



# First Press

*Worship and Wisdom*

First Presbyterian Church

November 28, 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 through Friday

## Care

### Deacon Family Groups

A-Bo	Alison Hill	Lj-Me	Linda Upstill
Bp-Ch	Carol Smith	Mf-N	Nancy Rumsey
Ci-Dr	Kathryn Roblee	O-Re	Sandy Groene
Ds-F	Deborah Norwood	Rf-Sh	Kathy Stover
G-He	Julie Simon	Si-Sz	Cherie Hoover
Hf-Ke	Vacant	T-Wa	Annette Camlin
Kf-Li	Charles Tuttle	Wb-Z	Peggy Southard

## Prayer List

### *Cares, Concerns and Celebrations*

- **Larry Schlosser** is dealing with back pain while he waits for a medical consult. Prayers for patience.
- **Sammie Locke** is home and recovering.
- **Jim Buckley** is waiting to begin heart rehab due to limited numbers allowed at one time. More patience.
- **Barbara Armbrister** is home after hip surgery.
- **Marilyn Summers-Cool**, sister of Deborah Summers-Norwood, is doing a little better and her pain has decreased. Prayers still needed!
- **Ron Tucker**, former member, is having chemo treatments. He and Caroll live in Utah.
- **Bev North** is at Presbyterian Manor for rehab.
- **Sherry Banker** continues her family caregiving.
- **Brett Groene** is beginning a chemo regimen.
- **Wally Hill** continues to make good progress at OPRMC. Prayers he can be home next week!

- **Phil Rankin** continues his recovery and rehab process in Lincoln, NE.
- **Kristi McAlister**, FPC member and daughter of Pat McAlister, who is facing some serious health challenges.

## Birthdays in the Congregation

<b>November 29</b>	<b>December 3</b>
Lori Shiflett	Faye Jones
Kristi McAlister	<b>December 4</b>
<b>November 30</b>	Quinn Peterson
Janet Thellman	<b>December 5</b>
Stephani Boyd	Lilli Derby
<b>December 1</b>	Alison Hill
Mason Harding	

## Calendar

<b>November 28</b>	8:45 am	Child Care
	9:15 am	Sunday School Classes
	10:30 am	Worship
	11:30 am	Youth Group
	2:00 pm	Advent Festival
<b>November 29</b>	1:30 pm	Staff Meeting
	6:00 pm	Wolf Den - Pack 3059
	7:00 pm	PNC Meeting
<b>November 30</b>	1:00 pm	Small World
	2:30 pm	Matthew 25 Cohort
<b>December 1</b>	6:00 pm	Brownie Troop
	7:00 pm	Webelos – Pack 3059
	7:00 pm	Troop 59 Meeting
	7:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
<b>December 2</b>	1:00 pm	Small World
	7:00 pm	PNC Meeting
<b>December 5</b>	8:45 am	Child Care
	9:15 am	Sunday School Classes
	10:30 am	Worship
	11:30 am	Youth Group

## Sunday Helpers

**Ushers:** Charles and Jennifer Tuttle and Larry Flottman

**Greeters:** Linda Burton and Vernis Flottman

**Securing the Offering:** Henry Johns and a volunteer!

**Mugger:** David Fitzcharles

## Welcome!

Welcome to everyone, whether you are joining us virtually or in-person, we are happy to have you with us.

*“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.” – Hebrews 13:2*

Visitors delight us. Our goal is simple: make all people feel welcomed, not overwhelmed. We were all visitors once and remember how it feels to try a new place of worship. Attend as often as you want. Visitors are welcome at all FPC events, classes, and small groups as well as in worship. We will always be glad to see you!

**A reminder for in-person worship:** The Session is requiring that all persons, age two and over, wear a mask over their nose and mouth while in the building. As Christians we strive to care for one another, and this is how to best do that. Thank you for your help.

## Name Tags

Let us know if you need a new name tag. Check the name tag boxes in the Narthex first! This will help all of us recognize each other in spite of wearing our masks. This is also a way to offer hospitality to our guests. Thank you!

*“What is hospitality? It is about putting the other person before yourself, making their comfort and peace more important than our own. Visibility is key.”*

Rev. Brian Ellison

Pronoun stickers at the Welcome Center  
if you want one for your name tag!

## New seating configuration in the Sanctuary.

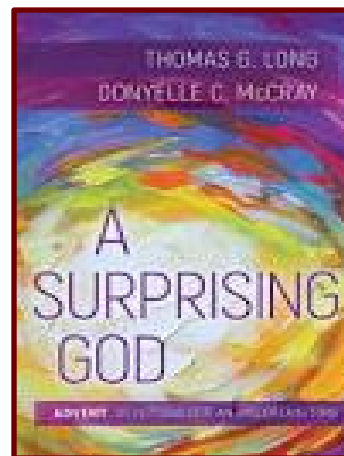
We have moved some of the noodles to accommodate a few more folks in the Sanctuary. This is a process in motion as we work to find what works for the most people and we keep everyone as safe as possible. At this point the biggest change is that there is no seating from the north side of the sanctuary to keep our distance as the choir sings.

We have opened about 12 pews by moving the noodles and hope that will make room for more of our members and guests. Please note where you are (situational awareness!) in terms of those in front of you and behind you as you choose a seat. The ushers can help you as well.

## Education

This Sunday – Adult Classes begin at 9:15 am

- **Peace, Justice, Joy, and Salvation: An Adult Advent Study** - We usually think of Christmas as a time to give gifts. This study will consider the gifts we receive. Christmas is, after all, the birth of Immanuel, God with us. At Christmas we celebrate the greatest of God's gifts. Over the four-week study we will examine texts from Isaiah through the lens of gifts. Embedded in these texts are the gifts that God longs to give us and deeply desires for us to receive into our lives: peace, justice, joy, and salvation. These gifts are nothing short of transformative. If we receive them, they will re-form us into what we were intended to be from the beginning: reflections of God's own being. Rod Nitz will provide the leadership for this study written by Dr. Cynthia Campbell, former President of McCormick Seminary, for The Thoughtful Christian. Class will begin on November 28 in Fellowship Hall.
- **Dr. Huyser's Old Testament Class** is meeting weekly in the Chapel. His lecture and slides are also available the following Wednesday on [YouTube](#).
- **Youth Group meets** at 11:30 am in Fellowship Hall. Youth in 6<sup>th</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> grade can plan to attend. Friends are always welcome at FPC – sometimes that makes it more fun to attend! Wear your favorite mask and come have a great time.



**Advent Devotions**  
provided by Margie Dyck - “A Surprising God, Advent Devotions for an Uncertain Time” by Thomas G. Long & Donyelle C. McCray. If you would like a daily email, please contact Margie Dyck. [mwdyck@gmail.com](mailto:mwdyck@gmail.com), 913-220-3363

“The devotions here are alert to a constant theme of the Advent season: waiting patiently in hope for the coming of God. But they are written for a time when patience can be worn thin, when holding onto hope is challenging, and when the peace and joy of the promised Christ child can feel elusive.

(con't after bulletin)



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## *First Sunday of Advent*

Rev. Barry Williams  
bobbie-frances mcdonald, liturgist

November 28, 2021

David Pérez, organist

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Call to Worship and Advent Candle Lighting - Candle of Hope** Erinn Barcomb-Peterson & Greg Peterson  
Petra and Quinn Peterson

**All:** Loving God, as we light the first Advent candle, let it stand for hope based not on wishful thinking, but on deep conviction. We gather expectantly and hopefully for we celebrate that a child is to come, that God is to be among us, and that soon we will see a new creation on earth. Therefore, in the midst of any darkness, make us people of hope. Amen.

**Opening Hymn** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* **Glory to God #88**  
VENI EMMANUEL

*Large print hymnals (black covers) are available on the table at the back of the Sanctuary on the north side.*

**Call to Confession**

**Prayer of Confession** from I Samuel 2:3, 6

Coming Christ, you may not find us as you hoped.  
We've looked away from signs we do not wish to see.  
We've stopped listening to distress we do not wish to hear.  
We are numb to inconvenient truths.  
Keep us alert, O God, to the needs of our neighbors.  
Revive our hearts laden with compassion fatigue.  
Sharpen our minds clouded by worries.  
Sober our lives addicted to privilege.  
Show us the signs of your coming, that we may stand before you,  
the Son of God, in whose name we pray.

*Personal confession continues in silence*

**Assurance of Pardon**

**Sharing the Peace**

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

**Children's Moment**

bobbie-frances mcdonald

**Scripture Reading**

Psalm 25:1-10

bobbie-frances mcdonald, liturgist

**Scripture Reading**

Luke 21:25-36

**Sermon**

*"What Are We Waiting For?"*

Rev. Barry Williams

**Affirmation of Faith**

from "A Declaration of Faith" 1976

One: God sent the promised Deliverer to his people.

All: Jesus, the long-expected Savior, came into the world as a child, descended from David,

**conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of Mary, a virgin. He lived as a Jew among Jews. He announced to his people the coming of God's kingdom of justice and peace on earth.**

One: We affirm that Jesus was born of woman as is every child,  
yet born of God's power as was no other child.

**All: In the person and work of Jesus, God himself and a human life are united but not confused, distinguished but not separated. The coming of Jesus was itself the coming of God's promised rule. Through his birth, life, death, and resurrection, he brings about the relationship between God and humanity that God always intended.**

One: Jesus is Lord!

**All: He has been Lord from the beginning. He will be Lord at the end. Even now he is Lord.**

#### Vocal Anthem

*Ev'ry Valley*  
from *Messiah* by G.F. HANDEL

Kevin Smith, Tenor soloist  
David Pérez, piano

#### Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;  
Thy kingdom come; thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

#### Call for Offering and Prayer of Dedication

**God of righteousness, you have saved us from the worst the world can do and have promised to redeem the whole creation when Christ comes again. In faith and hope we offer our gifts of money and self, that we may be part of what you are doing in the world even now, as we watch for Christ's coming in glory. Amen.**

*Offering plates are located in the Narthex at the end of the "sign-in" tables.*

#### Hymn

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*  
HYFRYDOL

**Glory to God #82**

#### Charge and Blessing

Go in peace, live in love, and seek to be holy in all that you do.

May the God of mercy keep you, the Holy Spirit cheer you, and Christ in glory greet you,  
now and at the day of his coming.

#### Postlude

David Pérez, organist

### *Advent Festival*

*Join our children and families for a time of fellowship! We will decorate, make crafts, playing games and sharing a time together like we haven't been able to do for so long.*

*Everyone is welcome and we hope you will come!*

*Today - Sunday, November 28 from 2 to 3:30 pm*



(con't from page 2)

We feel kinship with the psalmist, who cries out in distress,

*My soul thirsts for God,  
For the living God.  
When shall I come and behold  
The face of God?  
My tears have been my food  
Day and night,  
While people say to me continually,  
“Where is your God?”  
(Ps. 42:2-3)*

In this time of thirsting for God, we cling in faith to the God who surprises by providing refreshing springs in the direst of places and who allows light to break into our world in the bleakest of times.”

This is one alternative and/or addition to the in-person Advent class offered during the Sunday School hour. There are a couple of copies of the book on the Narthex Bookcase.

## Support

**Nursery Workers needed!** We are looking for some folks to help us in the nursery on Sunday mornings. This is a paid position, and we need three or four people who are interested in making a few dollars and spending some time with some really great children! Must be 18 or older and fully vaccinated for COVID-19. If you are interested or know someone who might want to help, contact the church office at 785-843-4171 or email Heather Soper at [sopers1973@yahoo.com](mailto:sopers1973@yahoo.com) Thank you!

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## *Faith ∞ Family ∞ Focus*

### Upcoming Events

Today through November 28 – Collection for Just Basics (see article below)

November 28 – Advent Festival – 2:00 – 3:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Details to follow!

### Sunday School Service Project

FPC Children Collecting Items for Just Basics through November 28

Children from FPC Sunday School classes are undertaking a service project for Just Basics, a program through Just Food that provides basic needs that are often left out of federally funded programs. The children will need the following items, for example: diapers (all sizes), formula, wipes, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, etc. The children will take items now through this Sunday, November 28. Items will be collected at the north entrance. The children will sort and pack the items for delivery to Just Basics. Thank you for your help.

### Sunday School Schedule

Sunday school meets 9:15 – 10:15 am for pre-K/Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> grades. Students will begin to study the practice of following Jesus in this unit of *Follow Me*.

### Faith Practice of the Week

**Preparing for Advent** Some of you may participate in lighting candles weekly with an advent wreath. Others may be interested in creating a paper chain calendar. Simply take 24 or 25 strips of paper and link them together, removing one each day on the calendar until Christmas. There are a variety of ways to create the paper chain. You can take one off each day from a completed chain or add on each day to complete the chain. Write down something special you will do on each strip of paper, a simple family activity. Or, color strips with symbols, pictures of stickers. Have your child help create the chain by cutting, drawing or whatever is age appropriate.

## Presbyterian Women Invitation

**Christmas Greetings** – Please feel free to use the Presbyterian Women’s bulletin board in the hallway across from the office to post your Christmas greetings from your family. Then consider making a donation of the stamp money you saved to the church instead. Small amounts added together can make changes!

## In the Community

**Lawrence Winter Shelters need volunteers** – As freezing temperatures begin; the city is preparing to provide emergency shelter for community members experiencing homelessness and houselessness. The Lawrence Community Building, 115 W. 11<sup>th</sup> St., will serve as the city’s primary site for shelter, and the East Lawrence Recreation Center, 1245 E. 15<sup>th</sup> St., will be a secondary overflow site as needed. Each building can house up to approximately 75 people per night, or 150 total. The city anticipates a peak demand of about 200 people per night, so staff is still seeking out additional sites. The centers will be staffed by city staff members who will provide volunteer coordination and site management. They are recruiting volunteers and will provide training. If you are interested, please contact: [emergencysHELTER@lawrenceks.org](mailto:emergencysHELTER@lawrenceks.org) or call 785-832-7958. Thank you!

## Lawrence Community Handbell Choir

**2021 Yuletide Ringing Schedule** – The Lawrence Community Handbell Choir will host performances in Topeka and in two places in Lawrence including FPC on Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary. That is also the day of Lessons and Carols during worship – so a perfect day to make it all about music of the season. The full schedule of all events can be found on the front doors or at the Welcome Center.

## Teacher Chosen for Pacific Expedition

**Congratulations to Lisa Ball** who will serve as a communication fellow for the Ocean Exploration Trust’s expedition program exploring Chautauqua Seamounts in the Pacific Ocean near Hawaii – a trip to the bottom of the ocean! Lisa is a science teacher at LHS and is excited to share this experience with her students and providing opportunities for the students to speak to crew members about their work, their careers, the exploration process and “real science in action”, she said. Such an exciting opportunity for Lisa and her students and all of us as we learn more about our world through her work. Thank you!

## Stewardship 2022

**In November we continue our season of giving.** This year we are looking forward to a variety of great things coming to First Presbyterian Church by the grace of God and our own hard work! Our world has not yet emerged from the pandemic, but we are looking toward our future together. We are searching for a new pastor to move forward with us.

Coping with COVID has taught us many new things and we are forever changed. We know that those changes can only be good by believing in the possibilities we have in ministry together. What do you want to do in 2022? Give it a voice! Find someone to work with you. Let us build a bright future together by investing our time, talents, and treasures in each other through FPC.

Pledge cards are available on the tables in the Narthex. If you need one mailed to you please contact the church office at 785-843-4171. As you consider your pledge for 2022, please prayerfully consider a gift to the ministry we are building. You can also make your pledge on our website: [www.firstpreslawrence.org](http://www.firstpreslawrence.org). Thank you!



**WE ARE BUILDING  
OUR FUTURE  
TOGETHER**