

First Press

December 2018 - January 2019

First Presbyterian Church
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FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight - indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

Malachi 3:1-2a (NRSV)

As we look ahead to the next month or so in the church, we see that there is a lot happening. There is Advent and the choir(s) Christmas concert and the Sunday school Christmas program and the Christmas Eve service. That is in addition

to all the things we think of as normal church activities. So it will be a busy place.

But all of it has to do with celebrating the birth of Jesus—the coming to us of God Almighty. And that, of course, is something to celebrate.

In Malachi's prophecy, God promised that a messenger would be sent, and John the Baptist was sent. God promised that the Lord would appear in the temple, and Jesus did so appear.

But who can endure the day of his coming? These are sobering words. Who among us is worthy of the blessings of God? Who among us has earned a savior? I think we are to assume that none of us is and none of us has

And yet we can endure the day of his coming, because God has forgiven us, and in an act of love, chooses to see us as

sinless—to regard us not according to our failings, but according to God’s goodness.

I try to remind us every year not to get too busy during Advent, because I think busyness hinders our ability to observe Advent in a way that has us remembering God’s steadfast goodness to us.

It also limits the time for us to be active in the work and worship of our church, and I know that we are a better and stronger community of Jesus’ disciples when we are together more.

So let’s be together!

Blessings,

Brian Jones

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SESSION REPORT

Session held its regular meetings on October 10,
2018 at 8 pm &
November 14, 2018 at 8 pm in the
Campbell Library

Communion

October 7, 2018 107 served

Funerals

Denise Yost October 10, 2018 Deb Taylor
October 20, 2018 Thom Winsel October
26, 2018 Ruby Parmely October 29, 2018

HAPPIEST OF HOLIDAYS TO EVERYONE!!!

Clerk of Session

Shar

Ruhnke

Presbyterian Women:

PW had a busy year in 2018. We served at several funerals, hosted the State PW meeting in April and we had a successful fall luncheon in September. We also have two Bible Study Groups. PW has donated to State and International PW Missions, the Birthday Fund and Least Coin Missions. Locally, PW donated to Helping Hands, Table to Go, Hands of Hope, Rustler Roost and Hand in Hand Day Care. PW also helps with many projects in our Church. I will end my 2 year term as PW Moderator at the end of the year. Mary Johnson will be the Moderator for 2019-2020. Nancy Williams will continue as Treasurer. Many thanks to all the Officers, Hospitality Group Chairpersons, and to all the women of the Church for all their donations of Time, Money, and Food. PW Moderator

Peggy Meyer





PW Bible Study Groups Bible Study Groups will not have meetings in December.

The morning Bible Study group meets on Wednesday, January 15, 2019, at 9:00 A.M. at the Plaza.

The Evening Bible Study group meets on Wednesday, January 15, 2019, at 8:00 P.M. at the Church

The Lord redeemeth the soul of his servants. Psalm 34:22a

CHURCH WEBSITE NEWS!!!!!!

Please check out the church's website at www.millerpresby.com. There is much important information to be found there.

If you hunt around, you will find usher and greeter schedules, daily Scripture readings, a photo gallery and much more. Also, you will find a link to click on to watch past worship services in the event you had to be absent or just missed something.

A tremendous amount of work has gone into this site, and it is all for you, so please come and look around!



Wanted

Pie Bakers

For

3rd Annual

Pie Auction

January 27, 2019

Proceeds going to local missions



Christian Education:

But the angel said to them "Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord". Luke 2:10

*****Thank you

We thank the Christian Education teachers and helpers for the great job they do in preparing and teaching their lessons. They take their ministries seriously and we are lucky to have them all as part of our church family.

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Kevin Hofer, Sarah DeHaai, and the junior youth group helped the Sunday school students make ornaments and decorate the Christmas tree in the fellowship hall on November 18.

Brian and Tyann Jones and the senior youth group will travel to Redfield to cut down a tree from Don Masat's tree farm. The group will return to the church and decorate the tree for the sanctuary.

Kelly Wagner and Laura Duxbury have been working hard on the Sunday school Christmas program. Following is the practice schedule:

Program practice schedule:



Sunday, Dec. 9 during Sunday school

Wed. Dec. 12th- 5:00 to 6:30 PM

Saturday, Dec. 15th – 10:00-11:30 AM

Sunday Dec. 16th – PROGRAM during church

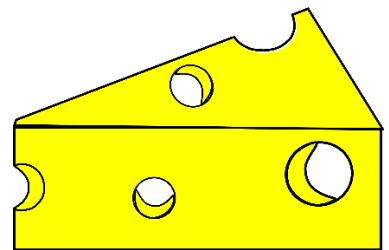
NO Sunday school after the program on December 16th.

NO Sunday school on Sun. Dec. 30.

NO Wednesday night class on Dec. 26 and Jan. 2.

*Happy
New Year*

Looking ahead to the Sr. Youth Group Cheese sale at the Farm and Home Show in January.



submitted by Tyann Jones

**Don't forget the
Christmas Joy Offering
and Stewardship letters
which will be coming
up!**





The annual Choir Christmas Concert will be Sunday, December 9 at 4:00 in the Church Sanctuary. Both the bell choir and the Sanctuary choir will be performing several selections. We are grateful to have choir director Janice Palmer and bell choir director Ray Caffee give their time and talents. We also appreciate Rhonda and Bob Westman for helping us with our concert. A big thank you to Dee Sivertsen for designing our concert notices you see around town. They are awesome! Please come and enjoy these choirs as they have put in a lot of time and effort into beginning your Christmas season with music.

The bell choir is busy preparing for the Christmas concert in December. We also played at the Methodist Church for the Hands of Hope fundraiser, and are planning to play at Prairie Center and Courtyard Villa, sharing our Christmas selections that help remind us of the Good News! We also enjoy playing for the congregation during worship, and

plan to do so again in December and in the New Year. Ringing in the bell choir can be challenging, but it is also great fun. Let Ray or any bell choir member know if you would like to play!

Ray Caffee-director

Treasurer's Report

Sunday, November 18, 2018		
2018 Offering Budget		\$141,670.76
Offering		\$1,763.00
Offering Year to Date		\$107,712.67
Harvest Offering Budget		\$2,500.00
Harvest Offering to Date		\$5,895.95
Sunday School Offering		\$18.72
TOTAL INCOME 2018		\$119,521.91
TOTAL EXPENSES 2018		\$120,313.89

Greeters and Ushers

Our Church is in need of more volunteers to help usher and greet on Sunday mornings. If you would be able to do either of these important ministries-please let me know!

Thanks,
Patty



Birthdays in December

2 – Joey Vrooman
3 – John Niederauer
4 – Dylan Templeton
5 – Bonnie Heasley
6 -- Kelly Johnson
7 – James Waldrop
8 – Serenity Johnson
10 – Raymond Caffee
13 – Mary Johnson
Joseph McClure
14 – Hannah Caffee
15 – Grace Hofer
Virginia Burgher
Peggy McInnis
Bernie Rombough
16 – Lance DeHaai,
Brian Jones
Kynslee Muschitz
18 – Barb Lager
21 – Kaihlyn Anderberg
23 – John E. Bertsch
24 – Glenda Hilmer
26 – Jim Jones
Carole Skinner
28 – Gayle Vrooman
Wes McClure

December Anniversaries

4 – Lester & Rosemary
Moeller
23 – Bernie & Cindy
Rombough

Birthdays in January

2 – Rylie Moss
4 – Wilma Jones
Wanda Stevens
6 – Darin Nelson
Kelly Johnson
7 -- Sally Resel
8 – Cody Fanning
Jake Fanning
12 – Marcie Lander
Philip Testerman
13 - Rilea Mielke
14 – Jim Dyer
17 – Amanda Mentzer
Carson Miner
18 – Eli Jones
Tyann Jones
Jeff Meyer
19 – Amanda Taylor
21 – Tom Miner
Sylvia Wieseler
Jennie Caffee
22 – Sheldon Waldrop
24 – Carlie Selting
--Ivan Caffee
25 – Dawn Haar
26 – Peter DeGeest
24 – Garner Sivertsen
31 – Bennett DeHaai

January Anniversaries

22 – Bob & Barb Lager
30 – David & Dee
Sivertsen

OUR GREETERS AND USHERS



Greeters in December

2 – Joyce & Whitey Wieland
9 – Harriet Kopplin
16– Mike & Kay Mentzer
23– Sandra Selting
30 – Jeff & Peggy Meyer

Greeters in January

6 – Charlene Beckett
13 – Doug Fritzsche
20 –Julie Taylor
27 – Robin & Gayle Vrooman

Ushers in December

Jeff & Peggy Meyer
Brian & Jan Winter,

Ushers in January

Please volunteer.

Deacons in December

Gayle Vrooman
Teresa Eschenbaum

Deacons in January

Nancy Williams
Sue Jones