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# First Presbyterian Church of Fulton, Missouri

Congregational Newsletter for December, 2018



Photograph by Mary Van Orden

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## [A Message from Our Pastor](#)

Dear Friends in Christ,

Each time this year, I am reminded just how much happens around

our church during the Advent season. Our Mission Committee has been coordinating our congregational support for SERVE, Inc.'s Adopt-a-Family program. At the same time, they've been preparing for the International Fair Trade Christmas Market that runs November 30<sup>th</sup> through December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Kelley and our choir members are hard at work, preparing for the Cantata during worship on December 16<sup>th</sup>. Meanwhile, a host of dedicated folks stayed after worship last Sunday, in order to decorate our church for Advent and Christmas. And a couple of days ago, several members of Session delivered poinsettias that are being shared in honor and memory of loved ones.

While the early snowfalls have created some picturesque scenes of our church building and grounds, they've also kept our Property Committee busy. Long before most of us arrive, they've been out in frigid temperatures, shoveling snow and treating icy walkways, in order to assure that folks can safely enter and exit our church, preschool, and community rooms. This is in addition to all of the maintenance and upkeep that is constantly happening around our facilities.

At this time of year, the members of our Congregational Care Committee are continually at work. These dedicated servants are sending Christmas cards, calling and visiting with those who are unable to come to the church, and coordinating assistance to meet various special needs. And as needs for prayer arise, they make sure that we all know of the prayers that we can offer in support of one another.

On Sundays, teachers in our Christian Education morning and evening programs lead their particular classes in a variety of learning experiences. And yet, it's far too easy for us to forget that the lesson plan that they execute in an hour's time is actually the result of a lot of preparation. And it's just as easy to forget that this is a busy time for our Administration Committee, as they use your pledges to develop a budget for the coming year.

Truth be told, even all of these various works are but a small fraction of the sum total effort that goes into making Advent and Christmas such a wonderful time to be a part of the First Presbyterian Church of Fulton! So then, I want to tell you all how grateful I am for the part that each of you plays in

bringing joy into the life of our community! And I also want us all to remember that, every now and then, we need to stop, and in the midst of this busy, busy season, pause to find our own moment of Advent peace!

May God bless us in the work we do to prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth! And may God also help us look expectantly for our Lord Jesus, as we hope for his return!

Grace & Peace,

Aaron J. White  
Pastor

Please feel free to visit me during my regularly scheduled office hours: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays from 9:00 to noon. To schedule an appointment for another time, or to arrange for home visitation, please call me at the church office, (573) 642-5541, or at my cell phone, (573) 590-3136. You may also email me at [pastor@fultonpresbyterian.org](mailto:pastor@fultonpresbyterian.org).

## Sunday Schedule

### **New Worship Schedule Begins December 2**

Sunday School for All Ages 9:30 - 10:20 a.m.

Choir Practice 9:30-10:20 am

Worship Service 10:30-11:30 a.m.

### **"ROOM AT THE TABLE"**

5:30 to 6:00 pm - Breaking Bread

6:00 to 7:00 pm - Room at the Table Groups

- Coffee table talk

- Daily Walk

- Kids Connection

- MS & HS Youth Group

Dec. 2 the Room at the Table program will be on the new tax laws. Come and join Aryls Kremer as she shares information about the implications of recent changes. 5:30 – 6:00 meal followed by the tax law program from 6:00 – 7:00pm.

Dec. 9 – instead of a meal and program at church this week we are encouraging our congregation to support the Westminster College Lessons and Carols event at 5pm on the 9th in the St. Mary Aldermanbury Church. (see <https://www.westminster-mo.edu/studentlife/CFS/lessonscarols.html> for more information.)

Dec. 16th during the last Room at the Table event for the year we will have an intergenerational gathering full of music and crafts along with a cookie exchange for those interested. Our youth will also be baking some cookies to share with our members who are unable to get out to come to church. Join in the fun and fellowship!

If you have craft ideas or if you'd like to help the kids in the kitchen please contact Angela Grogan.

This is a great time to share and give the gift of fellowship.

Questions, thoughts, suggestions regarding Christian Education at FPC – visit with Angela Grogan, Karen Dungan, Aaron or Kara White.

[Click Here to View the "Room at the Table" Flyer](#)

## CHURCH CALENDAR

Please click the link below to view the full church calendar. To navigate to other months, please click on the arrow buttons to the upper left corner of the calendar. For information about reserving the use of the church facilities and/or adding an event to the church calendar, please contact Ramona Dobson (email: [ramona.dobson@gmail.com](mailto:ramona.dobson@gmail.com); phone: (573) 310-1048).

[Click Here to View the Full Church Calendar](#)

## Things to be Shared

### "God's People Connecting" with Our Preschool Community!



#### Can You Help at the Fulton Preschool Christmas Party?

FPC is requesting assistance on Wednesday, December 19 at 10:40 a.m. and 2:40 p.m. and again on Thursday, December 20 at the same times.

If you can volunteer to help with hosting duties, please contact Gail Hoell at [gail@dimensionsinwood.com](mailto:gail@dimensionsinwood.com).

#### Fulton Preschool Bulletin Board

Fulton Preschool Association activities and needs requests are posted on a bulletin board near the water coolers in the library hallway. To see some of the preschool activities and to determine if there are requests you would be interested in helping with please review items on the bulletin board.

#### So, How Can You Help The Fulton Preschool?

The preschool would welcome you to be a volunteer helper in the classroom on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Volunteers would assist the teacher, Valerie Neudecker, with the class's needs for the day. The preschool would also welcome you to serve as a reader any day of the week. If you would like to volunteer, please email Valerie directly ([vmneudecker@yahoo.com](mailto:vmneudecker@yahoo.com)) or contact Pastor Aaron White (phone: (573) 642-5541; email: [pastor@fultonpresbyterian.org](mailto:pastor@fultonpresbyterian.org)).

**Beginning Today!**  
**Fair Trade Christmas Market**



Friday, November 30th, 6 - 8 pm  
Saturday, December 1st, 8 am - 3 pm  
Sunday, December 2nd, following worship

Most items will be purchased from Partners for Just Trade, a non-profit organization that blossomed from the Presbyterian Hunger Program's Joining Hands work in Peru. There will also be items from SERV, Equal Exchange and First Presbyterian-Jefferson City's various missions. Fair Trade not only pays the farmer or artisan a fair price for their product but is also a holistic approach to trade and encourages gender equality, provides healthy and safe work conditions, and builds long-term relationships with the producers. In a nutshell, Fair Trade provides stability in the lives of the impoverished peoples of many nations.

If you would be willing to help, there is a great deal yet to do. We need to advertise, set-up the market, have people to work the various dates and times of the market, and return unsold merchandise for a full refund. Please call or email Mary Osburn 573-220-7633 [maryosburn1959@gmail.com](mailto:maryosburn1959@gmail.com) to volunteer!

### **Box Tops**

Do you have box tops for Fulton schools?

If so, please save them and bring them to the church.

Cut the Box Top symbols from participating product boxes (there are hundreds of participating products including cereal, tissue, etc).

A bucket has been placed in the lobby for collection.

Connie Epperson has volunteered to redeem the tops and lids.

Each redeemed Box Top is worth 10 cents, paid to our local schools twice a year in December and April.

Thank you for contributing to the needs of our children.

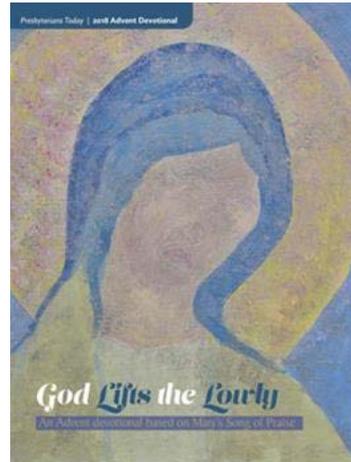


**Committee Information**

### God Lifts the Lowly

*Presbyterians Today* 2018 Advent Devotional

When we enter the holy season of Advent, we will invite each worshiper to pray and contemplate with Mary in her Song of Praise—the *Magnificat*—found in Luke 1:46-53. To lead us in times of reflection, we will be providing a copy of *God Lifts the Lowly*, the 2018 Advent Devotional from *Presbyterians Today*.



This devotional book offers paintings and poems, which are the work of Andrew Weatherly, a young Presbyterian man born with Down syndrome, who uses his gifts to raise awareness of the capabilities of those with special needs. The rest of the text—reflections and prayers for each day of Advent—is the joint work of Donna Frischknecht Jackson, pastor and editor of *Presbyterians Today* and sister to a man with special needs, and Krin Van Tatenhove, also a pastor who is father to a special-needs son. With great love and joy, Andrew, Donna and Krin bring God's might and Mary's "yes!" to life in powerful new ways.

Please pick up a copy for your household from either the narthex or the table near the sanctuary door, which exits to the lobby. Then, throughout the Advent season, we encourage you to use each day's reading for your personal or family devotion. Each reading includes a Scripture excerpt, meditation, and prayer to deepen the Advent experience.

**Sharing and Caring Cookie Swap!**  
**God's People Connecting at FPC!**



Can't make it and still want to participate? Drop your cookies and container off after church on Sunday morning and pick up your container Monday morning.

## Mission Committee

*"Jesus said to his disciples, 'They need not go away; you give them something to eat.' "*

—Matthew 14:16

During the month of December, please bring **Holiday Foods** for our collection in support of the SERVE Food Pantry. Any other item you may wish to bring will be appreciated as well. Each



Sunday morning, our children collect the contributions that you bring during the worship service. At other times, contributions may be placed in the marked bin in the church kitchen. In the month of October, you contributed **125 lbs.** of food to the Pantry!

### Remembering God's Children: Our 2018 Alternative Christmas Gift

Help make a difference by supporting our "Alternative Christmas Gift" Program. Now through Christmas, you can make a donation to help support Roma students receive an education. You will receive an ornament for your donation to give someone "alternatively" as a Christmas gift. See a Mission Committee member after church beginning the first Sunday of Advent.



**ONE  
SERVE  
ONE  
MISSION**

### Adopt-a-Family

Are you able to make a difference for a child this Christmas who otherwise would be without? **The Adopt-A-Family Christmas Assistance Program**, which is sponsored by **SERVE, Inc.**, allows our community to help others in need. This year, we will be adopting 40 children. There will be a Christmas tree in the lobby where you may choose one or more tags describing the needs and wants of the child.



Please note the following:

- Sign the list next to the tag(s) you choose
- SERVE is suggesting we spend \$50-\$100 per child (something they want [no video games], something they need, something to wear and something to read)
- **DO NOT** wrap your gifts
- Place the child's tag on the outside of your bag and **return your gifts to the lobby by Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>**. Distribution date is December 19<sup>th</sup>.
- **For those who wish to give but are unable to shop**, there are Church members that will do it (shop) for you! Please make sure your money is turned into the Church office no later than December 2<sup>nd</sup> and indicate the purpose on the outside of your envelope.

The Mission/Outreach Committee wishes to thank you for helping provide a special Christmas for a needy Callaway County child.





Every year, society expects us to celebrate the holiday season even bigger and better than years before. This year, coming together to reclaim Advent and Christmas can be both humbling and fulfilling. As we excitedly await the birth of Christ, it's important to remember the reason for the season: the newborn Servant 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. Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we are able to support those in our community and give them the gift of hope.

Funds from the **Christmas Joy Offering** help the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions provide critical financial assistance to eligible workers in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and their families, and to qualifying retired church workers and their families.

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 and environments for racial ethnic students built on a foundation of Christian values. The Offering benefits [Menaul School](#) and [Presbyterian Pan American School](#), two secondary schools that ready students for a path of higher learning, as well as [Stillman College](#), where graduates are prepared for lives of leadership and service.

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, racial

ethnic young people, and their families.  
The Joy Gift Offering will be collected during Advent.

## FIELD OF JOY TREE

First Presbyterian Church has once again participated in the Field of Joy Christmas tree display. Field of Joy is a joint activity sponsored by the Callaway County Salvation Army and Fulton Parks and Rec. First Presbyterian's tree was set up and decorated by our Mission Committee and volunteers.

There are over forty illuminated trees for all to enjoy.

Field of Joy trees are located in Fulton's Veteran Park at the corner of St. Louis Ave. and Wood Street. Other trees have been set up and decorated by community groups from the Fulton area.



## Fellowship Committee

### Thanksgiving Feast Thanks!

The Fellowship Committee would like to thank everyone that participated in the FPC Thanksgiving Feast on November 18. The food selection was amazing and great fellowship was had by all attending.

A special note of thanks to the following for their contributions towards purchasing or the preparation of the turkeys and hams: Arlys and Carl Kramer, Sylvia Hampton, Mary Van Orden, Ramona Dobson, Karen Luther, Dawn Yancey, Mary Osburn, Helen Logan, and Tim and Linda Baysinger.

Another special note of thanks to those helping in the kitchen either before or after the luncheon: Connie Epperson, Barb Huddleston, Ramona Dobson, Karen Luther, Gail Hoell, Linda Baysinger, Sylvia Hampton, Paige and Shaun Speers, and Helen and Vince Logan.

Be watching the newsletters or E-Blasts for upcoming Fellowship events.

## Property Committee

### Moser's Grocery Receipts

Every little bit put with another bit adds up.

We have received another check from Moser's for \$50.00. **Yeah!**

Continue to save your Moser's grocery receipts and Best Choice labels.

The money goes into our church building maintenance fund.

## Worship Committee



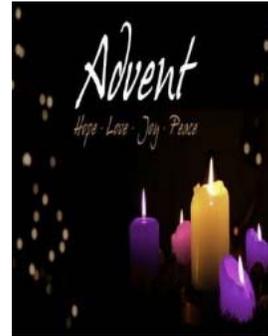
### Dedicate a Poinsettia and Help Beautify our Church!

Please see the flyer attached below for details on how you can purchase a poinsettia to adorn the sanctuary and other parts of the church.

Please click on this button to view and print a Poinsettia Dedication Purchase Form

## Advent Brochure

The Advent Brochure is ready for your review. Pick one up in the church lobby or download and print the attached!



[Please click this button to view or print the Advent Brochure](#)

## LOST AND FOUND

Please look at lost and found items located under the coffee pot table. Please take all of the items that are yours.



## Pastoral Care Committee

### Dick Wilson

For those of you who remember Dick Wilson, he is now at the Fulton Manor Care Center. His daughter, Susan (Susie) has been taking care of him at home, but he needs more care. She was pleased to have Thanksgiving noon meal with him at the Fulton Manor. Dick is a member of our church and when he could no longer get out and around, he was faithful in remembering his church.

Please pray for the two of them.

### **Becky Bielschmidt**

I visited by phone with Becky Bielschmidt on November 25th. She so wants to be back at church. Doctor tells her to stay off the foot as much as possible. The place on her foot is healing, just slowly.

### **Barbara Wilkerson**

Barbara Wilkerson is at home and Tim is taking excellent care of her. He could use some help if anyone has some free time and wants to visit with Barbara so Tim can grocery shop and take care of errands. To help out please call Tim at 573-642-3980.

### **Joe Barks**

Joe Barks is at home and could use some company.  
Joe lives at 817 Center Street here in Fulton. Joe's phone number is 573-642-4327.

Thanks to those who visit with our shut-ins by phone or face to face or send a card.

It surely does lift their spirits.

The First Presbyterian Church of Fulton, Missouri is a congregation of Missouri Union Presbytery and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

#### **Contact FPC, Fulton**

##### **Our mailing address is:**

P.O. Box 6037, Fulton, MO 65251

##### **Our phone number is:**

(573) 642-5541

##### **Newsletter feedback can be sent to:**

[newsletter@fultonpresbyterian.org](mailto:newsletter@fultonpresbyterian.org)



##### **Street Address:**

718 Court St, Fulton, MO 65251

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