

Festival of Trees

The Festival of Trees is a series of mission giving opportunities. Trees are set up in the Gathering Space throughout the Advent and Christmas Seasons. We have two new trees this year! The Holy Grounds Tree is collecting regular ground coffee and powdered creamers for area shelters and gathering places which serve free hot coffee during cold winter days to people experiencing homelessness. Our other new tree is for *The Mpangua School* in Chogoria, Kenya. Buy \$10 "blocks" to help us finish the final rooms of this Primary School. Returning trees this year include *The Food Tree*: nonperishable food and diapers for the Emergency Food Pantry; The Mitten Tree: hats, scarves, gloves and mittens for area children and youth; Winter Gear: new and gently used boots, snow pants and coats; Sweet Dreams: provides new mattresses, box springs and frame (single set \$236, queen set \$268) for moving from homelessness to housing; *The Sox* Box is for new, warm socks of all sizes. And, we continue to collect pillows for the YWCA shelter throughout the year!

Giving Tree of Hope

The Giving Tree tags are now available! If you would like to pick up a tag, please do so **December** 1 or 8. Gifts need to be returned by December 15. If you don't like to shop, no worries! The youth will do that for you. All you need to do is sponsor a tag for \$25. If you have any questions, head to the table in the Gathering Space.

Family Christmas Party!

Parents and children are invited to our annual Family Christmas Party on December 15 during the Sunday School Hour. Meet in the Social Hall for music, cookies, coffee and art projects. This year's theme is *The Everlasting Light*. We'll be celebrating the star over the stable messy-style, using paint, pastel chalks and perler beads – parental participation is necessary! Join us for this time of fellowship and connection for families of young children.

Calling All Bakers

On December 15, the youth will be holding the annual Cookie Walk! We are in need of some cookies or treat donations. Please bring treats to the Jennie Roberts room by December 14 at noon so the youth can set up the cookie walk!

Attention All Holy Rollers!

Join us as we use donated potatoes from the Thanksgiving dinner and turn them into lefse for the Youth Cookie Walk. Lefse is a traditional Norwegian soft flatbread made of potatoes - rolled out and cooked on a griddle. The dough will be ready to roll and grill on Saturday, December 14, from 12:00-4:00 pm in the Social Hall. No experience necessary! Please bring equipment if you have it. Questions? Call Connie Cleveland at 701-793-5825

Congregational Meeting

There will be a meeting of the Congregation following worship on December 15 for the purpose of: 1) Receiving the 2020 budget from Session; 2) Electing Officers for the class of 2022; 3) Approving new terms of call for Pastors Mary & Paul. Please plan to stay a few extra minutes to participate in this work of the church.

Carols by Candlelight



December 15 at 6:30 pm. This year's theme is Everlasting Light and will feature all our church's vocal and instrumental ensembles plus congregational carol-singing in a celebration of word and seasonal music. Our Children's Sunday School Christmas Program will be part of this event. Goodies will be served following the service. Parents are encouraged to bring kids to a dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 14 at 10:00 am. It will be brief.

***** **Reminders:**

Poinsettia order deadline is December 2 No Sunday School for ALL December 22 or 29 The office will be closed December 24 & 25

Singing Opportunities

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We invite anyone who enjoys singing to join the adult choir as we prepare to sing for both the Carols by Candlelight Service and the 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service. If you have been unable to participate in the choir this fall, it is a wonderful short-term opportunity to step in. All are welcome to join us for December's Wednesday evening rehearsals at 7:30 pm in the choir room.

Christmas Joy Offering

Leadership: Past, Present, and Future. One of the most powerful things that Christians claim is that God saw the great needs of the world and offered a perfect gift, a gift that brought God and humanity closer together. God's perfect gift to us, Jesus Christ, offered the power of being with us. We offer our own gifts during this Advent Season through the Christmas Joy Offering. Your donations will help fund the care of church leaders, past and present, who are in critical financial need, as well as prepare future leaders by giving to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Please give generously. Envelopes may be found in the pew racks, the Narthex, and at the Info Kiosk in the Foyer. Received on December 22.

Christmas Eve

We will celebrate Christ's nativity together at 5:00 and 7:00 pm on December 24. **The 5:00 service** is a bright, family-friendly service with a special Christmas Story. The combined choirs, handbells and brass group all participate. **The 7:00 service** will be a quieter service. Perhaps just the thing you may need to calm your spirit and prepare for the arrival of the Prince of Peace. Plan to make one or both distinct worship experiences a part of your personal holiday experience.

Hosted Concerts

A Christmas Ring and Sing-along. This FREE concert on Monday, December 2 at 7:00 pm is presented by the FM Area Music Club together with the RRV Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Seven area organists; the women's choir, The Noteables; and the community handbell choir, BELLissimo are participating in this family-friendly event with narration from Pastor Mary. First Presbyterian is well-represented in the membership of these groups! Christmas goodies will be served.

FMSO Holiday Brass Concert. Held in our sanctuary on Sunday, December 8, at 2:00 pm, the program is a community favorite featuring Renaissance and Baroque masterpieces and contemporary holiday music. FM Youth Symphony Concert, held the same day, is at 7:00 pm.

Got a Little Time?

The office is looking for a Tuesday volunteer to cover the desk/phones weekly from 11:45 am-2:00 pm or earlier. Working in the office is a great way to give a **little** of your time and help in a **big** way. Du-

ties include answering the phone and letting people into the building, along with the occasional project. If interested, contact Monica Gelinske, Administrative Assistant, at mgelinske@firstpresfargo.org.



Oct. FINANCIAL SUMMARY General Fund Only

| | YTD Oct. Actual | YTD Oct. Budget | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Income | \$676,039 | \$633,608 | | | | |
| Expenses | 670,916 | 736,914 | | | | |
| Net | \$5,123 | -\$103,307 | | | | |
| Insurance Proceeds/Repairs | | | | | | |
| | 99,982 | Proceeds | | | | |
| -99,982 | | Repairs | | | | |
| 0 | | Net Proceeds/Repairs | | | | |
| \$5,123 | | Total Net/Shortfall | | | | |

Attention Snow Birds

Please make sure you notify the office of your winter address along with the start and end date for using that address. We need all of that info to keep the system (and thus, the communication) in working order. Most items are mailed at special non-profit rates and those items are not forwarded even if you have a forward order at the post office. Your help keeps the lines of communication open and we thank you for helping us with this task.

Heart-n-Soul Com. Café

The November dinner was a huge success with the menu including turkey, stuffing, green bean casserole and pumpkin pie bars. 64 meals were served plus an additional 10 meals to servers and volunteers. Congregant, Brynn Johnson, contacted the South High Key Club and 4 great students volunteered to be servers. The meal generated donations of \$400 with 3 guests not being able to pay, and 20 guests choosing to pay-it-forward. The food costs were about \$300 plus \$100 to FPC for restocking kitchen supplies. This FPC Mission is sustaining itself based on the "pay as you can" model. We are blessed by many volunteers from FPC and the community. In 2020, FPC will continue to serve from 5:00-6:30 pm on the second Tuesday of the month.

ManUP

ManUP, a men's Bible study, convenes at 6:45 am on the second Tuesday of each month, October through May, in the Jennie Roberts Room. Coffee and pastries are served. Intended to help men understand what the Bible says in relation to what is expected of a Christian man, the study this year examines the apostle Peter's first letter. A copy of the study guide can be obtained at https://www.presbyterianmission.org/wp-content/uploads/firstpeter.pdf or you can request a copy from Bruce Maylath at ring4linguist@yahoo.com. No advance preparation is required for each month's study.

Church Events Calendar for December 2019

| Sat | 7 | 14 10:00 CbyC Rehearsal + Leah Circle 12:00 Youth Gift Wrapping & Cookie Decorating + Lefse Making | 21 | 28 | Wednesday Schedule 5:30 St. Andrew's Brass / + Genesis Ringers 6:15 Children/Youth Choirs 6:30 Westminster Ringers 7:00 Youth Group 7:30 Sanctuary Choir |
|-----|---|---|---|---|--|
| Fri | 9 | 13 | 20 | 7.7 | Sunday Schedule 9:15 Sunday School for All 9:45 Sanctuary Choir Warm- up 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Time for Fellowship 12:00 Confirmation |
| Thu | sc | 3:00 Cook & Serve Meal @ Churches United 6:00 Compass #5 | 19 12:00 M&F Cmt. 5:30 Compass Group #2 6:30 Compass Group #3 | 26 | |
| Wed | 4 Wednesday Schedule 7:00 Pilgrimage Guides | 11 10:00 PW Bible Study Leaders 1:00 Library Cmt. Wethesday Schedule NO Genesis Ringers 5:30 CbyC OctyC OctyC OctyC 7:00 Youth Group Shopping | 18 Wednesday Schedule NO Genesis Ringers | 25 CHRISTMAS DAY OFFICE CLOSED No Wed. Night Activities | |
| Tue | 8:30 Bulletin Deadline 10:00 PW Board 12:00 S&E Board 1:00 PW Christmas Tea 5:30 Worship Cmt. 6:30 Narcotics Anonymous 7:00 Mission Cmt. | 6:45 ManUP 8:30 Bulletin Deadline 1:00 Staff 5:00 H&S Community Café 6:00 Board of Deacons 6:30 Narcotics Anonymous | 8:30 Bulletin Deadline 9:30 Naomi Ruth Circle + Esther Circle (off site) 1:00 Staff + Rachel Circle 6:30 Narcotics Anonymous | 24 CHRISTMAS EVE OFFICE CLOSED 5:00 Christmas Eve Service 6:30 Narcotics Anonymous 7:00 Christmas Eve Service | 8:30 Bulletin Deadline 1:00 Staff 6:30 Narcotics Anonymous |
| Mon | 2 9:00 Mon. Morning Breakfast Group (Farge Fryn Pan) 12:00 Flower Order Deadline 5:30 B&G Cmt. + Personnel Cmt. 7:00 FM Area Music Club Concert -FREE | 9 9:00 Mon. Morning Breakfast Group (Fargo Fry'n Pan) 5:30 EduCon Cmt. | 16 9:00 Mon. Morning Breakfast Group (Fargo Fry'n Pan) 6:30 Session | 8:30 Bulletin Deadline 8:30 Messenger Deadline 9:00 Mon. Morning Breakfast Group (Fargo Fryn Pan) 5:00 Stewardship Cmt. | 30 9:00 Mon. Morning Breakfast Group (Fargo Fry'n Pan) |
| Sun | 1 COMMUNION Sunday Schedule No Confirmation 6:30 Narcotics Anonymous | Sunday Schedule 2:00 FMSO Holiday Concert 6:30 Narcotics Anonymous 7:00 FMYSO Holiday Concert | 9:15-12:00 Cookie Walk 9:15 Children's Family Christmas Party Sunday Schedule 11:30 Congregational Meeting 6:30 Carols by Candlelight + Narcotics Anonymous | No Sunday School for All 10:30 Worship Service No Confirmation 6:30 Narcotics Anonymous | No Sunday School for All 10:30 Worship Service No Confirmation 6:30 Compass Group #1 + Narcotics Anonymous |