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First Presbyterian Church of Fulton, Missouri

Congregational Newsletter for November, 2018



Above: Austin Anderson (left) and Mason Sheets (center) carved pumpkins, along with youth group leader Nickee Brumbaugh (right). On Sunday, October 28th, our youth learned about the legend of the Jack 'O Lantern and talked about how Halloween has become a holiday of neighborly hospitality. Youth group meets on Sunday evenings during "Room at the Table." Everyone's invited to dinner at 5:30, followed by programs for all ages.

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A Message from Our Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we enter into the month of November, I know that Thanksgiving celebrations may well be on your minds. For some this means carefully planning each course of an elaborate family feast. For others, it means planning a trip "over and under and through the woods!" to celebrate the holiday with family and friends. However you will be celebrating Thanksgiving, I hope that you will enjoy the food and the fellowship, giving thanks to God for all of the blessings in your life.



In the First Letter to the Thessalonians, we are exhorted to "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (5:16-18) Whenever I read this verse, I am reminded of just how important it is to include the "thanks" in my celebration of Thanksgiving. And I would actually suggest that planning for the thanks we will offer is just as important as setting your menu or plotting your route. So, I'd like to suggest a little Thanksgiving exercise for you to try.

First, take a sheet of paper and divide it into three columns. In the first column, make a list for yourself of all of the thanksgivings that you might offer to God. Remember, since you can "give thanks in all circumstances," there is nothing too small to include.

Once you have listed the thanksgivings that come to mind, now comes the more challenging part. In the second column, write a list of people who do not share these thanksgivings. If you listed a roof over your head, you might include the homeless in our community. If you are blessed with family and friends, you might include those who are lonely.

If we left our exercise here, it'd be pretty disheartening. But now, in the third column, you should list the ways in which you are working to be a blessing for which those people in the second column might give thanks. If you're giving food to our Loaves & Fish collection, you bless those who hunger. If you write cards or call or visit people, then you're probably caring for those who may not be in good health.

The point of this exercise is threefold. First, it allows us to realize just how many reasons we have to give thanks to God! Second, we can reflect upon all of the ways that we have impacted the lives of others, so that they too might have causes for which to offer thanks. And third, we might identify new opportunities to meet people's needs. On this last point, you might look at your columns and consider whether there are particular thanksgivings in your own life that you would like to help others experience!

I hope that you'll find this exercise useful as you're planning for Thanksgiving this month! You might even want to revisit your columns several times, updating your thanksgivings and thinking about the impact that you are having on others lives. In the mean time, I want to let you know that you are already on my list as one of the great thanksgivings that I'm celebrating this season!

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.

Sunday Schedule



Daylight Saving Time ends at 2 a.m. on Sunday, November 4th. Please remember to set your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday night.

SUNDAY SCHOOL & WORSHIP

Sunday School 9:45 to 10:45 a.m.

Fellowship 10:45 to 11:00 a.m.

Traditional Service 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

"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

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

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; phone: (573) 310-1048).

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

Things to be Shared

Thanksgiving Feast

Sunday, November 18th

The annual Thanksgiving Feast will be held on Sunday, November 18th after the 11 a.m. service. Join your church family as we give "thanks" for all we have.



The Fellowship committee will provide the dressing, mashed potatoes, and gravy. We are needing donations / volunteers to bake the turkeys and ham, and to assist in the kitchen with preparation of the meal and clean up. **Please bring one dish per adult** and share the fellowship with one another.

If you should have any questions or if you should want to volunteer, please contact Linda Baysinger at lindabaysinger@gmail.com.

On Saturday, November 24th, from 12 noon until 3 p.m., various churches will be partnering to provide a free Thanksgiving meal to folks in our community. The meal will be served at the John C. Harris Community Center, with preparations beginning at 10:30 a.m.



If you would like to be a part of our congregation's volunteer team, preparing and serving the meal, please contact Pastor Aaron White (phone: (573) 642-5541; email: pastor@fultonpresbyterian.org). Our thanks go out to Shirley Dixon and Bob & Gail Hoell, who have volunteered to provide a sliced turkey and a sliced ham for the dinner.

We Are Like A Pumpkin

Being a Christian is like being a pumpkin. God lifts you up, takes you in, washes all the dirt off of you. He opens



you up, touches your deep inside and scoops out all the yucky stuff—including the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc. Then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside you to shine for all the world to see.

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



In the Spirit of the Season, We Give Thanks for...

...Bob & Gail Hoell, who have volunteered to represent our church at Fulton Preschool Association board meetings. Their attendance reinforces our church commitment for success of the preschool. Thank you, Bob & Gail!

...Everyone who donated Halloween candy to the preschool for the Fulton Jaycees' Trunk or Treat! With your support, we made sure that every child got a sweet treat from our preschool community!

...Kem Craghead and Columbia Sign Services, who volunteered to provide traffic signs, so that our preschool children could learn what each one means. Thanks also to the Property Committee, which constructed sign posts and attached the signs.



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) or contact Pastor Aaron White (phone: (573) 642-5541; email: pastor@fultonpresbyterian.org).

Coming Soon! 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 to volunteer!

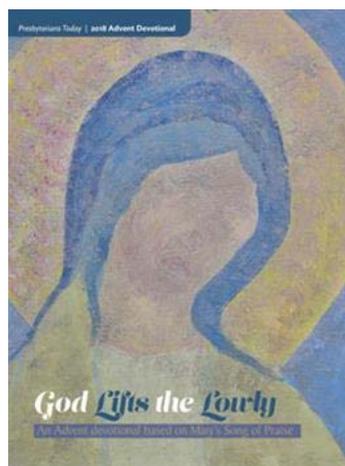
Committee Information

Christian Education Committee

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.

Once our devotional books arrive in mid-November, we hope that you will pick up a copy for your household from either the narthex or 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.

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 November, 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.



Adopt-a-Family

Are you able to make a difference for a child this

ONE SERVE ONE MISSION

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 near the entrance to the Fellowship Hall 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 \$40-\$60 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 to the Fellowship Hall by Sunday, December 9th. Distribution dates are the 13th and 14th.
- **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 2nd 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.



FPC Serves at the Fulton Soup Kitchen

With some of our regular volunteers traveling in the coming weeks, we are putting out a call for help! We need you to feed people in our

community! We will be serving dinner at the John C. Harris Community Center (350 Sycamore St) on **Monday, November 19th**.



Meal preparation begins at 4 p.m. and clean-up usually ends by 6:30 p.m. If you can volunteer on this date, please contact Pastor Aaron White (office: (573) 642-5541; email: pastor@fultonpresbyterian.org). Thank you!



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.

The Mission Committee will once again be participating in the **Field of Joy**, a joint activity sponsored by the Callaway County Salvation Army and Fulton Parks and Rec. You can help by...

- Making or donating ornaments
- Help set up the tree on Tuesday, Nov. 27th (call Mary Osburn at 220-7633 for details)
- See the tree lighting ceremony Friday, November 30th at 5:30 pm
- And sadly...remove the tree by January 1st



Property Committee

Successful Property Committee Workday

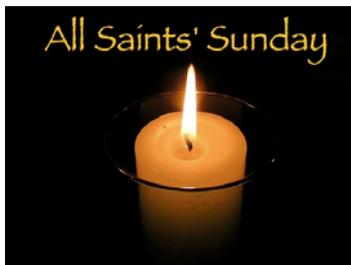
The church property committee had a successful workday on Saturday, October 20th. Thanks go to Mark and Lori Covey, Vince and Helen Logan, Carl and Arlys Kremer, and Karen Luther.

Items completed include:

- Caulk east windows in the church addition
- Remove unwanted vegetation around the church
- Reset Handicap sign in south parking lot
- Label valve that isolates east outside faucet
- Repair kitchen sink water supply lines
- Install partitions in men's restroom (partitions removed to replace floor tile)
- Repair nursery sink drain
- Replace preschool room light ballast
- Moved Wallace Knight bike rack from flower bed to church yard
- Identified keys on keyboard and attached new key tags
- Replaced water damaged ceiling tile in choir room storage closet
- Moved audio visual equipment from choir room storage closet to downstairs storage room
- Trimmed Bradford pear tree and pine trees on northwest corner of sanctuary
- Disposed of bike rack concrete, tree trimmings and yard waste

Also, thank you Robert and Grace Craghead for maintaining the flower bed near Lobby entrance below the kitchen windows.

Worship Committee



During worship on **Sunday, November 4th**, we will give thanks to God for those faithful witnesses who, having lived in service to God, have been received into the everlasting joy of their God in heaven. As we remember the saints in our lives, we invite you to bring a white, unscented candle and a candle holder for each person whom you wish to commemorate.

Prior to the beginning of the service, please place the candles and candleholders on the table at the front of the sanctuary. If there is a placard with your loved one's name printed on it, please place it with the candle. Otherwise, you may write their name on a blank placard. Following the service, please remember to collect your candles and candle holders from the front table. Thank you.

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



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