

In Touch

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ROANOKE RAPIDS NC
First Presbyterian Church seeks to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ by expressing our love for Him and our neighbors through worship, discipleship, stewardship, fellowship, congregational care, and mission.



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A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I have a number of things to talk to you about this month. First some sad news. Charles Harris has decided that he is not able to return to be our organist. He has been steadily improving in his cognitive abilities, but he is still not able to drive. His doctor tells him that if he ever gets to the point where he can live independently again it will be years in coming. He recognized that it is not practical for us to keep his position open for him that long.

Already I have heard from some who want to celebrate Charles' service to the church. I certainly think that is a good idea. If you have some thoughts on how to do that, please share them with me.

In the meantime I have charged the Worship committee with discerning next steps. Again, please contact me if you have some thoughts about what those next steps should be.

Next I would like to tell you that the session, after receiving a recommendation from the Worship and Finance & Personnel Committees, has granted me some extended time off after Christmas. I asked for this to help me complete my doctoral thesis. I will be gone from December 25 to February 3. Wally Spragins has very generously volunteered to preach for me each of the Sundays I will be away. I will return momentarily to conduct the service of installation of new elders on January 12 and serve communion on that day. Also, should any emergent situation arise I will come back to work to do whatever needs to be done.

I am very thankful to the church's leadership for granting me this. Without it I doubt that I would be able to complete my thesis on time. This is partially because I have been finding it very difficult to devote time toward my thesis while I am doing the work of the church. Ordinarily I would use study leave to do this sort of thing. I am normally given two weeks of study leave per year. This year I asked to bank one of those weeks for next year in order to help me devote a long stretch of time to my thesis and also defray the expense of asking for this extra time off.

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

The remaining twelve days are a gift from session and Wally Spragins, to whom I am also very thankful for lending his considerable skills as a worship leader and preacher to the church at no expense.

The last thing I want to share with you is something I have discovered as I was planning the joint service with First United Methodist Church. Rev. Joe Casteel, the pastor at FUMC, and I have been enjoying lunch together every two weeks or so since this summer. In that time we have talked about a good many things concerning being a pastor. One thing we didn't talk much about was our denomination's respective theologies. I think we both consciously avoided that topic for fear that we would get into some heated dogmatic discussion.

But one time at lunch I decided that I would ask for the title of a book that would help me better understand Methodist theology. Rev. Joe gave me a title and what I have read has challenged me and at the same time made me realize that our denominations are not so far apart theologically. For the present, I need to do some more reading, but sometime in the future look for some learning opportunities that involve finding out what our Methodist brothers and sisters believe.

Grace and peace,

Joe

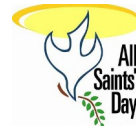


NOVEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1—ALL SAINTS' DAY

7:00 pm Movie Night @ Loy Bldg.

Movie showing is: *The Spiral Staircase*



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2
turn you clocks back 1 hour before
going to bed

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4

6:00 pm Worship Committee

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

9:30 am Morning Circle @ Parlor

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6

5:30 pm Best Gift Event w/ dinner @ Loy Bldg.

6:30 pm Choir

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7

6:00 pm Finance & Personnel

7:00 pm Evening Circle @ Loy Bldg.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11

6:00 pm Christian Ed. Committee

NOVEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13

4:30 pm Witness Committee

6:30 pm Choir

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14

10:30 am Bible Study @ Loy Bldg.

7:00 pm Bible Study @ Loy Bldg.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship

6:00 pm Session

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20

12 Noon Lunch Bunch @ Texas Steakhouse

6:30 pm Choir

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21

10:30 am Bible Study @ Loy Bldg.

7:00 pm Bible Study @ Loy Bldg.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24—CHRIST THE KING

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship (Communion)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27

6:30 pm Choir

THURSDAY,
NOVEMBER 28
Thanksgiving Day



CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

Worldwide Concerns

- *SYRIA and YEMEN
- * SOMALIA, drought, famine, anarchy
- * EGYPT and LIBYA political unrest
- *ISRAEL,GAZA, PALESTINE, peaceful coexistence
- * IRAQ, AFGHANISTAN, security
- *USA, war in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan
- *NIGERIA the approximately 100 abducted Chibok school girls
- *Syrian refugees
- *Ukrainian people victimized by foreign aggression
- *The people of the Democratic Republic of Congo as they struggle with an Ebola outbreak, Government instability and famine
- *Families separated at the Southern Border
- *People of Venezuela
- *Victims of tornadoes in the South and floods in the Midwest
- *Victims of violence in Sri Lanka
- *People of Sudan
- *Victims of violence in Gilroy, CA



FPC

LUNCH BUNCH

TEX★S
STEAKHOUSE & SALOON

Wednesday, November 20!

Please join us for a Dutch treat lunch,
at 12:00 Noon, each month
as we fellowship
together!
Everyone is welcome!

Healing Friends & Families of the Church

Priscilla Ricks
Glenn & Gayle Garner, @ Meals on Wheels
Sheryl and Wayne O'Neil
Ken and Holly Phipps & family
David and LaNae Grimes
Mary Francis Fisher
Harrison West, son of Kent & Carol
Delbra Davis
B.T. Brown
Joyce Thomas
Jason Mitcham
Chris Fitts
Amy Browder Heybrock

Bill Howell
Sally Ray Warren
Kevin and Michael
Doug Hayes
Sandra Stephenson
Ellen Burnett
Susan Horrell
Betsy Medlin
Billy Green
Jane Love
Jonathan Hayes
Diane Bone

SPECIAL PRAYERS

- We pray for the Children of Clara Hearne and Aurelian Spring Schools and our ministry to them.
- We pray for Stanley White and Littleton Churches during their uncertain times of not having a pastor.
- Pray for Rev. Kadade and the Evangelical Church in Niger.

On-Going Care

Bobbie Bright
Sandy Sandoval
Charles Harris

**ALL people who
provide
on-going care**



**Pastor Joe will conduct the committal of
Brother Edmund Burnett's ashes on
Saturday, November 30th**

11:00 am

at

**1221 Thorn Creek Road,
Franklin, West Virginia**

Lunch will follow

All are welcome!





SAMPLE OF GIFT ITEMS FROM CWS-BEST GIFT EVENT

Ever wonder why we put so much pressure on ourselves to find the 'best gift'? At the heart of it, we want others to know we care about them and love them. We want to offer one sacred moment of hope, love, joy and peace.

The Best Gift list below is so important because it gives that moment (and a lifetime of those moments) to people all over the world - from a child like Esteilin (pictured on the front) who just wants to attend preschool to the family living on the streets who could use some comfort and warmth.

Your gift represents more than the items on this page. It represents our deep connection and commitment to one another. It's the Best Gift because you become part of that connection.



YOUR BEST GIFT	PRICE	QTY	TOTAL
A goat	\$65		
Toys for refugee youth and children	\$50		
A biosand water filter for a family	\$30		
Books for 10 students	\$20		
Literacy classes for a month for a woman	\$19		
Two hens and a rooster	\$18		
Rehabilitation for a severely malnourished child	\$15		
A CWS School Kit	\$15		
10 concrete blocks for house walls	\$10		
A CWS Blanket	\$10		
Four cans of corn for farmers to plant	\$10		
A health center visit for an unaccompanied refugee child	\$5		
TOTAL			

No cash?

You can still provide gifts to others! Give online at cwsbestgift.org, or send your check to: CWS Best Gift, PO Box 968, Elkhart, IN 46515.

WITNESS NEWS

The Witness Committee has been busy recently and we would like to fill you in on just a few things you have helped us with. We had a few special offerings in September including:

Pennies for Hunger—\$237.50

Peace & Global—\$246.00

Water filters—\$586.00

THANKS to everyone for the on-going support to spread the Love of Christ!

In local ministries:

Added another class to Book Bag Buddies—total children we are serving is approximately 90
Hannah's Place—donated \$50 for 1/2 page ad for their program for the 2019 Domestic Violence Luncheon

UPCOMING:

- Best Gift Event—Wednesday, November 6th
5:30 dinner (provided)

Join us to kickoff this special event through Church World Service (more information on pages 8, 9 & 14 of this newsletter)

- Advent Season—Don't forget we will have shoe-boxes available soon to fill for Angel's Closet for Christmas like we did last year
- Last but not least, there will be Advent Devotionals from Frontier Fellowship available to all who want one. What a wonderful way to be guided throughout the Christmas season.



HAPPY NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY TO:

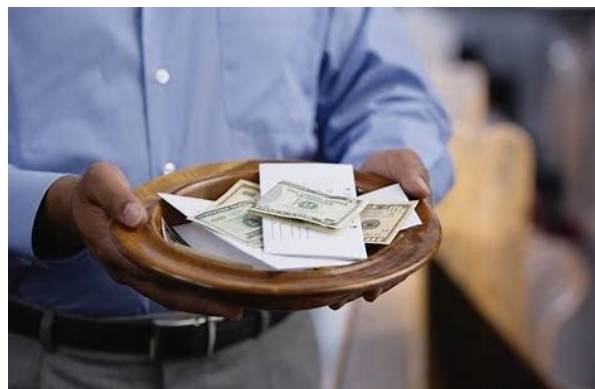
Hunter Clifton	Nov. 3
Cheryl Wingfield	Nov. 5
Judith Clary	Nov. 5
Abigail Mederos	Nov. 10
Tanya Glasgow	Nov. 11
Natalia Harris	Nov. 15
Ellen Bryant	Nov. 23
Ashley Christy	Nov. 24
Robert Keyes	Nov. 26





What a wonderful pledge month we had September! The monthly pledge income was almost \$6,000 above the budget and our year to date pledge income is now \$4,200 above the budget. Let's keep that number strong for the balance of the year. With the income we can continue to support our local and worldwide good works. A big thank you for meeting and exceeding your pledge commitments and a big thank you to all who wisely use these funds to service our community (both near and far).

Finance and personnel Committee



JOIN US FOR A



ON

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1st

At 7:00 pm

In the Loy Building

MOVIE SHOWING IS....



Drinks and popcorn will be provided!

Hope to see you at the movies!

Merry Christmas

Christmas is right around the corner!
Well, maybe not, but like the magi
looking ahead, we can start planning our
journey into the Advent season.

Join us for the
Church World Service Best Gift Event
Wednesday, November 6th,
5:30 pm Dinner
(provided by the Witness Committee)

Shopping to follow dinner

Samples of gift items will be displayed

Just like the magi sharing their gifts with
the Christ child, we too, can share our
best gifts this Christmas.

You can purchase *gift items* in honor of
or in memory of your loved ones.

There are many affordable and life-
changing gifts to choose from starting at
\$5.

***Then, opening their treasures, they offered
him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.
Matthew 2:11***



Purpose of Presbyterian Women

Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves

- to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible Study,
- to support the mission of the church worldwide
- to work for justice and peace,
- and to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.

PW MORNING CIRCLE will meet on Tuesday, November 5th at 9:30 am in the Parlor. Alice Ricks will lead lesson #3.

Please come prepared to give to the **Thank Offering**.

PW EVENING CIRCLE will meet on Thursday, November 7th at 7:00 pm in the Loy Building. Susan Barmer will lead lesson #3 and Ellen Burnett is the hostess. The **Thank Offering** will be received at this time. Also the group voted to collect items for ***Room at the Inn***.

Each woman is asked to bring an item to each meeting for our 2019/2020 year. Items needed are household cleaning supplies, washcloths & towels, clothes, feminine products toilet tissue, paper towels, napkins, dishwasher pods, laundry detergent, plastic utensils, sugar, cooking oil, postage stamps and gift cards from Walmart or Food Lion.

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NOVEMBER 2019

IN TOUCH

