



FPC TIDINGS

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DECEMBER 2021

NOTES FROM THE PASTOR

It's been a few weeks since Pastor Appreciation Sunday, but I wanted to be sure to thank everyone for the very thoughtful cards that I received. I was genuinely surprised by this gift and it was very much appreciated!

With November 30 being my last day as your Transitional Pastor, that will make our time together at 54 weeks. Time has certainly flown by! I have truly enjoyed my time with you and this church has been a wonderful professional experience for me! I will hold dear all of the many friendships that I have made this past year.

The Congregational Potluck on November 28 was a perfect send-off for me! Thanks so much to the Fellowship Committee for organizing the potluck and for all who stayed for lunch. I've told many people over this past year about all of the amazing cooks at FPC!

IF ONLY

There are many of you ... who think to yourselves: "If only I had been there! How quick I would have been to help the Baby! I would have washed his linen. How happy I would have been to go with the shepherds to see the Lord lying in the manger!"

Your Pastor Nominating Committee has made a great deal of progress over these past few months. I'm excited for the future of this congregation and for the new pastor that is coming soon. In the meantime, you will be treated to a number of great services during the month of December.

Although you won't see me on Sunday mornings, I will remain the Moderator the Session until further notice. So if you're in the church building during the week, don't be too surprised to see me walking the hallway.

Speaking of the Session, a big thank you goes to Billie Ann and Teresa who have completed their terms on the Session. We welcome Brooks and Brianna to the Session in 2022 and appreciate both Mike and Larry serving an additional 3-year term.

Yes, you would! You say that because you know how great Christ is, but if you had been there at that time, you would have done no better than the people of Bethlehem. ... Why don't you do it now? You have Christ in your neighbor. You ought to serve him, for what you do to your neighbor in need

I wanted to give a personal "thank you" to those who helped me week in-week out with the worship service each Sunday. Thanks to Rick and Patsy for preparing all of my liturgy and scripture passages each week. Thanks to Mike, Ann and Brianna for selecting and leading our songs each Sunday. And thanks to Dawn who made sure that each day on the job included a healthy dose of laughter!

GOD BE WITH YOU 'TILL WE MEET AGAIN!

First Presbyterian Church
260 W. McLaughlin Ave
Madisonville KY 42431
270-821-6426

Service Times:
9:15 AM Sunday School
10:15 AM Worship Service
In the Sanctuary

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you do to the Lord Christ himself.

—Martin Luther





HAPPY ADVENT 2021

Happy Advent!

This is the time of the year where we get ready for the birth of our Lord Jesus, figuratively. It is a wonderful time of the year. Praise the Lord! I need to thank you for the Pastor Appreciation gifts that I received from the church and fellow members of FPC. Though under-served, I do appreciate your love and generosity. Thank You.

While most of us read the gospel accounts of Jesus' birth, I like to read "Barrington Bunny" by Martin Bell and "The Little Match Girl" by Hans Christian Andersen. The Barrington story is a classic Christmas/Easter fable. A story of a bunny who gets lost in the forest on Christmas Eve. He is all alone and has no family to spend Christmas Eve with during that cold winter night. Barrington then meets a mysterious silver wolf who teaches him the true meaning of Christmas ("A gift, a free gift, no strings attached"). It's not what you expect.

The Little Match Girl tells that on a freezing New Year's Eve a poor young girl, shivering and barefoot, tries to sell matches in the street. Afraid to go home because her father will beat her for failing to sell any matches, she huddles in the alley between two houses and lights matches, one by one, to warm herself.

In the flame of the matches she sees a series of comforting visions: the warm iron stove, the lovely roast goose, the great glorious Christmas tree. Each vision disappears as its match burns out. In the sky she sees a shooting star, which her late grandmother had told her means someone is on their way to Heaven. In the flame of the next match she sees her grandmother, the only person that ever treated her with love and kindness. To keep the vision of her grandmother alive as long as possible, the girl lights the entire bundle of matches.

When the matches are gone the girl freezes to death, and her grandmother carries her soul to Heaven. The next morning, passers-by find the girl's body with a smile on her face, and express pity. They do not know about the wonderful visions she had seen, or how happy she is with her grandmother in Heaven. These stories remind me that Christmas is the time that The Glory of God manifested Himself as fully human and that Christmas is more than Santa, fun times, and material things. Have a great holiday season and Merry Christmas.

Pastor Pete

JOY AMID SUFFERING

Only Matthew records the holy family's "flight into Egypt," linking Advent with Lent and Christmas with Good Friday. In an article titled "Joy to the World/Pain in the World," James I. Cook expresses gratitude that Matthew documents the slaughter of the innocents: "I turn to it again and again, when someone I know loses a loved one at the height of the Christmas season. It

helps me — and I hope it helps them — to remember that theirs are not the first tears to fall on Christmas; to recall that there has never been a Christmas of pure peace and happiness; [to recognize] that 'joy to the world' has always



been sung to the accompaniment of much 'pain in the world.'"

—adapted from *Homiletics*



A SEASON OF WAITING

Our oven recently bit the dust, and the needed replacement part is no longer manufactured. Due to an appliance shortage, we had to wait eight weeks for a new oven! Yet even amid inconvenience, I see God's purpose. We were thankful to have a grill and slow cookers in the meantime. We creatively attempted to cook favorite meals in different ways. And though we craved anything baked in an oven — cookies, casseroles, even chicken nuggets — we realized that waiting eight weeks for an oven isn't truly a trying time.

Many of us wait for much greater milestones and miracles: physical healing, the return of a prodigal child, an end to financial struggles. Paul offers us hope as we wait: "May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had" (Romans 15:5, NIV).

wait.

—Janna Firestone

When you're in a season of waiting — including Advent! — consider what you're thankful for and what you crave. Tell God how you're feeling and ask for endurance while you

OCTOBER 2021 FINANCES AT A GLANCE

		YTD	
Income	\$14,515.52	YTD Income	\$237,345.70
Expense	<u>-\$24,925.45</u>	YTD Expense	<u>-\$280,057.32</u>
Net	-\$10,409.93	YTD Net	-\$42,711.62
Undesignated		YTD Undesignated	
Income	\$12,899.64	Income	\$185,186.01
Expense	<u>-\$22,927.94</u>	Expense	<u>-\$215,396.70</u>
Net	-\$10,028.30	Net	-\$30,210.69
Designated		YTD Designated	
Income	\$1,615.88	Income	\$52,159.69
Expense	<u>-\$1,997.51</u>	Expense	<u>-\$64,660.62</u>
Net	-\$381.63	Net	-\$12,500.93
Operating Funds			
Beginning Balance		\$121,015.64	
Ending Balance		\$100,000.70	
Investment Account		\$210,716.00	

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**First Presbyterian
Church**



- 10th Shirley Michael
- 14th Cheryl Bushong
- 21st Carroll & Deloris Steinfeld (A)
- 24th Michael & Connie Skultety (A)
- 26th Tom McLean
- Ed Moore
- 31st Calvin & Teresa Griffith (A)

December 2021

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1 5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Bible Study	2	3	4
5 Communion Sunday	6	7 1:30 Bible Study 6PM Session Mtg	8 5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Bible Study	9	10	11
12	13	14 1:30 Bible Study	15 5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Bible Study	16	17	18
19 9:00 AM Birthday Party for Jesus	20	21 1:30 Bible Study	22  No Activities	23	24  CHRISTMAS EVE Service @ 6PM	25  REJOICE! Christ Is Born!
26	27	28 1:30 Bible Study	29 No Activities	30	31	