

Le Roy First United Presbyterian Church
101 East Pine Street
P. O. Box 88
Le Roy, Illinois 61752-0088



*Every good and perfect gift is
from above, from the Father of
the heavenly lights*
James 1:17

If you would like to be added to either our email or postal mailing list, please contact the church office to leave your name and preferred contact information.
(962-5011 or leroypresbyterian@gmail.com)

LE ROY FIRST UNITED
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
309-962-5011
leroypresbyterian@gmail.com
Website: leroypresbyterian.info

Vol. XXIV No. 12

Salt Creek Savorings

December, 2021



reflections

*Dana Miller,
Director of Student Ministries*



This is a story about the world's most glorious, impenetrable snow fort.

Growing up in rural Nebraska, we had our share of big snows, affording us the opportunity to build snow forts and have epic snowball fights. But one glorious year, conditions were perfect for a colossus of a snow fort on the school grounds. First, a rare northern wind placed 4 foot tall snow drifts in front of the school, instead of across the street in the corn field where we couldn't go during recess. Next, perfect weather conditions (below freezing, but sunny and warm enough to turn the snow perfectly mushy, not powdery) allowed us to scoop out those giant drifts during recess. It started out as a cave during the first recess, but by lunchtime recess, it had become an impenetrable fort, with walls of snow and ice. And by the time the third and final recess rolled around in the afternoon, war was inevitable. We had our fort, we had a huge supply of snowballs, and all our competition had was a measly dozen or so large snowballs hiding behind a propane tank near our fort. And when that final recess bell rang, we were ready for battle! But we couldn't find our foes. Had they given up in the face of overwhelming tactical winter superiority? Not quite. Their plan (actually, quite brilliant) was to enlist the aid of a couple larger "neutral" students to stand on top of our fort, collapsing it under their weight. While we were digging ourselves out, they casually strolled over with their dozen giant snowballs and cheerfully dropped them on our heads. It was a humiliating winter defeat, and it demonstrated the folly of putting your trust in something that was never meant to last.

There are a lot of people in the world making that same mistake. They put their trust in their own works and their own lives. No one is immortal, and no one can earn their way to eternal life, because we all sin and we all fall short of God's glory (Romans 3:23). But on a starry night in Bethlehem over 2,000 years ago, God lifted us out of the collapsed ruins of our dead end lives with a simple gift—a baby named Jesus, wrapped in strips of cloth, lying in a manger. His wisdom would show us how to live abundantly, and his sacrifice on the cross would allow us to live abundantly eternally, free of sin

(Romans 6:23). And unlike any earthly thing we could put our trust in that won't last, Jesus is God, so His love and His sacrifice is forever!

I hope your Christmas this year is safe, joyful, and blessed. During your celebrations, take a moment to reflect on God's gift to us as you open your gifts. May we remember the greatest gift we could ever receive was given to us in Bethlehem that evening, and may we acknowledge the giver and the gift by giving up the life we can't keep, exchanging it for the life we can't lose. We do that by putting our trust in Jesus as our Savior. Merry Christmas!



Christmas Tea *December 18th 1:00 p.m.* *Hosted by LeRoy Christian Church*

Please join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. This event will have a guest speaker and light refreshments will be served. There is no cost to attend.



It's the most wonderful time of year at Six Flags St. Louis. The park transforms into a winter wonderland with over a million dazzling lights, live holiday entertainment, festive décor, and seasonal treats.



Weather permitting, our Jr/Sr. High youth that previously purchased season tickets to Six Flags will be leaving after church to enjoy a whole new experience on December 12th.



LeRoy's Christmas Parade will be held on Sunday, Dec. 5th, at 2 p.m. with the theme "*Christmas Lights*". Our church is planning to participate with an entry again this year.

Kids young and old are encouraged to ride our float and help us show the LeRoy community what FUPC is all about!



Birthdays & Anniversaries

12/01 Judy McCormick	12/08 Haley Cox	12/20 John Monical
12/03 Phyllis Bruce	12/12 Francis Smith	12/25 Thomas Myers
12/05 Adam Brent	12/15 Adela Alvarado	12/29 Carson Houser
12/06 Steve Sinnott	12/15 Linda Ramsey	12/30 Amy Graves
12/08 Sandy Rubin	12/15 Katie Taylor	12/31 Thomas Ready

12/04 Jenny & Eric Mennenga
 12/10 Chelsea (Kline) & Kavontae Grismore
 12/15 Wendy & Adam Brent
 12/20 Mary & Carl Neubauer



Christmas Eve

Children's Christmas Program 7:00 p.m.
Candlelight Worship 10:00 p.m.

Our Children's Christmas Program at 7 p.m. will be in the more familiar format from previous years. Dates and times of program practices to be held will be announced soon.

The Candlelight Service at 10 p.m. will be the traditional style with communion being served and concluding with the Service of Candlelight.



If you would like to furnish a poinsettia to display in honor or in memory of a loved one, please bring it into the church or make delivery arrangements with the church office by or before noon on Thursday, Dec. 16th.



To be listed in the bulletin insert, please let the church office know who the poinsettia will be honoring by the morning of Dec. 16th.

December Library Corner

By Marty Dean



Please bring me a good book, Santa!

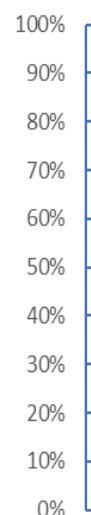
Focus on our Young Disciples

New York Times bestselling author Judah Smith of *Jesus is _____* teams up with wife Chelsea Smith in *I Will Follow Jesus Bible Storybook* to present a range of Old and New Testaments stories/events. All tellings are designed for young disciples to gain knowledge and appreciation at their level. Each Bible story is then followed by a brief character sketch or background information to foster understanding.

Read aloud books are fun, but what beats reading together? A New York Times bestseller by Mary Ann Hoberman fills the bill in *You Read to Me, I'll Read to You: Very Short Stories to Read Together*. Stories in verse ranging from mice, snakes, phones, friendships, and more promote a shared reading experience for all to enjoy!



BUILDING RENOVATION PROGRESS UPDATES:



Check out the old nursery area next time you're at the church building as the walls have been framed in for the new upstairs bathrooms, nursery and offices. The HVAC duct work is now in place as well. It's starting to get easier to visualize what it will look like when complete. Plumbing and wiring will be next while the walls and ceiling are still "open". When the south 1/2 of the downstairs ceiling comes down, the plan is to continue to make the area usable (for Sunday breakfasts etc.) but it may not look pretty for awhile.

Outside demolition is waiting for the ground to firm up a bit now, but should still happen in December even though winter is approaching.

This "thermometer" graph is a visual aide to watch our contributions grow to pay towards the \$300,000 that we intend to borrow towards the project. We have received **\$32,233** since the project was approved at the end of February. Our thanks to all who are helping to achieve our goal!



Midwest Food Bank



On Thursday, November 18th, the Le Roy Presbyterian Church went to the Midwest Food Bank in Bloomington and we made a BIG difference for our community!

We packaged over 1,500 pounds of blueberry kashi breakfast cereal for distribution to those in need (and had a lot of fun doing it in the process).

A great big THANK YOU to everyone who helped out! Look for upcoming opportunities to help out again coming soon!



CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

50%



50% of your gifts to Christmas Joy opens door of opportunity which lead to hopeful futures for young people at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

50%



50% of your gifts opens doors which lead to relief for church workers and their families when critical needs arise.

Please remember to give generously to the Christmas Joy Offering which has been a Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. Please note your special giving in the memo line of your check.



HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The church office will be open its regular hours the week of Christmas and Christmas Eve.

Mon.- Thurs. 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Officer Candidates ELECTION 2021

CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

December 12th - 10 a.m.



Christmas is about waiting. Waiting for family celebrations, waiting for Christmas Day. Advent is about looking for the coming of Jesus. We countdown the days until Christmas Day and we prepare and anticipate and wait.

Mary and Joseph waited. When they took Jesus to the temple to be dedicated, they found that Simeon and Anna had been waiting for Him, for the Messiah to come. The Hebrew people had been waiting for the Messiah to come. And then He came. The Messiah, the Son of God came, fully human and fully divine.

We can still wait in expectation for the experiences of hope, love, joy and peace and finally Christ Himself. Waiting is an opportunity for faith. Waiting comes through hope. Without hope, we would not wait. Christ has come, Christ is here. Christ will come again. May we wait in expectation and faith and hope for his coming again! Excerpted from a devotion written by Mark Key, Senior Pastor (Mt. Tabor UMC)

Worship Schedule - December 2021

9:00 a.m. Sunday WORSHIP	Dec. 5	Dec. 12 (Communion)	Dec. 19	Christmas Eve	Dec. 26
PULPIT SUPPLY	Bob Marsh	Kathy Mitchell	Kathy Mitchell	7:00 p.m. Dana Miller 10:00 p.m. Mary Sigler	TBD
ACCOMPANIST	Vonette Miller; Londa Holoch	Vonette Miller	Vonette Miller	Vonette Miller	Vonette Miller
ADVENT READERS	Phyllis Bruce; Noah Conn; Blake Walker	TBD	Mary & Randy, Tate, Lana & Henry Sigler	TBD	
LAY READER	Amanda Hill	Terri Caldwell	Vonette Miller		Mary Sigler
USHER/ GREETERS	Tanner & Tracey Holoch	Dennis & Mary Ella Mennenga	Barb Monical; Bonnie Crumbaugh	10 p.m. Kim & Steve Myers	Mary & Randy Sigler
COMMUNION SERVERS		Mary Ella & Dennis Mennenga; Randy Sigler		10:00 p.m. Randy Sigler	
TECH BOOTH	Steve Sinnott; Sarah Hill	Steve Sinnott; Randy Sigler	Steve Sinnott; Tracey Holoch	7:00 p.m. Steve Sinnott 10:00 p.m. Tate Sigler	Steve Sinnott; Randy Sigler

NOVEMBER SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

<i>Sunday Dates</i>	<i>Attendance</i>
November 7	57
November 14	43
November 21	49
November 28	47
AVERAGE ATTENDANCE	49

CHURCH OFFICERS

Elders:

Terri Caldwell
Bonnie Crumbaugh
Martha Dean
Tracey Holoch
Dennis McCormick
Mary Ella Mennenga
Anna Rayburn
Ashley Sigler
Randy Sigler

Committee

Worship & Music
Administration/Mission & Outreach
Adult Christian Development
Administration/Nominating Committee
Adult Christian Development
Adult Christian Development/Worship & Music
Clerk of Session/Christian Education
Christian Education/Nominating Committee
Administration/Worship & Music

**Session is currently scheduled to next meet on
Wednesday, December 8th at 6 p.m.**

Minutes will be available, after approval, in the office.

Deacons:

Terasha Bossingham
Beverly Burcham
Jack Burcham
Rick Gaffney
Scott Graves
Barb Monical
Bobbi Murfin
Mary Sigler
Tim Sigler
Angie Timm

Deacon of the Month

March
June
August
April

November
July, September
December
May
October



Church Phone: (309) 962-5011
Website: leroypresbyterian.info
E-Mail: leroypresbyterian@gmail.com

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday thru Thursday 8:30 am - 3:00 pm

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

Dana Miller, Director of Student Ministries	dmillbhawk@gmail.com (309) 660-6907
Rita Vollmer, Secretary/Treasurer	leroypresbyterian@gmail.com rmhvollmer@gmail.com



Deacon of the Month
Mary Sigler

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 7:00 AM Breakfast Fellowship 9:00 AM Worship Service 9:15 AM K-5th Sunday School Class 10:00 AM Hanging of the Greens 10:00 AM Jr./Sr. High Sunday School Class	29	30	1 10:00 AM MISSION & OUTREACH 6:00 PM LOOP (Jr./Sr. High) 6:00 PM WORSHIP & MUSIC	2 8:00 PM Serenity Circle (AA)	3 OFFICE CLOSED	4
5 7:00 AM Breakfast Fellowship 9:00 AM Worship Service 9:15 AM K-5th Sunday School Class 10:00 AM Jr./Sr. High Sunday School Class 2:00 PM LeRoy Christmas Parade	6	7	8 1:00 PM Christmas Tea at LeRoy Christian Church 6:00 PM LEAP (5th-6th grade) 6:00 PM SESSION	9 8:00 PM Serenity Circle (AA)	10 OFFICE CLOSED	11
12 7:00 AM Breakfast Fellowship 9:00 AM Worship Service 9:15 AM K-5th Sunday School Class 10:00 AM Congregational Meeting 10:00 AM Jr./Sr. High Sunday School Class 10:15 AM DEACONS Youth to Six Flags (weather permitting)	13	14	15 6:00 PM LOOP (Jr./Sr. High)	16 8:00 PM Serenity Circle (AA)	17 OFFICE CLOSED	18
19 7:00 AM Breakfast Fellowship 9:00 AM Worship Service 9:15 AM K-5th Sunday School Class 10:00 AM Jr./Sr. High Sunday School Class	20	21	22 6:00 PM LEAP (5th-6th grade)	23 8:00 PM Serenity Circle (AA)	24 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 PM Children's Christmas Program 10:00 PM Candlelight Worship	25
26 7:00 AM Breakfast Fellowship 9:00 AM Worship Service 9:15 AM K-5th Sunday School Class 10:00 AM Jr./Sr. High Sunday School Class	27	28 6:00 PM ADMINISTRATION	29	30 8:00 PM Serenity Circle (AA)	31 OFFICE CLOSED	