fled for their lives.

His own home was devastated by grief.

Through the life of Christ, we can be sure God understands us.

**No matter what we face, no matter how broken our heart,
the Lord has compassion on us.**

Let us rejoice in the gift of Jesus Christ!

Let us proclaim God's goodness to us!

*Hymn "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" #132

Opening Prayer

Prayer of Confession:

Unison Reading

**Holy God, you know how much we struggle with indifference
and despair in the face of suffering. When we are in pain, we
become so numb to our own life, we miss many signs of your
own grace. When others we love are in pain, we find it difficult
to listen for your words of truth and direction. When
disappointment becomes our reality, we can forget our call to
follow Jesus through the good times and the bad. Forgive our
feeble faith. Help us, O Lord, stay the course of faithfulness
despite the hardship of life itself.**

Time of Silent Confession

Announcements

Pastor Lisa will be on vacation this week. Calls to the pastoral cell phone will be taken by an elder.

Save the Date! We will be taking down Christmas decorations on January 4th after the worship service. Please stay and lend a hand.

Offertory envelopes are now available. If you take a box, sign the sheet with your name next to the corresponding box number.

The church offices will be closed on Thursday.

Zoom Book Study *The 8 Habits of Evangelism* focusing on the Habits of Radical Welcome, Prayer, Teaching, Fellowship and Generosity. We will meet via Zoom on Thursdays at 6:30 pm from January 8-February 5th. You can download the free PDF from 8habits.org.

Annual Reports are due January 7th. See Pastor Lisa for report guidelines. Early submissions are appreciated.

Youth Group Sunday, January 11 from 6:30-8 pm in the Youth Room. Come eat, pray and play with us! We'll also be scheduling some Spring activities together.

Per Capita for 2025 is \$44 per person. 2026 is \$45 per person.

Sign-up sheets for flowers and bulletins are on the bulletin board, one week's notice is needed for flower orders, see Stefanie Kluck.

Stewardship update: November Income-Expenses: \$9,177.24

***First Presbyterian Church of Winnebago:
Where community, faith, family, and friends come together.***

(3) Do we agree to pray for all of them, to encourage them, respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church? **We do.**

Prayer and Laying on of Hands
Statement of Ordination/Installation
Welcome

Presentation of Gifts and Offerings

*Doxology #606

*Prayer of Dedication **Unison prayer**

As we offer our treasure and hearts to you, O God, may they be used to pass on the promise of hope, peace, life, and community to all in need of your gifts and presence. In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.

Prayers of the People

We now have a time of sharing for our joys and concerns

Prayers concluding with..... **The Lord's Prayer in unison**

*Hymn "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" #136

Benediction

Postlude

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Every member a minister...

Accompanist	Karen Niemeier
Liturgist	Jim Morrison, Julie Nichols
Projectionist	Joe Erb
Ushers	Jim Mitchell, Craig Spickler

Assurance of Pardon:

Jesus came into the world not to condemn us for what we have done wrong, but to save us from our sins. Friends, believe the Good News! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! **Thanks be to God!**

*Gloria Patri #581

Passing of the Peace

Scripture: Isaiah 63:7-9; Matthew 2:13-23 pg. 767; 982
This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon: "Faith when Grief is Overwhelming"
Pastor Lisa Lopez-Meyer

The Apostles' Creed pg. 35

*Hymn "How Firm a Foundation" #463

Ordination and Installations of Ruling Elders, Deacons and Trustees

Statement on the Offices

Questions to Newly Elected Ruling Elders, Deacons and Trustees

Questions to the Congregation:

(1) Do we, the members of the First Presbyterian Church of Winnebago, accept Stefanie and Norm as Elders, as well as Teresa, Karen and Julie as Deacons, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ? **We do.**

(2) Do we also receive Jim as a Trustee of the church, commissioned among the primary stewards of the physical property of the church? **We do.**