



Presbeat



First Presbyterian Church of Ukiah, CA
514 West Church Street; Ukiah CA 95482
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Alexis Moore, Director Youth/Families (707) 391-9460, alexis@fpcukiah.org
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Editor: Denise Beckler, Volume 12, Number 12 ~ December 2018

Sharing Jesus At Christmas



When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."
~ Luke 2:15

At that first Christmas, God sent angels to share the love and grace of Jesus to the shepherds. And the shepherds left their flocks behind and hurried off to meet Jesus and spend time with Him.

As you look over this newsletter, you'll notice that we will have several opportunities to do the work of angels and share the love and grace of Jesus with others.

On Sunday afternoon, December 16, 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.

On Sunday morning, December 23, we will have our children's Christmas pageant during the worship service. Lots of proud parents and grandparents will join us.

On Christmas Eve, at 5:30 pm, we will have a service of worship that our neighbors will be attending with us. We will all be singing Christmas carols and lighting candles.

Please look for someone new to you during the next few weeks and give them a loving welcome. These folks are coming to us to meet Jesus at Christmas, just like the shepherds did.

In Christ ~ *Pastor David*

Happy December FPCU Families!



This past month, we had a great time gathering together and celebrating the true spirit of Thanksgiving! Our younger students had the opportunity to learn and play at our monthly “Hangout” for kids grades Pre-k through 5th grade, and our older students practiced the spirit of giving by making cards and cookies for troops who are bravely serving our country. We’ve been continuing to watch our little garden grow at FPCU, and are excited to announce we are finally producing some snap peas!

This month, we are going to be focusing on Christmas cheer and festivities Youth Group will be held at our normal time, on Mondays nights from 6 to 7:30pm for the 5th through 7th graders, and on Wednesdays from 6 to 7:30pm for the 8th through 12th graders. A Christmas party is in the works of being planned, so make sure to check Facebook/email/Instagram for news on time and location!

We are also planning on holding “Hangout” (typically on the first Wednesday of the month from 5:30 to 7:00pm), not once, but TWICE this month, in order to fully celebrate the Christmas season! This month, Hangout will be happening on Wednesday, Dec. 5th, AND Wednesday, Dec. 19th. It’s going to be a joy-filled time you don’t want to miss!

Don’t forget! As usual, we will continue to hold the Nursery, Sunday School, and Donuts & Devotionals (a Bible study for grades 6-12) on Sunday mornings. Make sure to come all month long, because we might have a super secret Christmas surprise being planned for our congregation for later this month! ~ Have a Merry Christmas!!! ~

For more information about Children and Family Programs, contact me at 707-391-9460 or alexis@fpcukiah.org. You can also find us on Facebook at “First Presbyterian of Ukiah Youth Activities” and on Instagram at @fpcuyouth

In Christ ~ *Alexis*

THANK YOU!!! Thank you for your gracious and generous out-pouring of love during pastor appreciation month. Your words of encouragement, cards, notes, and gifts all mean more than you know. You are all a blessing from God. It is a joy to serve the Lord and grow into the image of Christ with you.

In Christ ~ Pastor David and Alexis

Holy, Holy, Holy,

As we wrap up 2018 we feel blessed with the quality of dedicated, hard-working and devoted personnel at First Presbyterian Church of Ukiah. 2019 looks to be a positive and productive year!

With the safe return of Pastor David Rodriguez from active duty in Djibouti, Africa, we have a congregation led by our own true leader who will guide us in our ministry. Pastor David's knowledge and insight provide us with the truth of our Lord's love for us. We are grateful for his presence and presentation of God's Word. We welcome you home, David, and want you to know that "you'll always find a home here."

Newly hired Director of Youth & Family Ministries, Alexis Moore is an enthusiastic, knowledgeable, and positive leader who has the capacity to inspire and direct our family and youth's needs. Welcome aboard, Alexis, we look forward to a productive and exciting 2019!

Our church would certainly fall short of where we stand without the dedication and hard work performed by our Director of Music and Office Manager, Denise Beckler. Denise has been the glue that helped hold us together in Pastor David's absence and our transition from associate pastor to the new position of Director of Youth & Family Ministries. We appreciate her diligence and knowledge in seeing that the office affairs are taken care of in a quick and efficient manner. Thank you, Denise!

In the coming year we look forward to adding part-time positions to help with the youth ministries, security, and our music ministry. More to come as we move into 2019.

Blessings ~ *Jerry Garcia*, Elder of Personnel



With the visit of Admiral Lee,

we were honored to have a special guest with a special message for us. Admiral Lee elaborately crafted his message about Roman Centurions – expounding on their uniforms, their structure in the Roman army and more importantly the concept that some of them numbered among the first Christians. With such a presentation, for me it harkened back to my literature classes in college where the professors vibrantly by means of their exegesis brought to light concepts that might otherwise be missed in the texts. We hope that Admiral Lee comes to visit us again.

Thank you, Admiral Lee! ~ *Lenord Swope*

~ ~ ~ MISSIONS Michele Young, Elder ~ ~ ~



Don't forget to bring your Cents-Ability offering to church on the first Sunday every month. The collection is taken during communion. Baskets are in the front for your convenience. If you need a collection container to keep at home, you can pick one up in the narthex. Remember all your money is used to help feed the hungry in our area. Thank you for helping with your prayers and donations.



Christmas love for the Caritas Orphanage and our troops ...

Pastor David brought back with him some craft items from the orphanage in Djibouti. These items were made by the children of the orphanage and the money collected from these sales will go to help young girls stay out of the sex trades. Just three dollars can help keep a child stay safe for a whole week! Look for the Christmas Tree decorated with the jewelry made by these young girls in the Narthex. *(Someone suggested these bracelets could also be used as lovely bookmarks...)* We also have cards for you if you would like to give a donation in someone's memory/honor as a special Christmas gift this year. What better way to share the Love of Christ this Christmas! And, we will continue to collect peanut butter, beans and chewable vitamins for the orphanage as well.

Dear FPCU Church Family:

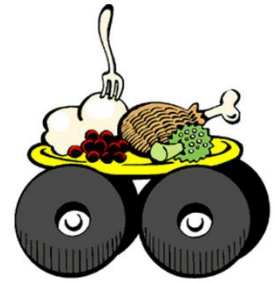
Thanks so much for your message this weekend. I am always happy to hear from you. I also wanted to thank you and your church for the wonderful cookies we received from you all. We are all enjoying them so much. We also received your food boxes for Caritas, so we will deliver them very soon. Many thanks for your kindness and prayers.

Blessings & Peace, ~ CAPT Robert Carpenter
(David's replacement in Djibouti)

Thanks to all those who took the time to bake, pack and mail these cookies to send to the kids and troops in Djibouti. Our youth groups helped decorate the cookies for the children and made some homemade cards that mean so much when you are separated from family at Christmastime. Watch for a sign-up sheet for another baking party coming soon. And, don't forget to save those Pringles potato chip cans for the next shipment of cookies!

MEALS TO GO FUNDRAISER REPORT

Thanks to all who participated in this fundraiser, from organizing, to selling and buying tickets, barbequing, packing bags, and handing out meals, we couldn't have done it without you! A big thank you to Adventist hospital, Safeway, the Senior Center for donating their resources. Because of your generosity (*a bit over \$2300*) we will be able to pay it forward to our local mission projects.



What does 8, 18, 91, 52 and 830 mean?

8 days of National Collection Week
18 volunteers – thank you so much!
91 volunteer hours
52 filled cartons with shoeboxes
830 total shoeboxes going to children all over the world as part of
Operation Christmas Child!

Along with First Presbyterian of Ukiah, 25 individuals and 17 churches participated in bringing collected shoeboxes to the Drop Off Center at our church.

We are blessed to be a blessing to the children and families of over 104 countries all over the world with the gospel opportunity of bringing the love of Jesus Christ through shoeboxes!



*Uganda
Orphanage*

The water tank is installed
and they have moved in!
PTL!!!!

ADVENT – December 2nd – 24th

“Advent” means “coming” or “arrival”. During the season of Advent, we celebrate Christ’s coming into the world and watch with expectant hope for his coming again. In its historical origins, the season of Advent was patterned after the season of Lent, a six-week period of penitence and preparation for Easter. Similarly, the four weeks of Advent, starting this year on December 2nd, presents an opportunity for communal discernment and person examination, as the church prepares to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord and looks with hope for Christ’s return.

The cross will be draped in royal blue which is the color of royalty to welcome the coming of a King. It can also symbolize the night sky in which the star appeared to announce the birth of Jesus. It will be changed to white for Christmas Eve Service.

Come and join in the celebration of Christ’s birth and in anticipation of when He comes again. Christ has come! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!



SPECIAL ADVENT EVENTS



Advent Taize’ Service

6:00 PM Wednesday, December 5th

This is soft and repetitive music/singing and time of silence and prayer. The service will begin with carols, welcoming our children from Hangout Kids Club, then as the service transitions into reflective prayer, the children will dismiss to their games and Hangout activities.

Christmas Eve Service

5:30 PM Monday, December 24th

Have you left something behind – dishes, plates, etc.

If so, check the basket by the wood table in the Café.

Please pick up your items before they are disposed of.

You might also check the kitchen counter and
coat rack in the office hallway.

Dear FPCU,

Thank you for supporting the 5th Annual Pedal for Protein ride this year. Your generous \$295 donation was from the P4P Fair Trade Sales, and bicycle tree donations was credited to my fundraising effort.

With your contributions and support, P4P made its goal of raising \$50,000 in 2018 for food pantries for much needed protein food and \$182,000+ in our first 5 years. Pedal for Protein will be able to provide protein food to 8 food banks and many food pantries in the Redwoods Presbytery. Plus we supported a food project with the Presbyterian Hunger Program in Niger, Africa, for cereal banks. Thank you for your awesome support!

Pedaling blessings, Patty Sanders, Ride Director Pedal for Protein



VIP Luncheon

**Holiday VIP on Wednesday,
December 5th, 11:30am – 1:00pm**

All those **Very Important People** age 70 and over are invited to a luncheon on the 3rd Wednesday of every month.

December's menu prepared by Cathy Rodriguez:

Chicken Paprikash w/egg noodles and vegetables
Dessert will be crepes

Guest Speaker: Cathy Rodriguez will share about her trips while David was away on Military leave.





Song Story...

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



Sing Out!
11TH ANNUAL
SING-ALONG
A Community
Music Gathering

FREE EVENT - ALL ARE WELCOME

SUN. DEC. 16 3:30

First Presbyterian - Corner of Perkins & Dora

Cookies & Hot Cider Come sing Carols with the little ones & enjoy some Christmas Spirit & Cheer!

For More Info. Denise Beckler (707) 468-9235

A Harvard professor of literature and one of America's greatest writers, Henry Wadsworth, while publishing his books, dark clouds were gathering over his life and over all America. In 1861, his wife tragically died when her dress caught fire in their Massachusetts home. That same year, the Civil War broke out, tearing the nation apart. Two years later, during the fiercest days of the conflict, Henry's son, Charley (age 17), ran away from home and hopped aboard a train to join President Lincoln's army. Charley contracted typhoid fever and malaria, and after recovery, returned to war to be shot. The bullet nicked his spine and came close to paralyzing him. Henry brought him home, and for weeks, sat by his son's side slowly nursing Charley back to health.

On Christmas Day, 1863, Henry gave vent to his feelings in this plaintive carol that can only be understood against the backdrop of war. Two stanzas, now omitted from most hymnals, speak of the cannons thundering in the South and of hatred tearing apart 'the hearth-stones of a continent'. The poet feels like dropping his head in despair, but then hears the Christmas bells. Their triumphant pealing reminds him that "God is not dead, nor doth He sleep".

I heard the bells on
Christmas Day
Their old, familiar
carols play,
and wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth,
good-will to men!

And thought how, as
the day had come,
The belfries of all
Christendom
Had rolled along
The unbroken song
Of peace on earth,
good-will to men!

Till ringing, singing
on its way,
The world revolved
from night to day,
A voice, a chime,
A chant sublime
Of peace on earth,
good-will to men!

Then from each black,
accursed mouth
The cannon thundered
in the South,
And with the sound
The carols drowned
Of peace on earth,
good-will to men!

It was as if an earthquake rent
The hearth-stones of a continent,
And made forlorn
The households born
Of peace on earth,
good-will to men!

And in despair
I bowed my head;
"There is no peace on earth,"
I said;
"For hate is strong,
And mocks the song
Of peace on earth,
good-will to men!"

Then pealed the bells
more loud and deep:
"God is not dead,
nor doth He sleep;
The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail,
With peace on earth,
good-will to men."



Hi Friends of Nor Cal Christian Ministries,

We have some fun events and updates to share with you.

Open House at the Center for Hope - December 9th, 2018, 12 pm – 3 pm. The Center is located at 150 Luce Avenue, Ukiah. If you haven't seen the Center for Hope or if you would like to fellowship with us, come by and say hello! Light lunch provided!

Mentoring & Discipleship Training - January 19th, 2019, 8 am - 4:30 pm. This training can add meaning and purpose to your life. It is about something that you do every day, something that you've had a life full of observing and experiencing but possibly without much intentional learning. You will learn and experience four concepts and be given tools that are guaranteed to teach you as well as give you experience in sharing the life principles that God has already taught you. For further information or to reserve a spot, please call Tony Huerta at 707-481-8398.

E-Scrip - Please register with E-Scrip! When you register, designate Nor Cal Christian Ministries as your charity. You will find out where you can shop and up to 5% of that purchase will go to Nor Cal Christian Ministry. Click here to get started!

<https://secure.escrip.com/signin/index.jsp> Thank you for your support! For more information or questions, contact Pam Schnare at 805-452-1739.

Blessings,

Tony Huerta,
Executive Director
Nor Cal Christian Ministries
(707) 481 -8398



Center for Hope; 150 Luce Ave; Ukiah

FINANCE REPORT

We continue to meet the expenses of our church through each of your generous giving.

Thank you for each of you that returned your pledge card on Commitment Sunday. If you still have not done so, it is not too late. You may give to Denise in our office. Each of your pledges are extremely important in helping to decide our ministries moving forward into 2019.

Thank you for your faithfulness.

Your Finance Committee:

*Kevin DeVries,
David Rodriguez,
Denise Beckler*

| As of October 31st, 2018 | | Total \$\$ |
|--|-----------|----------------|
| Income | \$ | 198,607 |
| Expenses | \$ | 194,211 |
| Difference | \$ | 4,396 |
| Balance in Checking Account | | Total \$\$ |
| Non-Designated Funds | \$ | 78,931 |
| Designated Funds (detail below) | \$ | 43,175 |
| Total Balance in Checking | \$ | 122,107 |
| Balance in Savings | | Total \$\$ |
| CD's | \$ | 44,375 |
| Mutual Funds | \$ | 26,389 |
| Other Savings | \$ | 69,125 |
| Total Balance in Savings | \$ | 139,889 |
| Detail of Designated Funds in Checking Account | | |
| Mission Trip | \$ | 3,043 |
| Missions Fundraiser | \$ | 3,535 |
| Centsability | \$ | 121 |
| Shoes 4 You | \$ | 89 |
| Pedal 4 Protein | \$ | - |
| Per Capita | \$ | - |
| Deacons | \$ | 31 |
| Flowers | \$ | - |
| General Memorial | \$ | 29,244 |
| Camperships | \$ | 200 |
| Buildings and Grounds | \$ | - |
| Compassionate Ministries | \$ | 1,975 |
| Singalong | \$ | 704 |
| Senior Ministries | \$ | - |
| Adult Ministries | \$ | 3 |
| Youth Ministries | \$ | 117 |
| Children's Ministries | \$ | - |
| Childrens Playground | \$ | 3,876 |
| Vacation Bible School | \$ | - |
| Fellowship Meals | \$ | 236 |
| Total | \$ | 43,175 |

Session minutes: October 2018

Pastor's Report: communion was served to shut-in's on 9/28. Officiated a funeral in Hollister 9/22.

Director Youth/Families report:

- **Youth:** field trip to Ukiah Food Bank 10/3; Blackbird Farm retreat 10/5-7 (feeding animals, digging plants, etc; constructed soda-bottle planter in the outside fenced-in area); Movie Night 9/21 (we NEED more chaperones!); upcoming Winterfest 11/10
- **Sunday morning:** experiencing students with behavioral issues during Sunday School; Continuing to work on developing good volunteer sign-up process;
- **Hangout:** 1st meeting successful 10/3 (24 children). Beginning Dec. will meet twice a month
- **Job Description** being developed to hire additional help for Children's Ministries
- Will be attending the **National Youth Workers Convention 11/14-18**

Action Items:

- Alexis Moore was received as active member by Letter of Transfer
- Approved expenditure of \$2000 to refurbish piano
- Call annual Congregational Meeting 12/2: elect new Elders, Deacons, Corporate Officer, Nominating Committee
- Call annual Congregational Meeting 1/20: receive 2018 Financial & Annual reports, present 2019 budget, approve pastor's Terms of Call

Committee/Council Reports:

Resource Council

- **Finance:** Income (\$179,092) and expenses (\$175,779) leaves favorable income of \$3,313. Full Calendar Year Review for 2018 against 2018 budget: to date FPCU has not needed to use the \$15,834 surplus from 2017. Committee presented 1st draft of the 2019 budget, with session reviewing David's Terms of Call and compensation package for Alexis.
- **Buildings & Grounds:** next work day is Dec. 8th. Christmas party is 12/6.
- **Personnel:** working with Alexis to develop job description for an assistant to direct hangout and Sunday School/Nursery
- **Nominating:** Moderator (ex-officio member) will work with chairperson to initiate the process.

Family Council

- **Worship/Music:** Harvest Dinner/pledge commitments 11/18; "Hanging of the Greens" 11/25; Advent begins 12/2; Taize' service 12/5; Christmas Eve service 12/24 (time TBD)
- **Christian Ed:** Hangout begins 1st and 3rd Wed. in December; need to develop a plan for more secure storage at back of stage; Young Adult program is underway
- **Missions:** Pumpkinfest was successful (Meals-to-go flyers were distributed); baking party for troops week of 11/12;
- **Congregational Life:** Chairperson will followup on idea of progressive dinner format; assisting plan for Harvest dinner

Ramos Property – necessary paperwork is still in the Bay Area. Meredith will proceed forward with due diligence to complete necessary transfer.

December Session Meeting: Thursday, December 15th, 6:00pm.

Session Members: Randy Beckler, Kevin DeVries, Jerry Garcia, Karen Golden, Randy Huffman, Shirley Lewis, David Rodriguez (ex-officio), Roe Sandelin, Lenord Swope, Michele Young



“So anyone who becomes as humble as this little child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven.

“And anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf is welcoming me.

But if you cause one of these little ones who trusts in me to fall into sin, it would be better for you to have a large millstone tied around your neck and be drowned in the depths of the sea.”

Matthew 18:4-6 NLT

Did we miss your birthday last month???

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

Happy Birthday!



12/3 Richard Ruddick
12/4 Perry Crowley
12/5 Richard Gordon
12/6 Kevin Mack
12/8 Selina Luiz

12/9 Melody Ostovar
12/12 Grayson Myers
12/15 Ray Carlson
12/17 Sandra Applegate

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

Event Calendar ~ December



| | | |
|---------------|---------|---------------------------------|
| Sun weekly | 10:00am | Worship Celebration |
| Mon weekly | 6:00pm | Jr High Youth Group |
| | 6:30pm | Cub Scouts |
| Tue. weekly | 8:30am | Serendipity Women's Bible Study |
| | 11:00am | Prayer Time ~ Sanctuary |
| | 5:00pm | SIPs Women's Bible Study |
| | 6:00pm | Spanish AA; NAHOP |
| Wed. weekly | 7:00am | Men's Bible Study |
| | 6:00pm | Worship Team rehearsal |
| | | Sr High Youth Group |
| Thurs. weekly | 6:00pm | Spanish AA |

...additional events for the month

| | | | |
|-------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| 12/2 | Communion / Centsability | | |
| | Congregational Meeting | | |
| 12/4 | 10:00am | Worship Committee | |
| 12/5 | 11:30am | VIP Luncheon | |
| | 5:30pm | Hangout | |
| | | Sr Hi Youth Group | |
| | 6:00pm | Taize' Worship Service | |
| 12/6 | 6:00pm | B&G Christmas dinner | |
| 12/7 | 9:30am | Cookie baking party | |
| 12/8 | 8:30am | Cursillo (all day) | |
| 12/9 | 11:15am | Mission Committee | |
| | | Children/Youth volunteer meeting | |
| | 12:30pm | Singalong rehearsal | |
| | 6:00pm | Young Adult Group | |
| 12/12 | 1:30pm | PW Bible study | |
| 12/13 | 12:30pm | ABC Program | |
| | 6:30pm | Boy Scouts | |
| 12/14 | 5:30pm | Singalong rehearsal | |
| 12/15 | 9:00am | Stitches from the Heart | |
| 12/16 | 3:30pm | Christmas Carol Singalong | |
| 12/18 | 12:00pm | Family/Outreach Council | |
| 12/19 | 5:30pm | Hangout Kids Club | |
| 12/20 | 6:00pm | Session Christmas Dinner | |
| 12/24 | 5:30pm | Christmas Eve Worship Service | |
| 12/25 | | Merry Christmas! Office is Closed | |
| 12/30 | | New Year's Eve – Office is Closed | |

Our Calendar is also available online @ <http://fpcukiah.org/calendar/calendar/>
(Note: if using a phone, view in landscape orientation to view properly)



**Giving
Hope
Today**

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

BE A BELL RINGER

VOLUNTEERS TO STAND AT A "KETTLE SITE" AND RING THE BELL...WISH PASSERBY A "MERRY CHRISTMAS."

VOLUNTEERS HELP US COVER MORE SITES AND ALLOW MORE FUNDS FOR DIRECT SERVICE. FORM TEAMS WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY. MAKE YOUR EXPERIENCE FUN AND BRING YOUR KIDS AND PETS.

FOR THOSE WILLING TO DEVOTE THEIR TIME AND EFFORTS TO HELP PLEASE CALL.

MARY GLANDERS AT 707-468-9577

**THE SALVATION ARMY OFFICE IS LOCATED AT: 419 TALMAGE
ROAD, SUITE F, UKIAH**