



the Lamplighter

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FRANKLIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DECEMBER 2016

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Advent Conspiracy is Here!

Advent Conspiracy is a simple idea for us to take and run with. It involves a decision to make Christmas a revolutionary event once again by committing—as individuals and as a faith community—to focus this season on:

Worshipping Fully, Spending Less, Giving More, and Loving All.

Check out the reverse side of your Advent Conspiracy bulletin inserts in December to read more about each component of the Advent Conspiracy. Let us conspire together to allow this season to become transformative for our lives of faith, for our families, for our relationships, and for God's world. Together, we can reclaim the celebration and truly transformational, world-changing meaning of Christmas.

Worship Committee invites each of us to take on FPC's 2016 Advent Conspiracy Challenge:

Give at least one less physical gift this year, and instead give that same money toward one of the organizations FPC supports.

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CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday thru Thursday
9:00am-2:30pm
LUNCH: A half hour between
11:30pm-12:30pm

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Jeff Otto
Interim Pastor
Curry Davis
Church Administrator

Candice Mendoza
**Pastoral
Administrative Assistant**

Carolle Tracy, **Music Director**
Donna Houston, **Organist**
Shirley Crutcher, **Nursery**

ELDER/ELDER HELPER OF THE MONTH

Donna Houston
Andrew Garrett

FRIEND OF THE MONTH

Margaret Crowder

RULING ELDERS ON SESSION

Andrew Garrett
Caren Gibson
Barry Hain
CJ Hall
Donna Houston
Emma Jean Kirby
Prentice Knight
Bobby Page
Becky Stubbs

DEACONS:

Pat Chai
Marcella Davis
Linda Knight

Advent Conspiracy (cont.)

Come to the back of the sanctuary after worship to learn how you can Give More by giving one less physical gift this season. You will receive a star to adorn the small cedar tree at the back. You'll also receive a certificate that you can fill out to give to a loved one this Christmas. Each certificate explains that you have made a donation on your loved one's behalf, in honor and celebration of Christ's birth.

FPC's Session Elders have proclaimed 2016 as "The Year of Living Water."

When you give to Living Waters through Advent Conspiracy this year, you will help our FPC mission team to teach our global partners how to build, maintain, and best utilize their new clean water system for years to come.

Make checks out to FPC with the memo "Christian Service Committee, for _____" (then choose one of the following):

- Good Samaritan
- Living Waters for the World
- Boys and Girls Club
- Simpson County Literacy Center

Advent Suggestions

- Have all Christmas festivities ready by December 21.
- Write a note to someone, completing this phrase; "if I could give you one thing for Christmas, it would be ____."
- When Christmas cards arrive, wait until dinner time to read the greetings aloud, so that all can share in the love being sent.
- Light the candles on your Advent wreath and have daily Advent devotions.
- Participate in worship services.
- Give to chosen Advent Conspiracy designees.
- Visit someone in the hospital, nursing home or shut in.

**Blessings,
Pastor Otto**



Advent/Christmas Activity Schedule

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3RD:

The FPC Youth & Young Disciples will be serving hot chocolate during the "Small Town Christmas" from 3-5 p.m. on the courthouse lawn. All donations will go towards the FPC Youth Camp Fund. The annual Christmas parade will begin at 5:30.

The Ladies' Club (TLC) will be having a Christmas Tea at 2 p.m. at 316 W. Cedar Street. Please bring a finger food or a simple dessert to share. Also, please bring a wrapped \$5 gift to exchange. Please RSVP to Diane Shutt at (270) 586-1999. Hope to see everyone there!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4TH:

Regularly Stated Session Meeting.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11TH:

Congregational Meeting (to elect elders/deacons, receive annual congregational report; review session-approved 2017 budget; vote on 2017 pastor's terms of call)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18TH:

CELEBRATION SERVICE— will begin during worship and carry over into potluck at the Cornerstone. **Soup will be provided by the Worship Committee; please bring sandwiches, salads, and desserts to share.** After the potluck:



CHRISTMAS CAROLLING AROUND TOWN:

*Please let us know in the church office if you or someone you know would like us to come by to sing Christmas carols at 1pm following this celebration meal! Email franklinpresbyterian@gmail.com or call the church office @ 270-586-4535. We'll visit area facilities as well as member/friend homes.

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 21ST:

WHITE CHRISTMAS BOX PACKING & DELIVERY

Would you like to help pack and/or deliver White Christmas boxes? Packing will begin at 10:00 a.m. in the Cornerstone and deliveries will start at noon. Anyone interested in helping with packing or deliveries should contact Caren Gibson at (270) 586-6260 or (270) 647-2108 or by email at caren.gibson55@gmail.com.

Continued on next page





SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18TH:

PC(USA) Christmas Joy Offering during worship
(Check out www.presbyterianmission.org/christmasjoy to find out where your donations go!)

**Youth Christmas Party @ the Cornerstone,
5:00 p.m.**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24:

Lessons and Carols @ 10pm

Special Music will begin @ 9:30pm
Come & worship God on Christmas Eve! This service will include special music, along with musical meditations from the FPC choir, congregational Christmas hymns, including Silent Night sung by candlelight. Come one, come all, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus the Christ!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25TH:

EVENSONG CHRISTMAS SERVICE 5 p.m.

Come & join us on Christmas Day for our Evensong service. We will celebrate the birth of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ through music, message and prayers. We look forward to seeing everyone there on this blessed day.



Reminder:

**Good
Samaritan
Food Pantry**

On the first Sunday of each month, we partake of the Lord's Supper together in worship. On each first Sunday, we also bring our gifts of canned goods and pantry items for the Good Samaritan food pantry. These items are placed in the red bin at the back of the sanctuary. Thank you to all who have given over these past months and years, and thank you to all who will continue to give in the future! Let us find nourishment at God's table each month, that we may be sent out to nourish God's world.



Advent Books & Devotionals

Advent Lending Library books & Advent devotionals are available now!

You have two FREE options for devotionals to guide your spirit this season:

- **OPTION 1:** FPC now has a “Lending Library” for Advent **books!** There are many choices available for individual or family use—choose whichever book speaks to you this year. You can check your book out by writing your name and phone number next to the title of the book that you are checking out. At the end of the Advent season, please bring your book back to FPC so that others may utilize these resources for years to come.
- **OPTION 2:** Pick up a smaller devotional **booklet** and it is yours to keep! No sign-ups required!

These books and booklets are written by a variety of religious authors and will help frame your week as you approach Christmas Day. Don’t let the hustle and bustle of the holidays take over these holy-days. Take time, make space—we stand on holy ground!

Advent Lectionary

Think about how your family will spend Advent together...

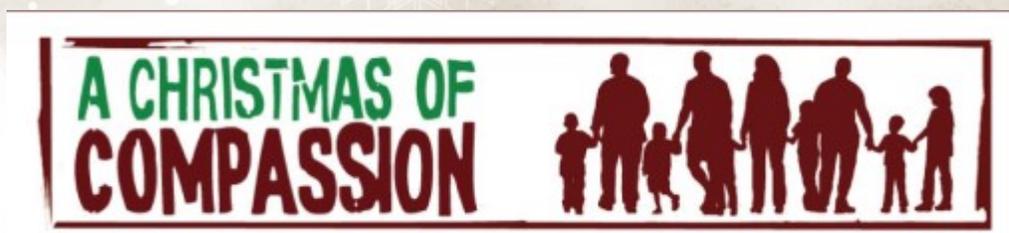
Will you commit for Advent, along with your family, to spend a few minutes each day reading the day’s lectionary passage together? Maybe this is the year for you and your family to try reading the daily passage together and reflect aloud.

You can start each reflection with these simple questions:

- What word or phrase stands out to you?
- How does this scripture apply to your life this week?
- How does this word from God shape the week ahead of you?

You can check out the Daily Lectionary readings for Advent at the Presbyterian Mission website:

<http://www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/2016-daily-lectionary-advent/>



Advent Daily Calendar 2016: A Journey of Memories



During Advent—the time before Christmas—we watch, wait, and prepare for the coming of the Messiah. We read Scriptures and practice church traditions that have been around for 2,000 years. This 2016 devotional is a journey of memories—of the many sights, smells, tastes, and sounds that point to the promises of God in Jesus Christ. These are the daily incarnations of our faith. When does a touch remind us of Jesus? Can a candle bring God’s hope to a dark room? Can a smell take us to a holy place?

Sue Washburn—pastor and editor of Presbyterians Today—has put together a collection of daily reflections and prayers to help us experience the joy and wonder of Christ’s birth with the senses God has given us. Susan Blank’s exquisite quilts add to the beauty and remembrances in this year’s Advent Calendar.

Perfect for congregations, families, and individuals, A Journey of Memories provides a Scripture reading, meditation, and prayer for each day of Advent. Calendars can be purchase for \$4.00 at this link: <http://store.pcusa.org/1711616007>.

Are you prepared for Christmas?

An old world custom decrees that all possible preparations for Christmas be completed by St. Thomas Day, December 21. This allowed the final days of Advent to be given to prepare the heart, mind and spirit, even by those responsible for the Christmas festivities.

In the New World, the end of Advent is different. It is often frantic, for we are busy people. We often celebrate the birth of Christ in a flurry of doing and an absence of thinking. We greet Christmas Day with a sigh of relief that everything get done on time. Yet if December 25 as a deadline gets met successfully, so could December 21!

We could set aside these last days before Christmas to remember why we celebrate, so that we might have something to give Him, along with the countless gifts we give others, not always in His name.

It was in the quiet of night that the Word of God appeared. It is quiet minds that can be most open to this wonder, quiet hands that can best serve Him well, quiet hearts that can best be ready to offer Him that love that is His due.

As you think of the Christ child this Christmas, know too, that my family wish you and yours a blessed Christmas and a happy and safe New Year!

Blessings,
Pastor Jeffrey Otto

News

Thanks to all who help prepare, set up, cook, deliver, serve, clean up, etc. for this year’s annual Bean Soup Fundraiser. Because of everyone’s hard work, we were able to raise a total of \$1,440.00 to be put towards our Local Christian Services Fund.

We officially welcome our new interim pastor, Rev. Jeff Otto this Sunday, December 4.

Please stay following worship services for a cake and punch reception to officially welcome him to FPC.

Hope to see everyone there!

Stewardship Corner

November Average Attendance:

Nov. 6	63
Nov. 13	54
Nov. 20	49
Nov. 27	64

November Weekly Offering Average: \$

Nov. 6	\$2,031.00
Nov. 13	\$2,597.00
Nov. 20	\$849.00
Nov. 27	\$1,647.00

Average Weekly Income Needed for Budget: \$2,355.77

White Christmas

Thank you to all who have participated in this year's White Christmas Offering! We have raised \$525.00 so far with more coming in! With this money we will be able to purchase food, hygiene items, and comfort items for families in our community that could use a helping hand at Christmas. Thank you also to those who donated items to be included in the boxes.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Saturday, December 3rd: Hot Chocolate Giveaway

The FPC Youth will be serving hot chocolate during the Small Town Christmas from 3-5 p.m. on the courthouse lawn. The annual Franklin Christmas parade will begin at 5:30.

Sunday, December 18: Christmas Party

5:00 p.m., @ the Cornerstone, hosted by Tania Shumaker & Andrew Garrett

The Youth Group meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month from 6 -7 p.m. at the Cornerstone. Supper is provided and the meeting opens and closes with prayer. After a spiritual practice or scripture study, we will discuss upcoming mission projects/activities and play some games. Andrew Garrett is the Youth Group leader.



CONNECT WITH US!

www.franklinpresbyterian.org
franklinpresbyterian@gmail.com



www.facebook.com/franklinpresbyterian

December 2016 Daily Lectionary

These Scripture readings are from the two-year daily lectionary of the Presbyterian Book of Common Worship (Westminster John Knox Press, 1993). The readings from the three-year Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals are not included in this document.

December

Thursday, December 1

Morning: Pss. 18:1–20;

147:12–20

Evening: Pss. 126; 62

Isa. 2:5–22

1 Thess. 3:1–13

Luke 20:27–40

Friday, December 2

Morning: Pss. 102; 148

Evening: Pss. 130; 16

Isa. 3:1–4:1

1 Thess. 4:1–12

Luke 20:41–21:4

Saturday, December 3

Morning: Pss. 90; 149

Evening: Pss. 80; 72

Isa. 4:2–6

1 Thess. 4:13–18

Luke 21:5–19

Sunday, December 4

2nd Sunday of Advent

Morning: Pss. 24; 150

Evening: Pss. 25; 110

Isa. 5:1–7

2 Peter 3:11–18

Luke 7:28–35

Monday, December 5

Morning: Pss. 122; 145

Evening: Pss. 40; 67

Isa. 5:8–17

1 Thess. 5:1–11

Luke 21:20–28

Tuesday, December 6

Morning: Pss. 33; 146

Evening: Pss. 85; 94

Isa. 5:18–25

1 Thess. 5:12–28

Luke 21:29–38

Wednesday, December 7

Morning: Pss. 50;

147:1–11

Evening: Pss. 53; 17

Isa. 6:1–13

2 Thess. 1:1–12

John 7:53–8:11

Thursday, December 8

Morning: Pss. 18:1–20;

147:12–20

Evening: Pss. 126; 62

Isa. 7:1–9

2 Thess. 2:1–12

Luke 22:1–13

Friday, December 9

Morning: Pss. 102; 148

Evening: Pss. 130; 16

Isa. 7:10–25

2 Thess. 2:13–3:5

Luke 22:14–30

Saturday, December 10

Morning: Pss. 90; 149

Evening: Pss. 80; 72

Isa. 8:1–15

2 Thess. 3:6–18

Luke 22:31–38

Sunday, December 11

3rd Sunday of Advent

Morning: Pss. 24; 150

Evening: Pss. 25; 110

Isa. 13:1–13

Heb. 12:18–29

John 3:22–30

Monday, December 12

Morning: Pss. 122; 145

Evening: Pss. 40; 67

Isa. 8:16–9:1

2 Peter 1:1–11

Luke 22:39–53

Tuesday, December 13

Morning: Pss. 33; 146

Evening: Pss. 85; 94

Isa. 9:2–7

2 Peter 1:12–21

Luke 22:54–69

Wednesday, December 14

Morning: Pss. 50;

147:1–11

Evening: Pss. 53; 17

Isa. 9:8–17

2 Peter 2:1–10a

Mark 1:1–8

Thursday, December 15

Morning: Pss. 18:1–20;

147:12–20

Evening: Pss. 126; 62

Isa. 9:18–10:4

2 Peter 2:10b–16

Matt. 3:1–12

Friday, December 16
Morning: Pss. 102; 148
Evening: Pss. 130; 16
Isa. 10:5–19
2 Peter 2:17–22
Matt. 11:2–15

Saturday, December 17
Morning: Pss. 90; 149
Evening: Pss. 80; 72
Isa. 10:20–27
Jude 17–25
Luke 3:1–9

Sunday, December 18
4th Sunday of Advent
Morning: Pss. 24; 150
Evening: Pss. 25; 110
Isa. 11:1–9
Eph. 6:10–20
John 3:16–21

Monday, December 19
Morning: Pss. 122; 145
Evening: Pss. 40; 67
Isa. 11:10–16
Rev. 20:1–10
John 5:30–47

Tuesday, December 20
Morning: Pss. 33; 146
Evening: Pss. 85; 94
Isa. 28:9–22
Rev. 20:11–21:8
Luke 1:5–25

Wednesday, December 21
Morning: Pss. 50;
147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 53; 17
Isa. 29:9–24
Rev. 21:9–21
Luke 1:26–38

Thursday, December 22
Morning: Pss. 18:1–20;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 126; 62
Isa. 31:1–9
Rev. 21:22–22:5
Luke 1:39–48a (48b–56)

Friday, December 23
Morning: Pss. 102; 148
Evening: Pss. 130; 16
Isa. 33:17–22
Rev. 22:6–11, 18–20
Luke 1:57–66

Saturday, December 24
Christmas Eve
Morning: Pss. 90; 149
Evening: Pss. 80; 72
Isa. 35:1–10
Rev. 22:12–17, 21
Luke 1:67–80

Sunday, December 25
Nativity of Jesus
Christ/Christmas Day
Morning: Pss. 2; 150
Evening: Pss. 98; 96
Zech. 2:10–13
1 John 4:7–16
John 3:31–36

Monday, December 26
Morning: Pss. 116; 145
Evening: Pss. 119:1–24;
27
2 Chron. 24:17–22
Acts 6:1–7
Acts 7:59–8:8

Tuesday, December 27
Morning: Pss. 34; 146
Evening: Pss. 19; 121
Prov. 8:22–30
1 John 5:1–12
John 13:20–35

Wednesday, December 28
Morning: Pss. 2; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 110; 111
Isa. 49:13–23
Isa. 54:1–13
Matt. 18:1–14

Thursday, December 29
Morning: Pss. 96;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 132; 97
Isa. 12:1–6
Rev. 1:1–8
John 7:37–52

Friday, December 30
Morning: Pss. 93; 148
Evening: Pss. 89:1–18;
89:19–52
Isa. 25:1–9
Rev. 1:19–20
John 7:53–8:11

Saturday, December 31
Morning: Pss. 98; 149
Evening: Pss. 45; 96
Isa. 26:1–6
2 Cor. 5:16–6:2
John 8:12–19

d365
devotionals 365 days a year

www.d365.org

<http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/daily-prayer/>

LECTOR/USHER SCHEDULE

•• Sunday, December 4

LECTOR: LARRY GIBSON
USHERS: TERRY JOINER
DANNY JOINER

Sunday, December 11

LECTOR: LARRY GIBSON
USHERS: TERRY JOINER
DANNY JOINER

•• Sunday, December 18

LECTOR: LARRY GIBSON
USHERS: TERRY JOINER
DANNY JOINER

•• Sunday, December 25

LECTOR: LARRY GIBSON
USHERS: TERRY JOINER
DANNY JOINER

WEEKLY EVENTS & COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- **Handbells:** Wednesdays, 5-6:00 pm
- **Choir:** Wednesdays, 6-7:30 pm
- **AA Meetings:** M, T, R, & F @ 7:30pm; W @ 6pm; M. & Sat. 8am
- Dec. 4** Session Meeting after worship
- Dec. 8:** Worship Committee, 6 p.m.
- Dec. 11** Congregational Meeting after worship
- Dec. 13** Red Cross Blood Drive @ Cornerstone 12-4

DECEMBER 2016

FRANKLIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Small Town Christmas & Parade <i>Tim Crocker</i>
4 Communion Advent Conspiracy White Christmas Box #1	5	6	7	8 <i>Steve Thomas</i>	9	10
11 Advent Conspiracy White Christmas Box #2	12	13 Red Cross Blood Drive	14 <i>Haley Williams Tomas Williams, Jr</i>	15 RITI Training 6 pm (Church of Christ)	16 <i>Nancy Thomas</i>	17
18 Advent Consp Christmas Celebration; Soup Potluck Caroling; Joy Offering	19 <i>Eleanor Caudill</i>	20	21	22	23	24 Lessons and Carols 10 p.m. 
25 Christmas Day Service (TBD) 	26 <i>Frank Wakefield</i>	27	28	29	30	31 <i>Blake Sutton</i> New Year's Eve

* Birthdays in italics

Looking Ahead

JANUARY

Elder of the Month: Prentice Knight

Elder Helper of the Month: Caren Gibson

Friend of the Month: Debbie Wyatt

Monday-January 9

Fellowship Meeting 3 p.m.

RITI Training

It's that time of year again when we reach out to help our brothers and sisters in Franklin, Simpson County, who are experiencing homelessness in the cold winter months here in Franklin, through Room in the Inn, RITI. If you would like to volunteer please attend the next training on Thursday, December 15 at 6 p.m. at the Franklin Church of Christ. All volunteers are required to attend a training.

Please email Jane Rahm at jane.rahm@simpson.kyschools.net for more information!



Benevolence Update

Thanks to our interest income from FPC's investments and generous donations from the congregation, the Pastor's Benevolence fund has paid out over \$1,767.00 so far in 2016 to help people with rent, shelter, electricity, water, food, among other things. The balance of the fund is \$1,991.08.

Thank you for feeding, clothing, and ministering to our sisters and brothers in the community through your donations!

If you would like to donate to the Pastor's Benevolence Fund, please note "Benevolence" in the memo portion of your check.

Worship Opportunities

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Teacher: Prentice Knight

Time: Sunday, 9:30am-10:30am

9:30-9:45 – Coffee & Fellowship

9:45-10:30 – Class Time

Location: The Cornerstone (new building near the gazebo)

Bible study & thoughtful discussion of the Scripture with the purpose of fostering spiritual growth & developing a better understanding of how a follower of Christ should live in the modern world.

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Youth Sunday School

Time: 9:45am

Location: Elementary age meets in purple room upstairs Jr. & Sr. High Youth meets in the black & green room upstairs

TODDLERS

(ages 5 and under) are welcome in the nursery (ground floor of education wing) from 9:30am until worship finishes.

ADULT CHOIR

Wednesday, 6:00pm-7:30pm

Upstairs, education wing

“Serve The Lord With Gladness; Come Before His Presence With Singing!” Psalm 100

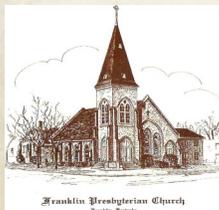
(It’s Biblical!!)

HANDBELL CHOIR

Wednesday, 5:00pm-6:00pm

Downstairs, education wing

Please submit any items for the Lamplighter to the office by the 20th of the month!



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201 North College Street
Franklin, KY 42134

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Franklin, Kentucky

