

Welcome to Faith Presbyterian Church!

Sunday, December 22, 2024



Worship Schedule

Sunday:

10:00 am: Worship-Sanctuary

Wednesday:

7:00 pm: Worship on Wednesday
(held virtually via Zoom)

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Friday: 8:00 am – Noon

Can't make it to today's worship? Visit the church website to watch today's service: www.crfaitth.org

Email: crfaitth@crfaitth.org

Phone: (319) 377-4360

Address:

715 38th St. SE

Cedar Rapids, IA 52403

• Today's Scripture •

Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent. The Scripture readings are Luke 1:26-38 and Matthew 1:18-2 with the sermon titled "Willing Participation."

Worship is...

Joyful. Spirit-filled. Thoughtful. Welcoming.

Parking: Additional street parking is available, plus you can also park in the Dental Center parking lot to the south.

Restrooms: Located next to the church office as you come in from the parking lot on the west end of the building.

Large print hymnals (words only): Available on the back table.

Hearing assistance devices are available: Ask an usher.

Questions? Please feel free to ask an usher for assistance!



"Like" the church page on Facebook! Just search for "Faith Presbyterian Church."

Connection Card

In your bulletin is a green connection card. We ask that you complete the card and drop it in the offering plate. If you have a specific person, group, or event for which you'd like us to join with you in prayer, place this prayer request on the back of the connection card. This can be for a concern in your life or your health, or for a concern you have for someone else, or for a joyous event.

Welcome to Faith Presbyterian! Connection Card

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Best Contact Phone: _____
Email: _____
 Check if changes in contact information
If 1st- or 2nd-time guest, how did you hear about the church?
 Church website Church member Event Facebook
 Other: _____
Are you a: 1st-time guest 2nd-time guest Member/regular attendee
(Over)

Order of Worship – December 22, 2024

Gather to Worship God -----

Prelude

“Breath of Heaven”

(Worship is our response to the goodness of God. We are blessed to be called together, by God, to offer our praise & bring our joys & concerns, leaving renewed in spirit & eager to go & live our faith.)

The Welcome & Announcements

Lighting the 3rd Advent Candle

The Candle of Joy – Steve & Lynda Nelson

The Scripture

Luke 1:26-38

Special Music

“Ave Maria” – Terri Schiller

*(*We invite you to please stand if you are able.)*

*The Call to Worship (I Peter 1:10-16)

Leader: The prophets who told us this was coming asked a lot of questions about this gift of life God was preparing. The Messiah’s Spirit let them in on some of it – that the Messiah would experience suffering, followed by glory. They clamored to know who and when. All they were told was that they were serving you, you who by orders from heaven have now heard for yourselves – through the Holy Spirit – the Message of those prophecies fulfilled. Do you realize how fortunate you are? Angels would have given anything to be in on this!

All: So roll up your sleeves, get your head in the game, be totally ready to receive the gift that’s coming when Jesus arrives. Don’t lazily slip back into those old grooves of evil, doing just what you feel like doing. You didn’t know any better then; you do now. As obedient children, let yourselves be pulled into a way of life shaped by God’s life, a life energetic and blazing with holiness. God said, “I am holy; you be holy.”

*The Hymn of Praise #98

“To a Maid Whose Name was Mary”

*The Unison Prayer of Confession

All: Oh Loving God, we give thanks to hear the Good News that you have chosen to love us. We confess, it is because of your unmatched mercy that we are granted the miracle of Christmas. This season points to your goodness and love and requires that we examine our attitude and behavior in the goal of imitating the grace you so freely give us. Show us how we can embody the message of Christmas; God coming to be “with us.” Because we know you, may all we know see the power of your love. We offer our prayers in the name of Jesus as we continue to pray in silence...

*Words of Assurance (I Peter 1:3-5 – The Message Translation)

Leader: What a God we have! And how fortunate we are to have him, this Father of our Master Jesus! Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we’ve been given a brand new life and have everything to live for, including a future in heaven – and the future starts now! God is keeping careful watch over us and the future. The day is coming when you’ll have it all – life healed and whole. **Amen.**

***The Prayer Response #519**

“You Are My Strength When I Am Weak”

All: You are my strength when I am weak; you are the treasure that I seek; you are my all in all. When I fall down, you pick me up; when I am dry, you fill my cup; you are my all in all. Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name! Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name!

***Passing the Peace**

Lighting the 4th Advent Candle

The Candle of Love – *Ken & Katheryn Reed*

The Scripture

Matthew 1:18-2

Special Music

“Love Has Come” – *Margaret Morey*

Listening to God’s Word -----

The Prayer for Illumination

The Congregational Response

All: Open our eyes, Lord. We want to see Jesus, to reach out and touch him, and say that we love him. Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen. Open our eyes, Lord. We want to see Jesus.

The Message

“Willing Participation” – Rev. Dr. Dennis Morey

Responding to God’s Word -----

Hymn of Response #69

“Here I am, Lord” (*verses 1 & 3*)

Sharing Joys & Concerns in Prayer

If you have a special request you’d like to share with the prayer chain, please use the green connection card and place it in the offering plate.

Lord’s Prayer

All: 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.

The Prayer Response #469

All: Lord, listen to your children praying. Lord, send your Spirit in this place. Lord, listen to your children praying. Send us love; send us power; send us grace.

The Minute for Mission

Christmas Joy Offering – Bess Naujoks

The Call to Dedication (*Matthew 6:1, 2 & 4 – The Message Translation*)

Leader: Jesus said, “Be especially careful when you are trying to be good so that you don’t make a performance out of it. It might be good theater, but the God who made you won’t be applauding. When you do something for someone else, don’t call attention to yourself. When you help someone out, don’t think about how it looks. Just do it – quietly and unobtrusively. That is the way your God, who conceived you in love, working behind the scenes, helps you out.”

The Offertory

“Silent Night”

***Congregational Response #606**

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

All: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

All: Holy God, you are the giver of every good and perfect gift. We bow before you to worship, bringing our tithes and offerings. We dedicate the Christmas Joy offering to be used for the assistance of church workers and the education of minorities. Show us how we may support what you are doing in the world around us as you continue to share your love. We give in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Going Out to Serve -----

***The Closing Hymn #100**

“My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Sound”

***The Closing Prayer & Benediction**

Postlude

“Mary, Did You Know?”

Announcements for the Week of December 22

Lead Usher:

Bess Naujoks

Lay Leader:

Darlene Worden

Thanks to Mike & Audra Larimer and Steve & Lynda Nelson for providing fellowship this morning! JoAnn Williams and Judy Brown will provide fellowship next Sunday, December 29th.

If you wish to support the staff Christmas gift, please give it to Bess Naujoks or place it in the offering plate (clearly designated). – *Don Worden, Personnel Chair*

Happy birthday to the following people celebrating their special day this week!

Tracy Barton - Dec 22
Nikki Ellerbach - Dec 23
Carl Barton - Dec 24
Linda Peterson - Dec 24

Casey Barber - Dec 25
Dan Gnade - Dec 28
Marlene Selzer - Dec 28

Weekly Calendar

Sunday:

9:00 AM: Bible Studies
10:00 AM: Worship-Sanctuary
4:00 PM: Sunday Evening Meals at First Pres.

Monday:

Office Hours: 8:30 am-4:30 pm

9:00 AM: Sewing Group-Fellowship Hall

Tuesday:

Church Office Closed
9:30 AM: Coffee & Conversation-Fellowship Hall
4:00 PM: Christmas Eve Worship-Sanctuary

Wednesday:

Merry Christmas!

Church Office Closed

Thursday:

Church Office Closed

6:00 PM: Worker Bees

Friday:

Church Office Closed

Saturday:

No Events Scheduled

Noisy Sunday – December 29th

Next Sunday, December 29th, is the fifth Sunday of the month, which means it is a Noisy Sunday. Our Noisy Sunday offering this month will go to the mission team’s emergency fund.

Upcoming Church Schedule

Tuesday, December 24: Christmas Eve worship at 4:00 pm
Tuesday, December 24 through Wednesday, January 1: Church office closed
Wednesday, January 8: Annual reports due

Stated Supply Pastor:

Rev. Dr. Dennis Morey
dennismorey1972@gmail.com
Cell Phone: 319-721-2714

Accounting Specialist:

Sandy Minger
s.minger@crfaith.org
Church Office: 319-377-4360

Communication Coordinator:

Michael Becker
m.becker@crfaith.org
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Music Accompanist:

Jill Laping