

First Presbyterian Church  
221 East Sixth Street at Lincoln  
Bloomington, IN 47408  
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# First Press

*Celebrating Christ and Serving Community*

December 2020 Volume 62, No.12

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12/2 - David Kory, Hallie Schmucker  
12/4 - Mathew Baldwin  
12/5 - Bill Jones, Bev Tevault  
12/6 - Megan Becker  
12/7 - Lisa Deinlein  
12/8 - David Canizares  
12/9 - Nancy Voskuil  
12/10 - Sharon Rout  
12/11 - Dale Hepfer  
12/12 - Patsy Smith, Nasrin Hepfer

12/13 - Tressa Rauh, David Haeberle  
12/15 - Greg Buse, Nancy McKelvey, Doris Figel  
12/17 - Andrew Swank  
12/20 - John Connell  
12/22 - Sam Buse  
12/23 - Ellen Stern, David Weaver  
12/26 - Mary McClellan  
12/27 - David McFarland  
12/28 - Cathy McFarland, Michael Williams  
12/30 - David Goris

## Adult Education

### Lectionary Bible Study—Every Tuesday evening at 8:00pm.

This ongoing class gives you the opportunity to delve deeply into the Lectionary passages for the previous Sunday and be part of a supportive, energetic group. The class discusses Bible passages based on the weekly Revised Common Lectionary and uses the curriculum, *Feasting on the Word*, to enrich the study. Volunteers take turns leading the spirited discussion. No prior Biblical knowledge is necessary. The class meets on Tuesday evenings at 8:00 pm through Zoom.

Zoom link and Passcode (**NOTE: you will need a passcode to enter the meeting**)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82820692230?pwd=c016Y0w4eUFUT1BPMEpBRmNiTVFDdz09>

Meeting ID: 828 2069 2230

Passcode: 082786

The Friday announcements will include material for each week's class.

## Virtual Christmas Store and Auction Important Information

Plans for the annual Christmas Store and Auction sponsored by Koinonia are well underway. As we have done for many years, proceeds from the Christmas Store and Auction will be used first to purchase Christmas presents for the children in our sister church in Posoltega, Nicaragua, an area seriously affected by COVID-19. Any proceeds greater than \$1000 will be distributed to organizations serving children in Monroe County.

### Donations: Where?

- **Delivery to the church of your donated items.**

The 7th St. parking lot entrance has a laundry basket for donations as well as the church office. Our custodian, Steve Berry, is watching for the donations and is locking them up for us as they arrive.

- **Pickup of donated items at your home**

If you need to have your donation picked up, please contact Gail Dunning or Ruth Holman by Sunday, Dec. 6. (Contact information below.)

### Donation deadlines:

**Wednesday, Dec. 9 for non-perishable items**

**Saturday, Dec. 12 by noon for perishables**

**Logistics of the Christmas Store:** Two catalogs will be available on the FPC website for shopping purposes: [fpcbloomington.org](http://fpcbloomington.org) in the “Event/Christmas Store” tab. One catalog will be for the Christmas Store- First for children then for adults. The second catalog will be for the silent auction for adult purchases.

The Christmas Store catalog will be updated at least daily to remove items purchased.

### Shopping for Children (PreK thru 6th grade)

- Parents should have been contacted (via the email on file with Christian Education) with instructions, dates, and a children’s shopping form.
- A Doodle Poll has been sent to each family to make a shopping reservation for your child/children. This will allow us to update the catalog after each child has shopped to avoid overselling items with limited availability.
- Parents should return the shopping list immediately after shopping which should allow us to edit the catalog on a timely basis.
- **All children’s purchases are at \$1.00 per present.**
- **PRE-RESERVED children’s shopping times:**
  - **Friday, Dec. 4** 4 pm until 7 pm
  - **Saturday, Dec. 5** 10 am until 7 pm
  - **Sunday, Dec. 6** noon until 3 pm.
- **UNRESERVED children’s shopping**



### Shopping for Adults

- **General Store shopping** for everyone will take place weekdays
  - o **Monday, Dec. 7 thru Friday, Dec. 11** noon until 7 pm

- **How to purchase a General Store item**

- o Send a "Purchase" **text or email to Gail Dunning (812-325-0514 or gdunning45@sbcglobal.net)**. She will adjust the inventory on a daily basis according to the purchases made that day on a first come basis.
- o Prices are a generous donation at the discretion of the buyer. This helps achieve our charitable donation goals.

- **Auction items**

- o Special items of greater value have been donated to be sold at auction. Each item will have a suggested minimum starting bid.
- o To bid on auction items send a "Bid" **text or email to Ruth Holman (812-325-5702 or htur.holman@gmail.com)**. Please include the item number, description, and your bid. The bids will be updated in the online auction catalog at times during the days. You are encouraged to recheck items on which you have bid to overbid the current highest bid.
- o Auction bidding will take place weekdays  
**Monday, Dec. 7 thru Friday, Dec. 11 noon until 7 pm**

### Payment/Pickup for Christmas Stores and Auction items

- o Pick up at the FPC 7th St. parking lot entrance **Sunday, Dec. 13 from 1 – 3**
- o Children's purchases will be bagged for each recipient with names (to/from) on each purchase and then assembled per child in a larger handled bag.
- o All purchases will be available during the drive thru event. Just give your family name, pay and receive your purchases.
- o Payment should be made by cash or check at the time of pickup. Please make out your checks to First Presbyterian Church and designate the donation for **Christmas Store**.
- o Contact Gail Dunning or Ruth Holman if you are unable to come during the scheduled pickup.
- o Contact information:

**Gail Dunning: 812-325-0514 or gdunning45@sbcglobal.net**

**Ruth Holman: 812-325-5702 or htur.holman@gmail.com**

### Monetary donations

If you wish to donate without purchasing or bidding, please send a "generous" donation in the mail to the church office or donate through FPC's normal on-line giving option. Please make out your checks to First Presbyterian Church and designate the donation for **Christmas Store**.

**The catalogs can be found on our website: [fpcbloomington.org](http://fpcbloomington.org) in the "Events/Christmas Store" tab**



## FPC CHRISTMAS COFFEE SALE



*Help support small farmers and our mission work in Posoltega, Nicaragua, by purchasing Equal Exchange fairly-traded items via pick-up or delivery.*

**Drive-through pick up in the church parking lot on  
Sunday, December 6, from 11:30-12:00 noon.  
Or ask for free delivery to your front porch at any time.**

**Even if you did not pre-order in November, you still have  
a few days to order those last-minute items by email or phone.**

1. You must **order before coming**. See contact info above.
2. Write checks payable to First Presbyterian Church, with "Coffee" on memo line, or have exact change.
3. **Drive through the church parking lot between 11:30 – 12:00 noon, on Sunday, December 6.** Please wear a mask. There will be no direct hand-to-hand transactions. We will place items in your car, and you can place payment in a box that will be extended out to you. If the weather is nice, people may want to stay and visit with others. That would be an added Christmas bonus!
4. If you prefer delivery to your home, let Debbi know.

**Coffee \$10:** Breakfast Blend Drip, Organic Decaf Drip, Breakfast Blend BEAN, Café Nica French Roast BEAN (dark)

**Coffee \$12:** Sisters' Blend Drip (1 lb.)

**Tea \$4:** English Breakfast, Earl Grey, Chai, Green, Decaf English Breakfast, Ginger Caffeine free, Pepper mint Caffeine free, Rooibos Caffeine free

**Chocolate bars \$4:** Panama Extra Dark (80%), Very Dark Chocolate (71%), Dark Chocolate w/ mint crunch

(67%), Dark Chocolate Caramel Crunch w/ sea salt (55%), Dark Chocolate w/ Almond pieces (55%), Dark Chocolate w/ Whole Almond & Sea Salt (55%)

**Cocoa \$6.50:** Organic Baking Cocoa Mix (8 oz.), Organic Hot Cocoa Mix (add water) (12 oz.)



*All proceeds go toward our mission work in Posoltega, Nicaragua.*

## Resiliency and Faith

As I write, we are preparing for the holiday season. In the US, Thanksgiving is quickly approaching. Christmas and New Years are not far behind. I have already seen people posting pictures on social media of decorated Christmas trees and sharing recipes for holiday foods. At the same time, the rate of coronavirus infection is increasing in ways that are out of control in the US while also rising in other countries. Considering this I am drawn to consider how it is that we can go beyond just surviving but thrive and flourish? We are fatigued. When we are fatigued, resiliency is a resource that is in short supply.

To be resilient when in difficult situations or to thrive amid adversity requires the same thing: well-rounded self-care. We cannot escape the reality that life can be difficult. Some circumstances can be harsh or tragic and people can treat us in ways that are heartless and mean. Such are the aspects of life with which we all contend. What gets us through difficulties in life is understanding what it means to take care of ourselves: *psychologically, spiritually, and physically*.

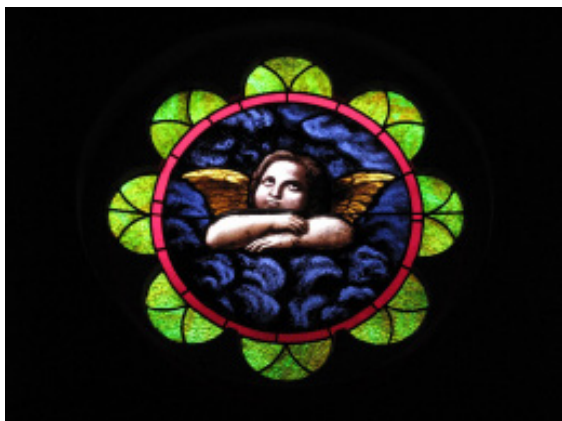
But in this pandemic and during so much social upheaval, taking care of ourselves is challenging. It is difficult to maintain a positive outlook on life. Unless one already had a pattern of spiritual practice, it can be difficult to be focused enough to start. Caring for ourselves physically includes taking the pandemic seriously, limiting our activity, wearing masks, and washing hands.

Taking care of ourselves today requires that we allow ourselves to be safe and secure at home. To take care of ourselves means that we stay healthy physically and not put ourselves at risk of infection. Focusing on what we give up does us no good. Instead, we can care for ourselves when we are focused on the long-term benefit for ourselves and our loved ones.

Sometime in the future, I look forward not just to travel but to spend time with those close to me, to have in-person conversations over adult beverages, to relax and just be together. I look forward to returning to the performing arts and to experience the depth of energy that comes from live performance. I also look forward to singing in church: full-throated and out loud with others offering harmony and adding their enthusiasm. But none of these things will happen unless I take care of myself. In turn, those who are important to me must also take care of themselves.

Indeed, this year, what is most important is self-care so that we can thrive and flourish with our loved ones for years to come. By taking good care of ourselves, we are also taking good care of our loved ones. And that is a Christ-like thing.

Blessings,  
Rev. Dr. Scott M. Kenefake  
Interim Sr. Minister



**The Outreach Committee is thankful to the members of First Presbyterian Church.**

**You continue to give generously of your time and money to help those in need, especially during the pandemic.**

*Thank you so much!*

A few of the highlights from our most recent Outreach Committee meeting are:

**Peace and Global Witness** – First Presbyterian Church (FPC) contributions totaled \$1,530 for this Presbyterian Church USA special offering, with 25% going to Wheeler Missions to help those in Bloomington experiencing homelessness this winter.

**Area 10 Agency on Agency** – The Outreach Committee would like to thank our members for their very generous donations to the annual Area 10 Food Drive on October 18. As you know, we were not able to collect food as we did in past years, but instead collected cash. You all responded by giving \$1,105 to the drive. What a generous response! The Area 10 people are very pleased. They recently have not been able to buy some of the food needed because they didn't have the cash to do so. Chris Myers, the Executive Director, wrote, "We love you! Thank you so much for all of your support!"

And, once each month, approximately 27 FPC members continue to bag and deliver groceries to local low-income elderly who cannot get out to shop.

**Monroe County United Ministries (MCUM)** – MCUM sends First Presbyterian a big thank you for the 650lbs. of food and several checks that members of the church collected for the recent Each One Feed Two food drive. Overall, 8,000 lbs. of food and over \$1,000 were contributed.

**Shalom Center/Beacon** – Despite the pandemic, several FPC members continue to serve Saturday morning breakfast to those experiencing homelessness, staying safe with masks, social distancing, and more.

**Wheeler Mission** – Ten to twelve First Presbyterian Church volunteers work together – while staying apart – to make sack lunches for 120 guests at the Wheeler Mission Men's Center. We began in May and have continued to provide lunches once each month. It is a huge help to the staff, and the men seem to love our lunches!

**To learn more, or to volunteer, please go to our website**

**<https://www.fpcbloomington.org> and click on Outreach, then each of the categories of service.**

*Thank you for sharing God's love through your amazing care for others!*



One of the most powerful things that Christians claim is that God saw the great needs of the world and offered a perfect gift in response, a gift that brought God and humanity closer together. God's perfect gift, Jesus Christ. "Emmanuel, God is with us!" our Advent dream proclaims, as God joins in human life, and draws us together as a result. "God is with us" shows God values togetherness and relationship with us, leading us to value togetherness and relationship with one another. When we are all together — and even when we are apart.

During these past months, many of us weren't able to be together in person, but we have always been together in spirit, and in faith. We have missed seeing faces we love — up close and personal, but the physical distance has also revealed, for us, the importance of those things which bring us together, even when we are physically far apart.

We offer our gifts during this Advent Season to the Christmas Joy Offering because God shows us the power and importance of being together, of "being with." We might not be able to meet face to face with those who need the support that our gifts provide, but we are very much still together.

We see the **potential of students of color who will become our leaders** and we seek to come alongside them, to encourage them, to be together with them. And we see **church workers who have critical financial needs** and we come alongside them, to assist them — we are with them. And we see the witness of the whole Church, either gathered in buildings or connected home to home, member to member, sharing what we have, together.

We thank God for being "with us" through the gift of Jesus and for joining us together as the Church and, through our gifts, to those who have need. Your gifts will help students of color become leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges, and help current and retired church workers in need.

*Please consider giving generously to this Special Offering,  
now through December 20.*

You can donate by mailing checks to First Presbyterian Church, 221 E. 6th St., Bloomington, IN 47408. Please write JOY on the memo line. Or you can contribute online by going to the church website: <https://www.fpcbloomington.org/> Once there click on the Giving tab, then click on the green Give Now button that will allow you to set up your donation. Please include in the Notes section that this is for the JOY offering.



## THE ANGEL TREE IS COMING!

Dear FPC Angels,

Our annual Angel Tree list [can be found here](#). We hope you and your family have been praying about how you will make one of these Area 10 friends a part of your family Christmas tradition this year. Please choose a person and sign up on our website. Then return your wrapped gift and Christmas card to the church no later than Dec. 13. Remember, the information beside each name is simply a suggestion for what your gift might include. These friends are so appreciative of any gift, especially that of your loving and generous thoughtfulness.

There will be 3 drive by drop off times for you to choose from, where a church member will receive your gifts without you having to leave your car. Those dates are Dec. 6 from 12-2p.m., Dec. 10 from 5-7p.m., and Dec. 13 from 12-2p.m. If you have questions, or need help getting your gift to the church, just call Ginny Coppedge at 812-890-6111, or the church office 812-332-1514. Thank you so much, and know that you have touched another's life in a special way this Christmas.

Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4FAFA628A0FDC34-angel>



## 2020 PW woman of the year



Even though we can't be together in the sanctuary to recognize this outstanding woman, we can still feel the faith that permeates through her.

Her quick smile, positive words and ready help illuminates the bases for the PW Coordinating Team's selection for PW Honorary Life Membership. She and her husband have actively served in different ways since joining FPC in 2009 and are very ready to offer a helping hand.

**PW is presenting this year's recognition to Ginny Coppedge.**



### C.S. Lewis III: Coming in January

C.S. Lewis authored numerous fictional and non-fictional works that dramatize various Christian ideals. Laura Gardner, our resident Lewis enthusiast and expert, has ably led small group discussions on “The Great Divorce” and Screwtape Letters.” Each series covered a six-week period. Now, starting in January Laura will lead a third series, “Letters to Malcolm: Chiefly on Prayer.”

A study guide from the C.S. Lewis Institute describes this work as: “not so much ... an instruction manual on prayer as a brilliant course on prayer appreciation. Just as art or music enrichment classes take you deeper so that you can enjoy and unlock the genre’s riches, so does ‘Letters to Malcolm’ take you deeper into the mysteries of prayer. As a great poem helps you feel things about life or love that you might have overlooked or barely paid attention to, so ‘Letters to Malcolm’ will engage you in reflections on the dynamics of prayer to which you may never have paid attention.”

Who can think of a better way to spend a few winter days! If you are interested in joining-in, please contact Small Group Committee chair Paul Rothrock at [prothro73@gmail.com](mailto:prothro73@gmail.com) so that you can participate in an organizational meeting in December. Of course, given the current health concerns, this series will use Zoom which can be accessed either by computer or telephone.



## Dec 2020 – A Christmas Miracle by Pat Stackhouse



Brandy had nowhere to spend Christmas Day and eat her Christmas dinner. She lived her days in a group home setting, so John and I decided to ask her to spend Christmas day with us.

Our children were reluctant at first, seeing her somewhat as an intrusion. “Look,” I said, “Part of Christmas is doing for others. I know Jesus would want us to welcome Brandy in our home and help her have a merry Christmas.” The children finally agreed.

We picked Brandy up and drove her to our house. She was dressed in red, to the hilt and had brought some cookies she had baked.

At first the atmosphere with Brandy present was a little stiff. Then Brandy’s sweet laughter filled the room and we all loosened up.

I glanced up and saw a tear run down the cheek of one of the boys. He had first balked at letting Brandy come. He quickly brushed the tear away. We all opened gifts, including some for Brandy.

When it was time for Brandy to leave, she thanked us and we each gave her a hug. I know there are many ways you can show your Christmas love if you will just wait for those opportunities. God bless you as you find them.



## Earth Stewards - December 2020

### Where will Environmental Policy Go?

*By Norm Holy and Allan Edmonds*

With the election of Joe Biden comes the question of his plans for environmental policy. To define the challenges, are some of the environmental actions taken during the Trump administration that have direct impact on human health.

- In recent months the Trump administration has **stripped protections from wetlands** in ways that allow for the dumping of pesticides and other pollutants directly into millions of miles of streams and other waterways.
- The Trump administration altered **automobile fuel efficiency standards to be less stringent**, allowing more emissions of carbon dioxide.
- They have **relaxed rules on power plants designed to curb air emissions** containing brain-damaging heavy metals such as mercury. The EPA also rolled back requirements governing how coal-fired power plants dispose of toxic wastewater, a move expected to add increased levels of lead, arsenic and other harmful contaminants to the environment.
- The EPA announced it would **continue to allow the neurotoxic chemical chlorpyrifos to be used to grow food** despite years of scientific research showing the pesticide damages babies' brain development. Residues of chlorpyrifos are commonly found in food consumed by young children. A USDA report released last year documented chlorpyrifos residues in raisins, peaches, mangoes and asparagus, among other foods.

Indiana is ranked among the ten states with the most air pollution. Will the Biden administration place renewed restrictions on polluters?

### Presbyterians For Carbon Dividend

Presbyterians For Carbon Dividend and it's Southern Indiana chapter are launching a Presbyterian Call to Action. Faith communities can be powerful and influential voices in Washington, and climate action appears to be at a tipping point. The conversation has ramped up and significant legislation will be introduced (or reintroduced) early in the next Congress. The goal is to ensure carbon fee and dividend is a foundational component of that legislation because P4CD believes it is the most effective and compassionate first step in supporting the transition to a greener, safer planet.

A number of lobby meetings are scheduled for early December, and P4CD hopes to present a letter of support from Presbyterians to our Members of Congress. You can read and sign the letter online at <https://bit.ly/P4CDLetter>, joining hands and hearts with other Presbyterians of Southern Indiana as well as across the country. Feel free to share this information with other Presbyterians.



# DECEMBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		7pm Choir practice (Zoom)  8pm Bible Study (Zoom)	5:45pm Outreach Committee Meeting (Zoom)	12pm Prayer Gathering	4pm - 7pm Start Virtual Christmas Store	10am - 7pm Virtual Christmas Store
10am Worship Service (Communion)  Virtual Christmas Store	Virtual Christmas Store (Adults) 7:30pm Theology on Tap (Zoom)  Pearl Harbor Remem- brance Day	Virtual Christmas Store 7pm Choir practice (Zoom) 8pm Bible Study	Virtual Christmas Store	Virtual Christmas Store	Virtual Christmas Store	
10am Worship Service  11am Children Choir	7:30pm Theology on Tap (Zoom)	7pm Choir practice (Zoom)  8pm Bible Study (Zoom)		12pm Prayer Gathering		
10am Worship Service  4pm Children's Christmas Pageant	1:30pm PW Carol Sing (Zoom) 7:30pm Theology on Tap (Zoom)	7pm Choir practice (Zoom)  8pm Bible Study (Zoom)		5pm & 10pm Christmas Eve Traditional Service  Christmas Eve		
10am Worship Service	7:30pm Theology on Tap (Zoom)	7pm Choir practice (Zoom)  8pm Bible Study (Zoom)			Christmas	
				New Year's Eve		