
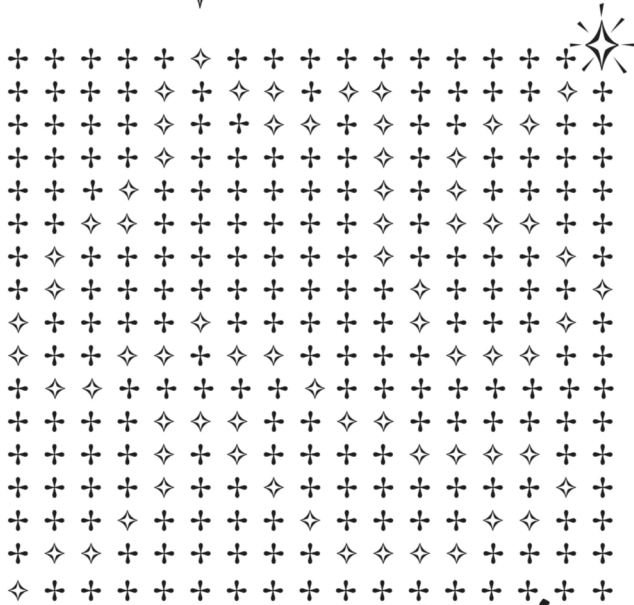


Puzzle!

Starting in the lower-left corner, help the wise men follow the  path that leads to baby Jesus.



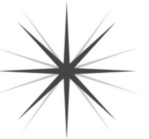
 START



Now unscramble these words to discover what gifts the wise men brought Jesus.

LD OG NCAKNRIENFSE RYHMR

“And you,
Bethlehem,
... from you shall come
a ruler who is to shepherd
my people Israel.”



First Presbyterian Church
512 3rd Street SW
Rochester, Minnesota 55902
Address Service Requested

 **JANUARY**
2022

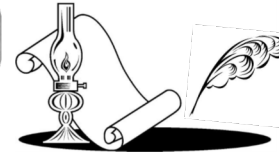


Matthew 2:6, NRSV

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| January 2022 | | | | | | |
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| 30 | 31 | | | | | |

- 2 _____ Worship & Communion 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
- 3 _____ **The church office will be closed all day**
- 5 _____ Worship at Charter House 1:00 p.m.
- _____ Wednesday activities 4:45—8:00 p.m.
- 9 _____ Worship 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
- _____ Officer Training 9:45 a.m.
- _____ Session Meeting 10:45 a.m.
- _____ Ordination and Installation 11:00 a.m.
- 10 _____ Esther Circle 1:00 p.m.
- 11 _____ Kitchen Guild 1:00 p.m.
- _____ Deacons Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 12 _____ Prayer Shawl Group 1:00 p.m.
- _____ Wednesday activities 4:45—8:00 p.m.
- 13 _____ Bell and Choir Rehearsals 6:00-8:30 p.m.
- 14 _____ Sitter Service 5:30 p.m.
- 15 _____ Ruth Circle 10:00 a.m.
- _____ **Committee Annual Reports are DUE!**
- 16 _____ Worship 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
- 17 _____ **The church office will be closed all day**
- 18 _____ Session meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 19 _____ Priscilla Circle 9:15 a.m.
- _____ Crafters Group 3:00 p.m.
- _____ Wednesday activities 4:45—8:00 p.m.
- 20 _____ Bell and Choir Rehearsals 6:00-8:30 p.m.
- 23 _____ Worship 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
- 30 _____ Worship 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
- _____ Annual Meeting 9:40 a.m.



The Good News

of First Presbyterian Church for January 2022

PASTOR'S QUILL

As I write this, my head is still wrapped up in the Christmas season. Which is fine actually, because we are still in the Christmas season until January 6th, when Epiphany begins and continues for 7 Sundays into February.

So as we look ahead to 2022, let us keep in mind the central image of Epiphany – Light.

During Christmas, we celebrate the light that has come into world and dispelled our darkness. For 7 Sundays in January and February, we celebrate that Light as something we should never forget.

Speaking of forgetting, I recently ran across a story about a man named Jeff Ingram who suffers from a rare form of amnesia called “dissociative fugue.” When you have dissociative fugue, you lose your memory, at least for awhile. Usually this occurs in response to a very stressful situation.

At least twice in his life, Jeff has had bouts with dissociative fugue that caused him to wander far from home, finding himself in a new city with no memory of who he was or how he got there. In one fugue state, he was away from home for 9 months.

Each time he disappears, Jeff’s family and friends go through the process of rebuilding his past for him. They tell him stories about his childhood and teen years. They show him old photos. They re-introduce him to his favorite TV shows and board games. The only thing Jeff remembers from his past is the information they have told him.

A couple of years ago, Jeff disappeared from the home he shared with his fiancée, Penny Hansen. He ended up in Denver, Colorado. He couldn’t remember his name, his past or how he got to Colorado. He walked into a local hospital where doctors put him through a bunch of neurological exams. Finally, they sent him to a halfway house for people suffering from mental illness and substance abuse. Two Denver police detectives convinced Jeff to appear on a local TV station and do an interview. Penny’s brother just happened to see the interview, called his sister, and Penny contacted the Denver TV station and emailed them a bunch of pictures to prove it was Jeff.

As Jeff recalls the moment, “They start laying pictures out on the table, and I’m just shocked. I’m going. “That’s me, and that’s me, and that’s me.: And I just start bawling my eyes out. Somebody knows I’m here.”

Jeff Ingram and Penny Hansen had been apart for 47 days. When Jeff returned home, Penny and Jeff’s friends began the process once again of teaching him who he was. And Penny was able to convince Jeff to get a tattoo of a brightly-colored phoenix, the mythical bird that dies and is reborn continually. Underneath the tattoo is Jeff’s name and Washington State ID number.(1)

Beginning in the season of Epiphany, and continuing through the liturgical year, we teach each other who we are. We remind ourselves of our identity as God’s children. We remind ourselves that God loves us and welcomes us home. We remind ourselves that through Jesus Christ, we receive grace and mercy beyond all measure. Let us never forget that the Light has come into the world to banish our darkness forever.

Peace,

Contact: Parlette. TJ@FPCRochester.org
Phone: (814) 715-0290

1. *Dynamic Preaching*, Vol. XXXVIII, No. 1, p3.



John Stender, Director of Music
stender.john@fpcrochester.org

Music Ministry

Katie Kuisle, Calvin & Cherub Choirs
Janine Yanisch, First Players Bands

“Kids are baby goats. Children, however, are extremely intelligent beings. They are capable of expressing complex emotion, they operate on trust, they are deserving of immeasurable love, support in all forms, and well-thought educational opportunities, and should be always be welcomed as full participants in worship (to say the least).”

– Carole Lea Arenson

Many years ago I was lucky to participate in a regional sacred music conference as a college-age intern. One of my duties was to follow Carole Lea Arenson around and help her get things done. I will always remember that week because I gleaned so much from her practical philosophy of music ministry for all ages. I’ve never forgotten the quotation that is paraphrased above. Under Carole’s direction, I also had the joy of helping organize a children’s choir as part of the conference and I was to sing falsetto alongside them – not to help lead them (Carole and the conference organist did that), but to learn from them.

Splitting hairs about language is not the important point, though, it is worth re-stating: kids are baby goats. Children are not baby goats. In an article for the American Choral Director’s Association, Richard Webster (Trinity Church, Boston) once wrote: “[Well-trained youth choristers] understand and embrace their calling. They also do school sports and musicals, but being a chorister is different. At the heart of liturgy, even as they themselves are being shaped, these choristers are helping transform a Christian community.”

It is my aim, with the capable help of Katie Kuisle and the support of our staff (and hopefully of all of you reading this) to invest deeply in re-building our congregational approach to musical learning and worship opportunities for children. This is not to criticize past or present efforts and strengths. However, re-building requires renewal of vision and goals based on the present time and hope for the future. Perhaps it’s true that we always must be in a state of ‘re-building’ children’s choirs. After all, children grow, while families, schedules, interests, and priorities do change. Hosting a healthy children’s choir must be considered a necessity for any congregation. I don’t want to get stuck on the “children are the future” phrase, but would rather focus on the fact that a sacred music ministry program can offer something much more than any school or civic program can. Wordsmith Garrison Keillor can be simply quoted as having said, “Nothing you do for children is ever wasted.” As Christians, we must feel the weight of responsibility of that when it comes to faith formation, worship, community, and more.

Richard Webster writes about how there should be no mention of “children’s music” in church. There is only one music in church- we all engage (in our own ways) with sacred music and the People’s Song. Considering quality and conviction about goals, Webster argues the value of a sacred choral program for young people:

continued on page 5

“We must honor [children] and offer them a bold challenge.”

continued from page 4

“We must honor [children] and offer them a bold challenge. Few school programs have the power to shape a child’s life as profoundly as choir. What we offer children when they are young and malleable will endure for life. Their minds are sponges, waiting to absorb either the finest or the merely mediocre. They thirst for guidance, truth, insight, confidence, and the tools with which to shape their lives.”

As the calendar turns over, even with still-looming COVID-19 related difficulties and uncertainties, the time is now to increase our investment in young people from the FPC and greater Rochester communities. Safe navigation of post-pandemic life for children can certainly include musical learning and corporate worship with verve, innovation, and priority.

Ongoing children’s ensemble opportunities at FPC include:

Wednesday

4:45-5:45PM—**Calvin Choir**—Grades 2-4, Katie Kuisle, director

4:45-5:45PM—**Youth Choir**—Grades 5-9, John Stender, director

7:00-7:45PM—**Joyous Praise Handbell Choir**—Grades 5 and older

Thursday

6:00-7:00PM—**Jubilate Deo Handbell Choir**—high school and adults

7:00-8:30PM—**Chancel Choir**—high school and adults



FPC Contributes to the Marion Medical Mission

– Sylvia Swede, Mission Committee

“I tell you the truth; anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to Christ will certainly not lose his reward.”

– Mark 9:41



Sub-saharan Africa has the highest under-five mortality in the world. Safe drinking water means the difference between life and death. On September 27, 2021, a new well was installed in the village of Chapumbwa, Malawi, which will serve 85 people. Through Marion Medical Mission, First Presbyterian Church also provided the funds for a second well, installed in October in the village of Lwato, Tanzania. This well will serve 50 people

The Well Program of the Marion Medical Mission not only provides safe drinking water but also the necessary knowledge, skills, and tools to maintain and manage the water source so that safe drinking water continues in future years. Where wells have been built, waterborne diseases are eliminated.

Christian Education & Youth Group News

Susanna Stone, Coordinator of Youth
and Christian Education



Contact: Stone.Susanna@FPCRochester.org
Phone: (507) 282-1618

December Youth Group News

During December, the FPC Youth Group focused on Advent and a season of giving. We used our artistic skills to contribute to the Advent Mosaic, wrapped Christmas presents for the children of the Childhood Cancer Community, and then celebrated Christmas with our traditional White Elephant gift exchange. Fun was had by all!

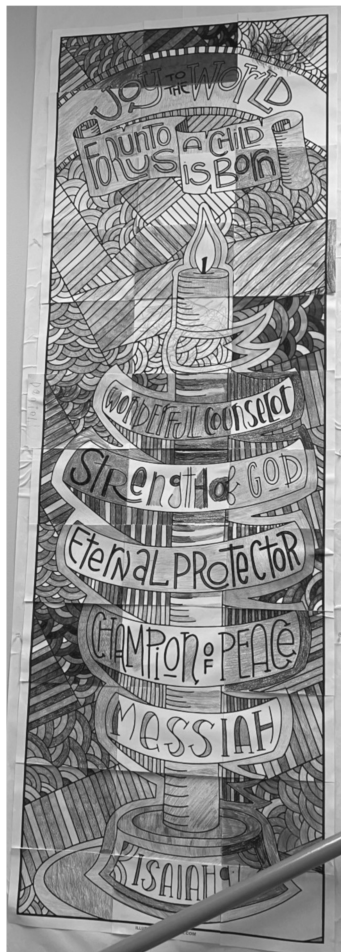
The Youth Group is meeting on Saturdays from 1-2 p.m. during January. We will be meeting **INDOORS** in the church Multipurpose Room and will meet on **January 8, 15, 22, and 29**. We may have an outing during one of those meetings, so stay tuned!

We are hopeful that Youth Group meetings will soon move back to Wednesday evenings, but that will depend on COVID cases in our county. Susanna will communicate any change in plans that may happen. The best way to stay up-to-date with Youth Group news is by being part of our email list. Emails are sent out no more than once a week and provide all the Youth Group information.

Sunday School Update

- In-person Sunday School classes for children from age 3-Grade 12 continue in January during the Education Hour (9:40-10:50 am).
- Note: there will be no children's/youth Sunday School classes on January 2.
- **CHERUB CHOIR WILL BE HELD ON JANUARY 2 FROM 10:20-10:50 AM**
- Weekly Sunday School videos are posted on the FPC YouTube site for families who are unable to attend Sunday School in-person. These videos follow the Celebrate Wonder curricula being used in the Pre-k through Grade 5 classes.

Susanna



Have you seen the FPC Advent Mosaic? If not, check it out hanging on the wall leading down to the Social Hall (from the west set of stairs). The mosaic was started during Advent Creations and consists of 36 individually colored tiles. Artists of all ages included members of Youth Group, other children and adults. The mosaic proclaims **Joy to the World** and celebrates the various names for the Messiah from *Isaiah 9:6*, which makes it a perfect piece of art for the season of **Epiphany!**

| | |
|---|---|
| Congregational Meeting | Sunday, January 30 9:30 a.m. |
| Annual Meeting of the Congregation | |

Annual meeting of the Congregation

The Session has called for the **annual meeting of the congregation** for Sunday, January 30 at 9:30 a.m. (following the first service) for the purpose of approving the operating budget for 2022, including the pastors' terms of call and hearing the reports of committees.

New elders and deacons will attend new officer orientation on **January 9, 2022, at 9:45 a.m.** with examination at 10:45 a.m. The service of ordination and installation will follow at our 11:00 a.m. service. Newly elected officers will begin their term of service following installation. Elders and Deacons will be assigned to the standing committees of their respective body.

Elder Class of 2022 (one-year term)

Mark Mueller

Elder Class of 2024 (three-year term)

Marylynn Aalderks

Marion Pitts

Elizabeth Remfert

Phyllis Schmid

Lindsay Zetzsche

TBD

Deacon Class of 2024 (three-year term)

Than Boutelle

Sarah Edgerton

Cheryl Hann

Bev Lewis

Bob Litwiller

Leslie Litwiller

Juliet Parlette

2022 Meeting Kick-offs

- ♦ The first monthly meeting of the **Board of Deacons** for 2022 is **Tuesday, January 11, at 7:00 p.m.**
- ♦ The first monthly meeting of the **Session** for 2022 is **Tuesday, January 18, at 7:00 p.m.**

Committee Annual Reports

Each year, our church activities are summarized in the *Annual Reports to the Congregation*. These reports will be available to the congregation on January 23, the Sunday prior to the annual meeting on January 30. If you are responsible for writing the report for your committee or other facet of our church life, please note that they are due **Saturday, January 15**. Please submit them to cindy.kunzman@fpcrochester.org.

Join a Committee

Begin the church year by getting involved in the work of a committee! We encourage anyone who would like to serve to let us know. Call the church office at (507) 282-1618 and we will be glad to put you in touch with someone glad to sign you up. There is more than enough work to go around and we need your participation to make the circle complete.

Sharing Tree bring Christmas Spirit to many

— Ruth Saling, Social Concerns Committee



Thank you ... to everyone who purchased items for the Sharing Tree this Christmas season. On a Saturday in December, our Youth Group gathered and wrapped gifts for the Childhood Cancer Community. With our generosity, baby clothes, bibs and toys were delivered to the daycare at the Alternative Learning Center. Cleaning supplies, household items and office supplies were dropped off at Family Promise. Personal items, puzzles and fun activities were given to Red Drop Resources. Gift cards to local restaurants and businesses supplemented these gifts.

The recipients were very appreciative and passed along their gratitude to our church. You brought joy to many of God's children this Christmas season.

Many blessings in the new year!

PW News

— Sylvia Swede, coordinator

Plan ahead! The Synod of Lakes and Prairies Gathering of Presbyterian Women will be held June 16-19, 2022 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Sioux City, Iowa. The theme is "Better Together -Tied Together with Love" (Ecclesiastes 4:12) The worship leader is Rev. Danelle Crawford McKinney, an enrolled member of the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate tribe and a member of the non-geographic Dakota Presbytery. She currently works with students at Haskell Indian Nations University, Lawrence, Kansas.

Register to join a book study. *The Seed Keeper* by Diane Wilson is the next book selected by Presbyterian Women in the Synod and led by members of the PW Native American Concerns Committee via Zoom. There is no charge to participate, but registration is required. Discussions will be held January 24, February 7 and 21, and March 7 and 21. Choose either the daytime study from 1:30-2:30 p.m. or the evening study from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Contact Marilyn Stone (mmstone52@att.net) and give her your name, email address, phone number, Presbytery, and afternoon or evening preference if you are interested. A synopsis of the book is on the PW bulletin board in the Social Hall.

The Unfinished Task of Christmas

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,

The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among others,
To make music in the heart.

— Howard Thurman



Circles

- ✂ **Esther Circle** meets on Monday, January 10 @ 1:00 p.m.
- ✂ **Prayer Shawl Group** meets on Wednesday, January 12 @ 1:00 p.m.
- ✂ **Ruth Circle** meets on Saturday, January 15 @ 10:00 a.m.
- ✂ **Priscilla Circle** meets on Wednesday, January 19 @ 9:15 a.m.

Giving From the Heart - Literally

— Ariel Boswell, Parish Nurse

If you could save a life with an hour of your time and a blood draw, would you? You can!

What is blood?

Your blood is made of red cells that carry oxygen, white cells that fight infection, platelets that help form clots if you injure yourself, and plasma that contains water, important proteins, and sugars, salts, fats and hormones.

What is blood type and why does it matter?

Blood type is a classification of your blood that refers to what it reacts with. There are types A, B, AB and O, and all of those can be positive or negative for Rh, another classification. Type O- can donate to anyone and Type AB can receive any kind of blood. It's helpful to have Type O on hand in emergencies so it can be given with less fear of a bad reaction. Some people have no blood type; this is called the "Bombay phenotype!" People who get the wrong kind of blood or react to other proteins in blood can have severe life-threatening reactions.

Why do we have blood types?

Blood types develop from mutations and are inherited within families. They affect our susceptibility to various viruses.

Who needs donated blood?

We need blood when we lose it suddenly as in trauma, surgery, a ruptured blood vessel, or hemorrhage after childbirth. We need blood if we have cancer and our body is not producing enough either due to illness or treatment.

How often can we donate?

A normal whole blood donation can take place every 12 weeks. People who donate just plasma can donate every 28 days. Platelet donors can donate every 2 weeks.

How can we donate?

At Mayo there are places to give blood during regular business hours at Hilton and St. Mary's. Call (507) 284-4475 to set up an appointment. Redcrossblood.org also has links to mobile donations.

Take some time in 2022 to give the gift of life to a stranger!



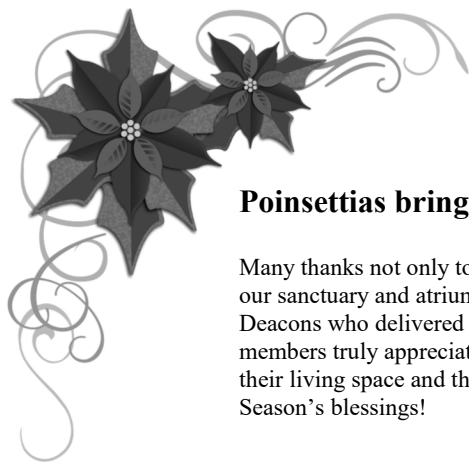
UN-DECK THE HALLS

Sally Brooks and Bev Lewis

On November 20, a wonderful group decorated the church for the Advent Season and we have all enjoyed the festive décor. Now that the Twelfth day of Christmas (Ephiphany) is upon us, it is time to remove the decorations. Please join us on Saturday, January 8 at 9:30 a.m. to “un-deck the halls.” Refreshments will be provided to fuel our energy!



Among our Church Family



Poinsettias bring joy

Judy Felten, Chancel Guild Coordinator

Many thanks not only to the donors of the poinsettias that have graced our sanctuary and atrium during the Advent season, but also to the Deacons who delivered them to our C.A.R.E. members. Our C.A.R.E. members truly appreciate receiving the splash of color the plants bring their living space and the connection the plants give them to the church. Season’s blessings!

A note of thanks!

Many thanks for the thoughtfulness expressed in the many cards and notes received following my recent surgery. Each is a day brightener and well appreciated. I hope to be back in the fold in person before long.

– Patricia Talen



Celebrating Birthdays

in January ...

- ⁰¹ Mary Ress (89)
- ⁰² Marilyn Olseen (89)
- ⁰³ Richard Bennett (88) and Mike McDonough (81)
- ⁰⁷ Juanita Heikes (87)
- ¹² Ann Groover (85)
- ¹⁹ John Mitchell (82)
- ²⁵ Kiyomi Takakawa (86)

We extend our condolences to the family of Ursula Thedens who died on December 27, 2021. Ursula had been a member of First Presbyterian Church since 1942.

| First Presbyterian Church | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Financial Statement / November 2021 | |
| General Operating Budget | |
| Balance (10/31/2021) | \$ 5,412.11 |
| Receipts (November 2021) | 55,796.60 |
| Disbursements (November 2021) | 65,367.09 |
| Balance (11/30/2021) | <u>(\$ 4,158.38)</u> |

Answer: gold, frankincense, myrrh

First Presbyterian Church
 512 3rd Street SW / Rochester, MN 55902
 507-282-1618 / www.FPCRochester.org / web@FPCRochester.org

Senior Pastor: Rev. T.J. Parlette
 Associate Pastor: Rev. Jay P. Rowland
 Director of Music: John E. Stender

Coordinator of Youth and Christian Education: Susanna L. Stone

Sunday worship at 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. in-person;
 service livestreamed at 11:00 a.m. on YouTube (channel.fpcrochester.org)
 Education & Fellowship Hour: 9:40 a.m.

A weekly video with Bible Story is available on YouTube.
 In-person music education for ages 4-12th grade on Sundays and Wednesday evenings.
 Office hours: Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Member: Presbyterian Church USA