

First Presbyterian Church of Littleton

December 1 2020



“...and the star they had seen went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.

When they saw the star they were overjoyed.” *Matthew 2:9-10*



“Again Jesus spoke to them saying, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.’” *John 8:12*





2020 In Review

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The staff and I engaged in a somewhat comical endeavor this month. We did our performance evaluations and took a look at the goals we set for 2020. How little did we know what this year would look like!

But it was also an inspiring endeavor, because we were able to reflect on what we accomplished together in the name of Jesus Christ.

- We were able to pivot to a high quality online worship service on a moment's notice.
- We created celebration videos for Mothers' Day, Fathers' Day, Stewardship, Blessing of the Animals, and the Virtual Quilt Show.
- We connected the congregation with their divine design through Younique sermons, small groups, and the new in-depth Primer Course.
- We hired Jason Jones as our Youth Director.
- Thanks to your generosity, we remained on solid footing financially throughout this very unexpected year.
- We offered an online Vacation Bible School that was actually picked up by families in different states!
- We addressed hunger in our community through food drives, Thanksgiving meal deliveries, and giving to the Littleton school district's mobile lunch program.
- We helped the homeless in our community with temporary cell phones and meals.
- We brought the grace of Jesus to many in our church through Communion deliveries on first Sundays.
- We pivoted to video meetings to enable ongoing discipleship with Shabby Sheep, the Monday night men's Bible study, and many committee meetings as well.

I'm sure I'm skipping even more amazing examples of Jesus at work in us and through us!

Thank you to our staff, our elders, our deacons, and everyone in this congregation for finding ways to express and invest in our faith in new ways this year!

In Christ's Service Together,

Pastor Cody

WHIZ KIDS CHRISTMAS 2020 Gift Card Giving Tree

Like everything else this year, the Giving Tree will be different. Instead of purchasing gifts, we are asking if you would like to participate this year by



- ◆ Purchasing a card from Target or Walmart to drop off or mail to the church
- ◆ Sending a check or donating online, designating Whiz Kids Christmas in the memo line
- ◆ Roberta Wheeler will purchase cards with the donated funds.
- ◆ **All Cards or Cash Donations must be received by December 11.**

Gift Cards will be given to our 13 Whiz Kids students and their 18 siblings. Roberta will divide them and tutors will deliver them to their student's home.



To my Church family at FPCL:

Thank you for the birthday cards, emails, notes, phone calls, balloons and other festive gifts. You made my 80th birthday very special.

Mary Sealman



KING SOOPERS and CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

Just a friendly reminder to use your King Soopers' Card for your grocery shopping during the holidays. **Every time you use your Rewards Card you help our church earn monies !**

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.

THANKS AGAIN & MERRY CHRISTMAS !!

Sharing Our Faith

My name is Blakeley Winslow, and I serve as the director for Christian Challenge, a campus ministry at the Colorado School of Mines. As you can imagine, my work has looked a little bit different this fall, in the midst of the COVID pandemic! Because of the current university COVID rules, only students and faculty are allowed on campus. Not only has my access to campus been restricted, but our ministry has also not been permitted to hold any off-campus events. But despite these challenges to our usual work patterns, I have still witnessed God at work in some amazing ways that have encouraged and strengthened my faith.

It's been quite heartening to see all the ways that the students in our ministry have taken initiative to ensure that everything with our weekly schedule runs smoothly. These students have put in a lot of extra hours and showed great dedication in taking care of all the details of campus ministry that previously would have been covered by full-time staff members like me. This includes the preparations for each weekly meeting: setting up the sound and video recording equipment, as well as making sure that the lecture hall is properly cleaned, and set up to meet social distancing requirements. Our students are also responsible for teaching the two small group Bible studies which meet each week. Throughout the fall, Christian Challenge students have been diligent to follow up with the many new contacts we've made during the semester. I'm so proud of all of their hard work, as well as the flexibility they've demonstrated in adapting to the various COVID regulations set by the university!

Part of Christian Challenge's goal is to be a Gospel-centered presence not only on the School of Mines campus, but also within the larger Golden and Denver communities. So, on several different weekends this fall, some of our Mines students have gone out to engage in evangelism with Denver's most vulnerable citizens—the homeless, and transients. We seek to bring these needy individuals some material comfort in the form of food bags, and items of winter clothing such as coats, socks, and blankets. But even more important than helping people with their physical needs, we want to address their spiritual needs. So we've also been giving out lots of Bibles!! We mark in these certain key passages, and also include a leaflet showing the plan of salvation. Our goal is also not just to give out supplies, but to have conversations, and to pray for everyone we meet. And in dozens of encounters around Denver, Lakewood and Arvada, we've hardly had anyone turn us down yet for our request to receive prayer! God has definitely been present with us in these different conversations, and in our efforts to preserve opportunities for face-to-face ministry, even amidst the isolation imposed by the pandemic.

In fact, during this time of Coronavirus, having an opportunity for evangelism that takes place outdoors, along with plenty of space for social distancing seems like an ideal approach! As time has progressed, more of our students are getting involved in this homeless outreach, and we are proud of the fact that in addition to getting food and winter clothing, almost all of the people we've engaged with have received a copy of God's Word. I'm also impressed that our students have contributed several hundred dollars of their own money to buy further supplies for our outreach! We hope to continue this ministry in the spring, on those weekends when the cold weather permits outside activity.

While campus ministry looks a little different during a pandemic, I've been able to feel God's presence and sense His continued work, through the amazing efforts of the students that I am fortunate enough to be able to serve! For the future of the church, it's a blessing to know that this next generation of young believers is demonstrating courage and conviction to continue following Jesus and make His name more widely known even in the highly secular setting of the university community.

Share Your Story! If you are interested in contributing your faith story, please let us know. Sharing your story may be just what someone needs. Encouraging each other in our walk with God is so essential to bringing us all together. Contact Elinor Packard or Cody Sandahl with questions or to request help . 303-798-1389 or fpcl@fpcl.org or cody@fpcl.org

Minute for Mission

This month we were able to donate funds to the Severe Weather Shelter Network. Their vision is to mobilize community resources to provide physical, mental and spiritual short term REFUGE to individuals living on the streets in the Denver Metro area. Monies were also donated to Valverde Presbyterian Church, an inner city Spanish church that we have helped to support for many years. Thank you for your continued offerings that allow our church to help others.



Christmas Joy Offering 2020

This year we won't have the colorful inserts and envelopes in the pews to remind everyone of this important PCUSA mission during the Advent season. Please remember to consider giving to the Christmas Joy offering in 2020.

PCUSA explains how the gifts are used this way:

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor this gift by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.

50% provides critical financial assistance to church leaders in need

Support grants that help retired church workers and their families with financial and housing needs.

Provide aid to church workers with urgent financial needs.

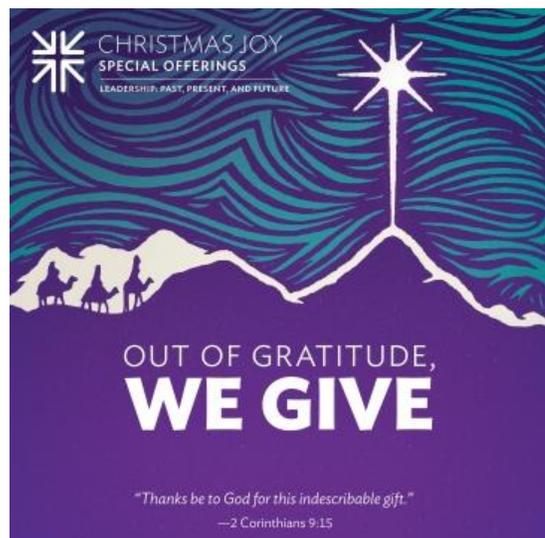
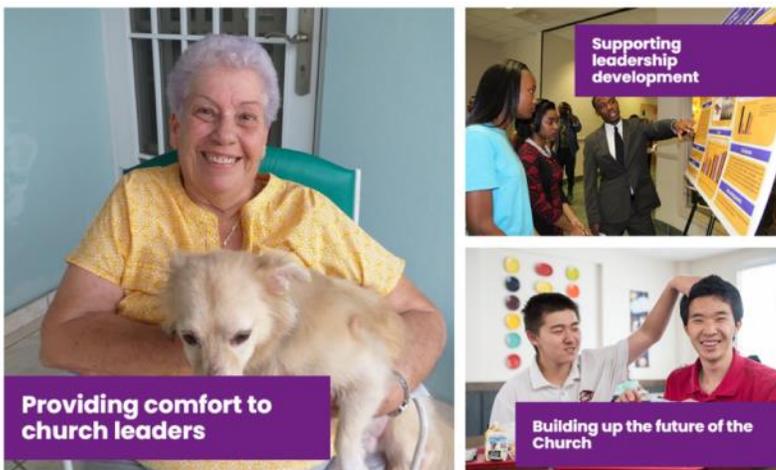
50% supports opportunities for future leaders at Presbyterian racial ethnic schools.

Give scholarships for racial ethnic students and future church leaders.

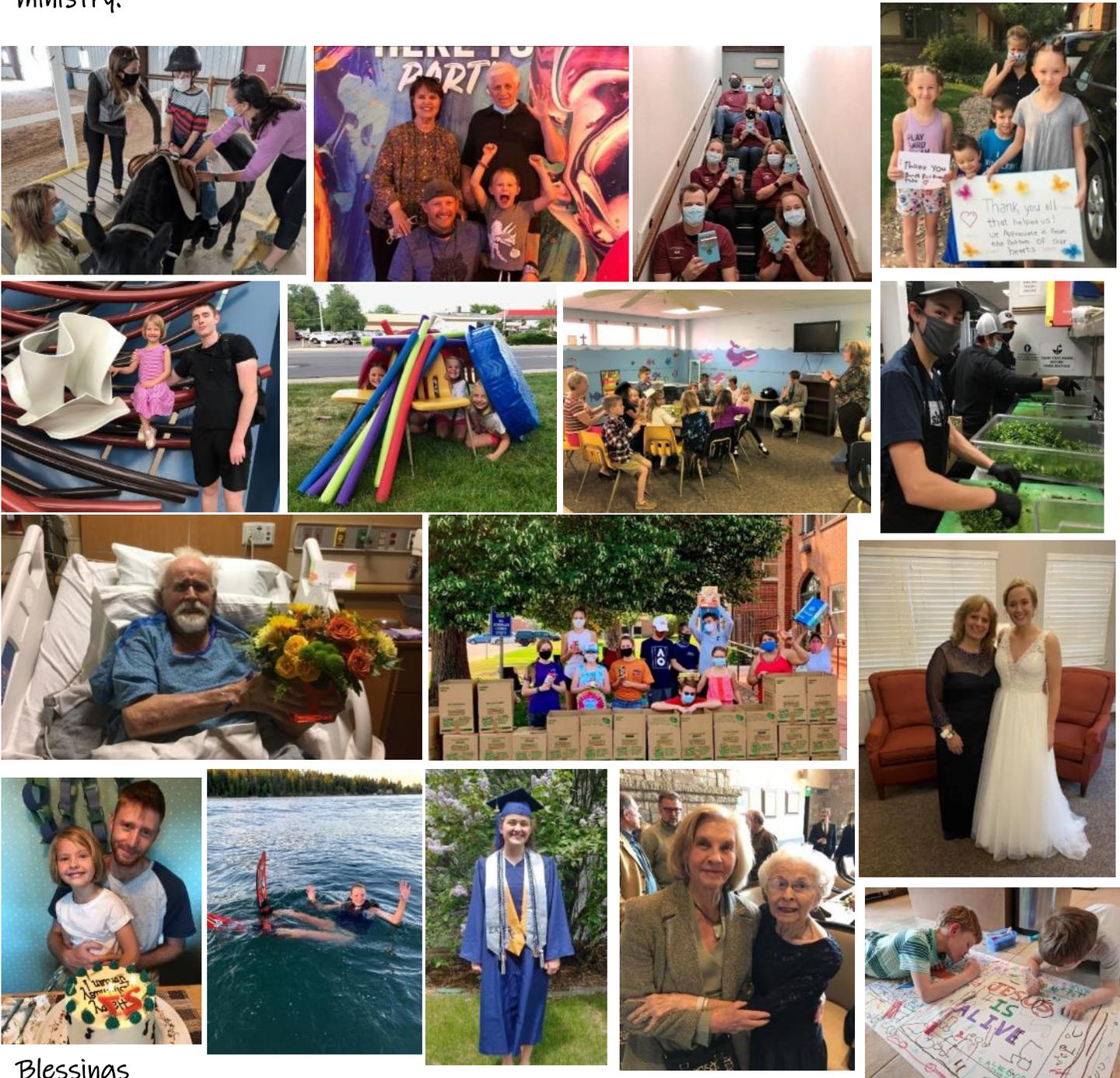
Equip racial ethnic leaders for ministry

Please join us in supporting this effort during Advent by donating on the FPCL website (use the Christmas Joy designation on the drop down menu), or by visiting the Christmas Joy Offering website:

<http://specialofferings.pcusa.org/christmasjoy>



For those of you that were unable to enjoy the video celebration of our congregation in 2020, this month we share some of those photos and moments from each other's lives this year...
 As we transition into 2021, we'll look for more ways to share moments in our lives and ministry.



Blessings
 from this Stewardship Committee this Christmas season!

Dave LeMay, Chair: 303-619-5190, leprinoRD@gmail.com
 Trey McDowell: 720-254-0639, trey.mcdowell@gmail.com
 Sue Chandler, 303-347-9191, mesue35@aol.com
 Dee Getzinger, 303-797-8343, deedg2667@gmail.com
 Don Meersman, 303-319-6774, dmeers77@gmail.com



THE DEACONS' JOURNAL...

We hope you will use the Poinsettia Order Form in this issue of the First Word to honor someone or memorialize your loved ones. Your names and comments will be printed in an insert in the church bulletins at the in-person Christmas Eve Services. It's as close to normal as we can get during the Pandemic.

We're also planning to make some changes to the Hanging of the Greens and what we intend to "hang", as well. Since we can't linger and gather in the common areas, we intend to minimize those decorations. While the doors and Columbarium will appear as usual, everything else will be scaled back. Nevertheless, the sanctuary will be as close to the decorations we associate with FPCL at Christmas.

This is only possible because of volunteer help from Pete Gordon with the property crew; Karen Ervin with her Chrisman recruits, Pastor Carol's funding for additional poinsettias; Kathy McDaniel's additional time to prepare; Cheri Blanchard's additional day for receiving poinsettia plants, and all of the Deacons.

Barbara Biner
Deacon Moderator



Poinsettia Order Form: Your purchase helps to provide assistance to members and the local community. You may take your plant home after any of the Christmas Eve services or leave it to be delivered to our homebound. **If you would like someone's name included in the Christmas Eve bulletin, the order must be received by December 18th.**

Quantity	Price	Color Red, White or Marbled	Take Home	Give to Homebound	Total Due
	\$15				

In Memory/ Honor of (Please circle one):

Ordered by: _____ **Phone:** _____

Make checks payable to: First Presbyterian Church. Please include payment with your order. Place it in the box in Chandler Hall or mail it to: First Presbyterian Church, 1609 W. Littleton Blvd., Littleton, CO 80120. When you purchase a poinsettia, \$5 goes to support the Deacons Fund.

Financial update

	October 2020		Year to Date 2020	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Income	\$ 29,567.23	\$ 29,193.06	\$ 373,163.45	\$ 365,037.54
Expenses	\$ 33,265.74	\$ 38,748.20	\$ 337,713.24	\$ 377,208.66
Surplus/Deficit	(\$ 3,698.51)	(\$ 9,555.14)	\$ 35,450.21	\$ (12,171.12)

Thank you for sending in your pledge cards for 2021. The finance committee is once again trying to put together a balanced budget for the coming year. With so many uncertainties, it's wonderful to be able to know what the income number will look like for 2021. Thank you for your continued and generous support.

Thanksgiving 2020



We were able to safely prepare and deliver over 300 meals this year! Many thanks to our talented chef DJ Kurtz and his crew, the good people at Meals on Wheels, the cheerful and hardworking staff at South Metro Housing Options, our fabulous meal prep and delivery volunteers, my family, and of course all of the kind and supportive staff and members of our church. Especially this year, it is so awesome to have something to smile about.

Stacey Ryan

Merry Christmas

&

Happy New Year!



Prayer List

- Bob Backus
- Jon Heggie
- Gloria Pool
- Jim Biner
- Joyce Lei
- Eleanor Spence
- Joyce Fuller
- Rollie Fuller
- Wilmajean Coate
- Kent Griffith
- Jean Wilbur
- Joy Carreño
- Lonna Williams
- William Hults
- Hedy Lemieux
- Joanie Coffey
- Tracey & Mike Eidson
- Dixie Ruland

In Service to Our Country

- Capt. Ricky Casburn
- Capt. Connor Venrick, Hawaii
- Brett Wilson, at sea
- Sgt. Benjamin Lund, Kuwait
- Bobby Johannsen, at sea
- LCDR. Per Rychucky, USS Harry S. Truman
- Connor McDaniel, Army
- Donnie Donahue, PFC, Marines, Prague
- Nathaniel Syron, Aide to the Army Chaplain
- Pvt. Isaiah Boehm, Ft. Polk, LA
- Jeremy Colwell, Afghanistan
- C3C Cameryn McKinnell, USAFA

Missions

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

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, Email: children@fpcl.org

- Cell: (720) 443-8918

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

Jason Jones, Director of Youth, (303) 798.1389 ext.110

- Email: youth@fpcl.org

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

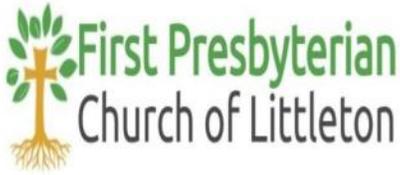
- C.A.Kern@icloud.com

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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Church of Littleton

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Return Service Requested



OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday : The church office is closed for normal business hours. Someone will be in the office on Monday mornings from 9:30 am to noon.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- ◆ **Sunday Worship: online at fpcl.org**
- ◆ **In-Person Worship will held on the 1st Sunday of the month at 9:30 a.m. Reservations required. Go to FPCL.org.**
- ◆ **Children’s Sunday School check out Kate’s recorded message during online worship.**
- ◆ **FIRST WORD NEWSLETTER: The DEADLINE for the January 2021 Newsletter is Friday, December 18.**

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