

DECEMBER 2021

First Presbyterian Church



It's that time of the year – shopping, baking, grading, stressing. For some of us, December is very busy.

For some of us,

December is a bit sad. But for all of us it should be a season of celebration and reflection.

Advent is the time of the church year to prepare ourselves as we celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ.

The church will be having the Christmas Cantata (9:45 a.m. Sunday) and the Candlelight Christmas Eve service at 6:00 p.m.

I, for one, am thrilled to have these events in person after all of the COVID restrictions we have had.

The weeks of advent encourage us to remember Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy. I encourage all of us to be hopeful and prayerful as we move forward with our search for a new pastor and a revitalized mission. As our world struggles in so many ways, we can have faith in God and peace in our hearts, knowing as we pray in the Lord's Prayer that God's Kingdom will come. One of the best ways to feel love and joy is to connect with others. So, I encourage all of us to pick up the phone and call someone to let them know we care about them and are thinking about them.

I wish all of you a season of Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy as I close with a Christmas passage from Luke 2: 8

8And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9Lk 1.11; Acts 5.19.** And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. **10**And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; **11Jn 4.42; Acts 5.31; Mt 16.16; Acts 2.36.** for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

121 Sam 2.34; 2 Kings 19.29; Is 7.14. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." **13**And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

14 Lk 19.38; 3.22.

"Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!"

Clerk of Session

Susan Murray

Administrative Committee

Just a reminder that 2022 budget planning is wrapping up and in preparation for that we are asking for all pledge cards to be turned in by December 17.



Remembering Our Staff

Christmas time is the time to not only celebrate the birth of our Savior, but a time of gratitude for the gift of the Christ child. It is a wonderful time, when in the spirit of generosity, we can show our appreciation for others who daily share their talents with us. If you would like to show your gratitude for any or all our staff, please feel free to present them with a card/or monetary gift, individually.

This is a timely opportunity to show appreciation to our Office Manager (Katie Sands), our Church custodians (Tina Sands and Eric Craft), our Nursery Attendant (Emily Nakanishi), our Accompanist (Lorie Francis), and our Music Director (Jeff Sandquist).

Wishing for you a joyous Christmas, the Administrative Committee.

MISSION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The Outreach and Mission Committee would again like to thank you for your generosity. You contributed enough for us to provide 5 disaster relief Blue Buckets along with two hygiene kits.

We were able to raise \$1000 for Russell House.

The Presbytery's Emergent Grant matched that with \$2,000. Russell House received a donation of \$3,000.

All of our GRACE for Christmas snack bags were not only filled but were running over. Again, thank you for your continued help. You are there whenever there is a need.

Christmas Joy Offering

The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930's. We will be collecting this offering through December 19th. There will be envelopes on the table at the

back of the church or you may write "Christmas Joy" on the memo line of your check.

Preschool News

The mission of the preschool is to serve families of our community.

Many families have expressed a need for infant care. We have spent time researching and looking how we can grow in that area. The state and other agencies have grant money available that we have secured. This will allow us to make the necessary changes to pass inspection.

Below is a picture and a write-up of a grant we received from the Community Foundation of the Ozarks.



Date: Dec. 6, 2021

Subject: Presbyterian Preschool receives \$15,234 grant from CFO
Contact: Aaron Scott, CFO, ascott@cfozarks.org; or Bridget Dierks, bdierks@cfozarks.org; 417-864-6199

Presbyterian Preschool at First Presbyterian Church of Rolla has received a \$15,233.76 grant from the Community Foundation of the Ozarks through the Ozarks Early Childhood Support Grant Program. The grant will support the construction of an infant care room and expand the facility's capacity to include all ages of pre-K children.

The goal of the Ozarks Early Childhood Support Grant Program, which granted a total of \$300,000 to 10 agencies across central and southern Missouri, is to reduce barriers to quality child care so parents can return to work or maintain employment. The program is funded by an anonymous donor with a passion for improving economic outcomes of residents in rural communities.

Chair Laurie Edmondson, Dr. Doug McNeal, Alice Wingo and Heather Zoromski.

“This program has the potential to provide so many levels of opportunity, not only for children to receive good quality care and education, but also for parents to be able to return to work knowing their children are being well cared for in a safe environment,” Morgan said. “This will also give caregivers the opportunity to find good-paying jobs in child care.”

Founded in 1973, the Community Foundation of the Ozarks is the region's largest public charitable foundation serving a network of donors, 53 regional affiliate foundations — including the Meramec Regional Community Foundation — and nonprofit partners across central and southern Missouri through with assets of \$394 million as of June 30.

PRAYER REQUEST

KELLY DEAN (CHRONIC LUNG DISEASE),
BARB FORD AND KELLY'S BROTHER

TOM EYCHANER (WHO STAYS WITH BARB AND HAS
ADVANCED PARKINSON DISEASE),

CARLENE MAY
(NO TREATMENT REQUIRED AT THIS TIME.)

BOB MAY (RECOVERING FROM CANCER TREATMENTS,
BACK AND KNEE PAIN)

DEBBIE HALL(SINUS SURGERY)

MARY CUNNINGHAM (RECOVERING FROM CAR ACCIDENT)

CONNIE DEWITT (ONGOING HEALTH ISSUES)

CARLA SIMMIONS (RECOVERING FROM HEART ATTACK)

JANET BROWN (RECOVERING FROM PNEUMONIA)

JUDY FOX (AWAITING RECENT BIOPSY RESULTS)

AVERY SLOAN (FREDI AND GEORGE ZOBRIST'S
GREAT GRANDAUGHTER HAS A BLOOD DISORDER)

**THE PRAYER REQUEST LIST WILL START OVER ABOUT
EVERY
TWO MONTHS.**

**IF YOU HAVE SOMEONE WHO NEEDS
PUT ON OR TAKEN OFF THE LIST,
PLEASE CONTACT KATIE IN THE OFFICE**

2021 Contributions

Any contributions that you would like recorded for 2021 need to be in by
December 17.

Katie will be working on end of the year statements.

**BIRTHDAY WISHES
FOR DECEMBER GO OUT TO**

6TH BILL MORGAN
8TH CALEB ROSE, DACE MURRAY
9TH MICHAEL BENNETT
17TH GLENDA KNIGHT
26TH CAITLIN BENNETT
27TH BARBARA FORD



**ANNIVERSARY WISHES
FOR DECEMBER GO OUT TO**



17TH JIM & MARIESA
DREWNIAK