

First Presbyterian Church

Wednesday, November 24, 2021

Sunday, November 28, 2021 – 9:30 a.m. In-Person, Live Streaming, and Facebook Live

1st Sunday of Advent

Prelude:	Prelude on <i>'Divinum Mysterium'</i>	arr. Fred Bock
Hymns:	<i>"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"</i> (vs. 1, 2)	No. 2
	<i>"Comfort, Comfort You My People"</i> (vs. 1, 2)	No. 3
First Reading:		1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Second Reading:		Luke 21:25-36
Sermon:	<i>"Look at the Fig Tree"</i> Dr. Rev. Brent O. Johnston	
Song of Joy:	<i>"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"</i> (vs. 1)	
Anthem:	<i>"E'en So Lord Jesus Quickly Come"</i>	Paul Manz
Offertory:	<i>"Winter Storm"</i> Asael Castillo, Piano	Asael Castillo
Postlude:	Postlude on <i>'Veni Immanuel'</i>	Hal Hobson

ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

Sympathy

The white rose on the baptismal font today is in honor of Naomi Lingwood who passed away November 19, 2021. Please keep her family and friends in your prayers as they grieve their recent loss. A Memorial gathering will be held on Wednesday, November 24 at 10:30 a.m. at the Cozine Life Events Center.

Praying for the Church Family

As a congregation we weekly focus our personal and corporate prayers upon a selection of church members and friends. Let us remember in prayer this week the following: Gary & Loyce Booher, Mary & Mitch Crouch, Jr., Virginia Garver, Doug & Stephanie Hutchison, and Mark Johnson.

A WORD FROM THE FINANCE COMMISSION

To save money, we did not mail out the automatic bank withdrawal authorization form with the pledge packets. We have placed the form on the resource table across from the church office. You may also, contact Sherri Miller, preferably via e-mail, at finance@firstchurchwichita.org, and she will send you the form. Thank you for your continued support of the church. ~ Finance and Administration Commission

USHERS NEEDED

Now that the number of members and guests attending worship is increasing, the need for ushers is also growing. This includes greeting members and guests at Sunday services, serving at weddings and funerals as well as assisting handicapped individuals. If you would be willing to consider serving our church in this activity, please let us know. Training will be provided, and schedules are flexible.

Please call Phil Michel at 316-213-5515 to learn more.

Poinsettia Orders

Poinsettias will once again adorn the Sanctuary for the Advent season. If you would like to purchase a poinsettia in memory of or in honor of a loved one, the suggested donation is \$12. Please place your order by December 10. Envelopes are located outside of the church office.

If you mail your order to the church, please make sure to notate that the donation is for a poinsettia and who you would like it to be dedicated to. This year we will not have the poinsettia trees. It will be a scaled down version with fewer poinsettias. You may take your poinsettia home with you after the worship service on Sunday, December 26. **Thank you!**



Buy a FPC 150th Anniversary Cookbooks for Christmas!

The 150th Anniversary Cookbooks are here. These make a perfect Christmas gift. Contact Geri Doll or come by the office on Monday through Thursday between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. to buy a cookbook. You may also purchase a cookbook on Sundays after worship. They are only \$15.



Alternative Gift Market Update

The AGM held on November 13 was a big success. The event raised \$25,145 and an additional \$10,000 is expected to be generated through mini-markets and on-line sales through the end of the year. The PW project title was "*Building Resilient Farming Families*" in Belize, Honduras, and Panama. They are facing multiple crises: the global pandemic and the impacts of climate change. Gerry Winters designed the ornament and a team of PW volunteers had fun and fellowship creating them. All but 20 of the 76 ornaments made were "sold" on site. The others will be used in the mini markets. Thanks to Cynthia Brinley, Alice Price, and Mary Knecht who staffed the booth the day of the market.

2022 Calendars Needed

If you receive complimentary 2022 calendars that you do not need, please bring them to the church. The Mission Commission is collecting calendars to distribute to refugees. They are very much appreciated and a great tool to help keep track of appointments and events. Thank you.

Church Key Card System Failure

We have an access system that we no longer can find replacement parts for and now it has failed and must be replaced. Access to the mail room and handicap entrance is the biggest challenge to keep it going until the new system has been installed. The new system should be installed in the next 2 or 3 weeks. We will know more once the contractor receives confirmation of when the equipment will be shipped. When we get close to the date of install, we will send out more information about how we will transition from the old system to the new. We apologize for this temporary inconvenience.

~ Roy Yarbrough-Facilities/IT Manager

The Perfect Gift—CHRISTMAS JOY Nov. 28th—Dec. 19th

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor God's gift of Jesus Christ by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Thank you for your gift!

~ Submitted by Patrice Cummings-Mission Commission

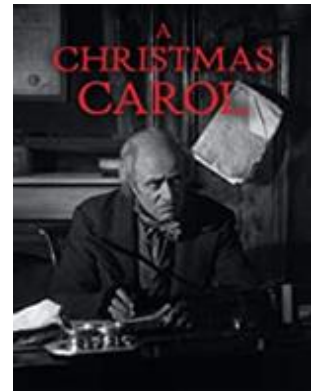


SAVE THE DATES!!

Advent Wednesday Night Series December 1, 8, and 15

In what way must we reckon with our past, present, and future as we listen to what the Holy Spirit would say to us through the spirits who visit Ebenezer Scrooge on Christmas Eve? We will look at segments of *A Christmas Carol* and then enter a lively discussion.

No preparation needed unless one wants to read the book or watch your favorite *A Christmas Carol* movie. **We will meet in *The Well* and on Zoom on December 1, 8, and 15 at 6:30 p.m.**



Family Fun Event Saturday, December 4

The Family Fellowship group will be attending “Toyland” performance by the Wichita Children’s Theatre on December 4 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Pizza will be served. Please contact Liz Norris for details and to RSVP if you plan to attend. Tickets and space are limited.

(3207 E Douglas Ave, Wichita Ks)



Shhhhhh! Silent Auction—Epiphany 2022

First Church is looking for folks who would like to submit a themed basket or items for a Silent Auction on January 9th. Silent Auction items can be a “themed” basket, artwork, a service, or even a gift certificate from your business. All items for the auction need to be delivered to the church by Saturday, January 8th for program setup at 10 a.m. If by chance you need to turn your donation into the auction earlier, you can bring it to the church office during open hours. When you deliver your item, you will need to fill out some information about your donation. Thank you for supporting your church family!



***Fill your “spiritual cup” and another is by donating a basket of goodies to be auctioned off!
Contact Michelle Murray-Cline for details or questions at 734-0243.***

EPIPHANY BINGO 2022 ON JANUARY 9

Epiphany BINGO...and the not so Silent Auction is on Sunday, January 9 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Join your church family for a fabulous afternoon of fellowship with soup & bread, playing Bingo for prizes, and making bids on Silent Auction baskets. **BRING FRIENDS!!**

- FREE Soup Dinner with a Bingo Card
- Folks will sit in Family/Friend Groups
- Small charge for a dauber and extra Bingo Cards

Donations are always appreciated! All proceeds of the Silent Auction will go to support spiritual growth and renewal of our congregation as we celebrate **151 years** of being the **First Church of Wichita!**

Contact Michelle Murray-Cline at 734-0243 for details or if you would love to assist!

SESSION NEWS

The Session has approved the call of a Congregational Meeting for the purpose of electing the four at-large members to the PNC. The Congregational Meeting will follow the 9:30 Worship Service on December 12, 2021. Information regarding the ways to participate in the meeting are outlined in a letter attached to this email.

Please Pray for Our Church

As a church, we are embarking upon an exciting and challenging time. Through the work of the Session, the church's Transformation Team, the Kansas Leadership Center, and others, we are working together to develop the skills and insights to creatively face our future. We want to look ahead with confidence, knowing that God is able to do far more than we can ask or imagine by his power at work in us. (Eph. 3:20)

As we journey toward our future, we are asking for your prayers. In your personal devotions, in the meetings you attend, and at other times as you feel called to do so, we ask that you pray that we might listen to God and discern God's will for First Presbyterian Church.

Your prayers might include thanking God for our church and its mission and programs. We need to ask for the guidance of the Spirit as we work together. Pray for strength to be faithful to God and to each other, recognizing there will be many challenges along the way. Pray that we open our hearts and be ready for the unexpected, realizing that God keeps his promises but in ways that may be completely different from what we expect. Let us move boldly to God's throne of grace as we face our future together.

In Christ, The Transformation Team

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, November 28

- 9:00 Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
- 9:30 Worship (Sanctuary) In-Person, Live Stream, & Facebook Live-Nativity Processional
- 10:00 WRCC Worship (C204)
- 11:45 Journey's Class (Hobbs/Zoom)

Tuesday, November 30

- 1:00 Staff Mtg (*The Well*/MS Teams)
- 2:30 Pastoral Staff Mtg (*The Well*/MS Teams)
- 6:30 Session Mtg (Zoom)

Wednesday, December 1

- 9:00 Dorcas (C105)
- 6:00 Youth & Kid's Club (YL)
- 6:30 Adult Advent Study Group (*The Well*/Zoom)
- 7:00 Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Saturday, December 4

- 8:00 Community Breakfast (KIT/WDR)
- 11:30 Family Fellowship Event (Offsite-Crown Uptown)

Sunday, December 5

- 9:00 Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
- 9:30 Worship (Sanctuary) In-Person, Live Stream, & Facebook Live-Jesse Tree
- 10:00 WRCC Worship (C204)
- 10:30 Deacon's Mtg (C109)
- 10:45 Kid's Club Advent Workshop (*The Well*)
- 11:45 Journey's Class (Hobbs/Zoom)