



FIRST FACTS



A monthly publication of **First Presbyterian Church** · Cape Girardeau, Missouri · Dec. 2019



On Sunday, November 24th, the congregation of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Cape voted unanimously to approve a yoking relationship with First Presbyterian Church. **MEMBERS OF THIS CONGREGATION WILL ALSO BE ASKED TO VOTE at a called meeting of the congregation following worship on Sunday, December 8.**

The details of the agreement are:

1. Rev. Ellen Gurnon will serve as Pastor:
 - a. 3/4-time at FPC (3 days per week – M, W, Th – in the church office)
 - b. 1/4-time at WPC (1 day per week – Tuesday – in the church office)
 - c. Available for emergencies to both congregations regardless of office hours
 - d. Available for pastoral care, committee meetings, weddings, and funerals as needed
2. Rev. Gurnon's current terms of call will also be divided 3/4 FPC, 1/4 WPC, as follows:
 - a. Total effective salary: \$56,650
\$42,487.50 (FPC)

\$14,162.50 (WPC)
 - b. Total Benefits & Reimbursable Allowances: \$29,468
\$22,101 (FPC)
\$ 7,367 (WPC)
 - c. Both churches will provide 5 weeks for vacation, 2 weeks for continuing education
3. **Worship time:**
 - a. 9:15 am (WPC)
 - b. **10:45 am (FPC)**
4. Special combined services will be held at alternating locations, as follows:
 - a. Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, 2019, at FIRST, **5:30 p.m.**
 - b. Ash Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2020, at WESTMINSTER
 - c. Maundy Thursday, April 9, 2020, at FIRST
 - d. Good Friday, April 10, 2020, at WESTMINSTER
5. Upon a vote to approve by both congregations, this plan goes into effect January 1, 2020, and will be reviewed on or about June 1, 2020.

The Session and I are enthusiastic about this plan, as it will cut approximately \$20,000 from our budget as well as give us the opportunity to build relationships and partner with Westminster in occasional worship, mission, study, and fellowship events. We are confident and hopeful, believing that this path will not only sustain our congregations, but enhance our ministry in Cape Girardeau and beyond.

Grace and peace,
Ellen

SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

1. Received and welcomed Joshua Donis and Susan Song into membership by reaffirmation of faith. They moved to Cape about two years ago. They also indicated that they were happy to hear of our yoking discussion with Westminster Presbyterian Church.
2. The Session approved calling a congregational meeting for Sunday, December 8th, following worship to vote on whether to yoke with Westminster. Details of the yoking agreement will be included in the December First Facts.
3. Sarah Ross gave a report from the Presbytery meeting, which included information that per capita for 2020 will be \$32.
4. Received Rev. Gurnon's Report of activities from October 26 to November 24, 2019. Included were one visit/call to members, 15 church/community meetings and activities, and 5 Presbytery involvements events.
5. Report from the Treasurer indicated that 28 pledges, totaling \$116,525 have been received so far.
6. The worship and arts Committee recommended that Christmas Eve worship will be at 5:30 p.m. on December 24th. We will be joined by Westminster for that service.
7. The Property Committee has completed putting up the outdoor Christmas decorations at the Peace Park. Most of these are refurbished old decorations.
8. Stewardship, Mission, and Outreach Committee recommended and Session approved that we become a "Matthew 25" church. This involves taking a pledge to focus on one of three areas: Building Congregational Vitality, Dismantling Structural Racism, or Eradicating Systemic Poverty.
9. The Session approved a "Gather, Share, and Eat" following worship on December 15th. Shirley Sullivan will be celebrated at this event upon her retirement as our Office Administrator. We will also thank Jean Cairns for her work as Bookkeeper.
10. Christian Education Committee is also planning a "Happy Birthday Jesus Party," following "Gather, Share, and Eat" on December 15th. This will include games and crafts for all ages. Christian Education has decreased their budget for 2020 and plans to send packages to relatives of church members serving in the military.
11. Rev. Gurnon received an email, asking churches to help promote the 2020 census in their congregations. She will decide on what bulletin inserts, etc. will be used to promote this important effort.



Second Tuesday at the Chateau will NOT meet in December. See the January newsletter for more information.



DECEMBER GATHER, SHARE AND EAT AND

After the choir cantata on Dec. 15, stay and join us for Gather, Share, and Eat. At this meal, we will be celebrating Shirley Sullivan's retirement and thanking Jean Cairns for her work as bookkeeper. The menu will include sandwiches and Daryl Henry's chili.



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 book is "Tangerine" by Christine Mangan, and we will meet on January 9th at the home of Sharon Metcalfe. All are welcome and the reading of the book is optional.



"HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS" PARTY

The Christian Education Committee would like to invite everyone to our Annual Happy Birthday Jesus, Advent Party following our meal together on Sunday, December 15th. We will have fun Sharing Advent activities and games together, including making holiday crafts, fixing Christmas bags for our shut-ins, working on Christmas puzzles and playing games, including Christmas Bingo. (We are excited that Cherie Herbst will be back as our Bingo Host!) We look forward to lots of fun and fellowship celebrating Jesus's Birthday together! Please e-mail or call the church office if you plan to attend.



December Meal-a-Month

- 2 cans White Beans
 - 2 package Jiffy cornbread mix
 - Can of fruit of choice
- Please put in the box in the Narthex.



Don't miss the Choir Cantata, ***On This Shining Night***, Sunday, **December 15, 10:30am.**



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be at 5:30 pm, Tuesday, **December 24.** This is a combined service with Westminster Presbyterian.



The Session is calling a **congregational meeting** following worship on Sunday, **December 8, 2019**, for the purpose of voting on a yoking relationship with Westminster Presbyterian Church.



Please note that our Sunday School class will be taking a Christmas Break on **December 22nd** and **December 29th.**

**FARMINGTON
CHILDREN'S HOME**

Make
Christmas
brighter for the
young people at the
Farmington Children's Home!
Once again First Presbyterian
Church will purchase Christmas
gifts for the young people who reside at
Farmington Children's Home. We will be
providing needs for their After School
Support Services such as a popcorn
machine. In December, there will be a tree in
the Narthex. Anyone who chooses to make a
donation to help pay for the gifts purchased,
may do so and then hang a star on the tree.
We want to fill our tree with stars
to represent
**sharing our
Christmas love
with these children.**

**Your donation should be made to First Presbyterian church and marked
"Farmington Children's Home". The gifts will be delivered to
Farmington.**

New Information About the Farmington Children's Home

There have been some big changes in the organization in Farmington. It is now the new Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services Center. (PCHAS) They now provide four community-based programs and three residential programs. We are very pleased that Tonya Johnson, their Development Officer, will be here on Sunday, December 8th, to speak to us during worship. They are very grateful for all of our church's past support for them and we are all looking forward to continuing to work together.

Information about the Christmas Joy Offering

Christmas Joy: The Perfect Gift

Supporting Our Past, Present and Future Leaders

By supporting the Assistance Program of the Board of Pension (BOP), the Christmas Joy Offering honors the faithfulness of current and retired church workers and their families in need. Thanks in part to support from this Offering, church workers can receive critical financial assistance to support them through life's challenging circumstances. These generous actions bear witness to our faithful response to God's charge to love one another as Christ commanded.

Preparing the Way for Future Leaders

The PC(USA), with its historic commitment to higher learning, has long promoted education and leadership development through the establishment and support of Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Our future church leaders of color can receive much-needed assistance while they discover and pursue their professional goals at these schools and colleges. Your gifts allow these ministries to continue – sustaining a tradition Presbyterians have carried out for nearly 140 years.

- Gifts to the Christmas Joy offering may be made by writing a check to First Presbyterian Church and noting "Christmas Joy" in the memo.

POINSETTIAS will once again fill the sanctuary beginning December 15th. 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 by December 9th or place in the offering plate during Sunday worship by December 8th. 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



** Note: 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.



Warming Center Satellite Space

The **First Presbyterian Warming Center** is up and running! We opened to record breaking cold the week of November 11, 2019. Please sign up through the church office if you **are willing to volunteer to be a host for our guests from 4:30 to 6:30 pm** on days which are 32 degrees or colder.

OR if you are willing to bring **supplies**. Supplies needed are: coffee, snack foods - cookies, pretzels, canned fruit (applesauce, peaches, pears, pineapple), chex mix, muffins, hot chocolate mix, or whatever sounds good to you! Many of our guests do not have sound teeth, so no very chewy or hard foods.

Training was held at St. James AME church on November 8 and 9. Twenty FPC members attended. If you were unable to attend, one of us who are already trained can orient you to be a volunteer host. We have hosted both men and women ranging in age from 20's thru 60's years. In our first week host volunteers have been: Lisa Bishop, Ellen Gurnon, Jean Cairns, Stephanie and Dave Bengston, Sarah Ross, Bob Pikey and Georganne Syler.

Please ask them about helping at our Warming Center if you have any questions.

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 ST	Israel/Palestine/Jerusalem
2 ND	Emma Broeckling (birthday)
3 RD	Lebanon
4 TH	Syria
5 TH	Randy Flowers (birthday)
6 TH	Iran
7 TH	Iraq
8 TH	Presbytery of Utah
9 TH	Carol Miller (birthday)
10 TH	The Presbytery of Eastern Oregon
11 TH	Rob Ross (birthday)
12 TH	Synod of the Pacific
13 TH	Presbytery of the Cascades
14 TH	Presbytery of Boise
15 TH	Ronald Taylor (birthday)
16 TH	Cooper Smith (birthday)
17 TH	Presbytery of the Southwest
18 TH	Presbytery of Kendall
19 TH	Presbytery of the Redwoods
20 TH	Presbytery of Nevada
21 ST	The Presbytery of Sacramento
22 ND	Presbytery of San Francisco
23 RD	The Presbytery of San Joaquin
24 TH	Presbytery of San Jose
25 TH	Vonda Slinkard (birthday)
26 TH	Stockton
27 TH	Daryl Henry (birthday)
28 TH	Barbara Calvin (birthday)
29 TH	Presbytery of the Northwest
30 TH	Katherine Harrison, Ruth Knote (birthdays)
31 ST	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 2019

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																										
<p>1</p> <p>10:00 am Coffee in Atrium</p> <p>10:30 am Worship Service with Communion</p> <p>5:00 pm Parade Watching Party</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6:30 pm Property Meeting</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7:00 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>7</p>																																																																																										
<p>8</p> <p>10:00 am Coffee in Atrium</p> <p>10:30 am Worship Service</p> <p>Congregational Meeting after service (Yoking)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Deadline to order Poinsettias</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7:00 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>14</p>																																																																																										
<p>15</p> <p>"Happy Birthday, Jesus Party"</p> <p>10:00 am Coffee in Atrium</p> <p>10:30 am CHOIR CANTATA - Worship Service</p> <p>Noon Gather, Share, & Eat</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin: 5px 0;"> <p>1:00 PM Executive/Personnel Meeting</p> </div> <p>7:00 pm Last Choir Practice of 2019</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>3:00 pm Blue Christmas (Chateau)</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>21</p>																																																																																										
<p>22</p> <p>10:00 am Coffee in Atrium</p> <p>10:30 am Worship Service</p> <p>Caroling</p>	<p>23</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin: 5px 0;"> <p>6:30 pm Session Meeting</p> </div>	<p>24</p> <p>5:30 PM Christmas Eve Candlelit Service (with WPC)</p>	<p>25</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>28</p>																																																																																										
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