

Church Officers

2023	2022	2021
<u>Session Elders</u> Moderator: Matt Matthews		
Mary Gritten	Ken Chapman	Greg Cozad
Carol Miles	Celeste Kim	Ron Deering
Steve Tock	John Muirhead	Mark Schoeffmann
Tom Ulen	Ann Stout	Eric Stickels
<u>Community Mission Deacons</u>	Moderator: Sandy Carr	
Kathy Schoeffmann	Bruce Rainey	Sandy Carr
	Leslie Thomas	Richard “Itch” Jones
		Lola Ruthmansdorfer
<u>Congregational Care Deacons</u>	Moderators: Amy Born & Pam Knox	
Jean Brunson	Sue Fischer	Amy Born
Pam Knox	Mary Jane Kelley	Nancy MacGregor
Marge Olson	Buddy Selin	Jean Smith
		Julia & Tom Ulen

Church Staff

Pastor
Matt Matthews, Senior Pastor/Head of Staff

<u>Staff</u> George Almasi, Facility Assistant Ritchie Drennen, Facility Manager Robert Ferrer, Audio-visual Technician Marcia Franks, Administrative Assistant Joe Grant, Director of Music Rachel Matthews, Mission Coordinator/Parish Assoc. Blaise Pascal, CYF Connections Assistant Val Smith, ESL Director Mindy Watts-Ellis, Director Children, Youth, Family	Brendan Barker, Organist Patty Farthing, Receptionist Fred Foster, Evening Custodian Judi Geistlinger, Commissioned Lay Pastor Sam Haupt, Director Contemporary Band Samantha Nichols, Sunday School Coordinator Ann Petry, Accounting Libby Sternhagen, Bell Choir Director
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Office: 302 West Church, Champaign, IL 61820 ♦ 217.356.7238
info@firstpres.church ♦ Rev. Matt Matthews (matt@firstpres.church)
www.firstpres.church ♦ Facebook: fb.com/firstpreschampaign



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

December 12, 2021
Third Sunday of Advent Christmas Music Sunday



Welcome to First Presbyterian Church
Bienvenue à La Première Eglise Presbytérienne de Champaign
Bienvenidos a La Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana
삼페인 제일 장로교회에 오신것을 환영합니다.
Si vous souhaitez que le service soit traduit en français,
procurez-vous un récepteur et des écouteurs à l'arrière du sanctuaire.

Welcome to worship!

When you enter the sanctuary, please be mindful of the silent prayers of those around you.

We invite you to share your contact info in the Friendship Pad when passed.

*If you are visiting, please stop by the Welcome Center downstairs in Westminster Hall after the service, mingle with other friends and guests, and learn how this congregation can become your church home. **Welcome!***

We Gather Together In God’s Holy Name

God calls us together as “children.” Wonderful it is to be so loved! Our natural response is worship.

Prelude *Wachet Auf*

J.S. Bach

Chiming on the Hour of Tower Bell

Act of Friendship & Sharing of Prayer Concerns

Please pass the Friendship Pad and list prayer concerns on the prayer request cards in the pen.

Greeting & Announcements

Advent Candle Lighting

Eric and Kathy Stickels

❖**Call to Worship**

A voice calls out in the wilderness.

It sings of a home for all. It speaks of justice and peace.

We could choose to ignore it.

We could drown out that song. We could choose not to listen.

Instead, we come into this space.

We let the world grow quiet. We listen.

A voice calls out in the wilderness. Do you hear it?

We hear it. In listening, we worship.

Let us draw near to God.

❖**Hymn #106** *Prepare the Way, O Zion*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Expansive God,

We know that the church is your house, and your house has room for everyone. Yet, too often, instead of setting the table for our neighbors, we block the door.

Instead of welcoming all, we judge others by our own standards. Instead of sharing our second coat, we hide it in the attic, holding on to fear instead of letting go with love.

Remind us that your home is a home for all, that truth requires hard work, that truth requires uncomfortable justice. Help us to be bold enough to see it and brave enough to live it. With hope we pray, amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Family of faith, God sent prophets like John the Baptist to us because this work is not easy. Helping create a world where all might have a home, and all might be loved, and all might know peace, is an audacious goal. Fortunately for us, when we mess up – when we lose our way or forget our call – we are met with grace. God could not love us any more or any less than God already does.

So rest in this good news:

We are at home with God – forgiven, claimed and loved. The door is always open for us. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Passing of the Peace (*Waves not touches.*)

We Gather Around God’s Holy Name

At the center of Christian life and worship is God’s Word incarnate in Christ and God’s Word as recorded in scripture. We hear the story of God’s love in scripture and sacrament and we say, “Thanks be to God!”

Word with Children

Prayer for Illumination and The Lord’s Prayer

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 Proclamation of God’s Word

The Promise and Wonder

Scripture from *Zephaniah 3*

Sing aloud . . . the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more.

This is the Word of the Lord./**Thanks be to God!**

Ceci est la Parole du Seigneur./**Gloire à Dieu** (pronounced “glow-ah ah dew”)

Reflection

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent (French melody) arr. Gustav Holst
Congregation join in singing verse 3

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded for with blessing in his hand,
Christ our Lord to earth descendeth our full homage to demand.

King of Kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth He stood,
Lord of Lord, in human vesture in the Body and the Blood
He will give to all the faithful his own Self for heavenly food.

**Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way
As the light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day
That the powers of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.**

At His feet the six-winged seraph; cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the Presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,
Alleluia, Lord most High!

There Is No Rose of Such Virtue (medieval text) John Joubert
There is no rose of such virtue as is the rose that bare Jesu;
Alleluia.

For in this rose contained was heaven and earth in little space:
Resmiranda. (Latin-marvelous thing)

By that rose we may well see there be one God in Persons Three:
Pares forma. (Let us rejoice.)

Then leave we all this worldly mirth and follow we this joyous birth:
Transeamus. (Let us journey or go across.)

O Magnum Mysterium Tomas da Victoria
Oh great mystery and wondrous sacrament,
that animals should see the new-born Lord lying in their manger.
O Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was worthy to bear the Lord Jesus Christ.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

The Birth

Scripture from *Luke 2*
And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

This is the Word of the Lord./**Thanks be to God!**
Ceci est la Parole du Seignuer./**Gloire à Dieu** (pronounced “glow-ah ah dew”)

Reflection

❖*O Little Town of Bethlehem* Lewis H. Redner; arr. Hal Hopson

Congregation join in singing verses 2 and 4
O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above the deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

**For Christ is born of Mary and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth;
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.**

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming, but in the world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still the dear Christ enters in.

**O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel.**

While By My Sheep (17th c. melody) arr. Hugo Jüngst
While by my sheep I watched at night glad tidings brought an angel bright:
How great my joy! Praise we the Lord in heaven on high.

There shall be born, so he did say, in Bethlehem a Child today:
How great my joy! Praise we the Lord in heaven on high.

There shall He lie in manger mean, who shall redeem the world from sin:
How great my joy! Praise we the Lord in heaven on high.

Lord, evermore to be me nigh, then shall my heart be filled with joy!
How great my joy! Praise we the Lord in heaven on high.

Christ Was Born on Christmas Day (traditional German) arr. Alice Parker and Robert Shaw
Christ was born on Christmas Day, wreathe the holly, twine the bay;
Christus natus hodie; The Babe, the Son, the Holy One of Mary.

He is born to set us free, He is born our Lord to be,
Ex Maria Virgine, the God, the Lord, by all adored forever.

He came among us at Christmastide in Bethlehem;
Men shall bring Him from far and wide love’s diadem:
Jesu, Jesu, all the world this day is come to praise you.
Joseph dearest, Joseph mine, help me cradle the Child divine;
God reward thee and all that’s thine in Paradise.
So prays the Mother Mary.

Gladly, dear one, lady mine, help I cradle this Child of thine;
God’s own light on us both shall shine in Paradise.
As prays the mother Mary.

He came among us at Christmastide in Bethlehem;
Men shall bring Him from far and wide love’s diadem:
Jesu, Jesu, all the world this day is come to praise you.

Rejoice!

Scripture from *Philippians 4*
Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.

This is the Word of the Lord./**Thanks be to God!**
Ceci est la Parole du Seigneur./**Gloire à Dieu** (pronounced “glow-ah ah dew”)

Reflection

Hallelujah, Amen and Chorale (from motet, *Lob und Ehre und Weisheit und Dank*) Georg Wagner
Hallelujah, Amen

O Morning Star, how fair and bright!
You shine with God’s own truth and light, aglow with grace and mercy!
Of Jacob’s line, King David’s son,
our Lord and Savior, you have won our hearts to serve you only!
Lowly, holy! Great and glorious, rich in blessing!
Rule and might o’er all possessing!

Grateful people respond: The presentation of our tithes and offerings.

Gloria in Excelsis; Cum Sancto Spiritu (from cantata, *Gloria*) Antonio Vivaldi
Glory to God in the highest.
With the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

We Go Out In God’s Name

*Having gathered together in God’s name and been fed by God’s Holy Word,
we go out in God’s name bearing the peace of Christ to the world.*

❖**Hymn for Commitment #136** *Go Tell It On the Mountain* (refrain, verse 3, refrain)

❖**Charge and Benediction**

❖**Postlude** *Gelobet sei’st du, Jesu Christ* (*You may wish to be seated for the postlude.*) JS Bach

❖Please stand if able. Remain seated if need be.

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Choral and Instrumentalists

Chancel Choir – Joe Grant, Director

<u>Soprano</u>	<u>Alto</u>	<u>Tenor</u>	<u>Bass</u>
Kate Cole	Kim File	Jason Pandelidis*	Stephan Burdsall*
Jamille Lea*	Becky Grant	Dennis Sims	Jim Berger
Brandi Lowe	Ann Finnigan		Alan File
Karin Vermillion	Mary Nicholas		
	Alejandra Sandoval*		
	Linda Sims		
	Jeannie Snoeyink		

*Section Leaders

Instrumentalists

Oboe	Evan Tammen
Trumpet	Robin Heltsley
Violin	Ion-Alexandru Malaimare, Eun Namkung
Viola	YooBin Lee
Violoncello	Barbara Hedlund
Organ	Brendan Barker

Upper Room Ringers – Libby Sternhagen, Director

Carol Miles, Lizz Pippin, Andrew Schwenk

Worship

●We **welcome children** of all ages to worship. Childcare is available for children 4 years and younger in the education building 8:45 AM-12:15 PM. **Sunday School** will be held at 10:15 this morning.

●Liturgist this morning is **Sandy Carr**. Contact **Carol Miles** to serve as a liturgist. **Solange Mboyo Bosomba** will read our scripture in French today.

●**Rev. Dr. Rachel Matthews** will preach at this morning’s 10:15 AM service at the Windsor of Savoy.

●**Christmas poinsettias** will decorate our Sanctuary this coming holiday season. Poinsettias are \$17 per plant and can be given in honor or memory or someone. Include “poinsettia” on your check along with a note of who it is given for.

●Everyone **must wear a mask** indoors for safety.

●This morning’s **sermon** will be available on-line or on WDWS 1400AM next Sunday at 10:30 AM.

●**If unable to attend church**, catch our 9 AM service live each Sunday morning at firstpres.live

Connect

●**We are glad you’re here!** Questions about First Pres, contact **Pastor Matt** or call the church office. After the service, join us for conversation in Westminster Hall.

●Join us this morning and the remainder of **Advent** to prepare our hearts and minds for the birth of Christ. Let’s spend the season looking at the ordinary and glimpsing the divine. Discussion of *Advent in Plain Sight* by Jill Duffield today at 10:15 in Mae Chapin Parlor.

●Copies of this week’s **Daily Advent Devotional** from *The Presbyterian Outlook* can be found in the kiosks in the back of the church or Westminster Hall.

●If you or a loved one is **in the hospital or in need of a pastoral visit**, contact the church office.

●The **December newsletter** is available in the kiosks or at firstpres.church/newsletter.

This Week

Sunday, December 12

9:00	AM	Worship/Sanctuary
10:00	AM	Sunday School/Gather in Westminster Hall
10:15	AM	Advent Study/Parlor
10:15	AM	CYF Cookie Sale/Westminster Hall
10:15	AM	Worship/Windsor of Savoy
11:00	AM	Easy English Fellowship/Zoom
11:15	AM	The Gathering/Chapel

Monday, December 13

10:00	AM	ESL/Zoom
1:00	PM	Knifty Knitters/Parlor & Zoom
1:00	PM	Prayer Ministry/Chapel & Zoom
1:00	PM	GROW/Family Library
2:00	PM	DREAAM After School Program
5:30	PM	AA/Centennial Hall

Tuesday, December 14

8:00	AM	Men’s Breakfast Study/Zoom
10:00	AM	ESL/Zoom
10:30	AM	Church Staff Meeting/Parlor & Zoom
12:00	PM	Classic Book Study/Parlor & Zoom
2:00	PM	DREAAM After School Program
6:00	PM	Contemporary Worship Team/Parlor & Zoom
7:00	PM	Worship Team/Parlor & Zoom

Wednesday, December 15

10:00	AM	ESL/Chapel & Zoom
1:30	PM	Education is the Pathway to Peace/Parlor & Zoom
2:00	PM	DREAAM After School Program
6:00	PM	Bell Choir Rehearsal/Bell Room
7:00	PM	Choir Rehearsal/Choir Room

Thursday, December 16

10:00	AM	ESL/Zoom
12:30	PM	Bible Study/Windsor of Savoy
1:00	PM	PEO/Chapel & Zoom
2:00	PM	DREAAM After School Program
6:30	PM	DREAAM Girl’s Program/Room 201 & Café
6:30	PM	Compassion, Peace, Justice/Zoom
7:00	PM	Session/Parlor & Zoom

Friday, December 17 Church Office closes at noon

8:30	AM	Men’s Prayer/Zoom
7:30	PM	Friday Nite Lights Study/Zoom

Saturday, December 18

6:00	PM	French Prayer/Zoom
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Experience the journey leading to the birth of Christ
this Advent season
at First Presbyterian Church of Champaign

Advent Offering

November 28-December 19...This year's offering supports The Refugee Center to assist six Afghan families evacuated to our area. Write "Advent Offering" in the memo of your check or on the front of the envelope with your contribution.

Advent Study

Sundays in December...Let's prepare our hearts and minds for the birth of Christ. Join us this season in looking at the ordinary and glimpsing the divine. *Advent in Plain Sight* by Jill Duffield will be discussed Sundays at 10:15 AM in the Mae Chapin Parlor. Books are \$15 each.

Interactive Christmas Pageant and Candy House Making

December 19 – 9 AM...A fun, interactive Christmas Pageant. The whole congregation is invited to participate from their seats with responses and sound effects to help tell this most beloved of stories. Children present will be invited to come forward if they wish to be a cow, sheep, chicken or angels to follow the simple instructions from the narrator and then return to their seats. No rehearsal required! Families are invited to send in photos of themselves in nativity tableaux, and we will incorporate the images into the presentation. After the service join us for candy house building in Westminster Hall with the option for take away kits. Those who wish to have take away kits should contact Mindy by December 12 at Mindy@firstpres.church.

Christmas Caroling

December 19 – 5:15 PM...If you're looking for ways to spread a little holiday cheer, join us for Christmas caroling Sunday, December 19. We will meet at the church at 5:15 PM and carpool then sing from 5:30-7 PM. Afterwards we will gather around the turquoise picnic table for cookies, hot cocoa and hot cider.

Longest Night Worship

December 21 – 6 PM...The Longest Night service is designed to provide space for prayer, reflection and remembrance amidst the holiday hustle and bustle. On Tuesday, December 21, the longest night of the year, we gather at 6 PM to bring hope amidst the darkness, with scripture, prayers, poetry and candles. Join us for this brief service of hope while we wait for the Light of the World.

Christmas Eve Worship

4 PM – Family Worship

8 PM – Traditional Candlelight Worship

Worship and Carol Sing

December 26 – 9 AM