

## THE GOLDEN THREADS OF FPC MISSION AND EDUCATION



As we look back through 140 years of history that make up the fabric of FPC, we notice golden threads that are woven through the entirety of our life together. These are the threads of Mission and Education – threads that woven together help us define

our identity.

Recently we looked at ourselves and you noted: *We are the kind of church that . . . prays, serves, cares, is welcoming, and worships through music.* You also said: We are the kind of church that is strongly active in mission (serving/caring for/reaching out to others) beyond the walls of our church building. You also said: We are the kind of church that values spiritual education for every age.

During the month of January, during worship and adult education, we will look more deeply at God's mission and how we respond to God's call to come alongside what God is already up to in the world.

**January 7** – This Sunday we share the sacrament of Holy Communion and we celebrate Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord. Epiphany recognizes the time when the Magi completed their long trek across many countries, finally arriving to greet Jesus. Then, at the Baptism of Jesus, the first step of Jesus' public ministry is revealed to us as Jesus is baptized by the Holy Spirit. Jesus leaves the water of baptism and begins his earthly ministry.

Today, in celebration of Epiphany, each of us will choose a Star Word. This is a word that you will be

asked to reflect on for the coming year. Ponder what significance this word might have in your life and how God might be speaking to you through that simple message.

**January 14** – Read Luke 16:19-31, the parable of *The Rich Man and Lazarus*.

**January 21** – Join Pastor Pat as we welcome two missionaries who will be preaching and sharing about their work in a closed country in Asia. They are involved in a project ministering to marginalized/trafficked women from the countryside who previously worked in the red-light district but who have been rescued. They will also lead an adult education class immediately following worship.

**January 28** – Join Pastor Pat in welcoming Pastor Chris Matson to the pulpit. Pastor Chris, ELCA, is the pastor at Church on the Street, a church that serves the unhoused in Sioux Falls. FPC is an Ecumenical Partner with Church on the Street. Pastor Chris will also lead an adult education class immediately following worship.

It is only right that FPC begin the year wrapped in acts of mission.

May 2024 be filled with lots of stories of FPC loving God and loving others. As it should be.

***On this journey with you!***  
***Pastor Pat***

## SESSION DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Four months into the fiscal year (July - October), FPC has received approximately \$309,000 in income and had approximately \$285,000 of expenses. This is 39% of the budgeted income and 32% of the budgeted expenses during the first 33% of the fiscal year. While this suggests that the income and expenses are roughly aligned, some caution is warranted because neither income nor expenses are evenly distributed throughout the year.

To date, the pledge drive has collected 82 pledges totaling \$345,000. At the end of the stewardship campaign last year, there were 135 total pledges totaling about \$590,000. The

average amount per pledge is essentially unchanged from last year. The Session reminds everyone that it is important to have an accurate understanding of the resources the Church can call on as we begin to search for new leadership. If you haven't done so already, please take time to consider your pledge for next year and return it to the church office.

The Session continues to identify members willing to serve on the Pastor Nominating Committee. We thank everyone who has considered undertaking this important task.

## DEACONS HIGHLIGHTS

### Sharing Christmas/Angel Tree project in 2023

**We served 32 families with a total of 136 individuals. The congregation purchased gifts for all 136 angels! We also purchased and packed food boxes for 17 small families and 15 larger families.**

Deacons helped with a half-day work day on November 18th, addressing postcards, Christmas cards, angel wish lists, and labels for gifts as well as putting up and decorating the angel trees and placing the pew envelopes. Deacons also gathered, labeled and sorted gifts by family on December 6<sup>th</sup> and carried all the family bags to the storeroom. Several Deacons on December 8<sup>th</sup> helped sort, box and distributed non-perishables by family, assisted by Hy-Vee staff who brought in all the food and boxes and helped with sorting. On December 9<sup>th</sup> the Deacons sorted and distributed perishable food boxes and returned the gift bags to the Covenant Center. From there, 10 Deacons and 6 other families from the congregation had their cars loaded by the other Deacons and made multiple trips all across Sioux Falls and Harrisburg to deliver the gifts and food. A total of 6 families picked up at the church. We were able to contact families and distribute all of our Angels this year.

A big THANK YOU to all those who helped with this project in many ways including our facilities staff and, especially, Chandra Isackson, who keeps everything running smoothly along!



## SERVICE LEARNING

January 10- March 6, 2024, 6:30-7:30 in KidMin Room

HEY KIDS:

Do you have a passion for helping?

Do you want to do good in your community?

Do you want to have a say in the service and missions of our church?

Come to **Service Learning** Wednesdays for 1-5th graders this winter. During this time you will explore what community means and ways that you can help your community. You, the students, will choose, research, plan and implement a service project. This is an opportunity to use your talents to do some good and help others while making friends and learning!

*Past projects include buying food for hungry people and making activity bags for kids in the hospital. I wonder what kids will do this year?*

## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM "THE PROMISE OF CHRISTMAS"



WOW! Our youngest members led a joy-filled worship service on December 10 while sharing a memorable message about God's promise of love!



## ADVENT WORKSHOP: JESSE TREE PROJECT

The Boerigter family displays their fabulous Jesse Tree created at the annual Advent Workshop. A limited number of projects are available to take and make at home for NEXT year. See Kathie Douma.

**Our Nursery is repaired, we've hired a childcare provider and hope to be up and running by mid-January!**

## ADAMS SCHOLARSHIP

Thank you to everyone who supported the Adams Scholarship Bake Sale fundraiser in November. Your generosity is greatly appreciated! The \$1,520 will be used to help future students who are pursuing a degree in Christian service (ministry, mission work, church music, Christian Education, etc.).

The Adams Scholarship originated in 1966 to honor Dr. and Mrs. Clarence Adams. Dr. Adams was senior pastor at First Presbyterian Church from 1939 to 1966. PW created the scholarship in 1966 and has continued to support it through the annual bake sale, memorials, bequests and individual contributions.

Applications for the scholarship are now being accepted by PW to be awarded in the spring. Scholarship forms are available on our website [www.fpcsiouxfalls.org](http://www.fpcsiouxfalls.org). (Go to Quick Link and click on forms.) Applications are also available in the church office. Completed applications are due by May 1, 2024.

Again, thank you for your generous support.

**Adams Scholarship Committee,  
Judy Regan, Ruth Metcalf, Bobbi Lower**

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

**Sunday morning, 10:40am in the chapel**

Jan 7 **Coffee Fellowship** (bring Christmas leftovers to share)

Jan 14 **FPC Ministries in Action**

*Peaceworks*, the sewing ministry, will display some of the many, many items they create and how the requests coming from our local community as well as across the state are handled. If you have never peeked in the magic factory hidden behind the library, you are missing out!

*Meals on Wheels* is one of our longest outreach ministries. Come hear the heartwarming stories from members that are involved.

Brighton Larson, the newest staff member, will be sharing his vision for the *Youth Ministries* at FPC.

Jan 21 **The Starfish Project**

Today, two missionaries (the Gillaspeys' nephew and niece) will be sharing about their work in a closed country in Asia. They are involved in a project ministering to marginalized/trafficked women from the countryside who previously worked in the red-light district but who have been rescued. The handicrafts made by these survivors will be available for purchase.

Jan 28 **Church on the Street**

Come meet Rev. Chris Matson, Pastor of Church on the Street (COTS). COTS believes that every human being, regardless of whether they are housed or unhoused, deserves a community where they feel at home. COTS looks a little different than most churches, but where it matters we are exactly the same. FPC is an Ecumenical partner with COTS.

## NOTES FROM PRESBYOUTH



1. We are going to be running a raffle through January-April as part of an incentive to attend and invite friends to youth group/church! We are asking for donations of fun items that teens would like for a raffle! We would love to have the church congregation come alongside us to make this fun for the youth!
2. Inviting the Congregation to serve in youth group, however they can! We want anyone with a heart for service, come serve food, come play in the band, come teach students, come build relationships, whatever gift you have, we could use you!
3. 1/3 – NO GROUP – Winter Break Ending
4. 1/10 – New Years Kick Off Party!
5. 1/14 – Brighton is one of the adult ed speakers, speaking about our upcoming service project! All students will be joining us for the adult ed hour!
6. 1/15 – MLK Service Day
7. 1/17 – Serving Others for God
8. 1/24 – God in Our Lives; The Importance of Testimony
9. 1/31 – Testimony Night – Stories of His Glory in Our Lives

**Brighton Larson,  
Director of Youth Ministries**



## PEACEWORKS SEWING MINISTRY



As 2023 was coming to an end our Peaceworks group met for a Christmas Party on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>. The staff of FPC were invited to join us for snacks and gifts. We celebrated the return of Pat Boelman from her journey through cancer. Janelle Jansen also returned as she recovers from a bike accident.

As several of our group are going through difficulties in their lives and the lives of their loved ones, we find that we can support each other by coming together to share our common bond of helping ourselves by helping others. As we work together making packets of household and personal items for Glory House, laundry bags for Laundry with Love, foster bags for the Foster Care Program, tie blankets for breast cancer patients and others in need as well as several other special projects, we share our concerns and listen to each other as we become the yoke to help carry the load for those who are struggling. This is who we are...this is how we love each other. We pray that in 2024, God will show us new ways to serve, and new ways to show kindness and love to those in need.

Eileen Wood

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CHRISTMAS GATHERING

Our annual Christmas Gathering was held December 16th at 1:30 pm in the lounge.

The program entitled “**Christmas Presence and Christmas Presents**” was led by moderator Lisa Tunge. **PW Players**, Mary Tidwell (director), Diane Helin, Ruth Parry, Ruth Metcalf and Angie Nelson shared delightful dramatic readings.

**Honorary Life Member Committee**, Jo Erickson, Sue Hanneld, and Lynne Acheson announced **Margaret Jones** as this year’s well-deserved recipient of the honor.

Inspiring music and background information of the music was presented by pianist **Rachel Pay** and **Judy Rops**. **Kellyn Klinkenborg** was our inspiring soloist.

Our well-attended gathering enthusiastically shared the joy of Christmas present!



## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Ben and Annie Cochran and family are featured this month in the first 2024 Member Spotlight. Everyone knows the Cochrans. They sit as a family on the left-hand side in the church fairly close to the front as Ben leads the praise singing. Ben has been playing guitar and singing with the guitar for 20 years. His beautiful voice leads in our praise and worship each Sunday.

Ben and Annie have been married almost 15 years. While Annie grew up in the Midwest, Ben grew up in the West. They met at a retreat center in Roach, MO, called Windermere, where they worked together in the snack shop during the summers of 2005 and 2006. At that time, Ben was going to school at College of the Ozarks in Branson, MO, for physical education and Annie was attending Northwestern College in Orange City, IA, majoring in elementary education. They had a long-distance relationship until Ben graduated and moved to Sioux Falls in 2007.

In addition to working as the contemporary worship leader here at FPC, Ben works full time for a company called New Standard, which is a hog and turkey equipment distributor. Annie is a homemaker and home schools their children.

Those children are Hosea (age 12 years and a sixth grader), Obadiah, Obi for short, (10 years and a fifth grader), Eliza (age nine years and a third grader) and Amya (seven years and a first grader). The kids are involved in various activities. Hosea plays basketball, Obi plays flag football and wrestles, Eliza takes dance classes (hip-hop is her style) and Amya wants to try it all including soccer and basketball.

Ben and Annie are busy and Annie said, "All we do is run kids



from one activity to the next," but in their spare time they enjoy hiking and "show" nights where they eat pizza. They are currently watching through the seasons of Full House, Family Matters and Boy Meets World.

In addition to Ben leading worship, he also teaches the youth Sunday School class of "Back to Basics" each week. Annie serves on the Children's Ministry team and is one of the teachers for the preschool and kindergarten SS class and VBS. The thing they enjoy most at FPC is community where they are found teaching, serving, worshipping and leading.

Thank you, Ben and Annie, for your many contributions to the life of First Presbyterian Church.

## FIRST FRIDAY GRIEF SUPPORT

First Friday evolved following the Grief Support Group (sponsored by Avera Health) which met for six weeks this fall. Attendees were eager to continue.

First Friday Grief Support will meet the first Friday of every month.

Who should come?

Anyone who has experienced a loss. The loss might be the loss of a spouse, relative or friend. The loss might have been recent or longer ago. The loss might be the loss of a job.

The First Friday group will meet for the first time in the Choir Room from 10-11 a.m. Friday, January 5. All are welcome.



## MEMBERSHIP MOMENT

It's a New Year. How can I get involved at First Presbyterian Church?

Your Word is clear about many things that are near to your heart and that I should care about as well: taking care of your creation, caring for the needy, defending and upholding justice, exercising my spiritual gifts for the good of the church, joining in worship and fellowship with other believers, and living as an example to those who do not know Christ. (*Guidance for Wisdom for Each New Day*)

*Whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the LORD Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father. Colossians 3:17*

Prayer: Grant me the courage to get involved with things that are important to you. I want to reflect your priorities and your love to those around me. Amen

**Membership Ministry Team**

## JANUARY CHILDREN'S OFFERING

January 2023 was the 20th Anniversary of this wonderful mission project in the Philippines and it was an extremely successful year! As we enter the 21st year/third decade, we are continuing to build and expand this mission project. January's Children's Offering will again be going to Seed Sowers to continue the micro loans to our brothers and sisters of the Philippines to start and/or expand their businesses. Please prayerfully consider being a new participant of this mission project or making an additional contribution to Seed Sowers. Currently \$1.00 = 55.51 Philippine peso! We are a giving congregation both at home and around the world. Thank you for being "the Visible Face of Christ" in the Philippines!

## DECEMBER CHILDREN'S OFFERING

The December Children's offering was being used to purchase animals through the Presbyterian Giving Catalog.

- **12/03:** A family of chickens is 4 chickens and costs \$25. We got 64 chickens!
- **12/10:** A dairy cow is \$450. HOLY COW—we collected \$553. We got a cow!
- **12/17:** A pair of goats is \$178. We got 3 pairs of goats!
- **12/24:** A pair of oxen and a plow is \$1500. We collected \$1263 - almost enough for both!
- **12/31** Piglets are \$40 each.



## LOCAL AGENCY SUPPORT



Thank you for the generous commitment you have made to the ongoing ministry needs of Glory House! We sincerely thank you for your December 14, 2023 gift of \$750 and your commitment to helping our clients.

One of our clients, Ashely, writes this: "Sometimes the bad things that happen in our lives put us directly on the path to the best things that will ever happen to us!"

On behalf of all the clients we serve, thank you very much!

**Nicole Dvorak-Ripperda, President  
Glory House**

As we continue to live the message of Advent, we want to take a moment to express our deepest gratitude for your incredible support and generosity. During this season, your support is a beacon of hope, a source of peace, a cause for you, and a demonstration of love. We are sincerely grateful for your commitment as we continue to embody the message of Matthew 25 through this ministry of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

Through your gift of \$1,284.82 on November 15, 2023, for Disaster Relief and PDA support, you have demonstrated hope, peace, joy, and love. May the blessings of hope, peace, joy and love also be abundantly present in your life this Christmas and throughout the coming year.

**The Rev. Edwin González-Castillo  
Director, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**



**PRESBYTERIAN  
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

**OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE**

## ON THE MOVE

Robert and LaRae Elliott  
5120 S Rolling Green Ave  
Apt 105  
Sioux Falls, SD 57108



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

**Dorothy Rust** celebrates 90 years on January 20!  
5008 W 40th St  
Sioux Falls, SD 57106

## THANK YOU

This text message was received from an angel tree recipient the day the gifts and food were delivered.

We are very excited, and we're scared we will miss the phone call 😊 Thank you ❤️🎄

THANK YOU SOOOOOO MUCH!!! Oh my goodness. I feel blessed tenfold today. The kids couldn't believe their eyes. Here I thought we'd get some food for Christmas dinner and we received 4 boxes full!! Wow wow wow 🤩🤩🤩



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Jerry Simmons	01/01	Ashlyn Kelliher	01/18
Patti Newby	01/01	Marne Shaffer	01/18
Eric Wells	01/01	Dan Schnabel	01/18
Jean Wold	01/01	Drew Nielsen	01/19
Emma Kruse	01/02	Vonny Revell	01/19
Sally Kulm	01/02	Dorothy Rust	01/20
Brady Jatón	01/03	Rhys Nielsen	01/20
Conner Lower	01/03	John Helin	01/21
Julie Risty	01/03	Lynne Acheson	01/21
Rachel Pay	01/03	Alice Robbins	01/21
Kaylea Rickenbaugh	01/04	Edyanne Haafke	01/22
Patrick Thurman	01/05	Juliane Ingalls	01/22
Kylee Olson	01/05	Mark Bukovich	01/22
Asher Griess	01/08	Julie Wooters	01/25
Gail Babcock	01/08	Connor Horr	01/25
McKenzie Vortherms	01/08	Sue Hanneld	01/26
Kevin Wilson	01/08	Rowan Moon Papke	01/26
Katie Noguchi	01/09	Riley Marie Papke	01/26
Nadine Amundson	01/09	Paul DeCou	01/27
Daniel Meester-Gillette	01/09	Jack Burggraff	01/27
Jacob Rausch	01/10	Doug Brock	01/28
Dave Larson	01/11	Dawson Unruh	01/28
Brian Carlson	01/11	Nancy Loudon	01/28
Sheryl Papke	01/11	Julie Burggraff	01/29
Olivia Hruby	01/13	David Winter	01/29
Cindy Carlson	01/13	Stephen Egger	01/29
Ruby Noguchi	01/13	Dennis Graber	01/29
Lisa Tunge	01/13	Michael Van Oort	01/30
David Tidwell	01/14	Imara Jacquemart	01/31
Norman Dittman	01/15	Karleen Abar	01/31
Judy Schaap	01/16	Bill Roberts	01/31
Jeanie Miller	01/16	Marc Madison	01/31



## CONTACT INFORMATION & LINKS

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