



FPC Press

First Presbyterian Church of Turlock

January 2020 Newsletter

Services of Worship
Sunday Mornings
9:00 & 11:00 am



Rev. Dr. Craig J. Wright



Monthly Devotional From Our Pastor

New Year's Greetings Church Family,

It is 2020! Those are important numbers. Not just because a decade has passed but because the mere speaking of those numbers calls to mind the idea of vision. We often think having 2020 vision means we have perfect eyesight. But according to the American Optometric Association, 2020 vision simply means you have clarity at 20 feet from the thing you are looking at. The AOA says - "Other important vision skills, including **peripheral awareness** or side vision, **eye coordination**, **depth perception**, **focusing ability** and **color vision**, contribute to your overall visual ability." We have all heard the axiom "hindsight is 2020 vision" and while that may be true, looking back for perspective on that which is behind us is only helpful if we take our look with more than the simple distance to the past in mind. It strikes me that each component of good eyesight is a meaningful metaphor for spiritual vision as well. Let us consider these as we move to 2020.

Peripheral vision, or the ability to see what is happening on the sides or edges of our sight, strikes me as one of the most compelling of all Christian virtues. There are no credible scholars in history who would argue against the idea that Christ came to seek and to save the lost and to bring the good news of God's love to all, especially all around the edges of society. Need I remind you of the 'lowly' shepherds working the night shift being chosen to receive the angelic birth announcement. Marginalized workers doing the work no one else would were sent by the angels to worship the newborn king lying in a manger. Hindsight tells me that we as a church have good peripheral vision, but we can improve. We can in this next decade continue to scan the margins around us and seek to enfold more people into the love of Christ and the community of Faith that is FPC.

Eye coordination is also a function of good eyesight. What a powerful metaphor for the church. This metaphor comes alive when we consider how eye coordination works with our hands. One thing is clear in our faith, brutally clear in fact, to see a need with our eyes means to respond to the need with our hands. Both Christ and the Apostles taught that knowledge equaled responsibility. The Apostles James and John mince no words in their epistles commanding Christians to do with their own hands the works of Christ. Do not just see things and say things but do things for the benefit of others and to the glory of God. Mature Christianity has great hand-eye coordination. The good Samaritan was not good because he saw the wounded man by the side of the road, rather he was good because he helped.

Depth Perception is not just our ability to tell how close or far something is from us, it is our ability to see in the dimensions of length, height, and width. In one of my favorite passages, the Apostle Paul writes, "I pray that you...may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. (Eph 3:18,19) The Apostle Paul has great "spiritual" depth perception and he knows that all believers need to go deeper in their faith. He also knows that a deeper understanding of God's love for you personally, will bring you to a deeper love of others. The end of this decade is a good time to appraise your heart and ask yourself the question, "how might I go deeper in faith in the coming year?"



Focusing ability might be a good metaphor for asking ourselves what is important, what are my life priorities, what am I most focused on. For me, I worried way too much in the last decade. If I had a resolution this year it would be to take the Apostle's instruction to heart in 2020 and focus on the good - "Finally, _____ (insert your name here) whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you." (Phil. 4:8,9) If the clarity of hindsight tells you that you have focused on the wrong things in the past, then it is time to refocus and to set your hearts and minds on the things above.

Color vision is a complicated process that allows us to see different wavelengths of light intensity. We are all familiar with color blindness. Color blindness is a deeply meaningful metaphor for how we ought to perceive all other people. In Christ, the color of a person's skin should make absolutely no difference in how they are perceived by us. That was MLK's dream, it is heaven's reality. In a world of judgment, prejudice, and racism, we ought to strive individually and as a culture to be colorblind in that way. However, once those evils are abated in our souls, we should refocus our eyes on the depth of color and beauty that all people have been given by their creator. The diversity of creation, and especially the diversity of all people is a testimony to God's majesty. Learning to include and celebrate all people from every tribe and tongue is basic preparation for eternity. John tells us in his vision of heaven that people of every tribe and tongue and nation were gathered around the throne and worshipping Christ. To be sure, that very idea pushes against the rampant racism, tribalism, and nationalism on earth today.

May this next year and this next decade give us better than 2020 spiritual vision as we seek earnestly to see through the eyes of Christ and to reach out to this world with healing hands.

Happy New Year My Dear Friends,

Pastor Craig



Greetings from Guatemala!



It has been three years since we moved to Guatemala, and we cannot believe how fast the time has gone by! There have been many changes that we have gone through - one of them being that last year Ben became the director of Bethel Ministries International and Emily took over communications for the ministry. We have been extra busy this last year (especially with a new baby)! In 2019, we were able to provide mobility in the form of a wheelchair to 1,300 people, build over 50 homes, and give food to more than 1,000 families. This is what we do with the short-term mission teams like the one from FPC that comes in June. This last year, BMI also had 190 students enrolled in our education sponsorship program and 18 graduated in November!

We just want to say a BIG thank you to everyone at FPC, because we would not be able to do what we do without the support of our friends and family in Christ.

Blessings,

Ben, Emily, and Lily Mooney



Those Who Serve

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ACTIVE ELECTED OFFICERS FOR SESSION & DEACONS

Elders

Class of 2019

Richard Brown
Kathleen Gunn
Joseph Reyes
Dick Vesperman

Deacons

Class of 2019

Barbara McClellan
Sally Phillips
Pat Rubalcava
Lorna Schmidt
Donovan Wallace

Elders

Class of 2020

Vacant
Candace Peterson
Bob Phillips
Martin Purdy

Deacons

Class of 2020

Bill Bishop
Alta Jordan
Russell Limprecht
Kathy Mendonca

Elders

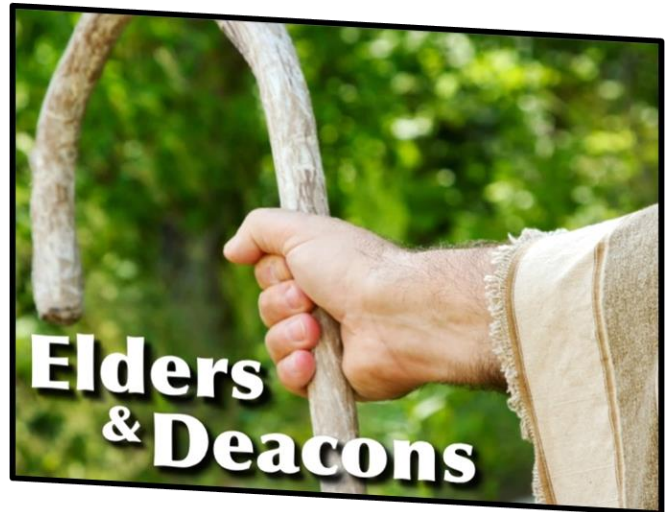
Class of 2021

Vacant
Daniel Gonzales
Priscilla Peters
Glee Williams

Deacons

Class of 2021

Susan England
Valerie Keesey
Lynn Posluch
Darlene Runsten
Cyndi Sims



JANUARY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Communion Team – January 5, 2020

Bill Bishop, Susie England
Kathleen Gunn; Priscilla Peters

Worship Assists

5th Kathleen Gunn @ 10:30 am
12th Robert England @ 9:00 am
Glenda Jameson @ 11:00 am
19th Candace Peterson
26th Bob Phillips @ 10:30 am

Greeters for 9:00 Worship

**[The 5th & 26th are combined services at 10:30 am]*

5 Single Service @ 10:30 am
12 Mark & Alison Aldax
19 Bob & Sally Phillips
26 Single Service @ 10:30 am

Greeters for 11:00 worship

5 Robby Avilla; Polet Yonan @ 10:30 am
12 Glenda Jameson, Kathleen Gunn
19 Bill Bishop & Jay Mirza
26 Dan & Barbara Hardesty @ 10:30 am

Birthdays

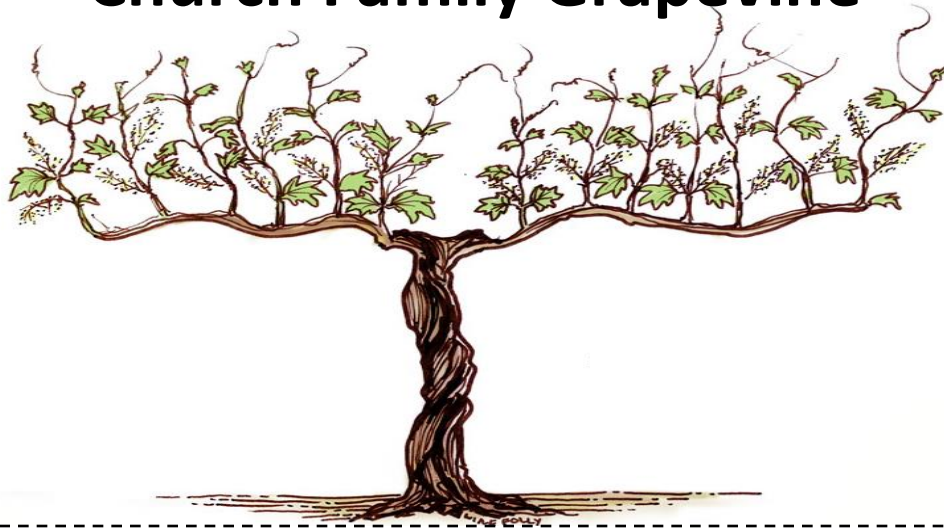
Jan 1 Betty Brugger
Jan 6 Bob Brunton
Jan 7 Heather Gordon
Jan 9 Umar Ghuman
Jan 11 Noelle Hazelton
Jan 18 Lorna Schmidt
Jan 21 Pat Wallace
Jan 24 Cyndi Sims
Jan 31 Martin Purdy

Anniversaries

Jan 16 John & Cyndi Sims

*This list is compiled by the information that you filled out.
If we have missed your birthday or anniversary,
please contact the office to let us know.*

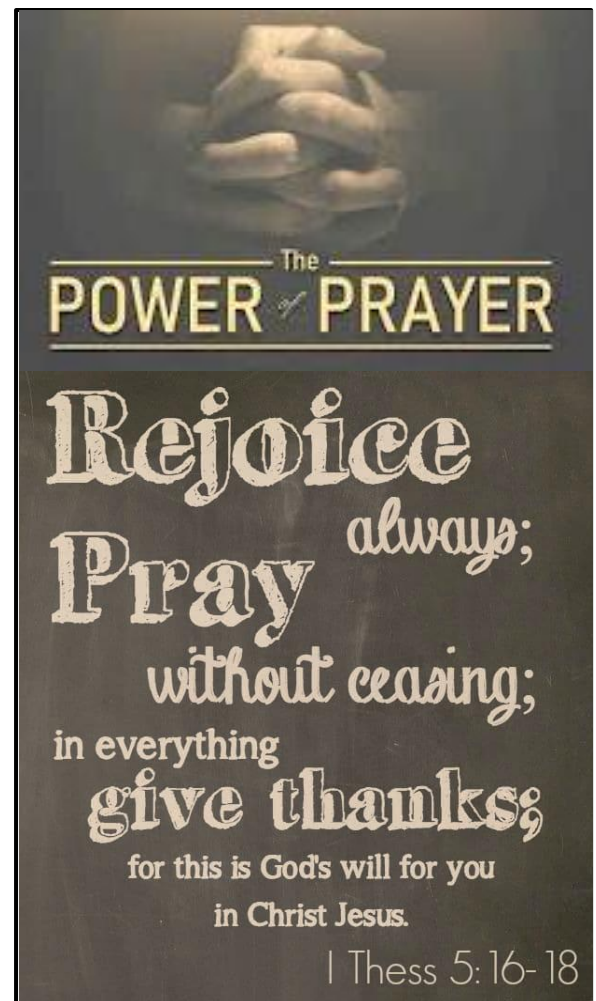
Church Family Grapevine



Ongoing Prayer Needs Key Code:

P-Personal, **F**-Family, **H**-Health, **S**-Surgery, **PG**-Pregnancy, **E**-Employment, **ST**-Safe Travel, **A**-Adoption, **SA**-Salvation, **M**-Military

Bishop, Bill (H) Brugger, Betty (H)
Bob and Marilyn Brunton (H)
Bryant, Davene (Joyce Wiegman's sister)
Castillo, Aislyn (P) Drescher, Helen (H)
Gerdes, Anne (H) Higdon, Niki (H) Hope, Jack
(Dick Vesperman's Nephew) (H)
Hoover, Deb (Mary Peterson's Niece) (H)
Kimmmler, Melanie (Pastor Craig's Niece) (H)
Lansing, Del (H) Lipe, Ron (H)
Old, Troy's Family (Sims' Neighbors) (P)
Purdy, Norman & Colleen (H)
Reeves, Jean (S,H) **Rubalcava, Pat (S,H)**
Runsten, Tricia (Darlene Runsten's Daughter)
(H) Sargis, Mabel (H) **Sondeno, Jacqueline**
(H) Joanne Wickwire (S,H)
Turlock Nursing & Rehabilitation Center:
Cleo Spencer



FPC Annual Mission Faire

The Mission Committee wishes to thank everyone who donated to this year's Mission Faire. The Mission Faire raised just over four thousand dollars for the following organizations: Heifer International, Short-Term Missions, Guatemala missionaries-Ben & Emily Mooney, Turlock Gospel Mission, FPC youth programs, Fair Trade coffee and chocolate in addition 16 children will have Christmas presents and blankets. The Mission Faire also supported Tiny Hands International to help stop child human trafficking and SERRV International to help financially support people around the world by purchasing their hand-crafted items. FPC is blessed by the generosity to help those less fortunate both near and far during this special time of year.



If you are interested in joining the **Guatemala Team June 15 – 22, 2020**, please come to the informational meeting and find out the specifics about what we do while there, accommodations, food, and costs.

Thursday, January 16, at 7:00 pm

in Voight Hall

Contact Marcy (craigmarcy@gmail.com)

for more information.



♪ ♪ **From the Music Room** ♪ ♪

*“There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under heaven.”*

Ecclesiastes 3:1

What a Wonderful, Busy, and Exciting season we have had in the Music Department! Our Choir's participation in the Gallo Center's "A Very Choral Christmas" once again was a lovely blessing, and we are still hearing from friends who enjoyed our part in it. And that shortly after a concert with several choirs presenting the music of Craig Courtney.

And then the Joyful music of Advent – with Bells and Choir and Brass, all in celebration of the birth of Jesus. And the exuberance of the children's voices as they sang "Joy to the world" during the first service filled our hearts with delight!

But the next season is quickly upon us! The choir is even now preparing for the Habitat for Humanity concert which will be on March 1, 2020. Plan now to attend this wonderful ecumenical concert, this year conducted by our friend, Anne Talcott.

And our Bell Choir is beginning a new season of music as they look for new ringers to join them. NO experience necessary – and we will train you! It's not difficult to ring a bell, and this is a group who enjoys having a good time while they learn. Rehearsals are at 7pm on Sunday evenings in room 4.

Sing to the lord with us! In EVERY season!

Rev. Wendy Warner

DEACON TEAM MINISTRY

December was a very busy month. In addition to our Deacon meeting, we hosted a memorial service reception for Anne Gerdes. We delivered poinsettias to some of our shut-ins in our congregation and tied four blanket to be given to kids in the group homes. We will have our next meeting on Monday, January 20th. This will be the last meeting for five of our Deacons as their 3-year term is up. A huge thank you to *Barbara McClellan, Sally Phillips, Lorna Schmidt, Donovan Wallace, and Pat Rubalcava*. We will find out at our Congregational meeting on Sunday, January 26th (following our single worship service) who our new Deacons will be. We look forward to meeting them. A huge thank you to those who give.

In His Name and Service,

Barbara McClellan/Darlene Runsten

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The last regular meeting of Session was on December 12, 2019.

Of interest:

- Session approved submitting a new grant request to the Presbytery of Stockton for \$75,000 to enable us to install ADA bathrooms in the sanctuary.
- Missions Faire brought in over \$4,000 to fund mission efforts locally and around the world.
- The Nominating Committee is hard at work securing elders and deacons for election at our congregational meeting on January 26 immediately following the single service at 10:30 am.

In service,

Pat Wallace, Clerk of Session

Name the New Presbytery Contest

WIN TWO NIGHTS STAY WITH A GUEST AT THE BEAUTIFUL ZEPHYR POINT

WE'RE BECOMING A NEW PRESBYTERY:

BY WHAT NAME SHALL WE BE CALLED?

The Synod of the Pacific has approved the formation of a new presbytery that combines Stockton Presbytery

(Note: FPC is part of the Stockton Presbytery)
and Sacramento Presbytery effective **June of 2020!**

WINNER WILL BE
ANNOUNCED AT THE
PRESBYTERY JOINT
MEETING ON THE 1ST
SUNDAY OF
FEBRUARY 2020!

HERE'S YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO **IMAGINE** BY WHAT NAME THIS
NEW BODY OF CHRIST SHALL BE CALLED!

Please think about participating in this opportunity to name our new Presbytery and submit your entries to Shelley at the Sacramento Presbytery office, smitchell@sacpresby.org or the Stated Clerk, statedclerk@presbyteryofstockton before January 1, 2020.



Student Ministry

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Our ministry meets as needed to plan and organize events for our children and youth. Please contact either, Candace Peterson, elder, Marcy Wright, as director or Lois Marsh, as Sunday School Supervisor, to join our ministry.



The Learning Zone wishes you and your family a Happy New Year!

Our program is running strong with over 40 tutors and students working together.

We are hopeful that in 2020 we will be blessed with more tutors to help accommodate the children currently on our waiting list.

If you would like to tutor in 2020 or know of someone that may be interested, please contact Meredith at 552-6840 or email thelearningzonefpc@gmail.com

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Introducing
Jesus

Join us Sundays during
worship hour and learn
about everything
grown up Jesus did!
find out!



WE ARE THE CHURCH!

Come on Wednesday Nights at
6:30 pm right after BIG
Wednesday Dinner to Find out
What it means to
BE the CHURCH!




Wednesday, January 8th at 10:00 a.m.: *Hymn Sing-Along Birthday Party* All are invited to join us in the dining room at MAIN WEST Nursing and Rehab Center, 812 W. Main St., Turlock. We will greet residents, sing hymns along with them, present a devotional, and give birthday presents to residents with January birthdates. Refreshments are provided to the residents by MAIN WEST. Last month 6 Presbyterian ladies led 24 residents in singing.

Contact person - Joann Wickwire

Wednesday, January 15th at 9:30 a.m. in Rm 7: 2018-2019 *PW Coffee & Bible Study* Lesson 4 of LOVE CARVED IN STONE A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments by Eugenia Anne Gamble is "Words of Love: Honor the Life Givers". In this lesson we explore the Fifth Word. We will consider life itself as God's fundamental gift, and think about how we are to honor those whom God uses to bring us to life. Primary scripture passages are: Exodus 20:12; and Luke 9:57-62.

Contact person - Vivien Huntley



Congregational
MEETING

January 26, 2020
12:00 PM

Our business will include the election of officers, evaluation and review of our finances and celebrating the achievements of all our ministries in 2019! We will also take a vote on the Terms of Pastoral call as well as look forward to the 2020 budget and electing a nominating committee for 2020.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2019

At the beginning of 2019 the Building and Grounds committee decided to make the last year of the decade all about lighting upgrades. Our facilities are over forty years old now. It was time to go into a brighter, more energy saving future. With that in mind we decided that new fixtures needed to veer away from florescent and incandescent lighting towards the new LED technology.

Much of this work was done by Dan Hardesty, Dave Posluch, Joey Reyes, Daniel Gonzales, Cindy Peterson and Dale Neely. Many of the fixtures were donated.



The first order of business was to replace the light fixtures on the exterior of our buildings. Over the years the old fixtures had developed cracked and yellowed lens covers, some had the covers completely missing. We replaced all of those with brand new LED fixtures that supply much more light on the exterior walkways and surrounding grounds.



Our newly refurbished breezeway roof received new light fixtures to make the breezeway brighter. As that was completed new fixtures were also placed over the office and choir room doors.

The lights in the office, hallway, kitchen and Voight Hall are being replaced with brand new ballasts and LED lights in an ongoing process. The light on the flagpole that had been out for some time was fixed and the lights on our entrance sign are currently being fixed as well.




Inside the sanctuary all of the chandeliers, the lights over the choir, the lights over the piano and the organ, and the lights in the narthex were given new brighter LED bulbs.

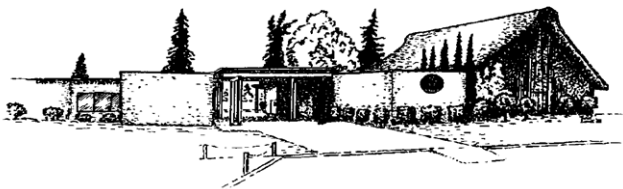
At the Building and Grounds December meeting we decided to make 2020 the year of addressing the dry rot problems on the exterior of our buildings. Here's to continuing on updating and improving our facilities in order to create a safe and inviting place for all of us to come and worship our Lord.

Calendar of FPC Events

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JANUARY 2020

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|--|---|---|--|---|
| 29 NO SUNDAY SCHOOL! 10:30 AM COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE 1:00 PM UAEC; Sanctuary Reserved | 30 | 31 OFFICE CLOSED! | 1  OFFICE CLOSED! | 2 6:30 PM Mindful Meditation | 3 | 4 |
| 5 10:30 AM SINGLE WORSHIP SERVICE 12:00 PM Degreening 12:30 PM Lunch for Volunteers 1:00 PM UAEC; Sanctuary Reserved 7:00 PM Bells Practice | 6 | 7 10:00 AM Administration Meeting 3:30 PM FPC Learning Zone Ministry | 8 9:00 AM Men's Coffee 10:00 AM P.W. Birthday @ Main West 3:30 PM FPC Learning Zone Ministry 4:45 PM Zoe Zone Ministry 5:30 PM BIG Wed. Dinner 6:30 PM Children's Program 6:30 PM Youth Ministry 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal | 9 10:30 AM Craig's Bible Study @ Covenant Village 3:00 PM ADULT BIBLE STUDY ON MINOR PROPHETS 3:30 PM FPC Learning Zone Ministry 6:30 PM Mindful Meditation | 10 NO 2nd Friday Fellowship | 11 |
| 12 8:00 AM Praise Team Rehearsal 9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service 10:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Sunday School for Children 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service 1:00 PM UAEC; Sanctuary Reserved 5:30 PM "THEM" Book Study 7:00 PM Bells Practice | 13 9:30 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry | 14 10:00 AM Administration Meeting 3:30 PM FPC Learning Zone Ministry | 15 9:00 AM Men's Coffee 9:30 AM P.W. Bible Study in Rm #7 3:30 PM FPC Learning Zone Ministry 4:45 PM Zoe Zone Ministry 5:30 PM BIG Wed. Dinner 6:30 PM Children's Program 6:30 PM Youth Ministry 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal | 16 10:30 AM Craig's Bible Study @ Covenant Village 3:00 PM ADULT BIBLE STUDY ON MINOR PROPHETS 3:30 PM FPC Learning Zone Ministry 6:30 PM Mindful Meditation | 17 9:00 AM UAEC; Voight Hall Reserved | 18 10:00 AM UAEC; Sanctuary & Voight Hall Reserved |
| 19 2 CENTS A MEAL OFFERING 8:00 AM Praise Team Rehearsal 9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service 10:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Sunday School for Children 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service 1:00 PM UAEC; Sanctuary Reserved 7:00 PM Bells Practice | 20 6:30 PM Board of Deacons 7:00 PM Session Meeting | 21 10:00 AM Administration Meeting 3:30 PM FPC Learning Zone Ministry | 22 9:00 AM Men's Coffee 3:30 PM FPC Learning Zone Ministry 4:45 PM Zoe Zone Ministry 5:30 PM BIG Wed. Dinner 6:30 PM Children's Program 6:30 PM Youth Ministry 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal | 23 10:30 AM Craig's Bible Study @ Covenant Village 3:00 PM ADULT BIBLE STUDY ON MINOR PROPHETS 3:30 PM FPC Learning Zone Ministry 6:30 PM Mindful Meditation | 24 | 25 |
| 26 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM Sunday School for Children 10:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 12:00 PM Annual Congregational Meeting 1:00 PM UAEC; Sanctuary Reserved 7:00 PM Bells Practice | 27 9:30 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00 PM Buildings & Grounds Committee | 28 10:00 AM Administration Meeting 3:30 PM FPC Learning Zone Ministry | 29 9:00 AM Men's Coffee 3:30 PM FPC Learning Zone Ministry 4:45 PM Zoe Zone Ministry 5:30 PM BIG Wed. Dinner 6:30 PM Children's Program 6:30 PM Youth Ministry 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal | 30 10:30 AM Craig's Bible Study @ Covenant Village 3:00 PM ADULT BIBLE STUDY ON MINOR PROPHETS 3:30 PM FPC Learning Zone Ministry 6:30 PM Mindful Meditation | 31 | 1 |



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www.facebook.com/firstpresbyterianchurch



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Permit #187



Big enough to meet your needs...Small enough to know your name.

Church Staff...

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Craig Wright

Parish Associate: Rev. Wendy Warner

Children Ministry Director: Marcy Wright

Youth Ministry Director: Stephanie Anderson

Tutoring Ministry Director: Meredith Lawrence

Director of Music: Rev. Wendy Warner

Administrative Assistant: Polet Yonan

Bookkeeper: Russell Limprecht

Accompanist: Dr. Wayne Kidwell

Organist: Barbara Bort

Child Care: Ester Salgado



*"We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you
also may have fellowship with us.
And our fellowship is with the Father
and with his Son, Jesus Christ."*

1 John 1:3