

Third Presbyterian Church

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Third Pres Times

Volume 24 Issue 12

December 2024

Away in a Manger



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thirdpreschurch.com ♦ www.wtpblp.com

“How Silently, How Silently, The Wondrous Gift is Given”



*Lord, we are waiting for peace to reign,
Lord, we are waiting for love’s refrain.
For hope, peace, and joy and love to unite
In the beauty and wonder of Advent’s holy light.*

First Sunday of Advent

December 1st

Lighting the Candle of Hope

10:15 am Sanctuary Worship

“No Wolf” - Rev. Greg Albert

Advent Prayer Calendar Available

The Lord’s Supper

Second Sunday of Advent

December 8th

Lighting the Candle of Peace

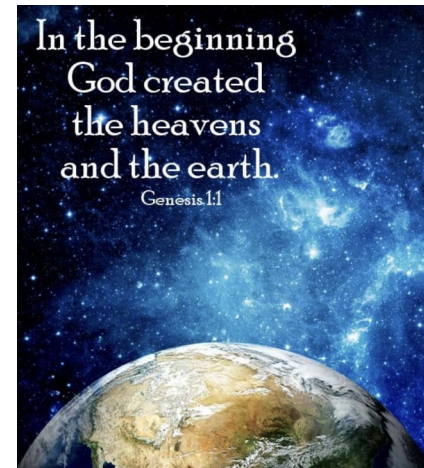
9:00 am Family Church

The Lord’s Supper

10:15 am Sanctuary Worship

“The Silence of Repentance” - Pastor Steve

Scripture



December's Bible Verse

“So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.

Luke 2:4-5



**Pick up your Advent
Calendar/Banner
And start your Advent journey through
scripture. Starting on December 1st.**

Raising up Leaders among us

Leadership 2025

Leadership Training & New Officers

Saturday, January 11, 2025

8:30am– 11:30am Lower level

In coming officers will have the chance to share their faith journeys and renew what you know of the doctrine, government, and discipline of the Presbyterian Church. We will also talk in broad strokes about what lies ahead in the coming year. Please plan to be there if you can. If a quorum of Session members are present, it will be possible to fulfill a Book of Order requirement to approve the new officers to serve.

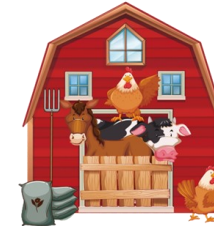
Continental Breakfast Provided

Incoming Elders and Deacons are invited to join the Session at its meeting on Tuesday, January 14th at 6:30 pm for a conversation about leadership in the church and the role of Elders and Deacons. We will discuss the leadership structure of the church including standing committees and related organizations.

Officer's-elect will be installed during worship on Sunday, January 26th. A reception hosted by the Board of Deacons will take place afterward in the Fellowship Room.

Members of the church are invited to join the work of the church ministry committees: Christian Education, Mission, Personnel, Stewardship and Finance, and Worship and Music.

**Third Sunday of Advent
December 15th
Lighting the Candle of Joy
9:00am Final Christmas Program Practice
10:15 am Sanctuary Worship**



**“Christmas in the Barn”
Children’s Christmas Program
Followed by a Spaghetti Lunch**

**4th Sunday of Advent
December 22th**

Lighting the Candle of Love

**“The Silence of a Hug” - Pastor Steve
Special Music: “Come, O Come, Emmanuel!”**

**Christmas Eve Services
December 24th**

**Lighting the Christ Candle
The Lord’s Supper**

2 pm - Carols and Bells

10 pm Candlelight Communion

“How Silently, How Silently...” - Pastor Steve

Night Crusaders/Squires



Saturday, Nov. 30th Stroll on State

We'll meet at the church at 1:00 PM, then head downtown for the parade and to enjoy Stroll on State. Please bring any money you may need for the day. See you then!"

Saturday, December 14th

9:00am - 11:30am Christmas in the Barn Practice
Followed by lunch & Trampoline Park

Christmas Overnight

Saturday, December 28th at 4:00pm

Get ready for an awesome time! Don't forget to bring:
Overnight gear & a change of clothes
(because we're staying the night!)

A dish to pass (let's share some tasty treats!)

Your special cookie ingredients (we're having a Cookie
Bake-Off – bring whatever you need to bake your
signature creation!)

A \$10 White Elephant gift (for a fun gift exchange)

Also, quick question... Who still has their Flannel Jammie
pants? (Trust us, you'll want them for this event!)

Can't wait to see you all there – it's going to be a blast!

Radio News for December 2024

December is always a great month for radio listening! Again, this year during December, we will have more specials airing than in any other month, and we play holiday music as well! Remember that we are at 99.3 FM on the broadcast dial, and on the internet at www.wtpblp.com and choose "Listen Live"

This year we will begin with our Holiday and Christmas music on Monday, December 16 and continue with many programs through Thursday, December 26! Mike Williamson will have several Christmas shows including some repeats of his shows from previous years. We will air the St. Olaf College Christmas Concert several times, as well as Tabernacle Choir Concerts from recent years.

Don Ferguson on Music from Broadway and Hollywood will feature Christmas and Holiday themed shows as well. These one hour shows air in rotation Monday and Friday at 10 AM, and Wednesday and Sunday afternoons at 4 PM.

As always, we will be able to hear messages that are based on the scripture readings for the season on our Sunday and Wednesday morning and afternoon programs: Wonderful Words of Life from the Salvation Army (11:40 AM); Day 1 (The best of Protestant Preaching noon); Sing for Joy (from St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota 12:30 PM); Westminster Presbyterian of Rockford (1 PM); and The Lutheran Hour at 1:30 PM. And, of course, Third Presbyterian Worship at 10:15 AM Sunday and Wednesday!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Rev. Murray Hanson,
Station Manager

Merry Finals Week

Send a note to one of our college students to encourage them as they study for final exams!

Aurora Insko

(Carroll University)
315 Arlington St.
Waukesha, WI 53186

Abby Ponder

(Northern Illinois University)
1416 Stratford Avenue
Rockford, IL 61107

Macy Olson

(Preska Residence College)
120 Briargate Rd.
Apt. B9
Mankato, MN 56001

Olivia Watton

(Rock Valley College)
7542 Derby Close
Caledonia, IL 61011

Nicole Facer

(Rockford University)
1928 Sharon Avenue
Rockford, IL 61103

Jacob Minnier

(Bradley University)
1630 W. Barker St.
Peoria, IL 61606

Marissa May

(Northern IL. University)
913 Van Wie Ave.
Rockford, IL 61103

You are invited to the
Wedding of
Anna Marie & Larry Bergquist
Saturday, December 14, 2024
At 4:00pm

Reception to follow
Please RSVP with the
Church office by December 4th



Youth Christmas



**Sunday, December 15th at 10:15am
Everyone Welcome!**

"Christmas in the Barn"

Presented by TPC Youth!

You're invited to a heartwarming holiday event as our talented youth and helpers bring the Christmas story to life! Don't miss this special performance, where children remind us of the simple, powerful message that Jesus calls us to love with the heart of a child.

Bring your friends and family to celebrate the season of joy, love, and togetherness. We can't wait to share this meaningful experience with you!

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Dec 1 Sean Sheehan	Dec 25 Kathleen Raymer
Dec 3 June Sabaka	Dec 26 Robert Genrich
Dec 4 Stefan Sovina	Eric Milner
Dec 7 Jamie Molsberry	Dec 27 Elaine Jacoby
Dec 12 Wyatt Tufte	Dec 28 Diane Archer
Dec 14 Eric Claussen	Brandon Raum
Kaylee Raymer	Danielle Barker
Dec 15 Doug Raum	Austin Herring
William Leese	Kathryn Rowland
Dajsha Barbour	Dec 29 John Archer
Dec 16 Karen Jones	Dec 31 Pastor Steve Bowie
Dec 18 Daniel Watton	
Dec 21 Lindsay Crosby	
Dec 23 Don Hartshorn	
Nolan Hollenbeck	
Amy Monroe	

Married 20+ Years!

12-8	Glenda and Leigh Hammer
12-18	Barbara and Ben Clay
12-26	Murray and Mary Hanson

ECHO Ringers Handbell Choir Christmas Concert Sunday, December 8 at 3 PM

Free Admission

Christ United Methodist Church
4509 Highcrest Road
Rockford, IL. 61107



This and That

Highlights from the Nov. 12th Session Meeting

- Pastor Steve mentioned members he had visited either in person, on the telephone, or via social media. He has been taking letters of introduction and newsletters around the neighborhood of the church
- Dates for The Lord's Supper in 2025 were set: first Sundays of the month, Christmas Eve, Maundy Thursday, and Retreats
- Dan Chiodini was confirmed as Commissioner to Presbytery
- Treasurer: Expenses are down 4% to budget (\$278,617); income from offerings is down 18% to budget (\$70,261). Total investment income utilized: \$208,356.
- Christmas Eve services will be at 2 pm and 10 pm.



Christmas Soup and Sandwich Luncheon Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Entertainer: Tom Jacoby

12:00 pm—2:00 pm

Luncheon and a program to follow
Hosted by the Women's Association
Everyone is welcome

Being Presbyterian

*Four by Four,
Five by Five,
And We're All In!*

- One Great Hour of Sharing**
- Pentecost Offering**
- Christmas Joy Offering**
- Per Capita for Mission**

This year Blackhawk Presbytery has twice recognized Third Presbyterian Church as one of those who participate in each of the Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). In addition, our church contributes its full share of the annual per capita assessment that enables our larger church family to do the work Christ has called us to do.

In 2025, the assessment will be \$44 for each active, confirmed member of the church. These funds enable Blackhawk Presbytery, the Synod of Lincoln Trails, and the General Assembly of the PC(USA) to work in partnership with us. In 2024, \$1,703.00 has been received to meet this expense.

Your contribution to meeting this cost means less money must be used from the church's annual budget.

Change of address or phone number

Brian Bentley
4019 Burrmont Rd.
Rockford, IL. 61107

Mules Kunz new phone number is
815-494-6678



Christmas Lights on the Bus



Sun. Dec. 8th 2 pm

Blue Bus Christmas

Ride with Pastor Steve to the ECHO Handbell Concert. Afterward, drive through Sinnissippi Park to see the Christmas displays. End the afternoon with a cup of hot chocolate!! Reserve a seat: by calling the office: 962-7889.



**Third Presbyterian Church
Congregation and Corporation
Annual Meeting**

Sun. January 19, 2025 10:15 am
In person and on Zoom
Take Home Chicken and Chili Lunch

Sun. January 26, 2025 10:15
Ordination and Installation of Officers
Reception following

From The Pastor's Desk...

Worshipping together is a gift!

You may already know that:

- * Thirders are finding new ways to be together in worship, fellowship, and mission.
- * Family Worship is for anyone who wants to experience worship in an informal way
- * Third PC is known as a church committed to The larger church family of the PCUSA!

How encouraging it is to gather together with the saints of Third on Sunday morning! People show up! Enduring and then passing out of the pandemic has resulted in changes. While some of you have found other ways to spend Sunday mornings, many of you are finding joy in being together, for worship.

"Let us be concerned for one another, to help (encourage, stimulate) one another to show love and to do good. Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing,. Instead, let us encourage one another all the more, since you see that the Day of the Lord is coming nearer." (Hebrews 10:24-25 GNT).

While some of our families are not present for worship at 10:15 each week, you can encounter them - with their children - on December 8th at 9 am. We'll also see them on December 15th when the Christmas Program comes to worship. The Advent Season leading to Christmas Eve sets our hearts to anticipate the journey, the stable, the manger, the shepherds, and the celebration of the birth of our Savior Jesus. Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

Pastor Steve

Poinsettias 2024



Lorie Michaelis

Glenda Hammer

The Leber family

Nancy & Al Justman

Anne Pritz-Hall

Greg & Robbin Albert

Bryan & Lori Olson

Dan & Laura Chiodini

Laura Fowler

Katie Malnor

Pastor Steve and Kristin

Marion Lingel

Elaine & Tom Jacoby

Don & Mary Hartshorn

Alyce Lutzow

In Memory of loves ones

In memory of loved ones

In memory of loves ones

In memory of John Pritz Jr.

Mom & Mary Jo

In memory of loved ones

In memory of loved ones

In memory of loves ones

In memory of loved ones

In memory of loves ones

In honor of family

In memory of family

In memory of our Parents

In memory of Carol Becker

& Henrietta "Hank" Milner

In memory of loved ones

**December 7
Annual Reports Due**