

FIRST THINGS FIRST

NEWS FOR THE CHURCH FAMILY AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STERLING, COLORADO

DECEMBER 2022



A MESSAGE FROM MICHELLE. . .

I recently read about a pilot program called SOULstice. It's a program to nurture and renew during the darker winter months. It caught my attention because lately I've been thinking about what gifts might be waiting for us in this season of shorter days and longer nights. The winter solstice falls during the season of Advent, just before Christmas. This Advent, we are leaning into this natural resource — darkness. I hope you will join us as we look for the ways God's presence and promise are shimmering in the dark.



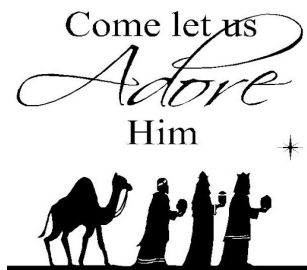
Thank you for the very generous Pastor Appreciation Gift! I am looking forward to enjoying the getaway to Estes... Thank you!

Rev. Michelle

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Military Personnel

Luke Brigham (Randy & Terry's son)
Thomas Gage Snyder (Kim Schlup's son)
Cameron Venn (Doris Ramsel's grandson)



For those with special needs or concerns....

Florence Annan	Delinda Korrey McDowell
Grace Ann	Aline Marquez
(Connie Clark's niece)	(friend of Becky Cranwell)
Norm Blackburn	Rev Betsy & Eric Moe & the
Brenda Boeff	people of Guatemala
Luke Brigham	Jeni Porter
(Kay Rich's nephew)	(Blackburn's in-law)
Randy & Terry Brigham	Frances Rhodes
Paul Budin	(Dave's mother)
Family of Steve Burnham	Agnes Rundus
Gabe Chapin	Steve Shinn
Cooperating Ministry	(friend of Jim Leh)
Jeanne Crouch & Family	Darrell Smith
Cierra Davis	AJ, Sara & baby Leo Sonnen-
(friend of Becky Cranwell)	berg (friends of Weingardts)
Andrew DeSouza	Becky Stieb, Justin & Torin
(Michelle Hawkins son)	(friends of Michelle Hawkins)
Gary Espinosa	Sil Tadoline
(Arden Fennel's Family)	Charlie & Roseanne Thompson
Family Resource Center	(friends of Nebletts)
Norman Foos	Peggy Thompson
Meredith Goodwin	(Carol Arnold's daughter)
(Friend of Propst's)	Mike Tyson
David Hashman	Amy & Byron Uhrich
(SCF Inmate)	(Jill Vollmer's parents)
Highlands Camp	Under the Umbrella
Sonja Holden	Robert Vance
(friend of Arden Fennell)	(Michelle White's dad)
Hollis Jackson	Norma Wagner
Chris Jutz	(Jana Lock's mom)
Josh Jutz & Kaylee	Declan Nash Warner
Janae Klindt Kerr	(Jason Rose's grandson)
Robert Koehler	Derek Weingardt (nephew of
(friend of Laura Guenzi)	Rhodes and Weingardts)
Debby Korrey	Masi Wells
(Darla's & Delinda's sister)	(friend of Taylor Cranwell)
Patty Moriarity Korrey	Jeff Weskamp
(Delinda's & Darla's sister-in-	Deb White
law)	(friend of Taylor Cranwell)
Haley Mead, Braxton & Kaisen	Joan Whitney
Jimmie McCaffree	Jim & Jean Williamson
Emerson McClanahan	
(Ellen Bernhard's daughter)	

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Jaxon Guinn
2	Elsie Fetzer
3	Julia Mari
6	Debbie Harris
9	Nick Vollmer
13	Robert Smith
14	Joan Whitnev
15	Audrev Reeves
15	Ava Reeves
15	Krea Vollmer
17	Dean Boeff
18	Ashlee Glaser
18	Amanda Kruger
18	Michelle White
18	David Chrisp
19	Danny DeSouza
21	Zelie Boothby
21	Ana Nuila
21	Myra Westfall
26	Pam Werner
27	Kaiden Clary
30	Taylor Cranwell

Condolences to

the family of Steve
Burnham who died
Sunday, November 13th.

In Person & on Facebook
First Friday @ First Presbyterian
Sterling High School
Madrigal Singers



December 2, 2022
12:05 to 12:35
130 South 4th Street, Sterling
Free & Open to the Public

A Moment for Music Mission....

During the church service on November 20th, our longtime beloved organist Elsie Fetzter explained a little about the history of our church—specifically First Friday. In 1998 she attended an organists' convention in Denver. While there, she attended a workshop led by Don Campbell who was a renowned leader in the music community. He wrote a book named The Mozart Effect, a study of the connection between music and the brain, especially in reducing anxiety and soothing babies with colic.

During the workshop he asked attending organists if they played “downtown”. Elsie raised her hand because she certainly does play in downtown Sterling! Mr. Campbell charged his audience to have noon recitals. He said that these centralized churches need to do noon recitals to provide respite to people who work downtown around the church.

From this conversation our church's First Friday at First Presbyterian mission was born. Elsie returned to our church and in September 1998 organized the first season of First Friday Concerts. Our church has a long and respected history of music and mission that we share our music with others in the community. First Friday is well into its 25th year of music and we thank Elsie for her many years of organization and hard work to maintain this important mission to our community. What a legacy Elsie has created for us!





Blue Christmas

*a service of Remembrance & Hope
for the Longest Night*

Wednesday, December 21 ~ 5:15 supper ~ 6:00 service

A quiet service for those who grieve, for those who are weary, for those who want to mark the winter solstice.

Blue Christmas, also called **the Longest Night**, is a day in the Advent season marking the longest night of the year. On this day, some churches in Western Christian denominations hold a church service that honors people that have lost loved ones and are experiencing grief. This worship service is traditionally held on or around the longest night of the year, which falls on or about December 21, the Winter Solstice.

The Worship often includes opportunities for expression of grief, pain and heart-break as well as an opportunity to focus on the promise of hope. Candles are often arranged as an Advent wreath and are lit at numerous occasions during the service. Some churches place empty chairs in the church as a way of commemorating those who have been lost during the previous year. Images of the winter solstice which include the longest night losing to the increasing longer day after midnight may also be part of the imagery of the particular worship service.

Our church will celebrate Blue Christmas service on December 21st. Supper is at 5:15 and the service will begin at 6 pm.

Information obtained from Wikipedia

Christmas Eve
with
First Presbyterian Church
4:30pm

Traditional candlelight communion service.
One service only for Christmas Eve/Christmas Day on Saturday, December 24 at
4:30pm. There will be no service on Christmas Day.



BEGIN THE NEW YEAR...

Celebrate

EPIPHANY

with us

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1
10:30 A.M.

Start the year off with a special Epiphany Service to begin the New Year. This service will include time for reflection and introspection — giving thanks for the blessings of the last year, letting go of disappointments; and setting intentions for the new year. We'll gather in Fellowship Hall for this casual service.
This service will not be streamed online or the radio.

Thank you to Penny Propst for the whimsical poem which captures the work and love during the church's First Annual Work Day which was held on October 1st.

T'was the Night Before the Work

T'was the night before the work, when all through the church,
Every worker was stirring, their supplies in search.
The trimmers were packed in the wagon with care,
In hopes that the long tree limbs soon will be bare.
The tools were nestled all snug in their cases,
With visions of work days and helping faces.
And Deacons in their work clothes and others in gloves,
Had just loaded all up to show how they love.
The Heartstrings crew love to nurture and do chatter,
They love to help with chores that really do matter.
Away to their jobs they all flew like a flash,
Through stoplights and stop signs they all did a dash.
And with towels and Windex they made shiny bright glass,
Dirt and grime were no obstacle as work was fast.
So up to many houses their wagons they flew,
With a car full of soap and paper towels too.
The list had a gal wanting the a/c removed,
So the Deacons and Heartstrings made it improved.
The list had a man with a yard full of weeds,
Those FPC workers made good of his needs.
And windows were fine for workers from the pews,
They soaped, rinsed and used elbow grease tirelessly this crew.
Like pros they worked to do all the assigned chore,
One was marking and hanging a pretty storm door.
When what to their wondering eyes should appear,
But a mighty crew to make weeds disappear.
And with little leaders so lively and true,
I knew in a moment it was the FPC crew.
More rapid than angels the workers they came
And they whistled and cheered at jobs they could name.
Now painting, now cleaning,
Now trimmers, and weeders,
On planters and scrubbers,
On workers and builders.
To the top of the porch,
To the top of the wall
Now scrub and weed away and shine away all!
They sprang to their wagon and took all supplies,
And away they all flew after hugs and byes.
And I heard them exclaim, after this great venture,
Share, love and care to all, as our church will nurture!

This Holiday Season "Buy One Gift One"

When you buy an item, we will donate a comparable item to the Family Resource Center.

Knitted hats, scarves and cowls will be on sale at the church.

New items will be added weekly.



Handmade For The Holidays

Hats.... \$10

Scarves..... \$10

Hat and Scarf.....\$20

As a Reminder

**All 2022 tithes and any other donations must be to the church office by 4 pm
Thursday, December 29, 2022 to be counted in 2022.**

Congratulations to Mason Boeff who was inducted into National Honor Society on November 8, 2022. NHS is built on the four pillars of scholarship, leadership, character, and service. We are proud of you!
God Bless You.

amazonsmile

You shop. Amazon gives.

smile.amazon.com

Search for:

First Presbyterian Church of Sterling

Food Pantry Needs

You may bring your donations to the church, put them under the table outside the church office, or in the box in the elevator vestibule.

Cooperating Ministry: Sloppy Joe cans

NJC Food Pantry needs:
Nuts, Dried Fruit, Trail Mix;
Jerky; Tuna or Salmon (cans/packages); Protein Bars; Peanut Butter;
Nut Butter; Crackers; Granola;
Fruit/Nut Bars; Instant Oatmeal;
Popcorn; Microwavable meals.



BIG GOD BIG QUESTIONS

CONFIRMATION FOR A GROWING FAITH

Parents of Middle School Students: We are planning a Confirmation class for winter/spring 2023. Confirmation will prepare youth to authentically answer the questions they are asked when they become active members of the church:

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?

Who is your Lord and Savior?

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love?

Will you devote yourself to the church's teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers?

Accompanied by mentors and gathering regularly for lessons and discussion, Confirmands will be equipped to study scripture, the Christian tradition, and to tell their own story.

Let us know if your middle school student will participate in the Confirmation Class of 2023.

Student's Name: _____ Grade: _____

Parents Name(s): _____

Parents email: _____

Parents Phone: _____ Student Cell Phone: _____

Preferred Mentor (optional): _____

Stewardship Update

Nurturing LIFE in

ABUNDANCE

at First Presbyterian Church

Estimate of Giving (EOG) Goal for 2023: \$225,000

Total EOG's received so far: 52 for \$193,924

Thank you for your faithful support of the mission and ministry of First Presbyterian Church.

EOG cards are still available if you haven't turned one in yet.

Thank you!



December



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
				5:30 Bell Choir 7:00 Choir	12:05 First Friday—SHS Madrigal Singers	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10:30 Worship Communion		5:15 Fellowship Committee	10:30 Worship & Sacraments Committee 5:15 Session	5:30 Bell Choir 7:00 Choir		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10:30 Worship		5:15 Finance Committee		1:30 Women's Book Study 5:30 Bell Choir 7:00 Choir		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10:30 Worship & Children's Christmas Program Luncheon			5:15 Supper 6:00 Blue Christmas Service	5:30 Bell Choir 7:00 Choir		Christmas Eve 4:30 Worship Candlelight Communion
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Christmas Day (no service)	Church Office closed for Christmas Holiday			4:00 All 2022 donations must be in church office 5:30 Bell Choir 7:00 Choir		New Year's Eve 

SERVING IN CHURCH

USHERS

Dec. 4 Traci Reeves, Ava Reeves, Audrey Reeves
Dec. 11 Tammie Malone, Dean Boeff
Dec. 18 Delinda Korrey, Ken McDowell
Dec. 24 Mike Werner, Terri Rhodes, Jeff Christenson, Sue Weingardt
Dec. 25 n/a

FELLOWSHIP COFFEE

Dec. 4 Finance Committee
Dec. 11 Board of Deacons
Dec. 18 Fellowship Committee
Dec. 25 n/a

COUNT OFFERING

Dec. 4 Connie Ham
Dec. 11 Linda Meisner
Dec. 18 Bev Cumming
Dec. 24 Linda Meisner
Dec. 25 n/a

AV TECHS

Dec. 4 Justin Cranwell, George Witherspoon
Dec. 11 Tanna Prince, Rex Witherspoon, George Witherspoon
Dec. 18 Jeff Christenson
Dec. 21 Blue Christmas Tanna Prince
Dec. 24 Jeff Christenson
Dec. 25 n/a

FIRST RESPONSE

December Traci Reeves

LAY READERS

Dec. 4 Tom Westfall
Dec. 11 Jill Vollmer
Dec. 18 Youth—TBA
Dec. 24 Linda Meisner

BULLETIN DELIVERY

December Mike Werner

COMMUNION

**DECEMBER 4, 2022,
& DECEMBER 24, 2022**

Traditional elements will be served from trays. Pre-packaged elements will also be offered, or you are welcome to bring your own.

Serving Communion

Dec. 4: Kim Jackson,
Jackie Reynolds, Pam Trimble
Dec. 24: Liz Chaney, Connie Ham,
Haley Mead, Jim Neblett, Karen
Torres, Rick Weingardt, Sue
Weingardt, Pam Werner

Preparing Communion

Dec. 4 Tanna Prince & Darla Korrey
Dec. 24 Jomari Lechtman,
Rose Neblett, Sue Weingardt

Remember to let the church office know if you trade serving dates with someone (522-2708).

Serving schedules subject to change. Check the website for most up-to-date schedules.
www.firstpressterling.org/servingschedules

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
130 SOUTH 4TH STREET
STERLING, COLORADO 80751

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



DECEMBER

FIRST THINGS FIRST

If you wish to be taken off this Newsletter mailing list, please call the church office at 522-2708.

Newsletter Deadline is the 15th day of the month prior to publication. Items may be submitted on flash drive, on CD or in text format to Tammie Malone or Jackie Reynolds c/o the church office, by e-mail (newsletter@firstpressterling.org) or phone (522-2708).

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WORSHIP

Sunday, 10:30 a.m.

Morning Worship in person or
on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/fpc.sterling

RADIO MINISTRY

Sunday, 10:30 a.m. On KSTC (AM 1230)

CHURCH PHONE 970.522.2708
Fax 970.522.1365
WEBSITE www.firstpressterling.org
OFFICE HOURS: M-W-F 9:00—12:00
T - Th 1:00—4:00
(or by Appointment)

Staff:

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E-mail michelle@firstpressterling.org
Cell Phone 970.580.4358

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E-mail bev@firstpressterling.org
Cell Phone 970.466.0262

BOOKKEEPER KARLEE MANUELLO
E-mail karlee@firstpressterling.org

MUSIC COORDINATOR/ORGANIST ELSIE FETZER
ASSISTANT ORGANIST MARSHA DAVIS

CHOIR DIRECTOR DARLA KORREY GERTNER

BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR LINDSEY JACKSON

PROPERTY MANAGER JANET KLOBERDANZ

COORDINATOR OF CHILDREN, YOUTH,
AND FAMILY MINISTRIES KAY BRIGHAM RICH

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