

November 23, 2020

Deck the Halls TODAY, 6:00 pm!



Come out and join the fun as we decorate the church for Christmas. The season of Advent starts next Sunday, so we will DECK THE HALLS this evening at 6:00 pm. Bring a brown bag supper or just come ready to hang wreaths and garlands, fluff bows, and put up our beautiful Chrismon Tree. We need lots of volunteers!

Thanksgiving Day at FPC – *Thursday,* *November 26*

Service of Thanksgiving at 9:00 am

We invite everyone to begin Thanksgiving Day with a brief worship service at 9:00 am in the Worship Center. In addition to some of our favorite Thanksgiving music, there will be opportunity to share personal

testimonies of gratitude for God's blessings in our lives this past year.



This Week at FPC

The complete and up-to-date church calendar can be found at the bottom of the Home Page of our website: www.fpcden.org.

Monday, November 23

- 9:00 to 11:00 am – Shoebox Collection (Covered Entrance)
- 6:00 pm – DECK THE HALLS

Tuesday, November 24

- 9:00 am – Food Pantry
- 7:00 pm – Cantata Choir rehearsal (Music Room)

Thursday, November 26 – Thanksgiving Day (church office closed)

- 9:00 am – Service of Thanksgiving

Friday, November 27 (church office closed)

Sunday, November 29 – First Sunday of Advent

- 9:00 am – Children’s Sunday School Classes
- 9:00 am – Adult Sunday School Classes
- 10:00 am – Hanging of the Greens
- 10:00 am – Worship Service
- 10:00 am – SPECIAL OFFERING, Building Maintenance Fund

SPECIAL OFFERING next Sunday – Building Maintenance Fund

Session has scheduled a special offering next Sunday to build up reserves in our Building Maintenance Fund, which is used to cover expenses of needed improvements around our property. For example, just last week we needed to replace the bearings in of the two water pumps that provide heating and cooling to the Education Building (\$600 to \$800). The last estimate we had for sealing and restriping the parking lot (two years ago) was \$15,000. There are also about \$10,000 worth of lighting and sound updates that need to be made in the Worship Center. Emergency repairs arise pretty frequently, which is why we need to increase our cash reserves for building maintenance. Thank you for your generosity toward next Sunday’s SPECIAL OFFERING!

Sunday, November 29 – First Sunday of Advent

John 14:6 will be the theme of our Advent worship services this year: *“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”* Next Sunday we will talk about what it means that Jesus Christ is the WAY

into the presence of God, the only way to salvation, the open but also narrow way that requires each of us to make the conscious decision walk through the gate (like sheep following the shepherd) every day of our lives: “Jesus Is the Way” (Hebrews 10:19-25). Please invite someone to worship with us IN PERSON (practicing social distancing with face coverings) or ONLINE at www.fpceden.org, or click the link below:

<https://bit.ly/FPCEden>

Online giving is available through our church website. Click on the DONATE button at the top of the homepage for safe, easy giving using your debit or credit card. Thank you for your generosity!



Operation Christmas Child Shoebboxes

Thank you to everyone who prepared a Christmas shoebox for Samaritan's Purse this year. First Presbyterian Church provided 46 shoeboxes, and the city of Eden brought a total of 547 shoeboxes as of yesterday, with about 100 more expected this morning.

Christmas Mission Giving Opportunities

From Pat Smith and Mission Service Committee ...



STEW TO BENEFIT SALVATION ARMY - Since we will not be ringing the bell this year at WalMart, we are having a stew on Saturday, December 12 to benefit the Salvation Army. Pick up time is from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. and you may just drive through and pick it up. The stew is \$7 a quart and tickets are available this morning in the Gathering Area. Please take some books to sell and purchase some for yourself. Please sell tickets and order your own stew asap because orders are coming in fast already and we want to have enough stew for everyone who wants it. Tickets may be purchased on Sunday morning or you may send checks to FPC and mark “for stew” and we will mail your tickets. You must have a ticket to pick up stew.



Thank you to those who have already taken Angels from the tree in the Gathering Area. There are 5 Angels on the tree and next Sunday is the deadline to gather your gifts and put them in the Church Parlor. You may pick up the Angel cards with all the information you need to participate and you may also come during the week to leave the gifts. Please pray about what you might do. You may partner with a friend to take an Angel or you

NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, IS THE DEADLINE for ordering a **22” FRESH FRASER FIR WREATH**. These wreaths are beautiful and the proceeds go to support the Rockingham Pregnancy Care Center. They are \$20 each and you may add a bow of a solid color for \$8 or a multi- color bow for \$12. A Lamp Post Bow is \$15. The wreaths will be delivered to the center and you may pickup your wreath/bow on Saturday, December 5, between 9 a. m. and 11 a.m. You may place your order with the Pregnancy Care Center or pay at the church next Sunday. You must pay for the wreath before we can put in the order. Thank you for your support.

CHRISTMAS FOOD BOXES FOR THE NEEDY - 60 Christmas Food Boxes for the needy is our goal again this year. They will be given out by the Salvation Army nearer to Christmas. \$30 will pay for a box that will feed a family. At the Alternative Gift Fair, which will be held on Sundays December 6 & 13 immediately after worship, you may receive three gift cards (in honor or memory of a loved one) for sponsoring a Christmas food box. If you cannot give \$30 but you can give something, you may give any amount you wish towards the purchase of the items to fill a box. You may receive a gift card for each \$10 you give. If you would like to sponsor a box or part of a box, please send your check to the church, attention Beth Chandler. Please contact Pat Smith if you have questions. 336-707-3350. May God bless you this Christmas season as you bless those who are hungry and in need of help!

HOLIDAY(ALTERNATIVE) GIFT FAIR - This year our FPC Alternative Gift Fair Will be held after the service on Sundays, December 6 & 13. If you have friends or family who seem to have everything they need, you may wish to give them a gift that keeps on giving. Gifts may be given in honor or in memory of someone special to you. Please consider a gift to our FPC Building Fund, Pantry Fund (for Christmas Food Boxes), Mission Fund or Salvation Army. These ministries touch people in our church, our community and the world. Tables will be set up in the Whitley Gathering Area with information about each of these ministries. If you choose to give to one of these ministries, you will receive a lovely holiday gift card with an envelope, which you can send as an acknowledgement of your honorarium or memorial gift to a special person in your life. You will receive a gift card for each \$10 donation by an Adult and \$5 donation from a child. Please consider a gift that keeps on giving. You will be blessed!!



Christmas Poinsettias – \$10.50 each

Church members and friends are invited to donate Christmas poinsettias in honor or in memory of special people. The cost for each flower is \$10.50, and we will begin placing poinsettias in the sanctuary the first week of

Advent (after November 29). Watch for an order form in the bulletin, or you may speak to Beth Chandler in the church office (336-623-3962).

Salvation Army Red Kettle

The Salvation Army needs extra help this year. Some local businesses are not allowing Red Kettle donations on their properties because of concerns about COVID-19, so we have chosen to place a Salvation Army Red Kettle in the Gathering Area for anyone who wishes to donate.



Christmas Card Ministry

Once again this year Pam Cundiff and family will sort Christmas cards for church members and friends. Bring your cards to church and leave them in the box in the Gathering Area, and they will be sorted into envelopes for each family. Thank you, Pam and Tim and family!

From Pam Cundiff ...

Merry Christmas!!

We will be having our Christmas card ministry again this year. Starting November 29 (first Sunday of Advent), please drop your cards in the box at the Information Desk. These will be sorted each week for pick-up the following Sunday, with ample time for sanitation. PLEASE REMEMBER to empty your envelopes so there will be room for more deliveries. The last delivery is December 20, and the last day to pick up cards is January 10. All the blessings of the season,
Pam & Tim

2020 Advent and Christmas Calendar

Sunday, 11/22

Thanksgiving Sunday

9:00 am – Sunday School

10:00 am – Worship Service

10:00 am – Shoebox Dedication

Monday, 11/23

Deck the Halls

6:00 pm – Decorate the church for Christmas

Thursday, 11/26

Thanksgiving Day

9:00 am – Worship Service

Sunday, 11/29

First Sunday of Advent

Lighting of the Advent Candle

9:00 am – Sunday School

10:00 am – Worship Service

10:00 am – Building Maintenance Offering

Sunday, 12/6

Second Sunday of Advent

Lighting of the Advent Candles
9:00 am – Sunday School
10:00 am – Worship Service
6:00 pm – Caroling in the Community

Sunday, 12/13

Third Sunday of Advent
Christmas Music Sunday
Lighting of the Advent Candles
9:00 am – Sunday School
10:00 am – Worship, Christmas Cantata Choir

Friday, 12/18

4:00 pm – Cindy Gauldin’s Musical Meditation

Sunday, 12/20

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Lighting of the Advent Candles
9:00 am – Sunday School
10:00 am – Worship Service

Thursday, 12/24

Christmas Eve
Lighting of the Christ Candle
7:00 pm – Candlelight Communion Service

Friday, 12/25

Christmas Day
Church Office is closed

Sunday, 12/27

10:00 am – Worship Service, Terry Widel

Prayers

America, Thanksgiving, sacred holidays
Teachers and students
Lib Roberson and family
Cheryl Lauzau and family
Ron Martin and family
Vicky Gibson

Anthony Welch (nephew died)
Mike Corum
Sherry McDowell and family
Judy Paull
Carol and Larry Helms
Paul Brown and family
Shirley Carter
Mike and Merle Gentry
Gen Critz and Jeannie Wilde
Joy Outland
Karen Dolbere
Joice Pucket
Bill Robertson's mother (COVID-19)
Hazel Horton and Jean Nobblitt