



# First Presbyterian Church of Littleton

1609 W. Littleton Blvd. Littleton, CO 80120

www.littletonpresbyterian.org ♦ fpcl@fpcl.org ♦ 303-798-1389

Join us for  
Worship Every  
Sunday at 10am

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## Adventures with the Grandparents!

(Kindergarten thru 5th grade)

A summer program developed to support grandparents who are caregiving for their grandchildren! Join us once a month on Monday mornings for fun group activities and community programs designed to foster relationship with your grandchildren.

### Interactive crafts & Conversation!

### Games & Snacks!

### Visits from community friends!

(Firemen, Storytellers, Policemen, Musicians)

June 24 (register by Friday, June 21)

July 22

Aug 5

9:30am-11:30am

Sponsored by and Hosted at:

First Presbyterian Church of Littleton  
1609 W Littleton Blvd  
Littleton, CO 80120

Please RSVP by Friday, June 21

Register at [FPCL.org](http://FPCL.org) or by calling 720-353-1801

Questions? Please call Adonna Hipple at 303-798-3579



## A Message from Pastor Jonathan

Recently I was asked about which Bible should be used for reading. I will not tell you which translation YOU should use or read – *although I will encourage you to read the bible* – but I do want to provide some information for you to decide for yourself.

The Old Testament was written in Hebrew and the New Testament was written in Greek. Anytime we translate a word or phrase from one language to another, something is lost in translation. If I tell you, “I love my kids” and “I love coffee” I presume you understand that my use of the word “love” is different for my kids and coffee. The Greeks did not want you to presume the meaning intended by the speaker so they have four unique words for “love.” Perhaps this helps clarify the communication break-down of love between Jesus and Simon Peter in John 21: <sup>16</sup> A second time [Jesus] said to him, “Simon son of John, do you **love** me?” [Peter] said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I **love** you.”

Similarly, the scholars who work to translate from Hebrew and Greek are attempting to convey the meaning as accurately as possible, but this can cause difficulties. How do we understand the meaning of selected words from 2000 (or more) years ago? That is part of the reason why various translations orient phrases differently.

No doubt upon reading different translations you notice how different are the words and meaning. For example, from 2 Samuel 23:5 –

***For does not my house stand so with God?***

*For he has made with me an everlasting covenant. . . . (ESV)*

***If my house were not right with God,***

*surely he would not have made with me an everlasting covenant. (NIV)*

***Although my house be not so with God;***

*yet he hath made with me an everlasting covenant. (KJV)*

The way these have been translated significantly changes how we understand their meaning. What causes the difference is not simply a textual variant. If you were to open a dictionary and read the definitions of the word “set” you will find there are 464 possible meanings for this one word; how do we decide which meaning of the use of ‘set’ is to be applied in a specific sentence? Native speakers do this naturally, understanding nuance, context, how the word is frequently used, and even geographic common tongue. Holy Scripture is translated by a collective group of scholars. As a team this group of scholars agrees to translate words and phrases by following a specific set of rules. Each of the teams have a particular theology for translating the text as they do.

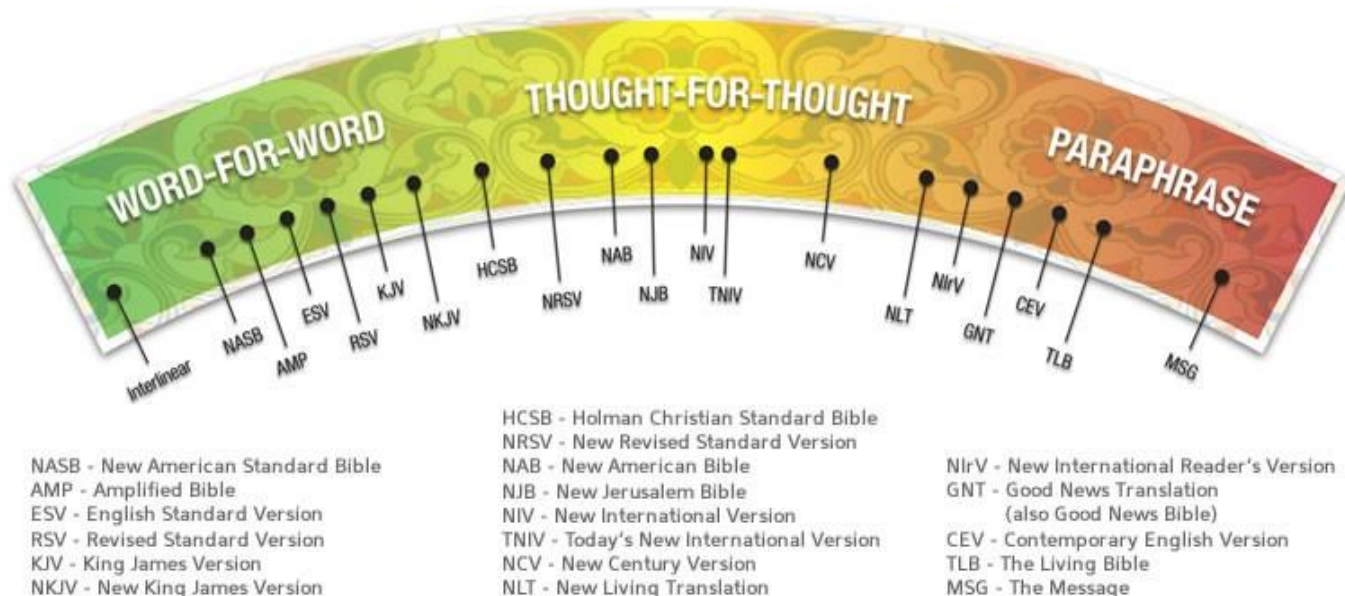
The more complex answer of how translations vary is due to the science of “textual criticism.” Textual criticism is concerned with the identification of textual variants of manuscripts and of printed books. The objective of the textual critic's work is to provide a better understanding of the creation and historical transmission of the text and its variants. Based on the number of possible translations, there is room for disagreement. All this is to simply say – no one translation will always be clear or instructive or accurate to the original meaning – and, of course, how we interpret what we read changes as our trust in God grows.

Another factor to consider in which translation to read is based on the differences between a paraphrase (on one extreme) and a word-for-word translation (on the other extreme) as well as anything in between.

A paraphrase is a restatement of the meaning of a text or passage using other words.

A translation seeks to provide the words printed into a different language.

# Types of Bible Translations



I have rarely, if ever, found one translation to always be the most accurate or helpful. As I mentioned before, each team of scholars agree to follow a set of rules to navigate how they will translate meaning from one language to another. 'The Message,' which was translated by one person, Eugene Peterson, allowed him the freedom to translate as context permitted. Sometimes I think he did excellently and other times I struggle to follow.

What I find most helpful in my bible study is to compare translations; I use NASB (left), NRSV (middle), and the Message (right) translations frequently. These commonly disagree on the wording and phrasing of the text, and it is the **disagreement** of translation that provides insight into a fuller understanding of the meaning.

If you have multiple copies of the Bible around your house, I encourage you to open and read the differences – especially when what you read is not being understood. If you do not have multiple translations, go to websites like [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com) where you can easily have 3 translations side-by-side to compare. The disagreement of translation can expand our understanding and gain a fuller meaning for our lives.

The expansion of understanding because of differences or differing beliefs holds true outside of the reading of Holy Scripture too. We can disagree about many a topic, and **that is a good thing**, as long as we remember that we are made in God's image and so is the person across from me/you/us who thinks/believes differently than I/you/they do. I am thoroughly convinced that God's mercy for us is full if we get our theology wrong, and less so if we cannot honor and love the person before us.

When we disagree, we are sharing a difference of interpretation and it is within the differences that new understanding and deeper truth can be heard and then lived.

None of us...

None of us...

None of us believe correctly. We have biases and mis-interpretations from past events and life lessons, and it is difficult to know which are good and which are not (otherwise we would correct the errors).

I remember growing up my dad telling me *'always do your best, because you never know who is watching.'* He did not intend for me to hear this as cause to be paranoid, but I did for many years think: *'oh my, someone is watching me.'* It took some time for me to unwind the interpretation I had formed because of his words and begin to live

more fully into whom I am, who God made me to be and not worry ‘who was watching.’

When we discover a difference with another person, I encourage you **to try** to remember two things: (*I learned these two phrases from Rick Ufford-Chase, Ruling Elder and former Moderator of General Assembly*)

God loves you  
I may be wrong

**It is vital that you do not say those two phrases too closely together.**

I encourage you **to try** to take a step back and share a full conversation listening to the differences and gain new understanding – even if it is simply learning about the person(s) before you. You may absolutely be right in what you think and/or believe, and yet, approaching the conversation with arrogance and denouncement of the other person’s thoughts and beliefs, will give no way to share conversation where new respect and understanding may direct the relationship going forward.

God’s Word to us is for us to hear and see how others have seen and heard and interacted with God over time, inviting us into deeper relationship with God who is alive and active in and around us. Following the words of Jesus ‘love God with all you are and love your neighbor as yourself.’

Peace,



The Reverend Jonathan Murray\*  
Pastor, First Presbyterian Church

*My door is open to you.*



## Summer Sermon Series

'Faith Leaders of the Old Testament' - Sundays in worship we will explore the situation and actions of a Faith Leader from the Old Testament. This person will not always act in faithful ways, but we will see how God's grace and actions were at work in, through, and, sometimes in spite of, the person. You are also invited to join in a Bible Study during Sunday School that will explore a deeper look at each of the Faith Leaders. Come at 8:45a for Sunday School and stay for worship!



My name is Dylan Plug, and I am studying Pastoral Ministry at Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais, IL. I will be a junior this coming fall. I'm originally from Schaumburg, IL, but my family moved to Highlands Ranch in 2019. I was raised in the non-denominational, seeker-sensitive movement, but when I went off to college, I found a spiritual home in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Reformed Tradition at large. I realized that I had a call to ministry during my high school years, when I was told by my

guidance counselor that I could not pursue my dream of being an architect due to a math credit deficiency. I began prayerfully seeking God’s guidance for what I should do with my life after that, and I began feeling a strong pull towards ministry. Initially, it was unclear what my ministerial calling would be, but God has been continually revealing it over time. This, combined with experiences in the church that affirmed my spiritual gifts of teaching, preaching, and wisdom, have solidified within me a call to vocational pastoral ministry. Since I was already attending a PC(USA) church near my college, I began attending FPCL last summer due to affiliation. I ended up falling in love with the balance of solid Biblical teaching, beautiful and reverent worship, and the beloved community that you all work so hard to cultivate. I am certain that God has put me at FPCL to serve him and his purposes for the kingdom, and I am glad to be back this summer.

## Session Highlights

### Highlights from the April Session Meeting:

- We welcomed four new members to First Presbyterian Church (FPCL): Alexandra Holt, Justie Ellis, Lexy Buckley, and Lukas Grohmann.
- The session continued discussions on prioritization of several proposed renovation projects including:
  - Repair of the stained-glass windows
  - New carpeting/flooring in the sanctuary
  - Air conditioning in the sanctuary and church offices
  - Upgrades to the church's technology infrastructure including the sanctuary audio/visual systems.
- We continued to discuss how best to proceed with the Pillars of the Church ministry.
- The session is developing guidelines on how FPCL might respond to adverse events such as severe weather or a power outage that could require us to close the building to keep everyone safe.
- We are taking a fresh look at updating the church's Bylaws.
- Finally, we reviewed a proposal for the church to host a summer pastoral intern. A final vote to approve this position was taken via e-mail following the successful interview with the candidate several days after the session meeting.

### Attention Women! It's tea time! Save the date, Friday, June 28 at 10:30 am.



Come enjoy some tea and simple snacks, good conversations and fellowship together.

This is for women of all ages, no experience in any past womens group necessary.

We are encouraging everyone to bring with them their favorite tea cup and saucer or mug to use and share stories about, if you want. If not no worries, we will have cups available. Feel free to bring a favorite snack to share if you like, but not required. Just please let us know if you are. Bringing yourself is what is most important.

This is a chance to be together to connect and celebrate our women to women sisterhood in Christ!

Hope to see all you wonderful Women there on June 28th at 10:30 am.

Blessings to you All,

Please RSVP to one of us to let us know you're coming for planning purposes!

Hope to see you there!

Janice Fagan 720-333-4089 Sue Chandler 30-522-7216

## A Minute for Stewardship – Priorities for Our House

*"Prepare your work outside, get everything ready for you in the field; and after that build your house."*  
**Proverbs 24:27 (NRSV)**

During the month of May, over 75 staff, leaders, and members of FPCL provided feedback on the top renovation priorities recommended for action. The Session will review this data, read the comments, and receive recommendations from the various committees this month to align on a plan to prioritize fundraising for these important initiatives.

Stewardship would like to thank everyone who participated in this process and share the data collected. Here is a summary of the results:

Priority	Project	# Votes		Result
#1	AC	21		#1 Stained Glass
	Stained Glass	40		
	Carpet	3		
	IT Communications	12		
#2	AC	28		#2 AC
	Stained Glass	25		
	Carpet	9		
	IT Communications	14		
#3	AC	17		#3 IT/Comm
	Stained Glass	8		
	Carpet	18		
	IT Communications	31		
#4	AC	9		#4 Carpet
	Stained Glass	4		
	Carpet	44		
	IT Communications	20		

- Talk to the Scouts about Eagle Scout projects and other help here.
- The playground needs cleaning badly (too many cigarette butts)
- The bannisters in the stairwell needs repair.
- The bathroom in the nursery needs repair.
- You should advertise weddings more. This place is amazing for weddings.
- Are we on tiktok, Instagram, Pinterest, etc.? We should, I think, be where the youth are.
- Create a list that the Eagle Scouts could consider. Many of them will do fundraising for their projects.
- Should air conditioning and IT / Communications be in the operational budget?
- Focus to add focus on future assets for the church like "seed of the future" that has been done in the past.
- Add cushions for the pews.
- Ceiling in bell/old choir room and windows in that room.
- Fix roof / wood outside Shabby Sheep room.
- Change every light bulb/fixture to LED. Last longer and use less energy.
- The carpet doesn't impact weddings! It's our beautiful sanctuary!
- Kitchen in Ficklin needs new counter top.
- Replace carpet with new red carpet, not hard wood.
- Repairs to ceiling in the music room / paint (I would rank this in place of the carpeting).
- Suggest that Properties look at the outside trim repair needed on the north side of the Shabby Sheep room. Wood has looked rotted for quite some time.
- Bathroom by "bell room" should take #4 priority.


All feedback will be reviewed and taken under consideration. We truly appreciate the time spent giving our leaders your thoughts. Please feel free to contact members of Session or staff if you'd like more information or detail on the work that is being led by members of Properties, Renovation, or other committees.

As we await word on the Stained Glass Window grant (anticipate a decision early June), we will keep everyone informed.

Thanks again and see you in church!

Your Stewardship Committee:

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



**You're Invited to a Baby Shower  
for  
Melissa and Blakeley**

**When: Saturday, June 8, 2-4pm**

**Where: FPCL, Ficklin Hall**

(We will have help present to ensure everyone who needs help with the stairs or stair chair receives it!)

**Please RSVP by  
Sunday, June 2 if you plan to attend:**

**Maria Franklin**

**[mariaafranklin3@gmail.com](mailto:mariaafranklin3@gmail.com)**

**720-353-1801**

**Registry Link**

**[https://www.amazon.com/baby-reg/  
blakeleyandmelissa-winslow-march-2024-  
littleton/2EWSCJFOJFK6](https://www.amazon.com/baby-reg/blakeleyandmelissa-winslow-march-2024-littleton/2EWSCJFOJFK6)**

A summary of FPCLs pilot program:

## **Adventures with the Grandparents**

(Idea conceived by long time member, Adonna Hipple. Mother/Grandmother/Great Grandmother)

- Studies have shown how important relationships are between children and grandparents
- Nearly 80,00 children in Colorado are reported to be living with grandparents as their primary caregivers, and even more grandparents assist with caregiving part-time due to high child care costs, divorce, loss of a parent and multiple other reasons.
- **The goal of this program is to provide a safe environment to foster relationships between grandparents and their grandchildren during the summer months when school is out.**
- Session has approved a pilot program, meeting 4-5 times during the summer, beginning in June. This program would include any grandparent and their grandchildren from our church or from the community. Grandchildren would be under the age of 14.
- The children will meet with at least one of the grandparents for a morning program that includes fun interaction with each other and the Littleton community. (Firefighters, policemen/women, storytellers, musicians)

Many of our meeting theme ideas are listed below and will be scheduled according to presenter availability!

1. "Let's Explore our Church": volunteers lead a tour through the church including the bell tower. Anyone interested learns how to ring the bell.
2. "Thank you Firefighters!": Invite a fire truck from South Metro Fire to the church and have an interactive presentation learning about and exploring the fire truck.
3. "Tell Me a Story": Have a retired school teacher tell a story. Have the grandparents share a story of their childhood. Invite conversation/questions from the children. Invite the children to share their favorite story.
4. "Our Flag": Learn about the flag including how to fold the flag. Discuss the parts of the flag, how to care for it, etc. Invite the Boy Scouts to present a program.
5. "Let's Paint": Invite an artist to lead a painting session - perhaps rock painting for the church grounds.
6. "Let's Play an Instrument": Invite a musician to demonstrate various instruments (percussion, keyboard, handbells)
7. "Thanks to the Police!": Police officer presentation on safety in the community
8. "Let's Sing": Invite a professional vocalist to present about performing and to lead a sing along.

## **HOW CAN YOU HELP?**



Snack donations

Volunteer to help the leader at Monday morning gatherings

Help connect grandparents that would benefit from the support of this program with this opportunity!!

Please call Adonna Hipple, 303-798-3579, or Maria Franklin, 303-720-1801 if you have questions or would like to help in any of the ways listed above.

Many thanks from the Adventures with Grandparents program planning team! Adonna Hipple, Jennet White, Mary Lareau, Maria Franklin



***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!**

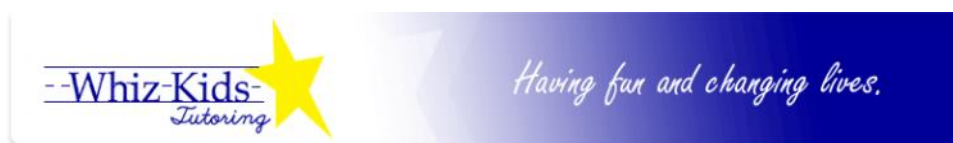
- ♥ Thankful for the youth scavenger hunt on April 27, and for Blakley and all he does for our youth!
- ♥ Thankful for the powerful vocalist, Jay Daughtry, singing on April 28. His rendition of HOW GREAT THOU ART and AMAZING GRACE filled the soul and brought tears to our eyes.
- ♥ Thankful for the new members, Justie Ellis, Alex Holt, Lexy Buckley and Lukas Grohmann being accepted by Session on April 28. They will be introduced to the congregation very soon.
- ♥ Thankful for Alice Thurston’s son, Vike, playing a surprise piano gift of music for us!
- ♥ Thankful for the GREAT leader’s meeting Pastor Jonathan put together on May 4 and helping us to “get to know each other” and who we are “outside the church.” No one was really ready to leave! And the food was amazing also. Thanks Jonathan!!!!
- ♥ Thankful for Don Wendell meeting with Lukas Grohmann about how Lukas can get involved with our Troop #444 at First Pres. Don sharing his time and guidance was a gift! That is how we grow as a family!
- ♥ Thankful for Amanda and Brandon Boldenow bringing their two precious little girls, Mariella and Thea, up to the altar to place two flower arrangements on Mother’s Day.
- ♥ Thankful for the beautiful long-stemmed roses we give out each Mother’s Day. It’s a wonderful tradition at First Pres.

Romans’s 12:5 says that “Each of us finds our meaning and function as a part of Christ’s body.”

Pastor Rick Warren said “.. we only learn who we are in relationships, and we only learn our true identity in community.” He said, “we shall never learn who we really are by ourselves, and that learning who we really are in our relationships means, we must connect with other people for fellowship. In the same way, if we are not connected to the church, then we are not going to know the purpose of our life. We are not going to know our role. We are not going to know our function. We are not going to know our value and our meaning.”

I am thankful Sue Chandler and I met with Pastor Jonathan and discussed how our retreat helped us to get to know each other better and how we could continue that. This is what he wrote down for me — “What would it be for you to know that a member of your church family was praying for you? What would it be for you to pray for another member of your church family?” Please think about this and share your thoughts. What would it mean for each of us to get to really know each other better?” What a strong community that would be!

Blessings, Dee



Dear First Presbyterian Church—

Thank you so much for letting us have Whiz Kids there again this year and being such amazing supporters of all the kids and their families. You all go above and beyond in what you do—and our kids are so blessed by you!

We are grateful for our continued partnership!

Ashley, Whiz Kids Representative

## Dollars and Sense – A Word from Finance

We talk a lot about Personnel as FPCL's major expense category, but right behind it is Properties, representing 19% of our total expense. Properties includes most of the things needed to keep our 95-year-old building viable, operational, and attractive. And making it happen is the Properties team – Don Meersman, Bill Frear, Kathy McDaniel, Jon Heggie, and Rick Wilson, with assists from many other FPCL member volunteers.

The Properties operating budget includes several categories of expense items, starting with our basic utilities – gas, electric, and water. The Properties team works to make sure they are used efficiently; a recent example involves replacing light bulbs with energy-efficient versions.

A second category is contractors, such as janitorial, lawn mowing, and snow plowing. The Properties team assures that they are cost effective in meeting FPCL's requirements, evidenced by the recent change in janitorial service to a lower cost/better performing group.

A third category is dealing with problems, for example – there's no heat, the toilet is plugged, the elevator doesn't work, or the lawn sprinklers aren't sprinkling. For these, the Properties team needs to know whom to call that is reliable and cost effective. Or in some cases, fixing it themselves, such as recently reprogramming telephone handsets for better system compatibility.

Then there's the ongoing maintenance, such as replacing burned-out lightbulbs, touch-up painting, and ordering supplies. All of this is currently accomplished through volunteer effort, both by the Properties team and other members who pitch in. Do you enjoy the flower gardens? They look great through the effort of committed member volunteers.

A currently growing category of Properties team effort is the list of renovation projects -- stained glass window repair, sound system upgrade, swamp cooler replacement, and sanctuary carpeting replacement. For these major projects, the Properties team works to get agreement on project scope and requirements, solicits competitive bids, and develops formal project proposals for Session approval. Large projects such as these are not covered in the operating budget, but by special member contributions from fund raising led by the Stewardship team.

As we meet with each other and with God, remember the Properties team and their associated group of member volunteers for keeping our amazing building not only functional, but attractive and welcoming. Thanks, Properties team and volunteers!

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

### FPCL STAFF

**Please call the church office for contact information. 303-798-1389**

Rev. Jonathan Murray, Minister of Word & Sacrament

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



**An Easier Way to Give Online! Scan the QR Code with your phone! It will take you directly to our website where you can give online!**

## Please Pray for....



Phil Ansted, Betty Anderson, Jill Van Den Bos, Jan & Russ Fuiks, Taylor Ann Meersman, Jon Heggie, Joyce & Rollie Fuller, Joy Carreño, Judy & Bob Macdonald, Lonna Williams, Joan Cook, Pat & Jaime Yrastorza

### In Service to Our Country

Major Ricky Casburn; Capt. Connor Venrick; Brett Wilson; Sgt. Benjamin Lund, Jordan; Bobby Johannsen; Connor McDaniel, Army; CDR. Per Rychecky, Germany; Donnie Donahue, Marines; Nathaniel Syron; Sgt. 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)

## Financial Update

	April 2024		Year to Date 2024	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
<b>Income</b>	\$43,042.16	\$36,193.00	\$ 170,433.61	\$ 174,039.50
<b>Expenses</b>	\$42,903.12	\$40,486.12	\$ 158,231.96	\$ 172,073.48
<b>Operating Surplus</b>	\$139.04	(\$4,293.12)	\$ 12,201.65	\$ 1,966.02

April giving was slightly higher than expected. Several People completed their pledge for 2024. The surplus through April is \$12,201.65.

Now that summer is here, giving usually decreases. Please continue with your monthly pledged support so the church expenses can be covered during the lean summer months. Although the pledge card didn't have a specific box for Per Capita this year, the church still has to pay \$32 per member to the Denver Presbytery. If you haven't sent in your per capita, please consider doing that. Thank you for your continued support.

### Leadership

**Elders:** Trey McDowell-Clerk of Session, Maggie Ashworth, Jan Hole, David LeMay, Don Meersman, Rick Wilson, Sue Chandler and Beth Opperman

**Presbytery Commissioners:** Rick Wilson and Kathy McDaniel

**Deacons:** Joy Carreño, Becky Gibson, Cheryl Baughman, Kathy Frear, Julie Johnston, Jess Karet, Jennie Staritzky and Deb Graham

**Stewards:** Connie Strandberg, Cheri Blanchard, Karla Ferguson, Kathy McDaniel

## Protect Yourself from Online & Cell Phone Scams

1. **Stay Informed:** Keep yourself updated about common scams targeting the elderly. Knowledge is your best defense.
2. **Verify the Source:** Be cautious of unsolicited emails, text messages, or phone calls asking for personal information or money. Verify the sender's identity before responding.
3. **Don't Share Personal Information:** Never give out personal information like your Social Security number, bank account details, or passwords to anyone over the phone or online unless you initiated the contact and are sure of the recipient's identity.
4. **Beware of Urgency or Pressure:** Scammers often create a sense of urgency or fear to pressure you into making quick decisions. Take your time and don't rush into anything, especially if it involves sending money or providing personal information.
5. **Use Strong Passwords:** Protect your online accounts with strong, unique passwords. Avoid using easily guessable information like your birthday or pet's name. Over 12 characters is best.
6. **Secure Your Devices:** Keep your computer, smartphone, and other devices updated with the latest security patches and antivirus software to help protect against malware and viruses.
7. **Be Skeptical of Unsolicited Offers:** If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Be wary of unexpected prizes, lottery winnings, or investment opportunities.
8. **Double-Check Before Clicking:** Hover over links in emails or text messages to see the actual URL before clicking. Avoid clicking on links or downloading attachments from unfamiliar sources.
9. **Verify Charity Requests:** If you receive a request for donations, research the organization independently to ensure it's legitimate before giving any money.
10. **Trust Your Instincts:** If something feels off or suspicious, trust your instincts and don't hesitate to hang up the phone, delete the email, or close the website.
11. **Seek Help if Unsure:** If you're unsure about a communication or offer you've received, don't hesitate to reach out to a trusted family member, friend, or financial advisor for advice.

**Report Suspected Scams:** If you believe you've been targeted by a scam, report it to the appropriate authorities such as the FBI, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) or your local law enforcement agency.

One of the more common scams at this time is to use a computer generated voice that sounds like a loved one, who calls asking you to not tell another loved one. Again, the urgency in the tone can be a clue of being a scam. Tell them you need to call them back; hang up and call the loved one directly. Very likely you will get your loved one on the phone and they will have no knowledge of such a request.

By following these precautions, you can reduce the risk of falling victim to online and cell phone scams. Remember, FPCL will never solicit for your information via random text messages or emails.

The Reverend Jonathan Murray\*  
Pastor, First Presbyterian, Littleton  
*\*my door is open to you*

St. Francis of Assisi is attributed with saying '*preach the gospel in all you do, and if necessary, use words*'

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

**June 25, 2024**

**Doors Do Not Open Until 6:00**

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

**MENU: BBQ Chicken, Baked Beans, Creamy Coleslaw, Fruit Salad and handheld desserts**



**Questions- (303) 798-1389**

**<http://littletonpresbyterian.org/dinner>**

**All Are Welcome!**



## *Hello from Pastor Blakeley*

### *A teaching church and a special opportunity*

Dear FPCL family—For my column this month, I’d like to share with you a little more about my vision for our church family, and then tell you about a special opportunity that has arisen this summer to put some of that vision into place. Vision—it’s one of the things I have always loved about our church family! Because even though we are a congregation that is now in its 141<sup>st</sup> year (wow!) we still have plenty of energy, enthusiasm, and vision to go along with our history and tradition. There is a desire and willingness of so many at FPCL to “think big” and consider the plans God has for our future, even as we honor the traditions of our past. As God reminds us in **Proverbs 29:18**, **“where there is no vision, the people perish”**. As amazing as our congregation is, we always have to be thinking of ways that we can continue to grow through outreach, bringing in new members, refining our existing programs, thinking about new initiatives, and training one another for spiritual growth. It’s this last item that I want to talk about for a moment. Spiritual training can come in many different forms, including Christian education programs such as Sunday School, men’s and women’s Bible studies, a new sermon series, or service to our community. Our ultimate goal with all of this training should be the **“equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the Body of Christ”** as Paul tells us in **Ephesians 4:12**.

And here’s where vision comes back into the picture. Because my vision, and in fact the vision of many here at FPCL is that we could be a “teaching church”—a place where young men and women who are sensing God’s calling into ministry might even have the opportunity to come learn and gain valuable experience while helping to serve our congregation. I know when I was first starting out in ministry, there never seemed to be that many churches around that really had a heart for giving young people a chance to develop some of the skills needed to pursue a career in vocational ministry. I told myself that if I ever was blessed enough to get into a staff position at a church, I would do my best to help out others who were starting along that same path, following God’s calling into full-time Christian service. Last summer, our interim Pastor Bill Johnson and I got acquainted with Dylan Plug. You’ll learn more about him a little later in this article, but Dylan is a young man who is hoping to one day become a pastor, and is studying for that purpose at Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais, Illinois. Bill and I were impressed by his humility, and desire to serve, and Dylan was able to help out some at the church that summer of 2023, including with the youth group, and as an usher. We mentioned to him in parting that there might be the possibility of further involvement in 2024 if everything worked out, and agreed to stay in touch.

Fast forward to the spring of this year, and I began talking with Pastor Jonathan about the possibility of our church providing an internship opportunity for a ministry candidate this summer. He enthusiastically supported my idea, and we began putting together a job description for a Pastoral Intern. Eventually with the support of the Personnel and Finance Committees as well as Session, this vision moved closer to reality. After speaking with Dylan’s references, and following a virtual interview with him and members of the Personnel Committee, I really sensed that God’s Hand was behind all of this, and so I am very excited to introduce to you our summer 2024 Pastoral Intern here at First Presbyterian Littleton—Dylan Plug! Starting on May 20<sup>th</sup>, through August 2<sup>nd</sup>, Dylan will be involved in a part-time position here at the church, helping out in a variety of different ministries. His principal focus will be to learn from Pastor Jonathan and me by getting experience in

some different areas of our Christian Education programs, as well as in Pastoral Care, and involvement in Sunday worship. Out of our desire for this to be a teaching experience for Dylan, Jonathan and I will be meeting with him on a regular basis for further mentoring, and Dylan will also have the opportunity to sit in on Staff and Session meetings.

It is my fervent hope that our church can continue to be a place for people to be equipped and trained towards greater service and productivity in God's Kingdom, and I am so grateful that others share that vision, and have been willing to work to help bring this internship into being! It will be exciting to see the different ways that God uses this opportunity in the life of our congregation. In closing, I want to say a big thank-you to everyone who helped support the creation of the Pastoral Internship, and I invite you all to please make Dylan feel welcome when you see him around the church!

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*

*"Starting the week of June 3rd-7th, my new office hours will be Wednesdays, 11am-2pm, and Thursdays-Fridays, 10:30am--1:30pm, or by appointment."*



### FPCL Book Club

We are a small, friendly group and we welcome anyone who likes to read for casual discussions about books. We share thoughts about the books and about our lives with no judgement.

Come join us on the second Thursday of each month at 1pm in Ayers' parlor or Zoom in with us if you can't make it to church.

Contact Janice Fagan if you have any questions or want to join us. [JLFagan69@gmail.com](mailto:JLFagan69@gmail.com)  
Here's what we are reading next:

- **June 13 - The Wager:** A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny and Murder - by David Grann (non-fiction)
- **July 11 - The Women** - by Kristin Hannah- *The Women*: Centered on one woman who goes to war in Vietnam, it is a stark reminder of the sacrifices women make for their country.



## First Presbyterian Church of Littleton

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Mark Your Calendar!

### Come one, Come all!

It's Time for the Annual Church Picnic



**June 2, 2024 \* After Church**

South Suburban Sterne Park—South Shelter

5800 S. Spotswood St. Corner of S. Spotswood & W. Shepperd Ave.



Hot Dogs & Hamburgers with all the trimmings  
Watermelon, Baked Beans, Potato Salad & Dessert

There will be fun and plenty of food for everyone.



Have a game you love to play outdoors? Bring it to share.

The park is located south of the church. Go south on Windermere to W. Lake Ave. turn right onto W. Lake Ave and go west to S. Spotswood Dr. Turn right on S. Spotswood and go north to corner of Spotswood and Shepperd.

### OFFICE HOURS

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

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- 10:00 am Sunday Worship Adult & Children's Sunday
- ♦ **FIRST WORD NEWSLETTER: The DEADLINE for the July newsletter is June 21.**