



First Press

Worship and Wisdom

First Presbyterian Church

January 3, 2021

Our Transitional Pastor

Rev. Barry Williams

Our Mission

We are a community of disciples who celebrate God's inclusive love by ministering to one another and the world.

Church Office Hours

9 am to 3 pm
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday
9 am to noon
Thursday

Prayer List

Cares, Concerns and Celebrations

- Phil Rankin who has been hospitalized at LMH.
- Pat Granberry, mother of Peg Livingood, who has COVID. She lives in a care facility in Prairie Village.
- Kathy Teske, wife of FPC guest, Pastor Donn Teske. Their son is also dealing with the virus.
- Our frontline caregivers – Erin Tuttle, Margie Koeppel, Kelly Jones, and all those working in our hospitals and care facilities, those in places necessary to all of us who put themselves at risk for our sake.
- Kristi McAlister, FPC member and daughter of Pat McAlister, who is facing some serious health challenges.
- Celebrating the retirement of Mark Heider from Commerce Bank after providing 31 years of service
- Celebrating the retirement of Henry Johns from the VA. Thank you for your service!

Birthdays in the Congregation

January 3

Nancy Harmony
Dede Dresser
Oliver Lake

January 4

Jody Pringle

January 5

Jeri Herman
Mila Quick

January 6

Mary Corman

January 7

Eva Alley

January 8

Ann Basow

January 9

Lois Dutcher
Heather Soper
Erin Derby
Madeline Clancy

Calendar

January 3

9:00 am – Earth Care Forum – on-line
10:30 am – Livestream Worship

January 4

1:30 pm – Staff Meeting
6:00 and 8:00 pm – Alcoholics Anonymous

January 5

6:00 and 8:00 pm – Alcoholics Anonymous
6:30 pm – Mission and Witness

January 6

9:00 am – First 5 Years
1:30 pm – Adult Ministry
6:00 pm – Finance Committee
6:00 and 8:00 pm – Alcoholics Anonymous

January 7

9:00 am – First 5 Years
6:00 and 8:00 pm – Alcoholics Anonymous

January 8

9:00 am – First 5 Years
6:00 and 8:00 pm – Alcoholics Anonymous

January 9

6:00 and 8:00 pm – Alcoholics Anonymous

Worship

Many thanks to the folks who worked to bring this service of worship to you this week. Randy Frye and Kara Smith provided the music, bobbie-frances mcdonald gathered communion, our sound and video team, Jim Woelfel and Barry Williams.

Education

- The Old Testament Study led by Dr. Earl Huyser will resume next week. We will post the link to watch the class in the next First Press. If you would like to attend in person contact Carl Locke.
- Children's Sunday School resumes January 3. The Family Ministry Team will be delivering bags of information, goodies and projects next week, so watch for that to arrive on your porch!
- The Youth resume meeting today at noon. Contact Ryan King at ryan@firstpreslawrence for links, times and more information. This group is open to students in 6th grade through 12th grade.
- First 5 Years will return to in-person classes on January 6. We are looking forward to another successful and healthy semester!

Fellowship

We may not be able to meet together, but it is important that we stay connected. Our **Fellowship Events Committee** is looking forward to the time when they can plan a gathering for us.

Presbyterian Women have at least one circle that meets virtually. If you are interested in joining them please contact Terry Smith or Mary Kay Chandler or call the church office for more information.

Care

The **Deacon Love Fund** is providing money to those in need of rent assistance, medical supplies or drugs, transportation assistance and more. On the first Sunday of the month, we ask you to consider giving

a little extra to this fund so that we can continue to be a helping hand during this challenging time.

The Just Food barrels are out at the south entrance for your gifts of non-perishable items for those in need of assistance with food. Please think of nourishing foods that can be used in a variety of ways and appeal to a variety of ages and tastebuds. Thank you for your support in filling the barrels.

Your gifts were much appreciated by children who received mittens from the mitten tree! We collected 23 hats, 54 pairs of gloves, 2 pair of socks, 17 scarves and 2 blankets. Your generosity especially during this time is wonderful!

Mission

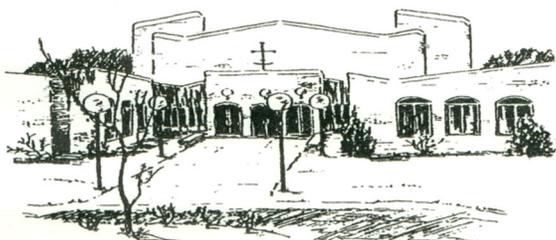
The **FPC EcoTeam** presents the **2021 Earth Care Forum** beginning January 3 at 9:00 am. "Construction of Tiny Homes at the Lawrence Community Shelter" will be presented by Dan Rockhill, the principal of the Architecture firm Rockhill and Associates and is the JL Constant Distinguished Professor of Architecture at the University of Kansas School of Architecture, Design, and Planning. He will provide origin of KU Architecture Program and discuss the necessary planning and development required for the construction of these sustainable homes. Use this link to attend virtually: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86455642954?pwd=YzdJKzNGUTd4YUF6SmFKMGFwNEdhdz09>

The topic for January 10 is, "How (and Why) to Tattoo Greenhouses with Semi-Transparent Solar Panels". All are welcome to attend!

Our Matthew 25 Team is working on a page on our website, so watch for that coming soon. Being a Matthew 25 church means that we are actively involved in three aspects of discipleship:

- Building congregational vitality
- Dismantling structural racism
- Eradicating systemic poverty

More information can be found on the Presbyterian Mission Agency website: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matt-hew-25/matt-25-resources/>



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday before Epiphany

Rev. Barry Williams
Jim Woelfel, *liturgist*

January 3, 2021

Prelude

People Look East
EDWIN GOOD, arr.

Randall Frye, organist

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

One: A star has risen in the east.

All: Star of wonder, star of night!

One: A child is born in Bethlehem.

All: Hark! The herald angels sing!

One: Let us follow the star to Bethlehem

All: and bring our gifts to the newborn Christ.

Opening Prayer

Hymn

What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright

Hymnal #68

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

God of wonder, God of night, you are holy light in dark places;
you are holy darkness when all is too bright.

Forgive us, O God, when we turn away from your light:

when we follow our own ambitions instead of your call,

when we respond to your presence with fear rather than joy.

Forgive us, O God, when we do not comprehend the depth of your Christmas love, the meaning
of your powerful story, or the call you place on each of our lives.

Forgive us, O God, and by your forgiveness, empower us to follow the star once more.

Assurance of Pardon

Scripture

Ephesians 3:1-12

Jim Woelfel

Special Music

Thankful
As performed by JOSH GROBAN

Randall Frye

Scripture

Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon

"Following a Star"

Rev. Barry Williams

Hymn

Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning

Hymnal #67

Call for the Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Table
Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and "The Lord's Prayer"
Words of Institution
Communion
Prayer after Communion

Hymn

As with Gladness Men of Old

Hymnal #63

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Welcome

As we continue our virtual worship and our thoughtful self-distancing care for one another, we need to be imagining how in the coming days we can be more intentional in our inviting and welcoming of others.

Support

We are thankful for all of you who are pledging your support for FPC in 2021. If you would like to make a pledge you still can by going to our website and clicking on the "Online Giving" button. Check it out at www.firstpreslawrence.org.

Session News

At their meeting in December the Elders approved a new organizational structure for FPC. After reading, "Canoeing the Mountains" by Tod Bolsinger, they identified areas of focus: Worship, Welcome, Fellowship, Support, Care, Education and Mission. All committees will fall under one of these areas and each area will have two members of Session as a part of the group.

This new format for our Newsletter will follow this structure and work is happening on our website to show this relationship structure too! We move into 2021 with abundant hope and energy for a new vision for FPC.

Worship: Terry Smith, b-f mcdonald, and Paul Laird

Welcome: Margie Dyck, Terry Smith and b-f mcdonald

Fellowship: John Hughes and Carol Kyner

Education: Linda Watts, Henry Johns, and Carol Kyner

Mission: Heather Soper, Ted Waiss, and Margie Dyck

Care: Deacons and Parish Nurses

Support: Marilyn Harp, Ted Waiss, Mark Shiflett, John Hughes, Paul Laird, and Linda Watts

Church Nominating Committee: Heather Soper and Carol Kyner

Pastor Nominating Committee: Mark Shiflett and Henry Johns