

A D V E N T

AND THE WORD WAS GOD

ADVENT DEVOTIONS



INSPIRATION FROM
HENRI J. M.
NOUWEN



The Season of Advent is Upon Us, and I am incredibly grateful for that. I know it has been a challenging and crazy year, but Advent is the perfect opportunity to relax and allow God to shape our vision. Rather than bogging you down with more words on the page, I want to remind you all that this season, this moment, is the perfect chance to stop whatever you are doing, take a deep breath, and ask the Holy Spirit to encourage, inspire, and guide you. Advent is a time when we prepare for the coming of Christ - both the baby Jesus in the manger and the ultimate revelation of Christ Jesus at the fullness of creation. The best way that I know to prepare is to quiet my mind and spirit, and listen for the gentle nudging of God's Word and Spirit. This week, we will be mailing out Advent devotionals for you and your family. We invite and encourage you to gather around the table and share these devotions together every day. This is a great way to get ready for Christmas, and everything that comes next!

Grace and Peace,
David McConnell-Booher

Merry Christmas



Children's Ministry NEWS



Christmas Pageant

The children of FPC will be presenting a narrated photographed Christmas pageant this year. The text is taken from Sally Lloyd-Jones Book, The Jesus Storybook Bible. If you have children interested in participating, please contact Stephanie Rozell at 907-687-3730.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children's Sunday school will start back up in the month of December. Content will be shared over Google Classroom and then we will meet online on Sundays to review and pray together. Details will be sent to parents. If you would like to volunteer to be part of the team or would like your children to participate, contact Stephanie Rozell at 907-687-3730



O Holy Night

O holy night the stars are brightly shining
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn

Fall on your knees
O hear the angel voices
O night divine
O night when Christ was born...



Hope
was BORN
this
NIGHT



Angel Tree Blessings



It is Angel Tree time again – the time to help our church family! Last year we made major positive changes with the Angel Tree gifts to make them more family and Christ-centered rather than materialistic gifts and pleasures. This year, we continue that and add the need for connecting with members as many of us are not attending services in person. We need your help also to share needs in the congregation that you are aware of as well as taking angels to provide for the needs.

The Angel Tree was put on display in the Narthex on Sunday November 29th. It is filled with paper angels with lots of special requests. You are encouraged to take as many angels as you would like to fill the donation request listed on each angel.

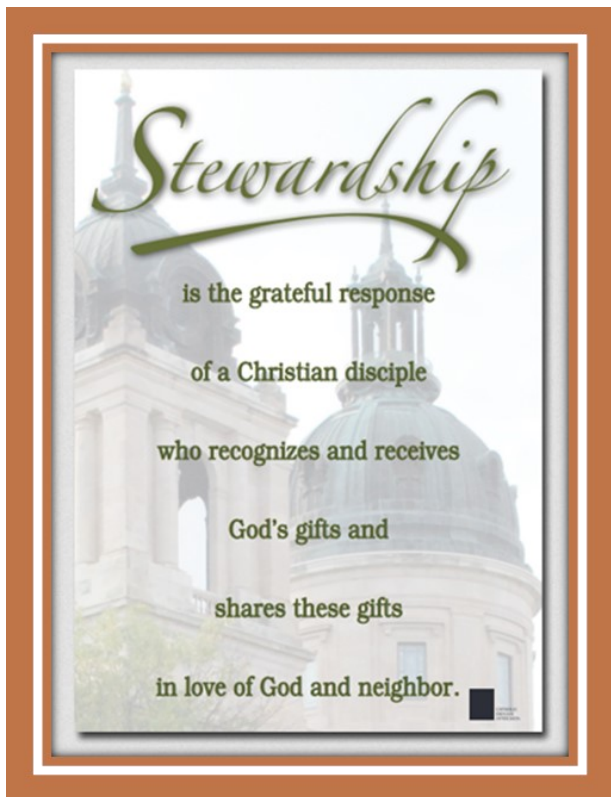
Needs this year are cash or check donations that will be designated for electrical, medical, fuel, and food bills for members in need. Requests for \$25 gift cards to Fred Meyer, WalMart, Good News Bible and Book Store for families will also be on angels. Home-baked goods are always appreciated.

Needs are also “Angels of Time” which are more important than ever in this year of limited contact with each other. Congregation members volunteer to spend quality time with other church members during our dark winter months of December and January. The focus in 2020-21 is on phone calls, facetime calls and physical distanced opportunities outside with masks. We are not encouraging in-person in enclosed spaces visiting during these pandemic times. An old-fashioned card with a note may be just the uplift a person needs to receive. Please contact a Deacon or Marta in the front office if you would like to become an “Angel of Time” this year. You will be matched with someone so please include your contact information.

All donations/Angel cards may be put in the offering plates at the service or hand-delivered to any Deacon, Elder, or church staff member. You may also call the front office to drop off donations. Angel tree gifts should be delivered to First Presbyterian Church no later than Sunday, December 13 or Monday December 14.

Thank you dedicated congregation of First Presbyterian Church of Fairbanks for sharing and caring for each other in the name of Jesus.

The Deacons



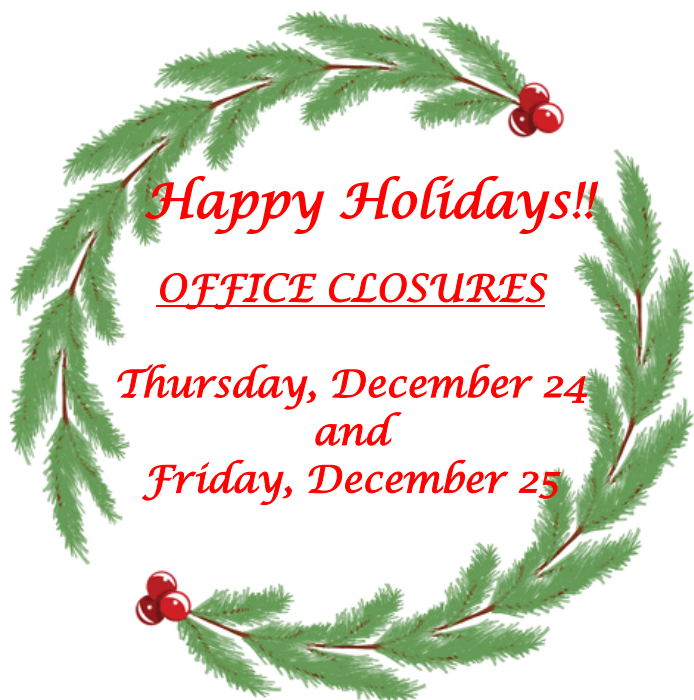
Stewardship Reminder

Stewardship Sunday was November 22nd.

Update:

As of Thanksgiving Day, the estimates of giving turned in to the office provide promise of enough giving to keep our facility operating and to pay our current staff.

If you are able to estimate your 2021 giving to the mission and ministry of First Presbyterian church, please mail in, call in, or place in the offering plate, your 2021 estimate of giving card. If you need a replacement card, call Marta at the church office, 452-2406.



CANDLE LIGHT
Christmas Eve Services
(Times: 7pm and 11pm)



Staff Appreciation Christmas Gift

The Personnel Team would like to invite the congregation to contribute toward a Christmas monetary gift for our four wonderful FPC Staff members (David McConnell-Booher, Marta Conner, Paul Bonnell and Peggy Nicholas). If you plan to participate, please put your contribution in the church offering plate any of these two Sundays: Dec. 6 or Dec. 13 or you can mail it now or drop it off at the church office no later than Tues. Dec. 15th. Be sure to mark your checks or envelopes for: "*FPC Staff Christmas Gift*". Of course, cards, notes or other gifts are welcome, too.

Thank you for helping bless our awesome staff! (Personnel Team: Terry Reichardt, Geoff Beyersdorf & Donna Brewer)

1	Donna Brewer	17	Caleb Sunderland
1	Laura Strong	17	Christopher Cogley
1	Gretchen Wietgreffe	17	River Gates
2	Loriann Quakenbush	19	Thelma Pierce
3	Suzanne Black	20	Lindsey Dreydoppel
4	Bennett Gilbert	20	Cade Albert
5	Keith Nore	21	Joanne Klaver
5	Becky Fuller	22	Glenn Hackney
7	Eleanor Marsh	22	John Anderson
9	Devin Perkins	23	Teddy Jerald Riggs Jr.
10	Bill Glocke	24	JoAnn Mills
10	Linda Mullen	24	Chris Kilgore
11	Brian Sunderland	25	Joyce Tapper
11	Brooks Gilbert	27	Gayle Meurs
12	Michelle VanHatten	29	Shirley Albert
12	Trevor Bunch	30	Brenna McConnell-Booher
12	David Denton	31	Daniel Armstrong
12	Don Harpole	31	Kristina Anderson
12	Elizabeth Jones		
13	Bobby Perkins		
14	Brian Rozell		
15	Janie Feist		

*Have a Wonderful, Happy,
Healthy Birthday!!!*

What follows is a short summary of the decisions and actions of the Session, at the November 17, 2020 Session Meeting. The minutes of the meeting will contain a more complete record.



The Session of First Presbyterian Church met, virtually via Zoom at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, November 17th.

The meeting was opened by Ruling Elder Stephanie Rozell prayer and a devotion.

It was **moved, seconded** and **passed** to approve the agenda as presented.

Vital Statistics from October 21, 2020 to November 17, 2020, as well as Minutes from the October 20, 2020 Stated Meeting, were received. It was **moved, seconded** and **passed** to approve them with one correction to the minutes.

A list of members that were proposed to be moved to the Inactive Members Roll was reviewed. It was **moved, seconded** and **passed** to accept the recommendations.

Consent Calendar items were **passed**, with one item having been pulled to discuss separately. The Consent Calendar items included: Approval of the minutes of Deacons Meeting: September 22, 2020.

A list of members who have requested being removed from the rolls of FPC were reviewed, one name was pulled for further review. It was **moved, seconded** and **passed** to approve the member's request.

The Personnel Ministry Team brought four motions to the Session for consideration. All four motions were **passed**.

Personnel Committee: Motion 1: That David McConnell Booher be awarded quarterly bonuses of \$2,500 to acknowledge the high quality of his work and the extra responsibility that he has taken on during the time FPC is without a pastor.

Personnel Committee: Motion 2: That Session approve David McConnell Booher's up-dated job description.

Personnel Committee: Motion 3: That Marta Conner be awarded a raise to her annual salary of \$950 in recognition of her excellent job performance and of her efforts to learn new bookkeeping skills in order to take on increased financial record keeping and processing responsibility for the church.

Personnel Committee: Motion 4: That Paul Bonnell be awarded a raise of \$3/hr from his present pay of \$13/hr to \$16/hr

A written and verbal report on the finances of FPC was presented by the Church Treasurer, Christy Repasky.

A verbal report was received from Transitional Pastor Search Sub-Committee. There are currently two qualified Transitional Pastors interested in serving at FPC.

A verbal report was received from Elder representatives to the Pastor Search Committee. At this time there are three remaining Pastor Search Committee members of the seven elected by the Congregation. There are two candidates who are in the process of being interviewed by the remaining committee members, and elder representatives.

It was **moved, seconded** and **passed** to interview one of the two Transitional Pastor candidates. The interview will be conducted by interested Session members and recommendations presented to Session for action.

After the second reading of the 2021 Budget, it was approved with changes made during the meeting.

The schedule of elders providing devotions for 2021 was reviewed. January – RE Jim Williams, February – TBD, March – RE Barb Page, April – RE Terry Reichardt, May – Jenna Dreydoppel.

Devotions for the December Session Meeting will be provided by Ruling Elder Mark Lawson.

It was **moved, seconded** and **passed** to have the sermon on Sunday 12/22/2020 be presented by the children's pageant and RE Stephanie Rozell.

Elders spent time in prayer. After making prayer requests known, elders prayed for one another and for First Presbyterian.

The next Stated Session Meeting will be held on December 15, 2020 at 6:00 pm via Video Conference.