



First Word

News and Events of FPC

Vol. 12 No. 12—First Presbyterian Church—215 East Lincoln Avenue—Goshen 46528—Phone 574/533-7845—December 2022

Table of Contents

Pastor's Column	1-2
Christmas Leads Beyond Our Imaginations	
First Word News	2-6
December Events	
Session Notes	
Our Mission is . . .	
Congregational Meeting—December 11	
Thank You	
Women of Worship	
Parking Signs	
Bad Weather Cancellation Procedures	
Office Hours	
Per Capita	
Giving to the Church	
Pastor's Bible Study	
Congregational Care Committee	
PCUSA Giving Opportunities	
December Birthdays/Anniversaries	
Please Keep in Your Prayers	
Our Prayers of Sympathy	
Address Changes	
December 2022 Calendar	7

Christmas Leads Beyond Our Imaginations

Christmas feels to me like “a wrapping up,” (as in the end of the calendar year), and “a new start” (as in preparation and celebration of Jesus’ Divine Presence with us in new ways). The Christmas Star captures my interest in new ways every year; reminding me that each Christmas leads us beyond our imaginations as we walk into another year under its new light.

Christmas; the familiar and the new. Combined, where will our response to this Christmas lead us? There is no way to know. We will discover where our journey takes us when we get there. Ultimately, how we do what we do is the most important thing. Our journey will lead where it goes, guided from above.

Wondering where our path will take us (into the New Year and beyond), our Visioning Team has met four times and plans to meet at least twice more, the next on Monday, December 5, 2022, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM, with our Ruling Elders. The team has reviewed eight reading assignments:

- Summaries of our “Come Early/Stay Late Conversations” from the past year. (February 27, 2022, February 13, 2022, October 24, 2021)
- Treasurer Wayne Kramer’s letter describing us in our future.
- Notes from Susan Beaumont’s webinar: Congregation Life: Assumptions Failing Us Now.
- The Second Mountain by David Brooks – the Introduction and Chapter 21 entitled: “A Most Unexpected Turn of Events.”
- Dr. Soon-Chan Rah’s (Fuller Seminary) article: “The Evangelical Pursuit of Truth.”

- The Whole Language: The Power of Radical Tenderness by Fr. Gregory Boyle – the Introduction and Chapter Six” “House-Sitting for God.”
- The Book of Acts: Chapter 2 (beginnings of the early Christian Church).
- The FPC Goshen Task Force Report with Addendum I (2019).

(continued on page two)

(continued from page 1)

The Team is working on putting our most important guiding values into words. It is an open and on-going effort; everyone is free to join us.

There is no official document. This is still a work in process. With some hesitancy I summarize four main guiding values discussed to date. This is my summary. There are subpoints developing in each of these four areas that more clearly focus their meaning for us. Stay tuned.

1. A deeply committed, inclusive community rooted in the lens of Jesus' love.
2. Active spiritual disciplines building a foundation of evolving faith in Jesus Christ.
3. Sustainability/Future Focused: acknowledge and address apparent future trends and challenges.
4. A presence in our larger community, and to our larger community.

Let me know how these guiding values resonate with you. Or, better yet, join us on Monday, December 5, 2022 at 6:30 PM, for our next meeting, as we work at putting into words how we will walk the path the Christmas Star is shining light on for us.

May the light of Christmas shine brightly on each and all of us!

Pastor Ken



Friday, December 2: GHS Crimsonaires—6:30 and 7:30 pm Concerts; Light refreshments

Sunday, December 4: Children's Program during Worship. Fellowship Meal in Westminster dining room follows.

Poinsettias will decorate the Sanctuary again this year. All orders, please by Monday, December 5. Copies of the order blank are on each pew and in the reception office.

Sunday, December 18: Choir Cantata, "Invitation to a Miracle"

Christmas Eve: Candlelight Communion Service, 8:00 pm

Christmas Day Dinner

We welcome everyone back for an in-person meal on Christmas Day (Sunday, December 25th). The meal will be served from 1:00-2:00 pm. Carry-out will be available on that day. After December 1, you're invited to call the church to order a meal for delivery or drive-through carry-out (574-533-7845).

Multiple volunteer opportunities are available—where entire families can participate together; other areas where just one, two or three are needed . . . If interested in volunteering, please call Karen Wellington (574-849-0195).

*** * SESSION NOTES * ***

Your Session met in person for a called meeting on Tuesday morning, November 15, 2022 for our regular monthly meeting, and during the meeting the Elders:

Received an inspiration from our Moderator Rev. Ken Weaver from Matthew 7:7-8 – “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.” As leaders we need to ask, seek, and trust that we will find God’s wisdom.

Accepted the Financial Report for October from Treasurer Wayne Kramer and Assistant Treasurer Karen Wellington.

Received the November report from the Deacons. They continue to make contact with church members by visits, calls, and cards.

A Called Congregational Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, December 11 to elect church officers – Elders, Deacons, and Foundation.

Cathie Pepple was elected as Commissioner Ruling Elder for the December 8 Presbytery Assembly meeting.

Received reports from all committees.

-Buildings and Grounds – The signs facing the parking lot will be updated.

-Christian Education – The Children’s Christmas program is on December 4.

-Congregational Life and Ministry – There will be a fellowship meal after the December 4 Children’s Christmas program.

-Finance and Stewardship – Plans for the 2023 Stewardship campaign have been set.

-Marketing and Outreach – Publicizing for the December 2 (First Friday) performance of GHS Crimsonaires and Christmas Dinner is being planned.

-Mission Committee – The Christmas Mission project, Shoeboxes for Samaritans Purse are being collected.

-Worship – Plans are complete for Advent in November and December.

The Visioning Team has met 4 times. A joint meeting with Session will be held on Monday, December 5.

Pastor Ken closed our meeting in prayer.

Next Session meeting will be Tuesday, December 20, 2022 in-person meeting.

Marie Palacios, Clerk of Session

Our Mission is . . .

ABUNDANT LIFE IN JESUS CHRIST FOR EVERYONE.

We commit to God and one another by

- **Reaching UP** - to worship God
- **Reaching IN** - to seek fulfillment and sharing in Jesus Christ
- **Reaching OUT** - to share God’s love with all people

A Congregational Meeting will be held on **Sunday, December 11**, to Elect 2025 Officers and receive a Stewardship Preliminary Report.

Thank You - To the anonymous donors who gifted the church with two handicapped-height toilets for the Hardie Hall women's restroom.

- To the anonymous donor who has gifted the church with the cost for revised graphics on the building's parking lot signage panel to now read "Reaching Up", "Reaching In", and "Reaching Out" in between the church name and church website signs.

Women of Worship: As we end another year, our Lineage of Grace study is coming to an end. Looking into the coming months I will be asking the group for a couple of things to consider. The first being changing the day of the week. As the Lord has blessed me with a new grandson, Ross, I will be watching him weekly on Thursdays, our regular meeting days. We have discussed another day of the week—and decided the third Wednesday of each month, 9:30 in Hardie Hall. On **December 21, the group will celebrate Christmas with a breakfast at 9:30 am.** Anyone is welcome to join at any time... each month, WOW is singular and meaningful.

....Great days are just ahead.

Parking Signs have been placed on six parking spaces that belong to the church on the North side of Westminster, on our side of the alley. Across the alley is a jewelry business that has enough room for five cars to park. They **do not want** FPC vehicles in these spaces – this includes Sunday morning or during the week, early voting, election day, Christmas dinner, etc. If you see someone from FPC parking there, please ask them to move their car.

Thanks for your help and cooperation.

Bad Weather Cancellation Procedures

If we need to cancel **Worship and Sunday morning activities, or weeknight meetings**, an announcement will be sent via Flocknote by Marcia Yost, and posted on WNDU NewsCenter 16.

Office hours

Monday and Thursday

9:00 am—4:00 pm

Tuesday and Wednesday

9:00 am—12:00 noon

Closed Friday



Per Capita is an annual per member fee a congregation pays to their area Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly to support our denomination's work in mission, evangelism, education and administration. There is a designated amount per member. **In 2022, the amount per member is the same as last year—\$42.03.** There is a line item for Per Capita on the church's offering envelope.

It would be of immense help to this congregation and our operations budget to please pay your annual membership fee as soon as possible. There are some in our congregation for whom paying per capita is difficult. If you are able to contribute per capita for those who might not be able to pay, your generosity would be greatly appreciated. Thank you to those who have already paid their per capita, and those who have also given an extra portion. The total amount due is paid whether or not each member contributes their individual amount. If you would like offering envelopes for 2022, please contact the church office (533-7845).

Giving to the Church

In these difficult times we ask you to continue giving to the church if at all possible. We recognize some families might not be able to do so. We understand! If you are able to give there are two ways to do so:

1) Mail a check to the church at 215 E. Lincoln, Goshen IN 46528

2. Give online through our website at <https://www.discoverfirstchurch.org/donate>. You can share a one time gift or set up a recurring gift.



Pastor's Bible Study on the book John—Mondays at 5:00 pm in the Library. Feel free to join at any time.

The Congregational Care Committee has worked together to see to the needs for our church congregation at the present time and will continue to assess moving forward. The committee is made up of two elders (Marcia Yost and Karen Wellington) and two deacons (Gretchen Wise and Jenny Jenkins), and Lucy Rupe as a pastoral consultant.

An **after hours "on-call" cell phone** has been set up to facilitate emergency congregational care. **The number is 574-238-2912.** Please call this number if you have an immediate need that cannot wait for the office to be open.

The PCUSA General Assembly offers several special giving opportunities:

- November 17 through December 18: Christmas Joy Offering supports Retired Ministers and Others and assists students in Presbyterian related colleges and universities.
- Another Program offered is the YAV program in which Youth volunteer for one or more years of service at a National or International location. Youth 18 through 30 are trained to go to sites living with families in US locations or abroad.

Other Giving Opportunities may be found in the Presbyterian Giving Catalog. Materials are available on the table outside of the office.

O Holy Night

December Birthdays

12/ 6 Mary Wagner
12/ 8 Michael E. Schenk
12/16 Christine Huber
12/16 Julia Stauffer
12/24 Elizabeth Holbrook
12/26 David Plank

December Anniversaries

12/5 John and Christine Huber
12/29 Susan and Doug Long

Please keep in your Prayers: Our Armed Forces and their Families; the people of Ukraine; Marilyn Mason; Wayne Kramer; Marilyn Morris; Jasmyne Hunley and son Vincent; Tom Drummond; Richard Kinney; Kirby Eysol; Jesse Kehr; Marcia Yost; Jean Wallace; Jan Caton; Vickie Cortes (Bruni Claudio's granddaughter); Marilyn Hay; Joe Muir (Betsy Kastro's brother); David Pepple; Dick Craig; Helen Myers; Dave Wallace; Doris Shank; Dennis Huff; Bob Schlobohm; Ernie Jenkins and son Grant (Jenny Jenkins' son and grandson in OH); Martha Hepler; Brad Gilmore (Jenny Albert's brother); Julie McCally; Tina Cork (David Pepple's niece)

The families of the victims and those injured in the recent shootings.

The families of those affected by the recent flooding

Response Teams and those affected by Hurricanes

Our Prayers of Sympathy are with **Kim and Michael Cygan** (parents) and **Terri and Ray Deahl** (grandparents), upon the death of their son/grandson, Christian, on Wednesday, October 26.

(Cygan: 17693 Wildflower Northville, MI 48168)

(Deahl: 11861 North Ogden Point Road, Syracuse 46567-8723)

Address Changes:

Richard Kinney

Lincoln West Apartments – Apt. 108
1101 West Lincoln Avenue
Goshen 46528

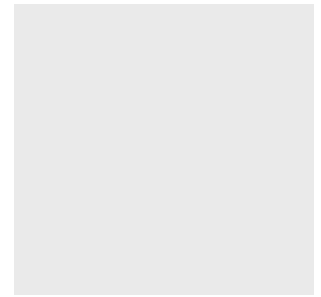
Miriam Wellington

1225 Greencroft Drive, Room 619
Goshen 46526

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
* Worship service will be posted on Facebook and YouTube				1	2	3
					6:00 pm Wellington Christmas Party (Westminster) 6:30 and 7:30 pm Christmas Concerts by GHS Crimonaires	10:00 am Poinsettias Arrive 1:00 pm Dress Rehearsal In Sanctuary for 12/4 Children's Program 3:00-8:00 pm Camarillo Baby Shower in Westminster
4 2nd Sunday of Advent 9:30 am Children/Youth arrive for Program 10:00 am Nursery 10:20 am In person Worship* with Children's Christmas Program Fellowship Meal in Westminster Dining Room after Worship Service	5 Pastor Ken 11:00 am Personnel 4:15 pm Staff Mtg. 5:00 pm Bible Study 6:30-8:00 pm Visioning Team (Mtg. #5) with Session	6	7 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Worship Cmte.	8 Presbytery Meeting 10:00 am Board of Deacons	9	10
11 3rd Sunday of Advent; Pastor Ken; Communion; Congregational Meeting to Elect 2025 Officers; Stewardship Preliminary Report 10:00 am Nursery 10:20 am In person Worship*; Youth stay through Choir, then to Junior Church in the lower level Sunday School area	12 Pastor Ken 10:00 am Finance & Stewardship 3:00 pm CL&M 5:00 pm Bible Study	13	14 4:30 pm Christian Ed @ Constant Spring 5:00 pm Buildings & Grounds 5:00-8:30 pm Lighthouse Baptist in Kitchen and Westminster Dining Room (Church Fellowship) 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	15 Newsletter Deadline	16	17
18 4th Sunday of Advent 10:00 am Nursery 10:20 am In person Worship*; Choir Cantata "Invitation to a Miracle"	19 Pastor Ken 9:00 am Missions 5:00 pm Bible Study	20 10:00 am Session	21 9:30 am WOW Christmas Breakfast 5:00-8:30 pm Lighthouse Baptist in Kitchen and Westminster Dining Room (Carols and Cake) 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	22 Christmas Dinner Set-Up and Prep	23	24 Christmas Eve 8:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service
25 Nativity of the Lord/Christmas Day; Pastor Ken (Christmas Dinner Prep) 10:00 am Nursery 10:20 am In person Worship* (no SS) 1:00 pm Christmas Dinner	26 Office Closed	27	28 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	29	30	31 New Year's Eve

First Word (December 2022)

First Presbyterian Church
215 East Lincoln Avenue
Goshen, IN 46528



First Word



A publication of
First Presbyterian Church
215 East Lincoln Avenue, Goshen, IN 46528-3347

Church Website: www.discoverfirstchurch.org
Facebook: First Presbyterian Church Goshen IN
Church email: First Presbyterian (fpcgoshen46528@gmail.com)

Transitional Pastor: weaverk2434@gmail.com
Treasurer: wkramer46528@comcast.net
Secretary: jhickman46528@comcast.net
Christian Education Director: shyoder52@aol.com
Phone: (574) 533-7845; fax (574) 533-4864

Office Hours:

Monday and Thursday	9:00 am-4:00 pm
Tuesday and Wednesday	9:00 am-12:00 noon
Closed Friday	

Church Staff:

Transitional Pastor:	Rev. Ken Weaver
Treasurer:	Wayne Kramer
Volunteer Assistant Treasurer:	Karen Wellington
Secretary:	Jeannie Hickman
Director of Music:	Marcia Yost
Organist:	Marilyn Mason
Volunteer Christian Education Director:	Susan Hepler Long
Organist Emeritus:	Dennis Huff
Usher Emeritus:	Miriam Wellington
Deacon Emeritus:	Jean Wallace
Custodian:	Betty Barber
Nursery Attendant:	Scarlet Eberly or Brenna Yoder