

First Presbyterian News

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Chris Jones, Choir Director
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First Pres. Family,

Have you ever experienced that excitement in a community when someone new is moving in? People become intensely interested when someone new is moving into the neighborhood, particularly when someone is moving in next door. Now consider this; what if Jesus Christ was to move into your neighborhood? What if Jesus were to move in next door? Think of all the implications of having the Son of God as your next-door neighbor. What would it mean? You probably wouldn't have the usual complaints of loud music late at night or a lot of all-night parties. But on the other hand, your neighbor would be the creator of the universe, who has known everything about you from your birth. Your neighbor would know you better than you know yourself.

When I was fresh out of college, there was a recession and jobs were scarce. However, I was able to land a job with a highway construction company in a town forty miles away. Now having a job, my wife and I needed a place to live. The construction foreman told me to go to Popplewell apartments and Mrs. Popplewell would find me a place. The foreman was right, Mrs. Popplewell had an apartment that would be perfect and at the right price. Everything we owned, fit into the trunk of my car and so we began to unpack and move in. Mrs Popplewell insisted on helping us move our few possessions into the space. Looking at our possessions and the empty space of the apartment, Mrs. Popplewell clicked her tongue and said: "My, my, you do not have anything to cook with or dishes and utensils to eat with. And how will you sleep? We showed her our old sleeping bags. Again, she clicked her tongue. I was due at work early the next day, and returned late that evening. I was shocked and surprised when I opened the door to the apartment and found pots and pans, dishes, and silverware, as well as a bed and a couch. I did not see Mrs Popplewell, but knew that all of this must have appeared by her work. I began to worry that we would have no privacy with Mrs. Popplewell around, but as the summer wore on, I realized that I saw her very little and when I did see her, she always had a smile and a kindness to show me. Occasionally, as we were sitting on the front porch in the cool of the evening, Mrs. Popplewell would come and visit. She would ask how things were going and if we needed help in any way. She would share happenings in the community and particularly tell us about her church. It was clear that she was a deeply committed Christian and a devout member of her church. She often invited my wife and I to come, yet she was not too insistent. Mrs. Popplewell had clearly patterned her heart after Jesus. I like to think that having Jesus as a neighbor would be like living in Mrs. Popplewell's apartment. I think Jesus would provide anything we lacked and of course would know far more about us than he would let on. He would be keenly interested in both our physical and spiritual well-being, without violating our privacy and freewill. We can all hope to represent Jesus as well as Mrs. Popplewell. ~ Glenn Coleman, Interim Pastor



Persecution Project Foundation

(A First Presbyterian Mission)

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Good News... and Better News! The good news is that we have met our fundraising goal for supplying hospital beds and additional furniture items for the new Maternity Ward at Gigaiba Referral Hospital in the war-torn Nuba mountains of Sudan!

Better news: most of the items have already been purchased and delivered to the hospital!

Enclosed are several photos of the items arriving and being assembled at the new ward your love helped build.



This accomplishment has been a long time coming, and we are so grateful for the steadfast support of so many generous hearts in America. As we enter the last quarter of 2020, and look back at all the challenges we have faced this year, we want this good news to encourage and remind us that God seems to take particular delight in accomplishing great works during times when the world thinks nothing good can possibly happen.

Persecution Project is entering the final phase of the Maternity Ward project: delivering and installing the necessary medical equipment to provide the latest in maternal care to our Nuba sisters and their babies. This equipment includes items such as ultrasounds, incubators, operating tables, and patient monitors.

We are pursuing partner opportunities with organizations which supply medical equipment to the developing world, and this could offset a lot of the costs. However, there will still be a need for purchasing equipment that is not donated, as well as the significant transportation and clearing costs associated with moving the equipment long distances across several borders.

Your generosity in the final months of 2020 could mean that 2021 is a game-changer for women's health in an area with a traditionally appalling rate of and maternal mortality.

Most importantly, please pray for the continued success of this important campaign and share it with your friends by sending them to www.NubaHospital.com to learn more about how they can join you in **Active Compassion for the Persecuted!**



November 1 - Reformation Sunday

Sermon Title: "Our Servant King"

Scriptures: Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37; Matthew 23:1-12

November 8 - Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentacost

Sermon Title: "The Day Is Coming"

Scriptures: Psalm 90:1-12; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

November 15 - Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentacost

Sermon Title: "Talents"

Scriptures: Psalm 123; Matthew 25:14-30

November 22 -

Sermon Title: "Bend the Knee"

Scriptures: Psalm 100; Matthew 25:31-46

November 29 - First Sunday of Advent

Sermon Title: "Keep Awake"

Scriptures: Isaiah 64:1-9; Mark 13:24-37

December 6 - Second Sunday of Advent

Sermon Title: "A Voice in the Wilderness"

Scriptures: Isaiah 40:1-11; Mark 1:1-8

Upper Rooms – November/December issue now available at both entrances as well as the foyer, pick one up as you enter/leave church, or stop by during the week, while supplies last.



Congregational Meetings - are quickly approaching. November 8 after worship service to elect a Nominating committee with 4 at large members.

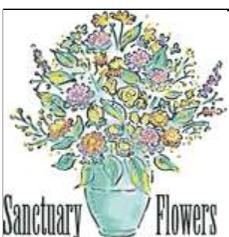
November 22 Congregational Meeting will be to elect officers and review the budget.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend church to participate in these important meetings.



Ladies Circle meets again on Tuesday, November 3. We have had a ³ nice size group come out. We are able to social distance and still enjoy the time together. Come out and enjoy the fellowship one with another. Sherolyn Barnett will be the guest speaker this month.

Prayer List - Freddie Collins, Marge Nelson will be having surgery, Meg Talley (Julia's daughter) is having shoulder surgery. Extra prayers for our Country, and for our leaders.



Flower Calendar - We have a few dates open for flowers coming up in the near future, including November 15, 29, December 6. We will plan to have virtual poinsettias again this year to purchase and decorating the sanctuary December 13-27. Thank you to all who have helped with the flowers this year!

Finances - The Year to Date Offerings Versus Budget report was presented showing that offerings through September 2020, totaled \$141,445.59. When compared to the amount needed to keep pace with the budget, \$164,088.72 the church is currently \$22,643.13 behind schedule. The monthly offering for September totaled \$11,338.00.



Christmas Child - First Presbyterian Church will once again participate in Operation Christmas Child. The project delivers not only the joy of what, for many kids, is their first gift ever, but also gives them a tangible expression of God's love. In addition, the boxes provide the opportunity for volunteers from churches around the world to present the Gospel of Jesus Christ as they distribute the gifts.

The shoeboxes are available at both the North and South sanctuary entrances as well as the downstairs foyer. Inside each box should be a flyer that has suggestions on what and what NOT to include in your box.

The flyers also have a label where you should designate whether your box is intended for a boy or a girl, and the estimated age range. Most importantly, pray for the child who will receive your gift. You can also include a personal note and photo. Please include \$9.00 for each box packed (some of the flyers are old and say \$7.00 - please include \$9.00). This goes toward the cost of shipping and helps pay for evangelistic materials that are a part of the shoebox distribution. Make checks out to First Presbyterian Church. Return your packed, UNSEALED box, to one of the ushers on Sunday morning, or to the church office on any weekday. The deadline is Sunday, November 15. Our goal is 30 boxes.

Build a Box Online - This year you can participate in Operation Christmas Child without leaving the comfort and safety of your own home by building a shoebox online! Simply go to www.samaritanspurse.org/occ and you can select items for your box. You will be asked for a \$25 donation to cover the cost of the items, which you will need to pay online. If you choose to contribute in this way, please let Kim Albert know by sending a quick text (579-5011) or e-mail (kalbert@ntelos.net) so we can get an accurate count of boxes donated from our church. See picture of each boxes journey.





Change

I recently heard a story that really struck me. If we are shopping and go to pay for something and give the cashier too much money, they will give us the change. Christ has done and given so much to us, there is no way we can repay Him. We may often ask what we can give Him. We can give Him *change*, or in other words we can, and should *change*. This change can be a change of thought, action, habit, or direction. His payment to each of us was priceless! He doesn't expect us to even come close to repaying that great gift. But He does ask us to change, and "ye should be perfect, even I". As we grow closer to Christ, we gradually change into being more Christ-like.

We read that as we come to believe and make covenants with Christ "your hearts are changed through faith on his name". And as we repent and have faith on the Lord these two principles bring "a change of heart".

I know I have frequently looked at mistakes I have made, and then felt like I had to "start all over" on my path to be more Christ-like. In reality, it is through the mistakes and trials that we grow and change. Consider this analogy: I love to hike in the mountains and walk along the beach. While doing this it is easy to get a pebble in my shoe. Sometimes I will attempt to "be tough" and endure the pain of that pebble. But why? The quicker I get rid of that irritant, the faster I can go back to enjoying the walk along the path. This is like our life. As we go through the path of life, we pick up a pebble or two in the form of a bad habit, attitude or sin; but the longer we allow that "pebble" to stay with us, the longer we are more distanced from Christ. If we learn to remove that sin, bad habit or attitude early we can enjoy the peace and comfort that Christ wants us to enjoy during our life. It is through this change that we grow, then line upon line become more and more like Christ. He doesn't ask for it all today, but to gradually change each day a little here and a little there. I know we can! The Lord is there to help us along the way, and we will find we are more loving and caring to our friends, family, and neighbors. Just like a caterpillar changes into a beautiful butterfly, we too, can change. ~ Sherolyn

Dear Christian Friends and Neighbors:

Considering the costs of preparing, printing and mailing our monthly newsletter, we will transition to electronic distribution for future publications beginning December. Therefore, this will be the last copy of our newsletter to be mailed to persons other than members without an email account and our shut-ins. If we do not have your email, please let us know, so we can keep you posted. Beginning with the December newsletter, it will be available for everyone to read and or print from the First Presbyterian Church web page at <https://www.1stpres.cc/newsletters/>.



At the beginning of December and each month thereafter, Sherolyn will send an email reminding you that the newsletter has been posted to the church web page. We are thankful for your interest in First Presbyterian Church's activities and are hopeful that you will continue to support the Church as we redirect these resources to further His kingdom in South Boston across the world. ~ Session



PNC Update - The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) continues to work with the Vanderbloemen Group in the search for our next pastor. We have learned that patience is a virtue that we must all have in this process. We were told by our Account Executive that seeking God's choice for our church may take some time. We continue to stay in regular communication with the search firm and are vetting candidates as they are presented to the PNC. As you can imagine, the current pandemic situation has served to increase the challenges that we face.

⁷ *Hear my voice when I call, LORD; be merciful to me and answer me...*

¹³ *I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.*

¹⁴ *Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD. ~ Psalm 27: 7, 13-14 (NIV)*

Please keep the PNC in your prayers as we move forward with the work that you have entrusted to us. We pray that God quickly reveals to us the Pastor that he has selected to lead First Presbyterian Church of South Boston into the future.

In His gracious love, Don Cherry, PNC Chairman

November 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30 adult Sun Sch 10:00 youth Sun School 10:30 am Worship	2 6:00 pm NA	3  ELECTION DAY	4 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA 7:00 pm—Choir	5 7:00 pm - Men of the Church	6 9:00 am Bulletins 12:00 PM AA 7:00 pm NA	7
8—Congregational Meeting 9:30 adult Sun Sch 10:00 youth Sun School 10:30 am Worship 6:00 pm NA	9 6:00 pm NA	10 12:00 PM NA	11  HONORING OUR VETERANS	12 7:00 pm - Men of the Church	13 9:00 am Bulletins 12:00 PM AA 7:00 pm NA	14
15 9:30 adult Sun Sch 10:00 youth Sun School 10:30 am Worship 6:00 pm NA	16 6:00 pm NA	17 12:00 PM NA	18 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA 7:00 pm—Choir	19 7:00 pm - Men of the Church	20 9:00 am Bulletins 12:00 PM AA 7:00 pm NA Newsletter DEADLINE	21
22 - Congregational Meeting 9:30 adult Sun Sch 10:00 youth Sun School 10:30 am Worship 6:00 pm NA	23 6:00 pm NA	24 12:00 PM NA Deacons and Elders time— 6 pm	25 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA 7:00 pm—Choir	26  HAPPY THANKSGIVING!	27 Office Closed 12:00 PM AA 7:00 pm NA	28
29 9:30 adult Sun Sch 10:00 youth Sun School 10:30 am Worship 6:00 pm NA	30 6:00 pm NA	December 1 12:00 PM NA	December 2 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA 7:00 pm—Choir	December 3 7:00 pm - Men of the Church	December 4 9:00 am Bulletins 12:00 PM AA 7:00 pm NA	December 5

3 Norma Henderson*

7 Susan Wilkinson

8 Jim Albert

10 Sarah McCollum

11 Irene Smith*

11 Matthew Bain

12 Bruce Wilkins

13 Kim Wickemeyer

14 Bob Hughes

16 Peggy Burton

20 Russell Lee

21 Andrew Ferguson

23 Debbie Ferguson

26 Pat Hay

26 Charles VanDuser*

27 Maelyn Fraser Freshour

28 Mike Marvin

30 Kathy Debiec



If we don't have your birthday listed, please call the office and let us know.



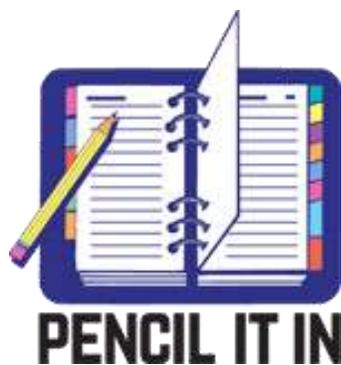
* In Memory





Session Notes: **Since our last Newsletter, our Session discussed:**

1. Cutting unnecessary expenses by limiting the number of newsletters that are currently being mailed via snail mail. More details will be addressed at next meeting.
2. A committee of Elders are reviewing the membership roll to contact those who have been inactive in contributions or attendance for a year. Letters will be sent to those members identified, to present options to be removed or to determine if they want to remain as members on the roll.
3. The September Financials were approved. The 2021 proposed Budget will be readdressed in November.
4. The Stewardship Pledge Drive will be underway shortly with packets being mailed out.
5. Missionaries David and Rachel Carter are presently statewide awaiting their next assignment.
6. There are currently four Stephen Ministers and one Carereceiver. Seeking additional Stephen Ministers as well as care receivers.
7. Efforts are being made continuously to ensure maintenance needs of the Manse and church and to ensure repairs are being done in a cost effective manner. Mike Koch is waiting on an estimate to have windows replaced on the North side. The goal is to replace a few yearly until we've replaced all of the windows. Repairs to prevent water leaks in the basement of the Manse have been completed. The church boiler system repairs and the yearly maintenance has also been completed.
8. The holidays are fast approaching. We are looking into local missions with a plan to provide some meals for Thanksgiving to families in need.



Upcoming :

Ladies Circle - Tuesday, November 3/Election Day

Choir - Each Wednesday at 6 pm

Congregational Meetings—November 8 - to elect nominating committee. November 22 - to elect officers, and review budget.

Session - Tuesday, November 17 at 6 pm

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