

First Presbyterian Church  
the LENTERN

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## *From the Pastor's Study*

Dear First Presbyterian Members and Friends,

As we continue through Advent, I'm reminded of how this is a season filled with waiting. Waiting is not something we tend to enjoy. We like to have things as quickly as possible. We like things like free two-day shipping from Amazon. We really dislike having to wait behind someone who's driving too slowly down the road, or waiting in line at Starbucks in Hy-Vee. We're still waiting for the vaccine so our lives can return to some degree of normalcy. We are a culture of "now" and instant gratification, but this season asks us to slow down and wait. Advent asks us to wait.

This is not passive waiting, however. We do not just sit around waiting for Christmas. The waiting of this season is expectant waiting. We expect the good things of God to enter our world. We expect hope, love, joy, and peace. Because we expect these things, we orient our lives around these values. As we wait for Christ to appear among us, bringing all of these good and wonderful things with him, we seek to become the light of hope, love, joy, and peace in our world. As you wait for Christmas, for the birth of Jesus, how are you emulating these values in your life?

While Christmas is going to look different this year, I think there is still a lot for us to be excited about. Our Christmas Eve service this year will be all-virtual. We will start the stream via Facebook live at 6:45pm with service beginning at 7pm. This will be a service of communion, so have those elements ready at home. One of the elements of the service I will miss the most is the candle light and singing *Silent Night* together. On December 24, inside the south entrance of the church we will have candles available for you and your family. Grab as many as you need, and we will light candles in our own home during our virtual service. Also, on Christmas Eve we will open up the sanctuary from 4-6pm for anyone who would like to use the sanctuary for meditation and prayer. We do ask that you observe masking rules and social distancing guidelines.

As you continue to make your way through this season, I pray that you will experience in all of its fullness the hope, love, joy, and peace Christ brings into our world.

Peace,  
Pastor Anders





## Christmas Eve Service

Thursday, December 24

The sanctuary will be open using the west door from 4:00 to 6:00 pm if you would like to stop by for a social distanced time of quiet meditation and prayer. Masks are required.

Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be livestreamed on Facebook with sign-in at 6:45 and the service starting at 7:00 pm.

Candles for the service will be available on the 24th at the south door of the church.

Presbyterian Women will meet January 27 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Margaret Ferrell. This month's topic is Lamenting Life. The main idea is that sometimes it is life, rather than death, that is cause for lament. Our focus scripture comes from Job.

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Peace and Justice Calendar for January

National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month

10-16--PW Together in Action Days to End Human Trafficking

11--National Human Trafficking Awareness Day

17--Race Relations Sunday

17--Criminal Justice Sunday

18--Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

18-14--Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

27--International Holocaust Remembrance Day



## Supper Volunteers needed:

Setup 2:30-3:00--Setup 1, Setup 2

Service 3:00-5:30--Greeter, Table/Loader  
Runner 1, Runner 2, Runner 3

Contact Jeanne North for more information, or if you can help.



Each meeting will be held immediately following worship. Zoom links and phone numbers to join by phone will be provided by email, on Facebook and during worship services.

Mark your calendars for these dates:

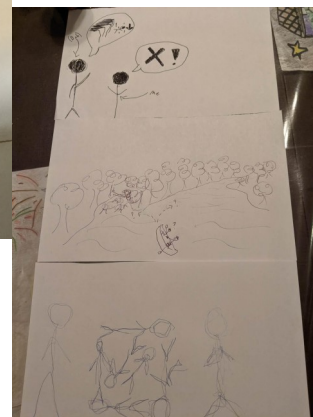
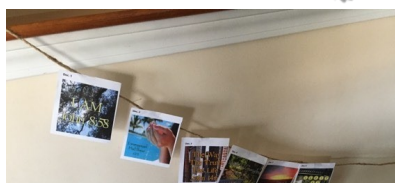
December 27--Agenda is to elect the 2021 Nominating Committee and to vote on the dissolution of Rev. Anders' call with our congregation.

January 24--Annual meeting to elect Elders and Deacons





From pictures, to puppies, to pine needles, pinned up stockings and pizza prizes the families taking



part in the children and youth Advent activities are counting down to Christmas. The fun abounds and the family conversations turn to learning more about the coming of Jesus. A big thank you to everyone who has helped make this season one of learning and memories.



Hello! In preparation for the Christmas Eve service I'd like to record as many voices of our congregation as possible singing O Come All Ye Faithful. There will be so many voices (hopefully) that even if you don't think you're the greatest singer in the world I'd love for you to be included. I will come

to you and record you singing or you can come to the church and record there. I will do this in a socially-distant way at either location. Alternatively, I can send you the recording of Lok on the organ and you can record yourself singing along to it. If you're up for being recorded or sending me a recording of you please message me on the church Facebook page or email me at [jsprend@gmail.com](mailto:jsprend@gmail.com). I look forward to hearing from lots of you!

—Jocelyn Prendergast

## White Gift Service

While the White Gift Service may look a little different this year the gifts are the same. The children, youth and adults have worked very hard learning parts and recording songs.

Join us Sunday, December 20 following worship to watch their labor of love.

We are not collecting physical gifts, but links to local organizations and businesses, selected by the children, will be available for you to make monetary donations.

**Don't have internet or can't navigate Zoom or Facebook? Did you know you can call on your phone to join Zoom meetings and our worship services? You can contact the church office with any questions.**



## Online assistance is available

Do you have questions about connecting to our online worship, meetings and social gatherings? If so, Scott Thatcher has offered

a helping hand. He can offer technical support, advice, help purchase equipment to participate, and has one serviceable laptop with a webcam if it's needed. Let us know what you need to stay connected to your church family.



# the LANTERN

First Presbyterian Church

Primary Business  
Address  
Address Line 2

Email articles: [brendak75@hotmail.com](mailto:brendak75@hotmail.com)  
Website: [www.presbykv.org](http://www.presbykv.org)  
[www.facebook.com/firstpresbykirksville](https://www.facebook.com/firstpresbykirksville)

Sunday Worship 9:30 am	Sunday School 11:00 am
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Even with the moderate weather the Take One - Leave One coat rack has been almost empty each time it was checked this week. Although we are not taking general donations of clothing, we can use donations of coats/hoodies for the coat rack outside of Take Root Cafe. Coats may be dropped off at the First United Methodist Church from 8-12noon each morning (with the exception of the week of December 27 when the office will be closed).

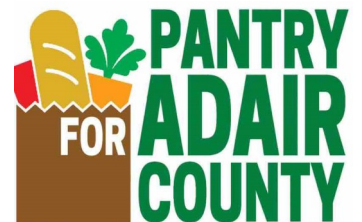
If you know anyone in need of winter clothing, please be sure to contact either the First Presbyterian or the First United Methodist Church office and we can arrange to shop for them.



As 2020 comes to a close I would like to Thank You! for your continued support of the Pantry for Adair County. The number of families served now averages over 500 each month - up from 350 at the beginning of the year but the community support, in time, talent, monetary and food donations, and prayers, keeps us going as we strive to help those with food insecurity in our neighborhoods.

Lisa Ahrens,

Pantry for Adair County board president



Check out The Clothes Closet face book page for more pictures, updates on events and needs. [www.facebook.com/theclothescloset.kirksville](https://www.facebook.com/theclothescloset.kirksville)