

First Facts, Jan. 2020

ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2020

First Presbyterian Church

Lord, when did we see you? - Rev. Ellen Gurnon

These words may bring to mind for you the story from Matthew 25:31-46, where the king judges the nations based on whether they fed him when he was hungry, clothed him when he was naked, and visited him when he was sick. The people question, "Lord, when did we see you hungry, naked, sick or in prison...?" The king answers, "Just as you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me."

This parable told by Jesus is the basis for a vision set forth by the PC(USA), calling all churches to make a commitment and identify themselves as "Matthew 25 churches."

This commitment involves choosing to focus on one or more of three areas:

Building congregational vitality by challenging congregations and their members to deepen and

energize their faith and grow as joyful leaders and disciples actively engaged with their community as they share the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed.

Dismantling structural racism by fearlessly applying our faith to advocate and break down the systems, practices, and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudice, and oppression of people of color.

Eradicating systemic poverty by acting on our beliefs and working to change laws, policies, plans, and structures in our society that perpetuate economic exploitation of people who are poor.

Your Session, upon a recommendation from the Stewardship, Mission, and Outreach Committee, has embraced this commitment and signed on to be a Matthew 25 church.



Some of this work we are already doing, but we will have a more intentional focus throughout 2020 to actively engage the world and to show our understanding that we are "saved to serve."

Stayed tuned! And join us as we seek out ways to love and serve Christ by loving and serving our neighbor.

With hope and excitement, I look forward to a New Year of ministry with you and among you!

Gratefully,
- Ellen



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January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			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	

Schedule of Events



- January 5th, after service — Take down Christmas Decorations
- January 6th, 6:30 PM — Property Committee Meeting
- January 8th, 6:30 PM — Called Session Meeting
- January 9th, — Book Club
- January 14th, 11:00 AM — Second Tuesday at the Chateau
- January 15th — Committee Reports due.
- January 26th — Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Fellowship Dinner.

Church Community Events



◆ Book Club:

The next meeting of the book club will be on January 9th at Jeanne Hirsch’s house. The January book is “Tangerine” by Christine Mangan.

If you’d like to get a jump start on the February book, we will be reading “Have You Seen Luis Velez” by Catherine Ryan Hyde. The February gathering will meet at the home of Ruth Needle.

All are welcome and the reading of the book is optional!

◆ Second Tuesday at Chateau:

Second Tuesday at the Chateau will meet in the Chateau dining room on Tuesday, **January 14, 2020 at 11:00 A.M.** for lunch and fellowship. We will order off the menu with each person being responsible for their own lunch.

Please call Sharon Metcalfe at 651 - 5274 or Ruth Needle at 334 - 4515 no later than Sunday evening, January 12 if you would like to attend so that arrangements can be made for a table to accommodate all of us.

All are welcome!

◆ Fellowship Meal:

Our next Fellowship Meal will be held on January 26th, the fourth Sunday of the month after our Annual Congregational Meeting (see page 4). This will replace our normal Gather, Share, and Eat meal. Fried Chicken Dinner will be served with potluck.

Last names starting with A-P are asked to bring a dessert and last names starting with Q - Z will bring a salad or vegetable.

If you plan on attending, please call the church office or note it in the pew pad.

SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Stated Meeting of the Session December 22, 2019

1. Received Rev. Gurnon's Report of Activities from November 25 through December 19, 2019. Included were 8 visits/calls to members, 6 church/community/Presbytery meetings and activities.
2. Approved the date of Wednesday, January 8, 2020, for a Called Session Meeting at 6:30 p.m. In the Fellowship Hall for examination of Elders in the Class of 2020.
3. Approved the date of Sunday, January 12, 2020, for the Ordination/Installation of Elders in the Class of 2020.
4. Approved the date of Sunday, January 26, 2020, for the Annual Congregational Meeting to approve the 2020 Budget and any changes in Rev. Gurnon's Terms of Call.
5. Rev. Gurnon reported that during our church's six-month trial yoking relationship with Westminster Presbyterian Tuesday will be her day of the week in Westminster's office. She also announced that during the yoking period, she is designating Thursday morning as her sermon planning time. During that time she will not handle phone calls, emails or text messages unless there is an emergency as she defines an emergency with our Office Manager.
6. Treasurer Charles Wiles gave a detailed review of the church's preliminary Budget for 2020 which will be presented in final form to the Congregation for its approval during the Annual Congregational Meeting January 26. He noted it will be the " best news " Budget we have had for several years, and he anticipates there will be \$57,000 to \$60,000 available to transfer from the Endowment Fund this year. The Budget will include 2% increases in the salaries of our Pastor and Music Director as recommended by the Executive/Personnel Committee.
7. Approved request by Treasurer Wiles that, as soon he is notified about the Endowment Funds available, he be authorized to transfer 1/4 of the total into the church's Money Market Cash and 3/4 of the total into the church's Money Market Reserve Fund Investments.
8. Approved assisting The People's Shelter on a temporary basis with storage of donated clothing on the condition the clothing can be laundered before coming into our church.
9. Approved request by Hanover Lutheran Church to set up at our church their meal packing event for The People's Shelter on Saturday, February 8, 2020, and to store at our church temporarily what they pack.

Annual Congregational Meeting – January 26th

The Session has approved the date for our church's Annual Congregational Meeting as January 26, 2020.

Following the meeting, a dinner will be held in the Fellowship Hall. That dinner will take the place of Gather, Share and Eat which is usually the third Sunday of the month.

This meeting will also serve to present the 2020 budget to the congregation.

During dinner, members will have an opportunity to ask questions and further discuss the Annual Report and the Congregational Meeting highlights.

See you there!



Service Time Change and Rev. Ellen's Office Hours

◆ New Service Time 10:45 am.

Starting January 5th, the first Sunday of the year, we will be moving our service time to 10:45 a.m., in order to facilitate Rev. Ellen's travel time from Westminster Presbyterian Church.

Rev. Ellen will also be keeping different office hours in the new year. She will be in her office at First Presbyterian Church on **Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.**

On Tuesdays she will be keeping office hours at Westminster.

As an additional note, Ellen's Thursdays from 9-1 are going to be reserved for focused sermon planning and creation! Let's all try to give her the space and time needed for study and meditation as she prepares her weekly message.

**NEW
SERVICE
TIME:**

10:45 AM

Warming Shelter Update



The guests of our warming shelter seem very appreciative of the service this church continues to provide.

During the warming shelter hours, our volunteers chat with the visitors, serve them hot drinks, water, goodies, etc., and spend time working on puzzles and playing games.

It is a joy getting to know our guests as people in our community.

As a reminder, our warming satellite center opens from 4:30-6:30 p.m. on those days in which the overnight temperature is expected to drop below freezing.

If you'd like to participate as a volunteer, please contact the church office.

Christmas Cantata and Christmas Eve Service

On December 15th, the choir performed our seasonal Cantata, *On This Shining Night* by Lee Dengler to a record recent attendance of 91, including many visitors. The regular choir was joined by Harvey and Lea Hecht and Sheri Mitchell to make this event happen.

Aside from our regular crew, we had four university students from Jonathan Patterson's accompanying studio singing as well as several recently graduated friends of Marie Meunier.



Choir Members List:

- ◆ Sopranos: Sheri Mitchell, Megan Statler, Mackenzie Barger
- ◆ Altos: Marie Meunier*, Lea Hecht, Stephanie Bengtson, Jean Cairns, Vanessa Adelman, Lizbe Knotte
- ◆ Tenors: Rick Bock, Sammy Lawson, Adam Bradt, Nick Harris
- ◆ Basses: Dave Bengtson, Harvey Hecht, Luke Poston*, Ethan Miller, Clayton Seabaugh

* An asterisk after a name denotes one of our choral scholars.

On Christmas Eve, our attendance was also greatly bolstered (94) as we were joined by Westminster Presbyterian Church for a Candle-light Carols service. For this service, we were pleased to welcome Andrew Wegg, a friend of Jonathan Patterson and recent music school graduate, who sang "Comfort Ye, My People" and "Every Valley" from Handel's *Messiah* as our prelude music.

We look forward to many more collaborations with our friends at Westminster!

Church Advent Activities

◆ Military Boxes:

The Christian Education Committee packed gift boxes for relatives of our congregation who are serving in the military. Sarah Ross mailed them to grandchildren and a nephew along with a message of Christmas Blessings for them.

◆ "Happy Birthday, Jesus!"

The members of the church enjoyed celebrating together at a "Happy Birthday, Jesus Party" hosted by the Christian Education Committee after our "Gather, Share, and Eat" meal on Dec. 15th. Everyone frosted and decorated Christmas cookies, made Christmas crafts, worked puzzles, and played "Christmas Bingo" together. What wonderful fellowship for all ages of our congregation!

◆ Christmas Love treat bags:

The Member Care and Fellowship Committee worked with Christian Ed. To prepare materials to share with members needing a reminder of our Christmas Love. The congregation signed Christmas cards that were sent or delivered. Special crafts were made and added to Christmas treat bags. Ten Christmas treat bags were delivered and one was mailed.

Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services (Farmington)



Many thanks to everyone who donated to PCHAS (Farmington Children's Home) over this Christmas season. In the upcoming February newsletter, we will give you a full update on how your gifts have been used to serve this community.

JANUARY 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 PC(USA) Agencies' Staff	17 TH Presbytery of Florida
2 ND Presbytery of Denver	18 TH Lizbe Knotte (birthday)
3 RD Presbytery of Glacier	19 TH Christian Unity
4 TH Yellowstone Presbytery	20 TH Foothills Presbytery
5 TH Presbytery of Plains and Peaks	21 ST Horton Miller (birthday)
6 TH Presbytery of Pueblo	22 ND Presbytery of New Harmony
7 TH Bill Port (birthday)	23 RD Synod of the Living Waters
8 TH Presbytery of Western Colorado	24 TH Peace River Presbytery
9 TH Georganne Syler (birthday)	25 TH John & Jeanne Hirsch (anniversary)
10 TH The Presbytery of Utah	26 TH Kate Broeckling (birthday)
11 TH Cherokee Presbytery	27 TH Savannah Presbytery
12 TH Synod of South Atlantic	28 TH Presbytery of St. Augustine
13 TH Central Florida Presbytery	29 TH Presbytery of Tampa Bay
14 TH Charleston Atlantic Presbytery	30 TH Trinity Presbytery
15 TH Ruth Needle, Lisa Bishop (birthday)	31 ST The Presbytery of Tropical Florida
16 TH Flint River Presbytery	

From the Mission Yearbook for January 1, 2020

Lord, thank you for new mercies and a new year. Forgive us when we fail to join you where you are working because we cannot see as you see. Strengthen our faith as your people and

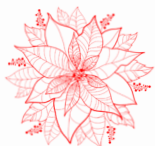
Welcome, New Members!

Welcome to our new members, Josh Donis and Susan Song!

Dr. Joshua Donis is a cardiologist in Cape Girardeau, MO who completed his residency at New York Presbyterian Hospital in New York, NY. His hobbies include mountain bike riding and skiing.

Soonjin (Susan) Song is a real estate professional and she enjoys cooking and listening to music.

Take the time to greet the two of them and get to know them better!



Poinsettias and Memorials

IN MEMORY OF:

Jeanne Beaty (her mother) and Dorothy Scott (his mother), from Sam and Lisa Bishop
David O. & Esther Bengtson, (his parents) from Dave & Stephanie Bengtson
Mary Lou and Paul Bray, from their daughter, Nancy Bray
Her Parents, Austin and Martha Cairns, from Jean Cairns
Fletcher Chasteen, from Betty Chasteen
Elmer and Dorothy Farrow, from Ron and Lana Johnson
Shirley Gibson, from Ann Ritter
Shirley Gibson, from Don Gibson
Wanda and Harry Hecht, from Lea and Harvey Hecht
Charles, Mark, and Sam Hopkins, from Dixie Hopkins
Cleda and Byrl Jarrett, from Lea and Harvey Hecht
Evla Johnson, from Ron and Lana Johnson
Natalie Johnson, from Ron and Lana Johnson
Ed Kaiser, from Betty Chasteen
Charles Knotte (husband) and Barbara Knotte Head (daughter), from Ruth Knotte
Hank Niemann (father) and Danny Niemann (brother), from Deanna Ware
Willie Phillips, from Evelyn Woodfin Stover
Marlena Pind, from Ann Ritter
Raymond A. Ritter, Jr, from Ann Ritter
Raymond and Helen Ritter, from Ann Ritter
Mr & Mrs A.P. Rueseler (her parents), from Ruth Knotte
Louis Sewell, from Betty Sewell
William Stover, from Evelyn Woodfin Stover
Robert & Rogene Stroup, (her parents) from Dave & Stephanie Bengtson
Mr. and Mrs. John and Jessie Wescoat, from Ann Ritter

IN HONOR OF:

Benjamin and Emma Broeckling, from John Broeckling
Our Children, from Ray and Sandy Wilhelm
John Folwell, from Charles Wiles
Don Gibson, from Charles Wiles
Greg and Sarah Hopkins, from Dixie Hopkins
Our Loved Ones, Paul and Ruth Pautler
Our Parents, from Don Gibson
Bill Port, from Charles Wiles
Judy Rueseler, from Nancy Bray
Shirley Sullivan, from Jean Cairns

Memorial

A memorial has been received in memory of:

Lushen Harold Edwards (Judy Rueseler's father).

- From Madge Ridings -



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"A RINGING LEGACY OF FAITH.
SERVING GOD, SERVING
COMMUNITY."

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
FIRSTPCCAPE.ORG

Church Directory Updates:



DIRECTORY

We will be printing the new editions of the church directory in February. If you have any updates to your contact information (phone number, email, address) or would like a new photo in the directory, contact Jonathan Patterson in the church office and he will make those changes!

