

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Schaller, Iowa 10:00 A. M.
January 7, 2024 First Sunday after Epiphany
Rev. Duane Queen

PRELUDE Janice Ploeger, Organist

CANDLELIGHTING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Elder

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Elder: The wise ones heard the call of God and set out in search of love. The voice of God is the voice of love.

People: **We hear love calling us to follow and serve.**

Elder: The Magi traveled in the night air trusting in God's promised hope. The promise of God brings the fragrance of hope.

People: **We catch the scent of hope for tomorrow's challenges.**

Elder: The three kings sacrificed their riches to find fulfillment for their souls. Only the peace of God satisfies our hungry spirits.

People: **We welcome God's touch and reach out in joy.**

Elder: The star gazers traveled with eyes of faith. God's guiding light fills the darkest night.

People: **We open our eyes to God's gift of light.**

Elder: All who would seek and find the Christ child must follow in faith trusting God more than senses.

People: **Like wise men of old, we, too, find the Christ and carry His light into the world.**

*HYMN "We Three Kings" #166

INVOCATION (Please be seated) Pastor

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON) Elder

Gracious God, You give us gifts and we ignore them, or boast of them. You give others gifts and we ignore them, or resent them. You give us Yourself – God as Christmas truly present, and we look around for the return receipt. O God we confess how often we misuse Your amazing generosity. (Time of silent prayer) Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (UNISON) Pastor

Forgiveness is the greatest gift – it does not need to be exchanged and it does not wear out. We do not grow tired of it. It reveals God's love all the year long.

*GLORIA PATRI #623

SCRIPTURE LESSON

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6 Pastor

"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. "Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the hip. Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come. Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the LORD.

Leader: The Word of the Lord:
People: Thanks be to God.

PEOPLE WHO CARE

Who: 100 People Who Care Sac County

What: January Meeting

Where: Early United Methodist Church, 402 Hickory St

When: Sunday, January 14, 2023, at 4:00 pm

Please consider making a difference for charities and non-profits serving Sac County by becoming part of 100 People Who Care Sac County. Together our donations are awarded to the charity or non-profit selected by the members.



A BIG ROUND OF APPLAUSE!

THANK YOUS!

A big thank you to those who helped with the tags for the Giving Tree and Share The Warmth Snowman this year. This helped many local children.

Thank you to everyone who donated poinsettia plants to decorate the church for advent and Christmas. What a beautiful way to honor the memory of loved ones.

Thanks to everyone who helped decorate the church for Christmas, the bulletin boards in the Narthex and Foyer, and the families who did the readings and lighting of the advent candles.

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written: ““But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.”” Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.” After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

CHILDRENS TIME

HYMN “The First Noel” #136

SERMON “When We, Like Them, Become Wise”

***APOSTLE’S CREED**

NEW JOYS & CONCERNS:

The Darold Jacobson Family
Aaron & Sarah Jacobson and family

CONTINUING JOYS AND CONCERNS:

Our Pastor
Our Church
Our School
Purple Gang
Doug O'Bannon & Family
Shari O'Bannon
Joyce Deloach
The Raven Dumones family
Betty & Harlan Roeder
Willie Lang
Randy Leask
Joan Martin
Shelly Fenner (Phil & Sue Diersen's daughter)
Denny Miller
Steve Schaefer
Carol Swanson Poston (has walking boot)
Karla Hustedt and her family
Ken Fells Jr.
Dennis Pfrimmer & Family
George & Darlene Franzkowiak
Carol Wendel
Mark Diersen
Dexter Meseck
Malia Meyer

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Prayers of Intercession
The Lord's Prayer
Congregational Response #421 (Verse 1)

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY
*DOXOLOGY #625
*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN "Joy to the World" #125

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION SONG "Freely, Freely" (V. 1) #447

*EXTINGUISHING OF CANDLES

*POSTLUDE

(*Those who are able please stand.)
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2024 PER CAPITA

2024 Per Capita amount is \$53.95. It is a very important way we can contribute to the operation and mission of the Presbyterian Church. Session encourages all members to contribute. Please mark your check "Per Capita".

Elder for January 7th: Julie Langner

Elder for January 14th: Mark McDonough

ANNOUNCEMENTS

January 2024

07 Sunday (Rev. Duane Queen will be filling the Pulpit)

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE TO DENISE

NO Sunday School Classes

10:00 am In-Person Worship in Sanctuary
(Masks are optional)

10 Wednesday

6:00 pm Ladies Bible Study

14 Sunday

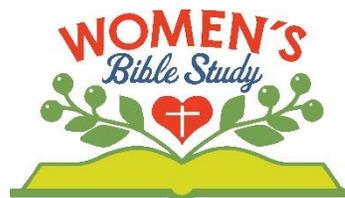
9:00 am Sunday School Classes
9:00 am Confirmation Class
10:00 am In-Person Worship in Sanctuary
(Masks are optional)
11:00 am Congregational Meeting following
worship services

15 Monday

7:00 pm Session Meeting

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a congregational meeting on January 14th which will serve as the annual meeting. There is a snow date of January 21st. We will approve terms of call, elect officers, and discuss reports from last year. The budget will be discussed as an information item.



invited!

NEW LADIES BIBLE STUDY

Ladies Bible Study "Developing Inner Strength". We will be meeting for lesson #1 on Wednesday, January 10th at 6:00 pm. All are

MAILING ADDRESSES

Bonnie Currie (New Address)

(Wakefield Health Care Center, 306 Ash Street, Wakefield, NE 68784

Brett Currie

4327 Nakoma Rd, Apt 333 Madison, WI 53711

Shane Reimers

2015 Strawberry Lane, Sioux City, IA 51104

Wanda Jeppeson (Methodist Manor)

BIRTHDAY WISHES:

Brett Currie (Jan. 12th)

Dylan Johannsen (Jan. 15th)

Dan Bailey (Jan. 23rd)

Bonnie Currie (Jan. 27th)

Carolyn Young (Jan. 28th)

Denise King (Jan. 28th)

Shane Reimers (Jan. 30th)

ANNIVERSARY WISHES:

Melvin & Dorothy Ploeger (Jan. 26th)

“The Wise Men”

Oh, we have learnt to peer and pore
On tortured puzzles from our youth,
We know all labyrinthine lore,
We are the three wise men of yore,
And we know all things but the truth. ...

Go humbly, humble are the skies,
And low and large and fierce the star;
So very near the manger lies
That we may travel far.

Hark! Laughter like a lion wakes
To roar to the resounding plain.
And the whole heaven shouts and shakes,
For God himself is born again. ...

—G.K. Chesterton

A prayer for new beginnings

In his book *Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth* (Fortress Press),
Walter Brueggemann writes in an Epiphany poem:

... this is a time to be born.
So we turn to you, God of our life
God of all our years,
God of our beginning....
We dare pray that you will do for us
and among us and through us
what is needful for our newness.
Give us the power to be receptive,
to take the newness you give
There is a time to be born, and it is now.
We sense the pangs and groans of your newness.
Come here now in the name of Jesus. Amen.

How fitting that the Epiphany season and the new year coincide!
Epiphany reveals a new King, the beginning of his ministry, his
new disciples, his first healings, his “new teaching — with
authority” (Mark 1:27). We, too, experience newness, now and
year-round. But newness can be tough. So we trust that God,
who “[makes] all things new” while banishing “mourning and
crying and pain” (Revelation 21:4-5), walks with us in this new
year — and always.

