



*First Presbyterian Church, 4511 Sixth Avenue, Kearney, NE 68845*

*www.fpc Kearney.org*

*(308) 234-4543*

## 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 needs.

- Nursery Staff will welcome your infants and toddlers.
- Wireless hearing aids, large-print bulletins, and large-print Bibles
- Children's bulletins, activity backpacks, and Bibles

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

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, email, and any other information you wish to share with us and acquaint yourself with those sharing the pew.

**Media Policy:** In this digital age the church takes many pictures and/or recordings of baptisms, worship services, special events, activities, Sunday School, youth groups, etc. The First Presbyterian Church USA (FPC) uses these to record, promote, and celebrate our church ministry through many different venues including, but not limited to, our church website, social media, publications, etc. FPC understands that some people may choose not to have their image used and the church wants to respect their wishes. Therefore, FPC asks that those individuals or families who may prefer NOT to have images of themselves used by the church to provide the church with a written request, and the church will honor their wishes.

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

## **THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!**

### **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

9:15 am/9:30 am Adult/Youth Sunday School

10:30 am Worship Service

Coffee Fellowship following Worship

### **OFFICE HOURS**

Monday through Thursday:

8:30 am to 5:00 pm

Friday: 8:30 am to 12:00 pm

### **Minister: Every Member of This Church**

Rev. Dr. Stephen Price-Gibson, Pastor

Rose Miller, Office Administrator

Clayton Moyer, Chancel Choir Director

Angela Wright, Bell Choir Director

Josh Townsend, Website Coordinator

Sandy McKirahan, Music Director

Sharon Rees, Accompanist

Kelsey Cobb & Madison Cobb, Nursery

Connie Moon & Susan Wallace, Organists

Dennis Shultz, Custodian

Web-site: [www.fpc Kearney.org](http://www.fpc Kearney.org)

December 17, 2017

**WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY**

10:30 AM

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**\*All rise in body or spirit.**

**Preparation for Worship**

Advent is not just about something that happened long ago  
or only about what will happen sometime in the future,  
for Jesus is coming to us *right now*.

Through the Bible, through our prayers as a church and as a family,  
Jesus comes to us as often as we open our hearts to him.

--Mark Nielsen

PRELUDE "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" Paul Manz

WELCOME Stephen Price-Gibson

Greeting and Announcements

Christmas Joy Offering Ingrid Orsted

Woodruff Memorial Scholarship Lissa Woodruff

Welcoming One Another

CHORAL INTROIT "Maker of the Stars of Night" Joel Raney

Chancel Choir

LITANY Julia Tye, Liturgist

During Advent we wait for the coming Savior who is our Prince of Peace.

**The Lord gives strength to his people, and blesses them with peace.**

In the midst of conflict, we look to the One who brings harmony.

**The Lord gives strength to his people, and blesses them with peace.**

In the midst of confusion, we look to the One who brings clarity.

**The Lord gives strength to his people, and blesses them with peace.**

In the midst of division, we look to the One who brings unity.

**The Lord gives strength to his people, and blesses them with peace.**

In the midst of separation, we look to the One who restores what is broken.

**The Lord gives strength to his people, and blesses them with peace.**

CANDLE LIGHTING Lissa Woodruff, Ethan Kinney, and Gayle Woodruff

Sung Response

"God with Us, Emmanuel"

Joel Raney

(Congregation and Choir)

Ev - er - last - ing Fa - ther, Prince of Peace,  
 Won - der - ful Coun - se - lor, Al - might - y God.  
 Em - man - u - el, Em - man - u - el. God with  
 us, Em - man - u - el.

ADVENT PRAYER

\*HYMN "Comfort, Comfort Now My People" No. 87

CHILDREN'S TIME

ANTHEM "Song of Mary" Richard Shepherd

My Lord and Saviour is my song, He fills my spirit with delight  
To raise me up his arm is strong, The lowly precious in his sight.  
Magnificat, Magnificat, Magnificat anima mea Dominum.

My name shall live from age to age, And ev'ry tongue his servant bless,  
For mercy is their heritage Whose hearts the Holy One confess.  
Magnificat, Magnificat, Magnificat anima mea Dominum.

The proud beguil'd by dreams of pow'r Divided and degraded lie:  
He casts them down from throne and tow'r And stoops to lift the humble high.  
Magnificat, Magnificat, Magnificat anima mea Dominum.

He feeds the hungry at his board And sends the rich unfill'd away,  
And mindful of his promis'd word Has answer'd Israel's prayer today.  
Magnificat, Magnificat, Magnificat anima mea Dominum.

With all the elders of our race, And those unborn who seek this birth,  
I sing the glory of his grace Who brings eternity to earth.  
Magnificat, Magnificat, Magnificat anima mea Dominum.

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Let us pray:

**Dear Lord,  
help us to trust in your timing,  
rely on your promises,  
wait for your answers,  
and rejoice in your goodness.  
Open us to your holy Word. Amen.**

Scripture Lesson

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Sermon

*“THE FINGER AND THE MOON”*

\*HYMN

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

No. 96

Lord’s Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power,  
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Choral Response

“Come, Come Emmanuel”

Chepponis

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

arr. Connie Moon

\*Presentation

“In the Lord I’ll Be Ever Thankful”

No. 654

The musical score is written for voice and piano in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of three systems of staves. The first system shows the vocal line and piano accompaniment for the first two phrases: "In the Lord I'll be ev - er thank - ful; in the Lord I will re -". The second system continues with "joice! Look to God; do not be a - fraid. Lift up your". The third system concludes with "voic - es; the Lord is near. Lift up your voic - es; the Lord is near." There are triplets indicated by a '3' above the notes in the second and third systems.

\*Dedication Prayer

Let us pray:

**Loving God: Take our offerings, and use them and us  
to fill the world with faith and peace and joy  
through the knowledge and love of your son,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior, and our Lord. Amen.**

\*HYMN

“Prepare the Way, O Zion”

No. 106

\*BLESSING

Romans 15:13

\*CHORAL BENEDICTION

“All Hail King Jesus”

Dave Moody

\*POSTLUDE

“While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks”

Wilbur Held

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

**Liturgist:** Julia Tye

**Acolyte:**

**Greeters/Ushers:** Beth Johnson, Alan Rees, Eldin and Annabelle Wells, and  
Lissa Woodruff

**Advent Wreath Candle lighters:** Lissa Woodruff, Ethan Kinney and Gayle Woodruff

**Coffee Host(s):** Jean Johnson and Emily State

**Organist:** Connie Moon

**Chancel Choir Director:** Clayton Moyer

**Chancel Choir Accompanist:** Susan Wallace

**Sound System Technician:** Josh Hofer

**Nursery Attendants:** Kelsey Cobb and Madison Cobb

## 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. Contributions should be clearly marked "Christmas Offering." The Christmas Joy offering will be accepted on Advent Sundays and Christmas Eve. Christmas Joy offering envelopes are available in the pew racks.

## MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

Sunday, December 17 - we will meet for food, fellowship and learning in the youth room until 1:30 pm.

## MARTHA CIRCLE BIBLE STUDY

In December we are remembering Crossroads Rescue Mission and their needs. Their needs are paper products, diapers, canned tuna, any non-perishable food item and laundry soap.

**December 20, Martha Circle, 2:00 pm, church classroom**

## COFFEE HOSTS NEEDED FOR 2018

**Wanted: Coffee Hosts for 2018.** The In-Reach Committee Needs YOUR Help! 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. The Coffee Host chart is up by the Family Life Center entryway.

# CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Sunday, December 24  
7:00 pm



## IMPORTANT TAX INFORMATION

A tax consultant has advised us to inform you that any contributions to be credited to this year 2017 must be received in the church office on or before Friday, December 22nd morning 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 22nd afternoon through January 1st. Thank you!

## CHURCH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

The church office will be CLOSED for the Christmas Holidays Friday afternoon, December 22, 2017 through Monday, January 1, 2018. Regular office hours will resume on Tuesday, January 2, 2018.

## FAITH FRIENDS PROGRAM

Do you remember that special person who took you under their wing when you were growing up in the church? Now is your chance to pass on that wonderful experience to a young person at First Presbyterian Church. The Faith Friends program will launch on January 10, 2018. We would like to match up as many youth and adults in the church as possible. Faith friend pairs will meet together to love, learn, and serve in the church – many ideas will be provided, or create your own memories! If you would like to mentor a youth or if you have children that would like a mentor, please contact Orlena Moyer at 308-289-3867 or [orlenamoyer@hotmail.com](mailto:orlenamoyer@hotmail.com); or Sharon Rees at 308-293-6279 or [sharonrees64@gmail.com](mailto:sharonrees64@gmail.com).

## 2018 PER CAPITA

Our per capita is \$32.00 per member for 2018. This money goes to offset the administrative cost for the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly which supports Presbyterian programs, missions, and ministries.

## POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS 2017

**Jon & Leslie Abegglen** in honor of Chet Wallace and in memory of Paul and Polly Abegglen  
**Kit Alff** in memory of Norman Alff and Esther & Warner Mallory  
**Bob & Georgia Byrn** in memory of lives lost in disasters (natural or man-made)  
**Kathy & Wayne Gappa** in honor of our children and grandchildren  
**Sue Hankins** in memory of Carolyne Sammons and Betty & Eldon Spray  
**John & Barb Icenogle** in memory of Dayton & Ruth Rollins and Tom & Betty Icenogle  
**Jean Johnson** in memory of Thurston & Leona Nelson and Gary G. Johnson  
**Mary Kulhanek** in honor of my church family  
**Betty Lewis-Fisher** to memory of Dewaine Fisher  
**Memorial Committee** in memory of Jean Henke  
**Memorial Committee** in memory of Alan Oldfather  
**Memorial Committee** in memory of Dick Swett  
**Clayton & Orlena Moyer** in memory of Jessica Dorn  
**Charles & Beverly Pickens** in memory of Jill Pickens Lindsay and Matt Lindsay  
**Earl & JoAnn Rademacher** in honor of our family  
**Emily State** in honor of our 3 girls and their families and in memory of Doug State  
**Barbara Stevenson** in memory of David Stevenson  
**Mary Strayer** in memory of Leone Merchen  
**Sharon Swett** in memory of Dick Swett  
**Mike & Angie Vollmer** in memory of Joyce Vollmer and Mike Riley  
**George & Charlotte Wence** in memory of Gary Fred Wence  
**Gayle Woodruff** in memory of Wilma Woodruff

*Merry Christmas!*

*from First Presbyterian Church of Kearney*

## For Our Prayers

### Our Members:

Alma Gaeth	Steve Rothenberger
Beverly Kimball	Cecil Smith
Jim Rohrer	

### Our Friends of the Church:

Dorrie Alff (mother of Kit Alff)	Cindy Malone (daughter of Vi Pimper)
Jim Deupree (brother of Bev Gustafson)	Judy Tracy (friend of Mary Kulhanek)
Adam Krause (nephew of Clayton Moyer)	Jennifer Weems
Cynthia Lorenz (friend of Robin Bowers)	
Jeff Engdahl (friend of Jean & Cynthe Johnson)	
Jacob Hartman (friend of Gordon & Mary Jo Morrow)	
David & Holly Hild (son & daughter-in-law of Jack & Pat Hild)	
Amy McCrary (niece of Earl & Jo Rademacher)	
Sydney & Naomi Okoye (friends of Rose Miller)	
David Repsher (son of Marilyn Repsher & Dave Raymond; friends of John & Shirley McCammond)	
Kurt Siedschlaw (father of Sara Sup's daughter-in-law)	

### Our Loved Ones In Service To Our Country:

Brian Adams—Army	Reece Nicol— Air Force
Danelle Nelson—ANG	Ryan Rowher—Army
David Hild—Guard	Greg Stevens—Marines
Kristin Lindenstien-Shnell—Air Force	Linda Youberg—Navy

### Our Presbytery and the Wider Church:

Buffalo Grove Presbyterian Church	Dave Irwin serving Orleans
Jouman, Erbil Province, Iraq	

**Please help our Church office keep our prayer list current.**

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

## FLOWER CHART

The new 2018 Flower Chart will be up soon on the bulletin board by the church office. January 2018 flower signups are available on the current 2017 flower chart. 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! A \$30 donation to help offset the cost of the 2 flower bouquets for each Sunday is greatly appreciated. January 28th date is still available.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**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 at 234-4543 so that we may arrange transportation for you.

**If you would like a CD recorded copy** of the Sunday Worship Service, please call the church office at 234-4543. You may also listen to the sermon on the church's website, [www.fpckearney.org](http://www.fpckearney.org).

**Weather Cancellation Policy.** In the event of a weather cancellation of church services or activities, you will receive a phone call with specific information. If Kearney Public School events are cancelled due to inclement weather, church events will also be cancelled.

**Like FPC On Facebook.** Don't forget to "Like" us on Facebook! You can go to: <https://www.facebook.com/FirstPresKearney> or search for First Presbyterian Church, Kearney, Nebraska.

**Mission of Change.** The Kearney Area Habitat for Humanity is the recipient of the Mission of Change donations collected in November and December. Habitat for Humanity builds homes so all people can live in decent, durable shelter. Please keep donating all your coins (not just dimes). You **must include your name** with the coin total amount if you want your donation to be listed on your statement of giving.

**Equal Exchange Products.** Check out the Equal Exchange Products available in the church office – *Coffee* (Regular, Decaf, and Flavored), *Tea* (Breakfast, Chai, Decaf Rooibos), and *Hot Cocoa*. Why not consider giving a gift of Fair Trade products?

**Save Best Choice Barcode UPC Labels For Cash.** Please save your *Best Choice* barcodes (UPC symbol) and bring them to the church where a collection box is located in the church office. *Best Choice* products are available at Grand Central Apple Market.

**Save General Mills Box Tops For Education And Campbell's Labels For Education.** The Out-Reach Committee would like you to know that the Menaul School in Albuquerque, New Mexico, is collecting General Mills Box Tops for Education and Campbell's Labels for Education (UPC product code and Labels for Education coupons). This program helps them "buy" classroom supplies. Please put your Box Tops and Campbell's labels in the Best Choice collection box in the church office.

**2018 Offering Envelopes.** Your 2018 stewardship envelopes for your pledges are available in the Narthex. Please contact Rose in the church office if you don't find a set of envelopes for you.

## **THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

### **Sunday, December 17**

9:15 am	Adult Sunday School	Classrooms
9:30 am	Youth Sunday School	Classrooms
10:30 am	Worship Service	Sanctuary
Following Service	Coffee Fellowship	Family Life Center
12:00 pm	Youth Group	Youth Room

### **Monday, December 18**

7:00 pm	SIS Study Group	Classroom
---------	-----------------	-----------

### **Tuesday, December 19**

3:30 pm	ARC TOPS Class	Classroom
5:30 pm	Preschool Christmas Program	Sanctuary/FLC
7:00 pm	<b><i>SESSION MEETING</i></b>	Classroom

### **Wednesday, December 20**

7:30 am	Men's Bible Study	Family Life Center
2:00 pm	Martha Circle Bible Study	Classroom
7:00 pm	Chancel Choir Practice	Sanctuary

### **Friday, December 22**

4:00 pm	ARC Relationship Class	Classroom
---------	------------------------	-----------

### **Sunday, December 24**

9:15 am	Adult Sunday School	Classrooms
10:30 am	Worship	Sanctuary
Following Service	Coffee Fellowship	Family Life Center
7:00 pm	Christmas Eve Worship Service	Sanctuary

### **Monday, December 25, 2017-Monday, January 1, 2018**

**Church Office Closed for Holidays**