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Dear Friends,

As we move into December, the days grow shorter and shorter. The sun is lower in the sky, the shadows lengthen. The world around us, literally and metaphorically, grows darker. The Church enters the season of Advent, a time of preparation tinged with foreboding. It is a time of yearning for the Light.

Because we live on the other side of God's coming among us in human flesh, our Advent focus is both forward and backward looking. We eagerly await the celebration of the coming of the Light – the long-promised Messiah -- into the world, the wonder of God's being born in Jesus the Christ, full of grace and truth, and simultaneously we know that there is work to be done before Christ comes to judge the world. The days grow shorter, and with the Old Testament prophets we wait. We pray, "How long, O Lord?"

Over the four weeks of Advent we will move through texts that bring us through words of prophecy to the grand announcement of good news for all people: a Savior is born for us!

I hope you will journey with us each week as we move from darkness to Light. Children will be part of our musical leadership at 9:30 each week during Advent. Many opportunities are being made ready for you to ponder the mystery of God's choosing to come to us as an infant and rejoice in that truth with others at First Pres. Take note of the many ways to ready yourself to receive God's great gift and to give back. Invite friends, neighbors, and co-workers to join us.

Note that this year Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday so both our Sunday morning and our Christmas Eve schedules are different. We will light the Fourth candle on the Advent wreath and observe the Fourth Sunday of Advent at only our 8:00 a.m. service on the 24th. Our wonderful children's service and pageant will be at 9:30 a.m. There will be no 11:00 a.m. service that Sunday. Our two candlelight Lessons and Carols services will be at their traditional times, 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. (If you have flexible dinner plans, consider coming to the 7:00 p.m. service to ease the usual overcrowding at 5:00 p.m.) We will celebrate the birth of Christ, Son of God, love's pure light, with our traditional Candlelight Communion service at 11:00 p.m.

As we ready ourselves to celebrate the birth of Christ, pray for this world that God created good and be kind to one another. It's the best preparation of all for Christmas.

Grace and peace,



Rev. Dr. Fairfax F. Fair
Pastor/Head of Staff



Christmas Eve Worship

Note, the time change!

The Christmas Pageant will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, December 24.

8:00 a.m. - Worship & Communion

9:30 a.m. - Christmas Pageant

Candlelight Worship Services

5:00 & 7:00 p.m. - Lessons & Carols

11:00 p.m. - Communion

December 31 Worship

10:00 a.m. - Family Worship

Holiday Building Hours

- The building will be closed Monday, December 25 and Monday, January 1.
- The building will close at 4:00 p.m., an hour early, Tuesday, December 26 through Friday, December 29.



Worship & Music



Longest Night Worship

Wednesday, December 20 at 7:00 p.m., Monteith Hall

We know the darkness — both literal and figurative — that comes at this time of year around the Winter Solstice. For those grieving, uncertain, facing illness, or melancholy during the holidays, this season is especially hard. This service speaks to the sadness we feel. Invite your heavy-laden friends and neighbors. Light candles, share communion, be comforted by the music of harp, flute, and oboe. Stephen Ministers provide hot cider and cookies for a time of fellowship afterwards.

Glacier Hills Advent Worship

Monday, December 11 at 10:30 a.m.

Join the staff of First Pres and residents of Glacier Hills in the Hanson Room for this special Advent worship service and refreshments. All are welcome!



Christmas Eve Worship - Sunday, December 24

8:00 a.m. - Worship and Communion in Monteith Hall

Note Time Change! 9:30 a.m. - Family Christmas Pageant & Worship Service

5:00 & 7:00 p.m. - Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols

11:00 p.m. - Candlelight Service of Communion

December 31 Worship

There will be one family worship service at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, December 31.



Advent Events

Advent Email Devotional

Light Dawns on a Weary World

Beginning Sunday, December 3, receive daily email devotions written by First Pres members and staff during Advent.

2017 Family to Family Christmas

Sign up at Coffee Hour on November 26, December 3, & December 10

With Christmas approaching, it is again time to enjoy the joyful season with family and friends. For many in our community, though, the holidays are a time of anxiety and worry about affording gifts or Christmas dinner for their children. In Washtenaw County, where almost 20% of residents live in poverty, the Christmas blessings we take for granted may be out of reach. We can help local families have a better Christmas through the Family to Family Christmas program. First Pres will match Department of Health and Human Services clients with members and friends of First Pres who “adopt” them. You can “adopt” a family in need this year yourself or with your family, group, class, or friends. Families range from disabled or elderly individuals to families of six or more. Once you are assigned, you will provide them with food and gifts this Christmas. After you select a family and purchase items according to their needs, you can deliver the gifts personally — or have an FTF volunteer deliver them for you. Alternatively, financial contributions may be made to help purchase gift cards for families not directly adopted, as well as families in need who have loved ones at our local hospitals during the holidays. Sign-up tables will be at Coffee Hour on November 26, December 3, and December 10 in the Social Hall. Donations may be made at the sign-up table or by using the special pew envelopes beginning November 26. Or, adopt a family contacting Julie Morrison at 668-0420 or jdornmorrison@gmail.com, or sign up at <https://firstpresbyterian.org/event/family-family-christmas>. Volunteers are also needed to help deliver gifts on the afternoon of December 17. Thank you for sharing your Christmas blessings with those in our community.



Advent Happening Arts & Crafts Event

Saturday, December 2, 10:00 a.m. - Noon, Social Hall

Bring family and friends and join in the creating and crafting fun! Make gifts, cards, and ornaments, decorate cookies and more at this wonderful multi-generational event. There are activities for the littlest children (this is a great opportunity to make those Grandma/Grandpa/Aunt/Uncle gifts) to the biggest fun-loving adults. Friends are welcome and encouraged. Childcare is provided for infants through age two if older siblings and parents are busy at the Advent Happening. Make a childcare reservation by contacting Debbie MacVey at dmacvey@firstpresbyterian.org or 662-4466 ext. 342.



Forward in Mission Christmas Bazaar

Sunday, December 3, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Come to the Forward in Mission Bazaar and do your Christmas shopping! Purchase lovely, thoughtful gifts and support First Pres mission teams by purchasing “shares” of projects or programs. Also, you can’t go wrong with home-baked goods and Fair Trade coffee! Children can pick up “passports” and have them stamped as they learn more about our mission activities. Can’t make the bazaar? Purchase shares and gifts from the online catalog starting November 14 at www.firstpresbyterian.org.

“Light Dawns on a Weary World”

Christmas Hymn Festival & Reception

Sunday, December 17
3:00 p.m.

Come join with the choirs and orchestra in a festival of Christmas hymns and carols at First Presbyterian. The singing will be followed by a strolling reception in our beautiful church building - refreshments served in different parts of the building – and the opportunity to mingle with friends, old and new. Enjoy wonderful treats and view the church’s beautiful and extensive collection of crèches from around the world. This is a wonderful event meant for the whole family. Families are encouraged to attend together. For those who would like childcare for children under age two, please make a reservation by contacting Debbie MacVey no later than December 12 at dmcvey@firstpresbyterian.org.

Be a Part of the Christmas Eve Pageant

NOTE NEW TIME: Sunday, December 24 at 9:30 a.m.

All children, ages 3 and older, are invited to participate in our “come one, come all” Family Christmas Eve Pageant and Worship Service held 9:30 a.m. on Christmas Eve. All of our children are also invited to sing as a part of the pageant and are encouraged to participate even if they didn’t start with the choir in September. Doris Granum leads our children’s choir in rehearsal every Sunday from 10:30 to 10:55 a.m. Sign your child up to participate in the pageant by Sunday, December 3. Fill out a form found in Sunday school classrooms or sign up online at <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/christmas-eve-pageant-registration/>

Age Guidelines - There are non-speaking parts for a multitude of children. Generally, three year-olds through Kindergarteners are starbearers; first and second graders are shepherds; first through fifth graders are angels; and third through fifth graders are magi. This can vary a little, but after years of rehearsals we find this seems to work the best. Middle School and High School age kids are all welcome to take leadership roles as well.

Christmas Pageant Rehearsals - There will be a parents’ meeting on Sunday, December 3, at 11:00 a.m. in Lewis Room to inform parents of pageant details and the rehearsal schedule. Some costumes will also be handed out. On Saturday, December 16 there will be a Pageant parts rehearsal in the Sanctuary. Children will rehearse their parts at the following times – magi at 9:00 a.m., shepherds at 9:30 a.m., starbearers at 10:15 a.m., and angels at 11:00 a.m. On Thursday, December 21 there will be a dress rehearsal in the Sanctuary from 4:30- 5:30 p.m. All participants including the choirs will meet and rehearse together.

Christmas Eve, December 24, falls on a Sunday, therefore the Family Christmas Eve Pageant and Worship Service will be held at a new time – 9:30 a.m. –in the Sanctuary. Plan to arrive at church by 9:00 a.m.



Honor or Remember Loved Ones With a Poinsettia

Give a poinsettia to beautify worship on December 17 and 24 in honor or memory of a loved one. Poinsettias are \$18 and can be ordered until noon on Monday, December 11 at <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/poinsettias-2017/> or in the Church Office.



Boy Scout Troop 7 Wreath Sale

Boy Scout Troop 7, chartered by First Pres in 1927, will host their annual Christmas wreath sale during Coffee Hour on Sundays, November 26 and December 3. There are two sizes of wreaths handmade from fresh greens for sale. A 22" wreath is \$30.00 and a 28" wreath is \$40.00. Deck the halls and support Boy Scout Troop 7!

Advent Study Groups

The 2017 Advent Study will use the curriculum "Advent Through the Eyes of Those Who Waited" from *The Thoughtful Christian*. Groups will meet at First Pres unless otherwise specified. Sign up in the Church Office or online at <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/advent-study-groups/>

Sundays - December 3, 10 & 17

11:00 a.m. - Led by Rev. Sanderford and Resident Ministers

2:00 p.m. - Led by Rev. Kent Palmquist

7:00 p.m. - Study for Twenties and Thirties (T2A2) at Chris Wahl's home - led by Rev. Dorothy Parks-Piatt, Jess Matczak, and Sara McAdory-Kim

Monday Evenings - December 4, 11 & 18 at 7:00 p.m., led by Elder Kate Silbert

Thursday Evenings - December 7, 14 & 21, at 6:00 p.m., led by Stephen Minister Kathy Wirstrom

Friday Mornings at Glacier Hills - December 1, 8 & 15, at 10:30 a.m., led by Rev. Eric Koenig-Reinke and Rev. Eldon Beery

Christmas Cookie Exchange at Coffee Hour

Sunday, December 10

Drop off a couple dozen homemade cookies to the Social Hall before 9:30 a.m. worship. Come to Coffee Hour at 10:30 a.m., where volunteers will help you fill take-home containers with homemade goodies from other bakers! If you bring gluten-free cookies, please label them.

Alone on Christmas Day? Able to Add a Seat at your Christmas Table?

Are you anticipating spending Christmas Day alone? Would you open your Christmas table to include a church member who otherwise would be alone on Christmas Day? The Congregational Life Committee hopes to put people together on this most special day to share a meal. Whichever side of the invitation you are on, contact Rev. Rogers, at mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org.



Special Offerings

- The PC(USA) Christmas Joy Offering will be received on December 17. Donations support retired church professionals and other church workers in times of need and the development of future racial ethnic leaders of our church.
- Christmas Eve Offering will be received on December 24 and will be donated to SafeHouse to support their work in domestic violence prevention. Make checks out to First Presbyterian Church with Christmas Eve Offering on the memo line.

Parking on Christmas Eve

Please be considerate in parking choices as many visitors join us for worship on Christmas Eve. Overflow parking is available only at the Forest Street structure, a short walk down Forest Court, for our able-bodied members. Please do not park at the adjoining sorority houses.



Congregational Life

Give yourself the Christmas Gift of Church Membership

Don't forget the new member class November 29 and December 6 from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. in the Curtis Room. Email Rev. Rogers at mr Rogers@firstpresbyterian.org if you'd like to come and have not registered. Joining takes place December 10. We want you!



Ending the Silence

"Youth Only" Suicide Awareness/Prevention Workshop

December 3, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m., Monteith Hall

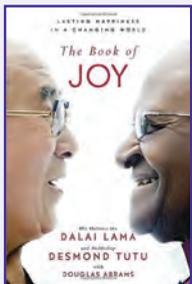
Last year our area experienced more teen suicides than it ever had before. People are concerned and anxious to know more about how they might help someone before tragedy occurs. NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) will present a workshop designed to give youth an opportunity to learn symptoms and indicators of mental illness and give ideas about how to help themselves, friends, or family members who may be in need of support. A young adult living with mental illness will give a personal testimony and discuss his/her journey to recovery. Youth leaders and program and pastoral staff members will also be present. It is free, no registration is required, and friends are welcome. Questions? Contact Sandy Talbott, Parish Nurse/ Wellness Coordinator, at 662-4466, ext. 350 or stalbott@firstpresbyterian.org.

MATURE MINISTRIES

December Hilltoppers

Re-creating Fair Lane: Breathing New Life into Henry Ford's Final Residence

Join Mature Ministries on Thursday, December 14, for a special preview of one of our upcoming 2018 outings—to Henry Ford's Fair Lane Estate in Dearborn. Fair Lane, the final residence of Henry and Clara Ford, is currently closed to the general public for a five year \$62 million dollar renovation, but Mature Ministries has been invited to visit the home midway through its renovation and talk to the team responsible for its unparalleled transformation. Mark Heppner, Vice President for Historic Resources at the Historic Ford Estates, will be our featured speaker, sharing the story of the estate's construction, residency by the Fords, post-Ford ownership by the University of Michigan-Dearborn, and recent transfer back to the Ford family, who have undertaken the current ambitious restoration. Mark is leading the team charged with breathing new life into this American treasure, and will be introduced by our own Brad Taylor. Join us for a sneak peak into one of next year's most exclusive—and exciting—opportunities.



SAVE THE DATE: Lasting Happiness - can we find it?

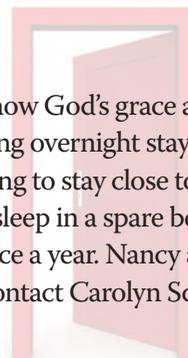
Gather with us on January 21, 3 - 4:30 p.m., at the home Mary Smith (Ann Arbor westside) for our next Mature Ministries Book Discussion led by Rev. Rogers. All adults are welcome and snacks are provided! We will read *The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World* by Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu.

If you'd like us to order the book for you, please submit \$19 to First Pres by December 1. Sign up for the book and/or the group in the Church Office.

Open Your Home to the Spouses of Vets

When did we see you a stranger and invite you in? Matt 25:38

We have an opportunity for a ministry right at home where we can show God's grace and our gratitude to the veterans who have served our country. The VA Hospital Social workers need help offering overnight stays for the spouses of veterans coming to the VA for surgery. Hotel costs mount up for these Michigan women trying to stay close to their spouses for the few days they are hospitalized. A few of us have offered these people simply a place to sleep in a spare bedroom. No fuss, no food, just a friendly welcome, a few overnights, and directions to the hospital, once or twice a year. Nancy and Dale Briggs did this for many years, and we can honor them by continuing this good work. Questions? Contact Carolyn Schultz at momschultz@juno.com or 975-4219.



Presbyterian Women in December

Forward In Mission

Presbyterian Women is participating in the "Forward in Mission" Bazaar on Sunday, December 3, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. We are selling \$10 shares online and at the bazaar to support scholarships to be awarded to ministerial students from First Presbyterian Church.

PW Gathering on Wednesday, December 20

All are welcome to any portion or all of the day's activities. PW wishes everyone a loving and peace-filled Christmas!

9:30 a.m - Bible Study in the Lewis Room, Lesson 4, led by Ginny Bell

10:45 a.m. - Business and Program in Monteith Hall, "Jolly Fun-Fest"

Noon - Luncheon in the Social Hall (\$7)

Make your reservation in the Church Office by signing up or calling 662-4466.



T2A2 NEWS

- **Nicaragua Mission Trip Opportunity for Young Adults** - The Nicaragua Mission Team has planned a multigenerational mission trip for February 23 through March 4, 2018 — during UM spring break. Adults in their 20s and 30s have the opportunity to join a team of 15 people in wiring an existing school to bring light to the community of Quebrada Honda. Graduate students, up to half of your travel costs may be covered by a student scholarship fund! Contact Carol Smith (psmith6641@aol.com) to express your interest or learn more.
- **T2A2 Lunch & Plan** - Whether you're a member or a first-time guest in your 20s & 30s, come share your ideas and shape our time together in 2018 through social gatherings, service, spiritual formation, and fun. Meet in the Founders Room on Sunday, December 3, from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. Please RSVP by December 1 to Rev. Dorothy Parks-Piatt (dparks-piatt@firstpresbyterian.org) and communicate any food allergies.
- **T2A2 Holiday Cookie Exchange** - Get your favorite seasonal cookie recipe ready and join 20s & 30s for a cookie exchange party Sunday, Dec. 10, from 2 to 5 p.m. at the home of Catalina Esguerra! For more information or directions, email Catalina (justcallmecat@gmail.com).

Rotating Shelter: Sharing Warmth with Our Neighbors

First Pres opens its doors again, January 8 - 22 to provide sleeping space for up to 25 men directed here by the Shelter Association. Last winter more than 100 First Pres volunteers offered friendship and wonderful hospitality. Our guests commented that First Pres offers hospitality as much as it offers shelter. We are looking for evening (7:00 - 10:00 p.m.) and overnight hosts each night, and morning (around 7:00 a.m.) drivers on the weekends. There are at least three hosts each night, so you will get plenty of sleep. You can also help by donating hot food, snacks, gloves, hats, socks, hand warmers, and new long underwear. We also



welcome First Pres groups whose members would like to serve together or host a specific night. Veteran volunteers will be present to help orient others. Watch for sign-up opportunities near the Welcome Center or sign up online at <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/rotating-shelter-volunteers-2018/> Questions? Contact Melissa Anne Rogers, mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org or John Yodhes 677-4036, or any other of the members of our team - for more information.

Rotating Shelter Team - Jeannette Middleton, Jim Douglass, John Yodhes, Charlie Koopmann, Melissa Anne Rogers, Judy Landau, Marcey Terrien

SAVE THE DATE and Journey with us to the Women's Retreat!

The 2018 women's retreat, "Finding Yourself at Home in God's Grace," will be held March 9-10, at Maumee Bay State Park. We'll start Friday evening, returning home by Saturday evening. We have guest speakers who will help guide us on a spiritual journey, along with our wonderful resident ministers, Dorothy and Blair, and of course Melissa Anne and Sandy to round out the fun. Mark your calendars! Details and sign-up to begin in January!

A Time to Gather Stones Together

Notice some changes along the north side of the nave? Where there used to be green grass, ground cover and some shrubs there's now some new drains and a lot of bare dirt. This is progress. Over the years, drainage issues have developed around our beautiful church. Where water once drained away from the building, it now drains towards the building. While this has been most noticeable along the north side of the nave and has resulted in water in the Social Hall on occasion, it's also a problem elsewhere. Unaddressed, the result will be further damage to the stone facing on the exterior of the Church not to mention flooding issues. We have begun the process of addressing the drainage issues. In the spring the area will be re-landscaped with shrubs and ground cover. We have a beautiful Church building, but at 80 some years old, it does require attention.



Water collecting next to the building



Installation of drainage tile



Finished project



Campus Connection: UKirk@UMich



Cook Pancakes for College Students!

The Pancake Supper will be Tuesday, December 12, 10:00 p.m. - midnight, as UM students wrap up the semester. Students are working hard, and our hospitality goes a long way. We expect to serve over 300 hungry students from 10:00 p.m. to midnight. Volunteers are needed to help with outreach, setup, tear down, cooking, serving, and more. Sign up to help online at <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/pancake-supper/>, or contact Rev. Blair Buckley at bbuckley@firstpresbyterian.org or 662-4466, ext. 354. Don't have time to help? Monetary donations are needed as well. To contribute, make your check out to First Presbyterian Church with Pancake Supper on the memo line.



Faith in Action

December 3 Communion Sunday Food Offering

Bring food and donations that will be given to Food Gatherers. As we are fed at the Lord's Table, so we feed others in Christ's name.

Another Way to Shop and Support Mission

Ten Thousand Villages markets handicrafts from the developing world in order to provide artisans with a fair wage for their work. Visit them for a Community Shopping Event from November 27 - December 8. The store will donate 15% of total net sales from an organization's supporters to that organization. So, please shop there yourselves, invite others to do so, and ask them to designate First Pres, Ann Arbor, as the recipient of the donation. Proceeds will go to our Mission Committee, to support both local and international mission.

Feeding Our Neighbors

By the end of the football season we will have collected 14,000 lbs of food for Cass Community Services, Riverside Meal Program, and Second Mt. Carmel Baptist Church of Detroit – or about 30,000 meals. Basketball season is another opportunity for one or two people to help with each Big Ten Game, starting December 2. Contact Don Redding, dredding58@yahoo.com or 276-8426, if you'd like to help. NOTE: We get to see most of the game and it takes about 1.5 hours after the end of the game.





From Make-believe Instruments to Real Ones

Thanks to the amazing generosity of families in Washtenaw County the young people in La Florida, Peru will soon be able to play real instruments and march to their own music. One hundred and four (104) instruments have been collected including piccolos, clarinets, trumpets, drums, cellos, violins, violas, saxophones, French horns, guitars, flutes, recorders, trombones, and an autoharp. Local music teachers and repair technicians inspected the instruments to ensure they are in playing order while volunteers cleaned cases and oiled valves.

Excitement is building in La Florida. Volunteers have built an air-conditioned practice room to secure the instruments and accommodate the practicing new musicians. Senior citizens are asking if they might also learn. The instruments have been shipped. Can you imagine their excitement at the first parade or concert?

We recently discovered a 24-minute documentary on the Internet called "Joe's Violin." It is about an instrument gift to a child, like your gifts to the youth in Peru. Take a little time to watch it. You will enjoy it. May God bless you for responding so generously to our request for used instruments for Peru. - *Ginny Rezmierski and Jeff Taggart*

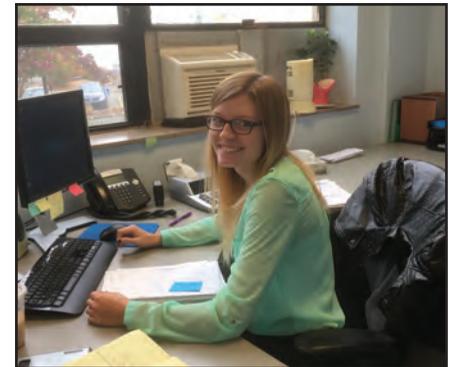


Transitions

Introducing Megan Roemer, Finance Assistant

We welcome Megan Roemer who has joined the First Pres staff as Finance Assistant on a part-time basis. Megan will work under the direction of Anna Miller, Finance Manager.

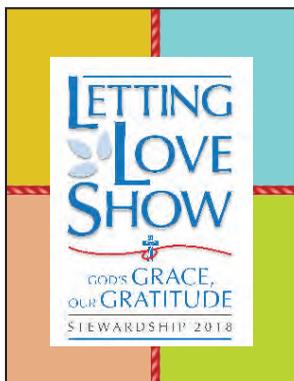
Megan is a student at Eastern Michigan University. She will graduate in April of 2018 with a Master's of Science in Accounting and a BBA in Accounting. She grew up in Lambertville, Michigan, near the Ohio/Michigan state line, and moved to this area in order to go to school. Please introduce yourself to Megan when you have a chance so that she becomes acquainted with members of the congregation. Ask her about her dog Tito, or her first trip to a Lions' game!



Financial Stewardship

Letting Love Show – Stewardship 2018

Thank you to all who have responded with their 2018 financial pledge and Opportunities to Serve forms! As of November 17, we have received 405 pledges totalling \$1,338,336 in pledges, or 78.7% of our \$1,700,000 goal. There is still time, and a real need, for your support if you have not yet turned in your commitment forms. Please consider your response to God's call to Let Love Show, and return your pledge forms to the church office as soon as possible (or pledge online at firstpresbyterian.org under the contribute tab). Additional pledge forms are available in the Church Office. Wonderful ministries are taking place at First Pres, and your financial support and active engagement make that happen. Together all things are possible!



Financial Update

The Session, First Presbyterian Church's governing body, along with the Finance Committee are committed to providing regular financial updates to you, our members and friends. The following financial information is for the month of September and the 2017 fiscal year which ends December 31, 2017.

For the month of September :

Total income received:	\$124,920
Total expenses:	\$139,800
Deficit:	(\$ 14,880)

Year-to-Date through September:

Total income received:	\$1,334,161 (63.7% of our annual budget)
Total expenses	\$1,348,734 (64.4% of our annual budget)
Deficit	(\$ 14,573)

Questions? Contact Lucie Audette, Chair of Finance, at laudette125@hotmail.com or 717-8026.

Finance Office Hours

The Finance Office will be open Tuesday, December 26 - Friday, December 29, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to assist you with any First Pres related financial inquiries or transactions you may have. Questions? Contact Anna Miller, Finance Manager, at amiller@firstpresbyterian.org or 662-4466, ext. 344.

2017 Offering Envelopes

2017 offering envelopes will be available for pick up outside the Finance Office beginning Thursday, December 21.



Youth Connection

Youth Ministry News

November has been an exciting month of new trips and events for youth ministry. We ate together, sang together, served together and enjoyed being together. Check out our highlights from November below, watch for December updates, and we hope to see you here soon!

Friendsgiving Potluck & Dinner Church

On Nov. 12, a group gathered together to eat good food, share stories, and spend time in community! The Kenji Lee Quartet, and several of our youth led us in worship. We sang, prayed, and gave thanks for our time together. Celebrating Friendsgiving with you was wonderful, and we hope to make it an annual event!



Chicago Mission Weekend

Our high school students spent a weekend together growing and learning together in the heart of Chicago. During our time together, we had the chance to see how God is moving in this city, and meet the people who are being Christ's hands and feet. Be sure to check out our Instagram account (@fpa2youth) to read our blogs, and hear more stories from our trip!



Adult Education

There will be no Adult Ed classes on December 24 or 31.

9:30 a.m. Offerings

The Bible at 9:30

December 3, 10, & 17

French Room/Library

This class continues a study of the book of Acts. Rev. Ed Koster is the presenter. All are welcome for a solid biblical study and robust discussion.

First Friends, 9:30 a.m.

December 3, 10, & 17

Monteith Hall

Spiritual growth, learning, fellowship, and support for individuals and couples seeking to connect faith and life. Presenters are class members. This month, our focus is *Peter and Paul and the Christian Revolution*, a DVD-based study with discussion. Using the words of Paul and other ancient writers, interviews with contemporary scholars, and dramatic re-enactments, the series explores how Peter and Paul weathered disagreements and persecution to lead a resilient religious movement.

11:00 a.m. Offerings

Advent through the Eyes of Those Who Waited

Monteith Hall

The people of the Advent texts will guide us. Bring your Bible and Advent through the Eyes of Those Who Waited session materials. Visit <https://firstpresbyterian.org/connect/adult-ministry/sunday-classes> to download materials for each week. Copies are also available in the Church Office or in class.

December 3 - Isaiah and the Prophets

Meet the Hebrew prophet Isaiah and find his prophetic vision. How do his words shape our view of the arrival of Jesus? Presenters are Revs. Jay Sanderford and Dorothy Parks-Piatt.

December 10 - John the Baptist

John the Baptist - get to know his family ties, personality, call, message, and his unique relationship with Jesus. Presenters are Revs. Jay Sanderford and Eric Koenig-Reinke.

December 17 - Mary and Elizabeth

Be in the company of Mary, the mother of Jesus, and Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, women who encourage us to attend to the wonders of the coming Messiah and join God's world-changing work. Presenters are Revs. Jay Sanderford and Blair Buckley.



Resident Minister Corner



Although they serve with us for only two years, our Resident Ministers remain very much a part of our First Pres church family as they continue their ministries here and throughout the country and world. This fall we were delighted to welcome Evans McGowan back to serve as Coordinator of Campus Ministries, and we have been pleased to have Deborah Knott Forger and her family in our midst, as she completed her Ph.D. at Michigan and now has become a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies. Our latest returnee is Matt Nickel (2009-11). Matt, who currently serves as Associate Pastor at Highland Presbyterian Church, Louisville, KY, will become Pastor of beautiful and historic Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church in Detroit on January 1, 2018.

We recently spoke with Matt and asked him to share his thoughts about his new call and the role of the resident ministry program in his development as a pastor. To read his remarks, visit:

<https://firstpresbyterian.org/about/more-about-church/residency-program/residents-corner-december-2017>