

Tis The Season!

First Light

A Monthly Newsletter Publication
November 2022

Advent

*A Season of Hope
and Anticipation*

Begins November 27



*May the beauty of the
harvest season fill your
heart with warmth and
love. **HAPPY
THANKSGIVING***

*Merry
Christmas*

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF CHRIST



*In Honor of the
Thanksgiving Holiday,
the Front Office Will Be
CLOSED*

*Wednesday, November 23
Thursday, November 24
Friday, November 25*

*Normal office hours will
resume on
Monday, November 28*

THE WELL



**Wednesday Dinners
Please Join Us!**

**First Pres offers a free
warm meal, an
opportunity for
informal conversation,
a brief testimony or
devotion about God's
work in the lives of His
people and an
invitation to pray**

**Wednesdays
6-7pm**

***Nursery is available
during Sunday
school classes at
9am and Worship
Services at 11am***

PRAYER TIME

**All are invited to prayer time each
Tuesday in the sanctuary at 12:15pm.
This is a time for us to intercede for
our world, nation, community, church
family and friends.**

ALL ARE WELCOME!

**Our Vision is to see the world
transformed to love, worship and
serve Christ.**

**We do this through our Mission,
which 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.**



**Your Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes
are ready to be filled!**

Boxes are available in the narthex.

**PRAY for the child...one out of every 5
children who receive a box, makes a
commitment to follow Jesus.**

**Filled boxes due Sunday,
November 20 at 11:30 a.m.**

*Ever wondered how
the church looks so
beautiful for the
Christmas season?*

*We'll come join us
on Wednesday
November
23rd at 5:00 pm and
help us transform
our church into
Christmas. Please
join
us as we put the
tree
up and decorate the
narthex and
sanctuary.*

FPC Deacons

HAPPY NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS!!



1 Sophie Strong

1 Caxton Marney

3 William Mullen

5 Brian Albert

5 Jack Morris

5 Sue Ault

7 Dave Dreydoppel

9 Joanna Jagow

13 Jason Huffaker

13 Johanna Coester

15 Ridge Demers

16 Jeanette Wrede

20 Katrina Nore

21 Deanna Morris

21 Pam Hennessey

22 Vincent Eldridge

22 Dawn Curtis

23 Bonnie Johnson

23 Don Marsh

24 Owen Bunch

24 Daniel Griggs

24 Henry Repasky

28 Kathi Stevens



Stewardship Sunday

November 20, 2022

Things are happening at FPC.

- The pastor search committee is reviewing applications.
- The revitalization vision team is visioning!
- Youth and Children's ministry are in full swing!
- Life Groups and Adult Bible Classes are in progress.
- Session is working on the budget for 2023
- The first Stewardship Letter has been mailed.

A second Stewardship Letter will arrive in the mail during the week of November 13th. On Sunday November 20th you will have an opportunity to place your estimate of giving for 2023 in the offering plate. These estimates help Session to prepare the budget for 2023.



A Word From Pastor Peter

You will see many times in scripture that great fellowship happens around eating together. That is why Thanksgiving is one of those holidays that I get excited about. It is about having amazing fellowship as we eat all the delicious and scrumptious food. As we eat and go throughout the day, we are engaging in meaningful and intimate conversations. Since thanksgiving is the major theme for the day, we often find the conversation focusing on being grateful.

As you recall, the holiday revolved around the Pilgrims celebrating their thankfulness to God in not only supplying their needs but also celebrating their opportunities to share the “Good News of Jesus Christ” to the Native Americans.

It must have been a wonderful festival for the Pilgrims and to Native Americans. Why? Because it is so encouraging to be around people who are truly thankful for not only their “blessings” but, also to find joy in the midst of their sufferings. The Pilgrims suffered tremendously in their first winter in the America, but they kept their Christian perspective and were able to thank God through a special celebration.

God provides us with many ways to be thankful. We are greatly thankful for God’s love for us, Jesus Christ going to the cross and saving us from our sins and eternal separation, the gift of the Holy Spirit to empower, teach counsel and transform us, the community of believers, and I can continue with a longer list, but you get the picture.

Also, the “attitude of thankfulness” in a person’s life is a wonderful quality that encourages others. You find yourself wanting to be around a person with this type of attitude and perspective.

Scripture makes it very clear that we cannot worship God without a thankful attitude. All worship begins, with an attitude of “thanksgiving.” God loves it when we come to Him with a thankful heart, it tells God that we love Him.

Just a side note: my family and I are very thankful that God has sent us here to First Presbyterian Church. Thank you for graciously receiving us.

Ps 100:4-5

4 Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name. 5 For the LORD is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through.

SERMON SERIES

November 6

“3 Circles, #1”

Theme: Explaining the Gospel

November 13

“3 Circles, #2”

Theme: Sharing the Gospel

November 20

“Stewardship Sunday”

ADVENT

“Names for the Messiah”

November 27

“Wonderful Counselor”



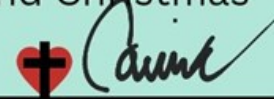
CHILDREN'S ministry



Dear First Pres Folks,

This month, we are celebrating 2 months of Bible stories in our Sunday school with a Celebration Day. We learned that Abraham (Abram, at this point) followed God and when good things happened--he celebrated! We will be looking back at our stories and reminding ourselves of all we've learned. Games, crafts and activities ahead! We hope this begins a habit in our program of regularly remembering what God has done and how good he is.

Soon we will begin work on our Christmas lessons and Christmas program to share with you all.



CLUBS ARE IN SESSION!

Roots Club for Kids 3rd-5th meets Sundays 4-6

Focused on fun and Bible training, dinner is served at 5:00

Climb Club for Kids 6th-8th meets Wednesdays 3-5

Focused on Fellowship, Discipleship and Prayer.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

In October, the Sunday School studied:

Cain and Abel

Noah's Ark

The Tower of Babel

The Calling of Abram

We now teach one Bible story at 9:00 to all ages, then split into three classrooms:

- k-2--hands on Bible experiences
- 3-5--puzzles and team challenges
- Middle School--conversation and creating

PRAYER REQUESTS

In November, the Children's Ministry requests prayer for:

♥ Children and Families to have opportunities to bring friends along

♥ Great creativity as I plan lots of curriculum

♥ of thanksgiving! Our Roots and Climb groups are growing at a healthy rate and kids seem to be growing in kindness and connection to each other!

MINISTRY TEAM NEWS

This month, the Children's Ministry team met to create a new budget for 2023. We hope that our spending will reflect our heart: to care for our current church families and reach out to invite more kids and families into God's kingdom.

Christmas Angel Tree

Restoring Families Strengthening Faith

It is time to think about our First Presbyterian Church Angel Tree. What is the Angel Tree? What are Angel Gifts? Who decides who will receive blessings from our congregation in the form of angel gifts? What type of gifts are requested or needed from our church family?

During the season of Advent, the Angel Tree is a way that our church family members give back and “pay it forward” to those who are struggling in different ways. Your deacons are the ones who organize this project, identify possible recipients each year, and the deacons will make the deliveries to the recipients on or around the 20th of December.

Many families and individuals struggle with paying their electric bill, fuel bill, medical bills, food bill, and providing the basic needs for their families. **Our church family tries to assist those in need by making a monetary donation or product donation to contribute to those angel recipients. Each year we have a need for cash donations to support these difficult bills. We also request home-baked goods to share with our families and individuals.**

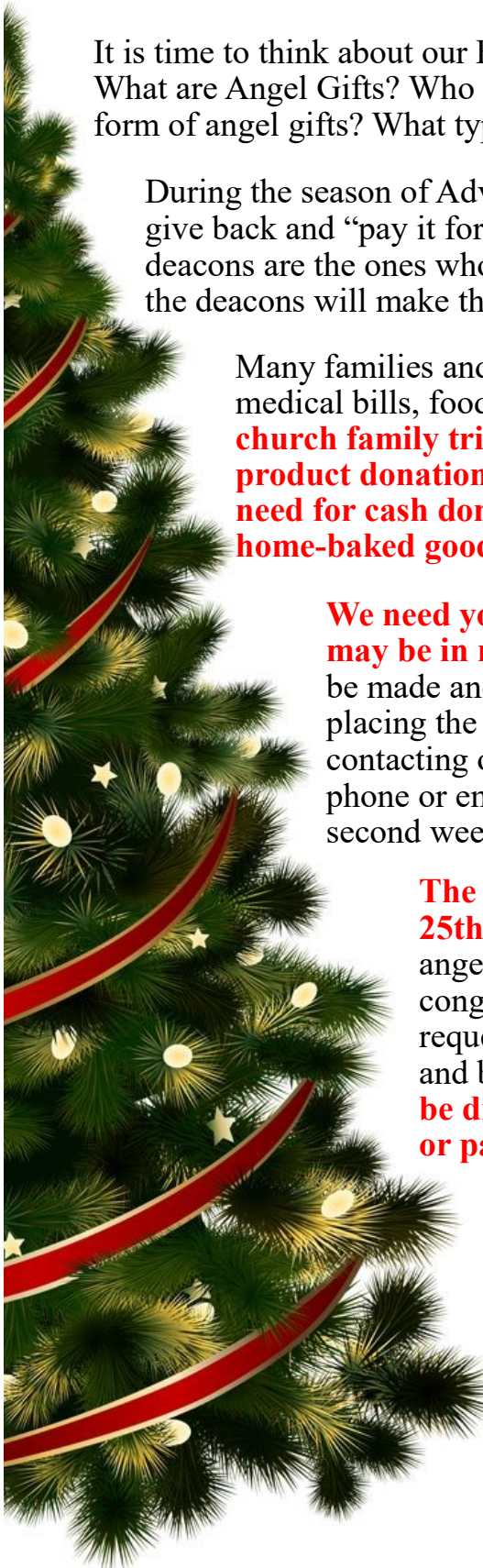
We need your help in identifying members of our congregation that may be in need this year. Your suggestion of families or individuals can be made anonymously to the church office by phone call to Marta; by placing the request in the offering plate at the Sunday service; and by contacting one of the deacons, elders, or staff members in person or by phone or email. We would like to have this list of recipients created by the second week of November so we can better prepare our paper “Angels.”

The Angel Trees will be erected in the Narthex on November 25th, just outside of the sanctuary, and filled with tiny paper angels that have specific requests of needs printed on them. As congregation members feel moved, they will select “paper angel requests” and then donate the requested needs on each paper angel and bring it to church not later than December 19th. **Donations may be dropped off at the church office or given to any deacon, elder, or pastor during the Sunday service.**

Angel gifts need to be at First Presbyterian Church not later than December 18th or 19th so that the deacons can prepare each delivery.

Thank you to all congregation members and our church family for continuing to support this important outreach mission of First Presbyterian Church.

Barbara Nore, Moderator, First Presbyterian Church Deacons



Fairbanks First Presbyterian Church in Partnership with the Fairbanks Food Bank Presents

Thanksgiving

FOOD BOX DISTRIBUTIONS



SERVING THE COMMUNITY

LOCATION:

First Presbyterian Church

November 23, 2022

FPC will continue its 30+ years of partnering service with the Food Bank as the main distribution point for Thanksgiving Food boxes.

Volunteers are asked to self-screen. Also, volunteers are asked to stay at home if feeling ill.

WHAT IS NEEDED:

- 4-6 volunteers are needed between 4-6pm on **Tuesday, November 22** to load trucks, position food boxes, secure the parking lot, and any last minute tasks prior to next day, and
- A steady stream of volunteers are needed between 6am-4pm on **Wednesday, November 23** to unload food boxes, assist visitors with carrying boxes to cars, also needed is a panel truck driver

If you would like to serve, please call or text Jim Williams at 907-978-3320 or by email at jimw.101591@gmail.com.