



The CHIMES

The Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights

January/February 2019

Choose love. Be the light. Change the world.

From the Pastor “The Ripple Effect”

By Rev. Alex Lang



As we enter into the new year, we are going to be doing a short, six-week sermon series before we enter into the season of Lent. This series is called, “The Ripple Effect.” If you have never heard of the ripple effect before, it is based on the visualization of the

ripples that occur in water. I’m sure you have seen it before. You drop a pebble into still water and it forms concentric circles that expand outward until they run out of energy.

This visualization led to the creation of the phrase “the ripple effect” when referring to an event that begins in one place and then ends up affecting other situations that are not connected to the initial event. Once you understand how the ripple effect works, you will see it impacting all kinds of different areas of your life in both positive and negative ways.

That said, our goal is not to simply examine a specific event and understand how the consequences of that event have rippled out beyond the initial episode. Our goal is to understand how the forces that shape our lives (genetics, socioeconomics, psychology, culture, our life experiences) affect us personally and then ripple out beyond us to impact our friends, our neighbors, and the world at large.

Those who study the ripple effect often believe that we have no control over these forces that shape our lives. In other words, we are subject to the whim of these ripples and there is nothing we can do about them. For instance, you cannot control your genetics. You get what you get from your parents, which is true. But you do have a choice. You can choose what you do with your genetics. If your genetics are such that it is very easy for you to gain weight, then you can choose to exercise and eat a healthy diet to offset those genes.

In the same way, what I plan to show you through this series is that when you make a choice to dedicate yourself to the Christian God, then you can disrupt the influences that have shaped your life. Jesus and the gospel have the ability to reshape us into completely different people. This disruptive influence is actually quite powerful and can change us for the better.

To this end, each week we will examine a different component of how the ripple effect intersects with our lives. My hope is that as you learn more about how your life has been influenced by the ripple effect, you would be inspired to seek out ways that Jesus and God can transform you into your best self. With every change you make, those positive ripples will not only impact you, but the people around you. Like a pebble dropped in still water, your efforts to reshape your life will have long ranging consequences that allow us to create God’s kingdom on Earth.



Session Highlights

By Clerk of Session, Sue Henderson



From the November 12, 2018, meeting:

- Welcomed six new members into membership.
- Examined and approved newly elected Elders and Deacons for Ordination and/or Installation on November 18.
- The Building Committee gave a preliminary report. The Session gave them permission to go ahead with Phase 1 – having the architect begin to assess the needs of the church.
- Heard that there will be an interfaith service at North School Park, “Pack the Park,” on December 1, 2018, from 6:30 – 7:00 pm. It will be led by Christian, Jewish, and Muslim leaders.
- Heard that the playground installation is complete. Thanks to Brian Larson for his tireless efforts to accomplish this.
- The admin building roof is being replaced. Interior and exterior painting is being done.
- The Chapel service has used the overflow plan several times for great attendance days.
- Session received a first look at 2019 budget, which will be brought to Session for approval in December.
- High school youth will host the Wise and Sage Dinner on November 18.
- Youth will assist those in need of assistance in getting out their Christmas décor on Thanksgiving weekend. They will be available to help put things away in January.
- The Youth Cookie Walk will be December 16.
- The next God’s Honest Truth will be February 6, 2019. The subject will be, “Making It Out: Rising Above Our Circumstances.”
- Children’s Ministries will hold a Pancake Breakfast on January 27.
- The Ten Thousand Villages Fair Trade Fair was very successful. They would like to return next year.
- \$1,771.29 was collected for hurricane relief.
- Stone Catchers organized a card writing event in support of local Jewish synagogues after the shootings in Pittsburgh.
- November 11 was Commitment Sunday. Pledge cards are coming in.

From the December 10, 2018, meeting:

- Alex thanked the dedicated outgoing elders who have been serving for three years on the Session – Ed Harding, Amy Hempleman, Kate Ingemunson, Bill Lyon, Kristin Michalczyk, Patti Noble, and Ken Williams. He also thanked Keith Kraske for his service as Chair of the Board of Trustees for the last two years and Sue Henderson who has served as 2018 Clerk of Session.
- Approved Barbara MacDowall to serve as 2019 Clerk of Session and Carolyn Selke to continue to serve as Church Treasurer.

Session Highlights from December 10, 2018, meeting continued:

- Session complimented TC and the senior high youth for a successful and enjoyable Wise and Sage Dinner.
- Learned that the Cookie Walk will be December 16 in the Parlor.
- Learned that Jan's Jam will take place on January 4.
- The Business Task Force gave a presentation outlining their work over the last year and a half.
- Trustees reported that a major leak in the basement has been isolated.
- A crackling speaker in the Chapel is being replaced.
- Trustees are planning to update the lighting in the front of the Sanctuary.
- Brian Larson is working with the snow removal company to improve their service.
- The 2019 proposed budget will be revisited at the January Session meeting.
- An open meeting following both services will be held on January 20 to help improve and provide ongoing communication between the Session and the congregation. This format will continue several times per year.
- Samples of First Pres apparel have been ordered.
- Youth Ministries plans to have a silent auction in the summer.
- College age youth will be participating in the late service on Christmas Eve.
- Katy Allen will be writing curriculum for the Sunday School.
- Children's Ministries is sponsoring a Pancake Breakfast on January 27.
- Stone Catchers is planning a Martin Luther King, Jr. Day event that will address hunger in our community.

Parents' Day Out is Still Celebrating

By Coleen Anzalone, Director of Parents' Day Out

PDO has been celebrating our 40th year over the past several months. Our biggest celebration has come with the opening of our new First Pres Playground! The children in our care can play outside in a secure, safe environment now and for many years to come! Thank you to all that helped to make our new playground a reality.

PDO continues to have full classrooms, five days a week, and has a staff that focuses on teaching children to learn through play and giving back to the community. We have worked closely with Faith Community Homes (FCH) to provide Thanksgiving baskets to families in need along with our annual Giving Tree at Christmas. PDO families have helped boys, girls, mothers, and fathers of FCH this past holiday season with new pajamas, hats, mittens, and socks. We look forward to another great year in 2019 and will be kicking off registration for the 2019 – 2020 year this coming March. Please check out the church website and the Parents' Day Out page if you are interested in signing your little one up this year.



Children's Ministries

By Katy Allen, Director of Children's Ministries

What's Happening in Sunday School

We're exploring big ideas and big themes in our K-5th grade Sunday School. Hope. Blessings. Love. Peace. Each Sunday we explore a Bible story that relates to a certain theme, and then support that theme with activities to help make it relevant in the lives of our children.

As we explored the theme of Blessings, we assembled care packages for children who are in hospitals over the holiday season. With help from Lemons of Love, children will receive a coloring book and crayons, a stuffed animal, and superhero socks. The kids had a great time putting the packages together and helping to be a blessing to other kids who are hospitalized.

As we explored the theme of Peace, we talked about what it means to be peacemakers in our world. 2nd/3rd graders created a "Peace Rake." Isaiah's words of turning swords into plowshares (weapons into farming equipment) came to life as the kids brainstormed ideas for spreading peace and attached them to a rake which is displayed in their classroom.

Our team of dedicated teachers and shepherds provide a fun, loving, and positive atmosphere for learning, growing, and exploring each Sunday. Our kids come ready to share and open themselves to new ideas and opportunities to reflect Jesus' love. Together, they are changing the world!



What's Happening in Preschool Sunday School

Preschoolers (3 and 4 year olds) have been learning so much in Sunday School this year! This group of eager learners is busy each Sunday morning with activities, songs, stories, and crafts. As they take their first steps along their faith journey, preschoolers are meeting characters in the Bible and learning how their stories relate to our life today. Through crafts and activities, the Bible stories come alive in fun and exciting ways. Through song and story, preschoolers are learning through hearing and retelling.

Worship Through Storytelling at the Christmas Pageant

First Pres kids will lead worship by retelling of the story of Jesus' birth at the Christmas Pageant on Christmas Eve. Children dressed as sheep, shepherds, angels, and magi will join Mary and Joseph to brighten the Sanctuary and make the story come alive. Please plan to join us at **4:00 pm on December 24** for this heart-warming and family-friendly worship service.

A Good Old Fashioned Pancake Breakfast

Children's Ministries is hosting a pancake breakfast fundraiser on *Sunday, January 27*. Everyone is invited! Come on down to *Fellowship Hall anytime between 7:30-10:30 am* for a delicious pancake breakfast! For those who attend the Chapel service, there will be plenty of time for breakfast before worship. For those who attend the Sanctuary service, come to church just a bit early to enjoy breakfast before worship.

Cost for the breakfast will be \$5/person, with a \$20 maximum for families. Payment will be collected at the door. Money raised at the breakfast will be used to fund Children's Ministries' activities and programs.

Please contact Katy Allen (katyallen@firstpresah.org) with questions or for more information.



Playground Finale

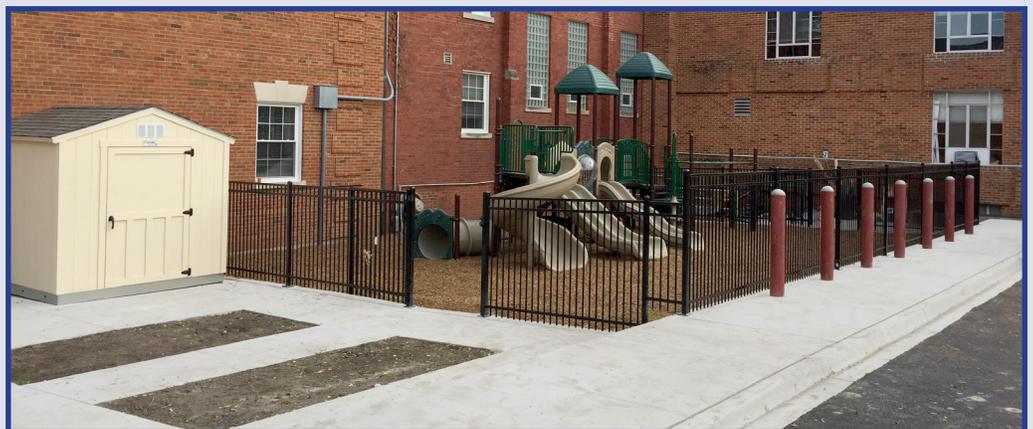
By Brian Larson, Director of Operations and Technology

Although the final project schedule was nowhere near to what was planned, all of the major installation phases of the new playground and garden space are now complete. The playground was used a few times in the fall before the weather turned unseasonably cold.

Unseasonable cold was the least of our challenges; it seemed that nearly every phase presented a new surprise and delay. Issues we faced ran the gamut, from permitting taking twice as long as normal; hurricane impacts upon production and shipping; unmarked gas pipes where backhoes were digging (that was a CLOSE one!); and two different installation crews. After all that, it seemed only appropriate then that on the evening after the installation was finally completed, we got an early snow!

We are excited to have this fun new place for the children. When the weather warms in the spring, we will add a few picnic tables and get the shed painted the proper color. We are excited to see what wonderful crops the children of the church provide for the needy in our community from the new Loaves and Fishes Garden spaces.

For safety reasons, the playground gates will remain locked except for Sunday mornings, Family Nights, or other special events, weather permitting. Adult supervision is required any time a child is playing in the space. It will be opened for PDO children by the PDO staff.



The children of First Presbyterian Church and PDO thank you for your support in funding and praying for the completion of such a wonderful play place for God's littlest ones.

Youth & Family Ministries

By Rev. TC Anderson, Associate Pastor for Children, Youth, and Families

Wise and Sage Thanksgiving Dinner

What a wonderful success the Wise and Sage Thanksgiving Dinner was! We had over 120 wise and sage members of the church come and enjoy a dinner hosted, cooked, served, and cleaned up by the high school youth. It was a lovely night that we look forward to every year, so thank you to everyone who helped make this possible. A special thank you to Michele Holifield who was the point person for the entire night!



High School Retreat

In early November, 24 high school youth and five very brave adults went on a retreat to Covenant Harbor in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. It was a wonderful time where they had fun, learned about themselves and how to retreat away from the world (following Jesus example in scripture), and conquered some fears on the high ropes course!



Silent Auction

Shhhh.....I heard a rumor that a silent auction to support Youth Ministries is being organized to tentatively take place on June 2 and June 9. Do you have a talent or a gift that you would like to donate and auction to the congregation? Have any thoughts or questions? Please reach out to us at our e-mail: 2019.YMC.silent.auction@gmail.com. Stay tuned for more information to come! - TC and the YMC

Family Scouting at First Pres

Scouts BSA, is the new name for the program that will welcome boys and girls in separate troops in 2019. Scouts BSA, is for boys and girls from 5th grade through high school. The program provides fun, adventure, learning, challenges, and responsibility to help scouts become the best version of themselves.

Our excitement continues to build for the launch of Troop 32G for girls starting February 1, 2019! Scoutmaster Patrick Painter has six girls and families signed up. He has been holding informal gatherings for girls, families, and volunteers to outline a program plan for 2019. Enrollment is still open for Troop 32G for girls and Troop 32B for boys. First Pres' Scout Sunday will be February 10.



Troop 32 is inviting First Presbyterian Church members, families with girls and boys (ages 11 and older), to contact Troop 32 Scoutmaster, Patrick Painter, at 32scoutmaster@gmail.com, or Chartered Organization Representative, Al Wilson, at alwilson100@comcast.net, to learn more about Family Scouting at First Pres!

PW Upcoming Events

Circle 7

Tuesday, January 15 / 7:00 pm - Presbyterian Women Circle 7 invites you to join them for fellowship and Bible study at the home of Jo Christian (1604 N. Chestnut in Arlington Heights, phone: 847-259-4617) with co-hostess Josie Johnson.

Tuesday, February 19 / 7:00 pm - Presbyterian Women Circle 7 invites you to join them for fellowship and Bible study at the home of Kate McVay (603 S. Belmont in Arlington Heights, phone: 847-259-3025) with co-hostess Mary Hebden.

Need more information? Call Karen Wilson at 847-669-2677

Morning Circles

Wednesday, January 16 / 9:00 am Parlor, Narthex, and Boardroom - We are studying "God's Promise" this year. On January 16, we will look at Lesson 5. Join us for refreshments, fellowship, and Bible study.

Wednesday, February 20 / 9:00 am Parlor, Narthex, and Boardroom - We are studying "God's Promise" this year. On February 20, we will look at Lesson 6. Join us!

"Becoming Georgia O'Keeffe"

Wednesday, February 27 / 9:00 am in the Parlor - Come meet Georgia O'Keeffe, famous artist of New Mexico, as portrayed by Leslie Goddard. O'Keeffe reflects on her life and her intense closeness with flowers, nature, and the landscape that surrounds her homes in New Mexico. Hear myth making stories of her life and art in a rich narrative. It is a delight for all of us to share in the wonderful presentations from Leslie Goddard as she brings characters to life before our eyes with historical and fun loving precision. Bring friends to enjoy this very special program. **RSVP** to Ingrid Kaufman at ingridkaufman@icloud.com (847-705-5956) or Meg Tidrick at mtidrick70@gmail.com (847-806-6822).

A Day of Service in Honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday

By Katy Allen, Director of Children's Ministries

In honor of the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, the Presbytery of Chicago is encouraging every congregation to find a way to address hunger in their communities, and First Pres, led by Stone Catchers, is ready to meet the challenge. Flyers will be handed out to neighborhoods surrounding the church inviting them to leave a bag of food on their porch to be picked up on *Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, January 21*. That morning, volunteers from First Pres will canvass those neighborhoods to pick up donations and bring them back to the church. In addition to collecting donations from the neighborhoods, we will also be serving lunch for both volunteers and members of the community who are in need of a free lunch. A walk-in lunch will be available from 11:30 am – 2:00 pm in Fellowship Hall for anyone who is hungry.

There are volunteer opportunities for all ages and stages. We will need volunteers who are able to drive around our local neighborhood streets to collect food. This would be perfect for families who have this day off of school and work, or high school kids. We will also need volunteers who can help prepare and host lunch in Fellowship Hall. This would be perfect for anyone who enjoys the gift of cooking and/or hospitality, and is interested in giving back to those in need.

The event will begin at *10:00 am in Fellowship Hall*. If you have questions, please contact Michele Holifield at mkholifield@yahoo.com or Katy Allen at katyallen357@gmail.com!

Update on the Democratic Republic of Congo Mission

By Phyllis Green

FPCAH has had an ongoing mission relationship with the Democratic Republic of Congo for over ten years. The effort begun under the leadership of Dr. Dianne Shields. The Shields made an early mission trip to DRC; and after meeting with Presbyterians there, developed a curriculum to address the HIV-Aids crisis. We have provided support for education, including the building of schools. Since then, visitors from DRC to FPCAH have included Dr. Mulumba, Dr. John and Glenda Fletcher, and Monique Masienga. The Fletchers recently retired. Glenda Fletcher's education position is posted through Presbyterian World Missions.

FPCAH members have supported advocacy for the DRC. HR 6207, the Democratic Republic of the Congo Democracy and Accountability Act, was passed by the House on November 27, 2018. This bipartisan act aims to counter corruption and human rights abuses, seeks to support free and fair elections, unfettered rights to free press, speech and assembly in the DRC, and includes a program of additional sanctions targeting senior political leaders. The House bill is now awaiting Senate and Presidential approval.

Elections in the DRC have been repeatedly delayed, but were most recently rescheduled to be held in late December 2018, two years after the most recently elected leaders' terms of office expired.

Days of Restoration

On Easter, you heard Rev. Alex talk about our church initiative, Days of Restoration. To participate in Days of Restoration, sign up via our website to receive an e-mail that provides you with an action that you are to perform the following day. So far there have been some incredible acts of charity and forgiveness. The purpose of these actions is to practice the ethos of sacrifice and restoration. The more we practice these acts of sacrifice and restoration, the better we can achieve the ultimate end of the Christian faith: restoring balance to the world. Read what Jeri Monroe reflected upon when we asked participants to write down what they were thankful for.

“1. freedom/choice 2. health 3. family 4. forgiveness 5. warmth 6. home/house/shelter 7. sustenance/food 8. resources 9. protection 10. friends

I am thankful for all of these immediate things as well as many which surround me and are available to me, but may not have to do with my immediate and important daily existence: to appreciate the beauty of nature, the ability to learn, the ability and the chance to move about, the ability to think and to reason, the chance to love, to forgive, the opportunity to explore and study whatever I might choose. I am grateful to feel the presence of the Holy Spirit, to be receptive to receiving that Spirit in a calm and quiet way which helps me to know that I am a part of the universe, of Creation.” - Jeri Monroe

Come Work With Us!

Beth Johnson, the Nursery Coordinator, is looking for additional people to assist her on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings beginning in January. This is a paid position. You must be at least 18, have completed Safe Sanctuary Training, have worked with young children before, and have a flexible schedule (some afternoons and evenings may be needed on occasion). If interested, contact Beth Johnson at btj0914@hotmail.com.

Celebrations

To Chris and Betsy Osswald on the birth of their daughter and Tom and Nancy Pardo on the birth of their granddaughter, **Maren Elizabeth Osswald**

Sympathy

Please join in extending sympathy to:

To the family of **Elaine B. Hey**

To Mary Halatek on the death of her husband,
Walter W. Halatek III

To the family of **Chuck Yopst**

To the family of **Pat Giovannini**

Sympathy Continued

To Phyllis, Mark, Alex, and Matt Orzechowski on the death of Phyllis' mother, **Jane Baldoni**

Baptisms

Harper Hamel
William Zanchelli

New Members

Dawn and Felicia Bruce
Daniel and Laura Carlson
Andrew and Samantha Sturgeon

Notes of Thanks

Thanksgiving Food Baskets:

Thank you for the many food and hygiene items which were donated during the month of November for the Thanksgiving Food Baskets. Along with three other Presbyterian churches, the Auxiliary was able to fill 411 bags! You made a huge difference for families with limited resources and assisted Christopher House and Firman House in helping families and students to enjoy the holidays.

Winter Items:

Thank you for your generous contributions by filling the Winter Items Barrels with hats, gloves, scarves, and mittens that delighted the children of Firman House. These items will help them stay warm during the cold winter months. Also a big thank you for all the food items that were treasured for Thanksgiving and beyond. All these gifts from you brought smiles to many faces and were a blessing.

Christopher House Family to Family:

For all the angels who supported our Family to Family by giving so generously to make the holidays bright for so many, thank you! Your gifts of clothing, toys, gift cards, and so many other items brought big smiles to our families. It ensured a special holiday season and met some of the needs of our 50 families. It was a delight to see how many participated in the program this year by thinking of others and sharing the joy.

Christmas Decorating:

Our church was a wonder during the Christmas season thanks to all of you who joined in the fun of decorating it and making it such a lovely sight for all of us and visitors to enjoy! Many hands make for wonderful results and great fellowship! Thank you to all of you who joined in the decorating, and thank you to Marty Kraybill, Lin Willour, and Kate McVay for leading a group of decorators.

Advent Flowers:

Thank you for all the generous donations to support the decorating of our church for Advent with all the beautiful flowers.

Upcoming Events



Family Night: Enjoy a meal together with the families of First Pres and learn about the opportunities for learning, faith, and fun each Wednesday evening from September through May during Family Night! Drop-in dinner is from 6:00-7:00 pm in Fellowship Hall and all-ages programming is from 7:00-8:00 pm. Free nursery care is available!

Please note: Dinner ONLY December 19, NO Family Night December 26 and January 2

Cookie Walk: Sunday, December 16, in the Parlor / Youth Ministries is having their cookie walk again this year! Purchase a box (or more) of Christmas cookies, all proceeds go to Youth Ministries.



The Glory of Christmas Concert: Sunday, December 16, at 4:00 pm in the Sanctuary / Experience a unique and inspiring vision of the Christmas story as the Chancel Choir, Chamber Singers, Men's Chorus, and Orchestra present a concert of seasonal favorites to celebrate the birth of the Messiah. Gerald Finzi's *In Terra Pax* will be the featured work. Audience participation is encouraged as we raise our voices in

singing familiar carols of the season.

Upcoming Events Continued



All-Church Christmas

Caroling: Sunday, December 23, at 4:00 pm in Fellowship Hall / Warm up your singing voice!

We will divide into groups and head out to Luther Village, the Moorings, and individual homes to share the Christmas spirit with church members and friends who need some Christmas cheer. We will meet back in Fellowship Hall for a pizza dinner. **Questions?** Contact Michele Holifield at mkholifield@yahoo.com.



Christmas Eve Worship:

Monday, December 24 / 4:00 pm Family Service and Pageant, 8:00 pm Worship with prelude music at 7:30 pm, 10:00 pm Worship with Communion. All services will be in the Sanctuary.

Worship on Sunday, December 30:

Sunday, December 30 / We will have only one worship service at 10:00 am in the Sanctuary.



Christmas Un-decorating:

Saturday, January 5, at 9:00 am in the Narthex / Help us take down and put away our Christmas decorations. It took many hands

to make our church so beautiful for the Christmas season. Everyone is welcome and refreshments will be served. Meet in the Narthex at 9:00 am to begin! **Questions:** Contact Marty Kraybill at marty1110k@gmail.com or 847-398-3423.



Aluminum Can Drive:

Saturday, January 26, from 9:00-11:00 am in the West Parking Lot / Save and crush your cans (e.g., soda cans) for the Aluminum Can

Drive. Proceeds support Men's Club sponsored charities. If you have questions or other aluminum or copper items for recycling, contact Stan or Nancy Conning at 224-735-7310.



Pancake Breakfast:

Sunday, January 27, from 7:30-10:30 am in Fellowship Hall / See Page 5 for more details.

Wednesdays @ Noon Recital: Wednesday, February 6, at 12:10 pm in the Sanctuary / Join us for a midday recital featuring Sarah Jenks on piano and Megan Hendrickson, soprano.



God's Honest Truth:

Wednesday, February 6, at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary / Enjoy an evening of storytelling brought to you by fellow members of First Pres. Our theme is, "Making It Out: Stories of Rising Above Our Circumstances."



34th Annual Organ Fest:

Sunday, February 10, at 4:00 pm in the Sanctuary / Come and celebrate as First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights hosts the 34th Annual Organ Fest. Join us as Paul Cochran, Marianne Kim, Don Mead, Gary Wendt, and Christopher Urban team up to provide a program featuring music written by Chicago organists, including Leo Sowerby, Paul Manz, Marianne Kim, and some piano/organ duets by Joel Raney.



First Pres Talent Show:

Sunday, March 17, at 4:00 pm in the Sanctuary / It's time for those in Arlington Heights and the surrounding communities to share their talents with each other! Solo, ensemble, musical, or otherwise, contact Adam Hendrickson at adamhendrickson@firstpresah.org for further details and to have your entry approved. There will be two opportunities to rehearse your entry in the Sanctuary on Wednesday, February 27, and Wednesday, March 13, at 7:00 pm to help you prepare for the Sunday concert. One of these rehearsal dates might even have a small audience! There will be four categories: K-5th grade, 6th-12th grade, Adults (non-retired), and Adults (retired). There will be a plethora of prizes. Don't miss your chance to shine!

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Christmas Eve Worship

4:00 pm Family Service and Pageant

8:00 pm Worship

10:00 pm Worship with Communion

