

To Our Visitors, Welcome!

To all who are weary and seek rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort; to all who struggle and desire victory; to all who sin and need a Savior; to all who are idle and look for service; to all who are strangers and want fellowship; to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness; and to whosoever will come – this church opens wide her doors and offers her welcome in the name of Jesus her Lord.

We are delighted that you are worshiping with us this morning, and we invite you to join us for fellowship, coffee, and cookies after the service in the parlor.

Children are welcomed and encouraged to remain in the Worship service, however an unstaffed nursery is available for parents and children who might need a little break. Ask anyone with a nametag for directions. Denim activity bags are available in the Narthex for children to use during the service.

Our Mission Statement

Out of humble gratitude for the free and undeserved gift of grace we have received through Christ, the mission of First Presbyterian Church (EPC) is:

To proclaim, with boldness, God's glory, truth, and love revealed to us in his Word through the Holy Spirit. We seek to worship Him with our entire lives, being continually reformed to Scripture, our only guide in faith and practice.

Minute for Mission

*Update From Parish Life:
The Butterfly Tree 2014*

This year we had our biggest Butterfly ministry ever First Pres folks provided Christmas gifts for the 37 children of moms/ grandmas who live at TTC now or have exited and still need some help! In addition, members and church friends gifted the Transformation Center with essentials ranging from computer paper and paper clips to toothbrushes and paper towels to laundry soap and toilet paper to much needed knit gloves AND a vacuum cleaner! THANK YOU to all who donated so generously AND HUGE thanks for the KID POWER that sorted the gifts on the 21st and loaded everything into a van for delivery to TTC (with help from Meagan, Zach, and Taylor!)

Prayer Concerns

✠ For Matt Martin, Johnny Ussery, Justen Christensen, Bobbie Waldram, Sue Robertson, Carol Palomo, Jan Capps, Heather Milliken, Paula Gardner, Marielle Bondurant, Margarete Krans, Joanna Volker, Barbara Scifers, Jo Moreland, Janis Hall, Tom Hoffman, Anna Michenzi, Barb Matthews, June Ann McDaniel, Kathryn Clark, Dusty Pope, MH Hennagin, Fern Olsen.

✠ For our country, the President, Cabinet, government officials, and staff; for our Congressional Delegation: Senators Mike Enzi and John Barrasso, Representative Cynthia Lummis; for Judge Brian D. Christensen.

✠ For all military men and women and their families, including Brian Barksdale, and especially for those serving in dangerous positions.

✠ For the Presbytery of Wyoming; the EPC Presbytery of the West; our Elders and Deacons; Christ Reformed Presbyterian Church (EPC), Lingle; Kenya's Chogoria South Presbytery, the four churches of the Kamwangu Nendini, and Pastor Mackylas; Ali Arhab and Channel North Africa's outreach to new Christians and to Muslims; our EPC missionaries and their families

✠ For Christians suffering persecution in Libya, Iraq, Syria, Pakistan; for Christians at risk in Nigeria, Kenya, Algeria and elsewhere.

Upcoming Events for the week of December 29-January 4

HAVE A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Wednesday

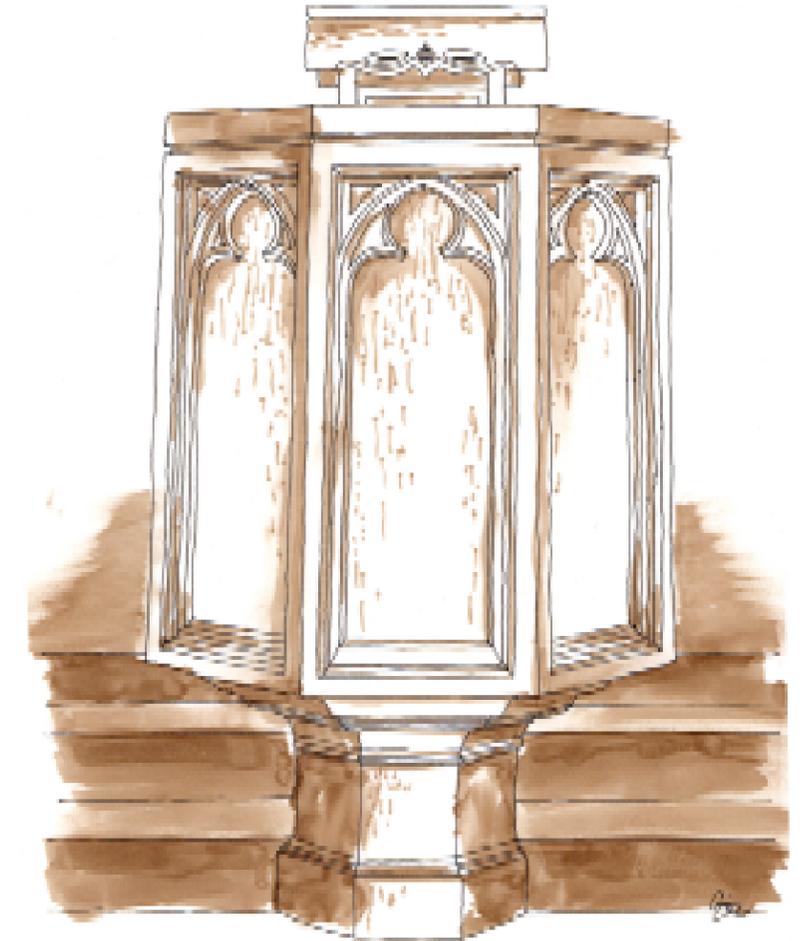
NO Choir and Bells
Next Choir Rehearsal, January 7

Sunday

9:15 A.M. Sunday School
11:00 A.M. Worship

First Presbyterian Church (EPC)

December 28, 2014



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Order for the Worship of God

December 28, 2014

Prelude *The Holly and the Ivy* Arr. James Biery

Welcome and Announcements

*Invocation

Passing of the Peace

Leader: Grace and peace to you.

People: And also to you.

Introit *What Child Is This* (vv. 1, 2) #213

*Call to Worship

Psalm 103:1, 20-22

Leader: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

People: Bless the LORD, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding.

Leader: Bless the LORD, all his hosts, his ministers that do his will.

People: Bless the LORD, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the LORD, O my soul.

***Hymn** *O Little Town of Bethlehem* #201

Psalter

Psalm 138
Pew Bible [Blue p. 521] [Red p. 661]
Reading alternate verses

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

O LORD God, who has answered us on the day that we called, whose name and word are exalted above everything; we thank You and praise You for your steadfast love and faithfulness. We confess before You this day that we are still sinners, who too seldom consciously seek to live in order to glorify You. We confess that we have sought to be at home with this world's values and ways rather than Yours.

O LORD, have mercy upon us. Have regard for our lowly estate. Stretch out Your hand to deliver us. Forgive our sin, O LORD. Help us to recognize Your calling and to respond to Jesus' voice. We ask it in His name.

~ Silent prayer ~ Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (responsively)

Leader: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

All: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Thanks be to God!

***Gloria Patri** Refrain of *Angels We Have Heard on High* #214

Special Music *Blest Be the Tie that Binds* H. G. Nageli

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Text Genesis 17:1-8
Pew Bible [Blue p. 11] [Red p. 15]

New Testament Text Hebrews 11:29-12:2
Pew Bible [Blue p. 1008] [Red p. 1284]

Sermon "The Communion of Saints" Elder Zach Vreeman

***Hymn** *For All the Saints* #358

Prayers of the People

Thanksgiving
Intercession
For the Church
For the Ministry
For the Nation
For all People
The Lord's Prayer



Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *Of the Father's Love Begotten* Arr. Wilbur Held

***Doxology** #731

*Confession of Faith (in unison)

Westminster Confession Chapter 26 #1

All believers are united to Jesus Christ, their head, by his Spirit and by faith, and have fellowship with him in his grace, suffering, death, resurrection, and glory. United to one another in love the saints have fellowship in each other's gifts and grace and are obliged to perform those public and private duties which nourish their mutual good, both spiritually and physically.

***Hymn** *Good Christian Men, Rejoice* #207

*Benediction

***Postlude** *Good Christian Men, Rejoice* Arr. Wilbur Held

***Please stand if you are able**

Participants in Today's Service

Pastor	Paul R. Kuhn
Liturgist	Janis Hall
Head Usher	Carol McClure
Organist	Beverly McAmis Reese
Soloist	Nathaniel Kuhn
Greeter	Jane Drake

Information

- ✚ Please call the church office (237-9509) ...
 - ✓ If you or a member of your family would like a visit when you are recuperating in the hospital or at home.
 - ✓ If you would like your name added to the Prayer Band.
 - ✓ If you would like your name in the Bulletin for prayer.
- ✚ The Session would like for each member to have a copy of the EPC Leadership Training Guide. You can pick up a free copy from the literature rack by the office door.
- ✚ Session is asking for a per capita payment of \$40.00 for 2014 (above and beyond your pledge)
- ✚ Printed copies of prior sermons are available in the magazine rack outside the church office

Announcements

The deadline for annual reports is January 5th. If you are a church officer or chairperson of a committee or ministry area, please have your reports turned in to the office by that date.

There will be an Annual Meeting of the Congregation immediately following Worship on January 11, 2015, for the following purposes: approval of Terms of Call for Pastor, reception of annual reports, presentation of the budget, and any other business appropriate to the annual meeting.