



# PRESBY PRESS

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
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WWW.OTTAWAFIRSTPRES.ORG

VOLUME 46 No. 11

DECEMBER 2022

## Come Worship Christ in Advent and Christmas!

**Nov. 27/**First Sunday of Advent: God's Renewing  
Promise

**Dec. 4/**Second Sunday of Advent: God's Renewing  
Power

**Dec. 11/**Third Sunday of Advent:

**Dec. 18/**Fourth Sunday of Advent: The JOY of music

**Dec. 24/**Christmas Eve: Candlelight Worship at 7:00pm

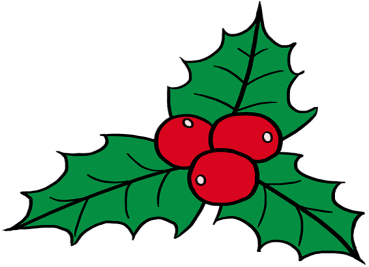
**Dec. 25/**Christmas Morning: Worship at 9:30 am

## For Your Personal Worship and Enrichment in Advent

Get a copy of "One Baby for the World" available on the table outside the office. The hardcover is \$20. Please get your payment into the envelope in Pastor John Walker's mailbox in the office. Cash, or checks made out to: Cup of Cold Water Ministries (CCWM) which receives 100% of the sales for its missions in Bolivia and Mongolia.

### **Remember to Pray for One Another!**

**Your First Presbyterian Church Family believes in the power of prayer.** (See Romans 1:9b-10a). You are invited to pray intentionally with, and for, one another on Sunday mornings, at 8:45 am, and Wednesday mornings, at 9 am, at FPC



## OUR MISSION

TO BE THE LOVING  
COMMUNITY OF  
JESUS CHRIST  
THAT WILL

## WIN

NEW FOLLOWERS  
OF CHRIST TO  
SAVING FAITH

## GROW

ALL FOLLOWERS  
TO DEEPER FAITH

## GO

INTO THE WORLD  
AND DEMON-  
STRATE FAITH

*Our Elders are  
committed to serving.*

**Ron Koestler**  
(Administration)

**Joy Huebner**  
(Administration)

**Mike Farrell**  
(Deacon/Trustee)

**Dan Duggan**  
(Trustee)

**Dan Mestelle**  
(Trustee)

**Gayle Schmitt**  
(Discipleship)

**Lisa Smithmeyer**  
(Discipleship)

**Casey Clemens**  
(Fellowship & Outreach)

**Julie Angus**  
(Fellowship & Outreach)

**Kerry Gerding**  
(Missions)

**Allen Gibbs**  
(Worship)

**Lori Trolinger**  
(Worship)

**Diane Farrell**  
(Clerk of Session)

## Christmas Carol

**By Sara Teasdale**

The kings they came from out of the south,  
All dressed in ermine fine;  
They bore Him gold and chrysolite,  
And gifts of precious wine.

The shepherds came from out the north,  
Their coats were brown and old;  
They brought Him little new-born lambs—  
They had not any gold.

The wise men came from out the east,  
And they were wrapped in white;  
The star that led them all the way  
Did glorify the night.

The angels came from heaven high,  
And they were clad with wings;  
And lo, they brought a joyful song  
The host of heaven sings.

The kings they knocked upon the door,  
The wise men entered in,  
The shepherds followed after them  
To hear the song begin

## **PRAYER IS POWERFUL. LET'S PRAY TOGETHER!**

We invite you to be a part of refreshing the PRAYER LIFE of our congregation! We know that the foundation of prayer is so important for anything we do. There is an opportunity each week to be a part of this important and special work of the church; **Wednesday mornings from 9-10 am.** Please come join us in the church library or by Zoom (ask Pastor John for the link). Come and see what great work God is waiting to do, as we thank, seek & ask Him in a weekly season of prayer together.

*Heavenly Father, Thank you, that we can come before you, our loving, powerful Father and ask for your help and guidance. Thank you for how you have blessed FPC these past 150 years. Will you please continue to pour out your blessings upon us? We ask for you protection and provision, for our church and leaders, as we enter this time of wanting to grow closer to you, and be your disciples. Please help our hearts to be open to what you want to teach us. Help us to see your love for us, and others all around us. Show us where we can be your hands and feet. Give us courage to speak out in love and kindness, in your Name, where we see need. Please heal those who are sick; comfort those whose hearts are hurting; provide for those in need; bless and protect our families; heal our nation and world. Jesus, thank you for your amazing gift of complete forgiveness, because of your obedience and sacrifice on the cross, on our behalf. Please help us to live with new awareness of the freedom we have been given, as your deeply loved sons and daughters. Help us to grasp and understand the rich PRIZE you have for us, and those all around us. Holy Spirit, please reveal yourself to us, guide, lead, and protect us.*

*In Jesus's Mighty Name,*

*Amen*

**Want more help with HOW to pray and for WHAT? See the daily Calendar for PRAYER on page 4.**



**PLEASE PRAY EACH DAY WITH US, FOR OUR COMMUNITY AND CHURCH**

1. Pray for Restoration and Revival <i>Psalm 80:19</i>	2. Pastor John and his family <i>Galatians 6:9</i>	3. FPC Staff <i>1 Corinthians 16:4</i>	4. Our Hurting World <i>John 3:16</i>	5. Public Schools & Opportunity School <i>Proverbs 22:6</i>	6. Shut-ins <i>James 1:27</i>
7. Community Meals <i>Matthew 25:37-40</i>	8. Worship <i>Psalm 86: 9- 10</i>	9. Hearts of Hurt- ing People <i>Psalm 34:18</i>	10. Session <i>Isaiah 41:10</i>	11. PADS Shelter & Homeless <i>Matthew 25:35-40</i>	12. Protection of the Congrega- tion <i>Ephesians 6:10-18</i>
13. Invite & Wel- come the Holy Spirit <i>Titus 3:4-7</i>	14. Choir & Music Team <i>Psalm 92:1</i>	15. LOL4JC & Sr. High Ministry <i>Proverbs 22:6</i>	16. Our Children <i>Matthew 19:14</i>	17. Pray for Missionaries Strength & Protection <i>Acts 1:8</i>	18. Riverside Women's Center <i>Luke 21:18-19</i>
19. Health of the Congregation <i>James 5:14</i>	20. Small Groups & Missional Communities <i>Hebrews 10:25</i>	21. Nation, State & Government <i>1 Timothy 2:1-4</i>	22. Z.O.N.E. <i>Matthew 19:14</i>	23. Our Seniors <i>Psalm 90:14</i>	24. Churches of Ottawa <i>Hebrews 10:24 -25</i>
25. Ottawa Mayor & City Counsel <i>1 timothy 2:1-4</i>	26. Leaders of Ministries <i>Hebrews 13:17-18</i>	27. Ottawa Community <i>Jeremiah 29:7</i>	28. Pray for those who are far from God <i>Luke 10:2</i>	29. Servant's Heart <i>Matthew 25:37-40</i>	30. Marseilles Community <i>Jeremiah 29:7</i>

## ***Sunday School Classes for All!***

***GROW all followers to deeper faith - Sunday School classes for all ages at FPC***

**The Bible ZONE is FPC's Sunday School ministry** for kids Pre-K to eighth grade. The word ZONE stands for “**Z**eal for God, **O**neeness in Relationships, **N**urture in God's Word, and **E**xercising our Faith, all of which are our goals. We have two groups, the younger ages (Pre-K to fifth grade), and sixth to eighth grade.

**The younger group meets Sunday mornings from 8:15 – 9 am in the East Room** (big playroom downstairs). We will be going through the New Testament using a giant felt board with very elaborate and colorful felt pieces to build each Bible lesson. We also spend some time memorizing scripture and catechism. There's usually time for a snack, plenty of paper and crayons/colored pencils for those who love to draw, and time to play. The curriculum is published by Veritas Press and “Through the Bible in Felt” by Betty Lukens.

**The older kids up through 8<sup>th</sup> grade meet after church, from 10:45 – 11:30 am in an upstairs Sunday School room.** We will continue to go through scripture in chronologic order. Our conversations are insightful, and it's such a joy to watch our young people grow up and learn about God's Word. The curriculum is by Veritas Press and includes reading scripture and talking about the concepts/ events that took place. It's always so much fun to hear everyone's perspective at such a formative age. If you have any questions, ask or call Susanne Gibbs at 304-633-7172

**Senior High kids meet at 10:45am in the classroom on the east end of the main floor.**

**Adult Bible Study meets in the library on Sunday, mornings at 11:00 am** after worship. This will be a hybrid class that also has a ZOOM connection for those who wish to participate remotely. Please contact Allen Gibbs, teacher (304-633-1069), for the Zoom link.



## **War Won't Stop Christmas in Ukraine**

**From Samaritan Purse's September newsletter:** Through our Operation Christmas Child project, Samaritan's Purse has been working in Ukraine since 1996 and has delivered 11.6 million shoebox gifts. We thank God that these children have had an opportunity to hear and respond to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

You might think it would be impossible to continue this ministry in a war zone, but our dedicated church partners have been unstoppable—reaching another 400,000 children through shoebox outreach events since the fighting began. This year, it's more important than ever to reach children who have been traumatized by all the bloodshed, blasts, and sirens. They need to know that God loves them and has not forgotten them.

Not only are churches working faithfully to hand out shoebox gifts, but they are also holding The Greatest Journey classes. This is the 12-lesson discipleship program that we offer to children who receive shoebox gifts. We thank God that the year before the fighting began, more than 125,000 children graduated from The Greatest Journey, receiving a Bible in their own language from Samaritan's Purse. Most importantly, we praise God for each one who prayed to receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.





## National Christmas Shoebox Collection Week is Nov. 14-21!

Go to [samaritanspurse.org/operation-Christmas-child](http://samaritanspurse.org/operation-Christmas-child) to find out how you can either make a shoebox to send by mail or take advantage of making an Operation Christmas Child box online. Unfortunately, there is NO drop-off site in Ottawa.

In addition to Ukraine, we are planning to send Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts to more than 100 countries around the world. Each and every gift is a powerful demonstration of God's love.

Please join us in praying for peace in Ukraine. May these children and their families find hope in the words the angels spoke over Bethlehem the night Jesus was born: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men" (Luke 2:14).







**FOR CHRISTMAS**

Poinsettias will be ordered by Worship committee to decorate the sanctuary. You may designate your flower be given to a shut-in, or you may take it home after the service on Christmas Eve.

Cost of the flowers will be \$13.50 each. Please include that with your order form. Place your order form in the offering plate or turn into the office by, **December 10**. If you have any questions please call Nathalie Schmidt (434-0175).

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Check# \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_

Number of flowers desired \_\_\_\_\_

Please CIRCLE AND FILL IN DESIGNATION

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

I would like my flower to go:

To a shut-in \_\_\_\_\_

I will pick up my flower \_\_\_\_\_

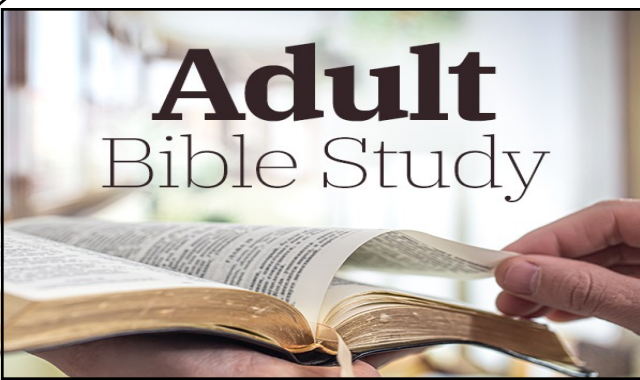
## Youth Christian Education

Younger children (pre-K to 5th grade) will meet at 8:15 am. in the East Room (basement level)

Older children and senior highs will meet in various rooms at 10:45 am.

6th to 8th grade (top floor classroom)

9th to 12th grade (main floor senior high room)



Adult Bible Study meets in the library on Sunday, mornings at 11:00 am after worship. This will be a hybrid class that also has a ZOOM connection for those who wish to participate remotely. Please contact Allen Gibbs, teacher (304-633-1069), for the Zoom link.

## **Education & Fellowship**



### DECEMBER

Sandy Finnegan	4
Lori Olson	4
Ben Dial	6
Bruce Smith	6
Karen Mikkelsen	6
Helen Tammen	11
Sawyer Booras	11
Timothy Gibbs	12
Betty Angus	18
Jax & Marek Zarwell	24
Anna Schmidt	26
Olivia Trolinger	28

### JANUARY

Jodi Martin	5
Keith Stevenson	5
Betty Ehret	12
Cathy Peters	21
Nathalie Schmidt	26
Debbie Walker	27
Diane Kennedy	28

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>8:15 a.m.-Bible Zone</p> <p>9:30 a.m.—In person and remote worship</p> <p>10:45 a.m.-Jr. &amp; Sr.High Sun. School 11:00 a.m.-Adult Sunday School in person or via Zoom 4:30 pm - Sr. High Ministry</p>			<p><u>EACH WEDNESDAY</u></p> <p>9:00 a.m.— Wednesday Prayer Team in person and by Zoom</p> <p>7 pm-Choir Practice</p>			
				1.	2.	3.
4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
<p>11.</p> <p>Christmas Flower Orders Due Today!</p>	12.	<p>13.</p> <p>7 pm-Committee Meetings</p>	14.	15.	16.	17.
<p>18.</p> <p>Christmas Music Sunday Session Meeting Noon—Community Meal</p>	19.	20.	21.	22.	23.	<p>24.</p> <p>7 pm-Christmas Eve Service</p>
<p>25.</p> <p>Christmas Day!</p>	26.	27.	28.	29.	30.	31.



**First Presbyterian Church**  
114 East Jefferson Street  
Ottawa, Illinois 61350  
Return Service Requested



### **NEW MEMBERS CLASS STARTING JANUARY 15, 2023**

New Members Class will begin Sunday, January 15, at 10:45 a.m. in Pastor John's study. This 3-week class will be offered for all who are interested in membership at First Presbyterian. Please call the church office to sign up or find out more (433-1045).



<i>* Advent Worship Schedule</i>	<i>pg. 1</i>	<i>* New Adult Bible Study</i>	<i>pg. 7</i>
<i>* Christmas Carol by Sara Teasdale</i>	<i>Pg. 2</i>	<i>* Operation Christmas Child</i>	<i>pg. 8</i>
<i>* Prayer is Powerful</i>	<i>pg. 3</i>	<i>* Christmas Flower Order Form</i>	<i>pg. 9</i>
<i>* Prayer Calendar</i>	<i>pg. 4</i>	<i>* Education &amp; Fellowship</i>	<i>pg. 10</i>
<i>* Classes for All</i>	<i>pg. 5</i>	<i>* December Calendar</i>	<i>pg. 11</i>
<i>* Christmas Shoebox for children in Ukraine</i>	<i>pg. 6</i>	<i>* Highlights of the Month</i>	<i>pg. 12</i>

**\* Refresh Your Prayer Life on Sunday & Wednesday Mornings**