

For Our Prayers

Our Members:

Bryan Allen and family	Angela Regenos and Family
Patricia Elliott	Jackie Rosenlof
Lorraine Feind	June Sergeant
Susie and Abraham Hernandez	Kathy and Phil Shade
Mary Kulhanek	Doug and Emily State
Audrey and Bill Nelson	Dick Swett

Our Friends of the Church:

Roland Anderson (former church custodian)	Susan McGillick (friend of Cynthe Johnson)
The Brayton Family (friend of Mary Jo Morrow)	Lori Nelson (friend of Pat Hild)
Kathy Gifford (friend of members)	Al Scism (father of Mary Kulhanek)
Jake Hild (brother of Jack Hild)	Megan Swartwood (cousin of Jamie Wright)
Jennifer Leffler (friend of Tiffany Tarvestad)	Serita (friend of Angie Palmer)
Jan Oldfather (sister-in-law of Alan & Germaine Oldfather)	
The Family of Del Zuerlein (grandmother of Audrey Zuerlein-Johnson)	

Our Loved Ones In Service To Our Country:

Brian Adams-Army	Gary Haines-USAF
Brent Anderson-Guard	David Hild-Guard
Max Beltzer-USMC	Ben Jacobson-Coast Guard
Brian Betthausen-Army	Clint Johnson-Army
Nicholas Brooks-USAF	Robert Lentz-Army
Patrick Brooks-USAF	Kristin Lindenstien-USAF
Matt Dubbs-Guard	Michael Miller-USAFR
Sarah, Brian and Aaron Felty-Army	Blake Popple-Guard
Jesse Florez-Navy	Ryan Rowher-Army
Thomas Gibson-USAF	Greg Stevens-USMC
Kyle Gilliland-USMC	Linda Youberg-Navy

Our Presbytery and the Wider Church:

Rev. Gui-Jie Zhang, Member-at-large	Presbyterian Border Ministry
CLP Wayne Owens, serving Stuart and Atkinson	

Please help our Church office keep our prayer list current.

Unless otherwise requested we will keep names on the prayer list for four weeks.

Welcome!

First Presbyterian Church Kearney commits to living forward with God through passion and excellence by nurturing the gifts of our members and reaching out to each other, the community, and the world.

A Word to our Guests

We are so glad to have you with us this morning!

Join us for refreshments and fellowship after the service in the Family Life Center, down the hall to the right as you leave the Sanctuary.

Please help yourself to a gift bag that is on the table in the foyer as you leave the building.

Words of Preparation

“Mary was the first person in the world to carry the Gospel.”

-- Rodney Buchanan

December 18, 2011

WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY

10:30 A.M.

4th Sunday of Advent

Children's Christmas Program

PRELUDE

“What Child is This?”

arr. Aaron David Miller

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GREETING

Stephen Price-Gibson

CHORAL INTROIT

“We Light the Advent Candle”

Bradley Ellingboe

Alma Gaeth, Advent Candle Lighter

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Richard Elliott, Liturgist

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

those who lived in a land of deep darkness--on them has light shined.

Praise the Lord! Give thanks for the Light!

Let us worship God.

*HYMN

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory” vss. 1-3

No. 22

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Luke 15:10

There is joy in the presence of the angels of God
over one sinner who repents.
Let us confess our sins to God.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy Lord, as we wait and watch and yearn and ache,
we look for signs of your coming.
You enter our world to bring your unconditional love.
You call us to love you, to love our neighbors, to love even our enemies.
We confess that often love is not in our hearts
and we lack courage to show love in our actions.
We need your mercy; we long for the coming of your Light.
We wait, but we also pray: Come quickly, Lord.**

*DECLARATION OF PARDON

Friends, may the Holy Spirit be upon you
so that you may believe the good news:
By the grace of God we are redeemed.
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

“The First Nowell” vs. 6

No. 56

*Then let us all with one accord,
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made heav'n and earth of naught,
And with His blood our life hath bought.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel.*

A TIME FOR CHILDREN

Presentation of Bibles to 3rd & 4th Graders

Tiffany Tarvestad, Moderator, Christian Education Committee

Brian Barua
Hayden Cobb
Kennedy Cobb
Kaiya Diestler

Tyler Kratzer
Ella Lindstrom
McKenna Palmer
Ciara Shultz

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING “Lo, How a Rose Is Growing” arr. Michael Burkhardt

ANTHEM

“Traditions of Christmas”

Chip Davis

Jennifer Rothenberger-Dennis and Ben Dennis (violin and guitar duet)

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS 2011

Kit Alff and Scott Matteson in memory of Esther & Warner Mallory and in honor of Norm & Dorrie Alff

Mike & Sally Bryson in honor of grandsons, Thomas and John, and in honor of all of the church family members who so willingly devote their time

K.C. & Karen Diestler in memory of our parents

Gordon & Jill Gealy in honor of those who have gone before and to the Glory of God

Sue Hankins in memory of Carolyne Sammons and Betty & Eldon Spray

Elmer & Margaret Holzrichter in honor of all the people celebrating their birthday on December 18th and in honor of all the liturgists who served this year

Jill Hurt in memory of my mom, Marcia Johansen

Peggi Jenkins in honor of Erin & Robin Jenkins and in memory of Robert & Lu Saul

Jean Johnson in honor of daughters, Cynthe & Natalie, and granddaughters, Audrey & Emma

Memorial Committee in memory of Olive Cleland

Memorial Committee in memory of Doc Fitch

Memorial Committee in memory of Lou Ninegar

Memorial Committee in memory of Ruth Swalley

Gordon & Mary Jo Morrow in honor of our children

Patty & Bill Nelson in memory of family

Alan & Germaine Oldfather in memory of Patti Lancaster

Jason Peterson, Aaron Peterson and Renee Guthard and families in memory of Evelyn Peterson

Janet Pickens in memory of John Scott

Stephen Price-Gibson in memory of James, Caroline and Carla Gibson and Denis and James Price; and Charles Reynolds

Earl & JoAnn Rademacher in honor of our family

Doug & Emily State in honor of the birth of Jesus, Our Lord & Savior

Barbara Stevenson in memory of David Stevenson

Dick & Sharon Swett in loving memory of our parents

“TREE OF WARMTH”

The “Tree of Warmth” is located in the Church Narthex waiting for mittens, caps and scarves to decorate its branches. Also donate any new or good condition, laundered blanket or blankee (any size) so that we the congregation of First Presbyterian of Kearney may spread warmth and love to others in need this holiday season. The items that are placed on or around the tree will be donated to The S.A.F.E. Center, bringing warmth to the giver and the recipient. Join in the true spirit of the season by remembering Christ’s admonition to take care of one another.

PRIME OF LIFE

Prime of Life will meet on Sunday, January 8, 2012. Please note this is the second Sunday in January. Hosts for January are: Eldin and Annabelle Wells (893-2156), Ron and Diane Panowicz (233-0957 or 293-5008), and Phil and Fia Feese (234-2672). Contact one of the hosts to confirm your attendance. The Taize service is the program.

Prime of Life is a social group that meets at the church on the first Sunday evening of each month for a light meal, delightful program, and wonderful fellowship. We want to extend an open invitation to everyone of the “mature age” of 55 or older. Singles and couples are welcome.

WEDDING OPEN HOUSE

Michael and Kathren Miller

Saturday, January 7, 2012

2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church Family Life Center

Stephen and Rose Miller kindly invite you to a wedding open house for Michael and Kathren (Clements) Miller on Saturday, January 7, 2012 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the First Presbyterian Church’s Family Life Center.

Michael and Kathren will be united in marriage on Friday, December 30, 2011 at the New Fellowship Baptist Church in Titusville, Florida.

CROSSROADS HOMELESS SHELTER

Crossroads homeless shelter is looking for volunteers to pray, clean, paint, sort donations, prepare food, etc. They are also in need of a variety of furniture, office equipment, kitchen items, cleaning supplies, and lawn care equipment. A full list is posted outside the office, or you may call 236-5688 or 236-6065 to volunteer or get more information.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

**O God, by your Spirit tell us what we need to hear,
and show us what we ought to do,
to obey Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

Red Pew Bible, N.T., pg. 56
Gold Pew Bible, N.T., pg. 77

MEDITATION

“*THINK ABOUT IT*”

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Cynthe Johnson, Director

Clayton Moyer, Music Director

Christopher & Brian Barua, Cade Nicol, Ethan Kinney, Hewitt Moyer; soloists

Christmas Carols (Verse 1 only of each carol)

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”	No. 44
“Away in a Manger”	No. 25
“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”	No. 31
“Joy to the World”	No. 40
“Silent Night, Holy Night”	No. 60

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

“Coventry Carol”

arr. Charles Callahan

*PRESENTATION

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory” vs. 4

No. 22

*All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son
Evermore your voices raising,
To th’ eternal Three in One:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ the new-born King!*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**O God, transform these gifts by the power of your love so that light will come
into the darkness for people throughout the world, and bring hope, peace,
love and joy to all through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

*CLOSING HYMN

“What Child Is This”

No. 53

*BLESSING

*CHORAL BENEDICTION “Go Tell It On the Mountain” African-American Spiritual

*POSTLUDE

“Go, Tell It On the Mountain”

arr. Charles Callahan

We cordially invite you to join us for refreshments and fellowship every Sunday morning following the Worship Service in the Family Life Center.

Next week's lectionary readings are: Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12); and John 1:1-14.

Liturgist: Richard Elliott

Lighting the Advent Candle: Alma Gaeth

Greeters: Jeff, Brenda, Ella, Ava and Mia Lindstrom

Ushers: Richard and Sandy Asher, Mary Fegter, Barb Friskopp, Alan Oldfather, and Vern Plambeck

Coffee Host: Youth Groups

Organist/Choir Director: Sandy McKirahan

Accompanist: Sharon Rees

Sound System Operator: John McKirahan

Nursery Attendant: Alexis Elliott or Tyler Newby

December 11, 2011

Church School Attendance: 41 -Youth 14, Teachers 9, Adults 18

Church Attendance: 132

Dimes for Mission: 86

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

The Christmas Joy offering will be collected today during the worship service. Contributions should be clearly marked "Christmas Joy Offering."

The Christmas Joy Offering provides tangible support to church workers who have faithfully served the church for many years and to the eight Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges where the gifts of students are being developed.

YOUTH GROUP TURKEY DINNER FUNDRAISER

Today, Sunday, December 18th

Following the 10:30 a.m. worship service

MENU – Turkey, Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Green Beans, Christmas Salad, Roll & Butter, and Dessert.

FREEWILL OFFERING – All proceeds go to the Youth Group for trips and activities. You will receive great food and wonderful service from our youth!

CELEBRATE THE SEASON AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Today, Sunday, December 18

9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages.

10:30 a.m. Worship: Children's Christmas Program

Turkey Dinner sponsored by 1st Pres. Youth Group

Saturday, December 24

7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship: "Carols and Candlelight"

Sunday, December 25

10:30 a.m. Christmas Morning Worship: "Christmas on the Telephone"

IMPORTANT TAX INFORMATION

A tax consultant has advised us to inform you that any contributions to be credited to this year 2011 must be received in the church office on or before Friday, December 30th OR have a postmark on the envelope of December 31st or prior to that date. The church office will be closed for the Christmas holidays -- December 24th through January 2nd. However, the mail will be checked each weekday. Thank you!

CHURCH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

The church office will be CLOSED for the Christmas Holidays Monday, December 26th through Monday, January 2nd. Regular office hours will resume on Tuesday, January 3, 2012. The phone messages and mail will be checked each weekday. Please leave a message if there is a pastoral concern and your call will be returned promptly.

THE S.A.F.E. CENTER 2011 HOLIDAY WISH LIST

Adopt a Family – donate gift items for a family for the holidays. Call our office at 237-2599 for details.

Personal Hygiene Items – deodorant, hair brushes, shampoo & conditioner, tear free shampoo for children, paper towels, toilet paper, feminine products, diapers (sizes 4+), training pants/pull ups (all sizes)

Clothing Items – new packages of underwear & socks (toddler through adult sizes)

Cleaning Supplies – garbage bags, household cleaners, dish soap, laundry soap, dryer sheets, sponges, scratch pads

Household Items – cooking basics; pots, pans, baking dishes, small appliances, dishes, glasses, silverware, towels, washcloths

Other Items Needed Year Round – cell phones, copy paper, gas vouchers, postage stamps, phone cards, R.Y.D.E. cards, batteries

INFORMATION FOR VISITORS

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church! We want you to feel comfortable and at ease in your surroundings. The following services are available to aid your comfort in worship. Please inform the ushers of your particular need(s).

Nursery Staff will welcome your infants and toddlers.

Wireless hearing aids and large-print bulletins are available from the ushers.

Children's bulletins, activity backpacks, and Bibles are available from the ushers.

Please turn all cell phones and pagers to vibrate during the worship service!

Visitors -- Please take a sticker from the inside cover of the pew pad so that we may properly greet you after worship.

Visitors and members are urged to record your presence at worship on the friendship pads which are in the pews. Please include your address, phone number and any other information you wish to share with us and acquaint yourself with those sharing the pew.

We cordially invite you to join us for refreshments and fellowship every Sunday morning following the Worship Service in the Family Life Center.

Anyone wishing to unite with the church, please let the Rev. Price-Gibson know.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00 a.m. Church School

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Coffee Fellowship following Worship

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday:

8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Minister: Every Member of This Church

Rev. Dr. Stephen Price-Gibson, Pastor

Rose Miller, Office Administrator

Bruce & Michelle Carlson, Custodians

Alexis Elliott and Tyler Newby, Nursery Coordinators

Web-site: www.fpckearney.org

Presbyterian Church USA

Presbytery of Central Nebraska

Sandy McKirahan, Music Director

Sharon Rees, Accompanist

Angela Wright, Bell Director

www.pcusa.org

www.centralnepresby.org

236-6996

Should you have a need for pastoral care, please contact the church office at 234-4543.

Our email address is fpchurch@citlink.net.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

In case of inclement weather, please listen to KGFW-AM Radio Station 1340 or watch NTV Channel 13 for church cancellation. Notice will be posted by 8:30 a.m.

We welcome all visitors to worship this morning. We would like you to learn more about our church and give us a chance to make you feel at home.

If anyone needs a ride to church on Sundays, please call the church office so that we may arrange transportation for you.

If you would like a tape recorded copy of the Sunday Worship Service, please call the church office at 234-4543.

Persons of the Month selected by the Worship and Music Committee for **December** are the **CROP Walkers** from our congregation who did an outstanding job of fundraising.

Dimes for Mission. The Session has voted to allocate all dimes collected in December will be designated to The Crossroads Center.

Equal Exchange Products. Why not consider giving a gift of Fair Trade coffee, tea or hot cocoa? These products make great additions to a gift basket. Just add some mugs to the basket and you're set for an easy gift!

Save Best Choice Barcode UPC Labels For Cash. Please save your *Best Choice* barcodes (UPC symbol) and bring them to the church where a shoebox is located in the church office. *Best Choice* products are available at Grand Central Apple Market. Some *Best Choice* products excluded are aluminum soda cans, aerosol cans, and cigarettes.

2012 Offering Envelopes. Your 2012 stewardship envelopes for your pledges are available in the Narthex. Please contact the church office if you don't find a set for you.

Flower Chart. Sign up for January 2012 flowers on the current chart. The 2012 flower chart will be posted soon on the bulletin board by the church office. Please take a few moments to sign up to contribute flowers to glorify God's house on Sunday and to honor or celebrate your loved ones!

Coffee Host Chart. The Deacons Need YOUR Help! **Wanted: Coffee Hosts for January 2012.** If you are one of the many who enjoy the coffee fellowship time after church, then **WE WANT YOU! Please sign up on the chart in the narthex.**

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, December 18

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Children's Christmas Program

9:00 a.m.	Sunday Church School	All Church
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service with Children's Christmas Program	Sanctuary
Following Worship Service	Turkey Dinner	Family Life Center

Monday, December 19

7:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study	Family Life Center
9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting	Pastor's Office

Tuesday, December 20

6:30 p.m.	Girl Scout Troop #699	Classroom
6:30 p.m.	YMCA Preschool Program	Sanctuary/FLC
7:00 p.m.	SESSION MEETING	Library
7:00 p.m.	DEACONS MEETING	Classroom

Wednesday, December 21

NO Chancel Choir Practice

Saturday, December 24

7:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Worship Service	Sanctuary
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Sunday, December 25

Christmas Day

10:30 a.m.	Worship Service	Family Life Center
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Monday, December 26, 2011 – Monday, January 2, 2012

OFFICE CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS