



Presbeat

First Presbyterian Church of Ukiah, CA
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"Sharing Jesus at Christmas"



As you look over this newsletter, you'll notice that we will have several opportunities to share the love and grace of Jesus at our church.

On Friday, December 9 at 6:30 pm, we are inviting our neighbors to go caroling with our youth around our neighborhood.

On Sunday, December 18 at 3:30 pm, we are inviting the community to join us in the sanctuary to sing Christmas carols. We can welcome our neighbors and then spend time with them afterward in the fellowship hall for Christmas cookies and hot cider.

On Christmas Eve, at 5:30 pm the children of our church will present a Christmas Pageant and we will all be singing Christmas carols and lighting candles.

On Christmas Day, at 10:00 am we will have the special opportunity to celebrate the Lord's birth during the Sunday morning worship service.

Please look for someone new to you at the church during the next few days and give them a loving welcome. These folks are coming to us to find Jesus at Christmas.

In Christ, *Pastor David*

Our pastors are thankful to be serving our congregation, not only in worship but even more so in relationships. They also need their private space, as we all do. If you have church related business to discuss with them, we prefer you do not drop by their homes unannounced in order to do so. They are always available by phone or email for visits, appointments and emergencies, and their schedules are flexible. Their contact info is above. Thank you!

Christmas Prayer ...



There has been an increase of people coming to the church looking for assistance, especially people with kids. As we walk through advent, look forward to Christmas, and celebrate the New Year, please keep this prayer in front of you so that we may not forget to enter into these hard times with families...

Mighty God, creator of the heavens and earth, you entered into our lives as a baby so that you may restore your world. We give thanks this time of year, and year-round, for your presence with us first through Jesus Christ and then through the Holy Spirit. Help us to turn to you in this time of blessing and be thankful for all that we have, for health, family, food, shelter, hope, and salvation. Please help us to remember in the midst of the Christmas trees and presents, that there are many people all around us who are struggling because they don't have some of the same blessings this holiday season. Help us to remember the mothers who can't feed their kids, the fathers who don't have a roof over their children's heads, and the elderly who may not have family all around them. God, when we look at our blessings, let us know that we have these blessings so that we may find joy in life, but also that we may be a blessing to others. Open our hearts to the people around us who are poor in life and poor in spirit. Let us be your light in this world that we may not look away, but find a loving way to enter into relationship and life with others. We may not have all the answers, but we have blessings we can share and hope that you do have the answers and a joy filled path for all. Bless us to be part of that path for all those we meet this time of year. Amen

In Christ, *Pastor Kelsey*



From the Office...



RATS, MICE, ANTS... WE HAVE "CRITTERS" AGAIN!!

As many of you know, we don't have a daily custodian, so we need to find new ways to keep our church (especially the kitchen!) clean. I spoke with the Buildings & Grounds Elder (who I happen to live with!) and we decided to rearrange our garbage situation. There are two basic issues and simple solutions:

- 1) Often, I come to work and find a little food in the bottom of the huge garbage can in the kitchen. It seems wasteful to take trash out in the huge garbage bag that is nearly empty, so it's left for the time being (unfortunately it's bait for our 4- and 6-legged guests)
 - a. Solution: we put the extra-large trash cans in the furnace room and replaced it with a smaller kitchen can. We just ask that you please do take the trash out after every event or use. Replacement trash liners are in the bottom of the trash can.

- 2) The recycle and trash bins are a long way from the kitchen and it is dark and rainy!
 - a. Solution: We moved the regular trash and recycle bins to the corner just outside the kitchen back door near the bottom of the steps. The light by the back door lights up the area (light switch is in the hallway).



Of course, we have not done away with the larger trash cans. They are stored in the furnace room, just outside the kitchen door, and are easily pulled out for potlucks and other events that generate lots of trash.

As always, your help in keeping our church clean and tidy is greatly appreciated... not only by us, but by everyone who uses our facility. God bless you all!

Saturday, December 3rd

Everyone is invited.

We have a job you can do!



CONGREGATIONAL LIFE



The next VIP luncheon will be Wednesday, December 7th - Pearl Harbor Day. We are fortunate to have a Naval Reserve Chaplain, in full dress uniform, at the luncheon to discuss the life of a Navy Chaplain, along with some songs from that era.

Menu is meat loaf, mashed potatoes, green beans and cake for dessert. Please contact the office if you need to ride to this exciting event. Come and join us!

Are you 70 or older? Would you like to be on our VIP mail list?
Please contact Denise in the office, denise@fpcukiah.org or phone 468.9235

There will be no PW Bible Study in December; too busy!

We'll meet again 2nd Wednesday of January 11, 1:30,
in the James Room, or Library. Blessings, Jaunita



Let's Ring in the New Year Together!



We would like to invite everyone to a join us in welcoming in 2017 with a celebration and dance party!

The doors of the Fellowship Hall will **open at 6:30 p.m., California time,**
and **end at midnight, New York time!**

Refreshments and snacks will be served.

Children are welcome and childcare will be available in the nursery.

This celebration will be a fundraiser for scholarships for our congregation. Tickets will be going on sale soon! \$15.00 per person. You may pay at the door that evening as well. We hope that you will plan to spend the early hours of New Year's Eve with us!



We would like to remind all those who use the kitchen throughout the week to please clean up after your group and put everything away... dishes, items on the counter and sink area, etc. Many times the next group has to clean up after you before they can begin.

Please take what you do not use home with you. The refrigerator has become a dumping ground and someone has to do the work to throw away outdated items and spoiled food. If you leave left over items in the refrigerator for a group or the office, please label them.

These few easy steps in cleaning up are a great way to ensure an orderly kitchen and harmony in the family. Thanks so much!

MISSIONS

Christmas Charity Faire ~ Many Charities/One stop shopping

Are there people on your Christmas list who don't need more "stuff" but to whom you would still like to give a gift? Come to our Christmas Charity Faire on December 4th, during coffee hour, to make a purchase or donation to one of many charities in their name. Gift cards in the honoree's name will be available. There will be tables for both local and international organizations. Want to know more about how it works? Please talk to Wilma Pribyl, or anyone at the tables in Bromley during the Faire.

Cents-Ability Reminder

Don't forget to bring your Cents-Ability offering to church on Sunday December 4th. If you need a can to collect your families offering, there is one waiting for you in the church narthex. Thank you for participating.

Operation Christmas Child 2016 Collection Week Results



God has truly blessed this ministry again this year – see below

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Total shoeboxes	1206	1158
Number of volunteers	16	23
Total volunteer hours	88	99.5

We were also able to send 4 big bags of filler items, such as dolls, pencils, soccer balls, etc. to be used at the main collection center. If boxes are not full or if something needs to be replaced, the volunteers in Irvine fill up the boxes with these filler items.

Special thanks go to Drew Snyder who saw an opportunity to serve by recruiting for items, funds, and volunteers to pack up 102 boxes. Each box contained a personal letter from Drew along with her photo.

Another special thanks go to all the volunteers and especially to Jerry and Nancie Garcia, who not only worked during collection week, but also drove their truck pulling the trailer containing all the cartons of boxes to the Santa Rosa regional collection center. From there, the cartons are shipped to Irvine where each box is inspected and then recartoned for distribution throughout the world.

Many thanks go out to the congregation, participating churches, families, and individuals. Every gift-filled shoebox is a powerful tool for evangelism and discipleship – transforming the lives of children and their families through the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Free Local Holiday Meals:

Friday 12/23 (2 days before Christmas)

Ukiah: 11:30am Free hot meal at Plowshares - 1346 S. State St. Ukiah, CA
5:30pm Free hot meal at Plowshares - 1346 S. State St. Ukiah, CA

Saturday 12/24 (Christmas Eve)

Ukiah: 2:00pm Free hot meal at the Assembly of God Church - 395 N. Barnes St. Ukiah, CA
Willits: 1:00pm Free sack lunch at City Park – Commercial St. Willits, CA

Sunday 12/25 (Christmas)

Ukiah: 1:00pm Free sack lunch at Social Services - 747 S. State St. Ukiah, CA

On-going Free Meals:


Ukiah Plowshares -1346 S. State St. Ukiah, CA

Free hot meals every weekday (excluding Thanksgiving and weekends). Early seating for families with children and seniors 65+. Open to all.

Lunch: 11:30 - noon / Dinner: 5:30 - 6:00pm
(See our “Food Drive” shopping list.) →

Ukiah Hunger Express Weekend Sack Lunch Program - 747 S. State St. Ukiah, CA

Free sack lunches are handed out in front of the Social Services Building on weekends (excluding Christmas Eve). Lunches served at 1:00pm both Saturday and Sunday



FOOD DRIVE

THANK YOU!


Healthy Shopping List

- Peanut Butter
- Chunk Light Tuna (In Water)
- Canned Chicken (In Water)
- Canned Salmon
- Canned Fruits (In 100% Juice)
- Canned Vegetables (Low Sodium)
- Canned or Dried Beans
- Brown Rice
- Whole wheat flour
- Whole rolled oats
- Box Milk or Milk Alternatives

Spices:

- Cinnamon
- Thyme
- Cumin
- Chili Powder
- Italian Blend

Food for All
Mendocino



CHILDREN AND YOUTH

December dates to put in your calendars:

- Dec 4th & 11th - meet 6-7:30 for fun activities, friends & snack for grades 5-12.
- Dec 9th - from 5:30-8pm is our neighborhood Christmas caroling! Friends & family (church members, too!) are welcome to join us, however, if your child is 9 or younger, please plan to remain with the child. See you there!
- Dec 11th - meet 6-7:30pm is our annual white elephant gift exchange for #SWAG, grades 5-12. It's a great time to bring a friend!
- Dec 25th - meet us at 10am for our worship service, sing praises for the birth of Christ, and spend the day with loved ones. No SWAG - Merry Christmas!

Note: no #SWAG on December 18th or 25th.

WORSHIP

FPCU will be hosting a Taize' service on **Wednesday, December 7th, at 6:30 p.m.** Taize' is a contemplative service of scripture, prayer, music, and candlelight. Because of its ecumenical nature that welcomes spiritual seekers from various traditions (or no tradition at all), Taize' is a great opportunity for all people to join in a time of quiet reflection and engage in the presence of the Spirit in a unique and powerful way. Because of the quiet, more meditative nature of the experience, parents are encouraged to use their discretion regarding the participation of their children in the experience. Come as you are...all are welcome.

THE MUSIC OF CHRISTMAS
9th Annual Sing-Along
A Community Musical Gathering
Sponsored by First Presbyterian Church, Ukiah
Sunday, December 16, 2016
3:30 p.m. - Free

*Celebrate the fellowship of Christmas that we share together
Followed by Hot Cider & Cookies...Something for the whole family*

Featuring the music of ...
Combined Choirs from Area Churches
Special music

Receptacles for cash donations will be available for NorCal Christian Ministries,
Serving the homeless in our community.
For more information, contact:
Denise Beckler 707/466-9235, Carole Hester 707/972-2795

NEIGHBORHOOD CHRISTMAS CAROLING

December 9th at 6:30
Meet at First Presbyterian Church
on the corner of Perkins and Dora.
There will be hot chocolate and
cookies when we get back to the
church.

FUN FOR ALL AGES!

Dress warm and bring
a flashlight.



FINANCE

As of October 31, 2016		Total \$\$
Income	\$	205,082
Expenses	\$	214,588
Difference	\$	(9,507)

Balance in Checking Account		Total \$\$
Non-Designated Funds	\$	26,526
Designated Funds (detail below)	\$	37,513
Total Balance in Checking	\$	64,039

Balance in Savings		Total \$\$
CD's	\$	44,168
Mutual Funds	\$	23,804
One Time Special Gift in 2014	\$	44,249
Total Balance in Savings	\$	112,221

Detail of Designated Funds in Checking Account		
Missions	\$	-
Hispanic Ministries	\$	654
Hispanic MicroLoans	\$	1,010
Mission Trip	\$	3,043
Centsability	\$	418
Per Capita	\$	-
Deacons	\$	(16)
Flowers	\$	5
General Memorial	\$	25,540
Camperships	\$	500
Building and Grounds	\$	-
Compassionate Ministries	\$	691
Pastor Appreciation	\$	1,300
Senior Ministries	\$	12
Adult Ministries	\$	3
Youth Ministries	\$	-
Children's Ministries	\$	(16)
Childrens Playground	\$	4,346
Vacation Bible School	\$	-
Fellowship Meals	\$	24
Total	\$	37,513

From our Church Family

Dear First Presbyterian Children,

Thank you so much for the packet of pictures and written "Thank You for being a Farmer" note. We enjoyed the pictures and have them in our office. What a nice surprise! We appreciated your nice words and appreciate each of you for thinking of us. You are one of the very Special Blessings of our Church.

With our love and thanks,

The Ruddick's- Richard and Sharon



Dear FPCU,

Thank you all so much for your get-well cards, calls, and emails! What a blessing to be remembered by so many dear friends. May God bless you all!

~ Love, Elvina Pardini

Are you interested in an Advent Devotional? Please pick one up from the back table Sunday morning... or see Karen Golden.



Did we miss your birthday??? Please contact the church office or email Denise denise@fpcukiah.org so we can send you a card and celebrate with you!

December Birthdays

3 Richard Ruddick	15 Ray Carlson	24 David Edgar
4 Perry Crowley	17 Sandra Applegate	28 David Head
5 Fritz Gordon	Ethan Johnston	30 Dick Sarber
6 Kevin Mack	20 Betty Ashoff	31 Phil Moynahan
8 Selina Luiz	Judy Ballenger	
13 Colby Jenkins		

Event Calendar ~ December

The office will be closed on Mondays, Dec. 26th and Jan. 2nd for Christmas and New Year's Holidays.



Sun weekly	6:00pm	#SWAG Youth Group
Mon weekly	5:30pm	Cub Scouts
Tue. weekly	7:00am	Men's Bible Study
	8:30am	Serendipity Bible Study
	5:00pm	SIPs Bible Study
	6:00pm	Spanish AA
Wed. weekly	6:00pm	Worship Team rehearsal
Thurs weekly	7:00pm	Spanish AA

...events for the month

12/4	12:30pm	Singalong Rehearsal
12/5-6		David out of office
12/5	11:00am	Margaret Sweeley Memorial
12/7	11:30am	VIP
	6:00pm	Taize' Service
12/8	5:30pm	Deacons
	6:00pm	Boy Scouts
12/9	6:30pm	Neighborhood Christmas Caroling
12/10	9:00am	Stitches from the Heart
12/11	12:30pm	Singalong rehearsal
	3:00pm	Christmas Eve rehearsal
12/12	1:00pm	Worship committee
12/13	5:30pm	Hangout
	6:00pm	Resource Council
12/15	6:00pm	Session
12/16-19		Kelsey out of office
12/16	5:30pm	Singalong rehearsal
12/18	11:15am	Warren & Wilma Wedding Anniversary - Coffee Hour
	3:30pm	Christmas Carol Singalong
		NO SWAG
12/20		No Family Council
12/22		School Holiday begins
12/24	5:30pm	Christmas Eve worship service
12/25		Merry Christmas!!! Jesus Christ is born today!!
12/26		Office Closed – Christmas Holiday
12/31	6:00pm	New Year's Eve Party

