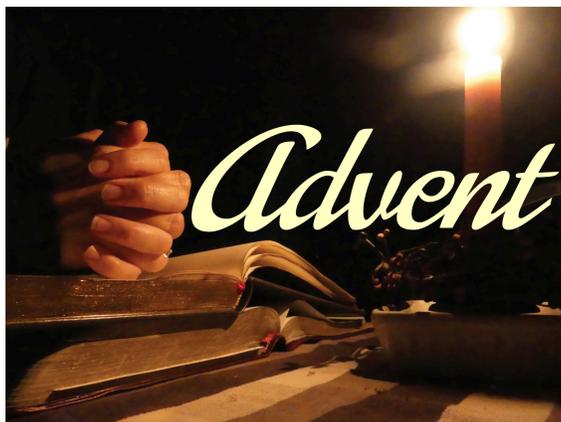


# Presbyterian

December 2022



The more times I go through the church year—planning, preparing, and preaching—the more I fall in love with the Season of Advent. Part of it is that it’s a season of the church year we often neglect. The society around us jumps from Halloween to the Christmas celebrations, though perhaps there’s a short reprieve for Thanksgiving, but there’s very little talk of Advent. Yet Advent serves a great purpose in the church year and has within its own beauty.

For Advent is a season of waiting, preparing, and serving. It brings with it a tone of suspense, anticipation, and expectation as we prepare for the coming of our Savior. Advent also invites us to live in the tension of waiting for the One who has already come. For the “season of Advent emphasize[s] both our remembrance of the past and our hope for the future. In Advent, the beginning and end times meet... We live between... our prayer for the future coming of the Lord and... our belief that the Lord has come as God’s ultimate acting history. In Advent we expectantly wait for the One who has already come” (*The Companion to the Book of Common Worship*, ed. Peter C. Bower, Geneva Press, Louisville, KY. 2003. 96). It’s this tension that makes me love Advent even more.

It’s a reminder of the struggle of faith. We believe and trust the reign of Christ, that God has already resolved all iniquities and injustice. At the same time, we look around the world and continue to see struggle, inequality, and injustice. So, we pray for Jesus to come. For the kingdom of God to be made manifest. And in the season of Advent, we are able to express that longing and that prayer. During Advent “we raise our heads, look up, and see that Christ’s redemption is near. We do not know when, but we watch, pray, prepare, and gladly expect the coming of the Lord. Christ has come! Christ is risen! Christ will come again! During Advent, therefore, our eyes are focused on God’s future promised in Jesus Christ. At Christmas, we rejoice that it has arrived” (Ibid., 98).

So, as we begin this Advent season, I hope you fall in love with it as I have. Fall in love with the tension and the challenge and the struggle. Fall in love with the assurance that Christ is coming even as we watch and wait and prepare. And remember that all seasons of our lives, not just the Advent season, are lived in this tension – our remembrance of the past and hope for the future. So, as we pray for the future coming of the Lord let us also rest in the assurance and belief that the Lord has already come. Thanks be to God!

Grace and Peace,

*Pastor Jessica*



# DECEMBER 2022



## December 4

Usher: Zach & Michelle Morgan  
Liturgist: Ken Pangburn

## December 11

Usher: Angie Mullen  
Liturgist: Randy Olive

## December 18

Ushers: Megan Boswell  
Liturgist: Ashton Boswell

## December 25

Ushers: Randy & Shirley Olive  
Liturgist: Sue Selby

## January 1, 2023

Ushers: Pete and Kim Brantner

## January 8

Usher: Ann Myers  
Liturgist: Doug Leonard

## January 15

Usher: Doug Leonard  
Liturgist: Megan Boswell

## January 22

Ushers: Ken & Kathy Pangburn  
Liturgist: Betsy Akin

## January 29

Usher: Cindy Peterson  
Liturgist: Ken Pangburn

Joyce Pangburn  
LeAnn Morris  
Eleanor McManis  
Linda England  
Diane Badgett  
Phil Morris  
Lillie Oglesbee  
Zach Morgan  
Scott Wilson  
Morris Boswell  
Nova Boswell  
Ollie Morgan

December 3  
December 5  
December 7  
December 11  
December 12  
December 12  
December 17  
December 18  
December 23  
December 25  
December 29  
December 31

We ask for your help in keeping the birthday and prayer lists current.

If you have any changes or additions, please let us know.

You are encouraged to ask a child to help you with ushering duties, such as handing out bulletins and collecting the offering. They are happy and eager to help.

*Family of Kristi Cadwell  
Family of Theresa Cruise  
Family of Theresa Johnston  
Dave and Kim Walter  
Jerith Shaw  
Kevin and Nicci Tucker  
Elaine Cosset Monforton  
Jackie Butcher  
Marvin Smith  
Nita Romer  
Doug Butcher  
Gwen Pottorff  
Nancy Turner  
Terry Robison  
Irma Fuller*

*Chris Fannon and Josie  
Connie and Charlie Spurgeon  
Roberta Todd  
Cindy Peterson  
Norma Jean Mosman  
Janelle Wiese  
Sydney Hoerner  
Steve Sawyer  
Kimberly Wilson  
Dick Blazek  
All dealing with chronic pain  
All affected by severe weather  
All the caregivers*

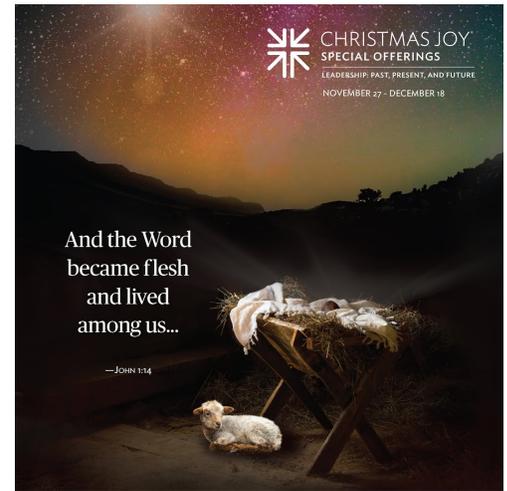


## Newsletter Deadline:

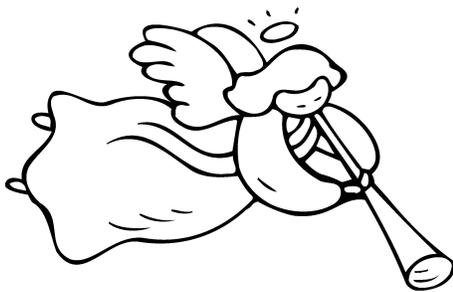
For the **January** newsletter, please submit all news and announcements by **Wednesday, December 15**. Thank you so much for your help in making sure we get information communicated to everyone.

## Christmas Joy Special Offering

We will be receiving the Christmas Joy Special Offering on Sunday, December 18th during worship. This special offering of the PC (U.S.A.) provides assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and helps develop our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Envelopes for this offering may be picked up in the church foyer.



## AC Christmas Angels



It is time once again to support our AC Christmas Angel Program. Christmas Angels is an interdenominational group of community members that reach out to individuals, families, and senior citizens in the Adams Community that may need extra help at Christmas time. Remember - if you are sponsoring a family **all gifts need to be returned to**

**the church, wrapped, by December 11th.**

If you would like to give a monetary donation, please feel free to send a check to: AC Christmas Angels; 710 Davis Avenue, Corning, Iowa 50841 or you can also put a check in the offering made out to the church and marked for AC Christmas Angels. Thank you so much for your generosity. If you have any questions, please let me know at 712-621-8650.

Nancy Turner, coordinator for First Presbyterian Church

October 2022 General Fund Checking Account	
Beginning Balance 09/30/22	\$1,742.27
Income	\$14,021.63
Expenses	\$13,192.56
Ending Balance 10/31/22	\$2,571.34



## Corning Tour of Churches

On Sunday, December 11th all of the Corning churches will be open for tours. This is an informal come and go event to allow the community to see the beautifully decorated churches and visit with some members.

The churches will be open from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Corning United Methodist  
901 Nodaway Street

Living for Christ Outreach  
1007 Nodaway Street

First Presbyterian Church  
907 Grove Avenue

Redeemer Lutheran Church  
800 17th Street

Grace Baptist Church  
1801 Quincy Street

St. Patrick Catholic Church  
504 Grove Avenue



## Calling all piano players!

This is your opportunity to play the grand piano in the church sanctuary during the Open House on Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. Whether you are currently taking lessons or have taken lessons we need volunteers to share their musical talents to provide some background music from 1:30-3:30 on the 11<sup>th</sup>. It can be Christmas music or hymns or other instrumentals, most likely 2-3

songs, 10-15 minutes, in a rotating manner. Maybe you have just one song you can play – that's fine. Maybe you have an entire songbook – great! The music will not be the center of attention, just something to fill the background for those who are visiting our church so please do not feel this is a performance as it is not. Missed flats, uneven timing are all acceptable. We will fill the time schedule in ½ hour increments and you will be playing 1-3 times during that time frame. So dust off that old song book and limber up your fingers to provide some musical soothing and enjoyment as we reflect on this advent season.



## A note from **Feed the Pack**

To the Presbyterian Church - Thank you for your generous donation to our Feed the Pack program.

We greatly appreciate your support over the past 3+ years. We have the greatest needs to fulfill this school year, so, thank you!  
Feed the Pack

Almost all of Paul's letters found in the Bible begin with a word of thanksgiving. To the Corinthians he writes, "I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus" (1:4). And to the Ephesians, "I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers" (1:15-16). As we reflect back on another Food Pantry Dinner, the Mission and Outreach Committee is giving thanks to our God for all of you!



From those of you who gave time throughout the week to help marinate the meat, prep the potatoes, cook the meat and potatoes, and then came Thursday night to serve to those of you who made dessert after dessert, for all of you we give thanks. From those of you who contributed financially to those of you who offered prayers, for all of you we give thanks. This Food Pantry Dinner is an act of faith as we trust God to provide the resources necessary to offer it every year and we trust that the people will come and that they will give. So, for this act of faith, we give you thanks.

By stepping out in faith, we served over 260 full dinners and an additional 20-30 dinners without meat. While donations are still trickling in, which means we don't yet have an official total, we are able to say that once again we have raised at least \$5,000 to donate to the MATURA Food Pantry.

So, thank you! Thank you for being faithful and offering your time, energy, money, and gifts to this ministry. The people of the community hear of your faith, see it in action, and give thanks.

## ***Comfy, Cozy Christmas***



This year, Christmas Day falls on Sunday. So, for worship that day we are celebrating Comfy, Cozy Christmas. Everyone is invited to come for worship at 10:00 a.m. for the reading of the Christmas story and the singing of carols. Feel free to come in your pajamas and be comfortable for this is Comfy, Cozy Christmas!

## ***Longest Night Service***

As we remember that the holidays are not a joyful time for everyone, we want to honor that for some this time of year is full of shadows, pain, and grief.

So, once again this year there will be a Longest Night Service which is designed to provide space for prayer, reflection, and remembrance in the midst of the holiday hustle and bustle. While it was originally designed to be a space for those who are grieving through the holidays, this service is for anyone who wishes for a time to pause and be still while the busyness of the holiday season swirls around us.



The service will be **Wednesday, December 21st at 7:00 p.m.**



Mark your calendars for Pastor Jessica's annual Epiphany Open House!

Saturday, January 7  
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

## Trip to El Salvador

The next trip to El Salvador for the SW Iowa Regional Partnership has been scheduled! We will be traveling Monday, January 23rd through Monday, January 30th. If you're interested in going, please talk with Pastor Jessica as soon as possible.



**DON JUSTO  
COFFEE  
WITH  
DIGNITY**



Remember that you can always order your El Salvadoran Don Justo Coffee to be delivered to the church. Order forms are available in the foyer and they are due to the church office on the first Sunday of every month. Get some great coffee and support our ministry with the people of El Salvador at the same time!

## *Be on the Lookout!*

The Wandering Wisemen will begin their journey on Sunday, November 27th and will be wandering around our community of faith this Advent and Christmas season. So, be on the lookout - you might be asked to host The Wandering Wisemen!

Follow our Facebook page to see periodic updates of their wanderings - [www.facebook.com/1stprescorning](http://www.facebook.com/1stprescorning).





First Presbyterian Church  
907 Grove Avenue  
Corning, Iowa 50841  
(Return Service Requested)

***Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM***

***2nd Sunday LIFT (Learning In Faith Together)***

***2nd Sunday of the Month 9:00 AM***

Follow us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/1stprescorning](http://www.facebook.com/1stprescorning)

See all the news on our Website: [www.1stprescorning.org](http://www.1stprescorning.org)

Session Members

Betsy Akin  
Jackie Butcher  
Doug Leonard

Avery Morgan  
Angie Mullen  
Ken Pangburn

Cindy Peterson  
Kurt Scott  
Nancy Turner

Rev. Jessica Paulsen

Home phone: 641-418-8143

Email:

[pastor@1stprescorning.org](mailto:pastor@1stprescorning.org)

Mission Statement

The First Presbyterian Church of Corning believes in the good news of the Gospel and will grow through and share the love, grace, and compassion of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Church Phone

641-322-4917

Email:

[office@1stprescorning.org](mailto:office@1stprescorning.org)