



*Artwork by Sheila Hinderks*

**FIRST REFORMED CHURCH  
901 Pleasant St. Boyden, IA  
Reverend David P. Poppen  
December 9, 2018**

***JESUS SAVES! GROW! GO!***

***WELCOME! WORSHIP THE LORD!***

Prelude **Bonnie Poppen**

Opening and Greeting

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath – Brent & Shari Fedders**  
(insert pgs 5-6)

**\*Praise Songs: “This Little Light of Mine”** (screen)  
**“You Are My All in All”** (screen)

\*Opening Prayer

**Invitation to Confession** (insert pg 6)

**Confession & Assurance of Pardon** (insert pg 6)

Joys and Concerns

Congregational Prayer

Children’s message

**Hymn #382 “Be Thou My Vision”**

(the general offering will be received)

***COME! HEAR GOD’S WORD!***

**Scripture – John 1:1-14** (pg 1645); **10:7-10** (pg 1666)

Prayer of Illumination

**Sermon – “A Light in the Darkness”**

Prayer of Blessing

***RESPONDING TO THE WORD!***

**Hymn “Love Has Come”** (screen & ½ sheet in pew)  
(the Missions offering will be received)

**The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper**

\*Benediction

**\*Hymn “Go Light Your World”** (chorus)  
**Pastor Dave & Bonnie**

Postlude

(\*those who are able please stand)

## PRAYER AND PRAISE

**Please remember in your prayers Mina Uittenbogaard, Clarella Van Marel, Sheryl Warntjes, Janice Sneller and Kathy Beek** as they tackle their current health issues. Pray that they feel the love of God and benefit from His strength.

**“We are grateful** to our Heavenly Father for healing and thankful for the prayers, concerns and many cards received from our church family.” Alvin & Clarella Van Marel

**Today we have the privilege of receiving Kaitlyn Rosenboom** into our church family! Welcome Kaitlyn!!

**Congratulations** to Jaycee Darnell & Ryan Reiser on the birth of their daughter Nayomi Grace. She was born on November 29<sup>th</sup>. Grandparents are Jeremy and Lori Darnell. May God bless this new little life and be ever-present in her and her family's lives.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**If you are visiting today, WELCOME!** Be our guest! We welcome you to our worship experience. There is coffee available in the room off of the sanctuary and following the service in the fellowship basement.

**During our worship service this morning,** we will be celebrating the first Sunday of Advent. We will be lighting the first Advent Candle as well as considering the themes from “The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe.” Thank you Brent & Shari Fedders for your part in our worship service this morning. **We will also be celebrating the Lord’s Supper** this morning. If you believe in your heart that Jesus Christ is your Lord and Savior we invite you to participate with us in the sacrament.

**During the singing of the middle hymn** the deacons will receive the regular Sunday morning offering. During the singing of the hymn just before the Sacrament, the deacons will receive the mission offering. The missionaries we support are Rev. Barry & Terry Bruce of “the way out ministries” in California, Seung & Amy Kim in Bangladesh, and Rev. Tim & JJ Ten Clay who recently returned from Italy.

**Attention Choir Members!** We will be performing a song in the upcoming Christmas program. We are practicing this morning & Sun, Dec 16<sup>th</sup> at 9 am in the fellowship basement.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Christmas Caroling Tonight!** Everyone is invited to join us for our annual time of caroling! We will meet here at the church at 4:30 pm. We will break into groups and go to Hull and Sheldon to carol! We will then come back and enjoy a delicious meal of soup and cinnamon rolls.

**Effective December 1<sup>st</sup>,** we will not be listing the weekly offering received. Instead, we will list the total amount received each month. We will also be removing this information from the bulletin prior to putting the bulletin on the church's website. If you have any questions or concerns, please visit with a deacon.

**Next Sunday,** as we celebrate the second Sunday of Advent, we will be exploring the theme "The Glorious Food" from Isaiah 55: 1-3 and John 6. We hope that this study interests you. Please come back as we consider the Christian themes from the land of Narnia.

**Christmas program practice –** We will be practicing this Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 pm. Thank you to everyone involved in putting this program together!

**College Boxes!** Thank you to everyone who donated to the care packages for kids from our congregation who are currently in college. We will be sending these out sometime this week.

**Marriage Enrichment volunteers needed!** Pastor Dave is looking for some volunteers to help with this experience which is planned for the end of January/beginning of February, 2019. Tasks would include support of the leaders from Rock Rapids, advertising and food. Please visit with Pastor if you are interested and/or for more information.

**Hat/Mitten/Scarf Tree is up in the basement!** We will be dividing donations between Atlas & Boyden-Hull Elementary. Atlas also has a need for paper products like toilet paper, Kleenex, paper towels, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, etc. Any ?, please talk with Ranae K., Ginger V.R. or Wanda S.

**In your mailboxes this morning** is a slip of paper showing how you & your family are listed in the last directory. Please make any necessary changes & return it to Teresa for the new directory. Thank you!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Holiday Service Schedule** – the Children’s Christmas Program will be Sunday, Dec 16<sup>th</sup> during our regular Sunday service. The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be Monday, Dec 24<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. There will be a Christmas Day service on Tuesday, Dec 25<sup>th</sup>. The ordination and installation of new deacons and elders will be Sunday, Jan 6, 2019, during our regular Sunday Service.

**We are required by the Book of Church Order** to publish the names of the newly chosen deacons and elders and to ask if anyone has a scriptural reason why they should not be installed in their respective offices. If you have such a reason, please see Pastor Dave or one of the elders. For the office of deacon – Roger Nelson & Alan Warntjes; For the office of elder–Rod Bolkema, Marv Heemskerk & Tom Reuvers

**Secret Sisters!** It is time for our reveal party! The party will be held on Tuesday, Dec 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in the fellowship basement. We will reveal who your Secret Sister was this past year, as well as fill out new forms to do Secret Sister again next year! If you wish to be involved but cannot attend the party, just talk to Teresa in the office.

**The Work as Worship Conference** will be broadcasted at our church again in 2019! Watch for more info!

**Inspiration Hills Newsletter** is in your mailbox and/or on the information tables by the mailboxes. Please enjoy the stories and pictures and mark your calendars for upcoming events that all are welcome to attend!

### Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Reader 1 – Walking into Advent can be like walking through the Wardrobe. Depending on where you live, Advent might even be like Narnia – cold, with snow under your feet. But Advent is like Narnia in more ways than weather. It’s a magical time, set apart from ordinary time; we listen to special music; we decorate our homes, streets, and clothes; we eat particularly delightful foods. We experience a heightened sense of excitement and expectation. Those expectations are not only about the giving and receiving of gifts, but also about Advent and Christmastime offering us a glimpse of a world that’s kinder, more just, and more joyful than the one we usually experience.

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath (cont.)

Reader 2 – To truly enter that world, as Christians, the door we must walk through first is Christ. Snow, greenery, music, cookies and gifts can all help us imagine the kingdom of God, but no matter how big and beautiful the wreath, walking through our front door is not going to transform our lives the way walking through the door of Jesus himself will. It is He who will lead us to that world we long for, where pain is turned to love and death to life.

**People – We would walk through Christ, through the door today. So, light the candle and lead us forward into life!**

Readers 1 & 2 in unison – We will light it!

### Invitation to Confession

Leader – Let us listen to these words from CS Lewis to focus our attention on our fallen humanity and God's overwhelming grace:

**People – “We, or at least I, shall not be able to adore God on the highest occasions if we have learned no habits of doing so on the lowest...These pure and spontaneous pleasures are ‘patches of Godlight’ in the woods of experience.”** (CS Lewis, *Letters to Malcolm, Chiefly on Prayer*)

### Confession

Leader – We are captive, exiled, O God, because we have, each in our own way, chosen our own path, away from You. We are hungry for wisdom and knowledge, because we have, too often, substituted our judgment for Yours. We are lost, in need of guidance.

*SILENT PRAYER*

Leader – Come, Lord Jesus; teach us and renew us. Come, Lord Jesus.

### Assurance of Pardon

(adapted from Titus 3:4-7, *The Message*)

Leader – God, our kind and loving Savior God, has stepped in and saved us.

**People – God gave us a new relationship, and we came out of it a new people, washed inside and out by the Holy Spirit. Our Savior Jesus poured out new life so generously.**

Leader – God's gift has restored our relationship with God and given us back our lives.

**People – And there's more life to come – an eternity of life!**

**TODAY – December 9, 2018**

8:30 AM – PRAISE TEAM PRACTICE

9:00 AM – CHOIR PRACTICE

9:30 AM – WORSHIP

10:35 AM – FELLOWSHIP

10:45 AM – SUNDAY SCHOOL

4:30 PM – CHRISTMAS CAROLING

**THANKS TO THOSE SERVING TODAY**

**USHERS:** Davis/Drew Van Roekel & Kevin Rosenboom

**TECHNICIANS:** Audio: Kevin Rosenboom

Video: Ben Harms

Powerpoint: Teresa Harms

**KITCHEN:** Tamie Uittenbogaard

**COOKIES:** Tamie Uittenbogaard  
Jeri Hoogendoorn, Shauna Neuman

**NURSERY:** Holly Starkenburg

**OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK**

Wed Dec 12– Christmas Program practice

6:30 pm – 7:45 pm

Thu Dec 6 – Deacons/Elders Meetings 7 pm

Consistory 8 pm

**NEXT SUNDAY – December 16, 2018**

**Celebrating the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent!**

Praise Team Practice – 8:30 am

Choir Practice – 9 am

Worship – 9:30 am

**Christmas Program!**

Fellowship – 10:35 am

Sunday School – 10:45 am

Kitchen – Lori Bolkema,

Cookies – Lori Bolkema,

Joan Wiertzema, Pat Harms

Nursery – Vicki & Brooklyn Koele

**The Vander Ploeg Funeral Home** of Sheldon cordially invites you and your family, relatives and friends to attend the Holiday Memorial Service on Sunday, Dec 16<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm at the Vander Ploeg Funeral Home Chapel in Sheldon. The service is designed for those who are experiencing a void in their life during this holiday season due to the death of a loved one or friend.

**The SHARE group for widows and widowers** will meet on Thur, Dec 20th at noon at Homestead Commons in Hull. We will enjoy Pizza Ranch and a side salad for lunch. You are invited to bring your favorite Christmas dessert to share. We also ask that you bring \$5 to help offset the cost of ordering pizza. Following our meal, we will sing a few Christmas carols to get us in the holiday spirit. Please call Deanna Tiedeman (712-439-2229) or Pastor Aaron Deutsch (605-742-4469) with any questions.

**To begin a prayer chain** – You can either call Max Moret at 348-2929 or Teresa Harms/church office at 725-2366.

### **2018 Consistory Executive Committee**

Vice President – Marlin Uittenbogaard

Clerk – Les Starkenburg

Assistant Clerk – Kathy Ver Meer

Chair of Deacons – Jamie Koele

Treasurer – Paul Moret

Assistant Treasurer – Brad Van Roekel

Building & Grounds – Jason Fykstra

Music & Worship – Kathy Ver Meer

Outreach & Assimilation – Bill Noack

Mission Task Force – Vice President & Deacons

Discipleship –

### **2018 Elders**

Brent Fedders ('18)

Bill Noack ('20)

Les Starkenburg ('18)

Marlin Uittenbogaard ('18)

Kathy Ver Meer ('19)

### **2018 Deacons**

Jason Fykstra ('18)

Ken Hoogendoorn ('18)

Jamie Koele ('19)

Paul Moret ('19)

Brad Van Roekel ('20)

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**Webpage – [frcboyden.com](http://frcboyden.com)**

**Pastor Dave's cell phone: 507-920-6588:**

**Pastor Dave's email address: [poppendpp@hotmail.com](mailto:poppendpp@hotmail.com)**