

First Presbyterian Church of Valparaiso

3401 North Valparaiso Street

Valparaiso, IN 46383

Phone: (219) 464-4985

Engaged locally and globally for Christ!



Vocabulary Lesson

I am writing this a week out from Christ the King Sunday, the final Sunday in the church calendar, and therefore two weeks out from the first Sunday in Advent. And when you put those two momentous times back to back, it can initially feel a bit like whiplash. One Sunday we're lauding Christ as King, with all the fanfare, and titles, and pomp which attend such a day. And then we turn around into Advent, with Jesus as a baby not-yet-born, helpless, soon-to-be born in a stable to a Galilean day laborer.

Did you notice the vocabulary there? King, fanfare, pomp.... Baby, helpless, day laborer. Vocabulary is important. Word choice makes a difference. Our words paint pictures, whether we want them to or not, in the minds of those reading and/or listening. That's a very large reason why I use a manuscript when preaching. But I digress...

Our words are important, and filled with meaning. But it is just as important to remember that just because I use a particular word doesn't mean you hear or receive it as I meant it. Because even though you receive those same words, you hear them with your own definitions – not mine. Hence the importance of making sure that what you say is received in the same spirit as it was spoken. Is this making any sense? [I know what I'm saying, but are you receiving what I want you to receive???

As we move into Advent, we move into this time of hearing once again the same words we hear every year (Unto us a child is born / A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse / My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.) But if we are people who are Reformed, and always being Reformed by the Word of God, then I have to ask: have your definitions changed this past year? How is this King / Child / Savior changing who you are, and how you live your life and the words you choose? What does it mean, after all, to call yourself a Christian? How does that play out at this particularly consumeristic time of the year? How are you re-defining *disciple* in your own life? I'd love to hear how this is happening for you!

May the love of God be born again in your heart and life, and emanate forth toward every person you meet.

I continue serving in Christ,

Pastor Toby

Session Synopsis of November 27, 2017

Once again Session was graced with inspiring testimony, this month from the Deacons-Elect in the class of 2020. After listening to their faith journeys and statements of faith, Session unanimously approved them for service beginning in January. You will be in the caring hands of Mike Becker, Catherine (Harvey) Busch, Dan Higgins, Dolly Trapp, and Youth Deacon Katie Golding. (Isabel Gordon will also serve a second year as Youth Deacon.)

Another highlight of the meeting was the presentation of the Budget for 2018. The process of creating a workable budget is one that began in early summer with Stewardship Team planning for their fall campaign. In September, Finance Team asked all moderators to compile their "budget wish lists" for next year; then, with the results from the Stewardship campaign (which culminated with Celebration Sunday), Jerry Kahrs and his team began to crunch numbers in earnest. He presented a draft of the budget at the October Session meeting, and with input from Elders, tweaked the figures even more. After thoughtful discussion, Session unanimously approved the final budget which will be shared with the congregation at the Annual Meeting in January. *It was noted that slightly more than 10% of the budget has been committed to Mission (local, national, and global). This is an INCREDIBLE move spiritually for which our church should be both commended and proud!* Based on Session's decision to meet God's challenge to tithe, we are now excited to watch God work in the life of our church! (Mal. 3:10)

In other business coming before Session:

1. Session approved Linda Long to serve as Clerk Pro Tem during the months of January through March.
2. Worship Team is in the process of addressing issues regarding the length of the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service.
3. Personnel reported that all staff evaluations have been completed and the Team has met with all personnel to review those evaluations. All were unsurprisingly very satisfactory!
4. Building & Grounds presented a structural diagram of the church and explained the current status of repair work to the pillars and beams supporting the Sanctuary.

And finally, a huge THANK YOU was extended to outgoing Elders Leila Buford, Monica Conrad, Michael Croarkin, and Jim Hubbard for their past three years of service to FPC. Each gave a few parting comments concerning their experiences, including the tremendous growth, changes, and cooperation that have occurred during the past three years of their service. They acknowledged that challenges have been faced but praised the awesome closeness of this Session and expressed excitement as to where our church is headed. Please be sure to extend *your* thanks for their service as well!

If you would like more information, please read the detailed minutes which are *posted in the glass-enclosed announcement board* in the Hospitality Center once they are approved. Also feel free to contact any of the Elders and/or the Clerk if you have questions or are interested in further details.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Hollar, Clerk

Heartfelt Thank Yous

Dear Treasured Congregation,

Thank you so much for befriending and taking care of my mom, Georgia Coyle, these past five years. You made the difference for her in being able to establish a social and spiritual life here.

Ross, Molly and I are also grateful for your support and care of us. The cards, calls, visits eased the hard end of life journey. When laughter was needed – you brought it. Likewise, when we needed prayers and solace, you were there!

Much affection,

Nancy and Ross Porter

+

A heartfelt thank you to my church family for the cards and prayers. A special thank you to the Comfort Stitchers for the beautiful prayer shawl.

Blessings,

Kathy Rowe

Christian Sympathies

We extend our heartfelt Christian sympathies to the following:

To the David and Jill McGonigle family on the death of Jill's father, John Sorensen.

To the family and friends of Helen Barron upon her death.

2018 Calendars

Confirmation Class will begin selling 2018 calendars between services on Sunday, Dec. 3, Dec. 10 and Dec. 17. The cost of the calendars is \$6.00. Profits from the calendar sales will be donated to a charity selected by the Confirmands. Please stop by and purchase a calendar while supplies last.

Memorials Received

We thank you for the memorials received in memory of Hilda Hoham.

Poinsettias

It's that time of year again! If you would like to order poinsettias for this Christmas Season, please forward the following information to the church office by December 11. Colors to choose from are Traditional Red or White. The price is \$9.50 per plant with any profits going to a local charity, which will be decided by Worship.

Name: _____

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

Number of Traditional Red plants: _____

Number of White plants: _____

Adventures of Scouting

Boy Scout Troop 920 recently spent a glorious weekend at France Park where they hiked around the old rock quarry and had a spooktacular time going on the haunted hayride! Our December camping adventure will take place at Camp Betz in Michigan where the boys will be preparing their sled for the upcoming Klondike Derby. The Troop invites any boys ages 11–17 to join them in the adventure of Scouting. For more information contact Scoutmaster John Stocks: 219-464-6226.

Please Join Us . . .

Caroling, Caroling
Sunday December 17, 2017, at 3:00 p.m.

Come join in for a merry time of bringing Christmas joy as we sing the great carols of the season and brave the winter weather to brighten the day for some church folks. Musical talent of any kind is not required. Just a spirit of fun and a willingness to sing out with enthusiasm. We will meet in the church parking lot at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 17, 2017.

Presbys News

Wow! How time flies! The Presby's have been enjoying regular Sunday evening gatherings throughout the fall, and we're excited about the future. Julia has challenged the youth with Bible memory verses and a regular study time that is encouraging our youth to think about how and why we study the Bible. And, of course, we have enjoyed games and dinner together; not to mention the fantastic job the Presby's did in helping out with this year's Trunk-or-Treat! Ken has taken time to meet with Christian Ed leaders to think about the future of Presbys' youth ministry, especially our high school youth. The focus for high schoolers moving forward will be *Mission: Presbys*. We will use the broad topic of mission to grow in our Christian fellowship, worship, study, and service. We are always a work in progress (especially during this program year!), and we thank you for your patience and participation as we discover together God's call. More Presbys information will be coming soon, so be on the lookout! We would like to thank those who have provided meals this fall, and a special thank you to Mr. Pat Thomas for sharing his time and talents with the Presbys!

Would you like to journey alongside our youth? Great! Contact Ken Crews at kennethcrews@go.mccormick.edu to discover how you can share your gifts with our youth.

On December 3 – Kids of the Kingdom will sing during the 10:00 single service. It will be a wonderful opportunity for our Kids to be together as one whole group. (Since September, Kids of the Kingdom attend either the 9 am or the 11 am service. Attendance has been fairly equal at both times.) After singing, they will all head together to the CE wing for some special Advent activities on this day.

December 10 is a regular Sunday school morning, the kids will be working on their program at 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Kids of the Kingdom.

December 16 is a Saturday, and it's dress rehearsal for the Kids of the Kingdom. Practice in the morning in the sanctuary for the Christmas Program for all kids, puppets, Jr. and Sr. high narrators and others who are a part of The Gifts of Christmas program. Maggi Alexander continues to volunteer her time to this special program. Thank you, Maggi, we look forward to this!

"The Gifts of Christmas" at 11:00 am on December 17 will be presented to the congregation. Maggi Alexander found a program that highlights the meaningful gifts of Christmas, with song, short dialogue, narration featuring all of our Kids of the Kingdom, animal puppets, and Jr and Sr High narrators. Don't miss this chance to receive an uplifting gift from our children!

College Care Packages: Early in December, we send CARE packages to our college age students to remind them that their church family continues to pray for them and care about them. Thanks for the items that you donated to the basket. Christian Ed will update the student address list and send the boxes out!

Needed: Library Book Processor: Our church library is a wonderful legacy left by Georgia Coyle. It will continue to invite our members to stop in, browse and offer the pleasure that a book can provide! Sandy Sopata has been processing new books, using a software program provided. She has the program figured out, but we need someone to take over the processing. Much of this can be done from home. Can you?

Outreach by our Church Young Folks: Kids of the Kingdom, Pre-Con class, and Vacation Bible School all contributed time and talent to wrapping gifts for the Deacons to help fill the Advent Bags for our Shut-Ins and Deacon Friends. Presbys recently created hand-made Advent greetings cards to be included in the Advent caring bags. Some Presbys lent helping hands to serve on the dinner line at our huge 200+ turn-out for Trunk-or-Treat dinner. "Hurray" again to Presbys who helped with the cookie baking for Kairos in the kitchen in November. It is powerful to see the good feelings that come from our youth giving their efforts and caring to others!

Teachers and Helpers and Leaders, Oh My! Since September, we have had many of you offer to teach/lead Kids of the Kingdom at 9:15 or 11:15 a.m. We are pretty well set through December, but a need will occur again in January as we go forward. We have a need for a Pre-Con teacher to lead a very small class of 6th and 7th graders this winter. Doug Hollar has been leading this, but he will not be available during the winter months. Give this some prayerful thought. Connecting with our youth has myriad rewards! Contact Pastor Toby, Lisa Thomas, Connie Knauff or Cathy Cole.

Kids of the Kingdom will not be offered on Christmas Eve Sunday, December 24, or New Year's Eve Sunday, December 31, 2017. We will resume January 7, 2018.

Mission at Work

Our church has an opportunity to do mission
for EVERYONE!

These mission opportunities continue
for everyone
at First Presbyterian Church Valparaiso.

FILL YOUR LIFE – Love is Feeding Everyone. We encourage everyone to fill the red grocery bag with items for the food pantry and bring it to church each Sunday.

PADS: Our church gratefully is part of this ministry of helping the homeless men in our community have a warm, dry place to sleep and meals to eat. We started on October 18 this year and will host every Wednesday/Thursday until mid April.

Urgent need for volunteers to help staff the 1:30 a.m. - 5:00 a.m. shift, Thursday mornings. Please call Beth Germann at 219-477-9964 to volunteer or for more information.

CUBA MISSION TRIP - February 2–12, 2018. If interested contact Beth Germann at 219-477-9964

KENYA R.E.A.L. – A mission trip is being planned for the spring of 2019. Please contact Ken McAloon if you are interested in being part of the mission trip. We are also helping with Pastor Henry's van.

HOLY LAND MISSION TRIP – Outreach foundation is taking another mission trip to the Holy Lands May 15-26. See Pastor Mark if you are interested in being part of this mission.

BE GOD'S HANDS AND FEET
*****TEXAS MISSION TRIP*****

We are planning a mission trip during Spring Break, March 24-31, 2018, to help with the hurricane recovery. This will be an intergen-

erational mission trip, so all ages are welcome. If you are interested speak to Pastors Mark or Toby or Elder Doyll Andrews.

RELAY FOR LIFE – Spring of 2018. If you would like to be part of this, please let Beth Germann know.

Praise Item:

Second Mile and Mission Offerings are over \$25,000!

Mission used budgeted money for Puerto Rico Hurricane Relief, Peacemaking Freedom Rising Fund, for Juan Sarmieto for his missions, for Syrian refugee missions, for Musalaha in Palestine, and for gift certificates for residents of the halfway houses in Valparaiso so they can purchase gifts for their families.

Mission Team is praying about our local mission giving which includes PADS, Hilltop House, Christian Food Pantry, Youth Services Bureau, Great Banquet, Kairos, Kairos Outside, Geneva Center and the Resale Shop. If you want more information how to get involved with any of these, please contact the church office or Beth Germann.

Thank you for being Jesus' hands and feet here in Valparaiso, in Indiana, in the United States and in the World! We are blessed to share our blessings! If you have ideas for future mission opportunities, please contact Beth Germann 464-3608. We meet the second Monday of the month at 6:30. You are welcome to join us!

Mission at Work, continued

Give a Gift That Matters!

This Christmas season, will you consider giving a gift that can change a community? Please look at our Presbyterian Giving Tree in the Narthex to do just that. You can select one of the more popular gifts represented by the green, red, or blue ornaments, or you can select any gift in the Presbyterian Giving Catalog and note it on the orange ornament. Place cash or a check for the amount of the gift in the wrapped box and hang your ornament on the tree. That's it! We will order your gift for you and your generosity will help change the life of the recipient, their family, and their community. Thank you so much and have a Merry Christmas.

The Mission Team

Second Mile Offering and Christian Food Pantry

December's Second Mile Offering will be received for the Joy Offering. You will find envelopes in the slots on the back of the chairs for your convenience.

If you would like to donate items to the food pantry, there is a basket in the entryway for that purpose.

Christian Food Pantry

In October, the pantry served two hundred forty-eight families providing food for four hundred and ninety-seven people.

All food items are needed for basic giving:

- Bathroom Tissue
- Canned Veggies
- Canned Pasta
- Cereal
- Coffee
- Mac & Cheese
- Pork 'n Beans
- Paper Towels
- Tea
- Tuna in Water

The help from our sponsoring congregations is greatly appreciated!

—Nan, Anne, Sharon

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE WORSHIP FLOWERS in honor or memory of a loved one, please fill out the information below and return it to the church office or sign up on the clipboard chart located on the north bookcase in the Hospitality Center. Thank you.

Dec. 17 Dec. 31

Name: _____ Phone: _____

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

To be taken home: _____ To be delivered to shut-ins: _____

Thank you so much for these shoes I needed these really bad thank you so so much! If it wasn't for you I would not have them thank you!

Thank you so much for these shoes. I needed these really bad.
Thank you so much! If it wasn't for you, I would not have them. Thank you!

To my friends at the Presbyterian Church,

Thank u so much for my skool shoes. I got Spiderman + I Love them!! You all are so very nice + without my skool shoe I wouldn't have friends because ~~no~~ people would laugh at my dirty shoes.

Thank U,

To my friends at the Presbyterian Church,

Thank you so much for my school shoes. I got Spiderman and love them!! You all are very nice and without my school shoes, I wouldn't have friends because people would laugh at my dirty shoes.

Thank you.

Deacons Doings

Cookies! Cookies! Cookies!
(submitted by Jason Gordon)

The Deacons are really getting used to baking cookies lately. On Oct 29th, we helped baked over 230 dozen cookies for Kairos. Amazingly, this was all done in one afternoon! Kudos to all that participated.

Speaking of cookies, our annual Deacon Cookie Sale takes place Sunday, Dec 10th from 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to bake cookies or unique baked treats for this event. You may drop them off the morning of or afternoon before in the church kitchen area. This event is the Deacons' main fundraiser that helps benefit many other ministries such as the Comfort Stitchers, Kairos, Stephen Ministry and even our new meditation walk. We will have Fellowship Hall setup for you to sit, socialize and enjoy the treats along with some refreshments and holiday music.

Finally, we are putting together the advent bags this month to give to our Deacon Friends. I know my Deacon Friend was very moved by receiving one last year.

First Friday Friends

Due to Holly Days, First Friday Friends was
rescheduled to Friday, Dec. 8, 2017,

at

5:30 – 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall for
First Friday Friends! This is a ministry for
elementary-aged kids (K-6).

Dinner and FUN included!! Invite a friend, and be
sure to RSVP to Pastor Toby:

tmueller@fpcvalpo.org

Men's Breakfast

Please join us on Sunday, December 10, 2017, at
8:00 a.m. in the Friendship Room as we celebrate
Christian fellowship and share a delicious meal!

We hope to see you there - bring a friend!

Mitten Tree

The Mitten Tree is located in the narthex. This has been an ongoing project for many years for our church and your contributions are greatly appreciated! Please place new gloves, hats and mittens (no scarves, please) on the tree. At the end of the holiday season, the donations will be given to a school social worker and given to any child in the Valparaiso schools who is in need of them.

As Tiny Tim said, "God bless us everyone!"

Prayer & Praise Ministry

If you desire prayer support for yourself or loved ones, don't hesitate to call on our 100+ Prayer Warriors through our Prayer & Praise Ministry hotline. Know that your requests can be held in strict confidence for your privacy, or we can also add your request to our Sunday announcements and/or printed Prayer Sheet. God is always listening! To begin the prayer hotline, please contact Pastor Toby Mueller at:

tmueller@fpcvalpo.org

or

(256) 425-3181

THE OUTREACH FOUNDATION

Israel/Palestine/Jordan Mission-Vision Trip

MAY 15-26, 2018

Join Associate Director Marilyn Borst and visit Outreach's strategic partners: Bethlehem Bible College, Palestinian Bible Society and Musalaha (a reconciliation ministry) to learn of their work and witness. We will also meet with other Palestinian Christian ministries to learn how they are seeking to be faithful under pressure and with peace, a seemingly elusive ideal in this controversial but compelling place.



There will, of course, be ample time to experience the sites of the Biblical narrative and the places where Christ's life and ministry became incarnational, including the Jerusalem area, Bethlehem, Nazareth and the Galilee, as well as Jericho and the Dead Sea. Participants will be expected to absorb assigned readings which will help prepare them to explore the history and politics of a contested land and to wrestle with the often-distorted theologies which have skewed our understanding of what the Bible teaches us about that land and the divine covenants (in both the Old and New Testaments) which were formed in that crucible.



We will also spend some days in Jordan visiting the refugee ministries of Middle East Council of Churches, who, through their Orthodox Initiative, are bringing hope and healing to both Syrian and Iraqi refugees. We will spend time with the students and staff of the Holy Land Institute for the Deaf where, for 50 years, this Anglican boarding school has dispensed both loving care and quality education. There will be an add-on option to see Petra.

LAND COST: \$2,480, double occupancy.
Not included in cost: R/T air, two meals, tips.

For more information: Lisa Dill (615) 778-8881
lisa@theoutreachfoundation.org,
www.theoutreachfoundation.org/trips



Barnes & Noble Bookfair

Supporting
PWNS
Presbyterian Weekday
Nursery School

Sunday, December 3

Barnes & Noble

150 Silhavy Rd., Valpo

Bookfair ID# 12255485

Please present this voucher prior to making your purchase. A percentage of the net sale will be contributed to your school/organization.*

*The purchase of gift cards, Barnes & Noble memberships, textbooks, magazine subscriptions, video games, digital content, purchases made at Cafés owned and operated by Starbucks, and other items Barnes & Noble may exclude from time to time in its sole discretion are not eligible for bookfair sales. Institutional discounts may not be applied. See BN.COM/bookfairs for more details and to shop online.



November moved along quickly as we were busy with many seasonal activities. Our Pre-K class made good use of our kitchen making Stone Soup and baking pumpkin bread for their families. The children earned feathers for an Indian headband by doing kind and helpful deeds at home. They also made drums and necklaces for Native American Week. The month ended with our annual Fruit Feast. The children were excited to share some fall songs and poems with their families before sitting down to a delicious “feast.”

Our 3-4 year old class also baked pumpkin bread for their families. They learned the nursery rhyme of “Old Mother Hubbard” and brought in food items for our “cupboard” as a community outreach program. Thanks to the generosity of our PWNS families, we were able to donate over 100 items to the Christian Food Pantry.

We are very excited for the Christmas season. Look for our handprint tree and family Christmas projects decorating the halls and bulletin boards of our PWNS classrooms.

Carolyn Hughes has joined us this year as an aide in our 3-4 class on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Carolyn has attended First Presbyterian since she was a child. She attended University of Southern Indiana where she majored in Early Childhood Education. She worked in childcare and preschool settings for eight years before getting to be a stay at home mom with her daughters. She is married to Barry and they have four daughters: Hayden, Aubree, Paige, and Sydney. All of their girls have attended PWNS, and Sydney is currently in the 3-4 class. We are happy to have her working with us this year.

Please join us for our 11th annual Barnes & Noble Bookfair, Sunday, December 3, 2017.

Merry Christmas!

Sheya Bennett
309-5873

Ann Skadberg
405-7188

Congregational Life News

Hanging of the Greens!

One service to bring us all together
to decorate our church!

Sunday, December 3, 2017,
at
10:00 a.m.

Kids of the Kingdom will be performing! All children are welcome to join us for a special Kids of the Kingdom Sunday making a decoration to honor the birth of baby Jesus! After the worship service we will have a special time with children making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, decorating Christmas cookies and playing games!

Parents and members of all ages will help decorate our beautiful church and then join us for soup and sandwiches. We will provide tomato basil, chicken noodle, potato, lemon rice and broccoli soups! Plus sub sandwiches and dessert!

Let's make this a Hanging of the Greens to remember! Invite a friend to come enjoy a morning of worshipping our Savior, laughter, singing, decorating and eating! Everyone is welcome! Please join us!

Sexton Ministry

Thank you to those who have already signed up to serve as Sexton for 2018! We still need Sextons to serve for the following months in 2018: March, May, June 24, July, August September and November. You can choose to open or to close or both. You can also choose any Sunday in the month. You do not have to take the entire month.

If you can fill any openings or would like more information, please contact Rose Ross at heross@comcast.net or (219) 465-1634.

December Calendar

Friday, December 01, 2017

Saturday, December 02, 2017

Sunday, December 03, 2017

9:00 AM	Pre-Confirmation Class (TBC)	100
10:00 AM	One Service of Worship	Sanctuary
10:00 AM	Confirmation Class	154
10:15 AM	Kids of the Kingdom	CE Rooms
11:00 AM	Hanging of the Greens followed by Soup and Sandwich Luncheon	Sanctuary / Fellowship Hall
11:15 AM	Adult Choir Practice (Rescheduled)	148, 149
1:00 PM	Cub Scouts	FH, FR
6:00 PM	The Leftovers	101
6:00 PM	Presbys Youth Group	100

Monday, December 04, 2017

8:30 AM	Retired Presbyterian Men	Off-site
5:00 PM	Journeys of Faith	101
7:00 PM	Boy Scouts	Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, December 05, 2017

8:00 AM	M&M Bible Study	101
10:00 AM	Staff Team Meeting	Workroom
5:00 PM	Men's After Work Bible Study	101

Wednesday, December 06, 2017

10:00 AM	Women's Bible Study	101
12:00 PM	Saints Luncheon	FR, 154, 155
3:30 PM	Disciples Bible Study	101
5:00 PM	Reformation Ringers	Sanctuary
6:30 PM	B.S. ('Bible Study') Teen Boys	Off-site
7:00 PM	It's them again...	155
7:00 PM	PADS	Fellowship Hall

Thursday, December 07, 2017

9:30 AM	The Comfort Stitchers	154, 155
6:30 PM	Praise Band	Sanctuary

Friday, December 08, 2017

5:30 PM	First Friday Friends – Rescheduled	Fellowship Hall
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Saturday, December 09, 2017

December Calendar

Sunday, December 10, 2017

8:00 AM	Men's Breakfast	Friendship Room
8:00 AM	Deacon Cookie Walk (until 1:00 p.m.)	Fellowship Hall
9:00 AM	Liturgical Service of Worship	Sanctuary
9:00 AM	Pre-Confirmation Class	100
9:15 AM	Kids of the Kingdom	CE Rooms
9:45 AM	Coffee Fellowship	Hospitality Center
10:00 AM	Confirmation Class	154
10:15 AM	Adult Choir Practice	148, 149
11:00 AM	Contemporary Praise Service	Sanctuary
11:15 AM	Kids of the Kingdom	CE Rooms
6:00 PM	The Leftovers	101
6:00 PM	Presbys Youth Group	100

Monday, December 11, 2017

5:00 PM	Journeys of Faith	101
7:00 PM	Boy Scouts	Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, December 12, 2017

8:00 AM	M&M Bible Study	101
10:00 AM	Staff Team Meeting	Workroom
5:00 PM	Men's After Work Bible Study	101

Wednesday, December 13, 2017

10:00 AM	Women's Bible Study	101
3:30 PM	Disciples Bible Study	101
5:00 PM	Reformation Ringers	Sanctuary
6:30 PM	B.S. ('Bible Study') Teen Boys	Off-site
7:00 PM	It's them again...	155
7:00 PM	Finance Team	Workroom
7:00 PM	PADS	Fellowship Hall

Thursday, December 14, 2017

9:30 AM	The Comfort Stitchers	154, 155
6:00 PM	Cub Scouts	Fellowship Hall
6:30 PM	Praise Band	Sanctuary

Friday, December 15, 2017

Saturday, December 16, 2017

9:00 AM	CE Program Rehearsal	Sanctuary
1:00 PM	Adult Choir Dress Rehearsal	Sanctuary

December Calendar, continued

Sunday, December 17, 2017

9:00 AM	Liturgical Service of Worship - Adult Choir Presents "Glorious Song/Marvelous Light!"	Sanctuary
9:00 AM	Pre-Confirmation Class	100
9:15 AM	Kids of the Kingdom	CE Rooms
9:45 AM	Coffee Fellowship	Hospitality Center
10:00 AM	Confirmation Class	154
11:00 AM	Contemporary Praise Service - The Kids of the Kingdom will Present "The Gifts of Christmas"	Sanctuary
1:00 PM	Cub Scouts	FH, FR
3:00 PM	Christmas Caroling	Meet in the parking lot
6:00 PM	The Leftovers	101

Monday, December 18, 2017

5:00 PM	Journeys of Faith	101
7:00 PM	Boy Scouts	Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

8:00 AM	M&M Bible Study	101
10:00 AM	Staff Team Meeting	Workroom
5:00 PM	Men's After Work Bible Study	101
7:00 PM	Boy Scouts Committee	154, 155

Wednesday, December 20, 2017

10:00 AM	Women's Bible Study	101
10:30 AM	Widows' Group	Friendship Room
3:30 PM	Disciples Bible Study	101
5:00 PM	Reformation Ringers	Sanctuary
6:30 PM	B.S. ('Bible Study') Teen Boys	Off-site
7:00 PM	It's them again...	155
7:00 PM	PADS	Fellowship Hall

Thursday, December 21, 2017

9:30 AM	The Comfort Stitchers	154, 155
6:00 PM	Cub Scouts	Fellowship Hall
6:30 PM	Praise Band	Sanctuary

Friday, December 22, 2017

Saturday, December 23, 2017

December Calendar

Sunday, December 24, 2017

9:45 AM	Coffee Fellowship	Hospitality Center
10:00 AM	Service of Worship	Sanctuary
4:00 PM	Christmas Eve Worship Service	Sanctuary
7:00 PM	Christmas Eve Worship Service	Sanctuary

Monday, December 25, 2017 – Merry Christmas! Church Office is Closed

Tuesday, December 26, 2017 – Church Office is Closed

8:00 AM	M&M Bible Study	101
5:00 PM	Men's After Work Bible Study	101

Wednesday, December 27, 2017

10:00 AM	Women's Bible Study	101
3:30 PM	Disciples Bible Study	101
5:00 PM	Reformation Ringers	Sanctuary
6:30 PM	B.S. ('Bible Study') Teen Boys	Off-site
7:00 PM	It's them again...	155
7:00 PM	PADS	Fellowship Hall

Thursday, December 28, 2017

9:30 AM	The Comfort Stitchers	154, 155
2:00 PM	Pines Communion	Off-site
6:30 PM	Praise Band	Sanctuary

Friday, December 29, 2017

Saturday, December 30, 2017

Sunday, December 31, 2017

9:45 AM	Coffee Fellowship	Hospitality Center
10:00 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
6:00 PM	The Leftovers	101

Happy Birthday!

December 1
Kathleen Spitler

December 2
Matthew Johnson
Robert Meyer
Susan Swarner

December 3
Gerrit Carlson

December 4
Paige Hughes

December 5
Audrey Rudzinski

December 6
Barbara Baker
Leanne Grant

December 8
Michael Byerly
Joan Johnston

December 10
Diana Richardson

December 11
Nicole Arney

December 12
Harley Money
Tim Reyna

December 13
Lindsay Giles

December 16
Tom Lazar

December 23
Ken Kukler

December 25
Lillian Bianco
Marc Buehler
Gavin Kukler
Natalie Miller
Jean Patton

December 28
Richard Trapp

December 30
Elizabeth Monroe

If we inadvertently
missed your birthday,
please contact the
church office.
Thank you.

Saints

Please join us for the Saints luncheon. This is a ministry for senior citizens of the church and community.

You won't want to miss our Wednesday, December 6th, Saints gathering as we will visit Sweden and Denmark through the eyes of church members, Ruth (nee Johnson) and Tom Eskilson, respectively. They will share a bit of their family histories and heritage as well as some interesting facts about the two countries. Ruth and Tom will also tell us about Christmas traditions observed there. They visited ports in Sweden and Denmark as part of a Baltic Sea cruise. Come and learn!

Make your reservation for the noon luncheon by calling the church office (464-4985) before Wednesday, November 29th. If you need to cancel, please notify the office by Monday, December 4th. Otherwise, except for an emergency, you will be asked to cover the \$9.00 cost of your meal as we have to pay the caterer. Thanks!

Saints Program Planner(s) Needed for 2018

The Saints Ministry needs a volunteer (or two) to take over scheduling programs for our first-Wednesday-of-the-month noon luncheons---March through December. Our wonderful presenters have joined us for lunch as a small payment for their time. Planning the meal is not your responsibility. Please ask Dawn in the church office for a list of the varied past programs we've had. Feel free to contact Marilyn Owens with your questions. SAINTS is a very important part of Congregational Life. Thanks!!!

A Loving Consideration

Dear Church Friends,

On behalf of the Endowment Committee, we wanted to share our thoughts on the joy, meaning and benefits of Legacy Giving.

We define Legacy Giving as a gift made at a future time of the donor's own choosing or through a will or estate plan that is to be an *expression of gratitude and thanks to God for all that has been received and enjoyed in life*. A minimum value is not specified for such a gift, but rather it should be a reflection of gratitude for one's accumulated blessings. Such gifts typically include financial gifts given directly to the church; financial gifts directed to the Endowment or they can be a tangible gift of enduring purpose.

Legacy Gifts are nothing new. Our members have been providing them to our church throughout its lifetime. Listed below are ***just a few*** of the many ways our church has benefitted from *individual* Legacy Gifts, as the generosity of many current and past members includes:

- A substantial portion of the funds needed to build the new wing of the church
- A substantial portion of the mortgage for our new roof
- On-going support for mission endeavors
- On-going scholarships for members pursuing higher education
- On-going support for the purchase of new choir music
- New seating for the church sanctuary
- New upgraded furniture and technology for church meeting rooms
- A subzero freezer for the kitchen
- Brass railings for altar steps
- An outdoor shelter and fireplace to enjoy outdoor services and picnics
- Ongoing support for the operating budget, especially helpful in leaner times, and which often helps to support capital maintenance projects for our building and parking lot.

It is a simple fact that much of what we have been able to do with respect to; *mission outreach, scholarship, maintaining the physical plant, and improving the building amenities for our church home*; has been accomplished because of the extraordinary generosity, extending beyond an annual pledge, of past and current members.

As the holiday season of gratitude and giving is upon us, we encourage you to take some time to consider how you might wish to express your gratitude for all life's blessings. If the idea of making a Legacy Gift resonates with you or if you would like to make a commitment for such a gift through a will or estate, please contact Pastor Mark or a member of our Endowment Committee.

In Faith,

Cathy Greenawald
Endowment Committee Member

FPC Endowment Committee Members

Ruth Dickey
219-462-1907
rsdickey27@gmail.com

Carolyn Dye
219-464-8878
cdjadye@gmail.com

Cathy Greenawald
219-465-0084
cathygreenawald@comcast.net

Doug Hollar
219-477-8060
djhollar@comcast.net

Jim Hubbard
219-464-4788
jhubbard3727@frontier.com

Kathy Joseph
219-464-1144
kjoseph@comcast.net

Paul Knauff
219-462-8614
pcknauff@comcast.net

Karen Vogelsang
(219) 286-0324
kvogelsang@wfafinet.com

Ex Officio:

Pastor Mark Mueller
219-464-4985
mmueller@fpcvalpo.org

Advent Candlelighters

Dec. 3 10:00 a.m. Adult Choir:
Matt Bylery
Aaron Onohan

Dec. 10 9:00 a.m. Finance Team
Contact: Jerry Kahrs

11:00 a.m. Ken and Olga Koch

Dec. 17 9:00 a.m. Barbara and Sterling Miller

11:00 a.m. Personnel Team
Jim Hubbard
Chip Wilkes

Christmas Eve

Dec. 24 10:00 a.m. Todd, Rhonda and Emily Coffin

4:00 p.m. Glen and Leila Buford

7:00 p.m. Harry and Lou Ann Karabel

First Presbyterian Church



“United in the Love of Christ”

**3401 N. Valparaiso Street
Valparaiso, IN 46383**

**Phone No: (219) 464-4985
Email: churchoffice@fpcvalpo.org**

Resale Shop – December 2017 Schedule

Dec. Scheduler: Kay Exley (219) 464-4154
Jan. Scheduler: Carolyn Dye (219) 464-8878

Closed on Sundays and Mondays – 462-4281

Tuesdays through Saturdays – 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

www.firstpresbyterianresale.com

Tues	Wed	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
<p style="text-align: center;">We Need Your help!</p> <p>We have several openings in December and would appreciate your help at the Resale Shop. It's fun, easy, and quite rewarding. Please consider volunteering. Call Kay Exley at 464-4154.</p>			<p>1 Mary Henrichs Debbie Shaw</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Mary Linda Scott Pam Skaltsas</p>	<p>2 Leanne Grant Linda Kimmel</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Carolyn & Doug Dye</p>
<p>5 Pat Blanco Joan Johnston</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Beth Germann Karen Huguenard</p>	<p>6 Rose Olivarri Chris Hurd</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Carol Bonvissuto Judy Hollar</p>	<p>7 Chris Hurd Pam Skaltsas</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Inge Culberson Inge Nimtze</p>	<p>8 Mary Brown Mary Henrichs</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Maggi James Cheryl Keach</p>	<p>9 Carol Flanigan Alexa Olling</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Marilyn & Don Owens</p>
<p>12 Marilyn Mohr Nancy Pedersen</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Carolyn & Doug Dye</p>	<p>13 Sally Hawke Joan Johnston</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Kay Exley Karen Kelly</p>	<p>14 Betty Richardson Rose Ross</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Kim Croarkin Rose Ross</p>	<p>15 Ruth Eskilson Mary Henrichs</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Pastor Nancy Becker Mary Linda Scott</p>	<p>16 Karen Simerlein Linda Hartlerode</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Julie Golding Emily Golding Catherine (Harvey) Busch</p>
<p>19 Mary Brown Nancy Pedersen</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Karen Huguenard Paul Knauff</p>	<p>20 Star Ruwersma Mary Jayne Shurr</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Carol Bonvissuto Carol McCreery</p>	<p>21 Pat Puffer Betty Richardson</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Pat Buckwell Judy Kendrick</p>	<p>22 Rose Cummins Alexa Olling</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Pam Skaltsas TBD</p>	<p>23</p> <p style="text-align: center;">C L O S E D</p>
<p>26 Inge Culberson Inge Nimtze</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Carolyn Dye Laura Tucker</p>	<p>27 Star Ruwersma Mary Jayne Shurr</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Kay Exley Karen Kelly</p>	<p>28 Becky Bluhm Pam Skaltsas</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Carolyn Lelek Carol McCreery</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Ginger & Jim Boys</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Cheryl Keach Karen Vogelsang</p>	<p>30</p> <p style="text-align: center;">C L O S E D</p>

Harriet Drapier / Mary Crosby Circle's

Next Meeting

Date: March 15, 2018 Hostesses: Rose Cummins
Time: 10:00 A.M. Co-hostess: Kathy Rowe
Lesson: Janice Reichard

Presbyterian Resale Shop Ministry

Moderator: Carolyn Dye
Vice-moderator: Pam Skaltsas
Treasurer: Linda Hartlerode
Secretary: Rose Olivarri
Historian: Mary Jayne Shurr

Ministry Roster

If there are any changes, please find a substitute and notify the church office as soon as possible to facilitate bulletin printing. Thank you for your time and ministry.

USHERS SCHEDULE

December 3	
10:00 a.m.	Karen Huguenard Jerry Kahrs
December 10	
9:00 a.m.	David Goodwin Phebe Klapp
11:00 a.m.	Doug Hollar Judy Hollar
December 17	
9:00 a.m.	Kathy Joseph Jerry Kahrs
11:00 a.m.	Catherine (Harvey) Busch Beth Germann
December 24	
10:00 a.m.	Connie Knauff Paul Knauff Steve Scarborough
4:00 p.m.	Glen Buford Leila Buford
7:00 p.m.	Betty Richardson
December 31	
10:00 a.m.	Ginger Boys Jim Boys

SEXTON:

Open:	Jim Hubbard
Close:	Matt Byerly (12/3) Brad Dirks (12/10, 12/17)
Close:	Destiny Vargas (12/31)

ELDER ON CALL

December	3	Jerry Kahrs
	17	Connie Knauff
	31	Cathy Cole

DEACON ON CALL

December	10	Ron Phillips
	24	Ron Phillips

COMMUNION SET UP, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2017

Tanya Parker
Andrea Phillips

COMMUNION SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2017 PRESENTATION/CLEAN UP:

Mary Brown
Tanya Parker

COMMUNION ON CHRISTMAS EVE, DEC. 24, 2017 PRESENTATION/CLEAN UP:

4:00 p.m.	Jason Gordon Isobel Gordon
7:00 p.m.	Jacki Phillips

DECEMBER 3, 2017, COMMUNION SERVERS

Elizabeth Monroe*
Dolly Trapp*
Doug Dye (Dan Higgins)
Olga Koch
Jacki Phillips (Mary Jayne Shurr)
Ron Phillips

The FPC Usher Team Needs Your Help!

We are in need of expanding the FPC usher team. If you would like to join the team, please contact Destiny Vargas at destiny.vargas2020@gmail.com or (219) 309-7357 or the church office at churchoffice@fpcvalpo.org or (219) 464-4985. Thank you!

*denotes leaders

First Presbyterian Church of Valparaiso

In case of a pastoral emergency, please call Pastor Mark Mueller at (256) 425-3152.

To contact the Prayer Teams for emergency prayer, please contact
Pastor Toby Mueller via email at tmueller@fpcvalpo.org or via phone (256) 425-3181.

CHURCH STAFF

E-MAIL ADDRESS

Janice Axmann, Organist.....	axmann122@comcast.net
Pastor Nancy Becker, Parish Associate.....	mnbecker3@gmail.com
Rhonda Clark, Adult Choir Director	
Ken Crews, Student Pastor	kennethcrews@go.mccormick.edu
Julia Evans, Director of Youth Ministry	julia.evans@valpo.edu
Beverlee Frazee, Business Manager	bfrazee@fpcvalpo.org
Pastor Mark Mueller, Pastor/Head of Staff	mmueller@fpcvalpo.org
Pastor Toby Mueller, Associate Pastor	tmueller@fpcvalpo.org
Dawn Scarborough, Administrative Assistant.....	dscarborough@fpcvalpo.org
Lisa Thomas, Director of Children's Ministries.....	lthomas@fpcvalpo.org

Per Capita

Please prayerfully consider paying your per capita. The more per capita paid by each member, fewer funds will come out of our operating budget. The cost is \$40.00 per member.

Financial Report

October 2017

Income	\$ 39,390	YTD Income	\$ 412,702
Expenses	<u>31,077</u>	YTD Expenses	<u>357,187</u>
Over/Short	\$ 8,313		\$ 55,515



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First Presbyterian Church Valparaiso (public) and
FPCVALPO (closed)