

January 1, 2024

First Presbyterian Church

608 Nebraska Street, Sioux City, Iowa 51101



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January Worship Service Info



Sunday, Jan 7—Baptism of the Lord
Matthew 2:1-12; Second Chance People—The Magi

Sunday, Jan 14—2nd Sunday after Epiphany
Matthew 3:13-17; Second Chance People—John the Baptist

Sunday, Jan 21—3rd Sunday after Epiphany
1 Samuel 3:1-10; Second Chance People—Samuel

Sunday, Jan 28—4th Sunday after Epiphany
Jonah 3:1-10; Second Chance People—Jonah

“Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?”

Isaiah 43:18-19

Friends,

One problem with scriptures like this is that some people misinterpret it to mean that God has changed God’s mind, or is backing away from a mistake. It sounds like God is saying, “Well that whole ‘Nation of Israel’ thing isn’t working out...I guess I’ll try something else.”

It’s important for us to remember that our God is eternal and unchanging. God’s love and mercy for us have been the same since creation. And while people have betrayed our covenants with God again and again, we have always been able to rely on God’s promises to us.

Then why would God need “to do a new thing”?

One way to explain this is to compare God’s actions to our own driving. Let’s say that you leave your home to go to church. You start by driving backwards out of your garage or driveway. Do you expect to keep going backwards, in the same direction, until you drive your car backwards in a straight line into the church parking lot? Of course not! Many times, you’ll need to stop, shift into drive or reverse, and turn left or right until you get to church.

Are any of these different maneuvers mistakes? No, they are all necessary steps to get where you’re going. Does any of this mean that your goal has changed? No, you always meant to get to church. More importantly, did your intention change? No, you always intended to get to church so you could meet your family, friends and neighbors, pray, learn about the Bible, and worship the Lord.

It’s the same way with this “new thing” that Isaiah says the Lord is about to do. God’s will for people has remained the same, whether through God’s covenant with Abraham, through God’s law given to the people of Israel, or through God’s word spoken by prophets. None of these were “wrong turns” or “mistakes”, but were only preparations for the new thing the Lord had in mind all along. And God’s will for people is the same in that “new thing”: the life, death, and resurrection of God’s son, Jesus Christ.

“I ask you, not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but one we have had from the beginning, let us love one another ... this is the commandment just as you have heard it from the beginning.”

From 2 John 5-6

In this New Year, let us all consider what new ways we can fulfill this commandment, which is the same as it has always been. We must always love one another, for that has been God’s will for all of us from the beginning. But the ways we love one another, and the directions these new ministries will take us, are unlimited in number and awesome in their effects in the world.

In Christ,
Pastor Mark

Mary's Music Notes—

Happy New Year!! Thanks to all our choir and handbell members and youth, who have shared their time and talents with us in Worship. We love what they all have to offer to our Lord. As everyone starts their new year, remember that all are invited to join us!!



January 3 - Music rehearsals will start back up:

6-7 Handbells

7-8 Choir

January 7 Choir

12th Night Ring Handbell Festival and our Bell-issimo is participating!!

January 14 Handbells

January 21 Choir

January 28 Choir

Mary Benton, Director of Music



Previous Months Worship Attendance Report

Dec 3	76 in sanctuary
Dec 10	75 in sanctuary
Dec 17	90 in sanctuary
Dec 24	71 in sanctuary
Dec 24	106 in sanctuary
Dec 24	35 in sanctuary

The Mission Committee is requesting donations of New Pillows and gallon jugs of White Vinegar to be brought to the Church and placed in a box on the Donation Table on the first Floor outside of the Chapel. Thank you for your generosity!

Income & Disbursement Summary Through November 30, 2023



2024
Per Capita
amount
is \$53.95.

Income

All pledges, non-pledges & loose collection	\$ 309,048.07
Other operating income	\$ 14,487.28
Restricted donations	\$ 2,945.89
Per Capita	\$ 1,601.67
Total Income	\$ 328,082.91

Disbursements

Mission	\$ 23,398.87
Ministry*	\$ 110,541.46
Music	\$ 35,571.79
Christian Discipleship	\$ 354.48
Building & Grounds	\$ 94,979.91
Office and Admin	\$ 17,173.82
Assessment	\$ 16,132.71
Other**	\$ 32,788.52
Personnel Payroll	\$ 114,421.68
Total Disbursements	\$ 445,363.27

Gain or Loss **\$ (117,280.33)**

* 'Ministry' includes: Pastors salary, worship, outreach, deacon and member care expenses.

** 'Other' includes: Payroll taxes, health insurance, pension and workers compensation insurance.

STEWARDSHIP

Budgeted	\$485,853.00
2024 Pledges	\$279,655.00
% to budget	58%
Pledges received	44
 Still Needed	 \$206,198.00

12th Night Ring Handbell Festival is at Eppley Auditorium on the Morningside College Campus on January 7th at 4:30 pm. Our handbell choir will be combining with others, as well as sharing a solo selection. Be sure to mark your calendar and come support our handbell choir.



January birthdays

- 5th - Jared Messersmith
- 6th - Cameron Bradley
- 10th - Raelee Bradley
- 10th - Mary Kay Benton
- 10th - Curtis Burns
- 13th - Ashley Mozak
- 13th - Rose Warner
- 21st - Dacia Bolton Bates
- 28th - Carla Macfarlane
- 30th - Martie Ebner
- 30th - Aidan Hunt
- 31st - Mandy Ellis
- 31st - Adam Preston



Pssst!
 If we do not have your birthday or anniversary information... please call or send it to Karen in the church office at 712-255-8919 or finance@1stpresby.com.



Fellowship Meal

COME & ENJOY GOOD FOOD & GOOD COMPANY AT OUR QUARTERLY CONGREGATIONAL POTLUCK DINNER SUNDAY, JANUARY 14TH AFTER SERVICE IN THE DINING HALL.

The Member Care Committee will provide coffee, lemonade, and water. We are asking for the following donations of dishes to complete our meal listed below by your last name:

A-G - Desserts

H-N –Main Dish

O-Z –Vegetable or salad

Friends, we'll have a brief **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** after worship on Sunday, January 14th. We'll be electing one final member of our Nomination Committee and ordaining and installing our new elders and deacons. We hope you can attend.

Join our Women's Circle on Tuesday, January 9th at 6:30 PM for Trivia Night. We will gather at Jill Ferraro's home (4301 Stone Park Blvd) for a fun night of companionable quizzing. Guests are asked to bring a snack to share and a beverage of their choice. Water and coffee will be provided. Please join us!

Thanks much!
 Jill Ferraro



MEMBER CARE CORNER

Month of January:

Sunday Fellowship Coffee: Christian Discipleship Committee

Wednesday Night Dinners***: Building & Grounds Committee

January 14th Congregational Quarterly Potluck Dinner

Lunch Bunch: Not hosting since we will have Quarterly Congregational Dinner

Prayer Shawls: Volunteers are needed to crochet or knit more shawls. Please contact a committee member if you would like to know more details. Ron Rohlena has donated yarn for this project & a pattern is available.

Month of February:

Sunday Fellowship Coffee: Memorial Committee

Wednesday Night Dinners***: Memorial Committee

***The session committees that are hosting the Sunday coffee and Wednesday dinners will gladly take anyone from the congregation that would like to volunteer to help for a meal. If you are interested, please contact a committee member serving that month. ***



Passing out Creche pieces on the last day of Sunday School for 2023. The kids were so happy to receive them.



Acolyte:

- Jan 7: Harper Rohlena
- Jan 14: Aidan Hunt
- Jan 21: Sage Pierson
- Jan 28: Hazel Rohlena

Lectors:

- Jan 7: Anne Cowley
- Jan 14: Randy Benton
- Jan 21: Pat Anderson
- Jan 28: Barb Davis

Tellers:

- Jan 7: Sarah Steill & Curtis Burns
- Jan 14: Jeff Stanley & Curtis Burns
- Jan 21: Jeff Stanley & Kathy Zebert
- Jan 28: Sarah Steill & Lance Eybers

Greeter/Usher:

- Jan 7: Bob & Pat Anderson, Vicki Ackerman & Kathleen Morfitt
- Jan 14: Steve & Brenda Bradley, Barb Davis & Juliana Mayne
- Jan 21: Michael & Andrea Rohlena family
- Jan 28: Butch & Mary Floyd, Lowell & Judy Vos

Happy New Year to you and your family from your Church Staff! Rick & I thank you for thinking of us during the holiday season. Here's to 2024!

In case of an emergency in the First Presbyterian Family please contact Pastor Mark at (309)644-0794.

Volunteers — If you are unavailable on your scheduled date, please arrange for a substitute and advise the office. Thank you for your assistance and consideration.

First Presbyterian Church

Sioux City, Iowa



2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <i>Pastor Mark out</i> <i>Office closed</i>	2	3 5:30 Meal 6:15 Bible Study 6:00 Handbells 7:00 Choir	4	5	6 9:30—11:30 am Handbells
7 9:30 Bible Study 9:30 Choir 9:30 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee 10:30 Worship 11:30 Member Care 4:30 @ Eppley— 12th Night Hand- bells	8 5:30 Bldg. & Grounds	9	10 5:30 Meal 6:15 Bible Study 6:00 Handbells 7:00 Choir	11	12	13
14 9:30 Bible Study 9:30 Handbells 9:30 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee 10:30 Worship	15 12:15 Admin/Fin 5:30 Personnel	16	17 5:30 Meal 6:15 Bible Study 7:00 Choir	18	19	20
21 9:30 Bible Study 9:30 Choir 9:30 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee 10:30 Worship 11:30 Mission	22 5:00 All Staff mtg. 5:30 Music & Worship <i>Newsletter Dead- line</i>	23 7:00 Session	24 5:30 Meal 6:15 Bible Study 7:00 Choir <i>Print Newsletter</i>	25 4:30 Memorial	26	27
28 9:30 Bible Study 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Choir 10:00 Coffee 10:30 Worship 11:30 Deacons	29	30	31 5:30 Meal 6:15 Bible Study 6:00 Handbells 7:00 Choir	<p><u>Notes:</u></p> <p>*Your office staff will be at work Monday thru Thursday 9:00 am to 4:30 pm</p> <p>*Office closes each Friday at Noon.</p> <p>* Childcare offered during Sunday worship & Wednesday evenings</p>		

First Presbyterian Church



*This is our mission:
to shine the light
of Christ's love —
through our life together,
with our gifts,
and in our daily lives —
from the heart of Sioux City,
for the sake of God's kingdom
in the world.*

608 Nebraska Street, Sioux City, Iowa 51101

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 8:30 am– 4:30 pm, Fri 9 am-Noon
Tel. 712-255-8919

Web page: www.1stpresby.com
Office email: office@1stpresby.com
Pastor: pastor@1stpresby.com
Twitter@1stChurchSCIA

Office Administrator finance@1stpresby.com

Be sure to check our new Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/902340006496216/>.

Church Staff:

Pastor.....Mark Bedford
Music Director & Organist..... Mary Kay Benton
Adult Choir Director.....Rachael Wragge
Hand Bell Director.....Anne Cowley
Children's Music Director.....Rachael Wragge
Sound Sexton.....Dylan Baier
Sunday School Director.....Sarah Brown
Office Admin/Finance Mgr.....Karen Heinemann
Custodians.....Rick Heinemann

Deadline Dates for Publications

Weekly Worship Bulletin - each Tuesday at Noon.

Newsletter - one week prior to publication
(goal is to publish one day prior to the last work day of the month, so the deadline is one week prior to that.)

... included on the monthly calendar, but please call the office if you are uncertain.

Information received after deadline will be held for the next publication if still applicable.

Thank you all for your consideration; we appreciate your efforts to respect these deadlines, making it easier for us to complete our work timely and efficiently.

The Light, our church newsletter, is your monthly publication of need-to-know information and events.

It is available on-line at
(www.1stpresby.com)

And by mail.

To add your name to the mailing list,
please call the church office

712-255-8919

or email

finance@1stpresby.com

Or you can subscribe on the new website!

Got news? ...births, weddings, graduations,
awards, job promotions,
or other news you'd like to share?



Send it to:
finance@1stpresby.com.
We'll be glad to share it for you.

Have you moved?

New... Street address?

....Email address?

....Phone number?

God knows where you are,
but we don't know unless you tell us.

If you have new contact information,
please let us know

so we can update our records —

Please contact the Church Office
at 712-255-8919 or e-mail us at
finance@1stpresby.com.

Thanks so much.



***Welcome to First Presbyterian Church.
We hope you'll join us for worship
every Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m.***