

the Lamplighter

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
FRANKLIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DECEMBER 2020

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Lighting Candles

What a year it has been already. We have started this new journey together over the summer and here we are at Advent. We have walked through the anxieties and difficulties of a global pandemic, a path we continue to walk. We see the new joys of ministry in our community taking shape in unexpected ways. We long for a celebration of the birth of our Christ this Christmas and it looks to be something different than what we hoped for.

Yet we stand tall in the face of the disappointments, knowing who we are called to be and who we are called to serve. These moments of time give us all another way to contemplate the incredible mystery of God's loving gift to us in Jesus Christ. That our God would become like us, to live in our world as we do, to see what we see, to feel what we feel, that is the miracle of the incarnation that we celebrate.

Continued....

In this Issue

Pastor's Portion
Advent/Christmas
Schedule
News & Notes
Stewardship Corner
Session Highlights
Daily Lectionary
December Calendar
Living Waters Update
Worship
Opportunities



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday thru Thursday
9:00am-2:30pm

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Daniel Van Beek

Pastor

Candice Mendoza

Office Manager

Donna Houston, **Organist**

Shirley Crutcher, **Nursery**

ELDER/ELDER HELPER OF THE MONTH

Jim Sowney/John Halcomb

FRIEND OF THE MONTH

Pat Chai

RULING ELDERS ON SESSION

Mary Jo Dreher

Caren Gibson

Larry Smith

John Halcomb

Jim Sowney

Bob Thompson

Debbie Wyatt

Jane Rahm

Cathy Stratton

DEACONS:

Diane Shutt

Woon Yen Prall

Marcella Davis

Lighting Candles...continued

Waiting is difficult, and the world around feels cold and dark. Perhaps this Advent and into Christmas, we might see that the darkness is not something to avoid but something to embrace, something that drives us toward the light that Christ brings into the world. In the darkness, there is silence.

In the darkness, there is no distraction. In the darkness, there is the voice of God.

We light candles during Advent to remember the Hope, the Peace, the Joy, and the Love of God's breaking into our world, the triumphant victory of God that began with the vulnerable baby Jesus in that manger in Bethlehem. As I thought about the candles, I remembered a poem from Howard Thurman, the great theologian and scholar:

*From "The Mood of Christmas..."
— by Howard Thurman*

I will light Candles this Christmas,
Candles of joy despite all the sadness,
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,
Candles of courage for fears ever present,
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,
Candles of love to inspire all my living,
Candles that will burn all year long.
All year long. Candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, but also
candles of courage and grace. Candles to help us appreciate
those moments of darkness when God might be opening our
minds to new things and new ministries and new moments.
Candles to give us the courage to be bold in how we serve Jesus
Christ. Candles to provide a place to foster the flame the Holy
Spirit is warming within us.

In this season of expectation, as we close out what has certainly
been a memorable year, one filled with anxiety, fear, and
uncertainty, let us hope in what we know. That we are the
Children of God, called to spread the good news of hope and joy
and love and peace throughout our community and world, that
the candles we light at Advent are the candles of our waiting for
the ultimate return of Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of us, his
sheep.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to us.

Light your candles and watch for his coming.

-Pastor Daniel

Advent/Christmas Activity Schedule

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH

Lighting of Candle of Hope

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6TH

Lighting of Candle of Peace

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13TH:

Lighting of Candle of Joy

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18TH

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 with delivery to follow. 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.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20TH

Lighting of Candle of Love

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24TH-CHRISTMAS EVE

Details yet to come. Stay tuned!

Office Hours:

Thurs. Dec. 24th-Closed

Thurs. Dec. 31st-Closed



News & Notes

November was a busy month in the Matthew 25 Clothes Closet! It was our first full month and we served over a dozen people and gave away over 100 items of clothing. We have received numerous donations, including new sweatshirts, t-shirts, new children's clothes, and TONS of boxes of clothes from a clothes closet that had to shut their doors. Processing all of these has taken lots of time, and we are thankful for our many volunteers.

For December, we are asking for shoes. Used, in good shape is fine and tennis shoes are the most needed. All sizes of jeans are always needed.

We also are in need of people to launder clothes that need to be washed before putting them on the shelves. Contact Cathy Stratton at 270-223-6548 if you can help. (We can give you detergent if you need it).

LIVE THE PROOF

Our partnership with ***Live the Proof*** started in November and every Tuesday and Thursday, meals are prepared for about 30 people. In December, Fellowship, Christian Service, and Young Disciples will help prepare food for this very worthy outreach. Let Debbie Wyatt know if you would like to help!



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Room In The Inn-UPDATE

This is a brief update on where we are with the RITI program for this winter. The RITI Board has yet to be able to define what the season will look like - we have had a very limited number of churches signal that they want to participate this year. We (the RITI Board) are talking to individual pastors trying to understand what their church members will be willing to do. We will make a decision by December 4th. You can learn more and follow RITI Franklin announcements on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/RITIFranklinKY/>.

What we do know:

- There will be a RITI program this winter!
- Franklin Presbyterian Church will help house, clothe and feed the homeless this winter.
- Guy Prall is the FPC coordinator this year. He would love to hear from you if you would like to know more about RITI or if you want to volunteer this winter. His phone is 270.776.5212. His email is guy.prall@gmail.com.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

December 6, 2020 @ 12:00 PM
Election of Elders and Deacons for Class of 2023
Informational Presentation of 2021 Budget
ZOOM Link in email dated December 2

Due to current circumstances, this year we will be purchasing only a couple poinsettias to adorn the sanctuary, and will not be taking our normal orders. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.



Stewardship Corner

November Average Attendance: N/A

Nov. 1	43
Nov. 8	37
Nov. 15	N/A
Nov. 22	N/A
Nov. 29	N/A

November Weekly Offering Average: \$1,447.00

Nov. 1	\$2,825.00
Nov. 8	\$1,715.00
Nov. 15	\$705.00
Nov. 22	\$1,015.00
Nov. 29	\$975.00

Average Weekly Income Needed for Budget:
\$2,057.69

White Christmas

If you would like to contribute to the White Christmas Offering to go towards the purchasing of items needed for our White Christmas boxes, please send your offerings to the church office with 'White Christmas' written on the memo line. Thank you for your continued support!



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS-DECEMBER 1, 2020

- ◆ Session welcomed two new members, Sarah Halcomb and Jen Van Beek, both by certificate of transfer.
- ◆ Congregational Meeting for the election of elders and deacons on December 6 at 12 pm on Zoom-link arrived via email this week.
- ◆ Session approved the 2021 Budget as submitted by the Finance Committee; the congregation will receive a presentation of that budget at the Congregational Meeting.
- ◆ Following the previously adopted guidelines for In-Person Worship, the rest of 2020 and likely all of January 2021, worship will continue to be virtual only due to current conditions in Simpson County.
- ◆ Session approved applying for a \$15,000 Innovative Ministry Grant from the Presbytery of Western Kentucky.
- ◆ Permanent blinds for the Cornerstone were approved by Session.
- ◆ Session approved the use of the Cornerstone for up to six weeks as a primary location for Room In The Inn Franklin this winter, pending board decisions.
- ◆ Session approved the celebration of the Lord's Supper during virtual worship.



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December 2020 Daily Lectionary

These Scripture readings are from the two-year daily lectionary of the Presbyterian Book of Common Worship (Westminster John Knox Press, 2018). The readings from the three-year Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals are not included in this document.

December

Tuesday, December 1

Morning: Pss. 33; 146

Evening: Pss. 85; 94

Isa. 1:21–31

1 Thess. 2:1–12

Luke 20:9–18

Wednesday, December 2

Morning: Pss. 50;

147:1–11

Evening: Pss. 53; 17

Isa. 2:1–4

1 Thess. 2:13–20

Luke 20:19–26

Thursday, December 3

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 4

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 5

Morning: Pss. 90; 149

Evening: Pss. 80; 72

Isa. 4:2–6

1 Thess. 4:13–18

Luke 21:5–19

Sunday, December 6

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 7

Morning: Pss. 122; 145

Evening: Pss. 40; 67

Isa. 5:8–17

1 Thess. 5:1–11

Luke 21:20–28

Tuesday, December 8

Morning: Pss. 33; 146

Evening: Pss. 85; 94

Isa. 5:18–25

1 Thess. 5:12–28

Luke 21:29–38

Wednesday, December 9

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 10

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 11

Morning: Pss. 102; 148

Evening: Pss. 130; 16

Isa. 7:10–25

2 Thess. 2:13–3:5

Luke 22:14–30

Saturday, December 12

Morning: Pss. 90; 149

Evening: Pss. 80; 72

Isa. 8:1–15

2 Thess. 3:6–18

Luke 22:31–38

Sunday, December 13

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 14

Morning: Pss. 122; 145

Evening: Pss. 40; 67

Isa. 8:16–9:1

2 Peter 1:1–11

Luke 22:39–53

Tuesday, December 15

Morning: Pss. 33; 146

Evening: Pss. 85; 94

Isa. 9:2–7

2 Pet. 1:12–21

Luke 22:54–69

Wednesday, December 16

Morning: Pss. 50;

147:1–11

Evening: Pss. 53; 17

Isa. 9:8–17

2 Pet. 2:1–10a

Mark 1:1–8

Thursday, December 17
Morning: Pss. 18:1–20;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 126; 62
Isa. 9:18–10:4
2 Pet. 2:10b–16
Matt. 3:1–12

Friday, December 18
Morning: Pss. 102; 148
Evening: Pss. 130; 16
Isa. 11:1–9
Eph. 6:10–20
John 3:16–21

Saturday, December 19
Morning: Pss. 90; 149
Evening: Pss. 80; 72
Isaiah 11:10–16
Rev. 20:1–10
John 5:30–47

Sunday, December 20
4th Sunday of Advent
Morning: Pss. 24; 150
Evening: Pss. 25; 110
Isa. 28:9–22
Rev. 20:11–21:8
Luke 1:5–25

Monday, December 21
Morning: Pss. 122; 145
Evening: Pss. 40; 67
Isa. 29:9–24
Rev. 21:9–21
Luke 1:26–38

Tuesday, December 22
Morning: Pss. 33; 146
Evening: Pss. 85; 94
Isa. 31:1–9
Rev. 21:22–22:5
Luke 1:39–48a (48b–56)

Wednesday, December 23
Morning: Pss. 50; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 53; 17
Isa. 33:17–22
Rev. 22:6–11, 18–20
Luke 1:57–66

Thursday, December 24
Nativity of the Lord /
Christmas Eve
Morning: Pss. 18:1–20;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 132; 114
Isa. 35:1–10
Rev. 22:12–17, 21
Luke 1:67–80

Friday, December 25
Nativity of the Lord /
Christmas Day
Morning: Pss. 2; 148
Evening: Pss. 98; 96
Zech. 2:10–13
1 John 4:7–16
John 3:31–36

Saturday, December 26
Morning: Pss. 116; 149
Evening: Pss. 119:1–24; 27
2 Chron. 24:17–22
Acts 6:1–7
Acts 7:59–8:8

Sunday, December 27
1st Sunday of Christmas
Morning: Pss. 34; 150
Evening: Pss. 19; 121
Isa. 62:6–7, 10–12
Heb. 2:10–18
Matt. 1:18–25

Monday, December 28
Morning: Pss. 2; 145
Evening: Pss. 110; 111
Isa. 49:13–23
Isa. 54:1–13
Matt. 18:1–14

Tuesday, December 29
Morning: Pss. 96; 146
Evening: Pss. 132; 97
Isa. 12:1–6
Rev. 1:1–8
John 7:37–52

Wednesday, December 30
Morning: Pss. 93; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 89:1–18;
89:19–52
Isa. 25:1–9
Rev. 1:9–20
John 7:53–8:11

Thursday, December 31
Morning: Pss. 98; 147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 45; 96
Isa. 26:1–6
2 Cor. 5:16–6:2
John 8:12–19

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Please continue to go to our Facebook page and YouTube channel for weekly virtual services.

We will have updates regarding Christmas Eve. Please keep checking our website, Facebook page and weekly emails for all important information!

WEEKLY EVENTS & COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- **Hand Bells:** TBD
- **Choir:** TBD
- **AA Meetings:** TBD

MEETINGS

Session-Tues. Dec. 1 at 6 pm
Young Disciples-Wed. Dec. 16 10 am

DECEMBER 2020

FRANKLIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 <i>Sandy Sparley</i> SESSION	2	3 <i>Tim Crocker</i>	4	5
6	7	8 <i>Steve Thomas</i>	9 <i>Mae Williams</i>	10	11	12
13	14 <i>Haley Williams</i> <i>Tomas Williams Jr</i>	15	16 <i>Nancy Thomas</i>	17	18	19 <i>Eleanor Caudill</i>
20	21	22	23	24 Office Closed	25 <i>Merry Christmas!</i>	26 <i>Frank Wakefield</i>
27	28	29	30	31 Office Closed		

*Birthdays in italics

This is an appeal to your hearts – and to your pocketbooks. Please consider contributing a little more to Living Waters for the World this season so that the Guatemala Network team can keep their jobs in 2021. LWW US teams provide funding for in-country staff through the \$5000 Covenant Fees each pays when a covenant is signed with a partner in Guatemala. No team has been able to travel to Guatemala to install a system since the Pandemic. No \$5000 fees. No replenishing funds for In-country network operations.

In a normal time, our FPC Living Waters team would be preparing to travel to Guatemala in January 2021 to install a water purification system at INEB Ernesto Chavarría Rivadeneyra, a middle grade school (7-9) serving the highly commercial city of Sanarate in the state of El Progreso, about one hour northeast of Guatemala City in Guatemala.

After months of planning between our team and Guatemala Network In-Country Coordinator, Pablo, we would pack the system in crates at the church and soon put the crates and ourselves on an early morning flight to Guatemala City. At the airport there, we would be met just outside the doors by the smiling face – even after all those months of planning of Pablo. We would look to the right to find Luis standing by his van, ready to load us, our bags, and the system into and onto his van. From there, we would be on our way to our project site. Pablo can do anything. First and foremost, he can guide gringos, no easy feat. He told me once that his boss in the US, volunteer Guatemala Network Moderator Dave Parks, told him to keep teams safe and healthy. Proof of his ability to do just that is that we have not only been safe while in-country, but we have felt safe. For the most part, we have stayed healthy on our projects. At least we've never had lingering effects. What is more, Pablo can facilitate the project development process as well as co-teach the health curriculum, and he can troubleshoot system issues.

In the past, In-Country Technician, Jhonny (a Larry Gibson favorite person,) has helped us with the system installation. Just before the pandemic closed down the world, LWW added staff to better serve Guatemala partners and US teams. As a part of that expansion, the Network hired Luis (our driver!) as In-Country Technician to facilitate system installation for projects in the eastern part of the country. We've worked with In-Country Director Omar in the northwest and met Rubenia, Pablo's counterpart, at Pablo's wedding last January.

The Guatemala Network team that Dave and LWW have put together is without equal - extremely competent, professional, and *necessary*. Living Waters for the World is currently looking at new ways of completing projects in the time of Covid. The in-country team is crucial to any of those new ways of doing things.

Please give what you can so the work can go on.



Left to right: Prentice, Larry and Johnny shopping for supplies; Luis and Larry installing tank on top of water building; Pablo and Caren teaching health, Omar, (standing), with school principal, Deb, Donna and music teacher at January 2020 Covenant signing

Worship Opportunities

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm. Zoom link sent via email. Contact Jane Rahm for details.

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL & YOUTH GROUP

Every Sunday night at 7:00 pm. The youth are online on Google Meet, one week is Sunday School, the next is Youth Group. Contact Melissa Cropper for details.

ELEMENTARY KIDS CLUB

Wednesday afternoons at 5:00 pm on Zoom. Contact Jen Van Beek for details.

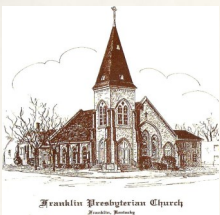
ADULT CHOIR

TBA

HANDBELL CHOIR

TBA

Please continue to check our website, your email, and our Facebook page regarding online events. For more information, please contact the church office. Thanks for your patience and continued understanding!



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