



The Chimes

Volume 38 No. 12

First Presbyterian Church

December 2021



DECEMBER CALENDAR

December 5th at 7:00 p.m.

Bell Choir Concert, Merryman Center

December 19th at 10:30 a.m.

Nativity Play during Worship

December 19th at 4:00 p.m.

Christmas Caroling—meet at the Church to carol at the homes of our shut-ins

December 21st, 22nd, 23rd from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Candlelight Prayers and Meditations goes back to the days of churches left their doors open so that the community could come in and use the worship space for personal worship. It is a drop-in at your own pace event for those who want a few minutes of quiet during the rush of the season. Please invite your friends and neighbors.

December 24th at 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Service

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS BELL CELEBRATION

The annual Community Christmas Bell Celebration will be held at the Merryman Performing Arts Center, 225 West 22nd Street in Kearney on Sunday, December 5th at 7:00 p.m. Bell choirs from First Presbyterian, First United Methodist, First Lutheran and Holy Cross Lutheran Churches will participate. The program includes selections rung by the mass bell choir, individual church adult and youth bell choirs, and various small ensembles and solos. Following the concert, refreshments will be served.



The deadline for submissions to the January 2022 newsletter is December 15th. The editor reserves the right to edit for content and space. **Lori O'Brien, editor**

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR CLINT

Through this Advent and Christmas, we will be focusing on a simple question: “what does the incarnation mean for us, right here and now?” “Incarnation” is the word we use to talk about God taking on human form in the birth of Jesus. God taking up residence (in the words of John, God pitching a tent) among us is one of the deep mysteries of our faith.

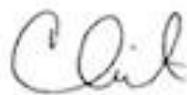
In the Old Testament, there was a tension that never really is resolved. In places like Psalm 24, we have the covenant God of Israel (the LORD in the Psalm, note the all caps) expressed in physical form coming into the gates of Jerusalem. The king sitting upon the throne of David was thought to be the expression of God as the king coming through the gates to sit in authority in David’s city, Jerusalem. In this way, God was present by proxy through the expression of the king.

And then during the reign of the most powerful king Rome would ever know, at a time when the hope of an actual descendent of David sitting on the throne of Israel was a fading dream, the whole idea of God in human form takes an unexpected twist. A child was born in the backwater of the Empire who was David’s descendent (two Gospel writers go out of their way to show us the links). He was the covenant God of the Old Testament taking up residence in flesh and blood. Emmanuel, “God with us” from the prophet Isaiah, suddenly takes on a fuller and very literal meaning.

The incarnation does not stop at Advent or Christmas. In the Old Testament and into the life of Jesus, God is among us in a very limited number of ways. God’s presence was experienced in Jesus of Nazareth, in the Holy of Holies of the Temple: special places and unique events. Then comes another unexpected twist at Pentecost: God, in the person of the Holy Spirit, takes up residence in the followers of Jesus. In the book of Acts, those followers performed the same signs and wonders that we associate with God in the Old Testament and with Jesus in the Gospels. They did those things because they were now an expression of God present in human form. God took up residence among us in Jesus, then God took up residence in Jesus followers through the gift of the Spirit. Suddenly, what was difficult to see in the Old Testament, God actually entering into Jerusalem and taking up the throne of David, takes place in time and in space.

So, this season, let us explore what it meant for God to come among us in Jesus of Nazareth. The idea of God dwelling among us is one of the profound mysteries of our faith. We also need to realize that whatever meaning the incarnation has for Advent and Christmas, it has for us here, now, and every day as well. Just as Jesus of Nazareth was God incarnate among us, our calling is to be vessels of God’s incarnation in our here and now.

Grace and Peace.
Pastor Clint



In Christian Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy to:
Earl and JoAnn Rademacher on the death of their sister-in-law, **Ellen K. Rademacher**, who died November 21, 2021, in Fort Collins, Colorado. Services will be held December 3rd.

December ANNIVERSARIES

December 1	Justin & Amber Diestler
December 7	Steve & Lori O'Brien
December 12	Steve & Carol Lentell
December 13	Reece & Hope Nicol
December 27	Craig & Sara Sup
	Earl & JoAnn Rademacher



December 2	Sara Sup
December 5	Barb Lewison
December 7	Cade Nicol
December 9	Max Shultheis
December 11	Kevin Badgley Janet Pickens
December 12	Kelsey Cobb Robertson
December 19	Charlotte Wence Fred Krause
December 15	Jarrett Johnston
December 18	Marc Regenos
December 20	Barbara Meyer
December 23	Kaiya Diestler
December 24	Barb Friskopp
December 26	John Icenogle Katherine Keifer-Lindsay
December 28	Connor Nonhof
December 31	Bob Wallace Rev. Nancy Tuma Shayne Donovan

If we have missed someone's birthday, please let us know.

THANK YOU FROM STEPHANIE

It is time for me to leave First Presbyterian. I am sorry this is coming so soon after my arrival, but I had an opportunity for a great full-time job in Minnesota. I will be living near a very good friend of mine and working at a nonprofit that helps disabled adults enjoy their lives. I will be an office administrator and overseeing the smooth operations of their work.

I have not only enjoyed my time at First Presbyterian, but I have been truly blessed by it. The adults and kids whom I have met will always be with me, and when I return to Kearney to visit family, I will visit the church!

Thank you for your kindness to me.

Stephanie Unick

The Church office will be closed all day on Christmas Eve and will close at Noon on New Year's Eve. Any 2021 contributions should be received in the office by Noon on December 31st to be recorded on your giving statement for the year.



Thank you for the flowers delivered to me from the church, and to those sent to me in memory of my sister. I enjoy listening to the church service on Zoom.

Suzie Hankins

Cathy and I want to thank you for your many expressions of encouragement and support through October's Pastor's Appreciation Month. We are deeply appreciative of both your words offered in a host of cards and letters, and your gifts (baked goods and meals out among other things, yum). It was encouraging to know that in a fairly chaotic year you took the time to let us know how our ministry in Kearney is impacting you. We look forward to all we will be able to share together in the coming years.

Pastor Clint

Dear First Presbyterian Church, Thank you for your \$100 donation to the Kearney Area Habitat for Humanity. We are accomplishing very much in our 2021 home building season. For the first time in our 28 years of building homes for and with God's people in need, we started the season with two foundations already in place! Your gift will help us buy materials for home number 89, 90, or 91 that volunteers and future homeowners are building.

We wish you endless blessings this new year and we thank you for being such a blessing to this Christian housing ministry.

***Blaine Drozd and Mel Wiens
Kearney Area Habitat for
Humanity Committee members***

*My dear church family,
Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers and for Paula Lytle for bringing them to me. I always enjoy Paula's visits so much. Also thank you for all my get well cards I received.*

Love, Vi Pimper

Thank you to Charlie and Bev Pickens for the flower bouquet Charlie delivered after my surgery, they are greatly appreciated and brought much joy to help with my recovery.

Blessings, Patricia Elliott

Dear Friends,

Thank you so very much for your contribution of \$1,002 in support of the Coats for Kids fundraising drive. Together, we provided coats for over 600 kids in need. Just think, instead of kids worrying about being cold this winter, kids will be able to focus on learning in school! Your donation will make a very real and tangible difference in the lives of many children while providing peace of mind for parents. We invite you to learn all the ways your gift is being utilized who you are helping, and how you can be involved with the United Way at www.uwka.org.

Thank you for your continued support. Your gift is inspiring! Thanks so much for your help.

***Sincerely, Nikki L. Erickson
Executive Director, United Way of Kearney***

Dear members,

Thank you so much for your generous donation of \$100. That helps us provide snacks and other necessities kids need. We greatly appreciate you!

***Sincerely,
Family Advocacy Network***

Thank you so much for the Meals on Wheels donation! We greatly appreciate your continued support. Our program would not be successful without your awesome group of volunteers!!

Thank you!

Micheala

Meals on Wheels

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

Greeters: (prefer 2 persons each Sunday)

December 5th—Janet Anderson

December 12th—

December 19th—Sara Sup

Liturgists:

December 5th—Lissa Woodruff

December 12th—Julia Tye

December 19th—Scott Matteson

Advent Candle Lighters:

December 5th—Barbara Stevenson

December 12th—Kili Diestler

December 19th—Earl & JoAnn Rademacher

December 24th—Cozier family

Meals On Wheels Volunteers

Rt 1. Fia and Phil Feese

Rt 2. Sue and Bob Wallace

Rt 3. John Icenogle and Jack Hild

Good news should be shared!

I recently made an exciting discovery! The Presbyterian Giving Catalog is packed with opportunities to make an impact with your holiday giving. Copies of the catalog are available in the office. Please consider joining me in honoring someone on your gift list with a donation to one of these worthy projects.

**Peace,
Julie Tye**



Bible Study for Women

Greetings to all of you. What a wonderful time of year again as we celebrate the coming of Jesus into our world. May we all remember in gratitude what God has done for us.

Thanks for your support of the Salvation Army. No doubt individuals and family will appreciate the generosity of each of us as we try to help them in their situation.

Our mission project for December is the Crossroads Center Rescue Mission. They need paper products, diapers, canned tuna, laundry soap and any non-perishable food. Please give as God enables you to give.

Our Christmas Tea will not be held this year because of the high numbers of Covid-19. We are sorry about that.

Dates in December

December 8 Introduction to Lesson 4 with Pastor Clint at 1:00 p.m. in the church classroom.

December 15 Circle meeting, 2:00 p.m. in the church classroom, Lesson 4.

“We need darkness to see the stars.”

Ben Shirley

**Peace and grace,
Annabelle Wells,
Martha Circle Moderator**



Session Notes

The Session met on November 16, 2021.

The following actions were taken:

1. Voted to allow Pastor Clint to rollover unused Continuing Education funds from 2021 into 2022.
2. Voted to move the December Session meeting to Friday, December 17, 2021, 6:00 p.m. at the Cozier home.
3. Approved the Expenditure Policy as presented from Finance and Memorials.
4. Accepted the resignation of Stephanie Unick.

SAVE YOUR FAMILY FRESH RECEIPTS

The Deacons are collecting Family Fresh Receipts. When we have collected \$150,000 worth of receipts, the company will give us \$1,000, which we can use toward a project. **We currently have \$51,000 in receipts!** Please drop off your receipts in the pink box just inside the front door. **We need the entire receipt** with the "Direct Your Dollars" portion that indicates the amount earned.



NEWS FROM THE MISSION IN MOTION COMMITTEE

Mission in Motion has once again chosen the Head Start Children for the last opportunity for giving this year. Head Start serves 80 children in Kearney ages 3-5 years. The families must qualify either by income (being at the 100% poverty level), being homeless, in foster care, or under guardianship. We are hoping to make the holidays a little brighter by providing a gift for each child to have this holiday season. **If you can, bring an unwrapped gift to the church for a boy or girl by Sunday, December 12th.** Gift ideas include but are not limited to: trucks, trains, baby dolls, Barbie dolls, Play-doh toys, Matchbox cars, dinosaurs, books, and animal figures.

We are also accepting monetary donations that will be used to purchase gifts for the children. We are extremely grateful for the generosity of our church family and hope to spread a little love and generosity to others this Christmas season.

Thank you from your MIM Team



SAVE YOUR BEST CHOICE UPC CODES Please save your UPC codes from Best Choice products (available at Apple Market and Boogaarts). When we collect 1,000 UPC codes, the company will send us \$30. **We currently have 923 labels, so we are 77 from our goal!** The collection box is in the church office, or you can put them in an envelope and leave them on the table inside the front door of the church. Thank you!



Congratulations to our Middle School Honor Roll students! Middle School Honor Roll is calculated each term for 6th, 7th and 8th graders using all classes. Honor Roll students are recognized at two levels:

Principal's Honor Roll - Students earning an "A" in EVERY class for the term.
 Honor Roll - Students earning a Grade Point Average of 3.0 and above.

**Sunrise Middle School
 Term 1 Honor Roll Students
 Principal's All "A" Honor Roll**

6th Grade: Fulton Moyer
 Jaxson Florez
 Connor Nonhof

7th Grade: Miranda Wright

**Horizon Middle School
 Term 1 Honor Roll Students
 Principal's All "A" Honor Roll**

6th Grade: Keagan Miller

Honor Roll

8th Grade: Kili Diestler

PUZZLE

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Q
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T

What's in a name?

An angel told Joseph what to name Mary's baby. Solve the puzzle to discover the name's meaning.

Directions: Begin at the circled H below and follow the arrows. Circle every other letter, and then place them in order to complete Matthew 1:21.

"S_e w_ll __ve b ir__
 to _ s_n, and __u a_e to
 gi_e _i_ the __me J__us,
 b_c_u__ he _ill s_e his
 __op_e f_o_ t__ir s_n_."

MATTHEW 1:21, NIV

← ← **START HERE** ←

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A I N G F I P **H** S C I B E J H A

Answer: "She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21, NIV

First Presbyterian Church
4511 6th Avenue
Kearney, NE 68845

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

10:30 am Worship Service

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday

8:30 am to Noon, 1:00 – 3:30 pm

Minister: Every Member of this Church

Clint Cozier, Pastor

Lori O'Brien, Administrative Secretary/Bookkeeper

Barb Lewison, Custodian

Sandy McKirahan, Music Director

Clayton Moyer, Chancel Choir Director

Angela Wright, Bell Choir Director

Connie Moon & Susan Wallace, Organists

Susan Wallace & Beth Mattingly, Choir Accompanists

Mychaela Fegter, Nursery Attendant

Hewitt Moyer, Sunday morning audio and Facebook Live producer

Cathy Cozier, Sunday morning Zoom producer

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