

January 1, 2023



The First Word

First Presbyterian Church of Littleton

Join us Every
Sunday!
10:00 am
Worship

Inside this Issue...

From Pastor Bill	2
Minute From Stewardship	4
Nominating Committee Update	6
Deacon's Plea	6
Focus On Finance Minute for Mission	7
Family Sunday School Book Club News	8
Deacons' Chronicles	9
Confirmation Info	
Dollars & Sense	10
Prayer List	11
Newsletter News	
Volunteers Needed	12

Happy New Year!



“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Jeremiah 29:11

From Pastor Bill...

Hey FPCL Family,

Are you concerned about the future of our Church? Have you found yourself wondering if there is something you could do? Well, have we got news for you! The Staff, Elders, Deacons, and other leaders have been studying and preparing for a retreat here at First Presbyterian Church to explore and set up a roadmap to address our future. This will all be done at our church, January 6, 7, and 8. The complete schedule is posted on the office window in Chandler Hall. We need your input and participation! If you can't come for the whole thing... at least come for part. The great missionary to India, William Carey, said, "The future is as bright as the promises of God." Come explore our future, together.

Pastor Bill Johnson

First Presbyterian Church of Littleton Leadership Retreat

7 Practices of Effective Ministry
January 6, 7, & 8 at the church.

The Goal: To teach and engage the Leadership of FPCL in learning and applying the 7 Practices as shared in *The 7 Practices of Effective Ministry*, by Andy Stanley, Reggie Joiner and Lane Jones

Declare and Clarify the Mission Statement and the danger of silos (1hr)

We Believe the Good News that all of Littleton is called Beloved by Jesus Christ and together we Belong to God's Kingdom.

Believe – to have an alive, growing faith in Jesus Christ.

BeLoved – to serve others as Jesus did.

Belong – to have deep relationships that are rooted in Jesus Christ, our community, and God's Kingdom.

Understand and Apply “Clarify the Win” (2hr) Each Ministry working in table groups shall:

- A. Sum up the “Win” in a simple phrase (each Ministry)
- B. Be as Specific and Measurable as possible
- C. Plan how to restate “Win” creatively and frequently over the next 2 years
- D. Each team develops a plan for teaching “Win” to every volunteer in their Ministry

Steps not Programs: What are the steps needed to move people from where they are to “win”? (2hr) Each Ministry working in table groups shall develop and clarify the steps that ministry will take to “win”.

- A. Steps have to be EASY!
- B. Steps have to be OBVIOUS!
- C. Steps have to be STRATEGIC!

See page 97

Narrow the Focus (2hr) Each Ministry working in table groups shall respond to each of the following questions:

- A. What current ministries and programs actually move us towards our stated mission
- B. What current and former ministries and programs do not lead us towards our stated mission?

C. What needs to be done?

- a. Keep
- b. Refocus
- c. Simplify
- d. Eliminate

Teach More for Less: In Light of our Mission Statement (2hr) Each Ministry working in table groups shall answer the questions below as related to their ministry:

- A. How can we best communicate who FPCL is?
 - a. Using Scripture
 - b. Using First Word
 - c. Using Worship Services
- B. What is the one thing we are trying to say? (What do we not need to say?)
- C. How can we say it over and over again?
- D. How is what we are trying to say Helpful

Listening to Outsiders (2hr) Each Ministry working in table groups shall answer the following questions in relation to their ministries:

- A. Who are the voices in our ears
- B. Who are the voices we need to hear?
- C. How can we intentionally hear those voices?
- D. What might those voices be saying?

Replace Yourself (1hr) Each Ministry working in table groups shall answer the following questions in relation to their ministries:

- A. What is a discipleship/apprenticeship atmosphere?
- B. How do we create this atmosphere?
 - a. Is it EASY?
 - b. Is it OBVIOUS?
 - c. Is it STRATEGIC?
- C. How can we better applaud/celebrate our leaders?
- D. Who can you apprentice?

Work On It (1hr) Each Ministry working in table groups shall answer the following questions in relation to their ministries:

- A. How can we regularly evaluate?
- B. How often?
- C. How are we accountable?
- D. Who is accountable to Whom?

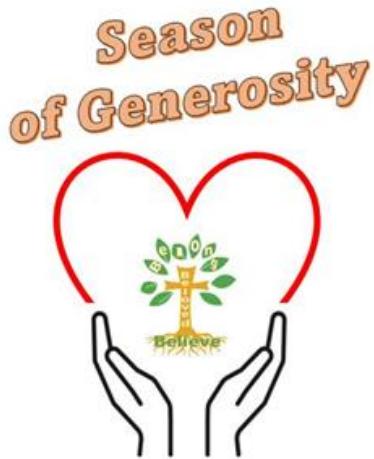
A Word About Mission Drift (Pastor Bill) (15 minutes)

What happens over time?

Do we do this same retreat every year?

A Minute for Stewardship—Thanks

“For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving...” – 1 Timothy 4:4 (ESV)



FPCL family and friends,

We were blessed in 2022 by the generosity of this congregation in so many ways! On November 20th we celebrated this good fortune and affirmed our pledge of time, talent, and treasure to the ministry of FPCL in 2023. This month we'd like to remind you of just a few ways this church put its spiritual gifts into action and extend a huge “Thank You” to all.

First off, this year demonstrated the strength of our talented staff and Personnel Committee. With the unexpected departure of Cody Sandahl, both the staff and committee stepped up to provide quality worship and ministry support. We were blessed with the arrival of Interim Pastor, Bill Johnson, who has brought great leadership and perspective during this time of transition.

With strong support from staff and volunteer leaders, these are just a few highlights from 2022:

- We celebrated with Carol Parsons as she retired from active ministry; pastoral care support transitioned to our team of Deacons and Stewards led by Blakeley Winslow.
- 33 children attended the FPCL Vacation Bible School (VBS) which was supported by over 30 adult and youth volunteers.
- School children in Rwanda received colorful new furnishings for the new school year thanks to generous gifts from this congregation.
- The monthly Community Dinner restarted providing a meal and fellowship to those in need.
- Over 200 Thanksgiving meals were delivered to our community due to the leadership of Stacey Ryan and a team of dedicated volunteers.

- Women and Men Bible study groups continued to meet thanks to several volunteer leaders.
- Whiz Kidz continued this school year and many families received Christmas gifts from FPCL members
- The Peacemaker Quilters continued to make and donate quilts for the newly baptized and people going through difficult times.

Through your gifts of time, talent, and treasure we will continue to grow in 2023 with ministry and action in support of our mission to Believe, Belong, and Be Loved. We are grateful for your affirmations of financial support that have helped us fill out our tree (see below). If you haven't yet affirmed a financial gift for 2023, we hope that you will prayerfully consider this important spiritual practice.



Thanks again to everyone that helped make 2022 a success! We look forward to seeing and working with all of you this year – see you in church!

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

Its Annual Report Time!

Attention all committee chairs and leaders!

Please send in your annual report by January 15. Tell us about your 2022 accomplishments and projects- but please make it as short as possible. Include any photos if you have them! If possible send reposrs as a WORD document

An Update from the Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee thanks everyone we have reached out to over the past several months as we have recruited for new Elders, Deacons, and members of the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). Regardless of your answer, we appreciate that you have taken the time to prayerfully discern how you can support the ministry and mission of First Presbyterian.

If you are so called, we still have two open spots in the next class of Deacons and would be delighted to speak with you about serving in this important role in our church.

In several weeks the Nominating Committee will start preparing a slate of candidates to be elected as the PNC at a congregational meeting scheduled for January 22, 2023. It is our goal to present to you a group that is balanced in its makeup and reflects our members and church. If serving on the PNC is something you are curious about, we invite you to complete the PNC Questionnaire available on the church website at: <http://littletonpresbyterian.org/pncq/> The December 31 “due date” on the website is flexible and we will be happy to receive completed questionnaires a few days into the new year. As always, please don’t hesitate to reach out to any member of the Nominating Committee if you have any questions.

In Christ’s Service,

Your Nominating Committee:

Trey McDowell, Moderator, Maggie Ashworth, Janie Cantine, Dee Getzinger, Jim Kizer & Dave LeMay

A PLEA FROM THE DEACONS

The Deacon's play many different roles in the church. They plan and execute the annual church picnic in June with the help of Scout Troop #444, decorate the church "Hanging of the Greens" in late November, provide coffee and refreshments after church services, provide meals where needed to those who are temporarily unable to provide their own meals, serve communion to the homebound and most importantly check in with members in their assigned neighborhoods once a month.

The Deacons also sell lilies and poinsettias to decorate the church support the needs of members.

We added one new Deacon so far this year bringing the number of Deacons to five. It is becoming difficult for just five Deacons to maintain the level of support and assistance needed. We would like to have at least two more members step up and serve as Deacons. Also, two more stewards are needed to help with the Neighbors Helping Neighbors program. We meet once a month, after church service on the second Monday of the month.

We really need your help! Please consider serving as a Deacon. If you have questions and would like to become a Deacon, please call Kathy McDaniel, Deacon Moderator at 303-919-2177.

Focus on Finance

	November 2022		Year to Date 2022	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Income	\$42,276.44	\$30,881.25	\$ 414,136.93	\$ 385,398.75
Expenses	\$37,970.59	\$40,159.13	\$ 368,911.71	\$ 397,502.85
Operating Surplus	\$4,305.85	(\$9,277.88)	\$ 45,225.22	\$ (12,104.10)
Business Interruption Credit	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ 8,613.70	\$0.00
Net Surplus	\$4,305.85	(\$9,277.88)	\$ 53,838.92	\$ (12,104.10)

Hoping your 2023 is starting out well.

November was a good month financially. We had a surplus for the month rather than the budgeted deficit. The bottom line is looking good for 2022 mainly due to not having our Christian Education director position filled. We are hopeful to have the right person for that position in place in 2023. Member support not pledged has also surpassed our expectations for 2022.

You should be receiving your year end giving statement soon. Please take a moment to review that and contact me if you any questions. I would like to email giving statements to save on postage for 2023. Please email finance@fpcl.org if that works for you.

Joan Lund, Financial Secretary

Mondays - 9am to 3pm



Mission Committee News

What a year! The Mission Committee has been working hard this year to wisely donate the monies you have given the church that have been budgeted for us. We have donated locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. We also want to thank you for your gifting support of our projects...food drive, school backpacks, Whiz Kids gifting tree and Operation Christmas Child. This church might be small in numbers but we are MIGHTY!! THANK YOU,

THANK YOU! Sue Chandler, Loretta Davis, Karen Ervin and Cheryl Baughman

EXCITING FAMILY SUNDAY SCHOOL OPPORTUNITY!



Sometime in January, Pastors Bill and Blakeley will be offering a before Worship Sunday School class for the whole family and church! The class will consist of watching and a time of discussion and sharing about episodes of the TV show called The Chosen which is a retelling of the story of Jesus and some of those whose life he impacted.

Here are some of the reviews:

The Chosen is must-see, even if you're not into Christian or historical programming or particularly religious. It's an extraordinarily created piece and a labor of love in motion.

Jasmine Blu TV Fanatic

The Chosen is one of the most engaging Bible-inspired productions I've seen. Surprisingly funny and relatable, we continue watching episode after episode not because we feel obligated to support it as a dutiful Christians, but because it's compelling. Megan Basham

Jesus is so much more than just a preacher or just a solemn man of God. The Chosen does a great job of showing the more. He is shown as fully God and fully man with all of the amazing complexity, humility, and humanity that involves. He is love. All this comes through each episode. The Chosen is a masterpiece of Christian entertainment. A Pastors Review

[The Chosen Season One Official Trailer \(HD\) - YouTube](#)

The details of start time and date are still being worked out... stay alert for the details!



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 in Ayers' Parlor.

We are a small group that reads a variety of books for fun and to learn. If you like to read and would love to form some new connections, come join us even if you haven't read the book.

Here's what we're reading and discussing in the next couple months:

January 12, 2023 - The Island of Sea Women - by Lisa See (historical novel)

February 9, 2023 - Dreaming of Flight - by Catherine Ryan Hyde (novel)

You can contact Janice Fagan at JLFagan69@gmail.com if you have any questions.

The Deacons' Chronicles

The Deacons would like to thank everyone for their generous support and assistance with all of the projects listed below during the Holiday season.

- ♥ **Coat & Blanket Drive:** The winter clothing and blankets that were donated will go a long way in helping the homeless and those needing assistance. The response to this project were overwhelming and many items have also been distributed.
- ♥ **Church Cleanup:** The response to this project really improved the appearance of the church facilities. Thanks also to the properties committee for their help. It was a very needed project.
- ♥ **Hanging of the Greens:** This is always a fun project and all the help was greatly appreciated. The Greens will be taken down on January 14 at 9:00 a.m. and volunteers will be needed.
- ♥ **Poinsettia Sale:** Forty poinsettias were sold this year, with profits going to the Deacon's Fund.

Again, this all could not have been done without everyone's support. THANK YOU ALL!

A huge thank you to Marilyn Osterhoff and Barb Biner for their dedication to serving as Stewards the past several years on the Neighbors Helping Neighbors committee. We will miss them.

We continue serving Communion, mailing Sunday sermons and reaching out to members who are homebound.

Congratulations to our new Deacon, Kathy Frear, who will be ordained in January.

HAPPY NEW YEAR



**Confirmation Information Meeting
January 8, 2023 following worship.
4th floor Youth Room**

Parents, do you have a youth that is interested in participating in Confirmation Class? Join Blakeley Winslow upstairs in the youth room to learn more about it. The meeting will be quick so that you can still participate in the All Church Retreat.

Dollars and Sense – A Word from Finance

The end of a year is a good time for reflection – and for thanks to all who make First Pres financially successful. First and foremost – to our financial secretary Joan Lund, at the center of FPCL's financial operations, who handles our cash and banking, places our many transactions into proper accounts, prepares monthly reports and explains them, collects annual budget requests and estimates, and supports the finance committee. All is done professionally, cheerfully, and promptly. Thanks, Joan (and to Elinor who often assists).

Thanks to First Pres's many financial volunteers, who partner with Joan on counting cash (Bill Frear), and signing checks (Scott Chandler, Sue Chandler, Charles Kellogg, Barbara Biner, Janice Fagan, Lynda Kizer, and Stacey LeMay).

Thanks to our newly-formed investment committee (Dick Graves, Scott Chandler, and Jim Osterhoff), who have significantly increased the return on our reserve funds while maintaining safety of principal.

Thanks to our church leaders, who develop thoughtful estimates for our annual budget, and who frugally support their missions within the agreed budget limits.

Thanks to Dave LeMay and the Stewardship team, as friendly and effective partners in leading the annual pledge drive, and communicating FPCL's financial opportunities and needs to our congregants.

Thanks to our generous donors, who commit to, honor, and often exceed their annual pledges, who add support through weekly offering donations, who support our special projects, and who always have First Pres's back in unexpected financial emergencies.

Thanks to our Session, who in recent years have maintained strong financial discipline by approving balanced budgets. And thanks to Scott Chandler, who accepted the role of FPCL treasurer to oversee FPCL's financial operations, and serve as FPCL's financial representative to the outside world.

Thanks to the finance committee (co-moderator John Ansted, Scott Chandler, Dick Graves, Susan Strauss, and Charles Kellogg, with Joan Lund and Dave LeMay ex-officio), who meet monthly to diligently oversee First Pres's financial operations, invest funds, recommend the budget, develop financial policies and strategies, and support Session.

And most importantly – thanks to God for the many blessings he grants for First Pres's financial success.

Bob Chapman, Finance Committee Moderator



Prayer List

Mary Ake, David Campos, Aimee Blanchard, 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

Missions

Jory & Mallory Bayne; Metro Denver; Presbytery of Zimbabwe; South Asia Mission;
Highline Place; Love INC

Elders

Trey McDowell, Clerk of Session	Maggie Ashworth,	Jan Hole, Mary Lareau
David LeMay	Don Meersman	Michaela Rodefeld
Rick Wilson, Presbytery Commissioner		Kathy McDaniel, Presbytery Commissioner

Deacons

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

Stewards

Cheri Blanchard, Danny Ferguson, Karla Ferguson, 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@gamil.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



**Belong
Believe
Beloved**

Volunteers Needed!

- ⇒ Record Attendance Count in Database. Mondays is best but the day is flexible.
- ⇒ Refresh the Sanctuary after Sunday worship or memorial services—day is flexible.
- ⇒ Refresh Children's Worship Bags—day is flexible.
- ⇒ Answer phones & doorbell during Wednesday Staff meetings—9:45 to Noon

Important Newsletter News!

After much discussion, we have made the choice to no longer mail the First Word Newsletter using the bulk mail process. But don't worry... here are the ways to still receive the newsletter!

- Pick up a printed copy at church. Look in Chandler Hall or by the Windermere door.
- We will mail or hand deliver printed copies to those who cannot get to church or do not have internet access.
- The newsletters (and bulletins too) are posted on our website. Go to littletonpresbyterian.org, click on Newsletters and Bulletins. It's close to the top of the page. Once the page is open, you will see the link to open the newsletter and/or bulletin. Just click and read!
- We will send an email letting everyone know when new newsletter is posted.
- The First Word will still be a monthly newsletter. It's where to go when you need to know!

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 February newsletter is January 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