



Family to Family *and* Fostering Futures *Christmas Giving Program*



Family to Family Christmas and Fostering Futures

Every year our congregation lovingly and generously provides Christmas gifts of food, clothing, and toys for families in the Washtenaw County area. Many who have participated in the past can attest that this act of kindness and giving is a great reminder of the meaning and celebration of our Lord's birth. This year we have two opportunities to make God's love visible to local children and families. We are partnering with Fostering Futures and Family to Family Christmas to provide loving gifts. There is one sign-up, which you can find online on our website, to help both programs.

Family to Family Christmas

The Family to Family Christmas program matches local individuals and families in need referred by the Department of Health and Human Services with members and friends of First Presbyterian Church who wish to "adopt" them and provide gifts for Christmas. This year we are committed to helping 40-50 local families. After signing up online, contact your family, then shop and work with them to set up a safe and contact-free delivery method. Some ideas might be to shop online and mail them their gifts, mail them gift cards, or drop their presents off at their door. Presents may be wrapped, if you choose to do so.

Fostering Futures

Fostering Futures is an Ann Arbor non-profit that provides foster care and adoption services to families throughout southeast Michigan. They have a holiday gift project for children in foster care to ensure they have gifts to open on Christmas and feel God's love and peace in their lives. This year we are committed to helping 40 foster children with them. After signing up online, please purchase and deliver gifts to the Social Hall by December 5. **Please do not wrap your gifts, instead place them in a gift bag with the child's number clearly written on the top.**

Donation

You are welcome to make a donation instead of adopting a family or foster child. Financial contributions will be used to help purchase gift cards for any remaining needs. If you would like to make a donation by check, please make it out to First Presbyterian Church and write "Family to Family" in the memo.

Volunteer

You can give the gift of your time by helping deliver gifts to families on December 19.

Questions?

For more information, please **contact Julie Morrison at 646-5351 or jdornmorrison@gmail.com**. Or check out the church's website and look for the Fostering Futures & Family to Family Christmas page under our local mission tab. Thank you for sharing your Christmas blessings, and making God's love visible to our neighbors at a time when it is appreciated more than ever.

Christ Be Our Light



Gift of the Magi Program

(A sort-of Secret Santa for Church!)

"The magi, as you know, were wise men--wonderfully wise men--who brought gifts to the Babe in the manger. They invented the art of giving Christmas presents ... O all who give and receive gifts, such as they are wisest. Everywhere they are wisest. They are the magi."

– O. Henry, *The Gift of the Magi* (1905)

At the birth of Jesus, wise men brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. During Advent and Christmas, we give gifts to one another to celebrate the birth of Jesus, just as the wise men did.

The Congregational Life Committee invites you to participate in our own gift giving! Gift of the Magi is an Advent program where you/your family will build relationships and will share fellowship with other First Pres members and families. Non-members and regular attendees are welcome to join in! Let's all experience the surprise and the giving of the "Gift of the Magi."

How it works

During Advent, you/your family will be paired with another First Pres individual, couple or family. For the individual, couple, or family assigned to you, you commit to do three things:

- **PRAY** for the person/family on your way to work/school, on Sunday at church, or in the morning when you wake up or before you go to bed.
- **MAKE** something - Bake cookies, knit a scarf or make an ornament
- **BUY** something from the PCUSA catalog - Gifts can be large or small; spend \$25 to help educate a child, \$125 for an Emergency Life Pack or \$300 for the Egg a Day Pledge. Find more options at <https://presbyteriangifts.pcusa.org/>

The individual, couple, or family assigned to you does not know initially who has their name. When you register, another person participating in the Gift of the Magi will have your name and be giving to you throughout Advent!

How to Register

To sign-up, use this form: <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/w5530jl1gxy1hg/>. Once you are registered, you will soon receive the name of a special person, couple, or family assigned to you. Brainstorm ideas for how to fulfill your commitment to do three things (see above) for that person/family. Determine when and how you will do these things. **On Sunday, November 28**, or any time after and before Christmas Eve, begin "giving" to the person assigned to you. When you sign up, someone will have your name and be doing 1, 2 and 3 for you, also! The person you are assigned and the person who gets your name will not be the same person. **You may keep your identity a secret until December 24**, or reveal yourself right away.

If you register, be sure to let us know of food allergies, special needs, or other information your "secret magi" should know.

Questions?

Contact Rev. Rogers for more information (mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org).