

First Presbyterian Church of Littleton

Belong, Believe, Be Loving



November 1, 2021

First Word



Happy Thanksgiving!

We will again be delivering delicious turkey dinners to people in our community this year in partnership with Meals on Wheels. Our talented chef Daniel Kurtz will be at the helm, assisted by Stacey Ryan, and lots of YOU! This long standing tradition is only made possible by our generous donations of time and money. Please consider contributing to this much appreciated effort. Checks should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church of Littleton, with "Thanksgiving" in the memo line, and can be mailed to church or dropped off. Volunteer sheets are available in Ayers Parlor, or you can call Elinor at (303)798-1389 or Stacey at (303)345-8193.

Daniel and Stacey are both interested in sharing the joy! If you or anyone you know are interested in learning more about the magic of making this wonderful happening a reality, please reach out. Thanks!

**"And now we thank you, our God,
& praise your glorious name."
1 Chronicles 29:13**

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Please Welcome Our New Interim Facilities Manager

Matthew Dailey is honored to join the staff at FPCL. A Denver native, Matthew spent 8 years living in New York City pre-Covid as an actor. Matthew is no stranger to regular members of the church as he has sung on and off at the church with the Chancel Choir and as a soloist for over a decade. Visitors to the church may also recognize him from the Buell Theatre where he performed with the Broadway touring companies of JERSEY BOYS as bad boy guitar player Tommy DeVito as well as the Broadway tour of MISS SAIGON where he played Captain Schultz. Matthew continues to perform locally around Denver.

Matthew is thrilled to bring his carpentry skills to FPCL, and is looking forward to helping members and visitors have a more enjoyable, meaningful worship.

Contact Matthew at 303-798-1389 ext 110 or facilities@fpcl.org

Facilities Update

After two weeks of working at FPCL, I am happy to bring you some updates about what is going on around the church! Most of the work I have been doing so far has been cosmetic (replacing countless light bulbs and light fixtures that were dead/faulty or tightening handrails to keep the church nice and safe), but there are some fun projects on the horizon. Through October and November I am looking to build a more permanent structure and desk for the new Audio/Visual desk in the balcony, as well as seeking bids for new battery operated blinds/shades for Ficklin Hall so nobody has to climb up to open/close them anymore!

More exciting news, the Properties Committee will be starting back up in November and welcome new members with a passion for keeping the church in running order! If you are interested, my contact info is listed below.

There is a new box in Chandler Hall that is labeled "FACILITIES" and has an accompanying "Concerns/Comments" form to be dropped in it. Should you see anything around the church that you want to bring to my attention, this is an excellent way to do so! You can also call me at my number at the church (303-798-1389 ext. 110) or drop by my office on the 4th floor. My door is always open and I look forward to enhancing your worship through more than music!

Matthew

A Minute for Stewardship – Why Pledge?

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. - Matthew 6:21

FPCL family and friends,

Time and again we've shared with you how our congregation and friends of the church are generous contributors of their time, talent, and treasure. We are always grateful for the many gifts that all of you bring to this ministry. We also know that even with this spirit of giving there can sometimes be reluctance to committing to a pledge of financial support during the church's annual Fall pledge drive. In this month's column we want to share with you why pledges are critical to the growth and sustainment of our church and its ministry.

So why is pledging so important? A pledge of financial support makes it possible for Session to determine what resources will be available in the coming year to maintain and grow the church's staff, programs and overall ministry. A pledge is a commitment, one we make to each other as members of this congregation and before the Lord. It is also a spiritual discipline that provides us with a tangible way to grow in our faith by sharing the resources that God has blessed us with.

Why might a church member not pledge? There are many possible answers but a common one is uncertainty. Sometimes we may not be certain if we will be able to deliver on the commitment we make through a pledge. However, it's important to remember this: a pledge is simply an estimate of how much money you plan to give. It is NOT a binding contract. Circumstances in your life can change during the year and your pledge may go up or down depending on your situation. We all know from the past year and a half how even the best-laid plans, like a church budget, must be adjusted as the situation demands.

We hope that this column has been useful and might help you feel a bit more at ease if you've been uncertain about pledging to First Presbyterian. Thank you for your love and support of our church as we work to spread the grace and Good News of our savior Jesus Christ!

Your Stewardship Committee:

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



FPCL Honors Hostetters & Strandbergs By Jennet White



Today (Sunday, October 10) we are honoring Pat and Morris Hostetter and Connie and Russ Strandberg as Pillars of First Presbyterian Church of Littleton. As we go through their lists of contributions and service to the church and community, please keep in mind their loving spirit that shines through. Their selfless giving to others is such an example for all us.

A fun story is that in November of 1975 – 46 years ago – Connie and her husband Russ and Pat and her husband Morris, were in the same new members class at First Pres and joined the church at the same time. Their husbands have passed but also spent their time serving First Pres. Russ and Connie were among the first couples to serve as Deacons together. Connie served as Moderator and Russ, an engineer, had the ushers organized and running like a well-oiled machine. Morris, Pat's husband, served as Church Treasurer for many years.

Each of us has special gifts to share and this is so well illustrated with these two women.

Connie has the gift of giving – her time, her energy and her heart. Who can you call on for help? Connie. What better place to serve with this spirit than being a Deacon and helping other care teams.

With Connie's background in nursing and serving as a school nurse, she was there for people in need. Giving a ride, bringing food, sitting with someone after surgery – Connie was there with her thoughtful, calm nature. When she heard the message about serving the church, it wasn't about serving "in" the church but serving the people of the church. She loved serving one-on-one with others. What about other needs of the Church? Call Connie. She sang in the choir, would gracefully say yes and help with ushering, or provide help with an event. One of her favorites – Sunday morning at the Hospitality table greeting each person with a big smile and often providing special home baked goodies and welcoming conversation.

Pat's gifts included the love and care of children and creativity.

1. In 2003 Pat served on Denver Presbytery and learned about Whiz Kids – Tutoring for local children. Pat started this program at First Pres. and led it for many years and then trained those who took over.
2. Pat was involved with a summer kids program that involved healthy eating, funded by the Rotary.
3. She served as volunteer interim CE director and wrote an entire Sunday School curriculum and used it for a year while the church was in-between paid CE's.

4. Pat was always there to lead or assist in Children's Programs at First Pres. – Sunday School, Bible School and wherever needed.

5. She received a Certificate in Spiritual Direction (from Bennet Hill) and got Certificate in Clowning (!)

Pat also has a talent for creativity

6. Someone from church introduced Pat to the Arapahoe County Fair weaving demonstrations and she did that for many years. She loved to get kids weaving at those

7. Western Welcome Week - Pat would usually set up her loom and dress in costume - did weaving demos while folks looked at the quilts. She also did this at Littleton Historical Museum for several years in their Sheep to Shawl Festival.

8. The banners that hang in the church today - Pat wove the fabric and organized them. It was definitely a church project with several church members participating with their talents and Pat as the leader.

Connie and Pat were asked a couple of final questions:

Connie was asked how she and Russ happened to join First Pres. Connie said they had looked at others – Lutheran, Methodist and then went to Montview Presbyterian because of their young couples class. They liked the Presbyterian type of government and the traditional service of First Pres. She has stayed through the years because of the style of service and music and the friendships of the members of First Pres. What did serving mean to you and what did you like best? Serving others in the church and seeing service carry into the community. Loved serving others and being a Deacon helped promote that.

Pat was asked how she and Morris happened to join First Pres. Pat said, "We moved to Littleton in 1975 and visited a couple churches before joining First Pres. The church seemed to connect well with my two teenagers and we were quickly drawn in by friendly people and the music program. My husband sang in the choir for almost 40 years. We both enjoyed being active and serving in many roles. The friendships we made along the way were especially wonderful as well."

What did serving mean to you and what did you most enjoy? "To me, serving means saying yes when you are asked to serve. Through service, I found I especially enjoyed working with kids and I am grateful to Rev Dusty Taylor and Rev Jonathan Hole for encouraging me to pursue a career in Christian Education. I also was able to express my passion for loom weaving by weaving cloth for the church banners and weaving stoles for several pastors."

As you can see, each of these women had different gifts to share and what a blessing they have been to our church. We are proud to honor you, Pat and Connie, as Pillars of First Presbyterian Church of Littleton! Please join me in thanking them.



Operation Christmas Child !

A few reminders for Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child:

Thank you to everyone who has already turned in their packed shoe boxes! We have distributed about 60 empty shoe boxes so far, so we are hopeful of exceeding our goal of collecting 50 boxes!

- **Our deadline for turning in shoe boxes is approaching. Please turn them into one of the Mission Committee members by Sunday, November 14th. We will be available before and after services every Sunday to help you label your boxes.**
- Labels for processing and transporting shoe boxes are available for \$9.00 per box (payable to FPCL with SP OCC noted on the memo line of your check) from one of the Mission Committee members or you may pay online. If you purchase a label through FPCL, they are already activated for tracking and you do not need to activate them or pay anything more.
- Please remember to pray for your child and include a note in their shoe box. A photo is also welcomed and encouraged.

Please reach out to a Mission Committee member if you have questions or need help. Your gifts of love and message of the gospel will surely bless the life of a child!

"Let the little children come to me....for of such is the kingdom of God"
Luke 18:16

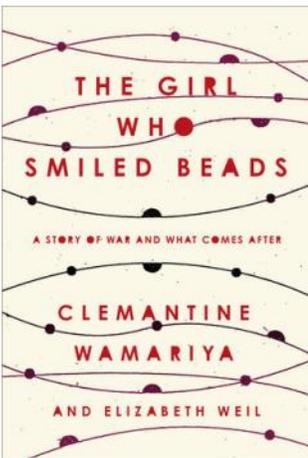


FELISHA (PICTURED AT AGE 17, NOW 25)
AND HER ENTIRE FAMILY ACCEPTED JESUS
CHRIST AND WORKED TO PLANT A CHURCH
IN THEIR TOWN.



MINUTE FOR MISSION

This month, the mission committee donated money to Valverde Presbyterian Church, Zimbabwe Kids and Pastor Carol. Please, keep your eyes open for backpacks that are deeply discounted that you might be willing to donate to our backpack project. Also, please start bringing in your Operation Christmas Child boxes so we won't be overwhelmed on Nov. 14. Thank you for your support.



FPCL Afternoon Book Club

You are invited to join the afternoon book club that meets at **1:00pm** on the 2nd **Thursday** of each month at church. We are a small group that reads a variety of books for fun and to learn. We enjoy talking about the books which leads to discussions about all kinds of things. Differing opinions on the books are expected! Our love of reading brings us together and the connections we have formed keep us looking forward to our meeting each month. Come join us!

Here's what we are reading and discussing on November 11: "The Girl Who Smiled Beads: A Story of War and What Comes After" by Clemantine Wamariya (Memoir/ Non-fiction). Contact Janice Fagan at JLFagan69@gmail.com if you have any questions.

A Prayer for Gratitude

Dear God,

Thank you for your amazing power and work in our lives, thank you for your goodness and for your blessings over us. Thank you that you are able to bring hope through even the toughest of times, strengthening us for your purposes. Thank you for your great love and care. Thank you for your mercy and grace. Thank you that you are always with us and will never leave us. Thank you for your incredible sacrifice so that we might have freedom and life. Forgive us for when we don't thank you enough, for who you are, for all that you do, for all that you've given. Help us to set our eyes and our hearts on you afresh. Renew our spirits, fill us with your peace and joy. We love you and we need you, this day and every day. We give you praise and thanks, for You alone are worthy! Amen

Prayer from biblestudytools.com





CELEBRATION: CHILDREN'S BACKYARD CARNIVAL

Saturday, October 9, 2021, the Children's Ministry celebrated a faith-inspired Backyard Children's Carnival. Twenty-three (23) *truly amazing* volunteers donated their time, energy and gifts to make the Backyard Children's Carnival a day of fun and learning for families! The carnival consisted of four (4) Bible Parable Game Stations with a focus on teaching the *Parables of the Sower, Dragnet, Unwise Builder, Pearl* through the use of games; one (1) *Parable of the Mustard Seed* craft station also used to teach; (7) seven traditional backyard carnival games (*Can Knockdown, Fish Cups, Batter Up, Ring Toss, Bucket Toss, Penny Drop, Cornhole*); Sign-up, Snack and Prize Stations! Through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, we incorporated Biblical teachings into this event and our hope is that seeds of faith have been planted. We welcomed families from FPCL, VBS, Whiz Kids and the community. It was a true delight to see God at work as we all enjoyed a day of laughter, fun, Biblical learning and building fellowship and connections inside/outside the church walls. It was a joy to see the children's faces light up and to watch the generations (from ages 4 to 80's) join together in a day of fellowship!

Thank you so much to all the servant-hearted volunteers who invested their heart, time, energy and gifts to bless the children! This couldn't have been done without you and I truly appreciate all your contributions: (*Bill Frear, Blakeley Winslow, Don Meersman, Karen Meersman, Laly Rodriguez; Scott Chandler, Sue Chandler, Julie Johnston, Janie Cantine, Dee Getzinger, Ella Franklin, Christi Kamath, Loretta Davis, Steve Davis, Buzz Hayes, Roberta Wheeler, Maria Franklin, Janice Fagan, Tracy Eidson, Brian Magee, Ben Topper, Oliva Topper and Kate Ballard*). And thank you to the individuals who donated the caramel apple supplies!

Melissa Moore-Winslow
Director of Children's Ministry





KING SOOPERS REWARDS 3rd QUARTER 2021 UPDATE

The church received our 3rd quarter payout for 2021 for the King Soopers reward card program. **We received \$835 from 70 rewards members cards used.** This amount was similar to the amount that we received in the second quarter and puts us at around **\$2,550 for the year to date.** Thank you for supporting the King Soopers rewards program for FPCL for your grocery/pharmacy purchases.

If you haven't signed up for the FPCL King Soopers rewards program yet, please consider doing it. We are happy to help people sign up anytime. Remember, every time you use your King Soopers rewards card you are helping to raise monies for our church.

<https://www.kingsoopers.com/i/community/community-rewards>

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

Financial Update

	September 2021		Year to Date 2021	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Income	\$22,729.65	\$38,910.00	\$ 309,332.81	\$ 316,365.00
Expenses	\$32,606.73	\$36,159.41	\$ 313,820.64	\$ 325,069.80
Operating Surplus	(\$9,877.08)	\$2,750.59	\$ (4,487.83)	\$ (8,704.80)
Business Interruption Credit	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ 71,511.73	\$ 9,728.00
Net Surplus	(\$9,877.08)	\$2,750.59	\$ 67,023.90	\$ 1,023.20

The finance team is working hard to create a balanced budget for 2022. Please complete your pledge card and return it to the church as soon as possible. Knowing how much income we can expect helps us to know how much we need to eliminate from our expenses. Knowing what missions we can support and how we can grow will help us determine the direction of the church. Thanks you for your continued support.

Prayer List

Jon Heggie Gloria Pool Jim Biner Joyce Lei Joyce Fuller
Rollie Fuller Kent Griffith Jean Wilbur Joy Carreño Lonna Williams
William Hulst Joanie Coffey Joan Cook Elizabeth Dean

The Cline family upon the death of Bill Cline

The Kinney family upon the death of Jeanne

In Service to Our Country

Major Ricky Casburn; Capt. Connor Venrick, Hawaii; Brett Wilson; Sgt. Benjamin Lund, Jordan; Bobby Johannsen; Connor McDaniel, Army; LCDR. Per Rychecky, USS Harry S. Truman; Donnie Donahue, Marines; Nathaniel Syron; Cpl. Isaiah Boehm, Ft. Carson CO; Jeremy Colwell; C2C Cameryn McKinnell, USAFA; MAJ Wm McKinnell USAF Pentagon

Missions

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

Elders

Christi Kamath, Clerk of Session Sue Chandler Bob Chapman Bill Frear
Julie Johnston Lynda Kizer Mary Lareau Michaela Wilson
Charles Kellogg, Treasurer Rick Wilson, Presbytery Commissioner
Kathy McDaniel, Presbytery Commissioner

Deacons

Kathy McDaniel Margaret Ansted Cheri Blanchard Joy Carreno John Wilson

Stewards

Julie Johnston Marilyn Osterhoff Barb Smart Blakeley Winslow

Staff Directory

Pastor Cody Sandahl: (303) 798-1389 ext. 104, Emergency Number: (720)258-6185, cody@fpcl.org

Pastor Carol Parsons, Minister of Pastoral Care: (303) 798-1389 ext. 106
Cell: (303) 919-7624, pastorcarol@fpcl.org,

Melissa Moore-Winslow, Director of Children's Ministry, Cell: (703) **258-9563**
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

Matthew Dailey, Facilities Manager , (303)588-9353 ext 110 Email:facilities@fpcl.org

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



**First Presbyterian
Church of Littleton**

1609 W Littleton Blvd, Littleton, CO 80120
www.littletonpresbyterian.org » fpcl@fpcl.org
303-798-1389 » 303-798-9920 fax

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*Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

OFFICE HOURS

**Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday 9am to 2pm,
Wednesday 1 to 4pm,
Closed Friday and Saturday**

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- ♦ Sunday School for all ages 9:00 am
- ♦ Sunday Worship at 10:00 am
- ♦ **FIRST WORD NEWSLETTER: The DEADLINE for the December Newsletter is Friday, November 19.**