

First Press

November 2022

A publication of First Presbyterian Church | Hilton Head Island, SC

November 13 ~ Giving Thanks for 65 Years at FPC!

The FPC worship teams for both CrossRoads and traditional services are dedicated to creating meaningful and joyful worship every Sunday. However, the second Sunday in November is sure to be a special day of giving thanks, celebrating and making personal commitments for the new year.

On this, Commitment Sunday, there will be one blended service at 10:30 AM. One service provides the opportunity for all — those in person and online — to worship

together and celebrate 65 years since the church was founded.

Following the service there will be a turkey dinner with all the “fixins” served in the Gathering Space. Member Bill Bollin is partnering with Congregational Life Ministry, chaired by Charlotte White, to make possible this delicious meal in memory of his mother, Ellie Bollin.

The suggested cost is \$10 per person and RSVPs are required. Please call the church to reserve your spot.

Website to Have New look!

FPC's new website homepage will go live on Sunday, November 13. The Communications Ministry has overseen this project being done by an outside consultant. Initially the homepage has been redesigned. By early in the new year, the entire website will be rebuilt.



What about Gratitude *Beyond* Thanksgiving?



**November 13 is
Commitment Sunday**
Together, all things are possible

There's so much to be grateful for in everyday life, and the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday is a good reminder to reflect on your blessings. You may journal, discuss gratitude in a small group, or pray about what you're grateful for more often this month than during other times of the year. And as you carve the turkey and gather around the table with loved ones, you may offer thanks for all God has given. Then, the reminder to give thanks may fade as the next season unfolds. Gratitude, however, can be strengthened when practiced year-round.

Gratitude begins by responding to God's goodness and grace. Your response, no matter the size, makes a difference for others and for you. It becomes a part of your faith journey. We all have something to give, and every act of giving matters. Our collective generosity of time, talent, and treasure is life-changing. How will you strengthen your expression of gratitude through every season as you grow in faith and glorify God?

You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

— 2 Corinthians 9:11

“Thank you! Thank you! Thank You!”



In her book *Traveling Mercies: Thoughts on Faith*, Anne Lamott says that one of her best prayers is: “Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!” (She says another is: “Help me! Help me! Help me!”) She utters this exuberant prayer of gratitude to God when she experiences joy, answered prayers, good news and other blessings in her life.

The apostle Paul was exuberant in his thanksgiving to God too. In fact, he thanks God more than any other New Testament writer. For example, he expresses his gratitude to God for the love and faith of believers (1 Corinthians 1; 1 Thessalonians 1) and for their partnership in the Gospel (Philippians). He also exhorts believers to give thanks to God “in *all* circumstances” (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

As we celebrate Thanksgiving this month, let’s pause to give exuberant thanks to God for the *many* blessings in our lives. I thank God for this church that celebrates sixty-five years of “Changing Lives...Making Disciples” on November 10. (We’ll celebrate this milestone in worship

on November 13.) I thank God for *you*, the members and friends of this uniquely gifted, winsome and faith-*full* congregation. I also thank God for every member of our *outstanding* staff team; I’m impressed by them and their ideas and commitment to serving the Lord. I’m truly blessed to serve as a pastor here.

How about you? How has this congregation blessed you, been there for you, celebrated with you, mourned with you and strengthened your faith in the Lord? And how have you seen us live our mission of “Changing Lives...Making Disciples” by loving God and our neighbors near and far? In gratitude for God’s grace and blessings through this church, I urge you to say “Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!” by giving *generously* to God’s work through this congregation for next year. (I’ll say more about our bold and exciting vision for 2023 in worship November 6 and 13.)

Led by the Spirit, may our gratitude to God in Jesus *overflow in generosity!*

Grace and Peace,

Will

Pastor Will

Service of Remembrance ~ Sunday, November 20 4 PM in the Sanctuary

As the holidays draw near, they bring with them a mixture of happiness and sorrow, joy and pain for those who have lost loved ones, and for those whose loved ones are far away. The hope and gladness of the holiday season may contain an emptiness from the loss of someone who has shared past holidays with you. That is why it is so important, as we prepare for this season, to remember, to grieve, and to allow ourselves to celebrate the lives of those we loved.

With Scripture and song, prayers of hope and a moment of reflection, this service invites us to take time for ourselves – to comfort and be comforted, to love and be loved, to support and be supported. During the service, the names of those who have gone before us will be read aloud and a candle will be lit in their memory. If you would like the name of a family member or friend to be read, let us know by calling the church, 843.681.3696.



While the service is designed for those who have recently experienced loss, *everyone* is warmly welcomed. We come to share one another’s burdens, care for each other, and in moments of quiet reflection, lay ourselves open to the healing gift of God’s presence and love.

Following the service, the members of the Health Ministry invite you to join them in the Gathering Space for fellowship and refreshments.

A Message from Pastor Diane

After I mentioned it in a recent sermon, a few folks have asked me about keeping a gratitude journal. There are so many ways to express our gratitude to God, so of course, journaling is simply one way that you may want to try. As we move into the Thanksgiving season, this may be the perfect time to take on a new spiritual practice.

The goal of the journal is not to look nice, or to become an heirloom you keep for posterity. It doesn't need to be beautifully written. Its purpose is to help you recognize, record, and remember blessings that come your way. A gratitude journal can be written by hand in a notebook, or electronically on your device in a notes app or word processing program. You could also speak into a recording device, or doodle, draw or snap a photo of your blessings. For the musically inclined, try coming up with a new blessing "song" each day.

For many people, it's helpful to decide upon a particular time (morning coffee, evening prayer, or at lunch, even if you're at your desk at work) so that you can make gratitude a habit. Or you can "freestyle" throughout the day, adding blessings to your list as you recognize them.

What should be included in a gratitude journal? I would say start small. A beautiful day? Grateful! A thoughtful neighbor? Grateful! A sense of God's presence with

you? Grateful! Whatever speaks to your heart and makes you feel closer to God and others is something to celebrate.

One of the benefits of keeping a journal is that on those days when gratitude is harder to come by, you can flip through the pages and recall God's faithfulness in your life. In addition, the exercise of naming and recording all of those things for which you are grateful shifts your perspective from dwelling on what you lack to appreciating what you have.

If journaling isn't for you, that's okay too. Simply taking the time to pause as you start or end your day; turning off your TV or device and sitting in holy silence, getting out into nature and really paying attention to the beauty of the world; these are all ways that will encourage you to recognize the good things in your life and deepen your relationship with, and gratitude toward, God.

If you do decide to take up this practice, I'd love to hear how it's going!

Gratefully Yours,
Pastor Diane



Giving Ministry — November 2022

We are in the midst of the Annual Pledging Campaign. However, we still have work to do for this year by keeping our promise to God and fulfilling our 2022 pledge. The gifts we give make the work of First Presbyterian possible as we work together to Change Lives and Make Disciples. It is only through the offerings that we receive that we are able to feed the hungry, give medicine to the sick, provide support for education and spread God's word near and far with excellent in-person and online worship. ***If you have forgotten to make your contribution toward your pledge, we hope you will catch up.*** To give digitally, you can [click here](#) or use the QR code below. Or, send or drop your check at the church. Thank you in advance for your deep commitment to God as it transforms the work of First Presbyterian into doing for the least of these.

Blessings,
Jane Upshaw, Chair
Giving Ministry



AUGUST MEMBER GIVING			
	ACTUAL	BUDGETED	VARIANCE
September	\$102,552	\$161,374	(\$58,822)
YEAR-TO-DATE	\$1,227,774	\$1,457,617	(\$229,843)

An Update on The Search for an Associate Pastor for Congregational Evangelism and Engagement

Last summer, the congregation voted unanimously to charge the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC) to seek a second, full-time associate pastor. The decision to search for another associate pastor was the result of many factors:

- At this time in the life and mission of FPC, there are ministry and programmatic needs and goals that a second, full-time associate pastor would enable us to meet.
- In 2019 FPC had three full-time pastors, and it's not uncommon for a congregation of our size (1,200 adherents) to have three pastors.
- As in the past, there is complete confidence that the APNC will call an exceptional candidate.
- The Session, the current APNC, and Pastor Will Robinson unanimously believe that the Spirit is leading us to seek a second, full-time associate pastor to fulfill a completely different role.

The job description for this position states that the purpose is to help First Presbyterian Church fulfill its Mission, Vision, and Values of Ministry by leading FPC's evangelism efforts; lead FPC to creative ideas that enhance communication, technology and giving; engage with and minister to people outside the church; and preach, teach, and provide congregational care as needed.

"The individual we are looking for is someone experienced in community outreach, who will lead us to connect more with people outside of FPC," says

APNC Chair Bob White. "This may include identifying and engaging with current and new residents of our community as well as online 'residents,' whether retirees, working adults, singles, families or youth," he adds.

White, who has chaired the APNC since 2021, says the hope is that this person will lead and support us in our efforts to love our neighbors through FPC's Outreach Ministry Team (Local and Global Outreach ministries) and the Social Witness Task Force, as well as interface with local ecumenical partners. Another goal is to enhance relationships in the Lowcountry with Black/Gullah churches and the Hispanic/Latino community.

To carry out their work, members of the APNC meet every Tuesday morning and have undertaken a process almost identical to what they did when searching for Associate Pastor Rev. Diane Knauf: created a Position Description (PD), then a Ministry Information Form (MIF), gained the Session's approval of the PD and MIF, are working with the presbytery and prayerfully searching for the right candidate. The other members who serve with White on the APNC are Henry Brown, Jan Cale, Rosalyn Lester, Barb Magee, Dale Peters, and Jean Vahey.

If you have questions or want to learn more about the search, please contact White, white.robert.r@gmail.com, or any of the other members of the committee.

Dr. Will Robinson
Senior Pastor/Head of Staff

Rev. Diane E. Knauf
Associate Pastor

With questions about
FPC communications,
email cbobbitt@fpchhi.org

fpchhi.org
843.681.3696

Journey to Bethlehem

Returns to FPC

December 17-18, 5:30-7:30 PM

Volunteers are needed ~contact Jackie Wilhelm

“International Carol Suites” ~ Sunday, December 4, 4:30 PM **Mark Hayes Returns to Conduct the Program!**

The Sanctuary Choir, joined by singers from the community, will present Mark Hayes’ “International Carol Suites” on Sunday afternoon, December 4, at 4:30 PM in the sanctuary. The renowned composer and conductor Mark Hayes, himself, will return to Hilton Head to conduct the program.

“International Carol Suites” is a multi-movement composition (approximately 50 minutes long) based on carols from around the world.

Commissioned by FPC’s Music Ministry, the world premier of “International Carol Suites” took place at FPC in December 2016, also under Hayes’ direction. In November 2017, a group of FPC choir members and others from the community sang in the New York premier at Carnegie Hall, one of the most prestigious musical venues in the world.

We hope you will plan to attend on Sunday afternoon, December 4, and will share with friends and neighbors about this opportunity for an afternoon of Christmas music.

Advent Book Suggestions From FPC’s Adult Ministry

*The Women of Christmas:
Experience the Season Afresh
with Elizabeth, Mary and Anna*
By Liz Curtis Higgs

~

*Incarnation: Rediscovering
the Significance of Christmas*
By Adam Hamilton

~

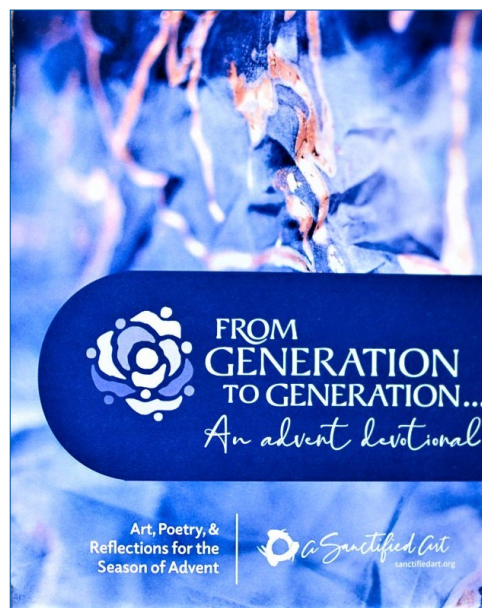
*Hidden Christmas: The Surprising Truth
Behind the Birth of Christ*
By Timothy Keller

Advent Devotional
Available in Digital Format
or Hard Copy
at the Church Office

Honor or Remember a Loved One With a Christmas Poinsettia

It’s hard to believe it’s time to begin thinking about Christmas. If you would like to order poinsettias, please call the church office, 843.681.3696, or go to GIVE on the website. You may also drop a check at the church.

Each plant is \$20 and will be used to decorate the sanctuary for the three services on Christmas Eve. You may pick up poinsettias after Christmas beginning Tuesday, December 27.



Children's & Youth Ministry



FPC Kids on Wednesdays enjoy all kinds of activities...especially music!

On Wednesdays, between 3-6:30 PM, children participate in a variety of activities, including music with Ms. Beth (FPC's Children's Music Director Beth Green). For information about the Wednesday program and other children's ministry activities, contact Jodi Gregg Krivda, jkrivda@fpchhi.org.



Ms. Beth and children rehearse in the sanctuary—and everyone gets a turn. Sometimes it's learning a beat, the words to a song, or even how to share with others.



Drums are just one of the many instruments children have the opportunity to explore during FPC Kids Wednesday program.

Youth Group Members Go On a Wonderful Fall Retreat

In late October, members of FPC's Youth Group went on a fall retreat to Lake Greenwood, located in the midlands of South Carolina. They toured Presbyterian College, took a class on the spiritual practice of discernment, volunteered at Thornwell's Fall Festival (Thornwell is a Presbyterian agency dedicated to building families), and enjoyed an ice cream social with youth from Dorchester Presbyterian Church.

Youth who attended were: Liza Jones, Millie Jones, Ella Price, Kacie Tharin, Celia Walter, and Hanna Walter. Adults who attended were: Jean Tharin, Jennifer Walter, and Youth Director Jackie Wilhelm.



Get Connected! *Ways to get involved at the church...*



Coffee & Conversation *Thursday, November 10*

Plan to participate at Coffee & Conversation on Thursday, November 10, at 9:30 AM in the Gathering Space. Shavonne Vasquez from Deep Well will talk about its new program, Circles — an initiative to assist families dealing with generational poverty.

Adopt-A-Highway Clean-up Event *Saturday, November 12*

This will be the last Adopt-A-Highway event for 2022. The group meets at the church at 9:30 AM to review the safety precautions, get gloves and tools, and then pretty quickly gets to work. Headed by members of the Social Witness Task Force, additional volunteers are always needed and welcome! For more information and to sign up, contact Juliana Kim, Julianabkim@gmail.com.



Socks, Socks, All Kinds of Socks! *Knitting Ministry needs your help*



Socks are something some of us may take for granted. The FPC knitters are asking for sock donations to be included as they begin to prepare Christmas packages for children and adults in need. If you have socks to donate, drop them in the church workroom. If you'd like to see the knitters in action, they meet every Tuesday afternoon, 1:30 PM, in the church library. They welcome new knitters to the group — and will teach you how to knit if you would like to learn.

Feed My Sheep *Please drop donations at the church*

Do you know where those nonperishable donations you drop at the church go? Long-time FPC member John Geisler, who also services on the Outreach Ministry, takes truck loads to Sandalwood Community Food Pantry on Beach City Road and to Campbell AME Soup Kitchen in Bluffton. There is also an FPC food pantry as part of the People in Need (PIN) program at the church. The PIN office is open Monday through Wednesday mornings, 9 AM until noon. Trained volunteers assist those who come to the church for assistance. If you have nonperishables to drop off, please know that they are appreciated and shared with people in our community who need them.

November

NEWSLETTER

Some of the fabulous faces of First Presbyterian Church

