

November 19, 2021

Dear Church Family and Friends:

It is disheartening and dismaying to note that we are still in the midst of this long-term pandemic shut-down with all of the restrictions that have been in place now for nearly two years.

But it is uplifting and reassuring to know that God is with us through whatever life brings. During these difficult days we can find comfort and strength in two scriptures:

Joshua 1:9 – *This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.*

Hebrews 10:23 – *Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise.*

First Presbyterian has been and will continue to be trusting in God to sustain us and to continue our ministry as we reach out in the name of Christ to Burbank and beyond.

In order to do that, of course, we have been blessed by many faithful givers. Yes, some have not been able to give as before, but have given what they could. Others have been blessed to be able to continue their regular gift and perhaps more. We have also had some memorial gifts—where the church was named in a person’s estate. This has allowed us not only to maintain most of our ministries, but also to make substantial improvements in our church facilities, most notably in the main kitchen, which gets substantial use in much of our outreach. We are extremely grateful for the generosity of our fellow believers!

All that is to say that we come now to the end of another year, and the church needs to set a budget for 2022 so that our ministries will continue. We are still traditional enough that we like you to use a pledge card to indicate what you can give next year. For some of you receiving this in the mail, we have enclosed a pledge card. If you are receiving this online, please either 1) ask us to mail you a pledge card or 2) use [this link](https://burbankpres.breezechms.com/form/b6105084). When you complete the card, be sure to indicate your name, the amount you are giving, and whether it is weekly, monthly, etc. You may also submit your pledge electronically by visiting our website at BurbankPres.org/give or following the link in our mobile app.

We would appreciate a pledge even if you are not a member but attend regularly. Please return your pledge by November 30.

We also want to make you aware of church activities for the remainder of the year. This is in lieu of a separate Advent letter when we usually send a Christmas Offering envelope. We are not doing that this year but do greatly appreciate your extra giving at Christmastime. Again, we can send you a Christmas envelope, or you can get one in the Narthex, if you attend in person, or give electronically via the church website. Just indicate an extra amount for the Christmas offering.

For your information, we are including with this letter the events coming up for the holiday season. Your continued participation is greatly encouraging to all of us, whether you choose to attend in person (observing all the health protocols) or electronically.

May our Lord bless you as we observe Thanksgiving and the Advent season, and may you know and sense His loving presence in your life and the lives of your loved ones.

Ross Purdy Dave Lessley

Pastor Clerk of Session

**Burbank Presbyterian Church**

**THANKSGIVING**

Wednesday, November 24 ***Thanksgiving Service***, 7 pm

 Sanctuary and Online

 Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

Thursday, November 25 Enjoy Thanksgiving Day with friends and family

Saturday, November 27 **Decorating the Sanctuary**, 9 am

 Come and help us decorate for the season

 Coffee & doughnuts will be available

**ADVENT**

Sunday Services at 9 am in the Fireside Room and at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary & Online

Sunday, November 28 ***First Sunday in Advent***

 Sermon: **Better Days to Come** – Micah 5:1-5

 Lighting the Candle of Hope

 Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

Wednesday, December 1 **Advent Bible Study**, 7 pm

 Fireside Room and Online

 *The Case for Christmas* by Lee Strobel

 Study guides available for purchase in church office

Sunday, December 5 ***Second Sunday in Advent***

 Sermon: **Christmas To Do Lists** – Luke 2:1-7

 Lighting the Candle of Peace

Wednesday, December 8 **Advent Bible Study**, 7 pm

 Fireside Room and Online

 *The Case for Christmas* by Lee Strobel

Friday, December 10 **A Very Merry Christmas**, 5 pm

 The Patio & Fellowship Hall

 5 pm Living Nativity & Decorating a Christmas Tree

 6 pm Dinner begins

 6-6:30 pm Singing Christmas Carols

 6:30 pm Showing *A Charlie Brown Christmas*

 7 pm Showing *Elf*

 Sign up at [burbankpres.org/upcoming-events](https://burbankpres.breezechms.com/form/4e6f87)

Sunday, December 12 ***Third Sunday in Advent***

Sermon: **The Song of the Angels** – Luke 1:39-56

Lighting the Candle of Joy

Wednesday, December 15 **Advent Bible Study**, 7 pm

 Fireside Room and Online

 *The Case for Christmas* by Lee Strobel

Sunday, December 19 ***Fourth Sunday in Advent***

 Sermon: **The Son of Mary** – Luke 1:39-56

 Lighting the Candle of Love

Wednesday, December 22 **Advent Bible Study**, 7 pm

 Fireside Room and Online

 *The Case for Christmas* by Lee Strobel

Friday, December 24 ***Traditional/Family Service***, 7 pm

 Sermon: **The Gift** – Matthew 2:1-12

 Lighting the Christ Candle

 ***Communion and Carols Service***, 11 pm

 Sermon: **The Gift** – Matthew 2:1-12

 Lighting the Christ Candle

Sunday, December 26 ***Second Day of Christmas***

 Sermon: **The Radical** – Matthew 4:12-17

Sunday, January 2 ***Ninth Day of Christmas***

 Sermon: **The Victor** – 1 Corinthians 15:50-58