

Presbyterian Times
November, 2016

First Presbyterian Church
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A Message from Our Pastor
Rev. Lou Ellen Hartley

Bless This Season, Please!

As I write this newsletter article I, like many of you, am feeling the fatigue of this election year. Election fatigue. Who knew there was such a thing, but apparently there is, and a lot of us are suffering from it. I have heard many people say, "I don't even watch television any longer because I can't stand the election ads!" I know people on both sides of the political spectrum who have lost relationships because they cannot agree with friends and family about political candidates. This is troubling, no doubt, but also a sign of the times in which we live.

Now, more than ever, is a time when we can demonstrate how to live together peacefully and lovingly, even when we disagree with others. We, after all, are citizens of God's kingdom before we are citizens of any nation. We live and work for God's glory and pleasure. Of course, this is not easy as we live in a complicated world governed by systems and structures not beholden to the God we know, but to the gods of wealth and power and even the idol of politics itself. We recognize secular political structures are just as sin-filled and flawed as any institution, and yet many of us feel we must vote for one candidate or another.

As this particular election season draws to a close, we must remember, our purpose does not change with candidates. Our purpose is still to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to a world so desperately in need of peacemakers, agents of mercy, and instruments of grace. Our purpose is still to bring the good news and to be the body of Christ on earth as we work for God's justice in this world, justice based on the foundation of salvation for all, regardless of race, ethnicity, social economic status, or creed. Our purpose is still to work within the kingdom of heaven like it is already here, where there is no division among people based on status, gender, or religious hierarchy. Our purpose has not changed – we are still to go and teach and baptize in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Presidents come and go, administrations come and go. Empires rise and fall. Christ and his church remains, and we proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ until he comes.

Peace, Pastor Lou Ellen

Stewardship and Finance Committee

Barbara Ford, Treasurer

Fall is here and the colors are coming on strong. The breezes are still warm and welcoming. The harvests are in, and it's time to think about sharing. Stewardship letters and giving cards have been mailed. If you didn't get one, or need a replacement card, extras are available in the office. Please continue to keep your church and our committee in your prayers and actions.

The following is a review of finance activities for the last five months. If you have questions or concerns, please contact a committee member or email the treasurer. We'll try to provide any information you need.

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>General Fund Balance</u>
May	\$17,428.05	\$20,778.97	\$13,383.92
June	\$15,397.94	\$18,284.80	\$10,496.73
July	\$12,994.05	\$10,645.43	\$12,836.11
August	\$26,867.91	\$21,700.99	\$17,993.71
September	\$12,919.34	\$15,858.97	\$15,027.04

Our reserve fund balance on September 30, 2016 was \$223,692.57.

A gentle reminder, your stewardship committee is beginning the process of preparing the 2017 budget. For any church committees that need to make changes for their part of this budget, please send an email to your Treasurer, Barb Ford, otherwise, we will work with the amounts based on 2016 requirements. Thank you for your ongoing support. Keep us in your prayers.

Memorial Garden

Cynthia Hobart

After the Worship Service on Sunday, November 6, the congregation will be invited out to the Memorial Garden for the dedication of Memorial Bricks for Joe L. Brown and Robert D. Heberer II, which were recently placed in the garden.

"God's no is not a rejection, it's a redirection."

Inspire Us on Twitter

Membership/Fellowship News
Bob May, Chair

Thanks to Amy and Britt Whitaker for hosting the October 22 Weiner Roast. About 40 people took advantage of the beautiful fall weather and enjoyed eats, fun and games.

First Friday Night Out -- This coming **Friday, Nov. 4th** at 6:00 p.m. all are invited to gather at Matt's Steakhouse. Call Lee Bennett 341-2130 or Bob May 341-2646 so we can reserve space.

Sunday, November 20 after worship we will enjoy a "Harvest Carry-in lunch" in Fellowship Hall. Advent Craft activity will be available for young and "not exactly young". Delivery of Thanksgiving Baskets will also occur as well as "Hanging of the Greens".

Sunday Fellowship: Thanks to those who have hosted and Thanks to you who will do so in the future. Please check the sign-up sheet (on bulletin board outside Church office) for opportunity to help. As you greet visitors, invite them to join with us during fellowship time.



Rachel Allison, Director

It's November and we are THANKFUL! We are thankful for our Halloween Helpers! We are thankful for the preschool families that donated a big screen tv for the fellowship hall and the trustees who are installing it! And we are thankful to be learning and growing and having fun!

This month we are watching our Tower Garden grow and hopefully we can harvest in time for Thanksgiving! We are celebrating "Dinovember" and learning about dinosaurs from the Department of Natural Resources. We are having our annual Thanksgiving Feast and celebrating with our little turkeys, Indians and pilgrims. ☺

We will be closed for Thanksgiving Break from 11/23-11/28.



Worship and Music Jonathan Kimball, Chair

We are approaching the end of the Christian yearly cycle, which will begin again with Advent. Lots coming up over the next few months!

- On November 20, Christ the King Sunday, there will be special activities after worship. One will be assembling Thanksgiving baskets, and another will be hanging the greens in the sanctuary. Watch for more details.
- Advent starts November 27. The sermons will follow a theme of living into God's hope for us.
- Throughout Advent, we will have special noon midday prayers on Wednesdays. Please join us in the **chapel on November 30 and December 7, 14, and 21 at noon** for about a half-hour service.
- The Christmas Cantata is on December 11. The overall theme relates to "Love Came Down at Christmas."
- We will go **caroling to the homebound on December 18**, starting at 6:00 pm.
- Fired Up! Services will mostly continue as usual. **There will not be a service on Thanksgiving Day.** On December 22, instead of the normal service, we will hold a Longest Night service, a celebration of the winter solstice as we look forward to the Light of Christ.
- **Christmas Eve service will be held on December 24 at 5:00 pm in the sanctuary.**

- We will have a more-or-less normal service on Christmas Day, which is a Sunday. Watch for details.
- There will be no communion on New Year's Day. Instead, communion will be served on January 8.

Wishing everyone peace and joy as we come into this demanding time of year. I hope that you take advantage of these various opportunities to grow spiritually as we anticipate the celebration of Jesus's birth, and look forward to His reign.

How well do you know our Congregation?

Carol Jessop

Did you know that both of the Kimball's kids were born in Ft. Smith, Ark. At the time Jonathan was working for Baldor, a motor company. On 9-11 Rhonda and Sam were trying to get to St. Louis, but got stuck in Dallas. Shortly, thereafter, Jonathan and Rhonda started looking for a way to live closer to family and ended up moving to Mohomet, Illinois when Jessie was six months old.

Courage is born at the point where God's grace and human effort intersect.
Father Timothy M. Gallagher

First Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir Christmas Cantata

"Love Came Down at Christmas"

Jeff Sandquist, Choir Director

The First Presbyterian Bell Choir and Chancel Choir will present their Christmas Cantata "Love Came Down at Christmas" in worship on Sunday, Dec. 11th. The cantata this year is a compilation of music featuring Advent and Christmas poetry by Christina Rossetti, along with other selections for the season. Additional singers are encouraged to join the Chancel Choir just for this service of worship. The Chancel Choir will begin extended rehearsals on Weds. Nov. 9. Regular choir rehearsals start at 7 p.m. and additional singers for the Christmas Cantata may join us at 7:30 p.m.

Presbyterians Cook

Carol Jessop

Apples are in season at this time of year and plentiful. This recipe comes from Melba Read and is really delicious.

Apple Dapple Cake

2 cups sugar
1 ½ cups oil (can use part applesauce)
3 eggs
3 cups flour
1 tsp soda

2 tsp salt (scant)
3 cups chopped apples
1 ½ cups chopped pecans
2 tsp vanilla

Mix sugar and oil. Add eggs, dry ingredients, apples, nuts and vanilla. Pour into greased and floured Bundt pan. Bake at 350 degrees for one hour or until done. Remove from pan and add topping.

Topping

1 cup brown sugar
¼ cup milk
1 stick margarine

Bring to a boil and boil for 2 – 2 ½ minutes. Pour over hot cake.

From the Office

Betti Jo Pyatt, Office Manager

We would like to wish *Happy Birthday* to the following folks for November:
Jennifer Bennett, Kelly Look, Susan Bowles, Jeff Sandquist, Wendy Wilbanks, Bill Neely, Jr., Chuck Bennett and Janice Zanders.

Happy Anniversary wishes go out to Russell and Teressa Fox, Jo Ann and Robert Anderson and Bob and Carlene May.

Newsletter article deadline dates for the rest of the year are:

November 28 for December
December 23 for January (due to the Christmas holiday)

The date I need the articles is usually always the last Monday of the month unless it is a holiday. Then I would like the information by the Friday before. I always like to get the newsletter out before the first Sunday of each month. *“Thank you”*

Upcoming Events (November and December)

November 4 – First Friday Night Out at Matt’s Steakhouse 6 pm
November 5 – Presbytery Meeting, Pittsburgh, KS
November 6 – Daylight Savings Time ends
November 11 – Veteran’s Day
November 23 – **No Bells or choir**
November 24 & 25 – Office closed for Thanksgiving holiday
November 28 – December Newsletter article deadline
November 30 – Midday prayer in the Sadler Chapel at noon

December 02 – First Friday Night out – TBA
December 03 – PW Cookie Walk and Bake Sale (8 am – 2 pm)
December 07 – Midday prayer in the Sadler Chapel at noon
December 11 – Cantata “Love Came Down at Christmas” during worship
December 11 – Church dinner in the fellowship hall at approximately 11:30 am
December 18 – Caroling at 6 pm
December 21 – Midday prayers in the Sadler Chapel at noon
December 21 – First day of winter
December 22 – Longest Night for Healing and Wholeness service in the Sadler Chapel
December 23 – January Newsletter article deadline
December 24 – Christmas Eve service in the sanctuary at 5 pm
December 25 – Christmas Day
December 26 – Office closed for the Christmas holiday
December 26 – January 2 – Pastor Lou Ellen out of the office
December 31 – New Year’s Eve
(Office will be closed on Monday, January 02 for New Year’s)