



# Presbeat



First Presbyterian Church of Ukiah, CA

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Office hours Mon-Thurs, 9am-1pm ~ 707.468.9235

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Denise Beckler, Volume 14, Number 12 ~ December 2020



## "A Light In The Darkness"

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all humankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ~ John 1:1-5*

These past few months have felt dark for many of us. The bitter election, protests, riots, wildfires, smoke filled air, and COVID have cast a pall upon the land. At times, the darkness has been overwhelming and we have been searching for some light to make sense out of all this—a light to be a source of comfort and to lead us out of the darkness.

The Scripture passage from the Gospel of John reminds us that God has given us the Light for which we have been searching. The Light is God's Son, Jesus Christ. And we have been called by God to shine this Light into the darkness for all to see and follow. We are reminded of this as we light the candles of the Advent wreath each Sunday.

Since we are unable to bring people into the sanctuary during the season of Advent due to COVID, we will bring the light of Advent into the darkness outside for all to see. We will have the Advent wreath outside during worship and you are invited to take a turn lighting the Advent candles.

A new outdoor Christmas tree and a new outdoor manger scene have been graciously donated to the congregation. These lights will be shining in the dark night, to draw people to the Light of the world, Jesus.

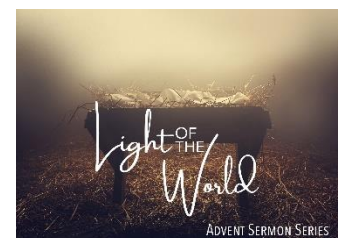
On Sunday, December 6, we will light up the church parking lot at 5:30 pm and sing Christmas carols. We have candles for people to hold as we proclaim the birth of Jesus, the Light of the world. Then we will give them Christmas cookies and hot drinks as they take the light back home.

On Christmas Eve, at 5:30 pm, we will light up the church outside and have a service of worship. We will all be singing Christmas carols and lighting candles as we do every year.

We will also continue to live-stream our services so that you may join us from home. Please consider having an Advent wreath in your homes as a reminder that Jesus is always bringing you His light. You can even drive up to the church, roll down your car windows and sing with us from your car.

*The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

In Christ, ~ Pastor David





## Wow! It's already been two months since I began my journey with First Pres...

It's been exciting to get to know you as our new church family. I have to smile every time I meet or chat with someone new and they say, "This is what I really look like," as they pull down the mask (at a same distance) and show me their whole face.

As I get to see your whole face, here is what I see. In your smiles and eyes there is a passion for Jesus and a love for one another. I see it in Roe Sandelin's eyes as they light up sharing with the middle and high school student about Ruth and Boaz on Wednesday night. I hear this in the Mission Committee when they talk about partnering with Pastor John in Uganda or sending homemade cookies to the troops in Djibouti. I see the desire to reach out to the community as Denise Beckler, Dory Haselswerdt, Lenord Swope, and Pastor David plan the Old Fashion Christmas Caroling. I see it in Kevin DeVries and the team who prepared, baked and cooked our delicious harvest meals on Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>. I hear it in the persistent work Kitty Sandelin, Mark Smith and Daniel Rodriguez do each Sunday to provide visual and sound for in-person and online worship services. I see it in Randy Beckler's care for the building (painting my office and fixing my light, just to name a few) and providing heat for those gathering outside for worship. I see it in Perry Crowley's consistent and detailed work on the church's website (check it out: [www.fpcukiah.org](http://www.fpcukiah.org)). This is just a little glimpse of First Pres' whole face that I have witnessed in these two months. There is so much more that I could write about. This is an AMAZING church family that I get to be a part of! Do we have warts, of course we do, but it does not cover or hide the love of Jesus here.

Advent is a time we get to prepare for the birth of Christ. It is a time to remind us to slow down and reflect on the great love God poured out on us when he sent his only Son. This has caused me to reflect on my willingness to do the Father's will. It has made me attentive to the Holy Spirit's movement in my life. Responding to the Holy Spirit can be as simple as caring for my mother and in-laws during this time of sheltering in place. Or hanging out with the amazing students that gather on Wednesday night. And it can be more complicated like allowing God to continue to do the work of transformation in me. Or discerning with session how God is leading us forward. Just as Jesus was sent into the world for our sake, we have been given the Holy Spirit and have been sent into the world to show our whole face (warts and all) and shine the light of Christ brightly. My prayer is that as we shine in our homes, at work, in our neighborhoods and in the world, more and more people will be attracted to God's light in us and come to know Jesus as Savior.

God bless,

*Rev. Katherine Schoen*



Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>

5:30 to 6:30 pm

Parking Lot (corner Dora & Perkins Sts.)

**Help us bring Christmas to Ukiah!**

Bundle up in warm jacket, hat, scarf, and mittens  
and gather around the Christmas Tree to sing your favorite  
Christmas Carols

You will be given a candle as you enter  
And hot beverage and cookie as you leave

Face mask and social distancing required



***Operation Christmas Child 2020 – 2021 – Not too late to participate!***

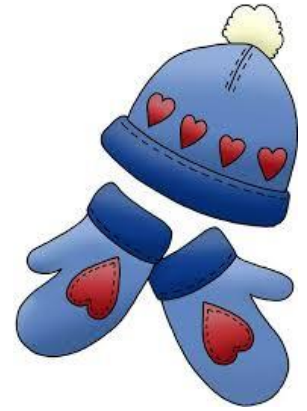
Even with these COVID times, First Presbyterian Church delivered 26 shoeboxes to the Regional Drop Off Center with many more filled online. You may go online and build a shoebox any time during 2020 and 2021 by choosing items and paying \$25.00. The

link is <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/buildonline>.

Thank you for continuing to support this global ministry. Through this ministry families are reached, churches grow, new churches started and communities transformed. May God be glorified in this ministry.

# Decorate the Christmas Tree...

Thank you to everyone who helped decorate our sanctuary for Christmas! The greens are hung, wreaths are on the walls, and the Christmas tree is lit up! All we need now are the decorations for the tree. As is our tradition, please help by providing hats, gloves, scarves, warm socks, etc. to give to the cold in our community. You may drop off your items anytime during office hours (there is a collection tub in the volunteer office) or bring in on Sunday morning and put on the tree yourself.



## "The Ghost of Candy Corn Past"

~ Lenord Swope, Elder of Congregational Care

Borrowing from Charles Dickens for the lead in line, Our Trunk or Treat unlike Ebenezer's grave scene was well attended by 540 participants. So I want to acknowledge the individuals in our church that made it possible whether by donating candy, decorating and hosting a trunk, or setup/take down with an appropriate BOO YAH!





## Birthday for Jesus Returns to FPCU

As believers in Jesus Christ, we have the greatest story in the world to tell—the story of a Savior who came to earth to save mankind. This time of year, the world can tempt us to get caught up in all of the commercial aspects of this holiday. But you and I know the real reason for Christmas.

We are pleased to announce that our church is partnered again with The Gideons International this Christmas to share the greatest story of all—the story of Jesus. It's called Birthday for Jesus, an opportunity our church

offers you to celebrate Christ's birth by donating Bibles around the world in His honor.

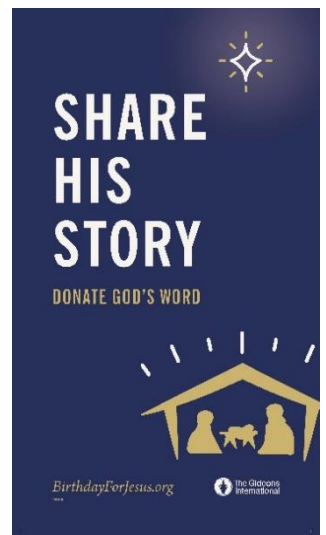
**To participate in this opportunity to touch lives with the Gospel, please take one of the donation envelopes from the stack of cards near the church sign in sheet, fill it out, and include the amount you wish to donate to The Gideons International in honor of Jesus' birth. Please mail the envelope to P.O. Box 113, Ukiah.** Birthday for Jesus collections by our church will be taken through January 3, 2021. Your donation will help provide for the placement and distribution of Scriptures in some 200 countries, territories, and possessions throughout the world.

**Inside the envelope you'll find a decorative ornament that is yours to keep.** You can display it wherever you like, as a reminder to pray for those who will encounter the Scriptures you are providing.

Isaiah 55:11 tells us God's Word does not return void. Please pray for those who receive these Scriptures, knowing somewhere in the world, a man, woman, boy, or girl, will receive a copy of God's Word that you helped provide. Pray also for lives to be changed as they read the story of Jesus Christ and receive Him as Lord and Savior.

*Thank you. And may God bless you and your family this Christmas season.*

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. —Luke 2:8-11 (KJV)



## Finance Update:

This report shows the financial status of the church as of October 31st. This month the difference between income and expenses is \$16,780.00. The updated forecast from the finance committee shows that as of December 31st, 2020 we will be using up to \$30,000 of the church's reserve funds. This is giving versus expenses. We expect to send out year to date giving statements this week. Please pray over your giving and consider making an extra offering before the end of the year.

At the November session meeting the finance committee presented a draft of the 2021 budget. It was reviewed and will be voted on at the December meeting. Session members are ordained to make decisions on behalf of the congregation. Priorities for 2021 are still paid staffing and live streaming of Sunday services. For staffing, Session has hired a 2nd full time pastoral 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.

Thank you for the tithing pledges that we have received so far. If you have not done so, please turn in your pledge now. If you need a pledge card, please contact the office and we can mail one to you. The finance committee and Session will be using the total commitments to finalize our budget for 2021. 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.

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

Finance Committee: Janet Noe, Kathy Smith, Denise Beckler and Pastor David

As of October 31, 2020		Total \$\$
Income	\$	205,955
Expenses	\$	222,735
Difference	\$	(16,780)
Balance in Checking Account		Total \$\$
Non-Designated Funds	\$	87,285
Designated Funds (detail below)	\$	97,678
<b>Total Balance in Checking</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>184,963</b>
Balance in Savings		Total \$\$
CD's	\$	44,645
Mutual Funds	\$	30,629
Other Savings	\$	48,064
<b>Total Balance in Savings</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>123,338</b>
Detail of Designated Funds in Checking Account		
Missions	\$	1,186
Missions Fundraiser	\$	6,563
Centsability	\$	102
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$	-
Shoes 4 You	\$	-
Pedals 4 Protein	\$	50
Pass-Through	\$	-
Per Capita	\$	-
Deacons	\$	-
Flowers	\$	-
Ramos Trust	\$	52,185
General Memorial	\$	30,025
Buildings & Grounds	\$	248
Compassionate Ministries	\$	3,155
Pastor Appreciation	\$	1,015
Adult Ministries	\$	3
Singalong	\$	6
Fellowship Meals	\$	-
Youth Activities	\$	500
Children's Activities	\$	191
Children's Playground	\$	2,389
Camperships	\$	60
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>97,678</b>

# Congregational Meeting Notice:

Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> following worship

Purpose:

- Elect Board of Elder and Deacon positions class of 2023
- elect Corporate Officers
- elect Nominating Committee 2021

*Did we miss your birthday???*

Please contact the church office or email Denise, [denise@fpcukiah.org](mailto:denise@fpcukiah.org) so that we can celebrate with you!



## Happy Birthday!


12/3 Richard Ruddick  
12/4 Perry Crowley  
12/5 Fritz Gordon  
12/6 Kevin Mack

12/8 Selina Luiz  
12/9 Mary Logan  
12/15 Ray Carlson  
12/17 Sandra Applegate

12/20 Betty Ashoff  
Judy Ballenger  
12/24 David Edgar  
12/28 David Head



## DECEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Office hours 9am to 1pm 7am Men's Bible Study (Zoom)	2 Office hours 9am to 1pm 1:30pm PW Bible Study (via Zoom) 6pm Youth Group 6:30pm Worship Team	3 Office hours 9am to 1pm 8:30am Women's Bible Study (Zoom)	4	5
6 10am Worship <a href="https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=presby+ukiah">https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=presby+ukiah</a> 11am Missions Committee 5:30pm Olde Fashioned Christmas Caroling (parking lot)	7 Office hours 9am to 1pm	8 Office hours 9am to 1pm 7am Men's Bible Study (Zoom)	9 Office hours 9am to 1pm 1:30pm PW Bible Study (via Zoom) 6pm Youth Group 6:30pm Worship Team	10 Office hours 9am to 1pm 8:30am Women's Bible Study (Zoom)	11	12
13 10am Worship <a href="https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=presby+ukiah">https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=presby+ukiah</a> 11:15am Missions Committee	14 Office hours 9am to 1pm	15 Office hours 9am to 1pm 7am Men's Bible Study (Zoom)	16 Office hours 9am to 1pm 1:30pm PW Bible Study (via Zoom) 6pm Youth Group 6:30pm Worship Team	17 Office hours 9am to 1pm 8:30am Women's Bible Study (Zoom) 6:00pm Session	18	19
20 10am Worship <a href="https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=presby+ukiah">https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=presby+ukiah</a>	21 Office hours 9am to 1pm	22 Office hours 9am to 1pm 7am Men's Bible Study (Zoom)	23 Office hours 9am to 1pm 1:30pm PW Bible Study (via Zoom) 6pm Youth Group 6:30pm Worship Team	24 5:30pm Christmas Eve worship online and in person <a href="https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=presby+ukiah">https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=presby+ukiah</a>	25 Merry Christmas! 	26
27 10am Worship Communion <a href="https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=presby+ukiah">https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=presby+ukiah</a>	28 Staff Christmas Holiday ~ Office is closed 	29	30 Office hours 9am to 1pm 1:30pm PW Bible Study (via Zoom) 6pm Youth Group 6:30pm Worship Team	31		

Our Calendar is also available online @ [fpcukiah.org/resources/events-and-calendar/calendar/](https://fpcukiah.org/resources/events-and-calendar/calendar/)