



The First Word

First Presbyterian Church of Littleton

October 1, 2022

Join us Every
Sunday!
10:00 am
Worship

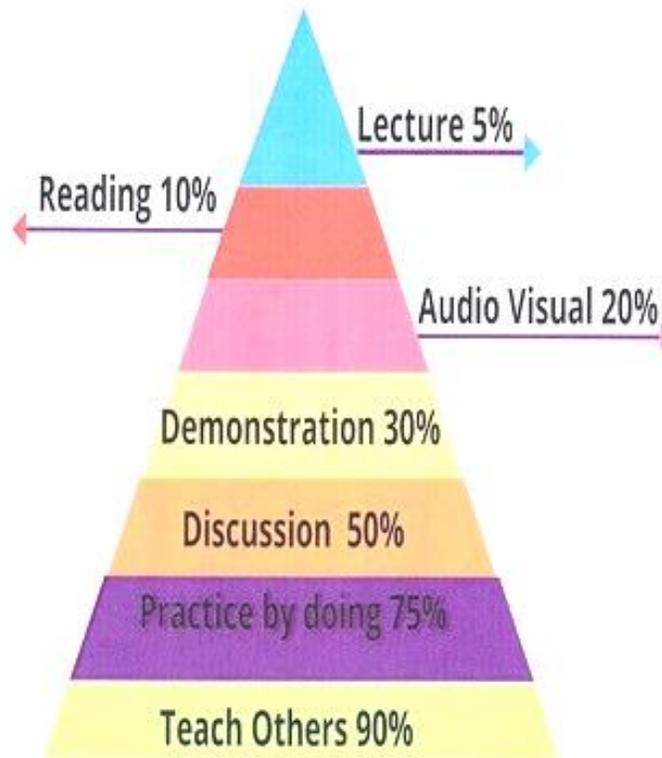
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From Pastor Bill...

Interesting facts on how we retain what we learn.



How about volunteering to lead a Bible Study tutor a child, serving a meal... there are so many ways that each of us can help others and ourselves grow in our relationships with God and each other.



It's A Party!
**Come and join in the fun of identifying
 what our church needs in a new
 Pastor! We have three questions for
 roundtable discussion. Let Your Voice Be Heard!**
Sunday October 16th
Following worship—Pizza and Salad provided



Missionary John Altamus



Family Carnival

Join us as we
celebrate our
ministry in a



Season of
Generosity



Community Dinner



Wells in Zimbabwe

Stewardship Sunday coming November 20th!

Thank you to FPCL and Pastor Cody



Last month a team of 9 women from Colorado visited Love With Actions in Bumbogo, Rwanda and were present for the dedication of the new Good Shepherd Academy, which will serve children with disabilities along with other children from the community. The four classrooms have been fully furnished with colorful tables and chairs, desks for the teachers and cabinets for storing materials. Special seating has been built for some of the children with special needs and the latrines and handwashing stations are all accessible.



These beautiful furnishings were all made possible because of the generous gift from FPCL in honor of Pastor Cody Sandahl and his years of service at First Pres. So many students will be blessed by this gift, starting Monday September 19, 2022 when the school will welcome its first students.

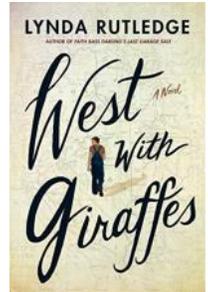




Afternoon Book Club Information

We meet at 1:00pm in Ayers’ Parlor on the 2nd Thursday of each month.

We would love to have any adult join our group. We read a variety of books and come together for relaxed discussions and fellowship. We don’t always agree on our opinion of the book, but we agree that we love getting together! No literary expertise needed.

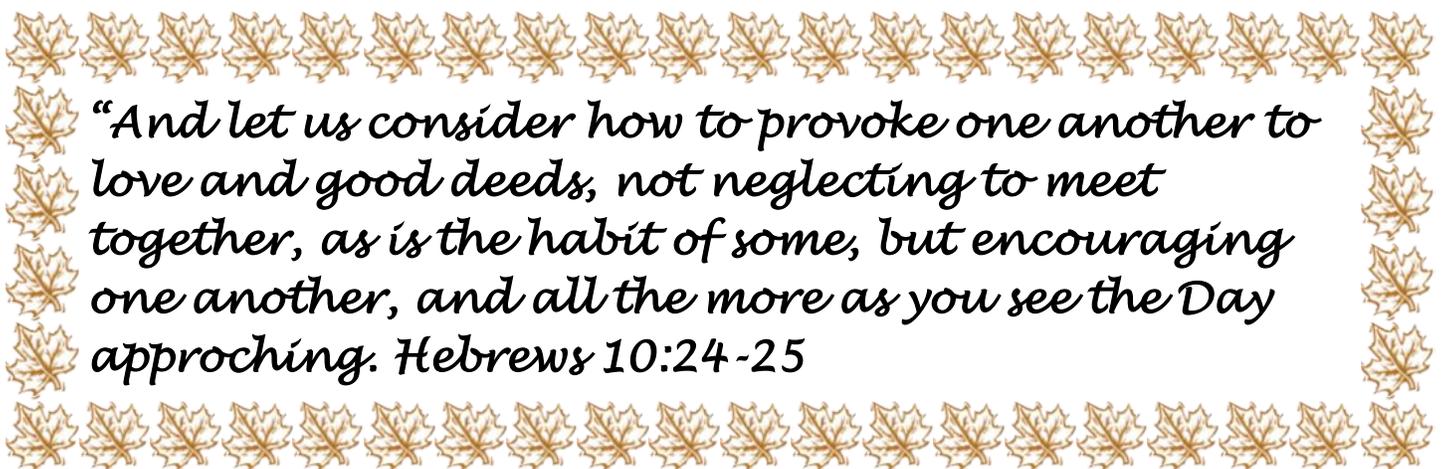


October 13 - “West with Giraffes” by Lynda Rutledge

Focus on Finance

	August 2022		Year to Date 2022	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Income	\$43,984.07	\$32,781.25	\$310,033.50	\$ 293,880.00
Expenses	\$37,351.71	\$39,113.74	\$268,696.36	\$ 285,767.79
Operating Surplus	\$6,632.36	(\$6,332.49)	\$ 41,337.14	\$ 8,112.21
Business Interruption Credit	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ 8,613.70	\$ -
Net Surplus	\$6,632.36	(\$6,332.49)	\$ 49,950.84	\$ 8,112.21

The pledged support for the year is coming in nicely. We have received 72% of the pledged support. The King Soopers program is still paying dividends. In August we received \$852.57. If you haven’t selected First Presbyterian Church of Littleton as your charitable organization, please ask a stewardship committee member how to make that happen.



“And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:24-25

The Deacon's Chronicles

The Deacon's hosted a "Welcome Home Pot Luck" on September 11 at 11:11 a.m. in Ficklin Hall (after church). A big thank you to Julie Johnston, Heidi Lemieux, Karla and Danny Ferguson for setting up, decorating and greeting everyone.

A huge thank you to Ashley Renz for taking pictures for the new church directory. If you did not get your picture taken by Ashley, there are a number of options for getting your picture in the directory:

Have a new picture taken on October 2 after church in Ayers Parlor by a Deacon. Send a picture of yourself to Elinor in the church office (email photo or mail a photo). The Deacons and Stewards will be contacting all members that are missing directory pictures.



Eblast Information

On Thursday or Friday of every week, we send a weekly email that includes information about the Sunday services and upcoming events. We use an application called MailChimp so it may look a little different than you expect.

If you would like to (re-)subscribe to our eblast follow these directions:

- Go to our website: littletonpresbyterian.org
- Click on the ABOUT tab (4th tab on the black bar at the top)
- Scroll down to Subscribe/Resubscribe to the FPCL Weekly Eblast
- Fill in your email address
- Click subscribe
-

Please remember, if you decided you want to unsubscribe from our list you can do so at the bottom of the email. If you change your mind, follow the instructions above.

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, October 9, 2022 * Following the service in the Sanctuary. The purpose of the Congregational Meeting is to elect members of the Nominating Committee.



SAVE THE DATE
PAINT BOX GUILD MINIATURE SHOW & SALE
Sunday, November 6 8am to 12:30
Welcome Center

Original Artwork, crafts, cards and lots of items created by our artists. Great for Thanksgiving & Christmas gifts.



Minute For Mission

FPCL Mission Committee will launch our **2022 Operation Christmas Child (OCC)** mission project on **Sunday, October 2nd**. This ministry is a project of Samaritan's Purse and distributes shoe box gifts to local churches in more than 100 countries, reaching children who have never had a present – bringing joy and hope into the life of a child as they hear of Jesus' love for them. These gifts of love have transformed the lives of children, families, and communities in far reaches of the world. Shoeboxes, gift ideas for each age group, and supporting materials will be available after Sunday services for everyone wanting to pack a shoebox for a child again this year. We encourage you to include your children and/or grandchildren with this fun project.

We delivered 75 boxes to Samaritan's Purse in 2021 and we hope your generosity will help us to reach that same goal this year.

Boxes need to be returned to Mission Committee members by **Sunday, November 13th**. The shipping labels will cost \$10 this year and checks can be made to FPCL with OCC in the memo line, or you are welcome to donate on the fpcl.org web site under the Giving tab.

Thank you in advance for your generosity and caring.

"go into all the world and proclaim the Gospel"

[Mark 16:15, ESV]



FPCL Mission Committee: Cheryl Baughman, Sue Chandler, Karen Ervin, and Loretta Davis

**FREE COMMUNITY DINNER
LAST TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH
6:00 – 7:00 PM**

October 25, 2022

Doors Do Not Open Until 6:00

**Where – First Presbyterian Church
1609 W Littleton Blvd.**

Beef & Bean Chili, (toppings of cheese, onions, jalapenos) Corn Chips,
Green Salad with Cilantro honey lime dressing, Seasonal fruit and
handheld desserts



Questions- (303) 798-1389

<http://littletonpresbyterian.org/dinner>

All Are Welcome!

I Stand at the Door

By Sam Shoemaker (from the Oxford Group)

I stand by the door.

I neither go to far in, nor stay to far out.

The door is the most important door in the world -

It is the door through which men walk when they find God. There is no use my going way inside and staying there, When so many are still outside and they, as much as I, Crave to know where the door is.

And all that so many ever find Is only the wall where the door ought to be. They creep along the wall like blind men, With outstretched, groping hands, Feeling for a door, knowing there must be a door, Yet they never find it. So I stand by the door.

The most tremendous thing in the world

Is for men to find that door - the door to God.

The most important thing that any man can do

Is to take hold of one of those blind, groping hands

And put it on the latch - the latch that only clicks

And opens to the man's own touch.

Men die outside the door, as starving beggars die

On cold nights in cruel cities in the dead of winter.

Die for want of what is within their grasp.

They live on the other side of it - live because they have not found it.

Nothing else matters compared to helping them find it, And open it, and walk in, and find Him.

So I stand by the door.

Go in great saints; go all the way in -

Go way down into the cavernous cellars,

And way up into the spacious attics. It is a vast, roomy house, this house where God is.

Go into the deepest of hidden casements,

Of withdrawal, of silence, of sainthood. Some must

inhabit those inner rooms and know the depths and

heights of God, and call outside to the rest of us how wonderful it is. Sometimes I take a deeper look in.

Sometimes venture in a little farther,

But my place seems closer to the opening.

So I stand by the door.

There is another reason why I stand there.

Some people get part way in and become afraid

Lest God and the zeal of His house devour them;

For God is so very great and asks all of us.

And these people feel a cosmic claustrophobia

And want to get out. 'Let me out!' they cry.

And the people way inside only terrify them more.

Somebody must be by the door to tell them that they

are spoiled.

For the old life, they have seen too much:

One taste of God and nothing but God will do any more. Somebody must be watching for the frightened who seek to sneak out just where they came in, To tell them how much better it is inside.

The people too far in do not see how near these are to leaving - preoccupied with the wonder of it all. Somebody must watch for those who have entered the door

But would like to run away. So for them too, I stand by the door.

I admire the people who go way in. But I wish they would not forget how it was before they got in. Then they would be able to help

The people who have not yet even found the door. Or the people who want to run away again from God. You can go in too deeply and stay in too long And forget the people outside the door.

As for me, I shall take my old accustomed place, Near enough to God to hear Him and know He is there, but not so far from men as not to hear them, and remember they are there too.

Where? Outside the door -

Thousands of them. Millions of them.

But - more important for me -

One of them, two of them, ten of them.

Whose hands I am intended to put on the latch.

So I shall stand by the door and wait

For those who seek it.

'I had rather be a door-keeper

So I stand by the door.

Dollars and Sense – A Word from Finance

INFLATION! After several quiet years, it is suddenly everywhere – the food we buy, our energy, and our housing, and unfortunately, now at First Pres.

The “Big Three” of FPCL’s outside expenses are Utilities, Insurance, and Janitorial. Over the last twelve months, FPCL’s rate for natural gas has moved from \$3.53 to \$4.12 – an increase of 17%. The rate for electricity has moved from \$16.12 to \$18.42, an increase of 14%. The rate from Denver Water has increased from \$5.81 to \$8.48, an increase of 43%! We recently received notice that our insurance policy would increase by 12% starting September 1, the result of property inflation, rising construction costs, and our share of Colorado’s increasing wildfire costs. (John Ansted reviewed our policy for potential savings, and has recommended that FPCL not assume additional risk to achieve them.) The 2023 Janitorial outlook is currently unknown – any bets??? We are seeing similar cost inflation in building security and snow removal, as well as in supplies for janitorial, maintenance, and kitchen.

Our largest internal cost is our employees. For four years our staff had received no cost-of-living increases, which Session corrected for 2022 with a four-year catchup increase. We would like to continue a cost-of-living increase in 2023.

It has been said that donations are motivated by an organization’s Mission and dreams, not by its budget. For 2023, we clearly need to make an exception and consider both as we pledge.

FPCL has had many 2022 Mission successes spreading God’s Word and making our community better, such as backpacks, our worldwide missions, Community Dinners, Game Night, Western Welcome Week, the church picnic, and Whiz Kids, as well as supporting our membership with Christian education, strong sermons, and beautiful music. You’ll be hearing much more about these successes and many others as the 2023 pledge campaign unfolds.

As indicated in the regular First Word monthly financial reports, support has been generous and above-budget for 2022. But 2023 is a different year. We will no longer have the Covid-related government assistance payments carried over from 2021 to cover most of the 2022 Facility Manager cost. And – with inflation, the same expense dollars will buy much less in 2023. If you are able, we pray that you consider a strong increase in your 2023 pledge, so that we may at least support FPCL’s Mission at its current level – and perhaps even chase a dream or two. And thanks for your generous support for 2022!

Your Finance Committee -- Bob Chapman (moderator), John Ansted (co-moderator), Scott Chandler (FPCL treasurer), Loretta Davis, Dick Graves, Charles Kellogg, Susan Strauss, Joan Lund (financial secretary), and Dave LeMay (ex-officio).



Prayer List

Maggie Ashworth and family upon the death of Pete., The family of Rose Galli, upon her death, Serena Amaral and family upon the death of her grandson, Donald, The family of James Smith upon his death, Bettey Neely, David Campos, Aimee Blanchard, Jan Kohler, Donna Farris, Jon Heggie, Joyce Fuller, Rollie Fuller, Kent Griffith, Joy Carreño, Judy Macdonald, Lonna Williams, Joan Cook, Eileen Witt, Pat & Jaime Yrastorza

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, Germany; Donnie Donahue, Marines; Nathaniel Syron; Cpl. Isaiah Boehm, Ft. Carson CO; Jeremy Colwell; C1C Cameryn McKinnell, USAFA; MAJ Wm McKinnell, USAF War College; Ulises Serrano, Boot Camp

Elders

Sue Chandler	Bill Frear	Mike Hole, Clerk of Session	Lynda Kizer
Mary Lareau	David LeMay	Trey McDowell,	Michaela Rodefild
Rick Wilson, Presbytery Commissioner		Kathy McDaniel, Presbytery Commissioner	

Deacons

Kathy McDaniel, Becky Gibson, Cheryl Baughman, Joy Carreno, Julie Johnston

Stewards

Barb Biner, Cheri Blanchard, Danny Ferguson, Karla Ferguson, Marilyn Osterhoff, Connie Strandberg

Staff Directory

Interim Pastor, Bill Johnson, (303) 798-1389 ext. 1002, Text or call 719-778-2375 (texts are best) Email: pastorbill@fpcl.org

Blakeley Winslow, Temporary Pastoral Care: 303-798-1389, Ext. 1003

Mary Dailey, Director of Worship Arts, Cell: (303) 668-0727, Email: mkdaileyco@gmail.com

Karen Meersman, Director of Handbells & Children/Youth Music, Email: meers@ecentral.com

Matthew Dailey, Facilities Manager, (303)798-1389 ext. 1007 Email: facilities@fpcl.org

Elinor Packard, Office Administrator (303) 798-1389 push 1, Email: fpcl@fpcl.org

Main Office: 303-798-1389, then push 1

Joan Lund, Financial Secretary (303) 798-1389 ext.1004, Email: finance@fpcl.org

Mary Lareau, Wedding Coordinator: (303) 798-1389, Ext. 1005, Home: 303-799-3467

First Presbyterian Church of Littleton

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303-798-1389 » 303-798-9920 fa»

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Return Service Requested

Belong, Believe, Beloved

*Your arm is endowed with power, your hand is strong, your right hand exalted.
Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; love and
faithfulness go before you. Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you,
who walk in the light of your presence, Lord. Psalm 89:13-15*

OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Thursday 9am to 2pm, Friday 9am to Noon, Closed Saturday

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- 10:00 am Sunday Worship
- ♦ **FIRST WORD NEWSLETTER: The DEADLINE for the November newsletter is October 20!**

Interested in Joining FPCL?

If you are considering joining First Presbyterian Church or would just like to know more about it, contact Elinor Packard at 303-798-1389 ext. 1