



Presbeat



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Editor: Denise Beckler, Volume 14, Number 10 ~ October 2020



In a few weeks, we will be gathering with our loved ones to give thanks to God for His faithfulness.

In First Thessalonians 5:18 we read, *Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

But how can we praise God in circumstances like these? COVID, wildfires, political strife, racism, sheltering in place. Can we give God thanks at a time like this?

On October 3, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation which established Thanksgiving as a national holiday. Lincoln wrote that he was issuing this proclamation "*In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity.*" During the worst time in the history of our nation, Lincoln called on the nation, *...to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens.*

This has been a painful and chaotic year for all of us. Thankfully, God is with us and caring for us. During all that is going on, we can still give God our thanks for all that He is doing in our personal lives and in the world around us.

In addition to giving thanks and praise to God for how He provides for our every need, Lincoln called us to come before God to, *...fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility, and Union.*

You will be receiving this newsletter before the election. People are already struggling with anxiety and grief and disillusionment. No matter how things turn out, millions will also be disappointed. At a time like this, the followers of Jesus are needed to "fervently implore" God to heal and unite our nation. Only God can bless us with "peace, harmony, tranquility, and Union." Lincoln knew this. And deep down, so do we.

There is hope for our nation. God will always be with us. Next Thanksgiving, we will have many more reasons to give thanks to the Lord.

May God bless you with His peace as you celebrate His faithfulness with thankful and joyful hearts.

In Christ, *Pastor David*

PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN THANKSGIVING PROCLAMATION

Washington, D.C.
October 3, 1863



By the President of the United States of America.

A Proclamation.

The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God. In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to foreign States to invite and to provoke their aggression, peace has been preserved with all nations, order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere except in the theatre of military conflict; while that theatre has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and navies of the Union. Needful diversions of wealth and of strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defense, have not arrested the plough, the shuttle or the ship; the axe has enlarged the borders of our settlements, and the mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore. Population has steadily increased, notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the siege and the battle-field; and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years with large increase of freedom. No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently, and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility and Union.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this Third day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States the Eighty-eighth.

By the President: Abraham Lincoln

William H. Seward, Secretary of State



Trunk or Treat

What a wonderful weekend! In the midst of the pandemic and the stress of the election, we came together as a church and put smiles on the faces of both children and parents at our Trunk or Treat event. So many parents thanked us for hosting a safe event for their families. They loved the candy shooting out of pipes that Lenord proposed and made. Wilma laid down an easy to follow path to each trunk with paper plates marking the six-feet social distance needed to keep people safe. Children walked through balloon arches made by Randy Beckler and assembled by three students, Ashley, Sara and Anna. Nine creatively decorated trunks lined both sides of the parking lot giving guests scenes to enjoy. Oodles of candy was donated by so many in our church family. We never ran out and generously gave to those attending. And I can't forget the master of logistic, Roe, who made sure we had our electrical needs met and the entrance was supplies with church

brochures to hand out. We had 540 people walk through our Trunk or Treat event.

Most important, we touched our community with Jesus' love. Christ lives in us and when we reach out to love those around us, we are sharing the generous love God has already lavished on us. Thank you for being a part of sharing the joy, love and laughter with others that we receive from God.

Advent Material

As November begins, we move closer to Advent season. While we are still unable to meet in person and host Sunday School, we wanted to do something together as a church family. I have Advent Devotional booklet available for each family. Each day of Advent there is a reading, questions to think about, and an activity to do together as a family. For children, ages 4-11, we have a special treat for you. If you would like to participate and have the material mailed to you, please sign up here: <https://tithe.ly/event-registration/#/2680777> To help us feel connected, I invite families using the Advent Devotionals to post pictures on our Face Book account (www.facebook.com/fpcukiah) or email me (katherine@FPCukiah.org) pictures to upload to Face Book and/or include our monthly newsletter. Even though we are unable to meet in person, we can still connect to each other.

Student Ministry

For the month of October 6th to 12th students have met on Wednesday nights. I have enjoyed getting to know these amazing individuals. They are creative, insightful and fun. From the water balloon toss to guessing each other's pseudo identities to decorating pumpkins, we are getting to know one another. We are also discovering Jesus and chatting about his family tree. We meet Wednesday nights from 6:00-7:30pm outside, as long as weather permits or restrictions change. It is a joy to work alongside Roe, Dory, and my husband, Mike serving these students.

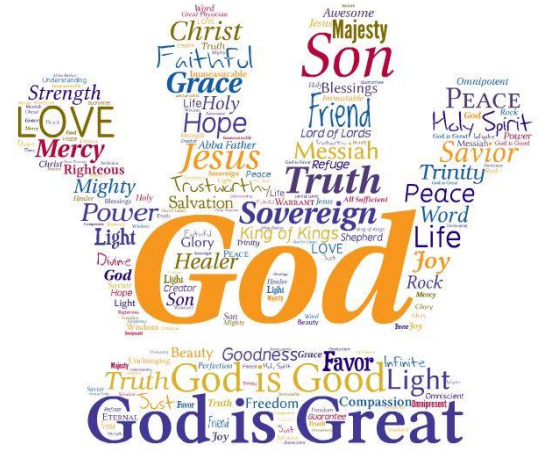
God bless,

Rev. Katherine Schoen



On behalf of the Worship and Sound Team

I want to say THANK YOU to you, our church family, for the prayers, cards and notes of encouragement we have received. They have gotten us through many challenges as we navigate through these chaotic times! Please continue to pray for strength and protection for our pastors, David & Katherine, our worship and sound team and our city as we find ways, with God's help, to scale the walls that are thrown in front of us. ~ Serving Christ with you, Denise Beckler



Never Ending Story of Creativity, Compassion and Opportunity

~ Dory Haselswerdt, Elder of Worship

Learning to enjoy 2020 without summertime traditions like camp, family vacations, gathering with friends at the lake or pool, and so on.....this was practice for the wintertime holidays. We've been empowered by our creativity.

I find myself repeatedly trying to resolve the dissonance of wanting to socialize, in person, with the scientific knowledge that, in doing so, I risk bringing home an infection to vulnerable family members. It reminds me of how we all know that we should be exercising and eating healthy to protect ourselves, but temptation often overrides. In this case, we are avoiding congregating to protect each other.

More difficult to resolve is the situation of several of our congregants, family, and friends who have lost a loved one, and are approaching the first holiday season without them. Holiday seasons are challenging enough when someone is missing from the celebrations, but we look forward to them because the silver linings of gathering with each other - laughing & hugging - soothes the sad or lonely feelings passing through us.

How do we soothe and celebrate while still protecting each other? Protection of physical vulnerabilities versus protection of emotional vulnerabilities. If I leave my grandma alone during the season, and just send her emails and telephone calls, I will be comforted knowing that I am not sending her to the hospital, but will worry that the joys motivating her to stay healthy and engaged will be too diminished to be effective. On the other hand, if I go to visit her in person and she gets sick, there will always be that guilt that I should have had more faith and patience.

That's one of the challenges of faith - we have faith that Jesus is with us and that God will provide in His own time and manner, but what do we do with ourselves in the meantime? :)

We like to keep ourselves busy, and prefer to think that our actions are moving us along in the direction of God's plan. So, I suppose I'm worried that if Grandma doesn't stay busy (or I don't keep her busy), she'll stop thriving and give up. I'm scared that people who are coming up on their first holidays without a loved one will not be kept busy enough to thrive through the season without in-person social contact.

Pastor Katherine explained, in her sermon, a specific action we can take to help us feel busy while we wade through changes. Keep a journal or list about all of the ways God has been faithful to you. It got me to thinking about all of the “little” prayers we pray, then promptly forget. For example, your child goes out with his or her friends, no adult supervision, and you pray for their safety. When they come home, you might take for granted the answered prayer, especially if they come home having broken a rule (curfew, alcohol, etc).

During this season of thankfulness and waiting (ahem, advent), we can be actively engaged “IN Him,” by remembering the relationships God has blessed us with, throughout our lives. Send those memories to your friends and family, also, because everyone appreciates knowing how they have positively affected each other.

Empowered by our creativity and compassion, I expect Jesus will help us stay engaged by showing us the good things happening in spite of the coronavirus. Change can't happen without loss, so perhaps we can help each other grieve those losses, while highlighting the positives or opportunities in our "Never Ending Story" with the Holy Spirit.

Finance Update:

Janet Noe, Elder

This report shows the financial status of the church as of September 30th. As you can see our giving is behind almost \$18,000 compared to expenses. The finance committee has forecasted that as of December 31st, 2020, we will possibly be using up to \$38,000 of the church's reserve funds. This is giving versus expenses. However, in the past several years our giving has exceeded expenses and we have ended the year with a surplus. We have also increased our checking account and savings substantially. Session has reviewed this as they plan for 2021.

At the September session meeting the finance committee asked session for their priorities for 2021. Session members are ordained to make decisions on behalf of the congregation. After much review and discussion, Session decided that the top two areas of focus for 2021 would be paid staff and live streaming of Sunday services. For staffing, Session is considering investing in a 2nd full time pastor position to take on the duties of the Youth and Family Ministries position including having the authority to fill in for David when he is away. For live streaming of Sunday services session has agreed to upgrade our equipment to continue this ministry.

Now we come to November and stewardship time for our church. Information will be sent out soon and commitments will be presented and dedicated on Sunday November 22nd.

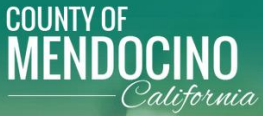




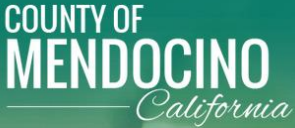
With the current health order in place we will not be able to gather and celebrate with a meal this year. Take the time to pray over your giving and contemplate where you would like to see our church grow. We have been blessed with many gifts, spirit led pastors and faithful giving.

Thank you for your prayers for our church and our ministries.

Finance Committee: Finance Committee: Cindy DeVries, Kathy Smith, Denise Beckler and Pastor David

As of September 30, 2020		Total \$\$
Income	\$	182,909
Expenses	\$	200,877
Difference	\$	(17,968)
Balance in Checking Account		Total \$\$
Non-Designated Funds	\$	85,306
Designated Funds (detail below)	\$	94,417
Total Balance in Checking	\$	179,723
Balance in Savings		Total \$\$
CD's	\$	44,645
Mutual Funds	\$	29,535
Other Savings	\$	52,979
Total Balance in Savings	\$	127,159
Detail of Designated Funds in Checking Account		
Missions	\$	1,096
Missions Fundraiser	\$	4,411
Centsability	\$	20
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$	-
Shoes 4 You	\$	-
Pedals 4 Protein	\$	50
Pass-Through	\$	-
Per Capita	\$	-
Deacons	\$	6
Flowers	\$	-
Ramos Trust	\$	52,185
General Memorial	\$	30,025
Buildings & Grounds	\$	248
Compassionate Ministries	\$	3,315
Pastor Appreciation	\$	-
Adult Ministries	\$	3
Singalong	\$	6
Fellowship Meals	\$	-
Youth Activities	\$	500
Children's Activities	\$	166
Children's Playground	\$	2,389
Camperships	\$	60
Total	\$	94,480

Helpful Resources:

	Mendocino County COVID-19 Information/Resource page
	Senior Resource Directory for Lake and Mendocino Counties: (707) 468.5132. Provides information such as Preparing for Health Emergencies, Active Living, Caregiving, End-of-Life Resources, Grandparenting, much more http://www.seniorresourcedirectory.org/Directory/Index.htm
	Food and Nutrition Resources: (707) 468.5132. Provides information on Food Stamps, Congregate/Social Dining Sites (including Plowshares and other locations), Food Banks, Grocery Delivery, and Home-Delivered Meals. http://www.seniorresourcedirectory.org/Directory/Food.html
	Alzheimer's Association: (800) 272.3900 https://www.alz.org/norcal
	Medicare Help Line: (800) 917-6367 They can help find home care, meal delivery, all sorts of things covered by Medicare
	Senior Guidance on Assisted Living: (888) 595.9101 Includes a directory on all our local Assisted Living and Residential Care Homes. https://www.seniorguidance.org/assisted-living/california/ukiah.html
	Adult Services (Mendocino County): Provides information on Adult Protective Services (APS), General Assistance, In-Home Support Services, Veteran's Services, Care for the Homeless, and more. APS 24-hour emergency line: (877) 327.1799

Did we miss your birthday???

Please contact the church office or email Denise, denise@fpcukiah.org so that we can celebrate with you!

Happy Birthday!




11/2 Shirley Lewis
Danna Johnston
11/5 Trudi Gernert
11/6 Meredith Lintott
Zach Beckler

11/8 Shannon Phelan
11/10 Annalyse Schoen
11/11 David Rodriguez
11/16 Priscilla Aguilar

11/18 Debbie Brutocao
11/22 Bob Rogers
11/24 Rhonda Chew
11/29 Dona Huff



NOVEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10am Worship Communion https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=presby+ukiah	2 Office hours 9am to 1pm	3 Office hours 9am to 1pm 7am Men's Bible Study (Zoom)	4 Office hours 9am to 1pm 1:30pm PW Bible Study (via Zoom) 3pm Youth Group 6pm Worship Team	5 Office hours 9am to 1pm 8:30am Women's Bible Study (Zoom)	6	7
8 10am Worship https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=presby+ukiah 11am Missions Committee	9 Office hours 9am to 1pm	10 Office hours 9am to 1pm 7am Men's Bible Study (Zoom)	11 Veteran's Day Holiday Office closed 	12 Office hours 9am to 1pm 8:30am Women's Bible Study (Zoom) 6:00pm Session	13	14
15 10am Worship https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=presby+ukiah	16 Office hours 9am to 1pm	17 Office hours 9am to 1pm 7am Men's Bible Study (Zoom)	18 Office hours 9am to 1pm 1:30pm PW Bible Study (Zoom) 3pm Youth Group 6pm Worship Team	19 Office hours 9am to 1pm 8:30am Women's Bible Study (Zoom) 5:30pm Deacons	20	21
22 10am Worship https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=presby+ukiah Pledge Commitment Sunday/Harvest Feast	23 Office hours 9am to 1pm	24 Office hours 9am to 1pm 7am Men's Bible Study (Zoom)	25 Office hours 9am to 1pm 1:30pm PW Bible Study (Zoom) 3pm Youth Group 6pm Worship Team	26 Happy Thanksgiving 	27 Thanksgiving Holiday Office closed	28
29 10am Worship Communion https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=presby+ukiah First Day of Advent 	30					

Our Calendar is also available online @ fpcukiah.org/resources/events-and-calendar/calendar/