

# 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:

Matt Matthews  
Eric Corbin

matt@firstpres.church  
eric@firstpres.church

## We want to get to know you!

- If you would like to hear the service in French, please pick up headphones and a receiver at the back of the Sanctuary. Si vous souhaitez que le service soit traduit en français, procurez-vous un récepteur et des écouteurs à l'arrière du sanctuaire.
- Fill in the Friendship Pads; please use a name tag.
- Introduce yourself to your pew mates and 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 the following week; video is available at [www.firstpres.live](http://www.firstpres.live)

## Children, Youth & Families

Child care is available for children 4 years and younger in the education building 8:45 AM-12:15 PM. Parents must sign children in and out of the child care rooms directly. Please sign your children in for Sunday School at the Welcome Center in Westminster Hall (main level). You will receive a name tag for your child/ren and a matching identification label to be used by the adult responsible for them at pick up. Children meet their teachers in the south east children's corner of Westminster Hall. Teachers will lead children to their classrooms in the Education Building across the alley. Education hour is 10:15-11:05 AM. Children's Choir is in the Chapel 11-11:30 AM. Children are to be picked up from their classrooms or from choir practice. Nursery-Kindergarten—first floor, 1<sup>st</sup>-High School—second floor. The 6-7<sup>th</sup> grade meet in the family library on the first floor.

### Schedule

- 8:45-9 Check-in at the Welcome Center desk and gather in the children's corner
- 9-10 Children may attend traditional worship with a special children's sermon
- 10-10:15 Children meet their teachers in the children's corner and walk over to the classroom in the education building
- 10:15-11:05 Faith Education lessons in the classrooms
- 11:05 Children dismissed
- 11-11:30 Children's choir rehearsal in the Chapel
- 11:15-12:15 Children may attend The Gathering worship service

Contact our Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries, **Mindy Watts-Ellis** (mindy@firstpres.church) for more information.

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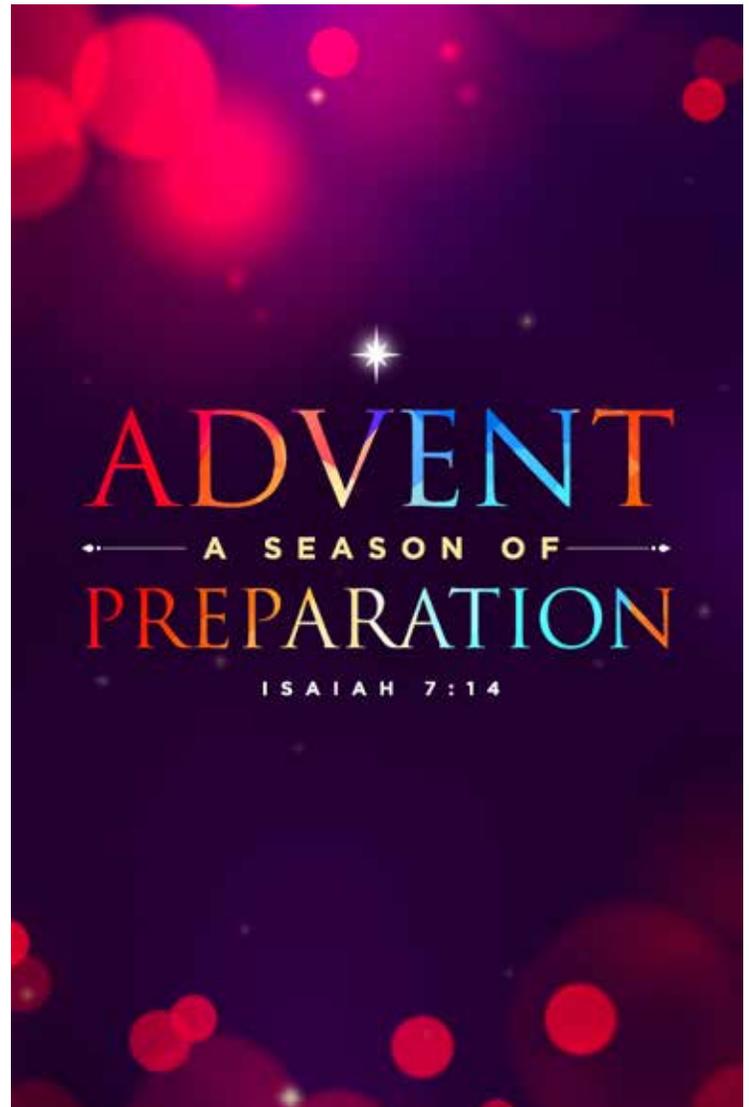


# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

## December 1, 2019

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

### 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.

Si vous souhaitez que le service soit traduit en français,  
procurez-vous un récepteur et  
des écouteurs à l'arrière du sanctuaire.

# Service for the Lord's Day

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

We'd love to connect with you this morning. Fill out the Friendship Pad when passed, then stop by our Welcome Center after the service to receive a small gift. Enjoy some coffee, meet new people, and learn how our church can become your home.

**Prelude** Richard Rossi

**Preparation for Worship – Tower Bell**

**Greeting and Announcements**

**Minute for Mission – Advent Offering**

**Lighting of the First Advent Candle**

Eric, Cathy, Rachel, Jack, and Hannah Stickels

**Introit** *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* Stuttgart (#83)

## ❖ Call to Worship

Come all who seek truth – let us go up to the Lord's house,  
**that we might learn holy ways and follow right paths.**

Come – all nations, all peoples – stream through open gates,  
**that we might gather in the hallways of justice, the courts of peace.**

Come – children of God – let us walk in the light of the Lord!  
**With hope in our hearts, let us worship God.**

❖ **Hymn #367** *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*

## Call to Confession

All too often, we believe God's vision of justice and peace is only for us, not those around us. We are sure others need to be cleansed and forgiven, but not us. Let us seek to live as if, indeed, the kingdom is coming near, as we offer our prayers to the One who calls us to Advent living. Join me as we pray...

## Prayer of Confession

**God of peace, we confess that our own poor choices tear us up inside. Quarreling and jealousy poison our relationships with others. We polish our swords rather than beating them into plowshares. We battle, not for just causes, but for unjust advantage. We pursue our own agendas rather than the well-being of all your children. We seek your forgiveness, O God, and the strength to amend our ways. Help us to live in peace, within ourselves and among all your children...(Continue to pray in silence.) Amen.**

## Assurance of Pardon

Speak with the whispers of hope until it silences despair; sing the carols of compassion until all join in the chorus; shower others with wonder and delight and join in God's dance of grace.

**Thanks be to God. We are forgiven! So, let us welcome others with open arms, just as we have been embraced in God's love and laughter. Amen.**

## ❖ Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

*(Please greet one another in the peace of Christ.)*

**Response of Gratitude #659** *Know That God Is Good*  
*(See screens)*

## Act of Friendship & Sharing Prayer Concerns

*(Learn the names of your pew mates; please complete Prayer Request Card)*

## Children's Time

## Offering of Gifts and Tithes

*There Is No Rose of Such Virtue*

Beth Kenreich

## Sung Response #609

*Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow* (See screens)

## Prayer of Dedication

## Prayer for Illumination #92

*While We Are Waiting*

vs. 1 (See screens)

## A Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures

*Isaiah 2:1-5* (OT pg. 631)

## A Reading from the Gospels

*Matthew 24:36-44* (NT pg. 27)

This is the Word of the LORD.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon** *Prepare!*

Eric Corbin

## Celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

**We are Invited**

*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 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 Meal is Set**

**The Meal is Shared**

**We Close in Prayer**

Richard Rossi

❖ **Hymn #102** *Savior of the Nations, Come*

❖ **Benediction**

❖ **Congregational Choral Benediction**

#106 *Prepare the Way, O Zion* vs. 1 (See screens)

❖ **Postlude**

*(You may wish to be seated for the postlude.)*

Richard Rossi

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

# This Week

## Sunday, December 1

- 9:00 AM Worship/Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM Easy English Fellowship/Room 204, 212
- 10:15 AM Sunday School/Education Building
- 10:15 AM Adult Ed/Parlor
- 11:15 AM The Gathering/Centennial Hall
- 2:00 PM French Young Adult Group/Room 204
- 2:00 PM Praise & Prayer Music Rehearsal/Centennial Hall
- 5:30 PM Youth Fellowship/Café

## Monday, December 2

- 9:00 AM ESL Classes/Rooms 201,204,205,206, Café
- 1:00 PM GROW/Chapel
- 4:00 PM HR Meeting/Library
- 5:30 PM AA/Centennial Hall

## Tuesday, December 3

- 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast Study/Centennial Hall
- 9:00 AM ESL Classes/Rooms 201,204,205,206, Café
- 10:30 AM Staff Meeting/Parlor
- 12:00 PM Classic Book Study/Atkins Bldg, S. First Street-C.
- 5:00 PM DREAAM/Centennial Hall

## Wednesday, December 4

- 9:00 AM ESL Classes/Rooms 201,204,205,206, Café
- 3:00 PM DREAAM/Centennial Hall & Gym
- 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal/Bell Room
- 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal/Choir Room

## Thursday, December 5

- 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast Study/Library
- 9:00 AM ESL Classes/Rooms 201,204,205,206, Café
- 11:00 AM Compassion, Peace, Justice/Parlor
- 12:00 PM PW Christmas Tea/Parlor
- 5:30 PM Spiritual Formation/Library
- 6:00 PM YoungLives/Centennial Hall
- 7:30 PM *The Spirit of Christmas*/Doudna Fine Arts Ctr.

## Friday, December 6 Church Office closes at Noon

- 8:30 AM Men's Prayer/Chapel
- 9:00 AM ESL Informational Mtg/Café

## Saturday, December 7

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

•There are gifts that don't come in a box! Join the **Presbyterian Women** for their **Christmas gathering** on Thursday, December 5, 2019 in Westminster Hall at noon for a light lunch and presentation.

•**The Spirit of Christmas** conducted by **Richard R. Rossi** featuring the EIU Choral Ensembles and the premiere of the Camerate Sinfonietta will be presented Thursday, December 5, at 7:30 PM at the Doudna Fine Arts Center, Charlston, IL. Tickets available at <https://doudnatix.universitytickets.com>.

•**Community Shopping Event...**December 7, 4-8 PM Ten Thousand Villages, 105 North Walnut Street, Champaign. 15% of the sales will be donated to The Refugee Center

•**Bells in Motion of Central Illinois presents A Ringing Christmas** Saturday, December 7, 2019 at 7 PM, First United Methodist Church, 201 West North Street, Decatur, IL and Sunday, December 8, 2019 at 4 PM, Peace Lutheran Church, 2800 West Jefferson Street, Springfield, IL.

# Worship

- Liturgist this morning is **Bruce Rainey**. Contact **Judi Geistlinger** [judgeistlinger@outlook.com](mailto:judgeistlinger@outlook.com) to serve as a liturgist.
- We **welcome children** of all ages to worship. The CYF committee has provided green pew cards with tips on the back for guiding children in worship.
- Our Sanctuary Choir accompanied by orchestra will present the *Vivaldi Magnificat* on **Music Sunday**, December 15, at the 9 AM service.
- Christmas poinsettias** will decorate our Sanctuary this coming holiday season. Poinsettias are \$13 per plant and can be given in honor or memory of someone. Include "poinsettia" on your check along with a note of who it is given for.
- Join us for a **Service of Wholeness** on Sunday, December 8, at 6 PM in the Sanctuary. This quiet service offers a time to come together and support each other as we approach the holidays. There will be an opportunity to come forward to light candles to illumine these dark nights and for prayer.

# Connect

- We are glad you're here!** If you want to learn more about becoming a member of First Pres., contact **Pastor Matt**, **Pastor Eric** or **Linda Peterson** from the Membership Team ([membership@firstpres.church](mailto:membership@firstpres.church)) or call the church office.
- Opportunities to give during Advent...**A tradition at First Pres is the annual **Angel Tree**. Each ornament on the tree represents an item on a wish list for a local agency we support. Take as many ornaments as you wish. Items must be returned by Sunday, December 15.
- This year's **Advent Offering** will support Restoration Urban Ministry. Make your check "Advent" in the memo and drop in the offering plate. Cash donations should also be marked and placed in a pew envelope. Thanks for your generosity!
- Judi Geistlinger** will lead the Advent study *Christmas In the Four Gospel Homes* this morning at 10:15 AM in the Parlor.
- Thank you to those who have responded to the **2020 Pledge Campaign**. To date, we have received \$770,819.00 in pledges for 2020.
- Keep up with the latest news...pick up a copy of the **November newsletter** from one of the kiosks if you did not receive an email or mail copy.

# Serve

- Consider becoming a **confirmation mentor** to support a confirmation student as they explore their faith and discern what they believe. Contact **Mindy Watts-Ellis** at [mindy@firstpres.church](mailto:mindy@firstpres.church) to express your interest in mentoring.
- Help assemble hygiene kits** for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in Westminster Hall TODAY from 10:15-11 AM. All sizes of hands are needed to put 120 of these life-giving packages together. These kits will go to Little Rock, AR to the warehouse there for distribution to where they will be needed most after natural or man-made disasters. Many of these were distributed to refugees after the hurricane hit the Bahamas to ensure proper sanitation for individual health.