

First Presbyterian Church

Organized May 25, 1822

*With Christ as our Savior and Guide,
We seek to know God's love and share it
With each other, our community, and the world.
We invite you to join us in this journey
of discipleship!*

*Rev. Dr. Gregory L. Glover, Pastor
Twenty Fifth Sunday After Pentecost
November 22, 2020*

** For those who are attending in-person worship, the congregation is invited to hum the tune and to meditate on the text of the hymns and other service music. Some pieces will be played as hymns and some will be more improvisatory. We encourage participation at the level of your comfort. It is important that our voices remain at low volume to lessen the risk during the pandemic, so there are no vocalists during the in-person service. If you are participating at home, you are encouraged to sing the words aloud on all hymns and during the other service music.*

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE "Come, Thou Almighty King"
by Maurice C. Whitney

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE AND GREETING

The LORD be with you.
And also with you.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

"I will search for my sheep," says the Lord.

Like lost lambs or scattered sheep, the Lord seeks us and calls us home.

"I will gather them from far and near," says the Lord.

A cherished fold, a beloved flock, the Lord sustains us and gives us rest.

"I will be their shepherd," says the Lord.

We listen for the voice of the God who seeks us, and follow with devotion and gratitude!

*HYMN #401

"Here in This Place"

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy, who has compassion for the lost and the least, in disbelief and denial, we ask: "When did we see you among us?"

We should have seen you in the classmate on the playground whom we did not invite to join our game.

Or in the stranger on the sidewalk whom we crossed the street to avoid.

Or in the neighbor at the nursing home, whom we left to carry her pain alone.

We should have seen you in the man begging for work or a warm meal, in the woman struggling to overcome addiction, in the child seeking refuge from the terrors of violence.

But, instead, we turned away. Forgive us, Lord.

Break our hearts for what breaks yours, and give us compassion and courage to respond to the suffering of this world.

Now hear our silent, personal prayers of confession.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*GLORIA PATRI, Hymn #581

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 107:1-9 (p. 487)

SPECIAL MUSIC "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"
African-American spiritual

Online version sung by Charles Anderson & Hannah Lawrence

CHILDREN'S MOMENT (Video Service Only)

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Philippians 3:5-11 (p. 955)

RESPONSE

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.
Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"The Gravity of Stewardship"
Rev. Ray Thomas

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN #223 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH
Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.54-55

Biblical visions and images of the rule of Christ, such as a heavenly city, the household of God, a new heaven and earth, a marriage feast, and an unending day culminate in the image of the kingdom.

The kingdom represents God's triumph over all that resists the divine will and disrupts God's creation.

Already God's reign is present as a ferment in the world, stirring hope in all people and preparing the world to receive its ultimate judgment and redemption.

With an urgency born of this hope, the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world.

It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth, nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat.

In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement to the final triumph of God.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE OFFERTORY "Tallis Theme"
by Thomas Tallis, Arr. Martin & Geoffrey Shaw

THE DOXOLOGY, Hymn #606

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN #653 "Give Thanks to God Who Hears Our Cries"

CONSECRATION OF ESTIMATES OF GIVING

CHARGE AND BLESSING

*POSTLUDE "Now Thank We All Our God"
by J. S. Bach, Arr. H. Lefevre Pope

WORSHIP NOTES

Pastor Greg Glover is today's in-person liturgist. **Pastor Greg Glover** is today's video service liturgist.

Liz Thomas is leading today's Video Children's Moment.

Hannah Cruse is Director of Music and Accompanist.

Hannah Lawrence & Charles Anderson, are today's Vocalists.

Curtis Compton & Morgan Adames are today's Audio-Visual Specialists.

***Please stand if you are able.**

Please remember to follow the instructions below for your safety and the safety of others.

• *Wear a mask at all times (not like dining out where you remove your mask at your seat). Face shields are not a substitute for a mask.*

• *Maintain social distance at all times (this includes entering, sitting in, and exiting the sanctuary).*

• *Responsive reading and humming are great. Please no shouting.*

*** Please remain seated during the postlude as ushers dismiss the congregation by row from the rear of the sanctuary. Please do not loiter in the vestibule or on the church lawn, so that all may exit in a timely manner without congregating.*

THIS WEEK AT FPC

Sunday, November 22

10am **Morning Worship/Consecration Sunday**

11am **Celebration Luncheon (see announcement)**

4:30pm **NO Youth Meeting tonight**

Monday, November 23

12pm **Staff Meeting**

Tuesday, November 24

5pm **Yoga**

7pm **Book Study (see announcement)**

Wednesday, November 25

10am **Bible Study with Pastor/NO Bible Study this week!**

6:00pm **Children's Time with Dianne/Taking a short break.**

See you back on Dec. 2

7pm **Book Discussion/NO book study this week!**

Thursday, November 26



Happy Thanksgiving! The church office will be closed Thursday & Friday for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m.

No Bible Study this week. Have a safe and Happy Thanksgiving!

Children's Time with Dianne

Every Wednesday

Taking a short break for the Thanksgiving Holiday. See you back on December 2!

Wednesday Evening Book Discussion

Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m., November 4-25

No book study this week. Have a safe and Happy Thanksgiving!



Youth News

Youth Meetings will be suspended for the remainder of November.

Special things planned for December. Stay tuned for details.

THANKFUL FOR YOUTH!

The youth of our church miss seeing you all! They are joining with the missions committee for an outreach project, Thankful for Youth. A parent and a youth will come to your house to do those chores that you can't quite do-changing smoke detector batteries or light bulbs, getting something out of the attic, programming a remote control... With precautions for COVID, we want you to set a time convenient for all and please set guidelines for COVID safety. Check your email for a link to sign up or contact Ann Waddle for more information.

SAVE THE DATE! Children's Christmas Pageant will be **December 20**. Online Service Only.

Book Study

Tuesday, November 24 @ 7 pm

Join us for book study! We are limiting the number of participants to 8, and we are meeting at Ann Waddle's house. We are currently studying *The Simple Faith of Mr. Rogers* by Amy Hollingsworth. We plan to choose another book for the winter.

Please contact Ann Waddle at 931.624.2597 or waddleiread@gmail.com if you are interested.



**Saturday, December 5
from 2:30-4:00pm**

Due to the risk of Covid exposure activities are limited and will be exclusively held outdoors. We will enjoy the animals in our live Nativity in front of Runyon & Runyon, Food Trucks and Non-Profits in our parking lot and Santa (no sitting on the lap this year!) will be on stage in the Downtown Commons. Masks and social distancing are highly encouraged. Come and enjoy Spiritfest before the start of the Annual Lighted Christmas parade. **For safety reasons, there is a possibility of cancellation, so watch for upcoming details regarding the Christmas parade. If the parade is cancelled, Spiritfest will be cancelled as well.**

Christmas Joy Offering

Sunday, December 6

Morning Worship

Spread Christmas joy this year by participating in the annual Christmas Joy Offering. This special offering will be taken during the morning worship service today, or you can donate through PayPal, Tithe.ly, or mail in your donation to the church office. Thanks for your generosity!



Memorial Poinsettias

Names of those in memoriam or in honor of along with donors will be listed in the **December 13 & 20** bulletin. All you do is donate to the FPC Memorial Fund and let the church know your loved one's name by clicking on the link in the newsletter or by telephoning or emailing the church office. The deadline is **December 9**.

Happy Thanksgiving

