



# FIRST FACTS



A monthly publication of **First Presbyterian Church** · Cape Girardeau, Missouri · December 2016

## The Season of Giving



This morning the news reported that spending on Black Friday was up more than 9% over last year. Every year there is pressure to celebrate the holiday season even bigger and better than the year before. Often that means spending more than last year!

For us Advent began, not with Black Friday, but instead with the hanging of the greens in worship on November 27<sup>th</sup>. In that service we were reminded that the symbols of the season point to Christ and the values of our faith. As we excitedly await the birth of Jesus, it's important to remember the reason for the season which began with God giving the greatest gift of all.

With Christ at the center this holiday season, we can follow in his example of servant leadership by serving our brothers and sisters in faith. Please consider a special end of year gift to the church, which is needed especially now as the Session works toward balancing the church budget and focusing our ministries and spending on the areas of greatest need. Your financial support is one way of expressing your confidence in the future of this congregation as we work toward fulfilling God's dream for us.

Also, on December 11<sup>th</sup> we will receive the Christmas Joy Offering. This special offering is received by congregations throughout the country as we join together to provide critical financial assistance to those who serve the church including retired ministers, missionaries, and other church workers in need.

The Christmas Joy Offering also supports the education and development of our future leaders at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges. These schools are dedicated to creating opportunities for racial ethnic students built on a foundation of Christian values. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, we can share in the hope of Christ and celebrate his leadership by providing support to our church workers, young people, and their families in need.

This is an important season for giving, made possible by the example of self-giving love by our God. Consider how you might participate this year in spreading the hope, peace, joy, and love of God through the ministries of this church.

May God bless you this holiday season.

Faithfully,

Terry

## Sunday School

**NURSERY:** Our nursery is open from 9 a.m. on Sunday morning through our worship service, for children birth through kindergarten. Children will be escorted upstairs from the nursery to the worship service for the "Kids" Message and then will return to the nursery. In the nursery they may participate in a brief Sunday School lesson and activity. Children are welcome to join their parents for the worship service at any time. **Parents come to the nursery after worship to pick up their children.**

**CHILDREN AND YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL:** The Children's and Youth Classes meet in their classrooms directly after the "Kid's Message" in the worship service. The Elementary Class (Kindergarten through Fourth Grade) will meet in the classroom next to the Nursery. Cherie Herbst and Kathy Woodfin will be teaching this class. The curriculum will continue to focus on "The Stories of the Old Testament" based on the *Read and Learn Bible*. The Middle School/Junior High Class will meet in their classroom upstairs on the second floor. Their lessons are focusing on a study of the 66 books of the Bible and on how to use the Bible as a part of their everyday lives. This class will be team taught by Kathy Brown, Melissa Harris, Sandy Wilhelm, and Laura Brown.

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS:** Please join us on Sunday morning from 9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. in the adult library. The Christian Outreach committee met in August with Sam Roethemeyer and he talked about the book "Pray Like Jesus" by John R. Brokoff. This is a great opportunity for us to learn to pray like Jesus. Each week we will read a chapter on our own time and return on the next Sunday to discuss it. There are books available in the church office if you are interested. This is a study that will conclude by Christmas. We hope to see you there! If you have any questions please contact Nancy Bray or Melissa Harris.

### Stated Meeting of the Session 2016

At the Stated Meeting on November 20, 2016, the Session:

1. Received with regret and deep appreciation the resignation of Nursery Director Kathy Woodfin who has served in that position since 1989. Personnel Committee will be following up to meet with parents and plan for Nursery coverage.
2. Was reminded by Charles Wiles that our church's annual expenses are not being sustained by our annual pledged and non-pledged income, so it will be necessary, before the end of the year, to once again transfer funds from the church's Wells Fargo account to the checking account.
3. Received budget worksheets from Finance Chair Paul Farris to be completed by Session committee chairs by Sunday, December 4, or shortly thereafter.
4. Received from the Mission Study Team members the final written copy of the Mission Study for the Session's review and approval prior to sending it on to Presbytery. The Session approved scheduling a Called Session Meeting immediately after worship on Sunday, December 4, to discuss and vote on the Mission Study.
5. Approved placing an ad in the Southeast Missourian and on the Missourian website to invite the community to join us for Christmas Eve service at First Presbyterian at 5 p.m. and to join us for Christmas Day service at 10:45 a.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church.
6. Approved continuing sponsorship this year of Boy Scout Troop 4 and Cub Scout Pack 15 for annual fees of \$800 each. These sponsorships in 2017 are to be part of the Mission Committee budget.



**December Meal-a-Month**

- 2 cans white Beans
- 2 package Jiffy type cornbread mix
- Can of fruit of choice

**Worship Attendance**

<b>Nov 6</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>Nov 13</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Nov 20</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>Nov 27</b>	<b>66</b>



**On Nov 6, the flowers in the sanctuary were from Sue McNeely in memory of her husband Don McNeely.**



The Book Club will not meet in December. The January gathering will be on January 12, 2017 at the home of Ruth Needle. The book for discussion is *"The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry"* by Rachel Joyce.

**First Facts Newsletter**

If you have something to be published in First Facts please have it to the office by the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month, preferably emailed.



**FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP**

Flowers for worship may be shared to celebrate your anniversary, someone's birthday, or in memory of a loved one or friend. They can also just say "Thanks, God!" Please call the church office (335-2579) to sign up for flowers.



**You are all invited to the December Gather, Share, and Eat on December 11, 2016 after church services. We will be serving chicken casserole, green salad, jello salad, hot rolls and dessert!**

**Please call Shirley and let her know that you will attend! Just bring your appetites! See you there! Donations are always welcome to help pay for the food!!!**



**Memorials**

Memorials have been received in memory of:

- Jean Kaiser**, from Chip and Janet Long
- Betty Dunklin**, from Randy, Trish & Sam Stahly, Angie Tygett, Norma & Richard Allgood, Paul & Sarah Schermann, Robert & Jane Sinn, Cynthia & Graham Otto, Madge Ridings, Ruth Needle, Ronald Lessmann DDS., Stephen & Shirley Griffith, Jane & Joe Stahly, Judy & Leo Hoeh, Susan & Scott King, 7 grandkids, 5 ½ grandkids



**The Second Tuesday at the Chateau will NOT meet in December. We will resume after New Year's, meeting on Tuesday, January 10, 2017. More details will be available in the January newsletter.**



### SUNDAY SCHOOL VACATION DAYS

Our Sunday School classes will be taking a break on the following Sundays: Dec. 18th, Dec. 25th, and Jan. 1st. Classes will resume on Sunday, Jan. 8th.



**Fellowship & Christian Outreach** are asking members who bake to donate 2 dozen homemade cookies to be brought to the church Fellowship Hall Sunday, December 11. After Gather, Share and Eat that day the cookies will be packaged into gift containers for delivery the next week to our members who are unable to get out. If you want to bring your cookies to the church during the week, just take them to the church secretary and tell her they are for our shut-ins. Thank you for helping and sharing your cookies



### CHRISTMAS FAMILY ACTIVITY

The Christian Education Committee is planning a "**Christmas Craft Party**" for our children and families on **Sunday, December 11th from 5:00p.m. to 7:00p.m.** on the third floor of our church. Everyone will enjoy pizza together and then will be able to participate in 5 different craft activities. One of the crafts will be to make gifts for our church's "shut-ins". Each family is encouraged to bring friends! Please contact Melissa Harris (579-4977) by **Thursday, December 8th** to let us know that you are coming so that we can plan enough materials.

It would be helpful if church members could donate some of these items for us: red and green m & m's, regular small pretzels (not sticks), small marshmallows (holiday colors if possible), goldfish crackers, raisins, animal crackers, and empty toilet paper rolls. Please contact Melissa Harris if you are able to provide any of these things.



### CHRISTMAS LIVE NATIVITY SCENE

The Christian Education Committee invites everyone to come downtown to see our "Live Nativity Scene" on **Friday, December 2nd from 6:00p.m. to 8:00p.m.** We are coordinating with the Downtown Cape "First Friday" events. If you would like to be a participant or help with the Live Nativity, please contact Melissa Harris. (579-4977). The committee will be serving apple cider and cookies on the sidewalk to all our visitors. If you would like to donate cookies, or help welcome visitors, please contact Kathy Brown (334-8797) or Sandy Wilhelm (335-2286).



### THE FARMINGTON CHILDREN'S HOME CHRISTMAS PROJECT

This year all of our donations for the Farmington Children's Home will be used to provide Walmart gift cards. When we contacted them they said that they only have 6 cards left to use for the children's needs. The cards are always needed to provide shoes and clothing for new children entering the home all year round. At this time of year they are needed to provide Christmas presents for new children that come to the home after their list of children's needs are sent out to churches. Since these children were not on the lists they would not receive any gifts. The gift cards will provide Christmas gifts for these children. Please mark "Farmington" on any donations whether it is cash or a check made out to the church.



The First Presbyterian Church Office is having a Christmas Open House on Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> from 11-2pm. Please come by for finger foods, fellowship, friends and fun. If you would like to bring something to share, call the office.



### Christmas Worship Services

By now you've probably realized that Christmas falls on a Sunday this year. Given past experience we expect that to greatly diminish worship attendance on Christmas morning. In considering what to do, the Session decided to work with our sister congregation, Westminster Presbyterian Church, to combine forces.

We will hold the Christmas Eve service at 5:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. It will be a special service with carols and candlelight. Pastor Terry will preach. The members of Westminster have been invited to join us.

Christmas morning worship will be in the sanctuary of Westminster at 10:45. You are encouraged to worship with them that day. Pastor Karen Dumey will preach that service.

Please plan to attend one or both these services as your holiday plans permit. We encourage you to bring your friends and family.

**In observance of Christmas, the office will be closed Monday December 26<sup>th</sup>.**



### Prayer Emphasis for December

The Christian Outreach Committee continues to encourage us in prayer. For December we hope you'll remember these things in your prayers:

The week of December 4<sup>th</sup> the emphasis is on Hope. Please pray for the congregation's discernment regarding its future and for the pastoral search expected to begin in earnest early next year.

The week of December 11<sup>th</sup> the theme is Joy. On this Sunday we'll receive the Christmas Joy Offering. Please pray for those who serve the church as missionaries, pastors, educators, and administrators. Their work is not financially rewarding but their service makes the reign of God visible in the world.

The week of December 18<sup>th</sup> we focus on Love, often translated in the church as Charity. Please pray for those in need. Many in our community are in need of physical and spiritual nourishment. Pray about how you can help meet the needs of those less fortunate than yourself.

The week of December 25<sup>th</sup> the emphasis is on Peace. This week recount your blessings in 2016 and give thanks to God. Then consider how God is calling you to spread hope, joy, love, and peace in the new year.

### Introducing Our Music Leadership Team



**Sheri Mitchell**, a choir member and First Presbyterian Church member, has agreed to share her expertise as a music educator and serve as our Choir/Music Director on a temporary basis. Sheri has a Master's degree in Music Education with a specialization in Educational Theatre from SIU. Her undergraduate degree is from SEMO. For 35 years she has taught music, art, and drama in public schools. Since 1995, she has taught college classes and currently teaches for the Three Rivers College Music Dept. in Poplar Bluff, Sikeston, Dexter and Malden. Her class offerings include Music Theatre Ensemble, Class Piano, Voice and Music Appreciation. Sheri lives in Advance and commutes to our church twice a week to lead our choir.

**Jonathan Patterson** is our new keyboard staff member providing both piano and organ accompaniment. He is a northern-born Ohioan who has found himself living in parts of the South for the last decade. In 2006, Jonathan began his collegiate studies as a Piano Performance major at Liberty University in Lynchburg, VA, and later, completed his M.M. in music therapy at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Since moving to Cape Girardeau in 2015, Jonathan has continued his work as a freelance accompanist, piano teacher/technician and local coffee artist.



POINSETTIAS will once again fill the sanctuary beginning December 11<sup>th</sup>. If you wish to purchase one in honor or memory of a loved one (or for any other reason of the season) please fill in the order blank below and return it to the church office or place in the offering plate during Sunday worship by December 5th. The cost of the poinsettias will be \$8.00 each.

I/We would like to place a poinsettia in the church sanctuary.

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Qty	Amt
_____	

From \_\_\_\_\_

## DECEMBER PRAYER CALENDAR

The Session hopes you will use this 'Prayer Calendar' as we daily pray for each other and some of the mission concerns of our church.

- 1<sup>ST</sup> Israel/Palestine/Jerusalem
- 2<sup>ND</sup> Emma Broeckling (birthday)
- 3<sup>RD</sup> Lebanon
- 4<sup>TH</sup> Syria
- 5<sup>TH</sup> Randy Flowers (birthday)
- 6<sup>TH</sup> Iran
- 7<sup>TH</sup> Iraq
- 8<sup>TH</sup> Dr. Harold Buxton (birthday)
- 9<sup>TH</sup> Carol Miller (birthday)
- 10<sup>TH</sup> The Presbytery of Eastern Oregon
- 11<sup>TH</sup> Rob Ross (birthday)
- 12<sup>TH</sup> Synod of the Pacific
- 13<sup>TH</sup> Presbytery of the Cascades
- 14<sup>TH</sup> Presbytery of Boise
- 15<sup>TH</sup> Ronald Taylor (birthday)
- 16<sup>TH</sup> Cooper Smith (birthday)
- 17<sup>TH</sup> Donne Williams (birthday)
- 18<sup>TH</sup> Presbytery of Kendall
- 19<sup>TH</sup> Presbytery of the Redwoods
- 20<sup>TH</sup> Presbytery of Nevada
- 21<sup>ST</sup> The Presbytery of Sacramento
- 22<sup>ND</sup> Presbytery of San Francisco
- 23<sup>RD</sup> The Presbytery of San Joaquin
- 24<sup>TH</sup> Presbytery of San Jose
- 25<sup>TH</sup> Vonda Slinkard (birthday)
- 26<sup>TH</sup> Stockton
- 27<sup>TH</sup> Daryl Henry, Sue Watkins (birthday)
- 28<sup>TH</sup> Barbara Calvin (birthday)
- 29<sup>TH</sup> Presbytery of the Northwest
- 30<sup>TH</sup> Kathy Harrison, Ruth Knote (birthday)
- 31<sup>ST</sup> Sarah Hopkins (birthday)

From the Mission Yearbook of Prayer and Study

Lord, you know everything; you know that we love you! Help us to take care of your sheep. Help us to follow you to new places. Give us love for the lost and lonely. In Jesus' name, Amen.

# December 2016

## Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 45%;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Nov 2016</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 45%;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Jan 2017</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> </div>				S	M	T	W	T	F	S		1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30				S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					<i>1</i>	<i>2</i> 6:00 pm Live Nativity	<i>3</i>
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<i>11</i> 10:30 am Worship Service & Christmas Cantata  Noon Gather, Share, & Eat  5:00 pm Christmas Craft Party	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i> 6:30 pm Christian Outreach Meeting	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>																																																																																				
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<i>25</i> 10:45 am Worship Service at Westminster Church	<i>26</i> Church Office Closed	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>																																																																																				