



FPC Herald

December 2025



Office Hours:

Tuesday: 9am -2pm
Wednesday: 10am -3pm
Thursday: 10am -3pm
Friday: 9am-2pm

2 Mission Committee, 6pm
Worship and Music Committee, 7pm
Buildings and Properties, 7pm

6 Children's Rehearsal 10am
Mitten Tree Party 11am
Cantata Academy Chorale Midwinter Melodies, 3pm

7 Children's Christmas Pageant Sunday In-Person Worship in the Sanctuary or Watch Live Online, 10am

9 Deacon Meeting, 6pm

13 Ladies Luncheon, 1-3pm

14 In-Person Worship in the Sanctuary or Watch Live Online, 10am. Christmas Sing-a-long following worship

16 Session Meeting, 7pm

21 In-Person Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary or Watch Live Online, 10am

24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service in the Sanctuary or Watch Live Online, 7pm, Preservice music begins at 6:45pm

25-Jan 1 Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Office Closed

28 In-Person Sunday Worship in the Fellowship Hall or Watch Live Online, 10am



“But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God.” Luke 1:30.

Dear Friends,

Do you believe in angels? Scripture is filled with accounts of angelic encounters, and many today share similar experiences. A 2023 Pew Research survey found that 80% of Americans believe in a spiritual reality beyond the physical world, and many report moments they cannot explain.

Whether we call them guardian angels or the presence of the Holy Spirit, these experiences often occur unexpectedly—through dreams, in times of crisis, or when we lose someone dear.

Lee Strobel’s book *Seeing the Supernatural* recounts stories that defy scientific explanation, including one from a former Secret Service agent who sensed an unseen embrace just hours before learning of his mother’s passing. That moment deepened his faith in God and the power of Jesus.

This Advent, we’ll explore angelic appearances in the Christmas story—through Zechariah, Elizabeth, Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds—each bringing the message: Do not be afraid. These encounters remind us of God’s presence and the good news of Christ’s coming.

Join us this season as we reflect on **“Angels Among Us.”**

Wishing you a joyful Thanksgiving and a blessed Advent.

I thank God for you,
Pastor Kathy Nealand

Books you might want to read:

1. [Angels of Christmas](#)
2. [Seeing the Supernatural: Investigating Angels, Demons, Mystical Dreams, Near-Death Encounters, and Other Mysteries of the Unseen World](#)

Join Us This Advent Season

- **Advent Series: Angels Among Us**
Sundays at 10:00 AM | Beginning November 30, 2025
- November 30 – “Make Ready a People: #morehope” – Synopsis: It was just another day at the temple for Zechariah. It was his priestly turn to make sure everything was done properly and in good order. But it turned into something quite different when an angel showed up at the altar. Have you ever had a moment in your life after which you knew nothing would ever be the same? In the midst of great change, hope is always a welcome thing. Advent can remind us that God makes us ready for whatever unknown may come our way and calls us to be messengers of #morehope in an ever-changing world.
- December 7 – “Nothing is Impossible: #morepeace” – Synopsis: Zechariah freaked out when the other-worldly creature appeared to him. But Mary was simply “perplexed.” Why would such an incredible message come to a common girl just barely a woman? Then her reply to such a foretelling about her purpose in life was also simple: “Let it be so.” Have you ever struggled with finding your purpose and being at peace with it? Or are you yearning for more peace in your life and relationships? #morepeace in the world happens when all of us feel #morepeace within ourselves and live out that message each day.
- December 7 – children's Christmas Pageant.
- December 14 – “Do Not Be Afraid: #morejoy” – Synopsis: Every angel seems to use “do not be afraid” as an opening line. But perhaps no one needed to hear it more than Joseph. What was happening to him was the stuff that ruins lives. As a man, he had all the rights to abandon Mary and preserve his dignity. The stakes were high—who would believe this? Worrying about what might happen in the future can rob us of our #morejoy today. Let us be messengers of encouragement and steadfast support, as Joseph was, for that which the Spirit is birthing in the world.
- December 21 – “This Will Be a Sign: #morelove” – Synopsis: The sky was brighter than usual that night, making it easier to keep track of the sheep. And then it got really bright. You would have thought that all that “glory” shining would have been “the sign.” That’s what most of us look for—great big obvious clues about God’s presence. But instead, the angel says that a baby... a newborn helpless baby in a feeding trough was it—the sign. In a flash, the message was that #morelove is found where you least expect it and perhaps is already there residing in the ordinariness of your life.
- December 24 – 7 pm – Christmas eve candlelight Service
- December 28 – “Get Up and Go: #morelife” – Synopsis: By now Joseph was used to angels. And now he needed their timely warnings more than ever. Jesus was barely a toddler and his trouble with the Roman Empire had begun. Jesus, the Savior of Humankind becomes a refugee—forced from home by oppression and violence. We ask ourselves how we might usher in #morelife in the face of that which feels destructive. One last time in this series we hear the message #DoNotBeAfraid to get up and go—leaving those things that weigh us down and moving into the new year with new life.



Holiday Concert Dec. 6th 3pm

Come kick off the Holiday season with us as we welcome Cantata Academy Chorale to our sanctuary for their Midwinter Melodies concert. Come hear beautiful choral music and holiday favorites. Concert will be a Free-Will offering



We asked and you answered!

A call was put out for clothing items to share with those in need as the weather changes, and boy did you answer. Check out the image to see how an almost full hallway of clothing. Thank you for cleaning out your closets to help those in need!

Celebrating Membership

Below is a list of current members who have joined our church in December's past.



Jeff Anderson 12/10/2006
Mary Anderson 12/10/2006
Beth Baker 12/10/2006
Nicole Dubs 12/1/2024
Zachary Dubs 12/1/2024
Celeste Duggan 12/19/2023
Tim Duggan 12/19/2023
Jenny Emerick 12/28/2003
Lou Emerick 12/28/2003
Karrie Glassford 12/7/1975
Bradly Guldemonnd 12/16/2007
Kyra Hickey 12/22/2002
Jerry Hilton 12/15/1974
Cyndi LaFata 12/4/2005
Daryl Martin 12/22/2002
Loretta Martin 12/22/2002
Gordon McHugh 12/10/2006
Mary Murphy 12/2/2007
Jim Murray 12/28/2003
Nancy Murray 12/28/2003
Lisa Rood 12/28/2003
Julie Sims 12/4/2005
Bob Sybrandy 12/19/2017
Miriam Sybrandy 12/19/2017
Dan Wagberg 12/28/2003
Jodi Wagberg 12/28/2003
Bob Wilson 12/10/2006
Karen Wilson 12/10/2006



November Attendance

In person:	Live Stream:
November 2 - 63	21
November 9 - 73	15
November 16 - 80	13
November 23- 60	9



Our Service Men & Women

- Stephanie Dixon, Army
Crestview FL
- Michelle Dixon, Army
Colorado
- Ashley Dixon, Army
Puerto Rico
Daughters of Glenn and Pam Dixon
- Sam Heaton, ANG
Reservist at Selfridge
Son of Pastor Dan and Kim Heaton
- Sean Heffernan, CG
Grandson of Sue Heffernan

Prayer List

Please keep the people listed in your daily thoughts, and remember them with a card, phone call and prayers of encouragement.

Assisted Living or Long-Term Care

Irma Black
Bruce Smith
Mary Murphy

Those we are keeping in Our Prayers

Loretta Martin
Lou Emerick
Gary Henderson
Nancy Ventimiglia
Claren Bannow
Fred Binning
Jeanne Ledingham

December Birthdays



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Christian Ball
John Fisher
Megan Fisher
Elizabeth Wheaton
Gloria Cynowa
Zach Henderson
Joe Kindt
Zac Dubs
Lorenzo LaFata
Shannon Hopson
Irma Black
Mary Ball
Nicholas Ansted
Allie Blair
Bill Bittner
Colyn Wheaton
Judy Jacobs
Nina Politano

Long-time member Irma Black turns 106 on December 17th!

Let's celebrate by sending her birthday cards!. Her address is in the directory or you can contact Sara in the office for it. A small note, Irma has limited vision, so a musical or large card would be appreciated.

Weekly Announcements

Sunday Worship Details

In-Person Worship and Live-Streamed Services on Sundays at 10am. To watch online, key in fpcmtclemens.com, click the worship tab, then live stream.

This Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent the beginning of the season of waiting for the birth of Jesus. We light the first candle, the candle of Hope.



Youth Bottle and Can Drive

Through the month of November, our youth groups will be collecting returnable cans and bottles to raise money for their Holiday Christmas Shopping. They will be shopping for Macomb Foster Closet, helping youth in the foster system feel the love and blessings of the Christmas season.



Christmas Decorations

If you wish to donate for poinsettias in honor or memory of loved ones, please click the link below for the form. A printed form will also be available in the bulletin announcements on Sundays. **Donations are due by December 14th**



Congregational Meeting December 7th

The session has called for a congregational meeting for Sunday, December 7 immediately following the worship service for the purpose of hearing the report from the Nominating Committee for the purpose of election of officers and any other business that may come before the body.



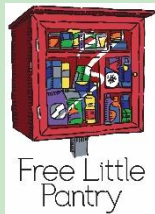
Ladies Save the date December 13th!

Women's Christmas Party and Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall. Enjoy soup and salad bar luncheon, dress in your holiday clothes, play some fun games (with prizes) and generally relax and set aside the stressors of the holiday season from 1-3pm. Tickets will be \$5 (with \$2 going to our Help Fund). All women 12 yrs and older are welcomed. Reservations will be taken in person or online. Contact Judi Armstrong with questions.



Every Friday!!

Every Friday morning, the men of FPC get together in the parlor to talk about what's happening in the church, what's going on in their lives, and solve the world's problems. Other church men are welcomed to join them at nine!



Our Free Little Pantry is always in need of restocking! You can help by donating food, toiletries, even socks are needed. For food donations please bring items that do not need extra ingredients and are easy to open. Many of those who are blessed by this food do not have access to can openers and extra ingredients.

Our Free Pantry was built and decorated by our wonderful youth and kids. There is a box located by the north door where you can drop off your donations



Our Church Elders



Our Church Deacons

Session Class of 2025

- Ann Guldemon, CE
- Judy Landuyt, CE
- Daryl Martin, Nominating

Session Class of 2026

- Mike Ball, Building, Property & Technology
- Martha Fisher, Personnel
- Patty Lange, Memorial

Session Class of 2027

- Becky Ball, Worship and Music
- Gary Cynowa, Mission
- Ken Schmidt, Finance

Clerk of Session: Jane Ethier

Deacon Class of 2025

- Mary Jane Marino
- Jon Ansley
- Matt Sims

Deacon Class of 2026

- Pam Kurtz
- Kyra Hickey
- Beth Orrin

Deacon Class of 2027

- Judi Armstrong
- Gloria Cynowa
- Evelyn McKenzie

Deacon Moderators

- Beth Orrin
- Judi Armstrong