

Third Presbyterian Church

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Third Pres Times

Volume 21, Issue 12

December 2021

A Child is Born

ISAIAH 9:6A



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Raising up Leaders among us



Leadership 2022 “Leading Christ’s Church in the Presbyterian Way”

Over the coming weeks our new and continuing Elders, Deacons, and Trustees will be preparing to assume their duties by watching a series produced by our regional Presbyterian seminaries. Entitled “Theocademy,” this series encourages conversation about who we are and how Presbyterians uniquely put our discipleship and leadership to work as leaders in the church.

Anyone who is interested may find and watch these at this address. Each is between 13 and 19 minutes in length.

<http://www.theocademy.com/lessons-for-ruling-elders-and-deacons>

Ordered Ministry
Being Leaders
Who Is The Church?
What Is The Church?
Being A Confessional Church
The Confessions
A Brief Statement of Faith
Principles Of Order And Government
The Councils of the Church

**December 7
Annual Reports Due**

The Season of Christ’s Advent

November 28th

First Sunday of Advent
“Hope Does Not Disappoint!”
Lighting the Candle of Hope

December 5th

Second Sunday of Advent
“I Want to Be Ready”
The Lord’s Supper
Lighting the Candle of Love

December 12th

Third Sunday of Advent
“The Journey to Bethlehem”
Children’s Christmas Pageant
Lighting the Candle of Joy

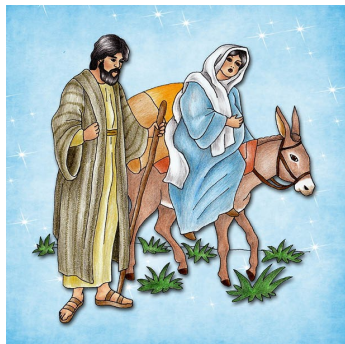
December 19th

Fourth Sunday of Advent
“Giving Birth to Christ Within Us”
Lighting the Candle of Peace

Christmas Eve 7:00 pm

“Descend to Us We Pray”
Family Christmas and
The Lord’s Supper by Candlelight

Special Events in Advent



“The Journey To Christmas” 2021 Christmas Program Dec. 12th 10:15 am

An original drama telling of the hardships faced by Mary and Joseph as they journeyed to Bethlehem, where the Savior would soon be born. A story which is easily overwhelmed by our concerns about celebrating Christmas in our day. Featuring readings and songs by children and young people of the church. Produced by Gene Archer and Elizabeth Duckett.

Post-Pandemic Premiere!

“Somebody Build a Manger” The Chancel Choir

Directed by Thomas Jacoby
Dec 19th in Worship

Fellowship Following Worship
In Fellowship Hall



Merry Christmas from 99.3 FM!

Listen for Holiday Music Specials

We wish you a Merry Christmas. This year we are planning to bring you holiday, Advent, and Christmas music **all day and night beginning on Monday, December 13.** On most of these evenings listen for **John Radio Russell with Holiday music from 8 to 10 PM,** Midwest Ballroom.

Throughout all of December listen for Don Ferguson's holiday themed specials on **“Music from Broadway and Hollywood,” airing M and F at 10 AM, and W and Sun at 4 PM.** Playing in rotation are these four one-hour programs based on Christmas time stories: Charlene's Theater, Babes in Toyland, White Christmas, and Anne (the Broadway version is set during Christmas). Don has just completed a 5th program for December **“A Dolly Parton Christmas.”** They are all 60-minute programs.

Each week **Mike Williamson** will bring a new holiday themed show airing at the usual times: **M, W, F, and Sun at 730 PM; and T, Th, and Sat at 130 PM.** There will also be many other Mike Williamson Christmas specials during the entire month!

This year Easy Listening Music 99.3 FM will bring special Christmas concerts and programs on most of our weekly programs including on Sing For Joy from St. Olaf College in Minnesota (presenting **“All Earth is Hopeful”**) (including **Dec 24, 6 & 10 PM; Dec 25, 8 & 10 AM;** and on Music and the Spoken Word with the **Tabernacle Choir** (several specials including “Christmas Day in the Morning,” with narrator Richard Thomas). **Listen on T, Th, and Sat at 9 AM.**

Tell your friends and family about our music and programs and remind them that not only can they listen on 99.3 FM on the radio dial, but they can also listen worldwide on our radio website at www.Wtpblp.com

Most of you know what I like to say, “Thanks for Listening!” And at this time of year, we all love to say, **“Merry Christmas!”**

- Rev. Murray Hanson, Station Manager

Newsy news...

The Chancel Choir is delighted to be singing again on Dec. 19th... Laura Cooper, our new secretary, is feeling at home after her first month at Third... The Piece Corps will meet Dec. 8th for a Christmas pizza celebration... the Lutzow's have a new great-daughter: Talynn... let Pastor Steve know if you have a favorite Christmas carol you'd like to sing during Advent... the Fauerbach's and the Harts-horns had vacation sojourns in Florida recently...

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
Kilgour Hall #509
119 E. College Ave.
Waukesha, WI. 53186

Macy Olson

Preska Residence College
Preska Residence Community
450 Ellis Ave. #118
Mankato, MN. 56001-6009

Abby Ponder

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Winnebago, IL. 61088

Jacob Minnier

Bradley University
Wyckoff #219
934 N. Elmwood Ave.
Peoria, IL. 61606

Jalen Craglione

Bradley University
1109 Underhill Street Unit #11
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Parkside University
450 W. Sunnyside Dr. APT 104
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Milwaukee, WI. 53154

Alyssa Archer

503 S. Church St.
Winnebago, IL. 61088

Alex Bertolasi

117 Fourth Ave.
Rochelle, IL. 61068

Third Presbyterian Church



One of the most powerful things that Christians claim is that God saw the great needs of the world and offered a perfect gift in response, a gift that brought God and humanity closer together. God's perfect gift, Jesus Christ— a gift who opens a door.

When we give to the Christmas Joy Offering we share our love with the leaders of our Church—past present and future.

50% of our gifts make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

50% of our gifts provide assistance for current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs.

There is an envelope enclosed with this newsletter if you would like to contribute to this ministry of support. This offering will be received in worship on December 19th.



“Angels All Around Us” Angel Sunday Dec. 19th

Let's fill the sanctuary with Angels.

Bring an ornament to hang on the Angel Tree in honor of or in memory of a loved one. You may also bring an angel statue or knick-knack to display on the windowsills in the sanctuary.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Dec 1	Sean Sheehan	Dec 16	Karen Jones
	John "Jack" Benson	Dec 21	Lindsay Crosby
Dec 3	June Sabaka	Dec 23	Don Hartshorn
Dec 4	Vladimir Sovina		Nolan Hollenbeck
Dec 7	Jamie Molsberry	Dec 25	Kathleen Raymer
	Melanie Cowen	Dec 26	Robert Genrich
Dec 8	Daniel Watton		Eric Milner
Dec 11	Barbara Harvey	Dec 27	Elaine Jacoby
	Jane Hatten	Dec 28	Diane Archer
Dec 12	Wyatt Tufte		Brandon Raum
Dec 14	Robert Zinnecker		Danielle Barker
	Eric Claussen		Austin Herring
	Kaylee Raymer	Dec 29	John Archer
Dec 15	Doug Raum	Dec 31	Pastor Steve Bowie
	William Leese		
	Dajsha Barbour		

Married 40+ Years!

12-8	Glenda and Leigh Hammer
12-18	Barbara and Ben Clay
12-26	Murray and Mary Hanson
12-29	Pam & Ken Reed

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of Third Presbyterian Church of Rockford

will be held via Zoom
Sunday, January 23, 2022
10:15 am

Meeting 554 624 9951
Password 1221

This and That

Notes from the Nov. 9th Meeting Session

The November meeting of the Session of Third Presbyterian Church took place on Tuesday Nov. 9th. The meditation was from The Sermon on the Mount. The Session prayerfully read the names of 20 families from the congregation.

Don Hartshorn gave the Treasurer's report that giving is significantly above last year while expenses are less than expected. Pastor Steve mentioned people he had been visiting as well as the fact that for the past several weeks people have been visiting on Sunday morning. He encouraged the Session to be visible and prayerful in the neighborhood of the church.

The Session approved a salary increment for Pastor Steve and for Elaine Jacoby as well as an amendment to Elaine's health insurance.

The Ghana mission Committee is sponsoring a Ghana Christmas Card This season!

Make a donation to Ghana Mission and we will add your name to the card of Christmas wishes.

Funds are being raised for:

- The Agave Presbyterian Youth Fund
- School supplies
- Completion of the Mission House



Make checks payable to **Third Presbyterian Church** with "Ghana Christmas Card" in the notation.

Being Presbyterian



Notes from Blackhawk Presbytery Notes from Nov. 9th Meeting

Blackhawk Presbytery met by Zoom on November 9th. Third PC was represented by Elder Dan Chiodini and Pastor Steve Bowie. Here are a few things that took place:

- Christians from Kenya will be visiting our churches in 2022 in conjunction with the ongoing Kenya Partnership
- Westminster PC of Galena was dissolved, accompanied by prayers of thanksgiving for their faithfulness
- Small groups discussed changes people have experienced personally and in their congregations over the past months.
- Support for the Presbyterian Youth Triennium was increased, given the increased cost of attending
- Rev. Christina Berry and Rev. Stephen Bowie were elected commissioners to the 2022 General Assembly

What does it cost to be a Presbyterian?

Each year the cost of being affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is calculated on a per capita basis. In other words, Third PC is assessed an amount based on the number of people on the active membership roll. This year that amount was \$9625.00.

In 2022 the Per Capita cost is \$40.00. The smallest share (\$3.81) goes to the Synod of Lincoln Trails (Illinois and Indiana). A larger share (\$8.98) goes to the work and mission of the General Assembly (national and world-wide). The largest share (\$27.71) goes to support the administrative and mission work of our own Presbytery of Blackhawk (northern Illinois).

If you are in a position to cover this cost, it relieve the general budget from having to do so. Designate your check to Per Capita.



To the Youth Group for their generous donation to Voices of Inspiration Thanksgiving Food Giveaway, your donation will help feed over 100 in Northwest Rockford.

One Body Collaboratives would like to thank Third Presbyterian for our continued support. Our donations to this ministry and our prayers have helped them to expand their ministry team.

Camp Westminster would like to thank our dedicated youth and adults led by Dan Chiodini. This past summer the group renovated an older building for the purpose of providing lodging for volunteers and summer staff.

NO Sunday School Dec. 26 or Jan 2

New Contact Info

Anna Winger Cedarhurst #C221, 7130 Crimson Ridge Rd. Rockford, IL 61107

Brandon Haven 2820 Summerdale Ave., Rockford, IL 61101

Morgan Olson 637 N. Pleasant View Rd., Unit #117, Middleton, WI 53562

Marissa Olson 815-543-0139

The Real Problem With the Supply Chain: A Parable for Christmas By Pastor Steve

By late summer it was becoming clear that alongside the resistance that many people continue to feel about being vaccinated against COVID and its variants, our culture was feeling the effects to two other significant phenomena: inflation in our economy and a “work stoppage” in what is called *the supply chain*.

While I do not pretend to be well-versed in macro or micro-economics, like everyone else I recognize that when I leave the grocery store or fill up the gas tank I am leaving behind more money than I did just months ago. This difference is even clearer to people who were already struggling to keep body and soul together during the enduring pandemic.

Some of these price increases make sense to me, as workers earning more in hourly jobs are hired at something closer to a living wage. And we have long known that were we to be paying the actual cost of the food we eat or the fuel we put in our vehicles—absent subsidies from the government— life would be much more expensive.

The issue with the supply chain is different. As Andrea Hsu explained it on NPR recently, work at the largest ports on the west coast, into which thousands of containers full of products typically flow from ships arriving from China, is stuck. There are not enough vehicles available to move these containers and their contents to where they need to go.



But hold on. Isn't the real issue the *contents* of those containers, many of which are full of *stuff* that people began ordering months ago during the lockdown? The website [statista.com](https://www.statista.com) mentions that 147 million of us are members of Amazon Prime. George Carlin, who made a living by skewering our cultural eccentricities, had a brilliant routine about how much time and money Americans spend managing our *stuff*. Isn't the real question: do we need all this *stuff*?

Jesus encouraged us to consider the birds of the air and the flowers of the field, which in their very nature are given by God all that they need to *be what they were created to be*. The Apostle Paul reminds the church at Philippi: “and my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.” (Phil. 4:19).

The season of Advent is a perfect time to reassess our *personal, spiritual supply chain*. This is not about Christmas-shaming or holding back from bringing joy to those we love during the season of giving. But consider this: what we-and they-need most has already been given to us in the saving work of Jesus Christ. The essential membership to renew on a monthly basis is our membership in the body of Christ. And what we can give those we love that will best fill their needs-if not their stockings-is the assurance that we will seek to love them the way that Jesus loves us all. Merry Christmas, Thirders, and God be with you.

Pastor Steve