

Welcome

We are an inclusive, Christ-centered community of faith, passionately committed to sharing the love of Jesus Christ in practical ways. Please let us know of your interests and concerns.

Pastors:

Eric Corbin

eric@firstpres.church

We want to get to know you!

- Fill in the Friendship Pads; please use a name tag.
- Introduce yourself to one of the pastors.
- Join us for coffee and conversation in Westminster Hall.
- Trouble hearing? Try a hearing device at the back of the Sanctuary.
- Large-print hymnals are on the back table.
- Wheelchairs are available for in-church use.
- Printed sermons are available; video is available at www.firstpres.live

Children, Youth & Families

There is NO Sunday School today. At other times, please sign in your child in the education building. There you will receive a name tag for your child/ren and a matching identification label to be used by the parent or guardian during pick up. Our nursery and toddler rooms (birth - 2yr) are open from 8:45 AM-12 PM each Sunday. The Sunday School education hour for K-8th grade is during the 9 AM worship service. The education hour for Confirmants and High School students is from 10:10-11 AM.

Schedule

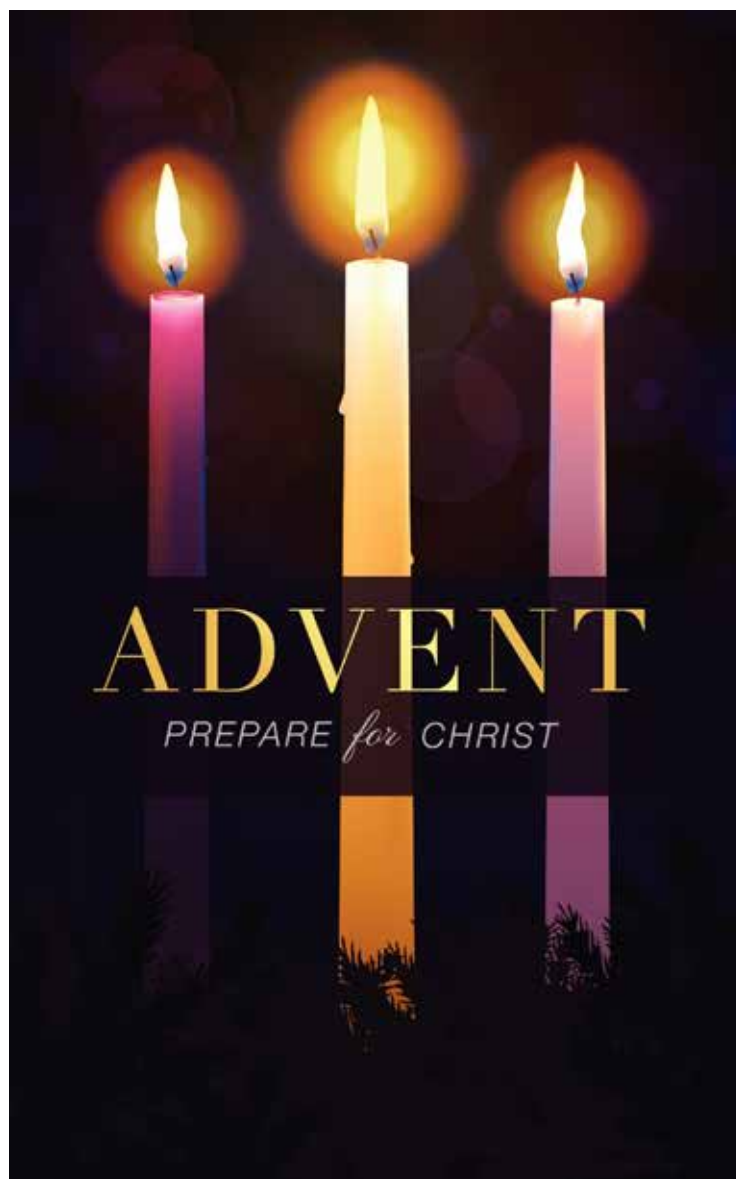
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| 8:45-9:00 | Children check-in and gather in the chapel |
| 9:00-9:15 | K-5 grades in worship, then class in the Education Building until 10 AM |
| 9:00-10:00 | Preschool and Middle School lessons in their classrooms |
| 10:00-10:30 | Children's Choir in the Chapel |
| 10:00 | Parents pick up children in the family library on the first floor of the Education Building |
| 10:10-11:00 | High School Class, Confirmation Class (runs October 1-May 20) |
| 11:00 | Parents pick up of youth at Education Building entrance |
| 11:00-12:00 | Nursery and toddler rooms still available for child care |

Contact our Director of Children, Youth, and Families, **Mindy Watts-Ellis** (mindy@firstpres.church) for more information about children and youth education and family events.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

December 24, 2017
9 AM



Welcome to First Presbyterian Church
Bienvenue à La Première Eglise Presbytérienne de Champaign
Bienvenidos a La Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana

삼페인 제일 장로교회에 오신것을 환영합니다.

Pour nos amis de langue française et les membres,
nous avons des copies du sermon d'aujourd'hui en français
à l'arrière de l'église

Office: 302 West Church, Champaign, IL 61820 217.356.7238
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Facebook: [fb.com/firstpreschampaign](https://www.facebook.com/firstpreschampaign)

Service for the Lord's Day

A special welcome to those at our church for the first time.

Prelude Richard Rossi
Preparation for Worship – Tower Bell
Greeting

Introit *Lift Up Your Heads* Thomas Williams

Call to Worship

Leader The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light!

People Lord, shine your light into our lives!

Leader The people who thought God had forgotten them received Good News!

People Lord, pour your good news into our hearts!

Leader The people who felt the burdens of living were given new life!

People Lord, shower us with new life of hope and joy.

♦**Hymn 13** *Prepare the Way*

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle

Pat Metcalf

Prayer of Confession

O God, help us to look to you for direction in our lives. Too often we chase after idols and distractions instead of holding to the example of our sister, Mary: service and devotion even in the face of uncertainty and fear. We long to entrust our lives to you, and yet we struggle to do so, falling short time and time again despite our best intentions. Help us to rise up when we stumble, trusting in your mercy and promise of redeeming love. We pray this thankfully, knowing that you hear and forgive us, and that we are blessedly cherished by you...

(continue to pray in silence)

Assurance of Pardon

Leader The truth of Advent is this: God is coming to us! We are not alone.

People In Christ, we are accepted. We are set free of the past. Jesus is the hope of the world!

Passing of the Peace

Leader The peace of Christ be with you.

People And also with you.

Leader Please greet one another in the peace of Christ.
Response #576 *Gloria, Gloria*

♦**Hymn 19** *To a Maid Engaged to Joseph* (vs. 1,4-6)

Act of Friendship & Updates

Scripture *Isaiah 52:7-10* (OT pg. 683)

Anthem *O Bethlehem* Carl Schalk

Scripture *Luke 1:26-38* (NT pg. 56)

Message *The Irrational Season* Pastor Eric Corbin

Call to Prayer *Hear Our Prayer* Ann Kerr

Prayers for Ourselves and Others
The Lord's Prayer

♦**Hymn 29** *Go, Tell It On the Mountain*

Offering of Gifts and Tithes

Richard Rossi

#592 Doxology; Prayer of Dedication

♦Benediction

♦**Choral Benediction** *Joy to the World* G.F. Handel

♦**Postlude** Richard Rossi

♦Please stand if able.

This Week

Sunday, December 24

- 9:00 AM Traditional Worship/Sanctuary
- 12:00 PM Praise & Prayer Choir Rehearsal/Centennial Hall
- 2:00 PM French Young Adult Group/Chapel
- 4:00 PM Family Service/Sanctuary
- 8:00 PM Candlelight Service/Sanctuary

Monday, December 25 Church Office Closed

- 10:00 AM Prayer (French)/Centennial Hall
- 5:30 PM AA/Centennial Hall

Tuesday, December 26 Church Office Closed

- 10:00 AM Prayer (French)/Centennial Hall
- 6:00 PM Prayer (French)/Centennial Hall

Wednesday, December 27

- 10:00 AM Prayer (French)/Centennial Hall
- 6:00 PM Prayer (French)/Centennial Hall

Thursday, December 28

- 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast/Hardees
- 10:00 AM Prayer (French)/Centennial Hall
- 6:00 PM Prayer (French)/Centennial Hall

Friday, December 29

- 8:30 AM Men's Prayer/Chapel
- 10:00 AM Prayer (French)/Centennial Hall
- 5:00 PM Praise & Prayer Choir Rehearsal/Centennial Hall
- 6:00 PM Prayer (French)/Centennial Hall

Saturday, December 30

- 3:00 PM Worship Prep/Centennial Hall
- 6:00 PM Praise & Prayer Gathering/Centennial Hall

The week between Christmas and New Year's the church office hours will vary as many of our staff are out of town over the holidays. Please call the office before stopping by. We don't want to miss you!

Worship

•Liturgist this morning is **Pat Metcalf**.

•Join us again this evening as we celebrate the birth of the Christ child. At the 4 PM service, our children will present the Christmas pageant *The Greatest Gift Ever* and the Children's Choir will sing. The Sanctuary Choir will sing at the 8 PM candlelight service. Have a joyous and blessed holiday season!

Connect

•As part of the Reformed tradition and for the 500th anniversary following Martin Luther nailing his theses to a church door, we will soon begin a 6-week study on Reformations. The study will be led by **Pat Metcalf**, and begins on January 7 at 10:10. Explore the backgrounds to the Reformations and then each of the four Reformation traditions. Finally, look at the Reformations today regarding their influences and legacies, as well as the Reformation in today's churches. Books available for \$5, beginning December 10 between services. Sign up today!

Serve

•Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. By giving to the **Christmas Joy Offering**, you honor this gift by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.



Be our guest this Christmas!

Christmas Eve

- 4 PM Family Service/Sanctuary
- 8 PM Candlelight Service/Sanctuary

New Year's Eve

- 9 AM Worship/Sanctuary

No Sunday School December 24 and 31.