



FIRST FACTS



A monthly publication of **First Presbyterian Church** · Cape Girardeau, Missouri · December 2018

Dear Friends,

There has been a good deal of noise outside of my office for the last couple of weeks. Construction noise. And it is music to my ears!



What's being constructed is a long-awaited **Peace Park** that has been in the planning stages for months. All of that lovely green space on the East side of the church down to Spanish Street is becoming more functional and welcoming, with stone pathways and sitting areas. It is becoming more unique and connected to our neighborhood, with pedestals that will hold sculptures from art students and faculty at the SEMO River Campus. It is becoming more meaningful and meditative, with a focus on **peace** and an openness to all people of all cultures, races, and religions.

How are we able to take on such a project? The 2017 stock market provided a windfall of earnings from our invested and endowed funds, and we are grateful for the opportunities this opened to us. We see this **Peace Park** as an important outreach to our community and to downtown visitors. It will be an expression of who we are at First Presbyterian and our desire to serve and love God by providing a place of rest, reflection, and renewal for our neighbors.

The need for this is great. Perhaps it's not as obvious as the basic needs of food and shelter, but the need for **peace** is crucial. There seems to be a terrible drought of **peace** in our time – among nations and neighbors, within families, and in so many hearts.

Though the work on the **Peace Park** is taking place later in the year than we expected, this timing turns out to be quite apropos. Many of the scriptures that we hear during the season of Advent and Christmas refer to **peace**. “They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.” (Isaiah 2:4) “Pray for the **peace** of Jerusalem: *May they prosper who love you. **Peace** be within your walls, and security within your towers.* For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, **Peace** be within you.” (Psalm 122:6-8) “The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.” (Isaiah 11:6) For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of **Peace**.” (Isaiah 9:6) “And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, *Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth **peace** among those whom he favors!*” (Luke 2:13-14)

Park construction is ongoing, and it may be the New Year or even springtime before the artwork and sitting areas appear. But I hope you will catch the excitement, watch the progress, and spread the word that **peace** is shared at First Presbyterian Church.

Please join us as we await and worship the Prince of **Peace** this season.

With hope, love, joy, and **peace**,

Ellen

SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Stated Meeting of the Session, November 27, 2018

1. Received letter from Presbytery informing us the per capita assessment per member for 2019 will once again be \$31. Our per capita allocation is based on the total membership number reported for 2018 which was 145 making a total assessment of \$4,495. Members will once again be asked to contribute their individual per capita amount on top of their pledge.
2. Received Rev. Gurnon's Written Report of Activities from October 16, 2018, to November 26, 2018. Included were 10 visits/calls to members and church family friends and 24 church and community meetings/activities. Rev. Gurnon reported she has been invited to conduct a worship service the first Monday of the month at the Villas in Jackson, and she did so in November. She also reported she has been elected to serve on the Presbytery's Pastoral Transition and Care Committee.
3. Treasurer Wiles reported he has transferred another \$25,000 from the church's Money Market Reserve to the church's checking account in order to pay bills. He advised us the stock market losses the past few months probably mean there will not be a monetary transfer from the Endowment Fund this January to the 2019 Budget. He also reported for the first time this year pledged income fell behind the budgeted projection in October although the nonpledged income and Memorials remain ahead of budget projections.
4. In a Stewardship Campaign update, it was reported by Rev. Gurnon that 33 out of a potential 46 pledges have been turned in to date totaling \$121,884. A letter will be sent out to members soon to update them and remind them pledges may still be turned in. Any pledge already turned in may be increased, and that adjustment would certainly be welcome.
5. Stewardship, Mission and Outreach Committee has asked Kathy Brown once again to coordinate our church's Christmas gift-giving for the Presbyterian Children's Home in Farmington.
6. Rev. Gurnon reported a letter will be sent out soon to nine members still on our Membership Roll who have not been participating in the life of the church for some time. The letter will be asking if the member or a family member is having a health problem and might need help; if the member is possibly attending another church and if he/she wants to be removed from our Roll before the end of this year.
7. Christian Education Committee is planning to offer some intergenerational activities at Gather, Share and Eat some of which will be mission-oriented such as packaging of cookies and remembrances for shut-ins and preparation of items for children of Safe House residents.
8. Worship & Arts Committee is planning a Christmas Eve Service on Monday, December 24 for 5:00 p.m. On Sunday, December 30, the worship service will be Lessons and Carols.
9. Property Committee reported Foeste Masonry has cleaned, recaulked and resealed the north and south sides of the church around the windows that are leaking on the outside of the building. Someone has been hired to do the inside walls and paint. Also reported development of the Peace Park to the east of the church has begun, and Bootheel Fence Company will do fence repairs around the playground.



Second Tuesday at the Chateau will meet for lunch and fellowship on Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at 11:00 A.M. in the Chateau dining room. If you would like to attend please call Sharon Metcalfe at 651 - 5274 or Ruth Needle at 334 - 4515 no later Sunday evening, December 9, so that arrangements can be made for a table to accommodate all of us. We will order off the menu with each person being responsible for their own lunch. All are welcome.



Thank you so much for your generous gift to Cub Scout Pack 15. We appreciate your thoughtfulness. The gift was used to pay the recharter fees for all scouts and leaders in the pack.

Pack 15 Scouts and Leaders



The next meeting of the book club will be in January. We will take a hiatus for the holidays, but have selected books for the new year. The January meeting is on Thursday, January 10, 2019 at the home of Sandy Wilhelm and the book is "Orphan Keeper" by Camron Wright. On February 14, 2019 we will meet at Sharon Metcalfe's house to discuss "The Bookshop on the Corner" by Jenny Colgan. All are welcome and the reading of the books are optional.



DECEMBER GATHER, SHARE AND EAT AND "HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS" PARTY

The Christian Education committee is working with the Fellowship Committee for our December 16th, Gather, Share and Eat. We would like to invite you to join us all for a "Happy Birthday, Jesus" Advent Party. The meal will be potluck with the church providing chicken and members asked to bring a salad, vegetable, or appetizer "finger food" to share. The CE Committee will be bringing the birthday cake. After the meal, everyone can have fun sharing advent activities and games together. We will be giving you more information about these fun activities!



Memorials

A Memorial has been received in memory of:
Fern Harris, from Madge Ridings, Evelyn Stover



December Meal-a-Month

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

Pastor Ellen will be leading an Advent Study, Sundays, December 2-23, 9:15 am in the Parlor. *Names for the Messiah*, by Walter Brueggemann, is based on Isaiah 9:6 which gives four titles for the Messiah: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Please plan to attend, and stop by the church office to pick up your book!



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be at 5:00 pm, Monday, December 24.



When you pick up your poinsettias after Christmas, please leave or bring back the pot cover, so we can reuse next year. We have to pay extra for those.



Don't miss the Choir Cantata, *Comfort and Joy*, Sunday, December 16, 10:30am. Also, stay and join us for Gather, Share, and Eat following worship!



Merry Christmas

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.

- 1ST Israel/Palestine/Jerusalem
- 2ND Emma Broeckling (birthday)
- 3RD Lebanon
- 4TH Syria
- 5TH Randy Flowers (birthday)
- 6TH Iran
- 7TH Iraq
- 8TH Dr. Harold Buxton (birthday)
- 9TH Carol Miller (birthday)
- 10TH The Presbytery of Eastern Oregon
- 11TH Rob Ross (birthday)
- 12TH Synod of the Pacific
- 13TH Presbytery of the Cascades
- 14TH Presbytery of Boise
- 15TH Ronald Taylor (birthday)
- 16TH Cooper Smith (birthday)
- 17TH Presbytery of the Southwest
- 18TH Presbytery of Kendall
- 19TH Presbytery of the Redwoods
- 20TH Presbytery of Nevada
- 21ST The Presbytery of Sacramento
- 22ND Presbytery of San Francisco
- 23RD The Presbytery of San Joaquin
- 24TH Presbytery of San Jose
- 25TH Vonda Slinkard (birthday)
- 26TH Stockton
- 27TH Daryl Henry (birthday)
- 28TH Barbara Calvin (birthday)
- 29TH Presbytery of the Northwest
- 30TH Kathy Harrison, Ruth Knotte (birthday)
- 31ST 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 2018

Monthly Planner

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Nov 2018</th> <th colspan="7">Jan 2019</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td> <td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td> <td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td> <td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td> <td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td> <td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | | | | | | Nov 2018 | | | | | | | Jan 2019 | | | | | | | S | M | T | W | T | F | S | S | M | T | W | T | F | S | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | 1 |
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| 2 10:00 am Coffee in Atrium 10:30 am Worship Service 9:15 am Advent Study | 3 6:30 pm Property Meeting office closed | 4 6:30 pm Christian Ed. Meeting | 5 7:00 pm Choir Practice | 6 | 7 | 8 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 10:00 am Coffee in Atrium 10:30 am Worship Service 9:15 am Advent Study | 10 office closed | 11 11:00 am 2nd Tuesday at Chateau | 12 7:00 pm Choir Practice | 13 | 14 | 15 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 16 10:00 am Coffee in Atrium 10:30 am Worship Service Cantata Gather, Share & Eat 9:15 am Advent Study | 17 office closed | 18 6:30 pm Session Meeting | 19 7:00 pm Choir Practice | 20 | 21 | 22 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 23 10:00 am Coffee in Atrium 10:30 am Worship Service 9:15 am Advent Study | 24 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service office closed | 25 office closed | 26 7:00 pm Choir Practice | 27 | 28 | 29 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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