

Third Presbyterian Church

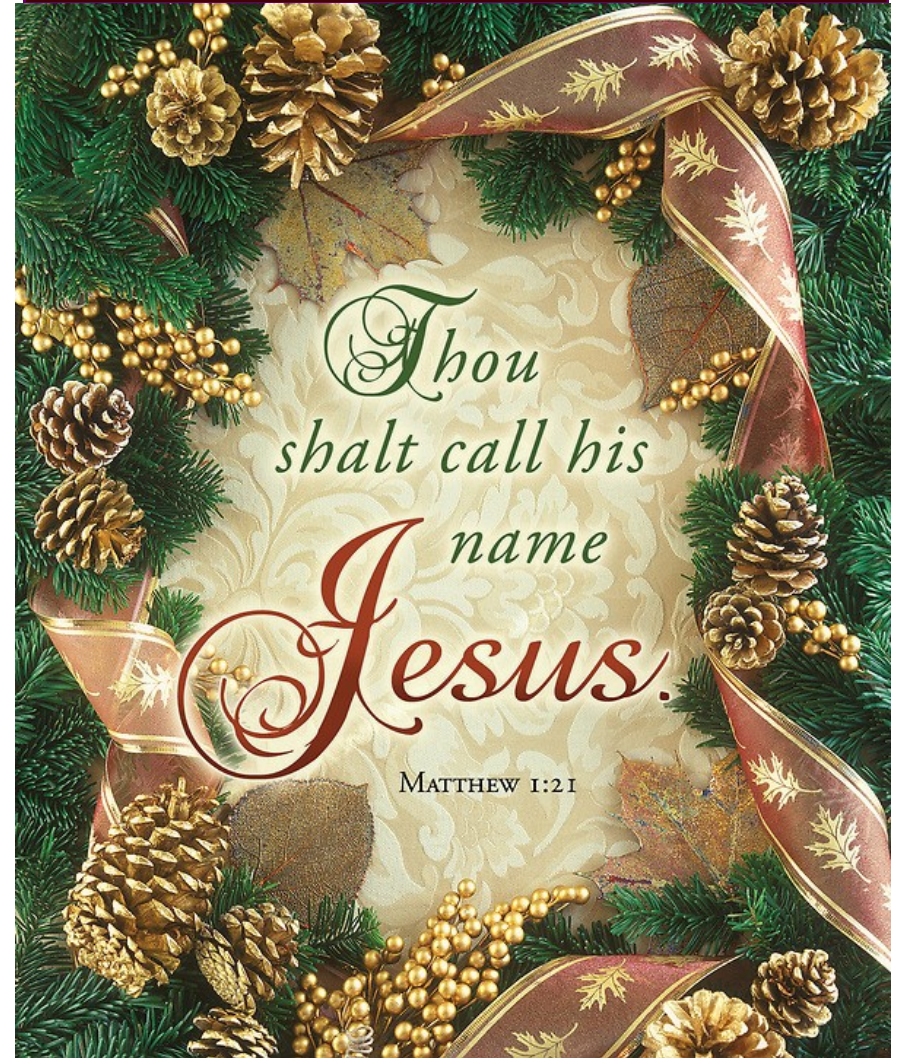
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# Third Pres Times

Volume 25 Issue 12

December 2025



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[thirdpreschurch.com](http://thirdpreschurch.com) ♦ [www.wtpblp.com](http://www.wtpblp.com)

## **“Light the Candle To Watch for Messiah”**

**First Sunday of Advent**

**November 30th**

**The Candle of Hope**

**10:15 am Sanctuary Worship**

*“Prepare for His Coming” - Rev. Greg Albert*

**Second Sunday of Advent**

**December 7th**

**The Candle of Peace**

**The Lord's Supper**

**9:00 am Family Church with Advent Project**

**10:15 am Sanctuary Worship**

*“The Only Two Seasons” - Pastor Steve*

*Special Music: Men's Quartet*

**Third Sunday of Advent**

**December 14th**

**The Candle of Joy**

**10:15 am Worship with Christmas Musical**

**Lunch Following Worship**



Third Presbyterian Church

## **Looking Ahead**



**Please join us for VBS**

**Halsted Road Baptist Church**

**3326 Halstead Road**

**Ages 3 thru 12**

**June 22nd-26th 11:00am-2:30pm**

**Lunch will be served**

**Joint event of Halsted Road Baptist Church, Living Stones, Third Presbyterian Church, and community supported with Northwest Neighbors, and other area Churches**

**2026 Youth Mission Trip Bowling Fundraiser**

**Sunday, February 1, 2026**

**Bowling, 50/50 Raffle and Raffle Baskets**

**Check-In: 1:30pm**

**\$40.00 per couple**

**( Pre-pay January 18th to reserve your spot)**

**Package includes: 3 games of Scotch Doubles 9-Pin No Tap  
Bowling Rental shoes included.**

# Leading the Church

## Leadership 2025

**Saturday, January 17, 2025 9:00 – 11:30am**  
**First Presbyterian Church Winnebago**  
**Continental Breakfast Provided**

Both in-coming officers and continuing officers are invited to attend a leadership event at First PC Winnebago. You will have the chance to share your faith journey, review the role of your office, and learn of the recent reorganization of the P.C.(U.S.A.) General Assembly.

## Dates for Leaders—New and Continuing

**Tues. Jan. 13 Session Meeting**  
**Elders and newly-elected Deacons**

**Sat. Jan. 17th Leadership 2025**  
**First PC Winnebago 9-11:30 am**

**Tues. Jan. 20 Deacons Meeting**  
**Deacons (including newly-elected)**

**Sun. Jan. 25 Ordination and Installation**  
**Elders, Deacons, Trustees**

## Fourth Sunday of Advent December 21st

### The Candle of Love

*“The Silence of a Hug” - Pastor Steve*

*Special Music: “Christmas Sanctus”*

*All Singers Choir*



## Christmas Eve December 24th

**2:00 pm Carols, Candles, and Bells**  
**The Lord's Supper**

*“The Sermon of the Manger” - Pastor Steve*

**10 pm Candlelight Reflection**

## Sunday after Christmas December 28th

*“Following the Star”*

*Rev. Greg Albert, preaching*

## Youth

### **Saturday, December 6th**

9:00 am - 11:30 am Practice for  
"The Colors of Christmas"

### **Saturday, December 13th**

9:00 - 11:30 am Youth practice for the  
Colors of Christmas  
Followed by lunch & Trampoline Park

### **Sunday, December 14th**

9:00am - Christmas Program practice  
10:15 am Youth Christmas Program  
"The Colors of Christmas"

## Night Crusaders & Squires

### **Saturday, December 20th**

12:00pm - Meet at TPC for Caroling at Cedar Crest

### **Friday, January 2nd**

Christmas Overnight at TPC Night Crusaders  
& Squires

Get ready for an awesome time! Don't forget to bring:  
Overnight gear & a change of clothes  
(because we're staying the night!)  
Can't wait to see you all there – it's going to be a blast!

Third Presbyterian Church

## Radio News for December 2025

### **Radio News for December 2025**

December is always a great month for radio listening! We play holiday music, and we have more specials airing than any other month! Remember that we are at 99.3 FM on the broadcast dial, and on the internet at [www.wtpblp.com](http://www.wtpblp.com) and choose "Listen Live" This year we will begin with our Holiday and Christmas music on Monday, December 15 and continue through Friday, December 26! Mike Williamson will have Christmas shows beginning on December 4, including some repeats of his shows from previous years. We will air the St. Olaf College Christmas Concert from Northfield, Minnesota on Wednesday, December 17 at 12:30 PM, and again on Sunday, December 21, at 12:30 PM, We will air several of the Tabernacle Choir Concerts from recent years.

Don Ferguson on Music from Broadway and Hollywood will feature Christmas and Holiday themed shows as well: Annie, Christmas with the Chipmunks, White Christmas, Babes in Toyland, Charlene's Christmas, and Dolly Parton Christmas.

These one hour shows air in rotation Monday and Friday at 10 AM, and Wednesday and Sunday afternoons at 4 PM.

Dave Fagen (Only Oldies, Night Music) and John Radio Russell (Midwest Ballroom) will have holiday themed music as well during December!

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: Words of Life from the Salvation Army (11:40 AM); Day1: The best of Protestant Preaching (noon); Sing For Joy (from St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota (12:30 PM) and The Lutheran Hour at 1:30 PM. And, of course, Third Presbyterian Worship at 10:15 AM Sunday and Wednesday! In addition, we will air Westminster Presbyterian Worship (recorded) at 1 PM Wednesday and Sundays.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Rev. Murray Hanson, Station Manager

## Stronghold Youth Retreat



### Thank You

#### Awesome Congregation!!

Thank you so much for supporting our coat drive. We took 20 coats to Carpenters Place just in time for the chilly weather.

Thank you for helping us spread Gods love in our community.

K thru 5th grade  
Sunday School Class



## Annual Christmas Program

### The Colors of Christmas



**Sun. December 14th**  
**"The Colors of Christmas"**  
**10:15 am**

The youth at Third Presbyterian Church will present *The Colors of Christmas*, a special program that celebrates the meaning we can find in the colors used at Christmas time. Through storytelling and song, our

youth will help us reflect on how each color points to the love, purity and eternal life we find in Jesus. We invite everyone to join us for this uplifting and meaningful presentation as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus.



We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Director Kim Ponder, Music Leaders Julie Leber and Pastor Steve, Assistant Director Jeannette Sheehan and all the volunteers for their outstanding leadership in bringing this program to life. Your dedication, creativity, and guidance are making *The Colors of Christmas* a meaningful experience, we look forward to seeing it on Dec. 14th at 10:15am. Thank you for sharing your gifts!

## 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
Bill Leese	Kathryn Rowland
Dajsha Barbour	Dec 29 John Archer
Dec 16 Karen Jones	Dec 31 Pastor Steve
Dec 18 Daniel Watton	
Dec 21 Lindsay Crosby	
Dec 23 Don Hartshorn	
Nolan Hollenbeck	
Amy Dawn Monroe	

### Married 20+ Years!

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

### Address Changes



Larry & Anna Bergquist (1/1/2026)  
122 12th Street—Lower  
Rockford, IL 61104

Rick Martinez  
548 N. Railroad street  
Braidwood, IL 60408

Richard Williamson  
540 Clifford Ave. #1105  
Loves Park, IL 61111



## Poinsettias



Dan & Laura Chiodini	Family
Chris & Jody Minnier	Carrie
Steve & Kristin Bowie	Our Parents
Malnor/Sabaka Family	Loved Ones
Alan & Nancy Justman	Family
Bill & Julie Leber	Family
Alyce Lutzow	Earl, Brad & Brian
Lorie Michaelis	Loved Ones
Marion Lingel	Family who have passed
Pam Reed	Family who have passed
Cindy Watton	Family
Robbin & Greg Albert	Family
Tom & Elaine Jacoby	For our families
Anne Pritz-Hall	Family



### Thank you!

Third Presbyterian Church extends our thanks to everyone who purchased a poinsettias this year. Your gifts, given in honor of loved ones and in remembrance of those who have passed, bring beauty, warmth, and meaning to our sanctuary during this blessed season. Please remember to take your poinsettia home with you after Sunday service on December 26th. Thank you again for your generosity and for helping the worship space so special this Christmas.

**Third Presbyterian Church**

## Being Presbyterian

A New Name for the Presbytery:  
"Illinois Prairie Presbytery"

For the past several months, the 66 member churches of Blackhawk Presbytery have taken part in a discernment process to consider a new name. This process came about as the result of reflection on the use of the name "Blackhawk." Blackhawk was a 19th-century member and leader of the Sauk tribe in the Illinois territory. The name "Blackhawk" was assigned to the Presbytery without reflection on the effect its use had on Sauk culture, where names are considered sacred.

After possible names were solicited from members of the churches, several rounds of ranked-voting took place to whittle the list down to one. The final two candidates included the word "Prairie." The final choice, by two votes, was "Illinois Prairie."

*Pastor Steve*

### Congregation and Corporation Annual Meeting

**Sun. January 18, 2025 10:15 am**  
In person and on Zoom  
Take Home Chicken and Chili Lunch

**Sun. January 25, 2025 10:15**  
Ordination and Installation of Officers  
Reception following

## Christmas Season



### Christmas Soup and Sandwich Luncheon Wednesday, December 3, 2025

**Featuring Tom Jacoby**

*Christmas Memories*

**12:00 pm—2:00 pm**

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

Everyone is welcome

**Third Presbyterian Church**



### Family Worship December 7th 9:00am Advent Project



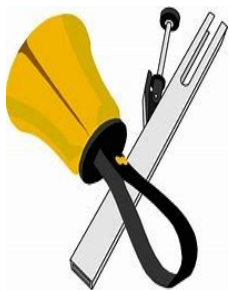
Paint a  
watercolor  
of Third  
Presbyterian  
Church  
& decorate  
Christmas  
Cookies.

## Christmas Season

**Saturday,  
Dec. 13th  
10:30am-  
2:00pm**

**SOUP  
KITCHEN**

We would love to have you come and help us! We also gladly take donations of paper goods and food. Sign up forms are in the fellowship room. We have a good time serving and getting to know our church family better. We also offer coffee and donuts. If you have any questions, call Jeanne at 815-742-7890 or Sue at 815-988-5246.



**Sunday, Dec. 7th  
At 3:00pm  
Grace United  
Methodist  
Church  
3555 McFarland  
Rd.  
Rockford, IL**

**ECHO  
Ringers  
Handbell Choir  
Christmas  
Concert**

Ride the Blue Bus  
To see the  
Sinnissippi Lights

Wednesday Dec. 17th  
4:00 pm at the Church



## The Pastor's Corner

**"The Culture of Christmas"**  
By Pastor Steve

Pop some corn, grab a blanket, settle in, and watch a Christmas movie! Doesn't that sound like a good thing to do on a cold December day? "The Top Tens" lists these as the most popular Christmas movies. Are any of them on your list?

1. Home Alone
2. Elf
3. A Christmas Story
4. It's A Wonderful Life
5. National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation
6. Rudolph, The Red-Nosed Reindeer
7. The Polar Express
8. Home Alone 2: Lost In New York
9. How The Grinch Stole Christmas
10. The Nightmare Before Christmas

Let me add a few that relate more directly to the miracle of God's love expressed through Jesus: Check them out!

1. The Nativity Story (2006)- a wonderfully acted depiction of the birth of the Christ Child.
2. A Christmas Carol (Any version) - Charles Dicken's story of a one man's redemption from a self-focused life.
3. Joshua (2002) - not specifically a Christmas movie, this one tells of a mysterious man who appears in a small town and changes the lives of everyone he meets.

Oh, and don't forget to put plenty of butter on the popcorn!  
Merry Christmas.

*Pastor Steve*