



First Presbyterian
Church of Littleton

1609 W Littleton Blvd, Littleton, CO 80120

www.littletonpresbyterianchurch.org

fpcl@fpcl.org » 303798-1389

**Join us for
Worship Every
Sunday at 10am**

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Believe Beloved Belong

Counting Our Blessings through...

ThanksGiving

Thanksgiving Day, November 23, 2023

We will deliver delicious fully prepared turkey dinners to people in our community again this year. This year Meals on Wheels will order all of the food necessary for creating the delicious meal, store it at their facility and share their commercial kitchen with our team. Talented chef Daniel Kurtz will be at the helm, assisted by Kathy Frear and lots of YOU!

How you can help:

- Volunteer to cook, pack meals, deliver, clean-up etc. Sign-up in Chandler Hall or call Kathy Frear 303.241.3405
- Donate money to cover the cost of the meal
 - Checks should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church of Littleton— put "Thanksgiving" in the memo line.

This long-standing 16 year tradition, beginning in 2007, is only made possible by your generous donations of time and money. Please consider contributing to this much appreciated effort. Questions? Call Elinor at (303)798-1389 ext. 1 or Kathy at 303.241.3405.

Hello from Pastor Blakeley

The Season for Outreach

Dear First Presbyterian family—Now that the fall season has officially arrived—with cooler temperatures, changing colors, and lots of festive events going on around in the community, it's the perfect time of year for ministry outreach! And that's what has been happening at FPCL over the past month. On Saturday, September 30th, Pastor Bill and I led what we hope will become a new tradition at First Presbyterian—the Blessing of the Animals! On this beautiful, early fall day, we welcomed FPCL members and visitors from the community to bring their pets by for a special blessing. We got to pray over dogs, cats, and even a giant rabbit! We hope to continue this outreach in years to come, and bring in more friends and animal-lovers from around the community to take part.



Pastor Bill, Danny Ferguson, and a furry friend!



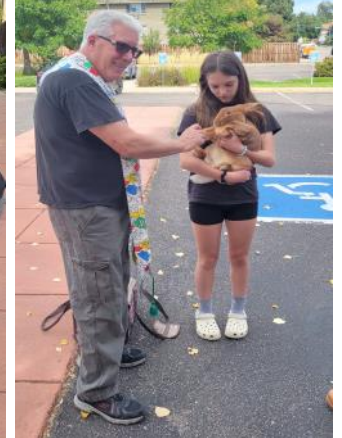
Pastor Bill, Melissa Moore-Winslow, and Milo!



Loretta and Steve Davis with their dog being blessed by Pastor Bill



Pastor Bill gets ready to bless a dog while Dee Getzinger looks on



Pastor Bill getting ready to pray over a very large rabbit!



Youth and volunteers--before entering the Haunted Mansion!

Youth and Children's ministries at FPCL have also been active in outreach during the month of October. , October 13th, some hardy teenagers and adult volunteers braved the "Haunted Mansion" in the famed Reinke Brothers costume store in downtown Littleton. After we'd all been sufficiently frightened, we then recovered across the street with some delicious ice cream from Inside Scoop! It was a festive night of fellowship! Then the very next day, on Saturday, October 14th—a group of children and parents gathered at Denver Botanic Gardens' Chatfield Farms location for a perfect autumn activity—visiting a corn maze and pumpkin patch! The kids had a wonderful time outside, and also got to enjoy a tractor-drawn "train ride" and a hayride. Best of all, as a special souvenir of their day out, they got to each pick out a pumpkin to take home.



Youth and volunteers--after surviving the Haunted Mansion!



FPCL kids enjoyed getting lost in the corn maze!

Each child had fun picking out a pumpkin to take home!



Teaching Timeless Truths

While it's fun to have outreach events, which aid in relationship building, the core of what we do at FPCL of course is to seek to make disciples by promoting the teachings of Jesus. With that in mind, we strive each month to give our children, youth, and adults opportunities for spiritual growth and instruction. With the children this fall, we're offering a Children's Sunday School class each week. This typically features a lesson from the *Jesus storybook Bible*, along with special crafts and activities that help to reinforce the main point, along with some games for fun! Following Sunday School, the children can enjoy a special mini-sermon tailored to them during the morning worship service, and we also provide activity bags to help keep them engaged during the service.

With the FPCL Youth Group, we've been meeting each month up on the 4th floor on the last Tuesday of the month for a time of fellowship and teaching. We are currently going through a series on the Fruit of the Spirit from Galatians 5:22-23, using the devotional book *Think, act, be, like Jesus*, by Randy Frazee. These fourth-floor gatherings provide us the opportunity to catch up with one another, enjoy some fellowship, share prayer requests, and have a great group discussion over Biblical topics.

With both the children's and youth ministries, we simply could not do what we do without the help of some amazing and dedicated volunteers. Children's helpers this past month have included Loretta Davis, Tracy Eidson, Dee Getzinger and Stephany Crosby. Youth volunteers from the past month have included Dee Getzinger, Edgar and Joy Carreno, Trey McDowell, Maria Franklin, and Mary Doner. And as always, I appreciate my wonderful wife Melissa—for her ideas, encouragement and prayers! Last but not least, we are continuing in our adult education at FPCL with our weekly Sunday School breakfast, followed by watching another episode from Season Three of "The Chosen." The group discussions have been great so far, and if you haven't already, I invite you to check out this groundbreaking series on the ministry of Jesus and the Disciples. It will inspire you in your faith walk, and encourage you to revisit some of the key stories and moments of the Gospels. "The Chosen" is also a great outreach opportunity—as even non-Christians who've never read the Bible before are discovering and enjoying it. If you want to check it out for the first time, or need to catch up on some previous episodes, it's all available for free here: <https://www.angel.com/watch/the-chosen>

Safety training



On Friday, September 29th, our church family received two officers from the Littleton Police Department who came to share with us some tips about keeping our building safe. The Police Department was gracious enough to provide this service to our congregation for free, and we really appreciate

them giving of their time. Almost 30 FPCL members were in attendance, and we enjoyed pizza and refreshments, while learning some instructive information about how to remain both welcoming and open as a congregation, while also taking some common-sense safety precautions in mind. The two officers could not have been more friendly or accommodating, and they stayed afterwards to visit and take further questions.

Continued on next page

Future Conversational English class

Although it's still in the early stages of planning, a small group of us here at FPCL are working to develop an exciting new vehicle for community outreach—a Conversational English class! Angie Imamura, and Denise Kay, who both have experience working with our Whiz Kids tutoring program, along with Pastor Bill and I have been meeting to brainstorm about ideas for a potential English class to be held at the church. We feel there is definitely a need for more services like this in our community. To that end, we recently sent out a survey to the parents of our Whiz Kids students in order to find out more about what sort of demand there may be for this class, and how we could best accommodate those families who are interested in attending. We are also working to develop some ideas for the curriculum and thinking about how to recruit other potential volunteers. So if you have an interest in helping someone else to learn English, please contact me:

pastorblakeley@fpcl.org

Prior experience is great, but certainly not necessary—just a willing heart to connect with these families and show them the love of Christ through helping them to acquire a vitally -important life skill!! Ok—that's about it for this month. Thank you so much for all of your generous support for the ministries of First Presbyterian Littleton through your prayers, volunteer hours, and tithes! Remember, for any of your pastoral needs, I have office hours every **Monday-Wednesday from 9am to 12pm, or by appointment**. You can also feel free to call my direct office number at the church: **720-662-7134**.

Thank you for reading!

In Christ, -Pastor Blakeley

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”

1 Corinthians 15:58



Believe Beloved Belong

Join us on Stewardship Sunday November 12th
as we continue celebrating First Presbyterian's
140 years of ministry in Littleton



Season
of Generosity



Following worship, the Stewardship team is hosting
a Chili potluck in Ficklin Hall. Come and be part of
the fun bringing your favorite chili recipe to share!

Unfortunately, the previously planned afternoon concert was cancelled, but we hope to see everyone for a joyful time of fellowship. All are welcome!

FPCL Stewardship Committee:

Dave LeMay, Chair
Trey McDowell
Sue Chandler
Dee Getzinger
Don Meersman
Nat Opperman





Minute for mission

The Mission Committee has decided to expand our Giving Tree mission for the local children instead of doing the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child shoebox project this year.

We have 18 children enrolled in our Whiz Kids Tutoring program, all from low income households near our church. Many families are struggling to make ends meet with inflation and the current economy.



We plan to include siblings and parents in the Giving Tree this year in an effort to share our love and help them have a blessed Christmas. Ornaments with each child's or parent's name will be placed on the Giving Tree with details about their age, size, or wish list items on the back. The gifts will need to be delivered back to the church by **Sunday, December 10th** in order to give them to the children at the Whiz Kids Holiday Party on December 14th. This will be a fun mission to extend our love in Christ's name to bless the local children and their families. Members of the Mission Committee can help you with gift ideas as needed!

Financial Update

	September 2023		Year to Date 2023	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Income	\$33,867.90	\$21,581.25	\$ 322,209.93	\$ 311,331.25
Expenses	\$35,042.79	\$39,192.56	\$ 314,004.10	\$ 353,973.09
Operating Surplus	(\$1,174.89)	(\$17,611.31)	\$ 8,205.83	\$ (42,641.84)

Although the church shows a deficit for September, there is still a small surplus for the year. As of the end of September we had received 75.27% of the pledged support. This leaves 24.73% to be collected in the final months of 2023. I recently sent out giving statements that reflect your 2023 pledge and the balance remaining to fulfill your pledge. Please take a moment to look that over to be sure you are on track to fulfill your pledge for 2023. You should have received a letter from the stewardship team regarding 2024 pledges. The finance team is trying once again to prepare a balanced budget and your promise helps us determine what programs we can afford to offer and how much the church can help others in our community. Thank you for your continued support.



KING SOOPERS REWARDS UPDATE

Still Going Strong !

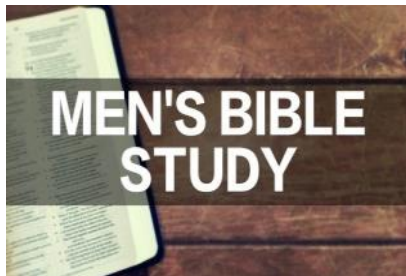
Thank You to everyone who is using their King Soopers reward cards !!

We received our 3rd quarter (July to September) payout for the King Soopers reward card program.. **We received \$750** from 67 rewards members cards used. Thank you to those using the rewards member program for FPCL for your grocery purchases. We are happy to help people signed up anytime if you have not already. Remember, every time you use your King Soopers rewards card you are helping to raise monies for our church.

Any questions, please call Sue Chandler, 303-347-9191.

Upcoming Events

- November 5 140 Anniversary Celebration, Paint Box Guild Miniatures Show & Sale
- November 12 Stewardship Sunday, Bells & Chili Pot Luck Dinner
- November 23 Thanksgiving
- November 25 Hanging of the Greens
- November 26 Thanksgiving Sunday



Join in the fellowship and study

2 studies that alternate every other Monday between a morning study and an evening study.

Morning Study 7:00am * Evening Study 6:30 pm

Contact Scott Chandler for morning information.
scott@franklincourtpartners.com or 303-888-0132

PAINT BOX GUILD MINIATURE SHOW & SALE

Sunday, November 5— 9 am to 12:00—Welcome Center

Original Artwork, crafts, cards and lots of items created by our artists. Great for Thanksgiving & Christmas gifts. Please stop by on your way to church or home!

Did you know that this group has been with us since 1972 and that Dave White's mother was one of the founding members?!

I Thank God Every Time I Remember You! ***Philippians 1:3***

I believe it is important to “thank” people for doing services in this church. It exemplifies who we are — a very giving church, with very giving people.

- ♥ Thanks to Elizabeth Renz (Betsy) being the first girl in youth to serve communion in October.
- ♥ Thanks to Sue Chandler, Cheryl Baughman, Karen Ervin and Loretta Davis in Mission having a wonderful luncheon for Gilbert Kubwimana from Rwanda and his LOVE WITH ACTIONS program. Many came and had a great time!
- ♥ Thanks to Blakeley getting the two Campos boys to church for Sunday School and to the Chatfield Farms Pumpkin Patch gathering. Without his caring, they would not be able to enjoy these great times.
- ♥ Thanks to Blakeley and Pastor Bill having the blessing of the animals. It was fun and a great time to share our pets!
- ♥ Thanks for the momentum of the Men’s and Women’s Bible Study classes due to the new RightNow program. The new energy is wonderful!
- ♥ A huge thanks to Blakeley for organizing the Littleton Police to come talk to us about safety training and how to protect ourselves from intruders. They were very informative and fun to interact with.
- ♥ And a great thanks to Karen Meersman and the Bell Choir for their fantastic HAPPY BIRTHDAY presentation at church on October 15. What a gift, Karen. Thank you!
- ♥ Thank you to Linda Diekvoss and Paul Parrish for repairing the lovely clock in Chandler Hall. You will enjoy its beautiful chime.

With blessings and thankfulness for this awesome church family at First Pres!

Dee

New Sermon Series Information ***Receiving Unexpected Gifts***

- **November 5: *Take the Challenge...Go And See!* Mark 6: 30-44**
- **November 12: *Do You Like Tests?* Malachi 3:10-12 and Matthew 6:19-21**
- **November 19: *Things to Remember* 2 Corinthians 9:6-11**
- **November 26: Advent Series Begins**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

The staff and animals at the Humane Society of the South Platte Valley (HSSPV) send their heartiest thank you for the abundance and variety of donations from FPCL. They were overjoyed and amazed at the generosity of our church family. Thank you for being so kind and for allowing this facility to further their calling in caring for dogs and cats until they are placed in their forever homes! We will definitely partner with them again in the future!

Blessings and Smiles, Miss Karen



DEACON'S CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA SALE

Order Deadline: Monday, December 11, 2023

- Your purchase helps provide assistance to members and the local community.
- Poinsettias will be displayed Sunday, December 17, 2023.
- Poinsettias may be picked up after any of the Christmas Eve Services, December 24.
- If you would like a loved one's name included in the Christmas Eve bulletin, orders must be received by December 11.
- When you purchase a poinsettia, \$5.00 supports the Deacon's Fund.

Quantity	Price	Red Only	Take Home	Give to Home Bound	Total Due
	\$17.00 each				

In Memory or Honor of (Please circle one):
(name) _____

Ordered by: _____

Phone: _____



Make checks payable to: First Presbyterian Church.
Include payment with order. Place order in box in Chandler Hall or mail to:
First Presbyterian Church Littleton
1609 W. Littleton Blvd, Littleton, CO 80120

Dollars and Sense – A Word from Finance

Audits – what are they, and how are we doing?

Whether a business or a non-profit organization such as First Pres, it's always a good idea (and sometimes a requirement) that financial activities be audited to assure good practices and prevent fraud. In our case, the Presbytery requires an annual audit, ideally by a qualified external auditor; for a smaller church such as FPCL an audit conducted by "a committee of members versed in accounting procedures" is allowable. Through 2016 we self-audited, but beginning with 2017 began using an external CPA auditor.

The auditor will access all types of financial documents – cash receipts and offering count records, checking account stubs, paid invoices, payroll records, bank account statements and reconciliations, statements and backup materials for special funds, and the general ledger. They will verify the relationships between the various records, such as: Were bank statements reconciled to the general ledger? Does weekly plate cash count agree with bank deposits and the general ledger? Were invoices properly authorized and applied to the proper account? Were amounts paid to employees properly authorized by Session? The trained eye of an experienced auditor is invaluable in negotiating the technical challenges of navigating these records and spotting issues.

How are we doing? Most of us would say the ideal is a "clean audit" with no issues spotted. But for some of us, there's greater comfort in having each audit spot at least a minor issue or two. This way, we know not only that we are in good financial control, but also that the auditor is looking hard for issues. Our results for recent fiscal years:

2020 – A 1099 payment form not filed for a special music performer.

2021 – A refund for returned merchandise not received (followed-up/corrected), and annual QuickBooks subscription moved from payroll account to subscriptions.

2022 – A technical calculation issue involving FICA payments for ordained clergy.

We feel positive about these results, with no systemic issues. Hats off to financial secretary Joan Lund (and helper Elinor) who continues to handle her role well.

Your Finance Committee -- Scott Chandler, Beth Opperman, Susan Strauss, Dick Graves, Charles Kellogg, Dave LeMay and Joan Lund (ex-officio), John Ansted (co-moderator), and Bob Chapman (moderator).

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7.

Children's and Adult Sunday School

- ♦ Sunday school: Pancakes at 8:15 classes begin at 8:30.
- ♦ The adult class is watching season 3 of *The Chosen*.
- ♦ Children's Sermons during worship

Please Pray for....



Carolyn Roark, Randy Lund, Phil Ansted, Mary Ake, Donna Farris, Jan & Russ Fuiks, Jon Heggie, Joyce & Rollie Fuller, Joy Carreño, Judy & Bob Macdonald, Lonna Williams, Joan Cook, Eileen Witt, Pat & Jaime Yrastorza, Nancy & Randy Berry, Bruce Benson

In Service to Our Country

Major Ricky Casburn; Capt. Connor Venrick; 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; Cameryn McKinnell, USAF; MAJ Wm McKinnell, USAF; Ulises Serrano

Missions

Jory & Mallory Bayne; Metro Denver; Presbytery of Zimbabwe; South Asia Mission; Highline Place; Love INC, Love With Actions(Rwanda)

Leadership

Elders: Trey McDowell, Clerk of Session, Maggie Ashworth, Jan Hole, Mary Lareau, David LeMay, Don Meersman, Michaela Rodefild, Rick Wilson, Presbytery Commiss. Kathy McDaniel, Presbytery Commiss.

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

Stewards: Cheri Blanchard, Danny Ferguson, Karla Ferguson, Connie Strandberg

FPCL STAFF

Please call the church office for contact information. 303.798-1389

Rev. Bill Johnson, Interim Pastor

Rev. Dr. Blakeley Winslow, Pastor of Christian Discipleship

Mary Dailey, Director of Worship Arts

Karen Meersman, Director of Handbells & Children/Youth Music

Elinor Packard, Office Administrator

Joan Lund, Financial Secretary

Tracy Eidson, Child Care

"HANGING OF THE GREENS"
Saturday - November 25, 2023
9:00 a.m.



Each year the Deacons are in charge of the "Hanging of the Greens" at church to celebrate the Christmas season. This involves pulling the boxed decorations out of the bell tower and placing them in the areas where they will be put. All the boxes are marked. There are also written directions concerning the placement of the décor! We are in need of volunteers to help us with this project. As a plus, we also serve coffee and doughnuts! If you can help the Deacons, would you please call Kathy McDaniel, 303-919-2177. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

The Deacons Chronicles

Deacon's appeal to the congregation during the worship service(s) on the fifth Sunday of the month, also known as Deacons Sunday. We would like to thank the membership for their donations to the Deacon's Fund on October 29.

The Deacon's Fund is used primarily for members or persons attending the FPCL (including their immediate families). The Board of Deacons must approve any amount over \$250.00.

The Fund is maintained by the Financial Secretary in a designated account and the balance of the Fund will be reviewed at each meeting.

The fund provides monies to the Pastors' Discretionary Fund each month. These funds are dispersed from the Deacons Fund in amounts of \$250.00 per request of the pastors.

The Deacons Fund can be used for the health, welfare, and educational needs of congregants and their families.

The Deacon's Fund sponsors the annual church picnic, provides recognition to members on Mother's Day, Father's Day and other special occasions as well as meals for families when needed. The Fund is also used for Memorial Receptions held at the church. We continue to offer King Soopers gift cards, RTD bus passes and ARC thrift store vouchers when needed.

In instances where people ask for help with rent, utilities or other large financial needs, the FPCL staff will work in conjunction with our other community partners, such as Love Inc, the Life Center of Littleton and county/city/state public services in order to refer people to other potential sources of aid. These agencies and organizations are better trained and equipped to deal with the longer-term needs of individuals and families.

We are still in need of two people to help serve communion to our home bound members. Please contact Blakeley Winslow or Kathy McDaniel. We would really like to reach out to the two members who are not receiving communion.