

**“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.” Hebrews 13:2**

## ***Thanksgiving Dinner 2019***

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Thanksgiving is just around the corner which means it's time to start planning for our annual Thanksgiving Dinner. This huge endeavor requires all of us to pitch-in one way or another. Last year, we served and/or delivered over 300 FREE meals.

Meals are delivered prior to noon on Thanksgiving Day to people who can't make it to the church and dinner is served in Ficklin Hall from 12pm to 2pm to both church and community members. Sign up in Chandler Hall or call the church office (303.798.1389) to make a reservation.

Lists for needed food items will be available in Chandler Hall. Please choose what you would like to donate and sign up for those items.

Bless your THANKSGIVING forward by:

- Donating requested food items.
- Volunteering for shifts for food prep, assembling and delivering meals, serving dinner and/or clean up.
- Cash donations gratefully accepted. Make checks to First Presbyterian Church noted as “Thanksgiving Dinner.”

**Call Stacey Ryan for more information: 303-345-8193**

# Update from Church Leadership Retreat

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Back in September, many of our church leaders gathered for a leadership retreat to focus on the future of First Pres Littleton. We benefited from the guidance of Michael Lukaszewski, the president of Church Fuel. His organization helps pastors lead healthy, growing, and well-organized churches. Michael helped us look back on our history, look at the state of the church today, and look ahead toward the future Jesus has in store for this church. Below are some comments and ideas that arose at the retreat.

**Who Are We?** We are a church with vibrant traditional worship, meaningful relationships, and transformative faith in Christ.

**What Would We Love to See?** We would love to see all the generations together in relationships and also active in the worship services. Imagine if every Sunday were like Palm Sunday!

To make that happen, we believe we need to offer more opportunities for relationships to develop across generational lines. We also believe we need to place a lot of our energy and focus on incorporating more of the younger generations in our church's life, ministry, and worship.

Using the Palm Sunday analogy, we would love to see a lot more people actively participating in the life, worship, and ministry of the church as well.

**How Might FPCL Grow?** There are two general ways we believe we could make enough of an impact on people's lives that they would want to deepen their relationship with Christ at FPCL. First, we believe we can reach people in our broader region who are seeking vibrant traditional worship.

Second, there are people who live near our church who want something different in their lives. This could include seniors living in the many facilities near us. It could include families with young children who want Christ to be present in their children's lives. There are many families with elementary and middle school children near our church. This could also include anyone who lives near our church who is hurting or in need of a different direction in life. We are exploring ideas such as having a shuttle bus that could help people living in the facilities or apartments near us to worship with us.

**What Might Change?** Michael encouraged us to free up some energy and time for our church's leaders by consolidating our committee structure. We intend to continue offering almost everything we're currently doing, but perhaps we can free our leaders from spending quite so much time in meetings.

We are also looking at restructuring our Session. We are exploring a model where the

Elders would be more high level instead of requiring them to represent and lead committees. It is likely that we will encourage committees to be led by someone who isn't an Elder. This would enable committees to start thinking about succession planning and training the next committee chair without having to wait for an Elder to be nominated.

Michael also encouraged us to be more intentional with our time, energy, and ministries. We are working on goals for each ministry and each church event. This will help us identify our greatest opportunities that should receive extra attention, and also help us identify the events that may need to be rethought, refocused, or wound down.

**How Can You Help?** At the beginning of the Fall, Kate asked everyone to make a promise to the children of the church. Every person in the church can make children and their families feel known, loved, and welcomed. Get to know the names of children and their parents so you can welcome them by name. Help out with the children's ministry or the youth ministry with food, or being a general helper in the room. Make the younger generations excited to be here!

You can also invite anyone you know who might be seeking something different in their lives. Most churches that grow do so because the congregation is inviting people.

Finally, think about other churches that have vibrant traditional worship and that are growing. If you know of such churches, please pass along the information so we can try to learn from them.

I am excited to see what Christ does in our midst as we focus ever more clearly on the tasks he has set before us. Thank you for your passion and energy in the name of Christ!

Pastor Cody

## **All Saints Day November 2019**

### **In Loving Memory**

**November 1, 2018—November 3, 2019**

Lowell Campbell	Janice Lee Carstenn	Phil Choquette
Ron Cooper	Vi Cooper	Roberta Hartwell
Scott Housh	Avis Johnson	Norman Kasch
Bonnie Kellogg	Mary Lou Padilla	John Pool
Esther Purpura	Lois Reish	Joyce Seibert
Mary Southworth	Warren Taylor	Winston Walker
Bill Wunderlich		

# A Minute for Stewardship

## Celebrating a Time of Reflection and Thankfulness

Stewardship Sunday is November 10<sup>th</sup> this year and the team is thankful for all who continue to give their time, talents, and treasures in 2019. Once again, we'd like to reflect on all that was accomplished in the past year:

- Meaningful worship
- Inspirational music from talented members and guests of all ages
- New members
- Continuing focus on Mission and Service
  - Establishment of the Care Portal
  - Whiz Kidz
  - Backpacks for local schools
  - Men's Work Group support in Alamosa
  - Youth Service trip to Denver
  - Monthly Community Dinners
  - The Annual Thanksgiving Dinner / meal delivery
  - Zimbabwe support
  - ARC Fill the Truck ...and so much more
- Growth in our partnership with Scouting Troop #444
- Pastor's Breakfast program for guests and members
- Monthly "Free Movie" Fridays for members and guests
- Consistent giving of time, talents, and treasures by all members and attendees
- Improved awareness and participation in Per Capita giving
- Focus on security for our members and guests
- Dedicated Church Leaders
  - Staff
  - Deacons
  - Elders

Indeed, we have much to be thankful for in 2019!

Please join the Stewardship team, members, and guests **on November 10<sup>th</sup>**, Stewardship Sunday after the 10:30 AM service, as we **celebrate our church and its ministry with a Celebratory Luncheon in Ficklin Hall**. This year, the Stewardship team will provide the main dish and drinks. Bring a side dish or dessert if you'd like, but most important, bring yourself.

See you in church!

### The Stewardship Committee:

Dave LeMay, (Committee Chair): 303-619-5190, leprinoRD@gmail.com

Sue Chandler, 303-347-9191, mesue35@aol.com

Dee Getzinger, 303-797-8343, deedg2667@gmail.com

Trey McDowell, 720-254-0639, trey.mcdowell@gmail.com

Don Meersman, 303-319-6774, dmeers77@gmail.com



## 2019 arcThrift “Fill the Truck” Update

The Stewardship Committee would like to thank the congregation again for the support of the arcThrift “fill the truck” for 2019. We are happy to announce that we received a check for \$750. This year’s monies will be used for the security upgrades for our church !!.



Thanks again for your support and helping out FPCL and arcThrift.

## KING SOOPERS REWARDS QUARTELRY UPDATE (3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter '19)

We are happy to announce that we received our second quarterly payout under the new program. **We received \$1,416.** This was for July through September 2019. Thank you to all participants !!

So far, we have 75 folks signed up to date (up from 67 in the second quarter). We would still like to get more people signed up with this new program.

**If you would like assistance on signing up to support the church or have any questions, please reach out to Sue Chandler, 303-347-9191.**



### Pastors Breakfast News

Thank you to Elinor Packard and Becky Gibson for hosting the October Pastor's breakfast. Guests and those with October birthdays enjoyed conversations while being treated to a wonderful meal including a special egg breakfast casserole, a blueberry pancake casserole and fresh fruit. It was a wonderful meal enjoyed by all who attended.

If you or your group are interested in hosting a meal in 2020, please contact Kathy McDaniel or Stacey LeMay for available dates and for more information.

Next breakfast: Guests, visitors and those with November birthdays are invited to join Pastor Cody for breakfast on **November 17th ( new date)** at 9:30 am in Ficklin Hall. Please let us know if you plan on attending as it helps us plan your meal. Thank you. 303-798-1389



# YOUTH NEWS!

## Fall Fireside Fun!

On Saturday, October 12 the youth of First Pres joined with youth from 4 other churches in the Littleton Youth Collaboration group for fellowship on a perfect Colorado evening! Following an opening prayer thanking God for all of His glory and many gifts, the group enjoyed a beautiful sunset, roasting hotdogs and s'mores over a bonfire, and pumpkin carving relays! When the sun went down and chill set in, there was plenty of cocoa and cider for all!

Youth families be sure to mark your calendars and watch for the registration information for upcoming Youth Collaboration events:

November 9, 6-8pm

**ESCAPE ROOM/BOARD GAME NIGHT!**

Host: Sola Church

Cost: FREE

December 14, 6-8pm

**VIDEO SCAVENGER HUNT**

Host: Littleton Christian Church

Cost: FREE



### Confirmation:

Reminder....If your youth, 8th grade or older, is interested in Confirmation at FPCL, this year's curriculum has been written by, and classes will be led by, Pastor Cody Sandahl. For questions or more information, please contact Pastor Cody, Maria Franklin, or Janice Fagan.



## ***The Big SQUEEZE!***

How will You Handle Being Caught in the Middle?

November 17, 2019 Noon – 2:00 pm

Jane Barton, Caregiving Ambassador for AARP Colorado  
and author of *Caregiving for the GENIUS*



One of the greatest challenges we face in the United States today is effectively and compassionately caring for one another. Whether challenged by illness, disability, or the natural process of aging, we will all require the help and assistance of others— professional health care providers as well as family and friends. Whether a Boomer, GenXer, or a Millennial, we often find ourselves caught between a rock and a hard place. We are called to care for our aging parents while raising a family, working, and maintaining our own health. When caught in the squeeze, we need information, resources, resilience, and a caring community.

### **The Venue**

First Presbyterian Church of Littleton  
1609 W. Littleton Blvd., Ficklin Hall  
Littleton, CO 80120

**Lunch** will be served at Noon.

### **Registration**

The Barton presentation is FREE, but registration is needed in order to plan for lunch and materials. Please register TODAY online at [fpcl.org/barton](http://fpcl.org/barton) or call the church office, 303-798-1389.



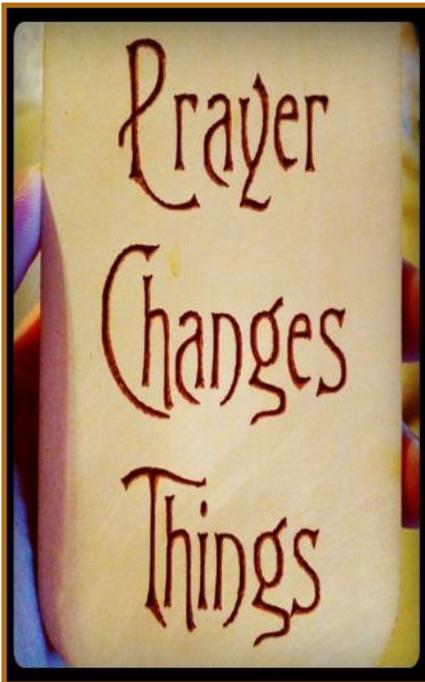
# November Together Giving Thanks What Do You Want to

“They devoted themselves to the Apostles’ teaching and fell

In keeping with the national holiday of Thanksgiving, we invite you to focus your prayers for the month of November on Giving Thanks. What are you thankful for?

The theologian and pastor, Barbara Brown Taylor, said, “If the only prayer we ever prayed was ‘Thank you God’ that would be enough.” Just a thought to emphasize the spiritual importance of including words of gratitude in our prayers.

Among the prayers we’re offering you this month is one written in 1937 by FPCL member Ruth Stevenson. You can see the original in our church library (4th floor large room back corner) in Album Volume 1:1885-1950.



## Thanksgiving Prayer (Ruth Stevenson, 1937)

Dear Lord, we thank Thee for fields of grain  
For winter’s snow, for summer’s rain  
For spring’s soft breath and budding leaves  
For sunsets red and desert sands  
For loving friends on every hand  
For mountains, lakes and babbling brooks  
For lovely music and good books  
For health and home and loved ones all  
For wind’s shrill shriek and bird’s soft call  
For stars at night and sun by day  
For children who romp and play  
For young folk who can sing and laugh  
As they are traveling life’s grim path  
For older folk who still can sing  
When things go wrong and hopes take wing  
For those who in declining years  
Are able yet to smile through tears  
For those who’ve fought despair and won  
But thank Thee most for Thy dear son. Amen.

# Together in Prayer Thanks to Thank God for?



owship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” Acts 2:42

## Together in Prayer

November 17 10 – 10:20 am Ayers Parlor  
Jodie Wiepking on harp

### A Simple Prayer of Thanks

I dwell upon the goodness  
in my life.

Thank you.

I cherish in my heart Your gift to  
me.

Thank you.

I notice the blessings of life,  
breath, loving and sharing.

I am so grateful.

Thank you, Lord.

### A Continual Thank-Offering to God.

O God, you have so greatly loved us,  
long sought us, and mercifully redeemed us.  
Give us grace. That in everything we may  
yield ourselves, our wills and our works,  
a continual thank-offering to you;  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

From the PCUSA Book of Common Worship

### A Personal Word Of Gratitude

Dear generous and loving God, in this season of  
Thanksgiving, I am grateful for my family, my  
friends, my home and my church with all the kind  
and loving people who attend. Thank you, Lord,  
for my food and good health. Thank you for  
providing me with the means to help those less  
fortunate. Most of all I am thankful for Jesus, His  
teachings and His sacrifice which gives eternal  
life to all believers. In Jesus' name. Amen

## Minute for Mission

Thank you all so much for contributing to the recent Health & Hygiene Drive. When goods were delivered, the people at Life Center said, "Another drive from First Pres, how wonderful; thank you!"

This month's contributions were made to Meals on Wheels and North Littleton Promise.

## FPCL Special Music, Choir, and Bells in November

- November 3      Lisa Kriss, violinist (both services)  
                         Chancel Choir (10:30)  
                         Marsha Trelstad, accompanist
- November 10     David Vogels, guest organist  
                         Memorial Bells (8:30) and TNTs (10:30)
- November 17     Kirkin O' the Tartans  
                         *Celebrating Our FPCL Scottish Heritage*  
                         Scott Beach, bagpiper (both services)



**HELP WANTED...NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY..**

**ON THE JOB TRAINING!**

The committee for Funerals and Memorials is in need of some caring individuals to join our team. Providing a light lunch or dessert reception after the service.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I can help with the following:

Usher: \_\_\_\_\_ Set Up: \_\_\_\_\_ Serve: \_\_\_\_\_ Clean up: \_\_\_\_\_

Set up requires approximately 2 hrs one day prior or day of service. Serving requires approximately 3 hrs. Clean uptime varies depended on what is being served.

Please put this form in offering plate or give to: Kathy McDaniel, Karen Ervin, Hedy Lemieux or Tanya Smith

## “GIVING TREE”

Our Giving Tree benefits our Whiz Kids families!  
Because Thanksgiving is late this year, our tree will be up on  
November 10th.

Please remember to bring your gifts by Sunday, Dec 1st.  
Place your wrapped gifts in a box or a bag, and leave them in the  
church office.

Please, only 2 gifts (1 toy and 1 apparel item) per child  
not to exceed \$50 for both items.

Teenage siblings will receive \$20 Target, Ross or Walmart  
gift cards with no additional gifts.

Remember to include the Family Gift Tag.

Thank you for blessing a family at Christmas time.

Pete & Suzanne Gordon

303-771-7498

[petesuzanne@yahoo.com](mailto:petesuzanne@yahoo.com)



### Dates to Remember!

**MEN'S BREAKFAST:** Saturday, November 12 @ 7:30 am . Join us at Louis' Diner, across the street from the church.

**OPEN DOOR CIRCLE** meets on the third Thursday of each month at 10 on the 4th floor. November's meeting is Thursday, November 21.. Open Door Circle will be meeting in Ayers Parlor, December—March to accommodate the Arapahoe County Family Counseling program while their facility is being remodeled.

**THANKSGIVING DINNER:** Thanksgiving Day, November 28 at Noon

**AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP:** Join the group on November 14 at 1pm in Ayers Parlor. For November we are reading “*Ordinary Grace*” by William Krueger.

## Financial Update

	September 2019		Year to Date 2019	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
<b>Income</b>	\$43,916.05	\$40,658.17	\$342,814.05	\$ 341,431.51
<b>Expenses</b>	\$36,141.74	\$40,314.57	\$323,536.11	\$ 347,874.64
<b>Surplus/Deficit</b>	\$7,774.31	\$343.60	\$ 19,277.94	\$ (6,443.13)

Our finances for 2019 are healthy due to frugal spending across all departments. The finance committee is preparing our budget for 2020 so you will be asked for your pledge soon. Pledging is important. If we can anticipate the church's income from your pledges, we can make the hard choices now so we have a fiscally responsible balanced budget for the coming year. Please take the time to complete and return the pledge card that you will receive in the mail. Thank you for your generous and continued support of the missions at our church.



**Question:** I've decided to participate in Planned Giving through my Will, RMD (required minimum distribution), stock / bonds, etc..... how should I direct the gift?

**Answer:** There are a few different ways to designate how you'd like your future gift to be used:

- General Budget – unrestricted funds for Church leadership to direct to immediate needs in the life of the Church
- Directed Giving – to established and identified ministry programs in needs of funding
- Endowment Fund – to the restricted account at FPCL that has been established to create an endowment fund that can be a blessing for years to come!

# CAN YOUR CHILD SING

## "SILENT NIGHT"?

Learn Traditional & New Christmas Songs

For children & youth –

Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade



First Presbyterian Church  
1609 W. Littleton Boulevard 80120  
303-798-1389    www.fpcl.org

ON FRIDAYS  
WITH A FUN  
ADDED  
OPTION!

**2 FRIDAYS** after school

**4:30 – 6:00** p.m.

**December 6<sup>th</sup>, & 13<sup>th</sup>**

AND AN ADDED BONUS....

**4:30 - 8:00** p.m. on December 13<sup>th</sup> - **PARENTS NIGHT OUT!**

Children will have dress rehearsal, eat pizza & play!! Families must be part of the sing - along choir to take advantage of this opportunity. Our FPCL adults will feed and play with your kiddos (nursery - 8<sup>th</sup> grade) while you have a much - needed evening out! **\*\*PLEASE PLAN TO EAT PIZZA WITH US AT 5:30 IF YOU CHOOSE NOT TO GO OUT.\*\***

**FREE PIZZA DINNER** for the family!!

Join us for dinner following rehearsals on two **FRIDAYS** at **5:30** p.m.!

**FINAL PERFORMANCE**  
during the Christmas Eve Family Service  
at 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>

**Mandatory & final dress rehearsals on**

**Friday, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m. AND Tuesday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.**





## *Hanging of the Greens*

- What:** Decorating our beautiful church for the Advent/Christmas Season.
- When:** Saturday, November 30 at 9:00 A.M.  
Refreshments served.
- Who:** All who can help for two hours.  
“Many hands make light the work.”
- Why:** We need you!!



We need help carrying boxes, & ladders, climbers, help assembling trees, decorating, and hanging wreaths and boughs.

## **Advent & Christmas Eve Worship**

- ★ 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent - December 1:
- ★ 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent -December 8:
- ★ 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent - December 15: Lessons & Carols
- ★ 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent - December 22:
- ★ Christmas Eve -December 24:
  - ◆ 1pm: A Baroque Christmas: Harpsichord & Recorder
  - 4pm: Children & Family: Children & TNTs
  - 7pm: Candlelight & Communion Service: Chancel Choir

**OFFICE HELP NEEDED!** Help is needed most Wednesday mornings from 9—Noon (or sometimes 11:00) in the main office while the staff is in their weekly meeting. It involves answering phones, taking messages and greeting people who may come in. Please call Elinor at 303.798.1389 if you are interested. Thank you.

## Prayer List\

- Prayers for the family of Joyce Seibert upon her death
- Jon Heggie
- Gloria Pool
- Jim Biner
- Joyce Lei
- Eleanor Spence
- Joyce Fuller
- Wilmajean Coate
- Kent Griffith
- Jean Wilbur
- Joy Carreño
- Rollie Fuller
- Tim Graham
- Lonna Williams
- William Hults
- Jay Radcliff
- Jerree Stroh

## In Service to Our Country

- Capt. Ricky Casburn
- Capt. Connor Venrick, Hawaii
- Brett Wilson, at sea
- Sgt. Benjamin Lund, Afghanistan
- Bobby Johannsen
- Lt. Per Rychucky, Whidbey Island NAS, WA
- Connor McDaniel, Army
- Donnie Donahue, PFC, Marines, Prague
- Nathaniel Syron, Aide to the Army Chaplain
- Pvt. Isaiah Boehm, Ft. Polk, LA

## Missions

- John Altemus
- Jory Bayne, Metro Denver
- Presbytery of Zimbabwe
- Cross Cultural Community
- South Asia Mission
- Jeffco Action Center
- Highline Place

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## Staff Directory

Pastor Cody Sandahl: (303) 798-1389 Ext 104,

- Emergency Number: 720-258-6185, Email: cody@fpcl.org

Pastor Carol Parsons, Director of Congregational Care: (303) 798-1389 Ext 106

- Cell: (303) 919-7624, Email: pastorcarol@fpcl.org

Kate Ballard, Director of Children's Ministry, (303)798-1389 ext. 111

- Email: children@fpcl.org

Mary Dailey, Director of Worship Arts, Cell: (303) 668-0727

- Email: mkdailey@me.com

Karen Meersman, Director of Handbells & Children/Youth Music

- Email: meers@ecentral.com

James Bierschwale, Interim Director of Youth, (303) 798.1389 ext. 110

- Email: youth@fpcl.org

Cynthia Kern, Wedding Coordinator Cell: 720) 985-7090, Home: (303) 988-1984

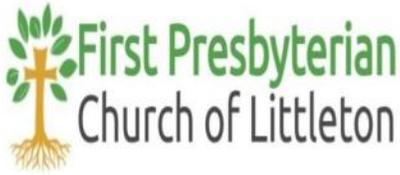
- C.A.Kern@icloud.com

Elinor Packard, Office Administrator (303) 798-1389 Ext 101

- Email: fpcl@fpcl.org

Joan Lund, Financial Secretary (303) 798-1389 ext.103,

- Email: finance@fpcl.org



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**OFFICE HOURS**

Monday - Friday 9:00 am to Noon and 1:00pm to 4:00 p.m.

Office is closed on Saturdays.

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

- ◆ **Sunday Worship: 8:30 am & 10:30am**
- ◆ **Children’s Sunday School 10:45am**
- ◆ **FIRST WORD NEWSLETTER:**  
 The **deadline** for the **December** Newsletter is Friday, November 15.
- ◆ **Advent & Christmas**  
 Dec. 15—Christmas Concert both Services  
 Dec 24 - 1pm, 4pm & 7pm

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