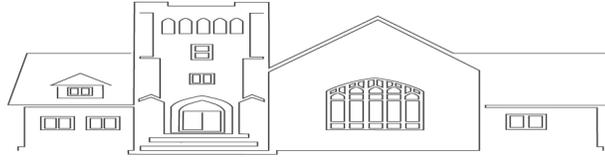


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
NEWTON, IOWA  
641-792-2790

*"The Mission of First Presbyterian Church of Newton, Iowa is to share the love of God and grow the body of Christ through joyful worship and fellowship, devoted prayer and study, and humble service in our community and world."*

# THE MESSENGER



DECEMBER 2016

## Meghan's Musings

### Learning to Love Even the Banana Lovers

A couple weeks ago, my dear five year-old nephew told my mother, "I love you even though you love bananas and I hate them." And once again, a young child speaks the words the world needs to hear.

It's been quite a year. A long drawn-out political season that seemed like it would never end finally did. But the peace and tranquility, the return to civility we all crave still alludes us. And without diminishing the concerns of anyone on any "side" of the political spectrum, it's good to remember that at the end of the day, there is only one "side" and that side is God's side. And being on God's side, requires remembering that everyone else—no matter what their political or religious beliefs, no matter how unpleasant their way of expressing themselves may be to us, regardless of all else—we are all Beloved Children of God. Even people who love bananas if we hate them.

Today several people worked together to decorate the church for the seasons of Advent and Christmas. (Thank you, people!) And this year we have a new feature in our decorating: The yellow caution tape on the front doors preventing us from using the still-under-construction front steps. Our church decorators saw fit not to let the less than aesthetically pleasing caution tape stop them from hanging the customary wreaths and it strikes me as entirely appropriate for Advent: a liturgical season that begins with apocalyptic imagery and calls to repentance. The season of Advent should not be entered lightly, anticipating and working for the Reign of Christ should not be entered lightly. Yellow caution tape is called for in our world, in our church and in partnering with God. It's risky business. But the risk is worth it because the Hope, Love, Peace and Joy of Advent leads to the beauty of God's promise coming to fruition in the birth of Jesus our Messiah. May it be so in our lives, may it be so in our church and may it be so in our world.



## Be Praying For...

- ✚ Those who are facing the Holidays for the first time without a loved one and those who are feeling that loss no matter how long it has been.
- ✚ People everywhere who are cold, hungry and homeless.
- ✚ Those who are suffering with the season's colds, flu, and other nasty germs.
- ✚ Our military personnel and their families who will be separated from each other during the Holidays.
- ✚ The hundreds of people whose lives have been disrupted by earthquakes, fires, and other natural disasters.
- ✚ Our brothers and sisters whose lives have been forever changed through senseless killings, suicides, and horrific vehicle accidents.



**Goes to the family of Marie Achtemeier. Marie died on Wednesday, November 2 at her home at Park Centre. Memorial services will be held 1:30 p.m. Saturday, December 3, at First Presbyterian Church with Rev. Meghan Davis officiating.**

**She was born February 12, 1931, in Jasper County, Iowa. Marie graduated from Newton Senior High School with the class of 1949. On September 3, 1950, Marie was united in marriage with Darrell W. Achtemeier in Newton, Iowa. Darrell preceded her in death on December 26, 2012.**

**Marie devoted her life to her husband and family. She was a strong supporter of the Newton Community. Her efforts included the Jasper County Arts, Skiff Medical Center Auxiliary, the Newton YMCA and she was active in the Des Moines Civic Center programs. Marie was a longtime member of the First Presbyterian Church. She was a 50 year member of P.E.O. Chapter AO and was a longtime member of TTT. Marie especially enjoyed the fishing and hunting fellas with Darrell.**

**Those left to honor Marie's memory include her son, Doug, of Pasadena, CA; Suzanne (Gary) Shapiro of New York City and her granddaughter, Lauren Achtemeier of San Francisco, CA.**



**Goes to the family of Patricia A. Simbro, mother of Kris and mother-in-law to Sandy, who died on Saturday, November 26, 2016, at Newton Healthcare. A funeral service will be held at 10:30 am, Friday, December 2, at the Wallace Family Funeral Home and Crematory. The family will greet friends from 4-7 pm, Thursday, December 1, at the funeral home.**

**Patricia worked at the Vernon Company for 30 years, retiring in 1988. She enjoyed quilting and needlework. Patricia also loved coffee times with her different friend groups, some dating back to Clifford's construction days. The family also enjoyed camping at the 40. Patricia had a special gift for photography and enjoyed organizing family photo albums to document much of the family genealogy and special events. She could also be seen and sometimes heard at her children and grandchildren's sporting events.**

**Patricia is survived by her husband, Clifford of Newton; children, Kalven (Beth) Simbro of Baxter; Joyce (Jerry) Kingery of Newton; Kris (Sandy) Simbro of Newton; and Carroll (Jill) Simbro of Newton; her 9 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; her sons she loved like her own, Steve Smith of Baxter and Merle Smith of Newton, along with Steve's two sons and four grandchildren; her brother, Eldon Marshall of Monroe; and sister-in-law, Mary Simbro of Reasnor. She was preceded in death by her parents; siblings, Leroy Marshall, Bonnie Ryther, Norma Hannam, Leland Marshall; and two daughters-in-law, Shari Simbro and Janie Smith.**



View from the Pews

In our very first “View From the Pews,” we take a minute to learn more about Wendell Wendt – First Presbyterian’s eldest member. My interview with him was inspiring – Wendell remembers his life in incredible detail, and I was struck by his compassion and wit. Hopefully you all get a chance to talk with him as well.

Wendell was born in Avoca, IA on December 20, 1914. An only child, Wendell was raised Presbyterian; so naturally he became a member here at First Pres only one short month after moving to Newton in 1948. Always interested in journalism, he first studied at Drake, and eventually moved here to work at the Newton Daily News. He started as an Office Manager, and 38 short years later retired as Assistant Publisher. Retirement meant a new chapter of service, and he began volunteering at First Presbyterian Church with Christian education and other administration roles through the years.

With him every step of the way was his life’s partner Loretta. Meeting at Avoca High School (Loretta graduated 2<sup>nd</sup> in their class, Wendell 4<sup>th</sup> ... direct quote: “I should’ve tried harder”), they both went to Drake as well. In college, Wendell contracted nephritis, and was given only a 2% chance to live. Surviving and then graduating, Wendell and Loretta reconnected and started dating after she called him on a Friday night. They hit it off, but their relationship was put on hold when he was drafted into the Army during WWII. Taking advantage of his leave, they were married in Camp Crowder, MO on May 15, 1943.

Returning home after the war, Wendell and Loretta looked forward to their life together, and just two years later they had moved to Newton. Wendell and Loretta would go on to have two daughters, Marti and Catherine, both of whom were baptized in, and members of First Presbyterian Church.

I’m grateful for the opportunity to have had Wendell as the first “View From the Pews” member. It was an honor and privilege to get to know him better.



By Taylor Peska, Membership Committee

## Nominating Committee

Bret Doerring, Chair

We will have a Congregational meeting on Sunday, December 18 for the purpose of electing new officers for our church. The committee is putting the following people up for 3-year terms as Elders: Jen Norvell, and Kay Parsons. Those being recommended for a 3-year term as Deacon are: Nancy Mott, Diane Moles, and Kevin Peska. As of the writing of this Messenger, there is still two Elder and one Deacon position to be filled. There is also a 1-year term to be filled due to the death of Elaine VanderBroek. The committee is recommending that Dana Hashman be elected to fill that position.

Finally, an at-large member of the committee is elected from the congregation and our recommendation is Steve Hopkins. He would join the other two at-large members, Joan Tyler and Cathy Rickers.

Installation will be held on Sunday, January 15 and the yearly retreat for Elders and Deacons will be on January 14.

Thank you to the Nominating Committee for your hard work and thank you to the members listed above who have answered the call to serve our congregation.



Forms will be in the bulletin where you can order a poinsettia to be used to decorate our church chancel area. The cost this year will be \$9.50.

Your form and money can be put in the collection plate on Sunday morning or left at the church office. Place your order by Wednesday to have the plant delivered for the following Sunday service.

Following our service on December 25, you may choose to take your flower home, or leave it to decorate our church during January.



## THIS CHRISTMAS, AVOID THE STAMPEDE

Mission Committee

“You don’t have to wake up at 4 am to give a gift through the Presbyterian Giving Catalog, but if you really want to, we won’t stop you.

A gift of livestock could mean an ongoing source of food and a sustainable livelihood for families in many parts of the world. Chickens provide eggs for nourishment and for market. Goats and cows provide milk, cheese, and yogurt. This Black Friday, contribute toward the growth of sustainable family farms for people and communities in need around the world.

So avoid the Black Friday stampedes. Shop the livestock options in the **online catalog**, and the gift of lasting nourishment and healthier, more productive lives.”

This mail came on Black Friday from the Presbyterian Mission Committee. We introduced this catalog last year as a new way of giving gifts in the name of family members, friends or neighbors. Catalogs, posters and information is available in the Narthex. You pick the gift you’d like to give and order it online, at an address given in the catalog. Payment is done online also. Then you let your loved one know that you have given the particular item in their name. Perfect for the person on your list who has everything!



## Building and Grounds

George Wilkening, Chair

The outdoor stairs are poured and construction has moved to the sidewalk, which should be completed soon. New fire extinguishers have been purchased as the previous ones had 'expired' and it was more cost effective than re-filling existing units. The tower roof has been sealed now, however, sanctuary repairs will need to wait until the summer of 2017. Snow removal will be handled again by Kevin Tish.



## Snacks to Share

Hy-Vee will be closed on Sunday, December 25, so we will not be having our normal donuts for Fellowship time. Therefore, everyone who will be at church and wants to is encouraged to bring some sort of snack to share with others. If you don't have anything to bring, don't worry as there is always plenty.



## Christmas Snacks



## MEMBERSHIP



## MOMENT

The Membership Committee was involved with Davis Folkerts' fabulous organ recital on Reformation Sunday, and with the church's participation in the Halloween Trunk or Treat event of October 31, with 5 decorated First Presbyterian

car trunks and members handing out 1250 pieces of candy to trick or treaters.

Look on page 3 of this issue of the Messenger for the first in a series of articles highlighting a different church member each month. It is entitled "View From the Pews." Please help Taylor Peska with this effort if she asks to highlight YOU in a future month's article!

Our third 'PEW' (Pray, Eat, Work) event will begin at 5:30 pm on Monday, December 5 with a light supper, followed by a brief devotion and the task of the night. We will be collecting office supplies from various locations around the church building and consolidating and organizing them in a location accessible and convenient for use by church office personnel and members involved in church projects. Please join us! The more hands we have, the quicker the job will be done and the more fun we'll have!

## Blue Christmas

Rev. Meghan Davis

What is Blue Christmas? No, it has nothing to do with the Elvis song. (but I bet that's running in your head right now...) A Blue Christmas service—sometimes referred to as "Longest Night" when observed on Winter Solstice—is a worship service held during Advent which recognizes that for many, the holidays are more a time of longing and sorrow than joy and excitement. The service is particularly geared toward those suffering loss, whether from the death of a loved one, loss of a job, end of a relationship or any other cause of sadness one might be experiencing, perhaps even more acutely during the holiday season. Even those not suffering a particular loss might appreciate the beauty and longing expressed in this service which really gets to the heart of the season of Advent. Please join us Thursday, December 22 at 7 pm.

## Church Life Activities

Tara Zehr, Chair

**Next Event: December 18 at 4 pm - Christmas Caroling followed by supper**



Date & Time	Event
December 18, 2016, 4 pm	Christmas Caroling followed by supper

On Sunday, November 20th the Church Life committee served 76 people a wonderful Thanksgiving lunch. We had over 50 pounds of turkey, a wonderful ham and more sides and desserts than we knew what to do with. The Worship and Music Committee joined in on the festivities and Communion was served at each individual table by elders - past and present. Everyone - including a few community members - left with full bellies. Thank you to everyone who brought a dish to share, joined us for this wonderful lunch and helped with clean up afterward. Please mark your calendars for our next, and final event of 2016, Christmas Caroling and Supper on December 18th. We hope to see everyone there!



*Your Church Life Committee:*  
 Randy Camp, Diane Moles, Nancy Mott, Kay Parsons, Bonnie Rasmussen, Dan Ritter and Tara Zehr

## Worship and Music

Linda Kirchhoff, Chair

**At our last meeting we discussed:**

- \***Advent**, which begins on Sunday, November 27. Ann Cutts has contacted families who will be doing the Advent candle lighting during the Sunday services during Advent.
- \***Decorating the church**. This was done by Linda Kirchhoff's bible group the week between November 20 and November 27.
- \***Poinsettias**. An order form will be inserted in the bulletin each Sunday during Lent. See further details on page 4.
- \***Christmas Pageant**. Meghan reported that this will be held on December 18 during worship. More details will follow.
- \***Blue Christmas Service**. Meghan will be leading a special service on Thursday, December 22 at 7 pm. This will be a special service for people struggling during the Christmas season. (See more information about it in a separate article on page 5.)
- \***Christmas Eve Service**. We recommended to Session that the time for this be changed from 7:30 to 7 pm. This was approved. We will work out the details at our December committee meeting.

## Mission Committee

Marilyn McCallister, Chair

**Mission Accounts:** Marilyn brought an overall financial report showing all accounts for the church so we could determine what we might need for our budget requests for 2017. There were three items listed under Missions.

### Reports:

#### Budgeting for 2017:

\*Presbytery General Mission – We recommend that Session round up our church's contribution to \$5000.

\*We recommend that Budget and Finance ask members to pay their own per capita amount again this year. The amount is \$40 per member.

\*Request that the Compañeros line item (now at \$400) be removed from the budget.

\*Muñoces/Compañeros/El Salvador – The letter is done that is to be signed by church members and will be translated and taken to Muñoces. It appears that people have forgotten about this, so Marilyn will take it to Session for them to sign and then will have the interest group sign it and then have the church members reminded that the letter is available for signatures.

\*Fall Fashion Show – It appears we made approximately \$1000. The charges for groceries have not been paid yet, so the exact figure is not known yet.

#### Mission Coalition:

\*Crop Walk donations from our church were \$145. Overall, there was \$4,470.50 collected this year, however, the average for the last 5 years has been \$5500. Discussions will be held by the Mission Coalition group on how this will be handled in future years. An observation Linda Curtis-Stolper had was with the St. Stephen's group. They had the most walkers and the most money. Their church matched the amount of money each walker was able to collect.

\*Pie Sale at McCann Center resulted in 73 pies that were sold at \$10 each, so \$730 was raised.

\*Salvation Army Bell Ringing will be December 3 for our church. We have been assigned 10 am to 2 pm at Farver's True Value. There is a sign-up chart on our bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Members can sign up for ½ hour or 1 hour times of ringing the bells.

\*Presbyterian Women held their Fall meeting, which Barb Taylor attended. She was one of the presenters.

\*South Sudan Interest Group - Six members of our congregation went to Omaha to hear Bangasi Joseph Bakosoro, the former Governor of the state of Western Equatoria, South Sudan. All the information was overwhelming to take in. The group met with Lawrence Kenyi after church on November 13. It may be that the South Sudan group in Des Moines may be on the opposing side of the fighting from the group in . Also, in looking through the Presbyterian Women information, it was noted they have a connection with South Sudan, but we don't know which group. A lot more research will need to be done before our church will be able to say how we might help.

\*Days for Girls International Workshop – Twelve volunteers joined together Friday, November 18 to create the three pieces of the sustainable feminine hygiene kits. A kit helps a girl continue in school when she normally would have had to spend a week each month confined to her home. Donations of colorful 100% cotton material (quilter's cotton or similar to) including flannels are needed. The next scheduled workshop is Thursday, January 26 from 9 am to 3 pm in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to participate in this great mission project.

#### Opportunities to Give:

\*We approved a donation of \$100.00 to the Salvation Army for what is thought of as traditional Thanksgiving meal items for individuals and families in need.

\*Progress Industries Clients: Names were available on November 21. These will be on the bulletin board in the Narthex, giving the clients name and gift requests, as well as the date the gifts are due back.

\*Salvation Army Angels – We voted to do this again this year, but only get 25 angels. When those are gone, we will not get more, as we have several opportunities for giving this year.

\*Christmas Joy Offering – This offering will be taken up on December 25.

\*Mission Giving Catalog - See page 4 for information on this.

\*Palestine Craft Sale – Liz Knott, who is a retired minister in our Presbytery, heads up this mission. Liz came to our church on November 27 to explain the purpose of this. She also brought items available for purchase that day. We plan to purchase any left over items and hold a bazaar in Fellowship Hall during Advent.

## Emergency Closure of the Church

With the arrival of winter weather, we have reviewed and updated our policies at First Presbyterian. In the event of severe weather, any changes to scheduled activities at the church will be communicated to KCOB Radio. They have assured us such information will be sent out over all 3 of their stations (1280 AM, 95.9 FM and KRTI 106.7 FM which covers Grinnell, Marshalltown, parts of Des Moines, etc.) In addition we have established an account with KCCI Television and WHO Radio. When severe weather occurs, check these sources. If First Presbyterian is not mentioned on any of these, then there is no change in our plans. However, if you have any doubts, please err on the side of caution and be safe!

The Session



## Church DEACONS

At our November 13 meeting we:

- ⇒ Approved the minutes from our previous meeting.
- ⇒ Were updated on addresses for Jeanne Bridenstine and Ann DeGrado.
- ⇒ Updated that Dave Stolper and Warren Erickson had taken Ken Johnson and Wendell Wendt to the Veterans' Day breakfast at Hy-Vee.
- ⇒ Were informed of Marie Achtemeier's memorial service on December 3 at 1:30 pm.
- ⇒ Received Meghan's report on congregants she had visited.
- ⇒ Discussed Christmas gifts for those we visit.
- ⇒ Were informed that since Hy-Vee is closed on Sunday, December 25 and there will be no doughnuts, it will be announced that people bring treats to share.
- ⇒ Tabled monetary requests until next month.

Dana Hashman, Moderator

## Budget and Finance Corner

Jonnie Carpenter, Chair

Pledges for the month of October were \$10,591. This was \$71 above budget for the month. Other Regular Giving, which represents donations from people who tithe, but do not pledge, was \$1,370 for the month, which is \$634 above budget. In total for the month, expenses were \$21 below budget.

Year-to-date through October, pledges are \$3,740 over budget and expenses are \$1,237 over budget.

**Activity included:**

- \*The Mission - International Fund disbursed \$145 for the Crop Walk donations from our church members.
- \*The Mission - Local Fund paid \$41.23 for style show expenses.
- \*The Sundays at 4 paid \$100 to Davis Folkerts for his October organ concert.



## The Birth of Jesus

(Luke 2:1-20)

<sup>2</sup> And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed.

<sup>2</sup> (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

<sup>3</sup> And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

<sup>4</sup> And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

<sup>5</sup> To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

<sup>6</sup> And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

<sup>7</sup> And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup> And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

<sup>9</sup> And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

<sup>10</sup> And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

<sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

<sup>12</sup> And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

<sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

<sup>14</sup> Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

<sup>15</sup> And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

<sup>16</sup> And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

<sup>17</sup> And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

<sup>18</sup> And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

<sup>19</sup> But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

<sup>20</sup> And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.





# 2016 **BIRTHDAYS & EVENTS**

**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

<p>9:00 am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship</p>				<p><i>1 Dick Means</i> 6:30a Early Men's Group 9a Men's Group 5p Budget &amp; Finance</p>	<p><i>2</i></p>	<p><i>3 Warren Jontz</i> 1:30p Marie Achtemeier's Memorial Service</p>
<p><i>4</i></p>	<p><i>5 Peter Van Elswyk</i> 5:30p PEW (Pray, Eat, Work)</p>	<p><i>6</i> 11a Gentle Yoga 6:30p Music and Worship</p>	<p><i>7 Steve Roese</i> 9:30a Women's Bible Study 5p Membership 7p Choir</p>	<p><i>8 Len Woythaler</i> 3p Chair Yoga 7p Christian Nurture</p>	<p><i>9</i></p>	<p><i>10</i></p>
<p><i>11 Joan Tyler</i> 9a Deacons</p>	<p><i>12</i> 5:30p Building &amp; Grounds</p>	<p><i>13</i> 11a Gentle Yoga 3:30p Mission</p>	<p><i>14</i> 9:30a Women's Bible Study 7p Choir</p>	<p><i>15</i> 6:30a Early Men's Group 9a Men's Group 3p Chair Yoga</p>	<p><i>16</i></p>	<p><i>17</i></p>
<p><i>18 Randy Ferguson</i> Christmas Pageant Congregational Meeting to Elect new Officers 4p Caroling and Supper</p>	<p><i>19 Amy Doerring</i></p>	<p><i>20 Wendell Wendt Wade Van Baale</i> 11a Gentle Yoga 6:30p Session</p>	<p><i>21</i> 9:30a Women's Bible Study 7p Choir</p>	<p><i>22</i> 7p Blue Service</p>	<p><i>23</i> Articles due for the Messenger</p>	<p><i>24</i> 7p Christmas Eve Service</p>
<p><i>25</i> </p>	<p><i>26</i></p>	<p><i>27</i> 11a Gentle Yoga</p>	<p><i>28 Linda Kirchhoff</i> 9:30a Women's Bible Study 7p Choir</p>	<p><i>29</i></p>	<p><i>30 Toni Peska</i></p>	<p><i>31</i> </p>

SCHEDULE  
OF



**VOLUNTEERS**

<b>December</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>25</b>
Worship Leader <i>Office</i>	Joan Tyler	Tom Mott	Jane Repp	Harriet Harmelink
Host Elder/Deacon <i>Diane Moles</i>	Bev Rossow	Mickey Van Baale	Bret Doerring	Sandy Cheney
Greeters <i>Julie Brodersen</i>	Kevin & Toni Peska	Chris & Peggy Lickiss	Dick & Shirley Mielke	Doug Cutt Cole Doerring
Ushers <i>Office</i>	Leonard Family	Les & Kay Gause	Don & Sharon Black	Tom & Nancy Mott
Audio <i>Doug Cutts</i>	Doug Cutts	Doug Cutts	Brad Ritter	Shirley Stevens
Counters <i>Jonnie Carpenter</i>	Kelly Koenen Jen Norvell	Terry Rickers Mickey Van Baale	Dan & Cheryl Ritter	Roger Harmelink Dave Stolper
Bread Ministry Baker <i>Barb Taylor</i>	Jane Repp	Val McKee	Dixie Zegers	Shari DeCook
Bread Ministry Taker <i>Barb Taylor</i>	Carol Russell	Toni Peska	Dana Hashman	Mickey Van Baale
Communion Set up <i>Linda Kirchhoff</i>	Norm Grimm Tara Zehr			

First Presbyterian Church  
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Newton, Iowa 50208

641-792-2790

Return Service Requested

# Lectionary —

## December, 2016

### December 4 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

Isa. 11:1-10; *Ps. 72:1-7, 18-19*;  
Rom. 15:4-13; Matt. 3:1-12

### December 11 - 3rd Sunday of Advent

Isa. 35:1-10; *Ps. 146:5-10 or*  
*Luke 1:46b-55*; James 5:7-10; Matt. 11:2-11

### December 18— 4th Sunday of Advent

Isa. 7:10-16; *Ps. 80: 1-7, 17-19*;  
Rom. 1:1-7, Matt. 1:18-25

### December 25 - Christmas Day

Isa. 52:7-10; *Ps. 98*; Heb. 1:1-4 (5-12);  
John 1:1-14

## January, 2017

### January 1 - 1st Sunday after Christmas

Isa. 63:7-9; *Ps. 148*; Heb. 2:10-18;  
Matt. 2:13-23

### January 8 - Baptism of the Lord

Isa. 42:1-9; *Ps. 29*; Acts 10:34-43;  
Matt. 3:15-17

### January 15 - 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Isa. 49:1-7; *Ps. 40-1-11*; 1 Cor. 1:1-9;  
John 1:29-42

### January 22 - 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Isa. 9:1-4; *Ps. 27:1, 4-9*; 1 Cor. 1:10-18;  
Matt. 4:12-23

### January 29 - 4th Sunday after Epiphany

Micah 6:1-8; *Ps. 15*; 1 Cor. 1:18-31;  
Matt. 5:1-12