



FPC TIDINGS

Website: www.newfpc.com

December
2020 

GIVING THANKS

I want to give a word of thanksgiving to everyone in the church family for making me feel so welcome these past three weeks. We are certainly off and running! My first Sunday here was a special day where we discussed some of the principles that we will abide by during my time with you. On November 22, it was great to show our gratitude to God on Thanksgiving Sunday. And November 29 put us in the holiday mood a bit with our 1st Sunday of Advent. One of my favorite songs this time of the

year is “It’s the Most Wonderful Time of the Year”, because it certainly is. With the joys of Advent, Christmas and the New Year ahead of us, I’m really looking forward to this month of work and worship.

2021 will be our time to make progress toward finding the next pastor of this church. But for December, 2020, let’s not forget to simply enjoy the moments. God will be present among us as we praise God’s name and celebrate the birth of our Savior. And, if we pay close attention, we will see

God’s Spirit at work in our midst, building us up and preparing us for a great joy that will extend past Christmas morning.

I’m looking forward to seeing everyone this Advent and Christmas season!
Pastor Evans



Special Dates of Interest

- Second Sunday of Advent, *December 6, 2020*
- Third Sunday of Advent, *December 13, 2020*
- Fourth Sunday of Advent, *December 20, 2020*
- First day of winter, *December 21, 2020*
- Christmas Eve, *December 24, 2020*
- Christmas Day, *December 25, 2020*
- New Year’s Eve/Watch Night, *December 31, 2020*

CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS

Perhaps more so this year than in years past our community is in need. Most of us if not all of us have not lived through a pandemic before. Right now is a challenging time. Some people are not able to work, some people have lost their jobs, groceries are not always on the shelves and children are home doing their school work online when normally they would be in a school building where they would receive two meals a day. Families who have school age children came to rely on those two meals a day

five days a week while their children were in the actual school building. Now that they are home families are doing the best that they can to provide food for their families. Hopkins County Schools is doing the best they can with providing food for families who are able to come and pick up the meals at the school that they are closest too as well as the Family Resource Centers are doing what they can in providing families with food for the weekends. Each year First Presbyterian Church helps families with food for the holiday. Each year you

give generously and families receive a generous amount of food for their Christmas Dinner and then some. Again this year if you feel led to give to the ministry of Christmas Food Baskets please leave your donation with Dawn in the office or you can give on Sunday. Please be sure to mark it for the Christmas Food Baskets. Thank you for being a blessing to others.

Amy Taylor, Mission and Outreach





From Pastor Pete

The Bible says, “There will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance” (Luke 15:7).

The clear trumpet blast calling men and women to repentance is conspicuous for its absence from the modern pulpit. We have preached the dignity of humanity instead of our depravity. We have declared our goodness rather than our wickedness. We have vindicated ourselves rather than confessed our guilt. We have made of ourselves, despite all of our inherent sin and evil, little cherubs of perfection with halos on our heads, harps in our hands and wings on our shoulders. Gone is the mourner’s bench; gone are the tear-stained cheeks of godly sorrow for sin; and gone is the joy in Heaven over wanderers returning to the Father’s house.

None of us wants to accept blame for our sins. But either the Bible is wrong or we are wrong. When we look at the fruits of this unrepentant generation, I am convinced

that we need to blow a loud blast on the trumpet of Biblical repentance.

What is repentance? We might do well to notice first what it is not. First, repentance is not penance. Penance is the voluntary suffering of punishment for sin and does not necessarily involve a change of character or conduct.

Second, repentance is not remorse. Judas was remorseful over his sin of betrayal of the Son of God, but his shallow regret led to suicide instead of to God, because remorse is not true repentance. Third, repentance is not self-condemnation. You may hate yourself for your sinfulness, but self-condemnation only opens wider the wounds of guilt and despair. We should hate our sins, not ourselves.

Then what is repentance? *Repentance* is not a word of weakness but a word of power and action. It is not a self-effacing emotion, but a word of heroic resolve. It is an act that breaks the chains of captive sinners and sets

Heaven to singing.

Have you repented? Have you changed? Is your life different from how it used to be? God’s commands to repent are not capricious. It is not that He wants to see people groveling in subjection before Him. In His imperative call for people to repent, He has their welfare and happiness as His motive. “For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation.” Repentance is a necessary step to salvation.

There is forgiveness, but it can only be found at the foot of the cross, where Christ died for our sins. “Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.” (Acts 3:19.) Borrowed from Billy Graham.

DECEMBER HAPPENINGS

December 1: Bible Study 10 AM

December 6: 2nd Sunday of Advent

December 8: Bible Study 10 AM

December 13: 3rd Sunday of Advent

December 15: Bible Study 10 AM

December 20: 4th Sunday of Advent

December 22: Bible Study 10 AM

December 24: 7:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion

December 25: Christmas Day

December 27: 1st Sunday of Christmas

December 29: Bible Study 10 AM





Why Advent?

Waiting can be hard, and not just for children. But I do love Advent: this four-week time when the Christian church prepares for Christmas.

Maybe I like Advent so much because it involves active waiting, not thumb-twiddling. It is a gift the church offers the world, to be active (which isn't the same as busy) in ways that open our hearts – and the hearts we touch – to the true meaning of Christmas.

Mother Teresa said, “At this Christmas when Christ comes, will he find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving others with God’s own love and concern.”

When I take time during Advent to remember in prayer and with gifts of money and time those who have less food than I do, those who are lonely, those without a home; when I pause to share love with a child or an elder, or gratitude for a healthcare worker, pastor or teach-

er; when I wait for justice to replace oppression but, while I wait, find ways to work for that result ... the Spirit’s warmth fills my waiting heart. I am ready to welcome Jesus.

—Heidi Mann

OCTOBER 2020 FINANCES AT A GLANCE

	YTD		
Income	\$12,885.13	YTD Income	\$258,472.43
Expense	<u>-\$12,481.98</u>	YTD Expense	<u>-\$210,406.65</u>
Net	403.15	YTD Net	\$48,065.78
Undesignated		YTD Undesignated	
Income	\$12,290.50	Income	\$234,848.46
Expense	<u>-\$12,481.98</u>	Expense	-\$195,176.05
Net	-\$191.48	Net	\$39,672.41
Designated		YTD Designated	
Income	\$594.63	Income	\$23,623.97
Expense	\$0.00	Expense	<u>-\$15,230.60</u>
Operating Funds			
Beginning Balance	\$118,599.21		
Ending Balance	\$117,180.52		
Investment Account	\$205,928.91		



DECEMBER
Birthdays
& Anniversaries

10th Shirley Michael
 14th Cheryl Bushong
 20th Dakota Miller
 21st Carroll & Delores Steinfeld (A)
 24th Michael & Connie Skultety (A)
 25th Paula & Burl Milligan (A)
 26th Tom McLean
 Larry Peyton
 Ed Moore
 31st Calvin & Teresa Griffith (A)

December 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 IDAM Bible Study 6PM Session Meeting	2	3	4	5
6  Second Sunday of Advent	7	8 IDAM Bible Study	9	10	11	12
13  Third Sunday of Advent	14	15 IDAM Bible Study	16	17	18	19
20  Fourth Sunday of Advent	21  First Day of Winter	22 IDAM Bible Study	23 No Activities	24 7PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion	25  Merry CHRISTMAS	26
27	28	29 IDAM Bible Study	30	31		