

FIRST THINGS FIRST

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

NOVEMBER 2025

Held Together in Faith

Since 1878

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



A MESSAGE FROM MICHELLE. . .

Great Cloud of Witnesses

Have you ever looked up in the sky and seen a shape in the clouds...? Maybe the cloud formation looks like a dog or a dinosaur or an angel? Scripture



tells us about a "great cloud of witnesses." This isn't like a cloud you might see up in the sky. This is more like thick fog that surrounds you. This word for cloud is used in the Bible to describe a large crowd of people—you can feel them as much as you can see them, pressing in around you. The "great cloud of witnesses" isn't just watching us. It's like fans in an arena, cheering on athletes. When the writer of Hebrews talks about running with perseverance the race marked out for us, he's saying we don't run alone.

We're remembering our church's heritage — how we have been *Held Together in Faith Since 1878*. Every person who kept this church going through hard times, who showed up and served when it would have been easier to quit, who passed the faith along to the next generation—they're part of what holds us together now. Their perseverance becomes ours. Their faithfulness sustains our own.

This All Saints' Sunday, we'll remember that we're part of something bigger than ourselves. When you feel like giving up, remember: you're being held up by a great cloud—generations of faithful people who didn't give up. That's how faith works across time. That's how we're held together in faith.

And here's the thing: we're not just surrounded by this cloud—we're becoming part of it. Our faithfulness, our giving, our showing up and serving—that becomes part of what holds together the people who come after us. When we practice stewardship and live our faith today, we're joining that great cloud of witnesses, running our part of the race so others can run theirs.

Thanks be to God who holds us all in faith.

Rev. Michelle

OUR HISTORY... FAULDS CHAPEL



As we walk into the sanctuary from the south stairs, I have often wondered about the Faulds Chapel and its story. It is a lovely and quiet place in our otherwise expansive church named after Rev. William Faulds.



Just who was Rev. William Faulds? Turns out he was the pastor of the church when World War II began. Our congregation and Rev. Faulds supported the war effort. The church began presenting a New Testament to each member of the church as he or she entered the nation's armed forces. Also, in July 1942 the Session voted to grant free use of the church to families of servicemen during the war.

On July 13, 1942, Rev. William Faulds notified the Session he had decided to volunteer for service as a chaplain for the US Army. The Session approved his request for a leave of absence for the "duration of the emergency plus 6 months." Rev. Faulds reported for duty on December 23, 1942.

Below is an article that was published in the Sterling Journal Advocate sometime during the war.

AN EIGHTH AIRFORCE MARAUDER BASE IN ENGLAND:

Where's Chaplain Faulds? Did you say the guardhouse? The chaplain, Capt. William Faulds, was in the guardhouse, but wasn't there for going AWOL. He was holding services in the army jail for 16 boys who had been "over the hill" or done something else to provoke the wrath of some commanding officer.

The guardhouse is just one of the Sunday stops for the busy 32-year-old chaplain from Sterling, Colorado, who is now holding services "somewhere in England." He's especially busy on Sundays when he has church services twice in the morning and once in the evening in the village church he



(cont.)

wrangled from a bishop on the condition that no civilians attend the service. The church is close enough to the airfield that Chaplain Faulds occasionally has to raise his voice to be heard above the engine roar.

Chaplain Faulds rightfully should have wound up “somewhere in the Pacific,” because for the past 18 years he’s been drifting west. When he was 14 years old, he went from Scotland, where he was born, to America. He stopped off at Cincinnati, Ohio, where he went to school and then went to the middlewest for college. Eventually he stopped at Tecumseh, Nebraska, where he had his first church. Someone from Sterling, Colorado, heard the young man, liked him and persuaded him to go to Sterling, where he was a minister of the Presbyterian Church until he decided to become an army chaplain.

“I’m a firm believer that the strength of post-war religion depends on what’s done now,” Chaplain Faulds will explain.

If there’s a bombing missions scheduled you’ll not find the brown-haired chaplain in the chaplain’s office. Go to the briefing room. He’ll be there. When the planes are due back, you’ll find him sweating out the mission in the interrogation room. If there’s a baseball game in progress, Chaplain Faulds will be taking a cut at a ball. The boys claim he’s a good ball player. He’s known as a good guy and a good minister, both of which accounts for a well-filled church at the Marauder base.

Interestingly, Rev. Francis White, an American Presbyterian missionary was called to serve as interim pastor for the church. He was available to serve this post because he had recently been recalled from his post in the French Cameroons of West Africa because of the conflict. He served as pastor of the church until 1945 and was able to return to sail for Africa to resume work in the mission field.

Faulds returned to fill the pulpit in Sterling until 1949 when he accepted a call to a very large church in Chicago. Rev. White was the members’ first choice to return to Sterling which he did until 1958.

In 1949 a small chapel was created on the main floor of the church. Much of the carpeting, equipment and installation of pews was provided by members of the congregation as gifts. The chapel was dedicated as the Faulds Chapel.

In 1963, on the church’s 85th anniversary, Rev. Faulds returned from Amherst, Massachusetts, to speak at the celebration.

MISSION. . .

It's time for the annual Cooperating Ministry Christmas Baskets.

We have been asked to donate **marshmallows**.

The goal is 250 bags of marshmallows by November 26th.

Baskets will be delivered on December 8.

Your giving is not just about donating, it's about making a difference for a household in need in Logan County. Poverty is a very complicated issue, but feeding a hungry person is not; regardless of how you say it, hunger does hurt. Every can, bag, or box of food is a step in meeting an essential need for a hungry household. Help a family celebrate this holiday season with a treat they might not otherwise be able to enjoy.

Food does the soul good!

FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

Thanksgiving Menu Items

Please bring these items to the Family Resource Center by Tuesday, November 18th for distribution to families in need.

(Please include the following items in your donation bag)

- Canned Fruit
- Canned Vegetables
- Stuffing Mix
- Quick Bread Mix
- Biscuit or Roll Mix
- Gravy (no glass containers)
 - Cranberry Sauce
- Potatoes (boxed or canned)
 - Pie Crust Mix
- Canned Fruit Pie Filling
 - Pumpkin Pie Mix
- Canned Milk (evaporated)
- Coffee, Tea, or Hot Cocoa Mix
- Miscellaneous Dessert

Drop-off Location: 120 Main St., Sterling, CO

Phone: (970) 526-2439



Giving thanks and sharing joy this holiday season!



Cooperating Ministry
Christmas Basket
Donations:
marshmallows

Marshmallows for the Cooperating Ministry Christmas baskets will be collected at the church. If you'd like to put together a Thanksgiving donation bag (see items listed on the left of this page), drop off items directly to Family Resource Center.

UPCOMING EVENTS...

First Friday @ First Presbyterian Braedon & Peyton Kloberdanz



**November 7, 2025
12:05 to 12:35**

onsite, or online: www.youtube.com/@FPC.Sterling

UPCOMING EVENTS. . .

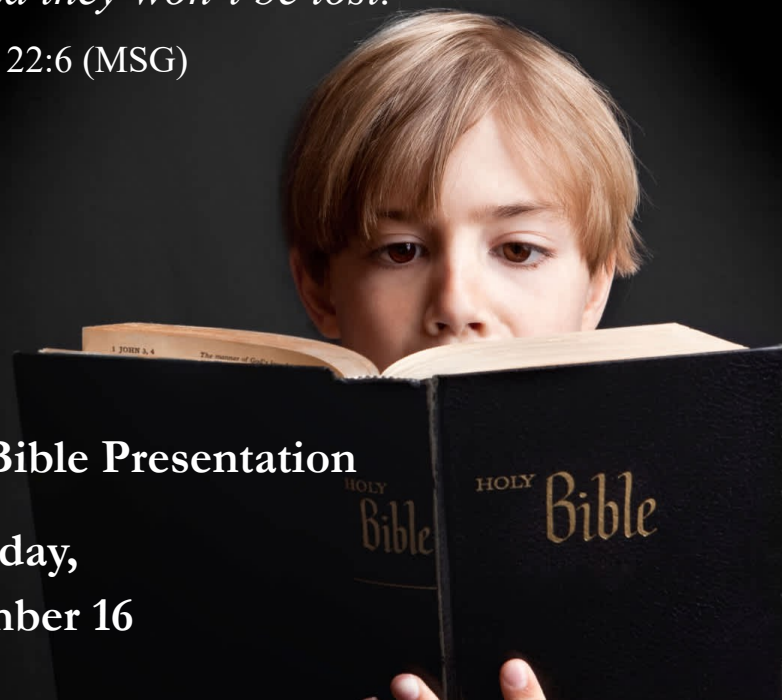


*Point your kids in the right direction —
when they're old they won't be lost.*

Proverbs 22:6 (MSG)

3rd & 4th Grade Bible Presentation

**Sunday,
November 16**



MISSION/UPCOMING EVENTS...

FPC RUMMAGE SALE



November 10-14

Potluck Sunday

~November 16~
following worship

Bring a main or a side. Birthday Cake will be provided.

SESSION. . .

Highlights of the September 16, 2025 Session Meeting

Thank you notes were received from CEDEPCA (Guatemala mission), Highlands Camp, and a member who received assistance from the ELMST Fund.

There was one baptism. There were two funerals.

Our 25% of the Peace and Global Witness Offering will be used locally for the Life Source Program.

The 2024 Compilation Review by Johnson & Associates, CPAs, was received.

The July and August 2025 Transaction Detail reports were approved.

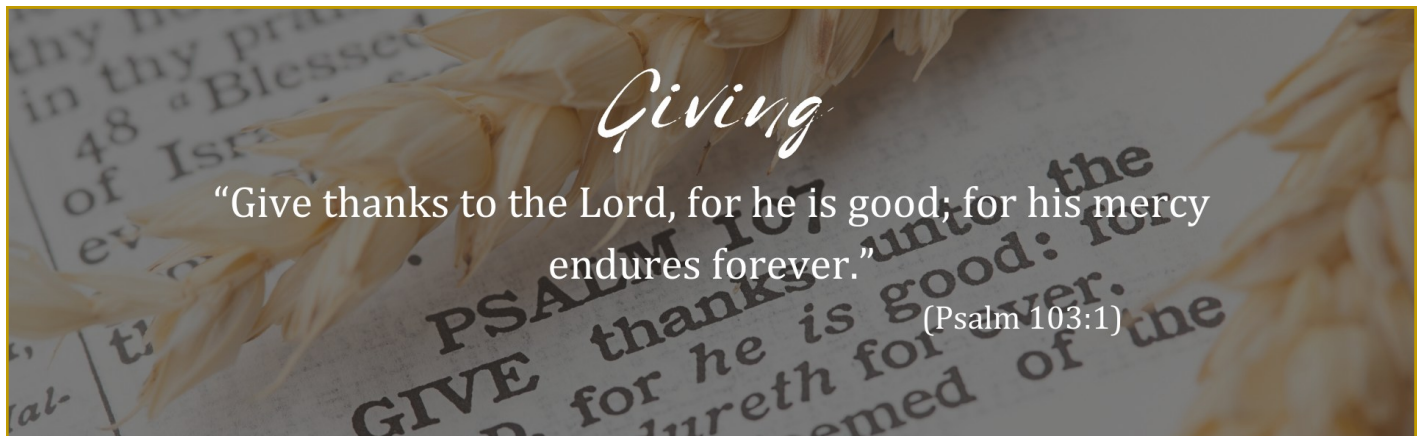
Approved the purchase of new computers for the Office Administrator and Bookkeeper up to \$1800.

Approved a FPC Credit Card for the Property Manager with a limit of \$1,500.

Approved a Church Use Request for Reviewers Club to use the Kitchen and Fellowship Hall on January 7, 2026.

Annual performance reviews were conducted for the non-ordained staff. A very appreciative annual performance review for Rev. Michelle was held prior to the session meeting.

Approved a recommendation for a member to receive help with medical and dental expenses in the amount of \$6,795 from the ELMST Fund.



Your generosity makes
mission & ministry possible...

Thank you!

Profit & Loss Summary	Jan.—Sept. 2025
Total Income	\$203,999.83
Total Expense	219,978.61
Net Ordinary Income (Loss)	(41,767.11)
Budgeted Transfers	7,727.84
Other Transfers	0.00
Net Ordinary Income (Loss) with Transfers	(34,039.27)



Held Together in Faith Since 1878

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sterling, Colorado

2026 Estimate of Giving

\$ _____

We are currently receiving Estimates of Giving for 2026.

What's an Estimate of Giving (EOG)? It's just a way of letting the church know how much you plan to give in the coming year. Sometimes people call this a "pledge" because it's also a spiritual practice, a commitment between you and God, to give in faith and gratitude for all God has given you. Spiritually, taking the time to fill out an EOG card helps us grow in faith.

Practically, it helps us make financial plans for the coming year.

So let's not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good.

At the right time we will harvest a good crop
if we don't give up.

Right now, therefore, every time we get the chance,
let us work for the good of all and especially for those of the family of faith.

Galatians 6:9-10 (MSG/NRSVUE)

Your faithful and generous gifts make ministry possible.

Thank you for turning in your 2026 Estimate of Giving.

We will be dedicating the Estimates of Giving on Sunday, November 2.

LOOKING AHEAD...

Advent Gatherings with Rev. Michelle

Mondays at 10am

December 1, 8, 15, & 22

Join me for a weekly gathering for tea and cookies and conversation.

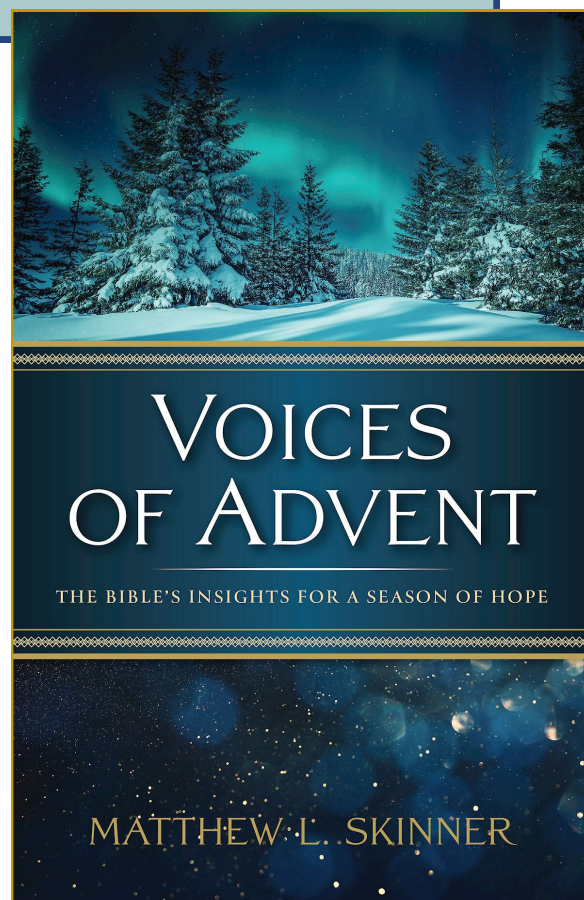
Reading the book is optional — all are welcome.

Rev. Michelle

“I need hope to survive, and Advent comes to me as a season designed to stir up hope. That’s because Advent keeps us focused on Jesus’ commitment to be with us, to arrive into our circumstances again and again.”

~ Matthew Skinner, author of *Voices of Advent*

Voices of Advent explores biblical texts to consider how they lead us to reflect on God, live our lives, express faith, set our priorities, and celebrate Christmas. If we **listen carefully** we’ll hear **hope** in the voices of angels and visionaries, faithful people like Mary, John the Baptist, and Jesus.



Suggested Donation: \$16/book

Call the church office to sign up today!



Poinsettia Fundraiser

supporting FPC mission

\$20/each

Order by December 1

Help decorate the sanctuary for the season and help support the church's mission.

This year almost half the cost of each poinsettia will go toward our mission partnerships!

Poinsettias may be taken home following the Christmas Eve service.

Poinsettia Order Form:

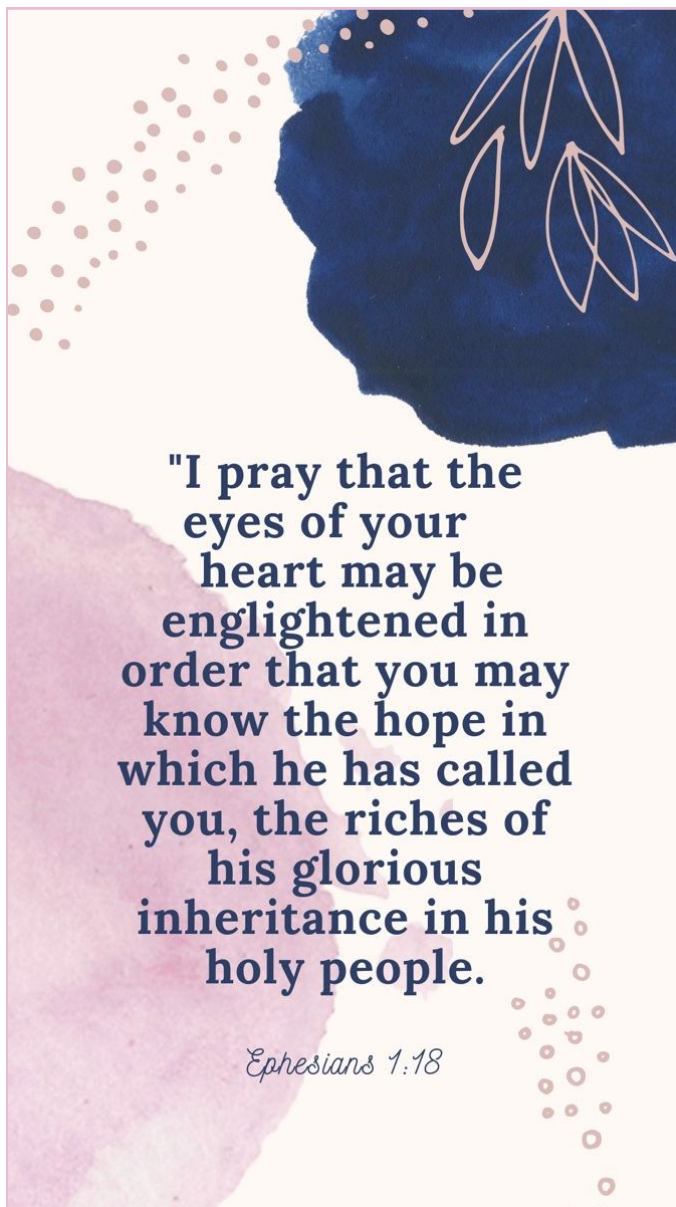
Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Number of poinsettias (\$20/each): _____

In honor/memory of: _____

Make checks out to FPC with "poinsettia" in the memo ~ Order by December 1

Poinsettias may be taken home following the Christmas Eve service.



"I pray that the
eyes of your
heart may be
enlightened in
order that you may
know the hope in
which he has called
you, the riches of
his glorious
inheritance in his
holy people.

Ephesians 1:18

November **BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Geoffrey Southwell
- 2 Bryce White
- 2 Mikki Jackson
- 3 Tanna Prince
- 6 Carrie Lovenburg
- 7 Jill Vollmer
- 8 Ted Park
- 10 Tammy Sanders
- 10 Nancy Hall
- 11 Kale Christenson
- 11 Jim Neblett
- 14 Doug Fritzler
- 15 Wren Jackson
- 16 Michelle Witherspoon
- 16 Rick Weingardt
- 17 Bev Cumming
- 18 Trae Miller
- 19 Rick Jackson
- 19 Sheila Fabela
- 21 Linda Meisner
- 25 Kay Dana
- 27 Harry Peterson

Birthday Sunday:

November 16

Happy Birthday...
May your day be blessed!

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....

Grace Ann (Connie Clark's relative)
David Balabanis Family
Joe Baran (in-law of Ted & Penny Propst)
Jackie Barton & Family
Sharon Bennett (Neblett's son-in-law's mother)
Tye Bennett (Neblett's grandson)
Clark Bernhardt
Norm Blackburn
Brenda Boeff
Randy Brigham
Leah Burt (friend of Judy Roumph)
CEDEPCA (Protestant Ministry in Guatemala)
Cooperating Ministry
Sally Craig (friend of Jackie Reynolds)
Jeanne Crouch & Family
Deb Daughtery (sister of Ken McDowell)
Cierra Davis (friend of Becky Cranwell)
Dave and Marsha Davis
Sarah Davis
Andrew DeSouza (Michelle Hawkins' son)
Gary Espinosa (Arden Fennell's family)
Family Resource Center
Carolee Goldsmith (mother of Brandon Eaton)
Meredith Goodwin (friend of Propsts)
Mike Hawkins (Michelle Hawkins' brother)
Abby Henry & family (friend of Jackie Barton)
Highlands Camp
Sonja Holden (friend of Arden Fennell)
Chris Jutz
Josh Jutz & Kaylee
Robert Koehler (friend of Laura Guenzi)
Debby Korrey (Delinda's & Darla's sister)
Delinda Korrey McDowell
Susan Kozik (former sister in-law of Mike Tyson)
Jomari Lechtman
Ann Leh and Family
Aline Marquez (friend of Becky Cranwell)

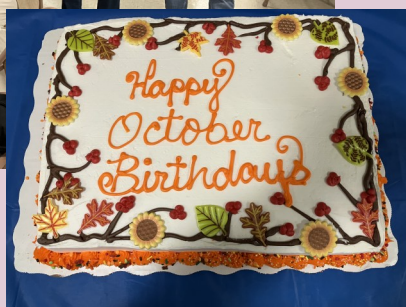
Rose Neblett
Dirk Nye and Regine Bendelow (Jackie Barton's step-father & mother)
Mari Paradise (Jim Neblett's sister)
Jeni Porter (In-law of Blackburns)
David Prince
Emma Rich (Granddaughter of Gary & Kay Rich)
Regina Riggle (Niece of Jackie Reynolds)
Cadie, Hailey and Austen Rose (Jason Rose family)
Betty Scharf
Linda Schoyer (Sister of Connie Sue Clark)
John Seffens (friend of Mike Tyson)
Steven Shinn (friend of Jim Leh)
Darrell Smith and family
Montelle Smith
Becky Stieb, Justin & Torin (friends of Michelle Hawkins)
Charlie & Roseanne Thompson (friends of Nebletts)
Sharon Treacy (mother of Laura Guenzi)
Mike Tyson
Amy & Byron Uhrich (Jill Vollmer's parents)
Under the Umbrella
Robert Vance (Michelle White's dad)
Don and Virginia Werner (Parents of Mike Werner)
Laurie Weskamp Wagner (Jeff's sister)
Jeff Weskamp
Jean Williamson

Do you have an update on anyone listed
on our church prayer list?
We'd love to hear the good news of recovery,
healing and answered prayer.

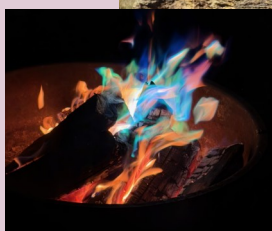
If you have a joy to report, let us know!

HIGHLIGHTS: September & October

Birthday Sunday



2025 Retreat



SERVING IN CHURCH — NOVEMBER

USHERS

November 2	Sue Weingardt, Jacob Paiz
November 9	Alie Sheldon, Liz Chaney
November 16	Michelle Hawkins, Kim Weingardt
November 23	Laura Guenzi, Jill Vollmer
November 30	Ken McDowell, Delinda Korrey McDowell



FIRST RESPONSE/BULLETIN DELIVERY

November	Laura Guenzi
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FELLOWSHIP COFFEE

November 2	Finance Committee
November 9	Membership/Stewardship
November 16	Fellowship Committee
November 23	Personnel Committee
November 30	Women's Bible Study

LITURGISTS

November 2	Linda Meisner
November 9	Jill Vollmer
November 16	Connie Ham
November 23	Becky Cranwell
November 30	Dean Boeff

COUNT OFFERING

November 2	Connie Ham
November 9	Connie Ham
November 16	Bev Cumming
November 23	Linda Meisner
November 30	Bob Smith

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

November 16	Pam Werner
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ACOLYTES/BIBLE BEARER

November 2	Jeff & Brenda Christenson
November 9	Ashlee Glaser & Laura Boren
November 16	Kaiden Clary & Kinsley Jo Rossen
November 23	Pam Trimble & Ann Blackburn
November 30	Connie Ham & Tanna Prince

AV TEAM

November 2	Justin Cranwell Jacob Paiz
November 9	Dean Boeff Callie Jackson
November 16	Jeff Christenson Pam Trimble
November 23	Justin Cranwell Myra Westfall
November 30	Dean Boeff Jacob Paiz

COMMUNION—NOVEMBER 2, 2025

Prepare—Sue Weingardt, Elsie Fetzer
Serve—Liz Chaney, Dennis Kaan, Cheryl Kaan

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

November 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10:30 Worship/ Communion 11:30 Fellowship Coffee	5:15 Fellowship	5:00 Zumba	10:00 Worship & Sacraments	4:30 Zumba 5:30 Bells 6:30 Choir	12:05 First Friday Concert	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
10:30 Worship 11:30 Fellowship Coffee	Rummage Sale 12:00 Finance	Rummage Sale Church Office Closed (Veterans' Day)	Rummage Sale	Rummage Sale 5:30 Bells 6:30 Choir	Rummage Sale	Newsletter Deadline
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
10:30 Worship 11:30 Fellowship Potluck with Birthday Celebration		5:00 Zumba 6:00 Session		1:30 Women's Bible Study 4:30 Zumba 5:30 Bells 6:30 Choir		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
10:30 Worship 11:30 Fellowship Coffee		5:00 Zumba	Church Office Closed	Thanksgiving Church Office Closed	Church Office Closed	
30						
10:30 Worship 11:30 Fellowship Coffee						

FALL
BACK

DAYLIGHT
SAVINGS
TIME



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

130 S. 4TH STREET ~ STERLING, CO 80751

WORSHIP

Sunday, 10:30 a.m.

onsite ~ online ~ radio

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-noon T/Th: 1-4
(or by appointment)

Staff:

PASTOR

E-mail pastor@fpcsterling.org

MICHELLE WITHERSPOON

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

E-mail office@fpcsterling.org

RASHELL FRITZLER

BOOKKEEPER

E-mail finance@fpcsterling.org

KARLEE MANUELLO

MUSIC COORDINATOR/ORGANIST

ELSIE FETZER

CHOIR DIRECTOR

DARLA KORREY GERTNER

BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR

LINDSEY JACKSON

PROPERTY MANAGER

JANET KLOBERDANZ

NEWSLETTER TEAM

BEV CUMMING
TAMMIE MALONE
JACKIE REYNOLDS