



First Light

Volume 28, Issue 9

December 2018

Christmas at First Presbyterian Church



*May the Light of
God's Love Continue to
Guide You, May His Word
Continue to Feed You, and
May His Joy Continue to
Embrace You.*

*Merry
Christmas*

Church Mission

Our mission is to welcome all people, equip them for a deep and living faith in Jesus Christ, and send them into the world to share God's love.

Church Vision

Our vision is to be a beacon for Jesus Christ. With His love and joy, we will draw people into a safe harbor where they are welcomed, healed, restored, and nurtured, becoming radiant witnesses.

The Office will be Closed December 25-26, 2018

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Newsletter submission must be received in the church office by the 20th of each month.

FPC Family,

I wrote this in 2013. I'm struck, again by this season of busyness and how busyness is the great enemy of our souls. Kevin DeYoung in his book, *Crazy Busy*, writes "... more Christians are killed by busyness than bullets."



Please, slow down to catch up with God this advent season. Cultivate new habits of quietness and rest, for it is in these places we encounter Christ most fully and in which in a whirlwind world, we find our salvation.

Pastor Dave

Advent 2018

*Tell all the Truth but tell it slant / Success in Circuit lies / Too bright for our infirm Delight / The
Truth's superb surprise
As Lightning to the Children eased / With explanation kind / The Truth must dazzle gradually /
Or every man be blind --*

Emily Dickenson

November 22, 1963 was a momentous day three men, John F. Kennedy, Aldous Huxley (author of *Brave New World*), and C.S. Lewis died within hours of each other. Of the three, for me personally, I cannot speak for anyone else, Lewis was the most influential.

As a young boy I never felt like I quite fit in. On the outside, always wanting to be on the inside. I was never very strong, nor in the popular set. I was usually picked near the end of the picking for kickball, sometimes, rarely, last but never first. I wanted to be in the popular crowd, so tended to emulate what others did, and make jokes. When I got in trouble, it was for talking in class. I can't tell you the number of times I had to stay behind and write "I will not talk in class" on the chalkboard. My point being, I tried to be like the other kids, because I just didn't feel like I fit in, lots of acquaintances, no close friends. It was a good childhood, but a lonely one.

And then, a lady, and I can't tell you if she was a librarian, or a teacher, or parent volunteer reader a lady, at some after school event, told me that if I learned to read and love books, that I would never be lonely, that books would become some of my best friends. It was somewhere around this point in life that Narnia discovered me, and I never wanted to leave. Lewis' narrative of Peter, Susan, Edmund, Lucy, Eustace, Reepicheep, Caspian, Prof. Digory clung to, and then shaped my imagination like little else. I wanted to be British, ride trains, and live during the blitz of London. Yet there I was, in my bedroom, in the suburbs of the largest city in Kansas.

It was only later in life when Barb and I were dating, through her influence and reading of Lewis that I realized what a shaping influence he had been the framework I had for life after death was pretty much formed by the “*Last Battle*.” The siren call of wanting to be on the inside and the ultimate futility of climbing and striving for being in the inside group, brilliantly shown in, “*The Inner Ring*,” and given narrative form in, “*That Hideous Strength*.” Lewis’ imagination is saturated with biblical truth and sensibilities. He ‘tells it slant’ so that it gets into your bones and becomes a part of you. His stories and essays awaken the hunger for what we believe, yet only dimly apprehend. He touches the sixth sense we all have that there is more happening here than what we can see, taste, touch, smell or hear. There is a world out beyond ours rushing towards us, of which this one is but a shadow.

And this is what Advent is about. Calling us to prepare ourselves for the one who has come and is coming. Posturing ourselves, and asking God to create in us an anticipation for his future. And, then to walk in that anticipated future now, even as we move towards its consummation.

I encourage you to slow down this Advent season. Reflect on John 1.1-18; Luke 1-3, Is. 9.1-7; think on the in breaking kingdom of God and our coming hope, all wrapped up in the humility of the Sovereign of the Universe, born in a manger. My prayer is that you would be pregnant with Advent hope, this Christmas season.

If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world. C.S. Lewis

Pastor Dave Moody

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****FOOD FOR THOUGHT****

*The best gift of all is not to
just give a present, but to be
present in the lives of others.*





JOYOUS OCCASSIONS



DECEMBER 2, 2018

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF HOPE

DECEMBER 2-8, 2018

LOVING FAMILIES

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LOVE INC.

COMBATING HOMELESSNESS

DECEMBER 7, 2018

PARENTS NIGHT OUT!! 5-9PM

**PARENTS ENJOY A DATE NIGHT WHILE
THE KIDS ARE SUPERVISED BY THE
CHURCH**

DECEMBER 9, 2018

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF FAITH

DECEMBER 11, 2018

**NORTHLAND YOUTH CHOIR CONCERT
7:30PM**

DECEMBER 15, 2018

**SING ALONG MESSIAH, 4:30-6PM
SINGERS/NON SINGERS ARE WELCOME**

DECEMBER 16, 2018

**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT
LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF JOY**

DECEMBER 23, 2018

**COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE, 10AM
CHILDREN PAGEANT
FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT
LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF LOVE**



DECEMBER 24, 2018

**CANDLELIGHT SERVICES
5PM AND 11PM**



What is the meaning of the Chrismons on the Christmas Tree?



This is Lota Chi (IX) : The Iota is the first letter of our Lord's given name Jesus in Greek. This name means "the promised one." The Chi -X- is the first letter of His Greek title Christ. The Greek work for Christ, Christos (XPISTOS), is the translation of the Hebrew "Messiah", which mean "the one anointed by God". When these two letters are superimposed, they become our Savior's cipher, the symbolic interweaving of initials that some people call a star. This Chrismon is easy for children to understand.



The CHI RHO Crowned, the Greek CHI -X- becomes the manger topped with a crown to suggest the Prince of Peace, King of Kings, and King of Glory Who lay in it. The shape of the RHO reminds us of the crook carried by the first visitors of the Child. The entire Chrismon design also proclaims the Child's mission: to be mankind's Good Shepherd



The Fish: Early Christians used the fish widely as an easily made and recognized secret sign. During the times of the persecution of the church, Christians could find each other by using this simple password. To the outsider, the fish was a mere decoration; to the Christian, it was an affirmation of faith in the Christ.

There is also the Triangle and the Trefoil (not pictured, but easy to pick out) Two geometric figures, a trefoil (3 circles) and an equilateral triangle combine to define the Godhead. The triangle, one of the oldest and most common symbols for the Truine, has 3 distinct parts united into a perfect whole. The trefoil, also of three equal parts, is a modification of three interlaced circles which suggest the eternal nature of the three Persons.

Angels: Angels heralded the birth of Jesus, and they declared His Resurrection; angel is an equal to the Greek 'messenger' or in a Biblical sense, messengers of God.

Additional Chrismons are as follows:





New Bibles

Have you noticed? There are brand new Bibles in the pew racks, thanks to the generosity of one parishioner. Our old ones were showing signs of wear with torn pages and broken backs and thus in need of replacement.

The new ones are the English Standard Version--different from the previous ones. Our denomination recommends using the ESV Bible for study and reading of the word. Take a look at the new Bibles, and check them out for yourself. Can you find the differences. The old bibles have been spread around the church in the youth room, in classrooms and to the office where walk-ins sometimes ask for a Bible. Presently, we have extra ones to hand out. We owe a big word of thanks to the anonymous benefactor who paid for the beautiful new Bibles.

June Champlin
Elder of Worship

*****Thank You *****

Many thanks to Session and Deacons for your willingness to govern the church, all for the glory of God!

First Presbyterian Church Elders

Donna Brewer	Terry Reichardt
June Champlin	Mike Repasky
Dawn Cogan	Jake Sirevaag
Dave Dreydoppel	Russ Vander Lugt
Michelle Harpole	Jim Williams
Mikki Holt	Pastor Dave Moody: Moderator
Barbara Page	

First Presbyterian Church Deacons

Debra Lynn Bush	Lonny Marney
Sarah Curtis	Barbara Nore
Nancy Dreydoppel	Keith Nore
Debby Foster	Joan Riggs
Logan Foster	Ted Riggs
Kathy Rahmandar	Kathi Stevens

BIBLE STUDIES

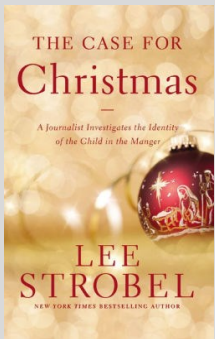


Women's Bible Study

Beginning Tuesday, December 4

10am-11:30am

You are invited to come and discover how former atheist Lee Strobel, learned who the baby in the manger, Jesus, really was! If you have friends or family members who have never grasped the true meaning of Christmas, this study could give you new insights into how to share what Christmas is truly



all about! The study, *The Case for Christmas*, will be a short, four week study. The book and short videos will be utilized. The first three lessons will be covered in December (12/4, 12/11 & 12/18). After a Christmas break, we will gather back on Tuesday Jan. 8, 2019 and complete the last lesson in the study. POC is Donna Brewer at billanddonnabrewer@gmail.com

Sunday Morning Bible Study

The Book of Acts

Do you ever wonder how the church got started? Come and walk through the Book of Acts and find out! We meet each Sunday at 10am upstairs in the conference room. The Point of Contact is Jerry Cleworth.

Vital Church Assessment Report

The Vital Church Assessment Report is now available in two forms. The printed Executive Report, which is a 24-page concise report, is available at the Church Office. The full report, which is a 160-page document, containing all supporting statistics, is available for download. If you would like the full report, call the church office, leave your name and email and you will be sent a link to download the report. A limited number of copies of the full report can be provided.

For further information, contact Dave Dreydoppel at (907) 388-9219.

THE WELL

"Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth." 1 John 3:23

Serving free hot dinners each Wednesday, from 6-7pm





FPC ANGEL TREE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Movie Angels to provide the gift of a family night out at the movies.

Bible Book Store Gift Card Angels to provide a Bible or Christian based movies and books for families.

Popcorn Tin Angels/Home Baked Goods Angels to offer families and individuals some nourishment.

GVEA Electricity Cash Donation Angels to give the gift of electricity for families in need.

Fred Meyer Gift Card Angels and **WalMart Gift Card Angels** so our recipients may use them to best suit their family.

Cash Donation Angels for Medical Bills to assist members in need.

This year the Deacons have prepared Angels that cover a different range of needs:

There are **Movie Angels** to provide the gift of a family night out at the movies.

There are **Bible Book Store Gift Card Angels** to provide a Bible or Christian based movies and books for families.

There are **Popcorn Tin Angels** and **Home Baked Goods Angels** to offer families and individuals some nourishment.

There are **GVEA Electricity Cash Donation Angels** to give the gift of electricity for families in need.

Instead of material gifts we have **Fred Meyer Gift Card Angels** and **WalMart Gift Card Angels** so our recipients may use them to best suit their family. There are **Cash Donation Angels for Medical Bills** to assist members in need. We also have **Cash Donation Angels** to fulfill basic unknown member needs as they arise. All cash donations may be made payable in cash or checks made payable to the **First Presbyterian Church Deacons** and please attach your donation to the Angel and put it securely in the offering plate or deliver to one of the FPC Deacons.

New Angels this year include **“ANGELS OF TIME”** where we are asking members to spend 1 hour of their time with another church member from December 17 – January 31, 2019. On each of these Angels of Time, please include your name, contact information, and available times you might be able to visit. Our plan is to connect you with congregation members to spend some time together.

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT DONATIONS IS DECEMBER 16, 2018

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Thank You!!



We appreciate the care and effort you've put in assisting with the

Operation Christmas Child (OCC) shoebox gifts. The church collected a total of 57 boxes! Samaritan's Purse soon will be delivering these gifts around the world so that our local church partners can use them to bring great joy and the Good News of the Gospel to boys and girls in need. In addition, many shoebox recipients participate in The Greatest Journey, a 21-lesson discipleship program.

Many children are learning how to be faithful followers of the Lord Jesus Christ through this exciting program. Again, thank you. Merry Christmas!

JoAnne Klaver

Prayer Ministry

"The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us"

John 1:14

Please join us for

FPC ROOTS

Weekly Bible Study and Fellowship

For Kids in Grades 4-6

Sundays 4PM-6PM

Dinner Provided

POC: Brian and Stephanie

Rozell, 687-3730.

NOTE: If you would like to donate a dessert on a Sunday, please contact

Stephanie at

Stephanie.a.rozellatgmail.com

Playgroup Schedule

Please join us on Thursday mornings from 10-12pm at the First Presbyterian Church for some adult conversation and kid playtime. Children of all ages are welcome, with an adult. POC is Amber Sunderland.



Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent Until December 16!

You are all invited to go Christmas Caroling with us!

When: December 16, 12:45pm

Where: FPC Fellowship Hall

What: Lunch, then a walking carol caravan and a driving carol caravan

Who: All Y'all

Why: To Spread a Little Christmas Cheer with our neighbors and those who don't always get a lot of visitors.

Spicy Mustard Youth and ROOTS will be hosting this event. We will provide a hot lunch, cookies, and warm beverages for everyone. If you are available to help drive carpools of carolers, please contact david.boohar@fpcfairbanks.com



Spicy Mustard Hoodies Back on Sale

If you are looking for the perfect Christmas gift, look no further! Our Spicy Mustard hoodies are back! On sale for \$40, these hoodies are a quality light-weight cotton-poly blend, are extra soft and comfy, and go directly to supporting our Youth Ministry! We have sizes from XS -XXL. These sweaters are beautiful and do a great job representing what we are all about in our Youth Ministry - Walking Humbly With God, Doing Justice, and Loving others with the mercy God shows us.

Please contact David McConnell-Boohar to purchase your hoodie today.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!



1 Donna Brewer
Laura Strong
Gretchen Wietgreffe

17 River Gates
18 John Fink
19 Thelma Pierce
20 (Kay) Ziyong Wang
Lindsey Dreydoppel
Cade Albert

2 Loriann Quakenbush

3 Suzanne Black

4 Bennett Gilbert

5 Keith Nore

Becky Fuller

7 Eleanor Marsh

9 Devin Perkins

10 Linda Mullen

11 Biran Sunderland

Brooks Gilbert

12 Michelle VanHatten

Trevor Bunch

Don Harpole

Elizabeth Jones

13 Bobby Perkins

14 Brian Rozell

15 Janie Feist

17 Caleb Sunderlund

Christopher Cogley

21 Joanna Klaver

22 Glenn Hackney

John Anderson

Karen Quist

23 Denis Gardella

24 JoAnn Mills

Chris Kilgore

25 Joyce Tapper

27 Gayle Meurs

29 Shirley Albert

30 Brenna McConnell-Booher

31 Daniel Armstrong

Kristina Anderson

Anna Quist

Daniel Cogen

