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First Presbyterian Church
1319 Junction Avenue
Sturgis, SD 57785-1910



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The Good News Letter



The Candy Cane Story

I know that this story has been told many times in the past, but I think that it can be told one more time. Tell it to a child today that may have never heard it before.

A candy maker in Indiana wanted to make a candy that would remind people of the true meaning of Christmas; so he made the candy cane to incorporate several symbols for the birth, ministry, and death of Jesus Christ.

He began with a stick of pure white, hard candy. White to symbolize the Virgin Birth and the sinless nature of Jesus, and hard to symbolize the Solid Rock, the foundation of the Church, and the firmness of the promises of God.

The candy maker then shaped his cane into the form of a "J" to represent the precious name of Jesus, who came to the earth as Savior. It could also represent the staff of the "Good Shepherd" with which He reaches down to reclaim the fallen lambs who, like sheep, have gone astray.

Thinking that the candy was somewhat plain, the candy maker stained it with red stripes. He used three small stripes to show the stripes of the scourging Jesus received. The large red stripe was for the blood shed by Christ on the cross so that we could have the promise of eternal life.

Share a candy cane with someone today, share the story of our Lord Jesus Christ.





Pastor's Message

The very first American Christmas carol was “’Twas in the Moon of Wintertime.” It was written by a Jesuit, John Brebeuf, who came to the New World in 1625. He got involved with the Huron Indians in what is now Quebec and learned their language called Wendat. For Christmas, he wrote a poem telling the story of Jesus’ birth and set it to the tune of an old French song.

In his poem he used words and images of the Huron culture. God is the “mighty Gitchi Manitou” and the Great Spirit. Jesus is born “in a lodge of broken bark” wrapped in a “robe of rabbit skin.” The baby Jesus is admired by “hunter braves” and “chiefs from afar.”

This carol survived Brebeuf’s capture and then his death at the hands of some marauding Iroquois in 1649. Hurons that survived the raid preserved the hymn, and it is now sung by many Christmas choirs and chorales. In fact, this carol is in our hymnbook, number 213.

The value of “The Huron Carol” is that the beauty and glory of Jesus’ birth is set in the real world experience of the Huron people. When Jesus comes to us, he comes to us in our own setting, our own culture. God the Great Spirit comes to us whether we live in a many roomed mansion, a trailer, or a “lodge of broken bark.” The baby Jesus comes to us whether wrapped in swaddling clothes or in rabbit skin. Jesus is honored in his coming whether by ordinary people like you and me, or by kings of the orient, or brave hunters and chiefs—by any who recognize him.

As we place Jesus Christ in our own time and place, just as he transformed the lives of those in his own time, he will transform our lives as well. The power of God is not limited by time or location. All God needs is willing hearts, our spirits open to his work of love and forgiveness. By opening ourselves to the presence of Christ this Advent and Christmas season, we will see his coming among us. He and only he can give us the peace we all long for.

God bless you and may you have an Advent of anticipation and a Christmas of joy,

Pastor Paul



Our Sunday Worship Schedule and Live Streaming Worship Services

10:30 a.m. ~ Worship Service
11:30 to Noon ~ Fellowship

December 5 ~ Worship with Holy
Communion

December 12 ~ Worship

December 19 ~ Worship

4:00pm ~ Blue Christmas Service

December 24 ~ Christmas Eve Service
Holy Communion

December 26 ~ Worship—Don
Nettleton to give message

You may also join us on Facebook Live
Sunday mornings by going to
**[https://www.facebook.com/
FirstPresbyterianSturgis](https://www.facebook.com/FirstPresbyterianSturgis)**. The service
will also be viewed on our website,
www.fpcsturgissd.com, a short time
after 11:30 a.m.

If you would like to receive a written
copy of the sermon, please let the
church know at 605-347-2395 and you
will be added to the mailing list.



Office Hours

Church office hours are Mon-
day—Friday, 8:00 a.m. to Noon
and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Pastor Paul will be in the office
Monday through Thursday, 9:30
a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Please feel free to give the church
office a call with any questions or
concerns at 605-347-2395. If you
need to reach us after hours you
can call either Pastor Paul at 701-
535-0610 or Carla at 605-423-
6034.

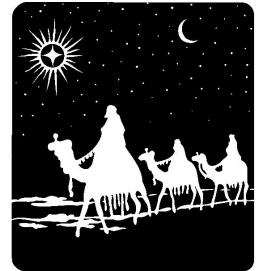




If you would like to give thanks for or remember someone in our rent a Poinsettia program this year, please sign up on the form in the Narthex, email or call the Church Office. The “rent” amount is \$20 per Poinsettia. The names will be included in the information sent out for Christmas Eve Service.

Christmas Eve Service

Our Christmas Eve Service is at 5:30 PM and will be a Candlelight Communion Service. We’re looking forward to celebrating the birth of our Lord with you!



Oh Holy Night

Calling all members/friends of the church. The Presbyterian Women are asking for your help with the following projects.

December is a time of preparation for the miracle of Christ’s birth. As we prepare, we need to remember others. Once again the Christmas giving tree will be in the narthex with “tags” on the branches. Each of these tags represents a person residing either in Key City Assisted Living or Monument Sturgis Senior Care Center. Please take a tag and return the gift in a gift bag on or before Sunday, December 19th.



Any donation of Christmas cookies is welcome to assist in the “Christmas Cookie Delivery Project”. Please bring your donation to the church office on or before December 2nd at 1:30 PM.

The next PW meeting will be Thursday, December 2, 2021, at 1:30 PM. Christmas cookie trays for distribution to various Sturgis Assisted Livings and Monument Health Sturgis Care Center will be assembled. Unwrapped toys for ***Toys for Tots*** will be collected. “Bring” your favorite Christmas Blessing.

Christmas Concert

What a joy it is to praise God through music. That is what the annual Christmas Concert is all about. It will be held at the Theater of the Sturgis Community Center on December 12 at 2:00 p.m. You will hear many choirs, including our own Presbyterian Chancel Choir. It is just such a great time. A free will offering is received at the door. You are invited to attend.



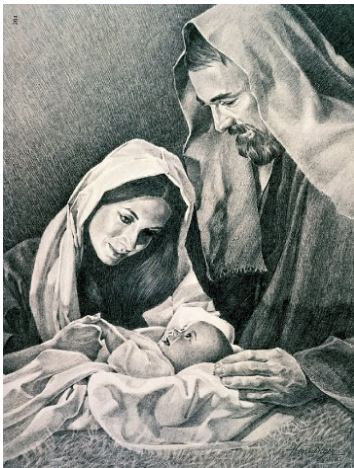
children's program



Children's Christmas Program

We never know what a child will do or say. That seems to be especially true for Christmas pageants! This year, the children will present their program on December 19th during morning worship. This will be in place of the sermon. Come to worship God and to support our children as they grow in expressing the faith we have in Jesus Christ.

Luke 2:8-12 (The Message)



⁸⁻¹² There were shepherders camping in the neighborhood. They had set night watches over their sheep. Suddenly, God's angel stood among them and God's glory blazed around them. They were terrified. The angel said, "Don't be afraid. I'm here to announce a great and joyful event that is meant for everybody, worldwide: A Savior has just been born in David's town, a Savior who is Messiah and Master. This is what you're to look for: a baby wrapped in a blanket and lying in a manger."

Merry Christmas from the staff of First Presbyterian Church

Rev. Paul Henschen

Carla Harrison – FPC Secretary, Clint Jandreau – Janitor

Brenda Schaffer – Chancel Choir Director, Carole Skalsky – Chapel Bells Director

Intergenerational Meal on Wednesday, December 15th at 6:00 pm!

Come and gather at 6 pm on Wednesday, December 15th for a potluck meal. Bring your favorite “comfort” dishes and desserts. Our youth group will set up and clean up, and will join everyone for the meal and program.



We will have a program based on Luke 14:15-24 where a home owner gives a dinner but his guests make excuses and do not come. The host then invites from the streets the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame, and they all come to fill his house.

You will sit with people of different ages and backgrounds and we will get to know each other better. This program is part of our Sunday school curriculum, “Welcome All: The Big Table.” We will explore the “All” in “Welcome All”!

Also, as part of our program, people from the different groups that we give mission money to will be at the meal. This will be your opportunity to give “**Christmas From the Heart**” donations. The representatives will be recognized and they will have stations that you can donate to.



If you are able to give older members a ride, please do so, because it will be dark! Help out others so that they may be a part of this gathering.



Looking Forward

January 2 ~ Worship with Communion

January 6 ~ Epiphany of the Lord

January 9 ~ Ordination and installation of newly elected Elders and Deacons during worship.

A Reminder about Annual Reports!

Every committee and organization under the umbrella of the church needs to provide the church office with an annual report. Those that are typed, and especially those sent to the church office as email attachments, or even those within the body of the email are greatly appreciated.

Each report should be concise. Usually, it needs to be no longer than a page in length. If what you need to say can be said in a paragraph, that is fine. If you wish to list those who served on your committee, it is very appropriate. Make sure that your heading gives the name of your committee or organization and that this is the Annual Report for 2021. It is appropriate to get them in as soon as possible after January 1. And THANKS!

The Lord's Supper in December

We will be celebrating the Lord's Supper on December 5 and December 24 (Christmas Eve Service at 5:30 p.m.) Ordained Elders will serve communion on Christmas Eve this year, and we appreciate all who are willing to serve the church in this way. It is also helpful if you can sign up a few weeks in advance. The church secretary would greatly appreciate it.

Christmas Day

We hope you can be with loved ones on Christmas Day. It is a special time, made more special when we are with family and friends. The pastor and his wife plan to be on vacation from Christmas Day through the end of the year.

Come let us
Adore
Him



Note from the Finance/Personal/Stewardship Committee

Thank you to everyone who has completed their pledge forms and interest sheets. If you haven't done so, please complete them as soon as possible and return them to the church office so we can finalize the church budget and committees for 2022.

Alliance of Churches Annual Chili Cookoff Report

Thank you all for preparing all that great chili and especially for all of your hard work. From the size of the crowd and the sound of all the great fellowship this year's Chili Cook-Off fundraiser was a great success. The final total was \$3,075.00.

Thanks again, Deb Looby, Secretary, Sturgis Alliance of Churches.



On November 3, 2021, Tyler and Maggie Kaitfors presented Crosby William Kaitfors as a new member to First Presbyterian Church of Sturgis by baptism.



Outstanding Senior Presbyterian

The Welcoming Committee is honored to name Virginia Brandt as this year's Outstanding Senior of the First Presbyterian Church.

Virginia (Ginni) embodies the qualities of steadfast faith and commitment to the church. She began attending here in 1950 when she came to Sturgis High School from the family ranch in Opal, SD. When she was young her mother Marie passed away, and Ginni can remember her father, Lawrence Ingalls, promising her grandmother that his five children would be in church every Sunday. In all kinds of weather, the family made the journey several miles on gravel roads to the Prairie Home Church in Maurine. Sometimes they were the only attendees when weather kept even the pastor away.



Soon after moving to her grandmother's home to start high school, Ginni began attending choir practice which was then held in the Rev. C.D. Erskine home. She began as a first soprano, but over the years her voice lowered to a tenor, which made her a valuable addition to both men's and women's quartets, which she greatly enjoyed. For a time, she was also the children's choir director. Ginni feels that God blessed her with both the joy and the gift of singing, which she has graciously shared in worship for 70 years.

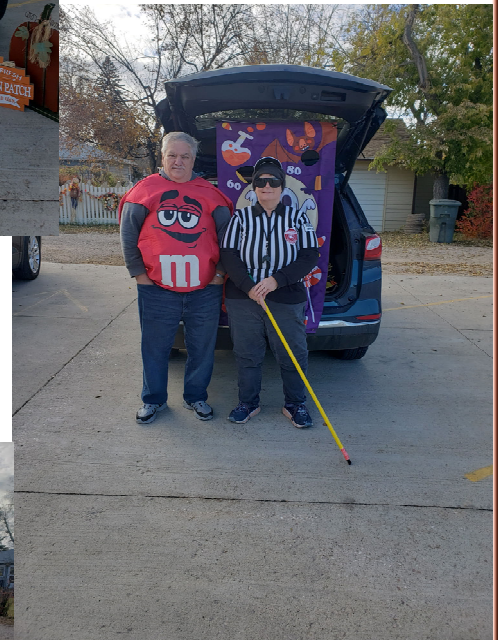
Mike and she were married in this church in 1955 and attended together during the years they lived in Sturgis. Their daughter, Dawn Pfeifle, and sons Paul and Greg were all confirmed here.

After her children were in school, Ginni worked as a secretary in what was then the junior high school. Later, she opened her own real estate office. Throughout the years, Mike and Ginni enjoyed traveling. Now, she reads copiously, likes to play scrabble, and enjoys her family, which has grown to nine grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

We would like to thank you, Ginni, for your years of dedication to this church.



Thank you to all who helped make this year's Trunk or Treat a success. Banners were displayed, treats donated and prayers offered. Approximately 300 children and adults visited the "trunks" of 14 members/ friends of the church during the event. We are planning on continuing this annual event in 2022.





Update on continued support of the Kiwanis Food Pantry, Sturgis SD



Christmas is a time we celebrate Christ's birth, the greatest gift any can receive. Through your generosity you continue to spread kindness and caring to others.

December's suggested items:

Total 2018	3164 pounds	December 5	Meat (non-perishable)
Total 2019	2371 pounds	December 12	Christmas Dinner (non-perishable items)
Total 2020	818 pounds	December 19	Noodles/Rice/Pasta
January- March 2021	211 pounds	December 26	Hamburger/Tuna Helper
April –June 2021	257 pounds		
July 2021 – September 2021	419 pounds		
October 2021	91 pounds		

Approximately 220 families continue utilize the Food Pantry on a monthly basis. The appreciation of the visitors to the Food Bank, both customers and volunteers, is priceless. If you wish to make a monetary donation please designate "Food Pantry" on the memo line of your check or offering envelope. ***Please also continue to save Lynn's Dakota Mart receipts; the money received through this program is utilized for purchase of regularly stocked products at the Food Pantry. For each \$10,000 in receipts the Food Bank receives \$100.***

Please feel free to contact me at 605-490-3078 or betty.nettleton@gmail.com if you have any questions or suggestions. Thank you for your continued support!

Betty Nettleton



Devotion



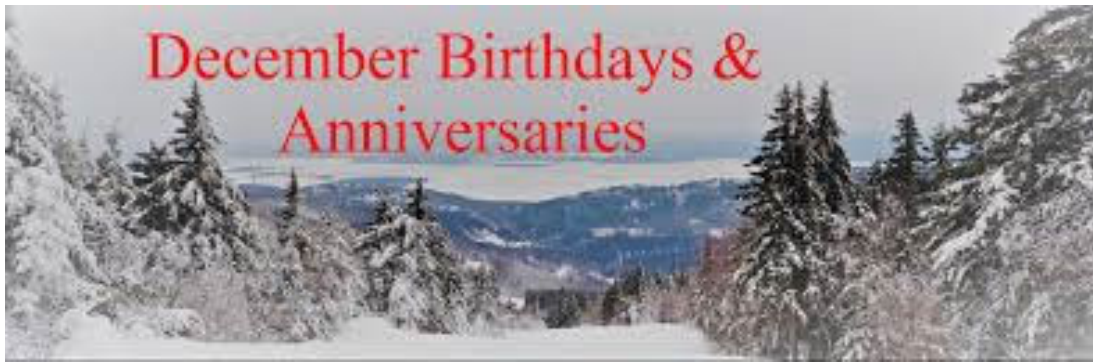
December Daily Bible Reading – Names of Jesus

Handel's Messiah is amazing, inspiring music, especially meaningful near Christmas and Easter. My favorite part is when the choir sings Isaiah 9:6 and the voices crescendo with "and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace." The exalted music of glory and honor to Jesus.

Philippians 2: 9 says the name of Jesus is above all names. Acts 4:12 states that salvation is found in no other name. Some resources say there are well over 100 names or titles of Jesus listed in the Bible. These names hold significant value and meaning, pointing to specific aspects of Jesus. For instance, the name Christ means anointed one, the chosen; Lord means master or one in authority; Shepherd signifies one who guards and protects. Meditating on the names of Jesus can help us to see him more clearly, love him more dearly, and follow him more nearly.

Please join me in preparing for Christmas with these Bible readings. Love, Trish


Day 1	Revelation 1:8	Day 17	Matthew 16: 13-17
Day 2	Revelation 21:6-7	Day 18	John 4: 21-26
Day 3	John 1:29-31	Day 19	I Timothy 4: 9-10
Day 4	Revelation 7:16-17	Day 20	Micah 5:2
Day 5	John 8:12	Day 21	Colossians 1:15-20
Day 6	Galatians 4:4-7	Day 22	Isaiah 7:14
Day 7	John 3:16-18	Day 23	Isaiah 9:6-7
Day 8	Hebrews 1:1-4	Day 24	Luke 2:1-20
Day 9	Matthew 21:9-11	Day 25	Matthew 1:18-25
Day 10	John 6:32-35	Day 26	Revelation 22:16
Day 11	Acts 3:6-7	Day 27	I Timothy 6:13-16
Day 12	Romans 1:1-5	Day 28	Matthew 23:9-12
Day 13	John 17:1-3	Day 29	Hebrews 3:1-3
Day 14	I Corinthians 1:22-25	Day 30	I Corinthians 15: 20-22
Day 15	Psalms 23	Day 31	John 14: 6-7
Day 16	John 1:40-41		



- 12/1 ~ Darrel Hatzenbuhler 12/27 ~ Niel & Karen Hinek
12/1 ~ Scott Peterson 12/31 ~ Rev. Paul & Susan Henschen
12/2 ~ Bryce Sigman
12/2 ~ Ben Bauer
12/2 ~ Josh Schriock
12/3 ~ Kevin Bossman
12/4 ~ Hannah Peterson
12/4 ~ Roy Sigman
12/5 ~ Stetson Lippert
12/7 ~ Michele Loobey-Gertsch
12/7 ~ Teena Sigman
12/8 ~ Virginia (Ginger) Gerbracht
12/9 ~ June Dill
12/9 ~ Carol Price
12/10 ~ Taven Dunn
10/13 ~ Kathy Biesheuvel
12/15 ~ Keith McKay
12/16 ~ Craig Henderson
12/17 ~ Ray Kaitfors
12/20 ~ Guy Edwards
12/23 ~ Lynne McPherson
12/28 ~ Lilliana Jones
12/30 ~ Patricia Jentes

December



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 4:45PM Chapel Bells 5:30PM Youth Group 7:00PM Choir	2 12:00PM AOC @ 1:30PM PW Circle	3	4
2nd Sunday of Advent 5	6	7	8 4:45PM Chapel Bells 5:30PM Youth Group 7:00PM Choir @ Community Center	9	10	11
9:00AM ~ Sunday School 10:30AM ~ Worship/Com Congregational Meeting (Officers, Pastor's Terms of Call, Budget) 11:30AM ~ Fellowship Parish 2	5:00PM Worship 6:00PM Missions (on Zoom)	5:15 PM Deacons				
3rd Sunday of Advent 12	13	14	15 4:45PM Chapel Bells 5:30PM Youth Group 6:00PM Meal 5:30PM Inter- generational Meal/Potluck 7:00PM Choir	16	17	18
9:00AM ~ Sunday School 10:30AM ~ Worship 11:30AM ~ Fellowship 2:00PM ~ Choir Concert Parish 3	5:00PM Welcoming 6:00PM Finance, Per- sonnel & Stew- ardship					
4th Sunday of Advent 19	20	21	22 4:45PM Chapel Bells 5:30PM Youth Group 7:00PM Choir	23	24 5:30PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service	25 Nativity of the Lord/ Christmas Day 
9:00AM ~ Sunday School 10:30AM ~ Worship- Chil- dren's Christmas Program 11:30AM ~ Fellowship 4:00PM ~ Blue Christmas Parish 4	7:00PM Stated Session					
1st Sunday of Christmas 26	27	28	29 4:45PM Chapel Bells 7:00PM Choir	30 Jan. 1st	31	
10:30AM ~ Worship-Don Nettleton preaching 11:30AM ~ Fellowship Parish 1	Pastor Paul out for Vacation Newsletter Deadline!					



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Phil Keane

