

# ***First Presbyterian Church Messenger - November***

## **FROM THE PASTOR**

This year, as every year, we need the good reminder in James 1:17 that “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.” November always seems to bring change quickly. Daylight appears to grow exponentially shorter, and the shadows of night longer. Full trees turn brilliant colors, then bare branches. And tomorrow, well, who knows what tomorrow will bring. What we do know is that God remains constant, ruling our lives with his gracious, fatherly hand.

If nothing else, this is cause for gratitude. The truth of God’s faithfulness and steadfast love provide the foundation for our thanksgiving. To meditate upon God’s hand in our lives, especially the gift of the Son for our salvation, is to come face to face with true goodness. In this way, gratitude may be the best measure of our spirituality (Crag Barnes in *Body and Soul*, p. 111). *Gratitude shows that we have paid attention to good gifts -- especially Jesus Christ and the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit-- that God has given to us. And gratitude will always result in generosity.*

When we give to the church-- whether time, financial resources, or other resources -- we become part of something much larger than ourselves. We participate in God’s mission in the world -- a mission that remains constant in spite of all the changes around us. To give with gratitude is to discover the joy of giving and the joy of being part of God’s work in the world. If you already give to First Presbyterian Church, thank you! Some of you may find yourself pondering whether you should give for the first time, increase your giving, or even whether to include FPC in your will. Wherever you find yourself, begin with gratitude. Reflect on God’s faithfulness to you amid all the trials and tribulations you have experienced, and give out of your gratitude and out of your joy. There is no better way to give.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Dave

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### **Preaching Notes**

James, the brother of Jesus, wrote this short letter to encourage churches under pressure between 40-50 AD (not long after Jesus' death and resurrection). As the early believing community faced these trials, they began to break apart into bickering factions. They experienced envy towards the better off, discontentment in their circumstances, and impatience towards God and one another. James, as one of the lead pastors in the Christian community, wrote to urge them towards a faithful way of life amid their trials. As James brings the letter to conclusion, he urges Christians towards patience, prayer, and truth-speaking in order to maintain faithfulness. All this can be done, James believers, because we rely on the "Father of Lights from whom comes every good and perfect gift;" and while our circumstances change, God never changes.

Nov. 7 James 5:7-12 Patience

Nov. 14 James 5:13-20 Prayer

Nov. 21 Matthew 5:3-10 Thanksgiving

Nov. 28 Luke 21:25-36 1st Sunday of Advent





## **Summary of Session Meeting of October 18, 2021**



For its time of prayer and study, Session reviewed James 3: 13 –18. We should behave in humility (meekness) without envy or selfish ambition. Verse 18 says, “peacemakers...raise a harvest of righteousness.” Verse 17 lists traits that give us wisdom from God, “purity, peace loving, considerate, submissive, merciful impartial and sincere.”



Session voted to call a meeting of the congregation for December 5 after worship. This meeting is called for the purposes of approving Terms of Call for Pastor David for 2022 and electing the nominating committee for 2021-22.


Session accepting with regret the resignation of youth leaders Megan and Noah McKay. Session expressed great appreciation for the dedicated work of these two for the past 4 years. They will be missed.

Session also accepted the resignation of church treasurer, Michelle Courtney that will be effective as of December 31st. Office manager Ginny Roetcisoender will assume the treasurer duties in addition to her current position on December 1st.

The church is preparing for a new flooring project to include most of the main floor of the church building: offices; sanctuary and related areas.



	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income	205806.77	288,656.56
Expense	288,121.26	288,656.62
Inc./Exp.	(82,314.49)	(0.06)
Betty Miller Adjustment	of 71380.46 (10,934.03)	



# Thankful

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>November</b> 	1	2 PEO	3	4	5 7a.m.-GOM 7p.m.-Al Anon	6
7 10 a.m. SW & SS Communion	8	9	10	11	12 7a.m.-GOM 7p.m.-Al Anon	13 7a.m.- Second Sat.
14 10 a.m. SW & SS Communion	15 2:30pm-CASA 6:30p.m.-Session	16 PEO	17	18	19 7a.m.-GOM 7p.m.-Al Anon	20
21 10 a.m. SW & SS Communion	22 6p.m.-Deacons	23	24	25 THANKSGIVING DAY  We're Closed	26 7: p.m. Al Anon	27
28 10 a.m. SW & SS Communion	29	30				







# CHRISTMAS PAJAMA DRIVE

Homes of Hope is having an Open House  
Christmas for our foster families to shop for  
winter clothing, boots, coats, etc., for their kiddos  
**DECEMBER 11th.**

Along with it, we are giving every child in the  
family *(foster, adopted, biological)*  
**NEW JAMMIES.**

**We need your help to pull this off...**

Will you purchase one or two pairs of kid's PJs?  
You can start now.

*We need all sizes for boys & girls*

Order online & ship or drop off: 818 17th Ave. Lewiston, ID 83501

***Knowing you put a smile on a little child's  
face, will put a smile on your face, too!***



Email: [Director@homesofhopeproject.org](mailto:Director@homesofhopeproject.org)

Call: 208-413-6770

Contact via Facebook: [www.facebook.com/homesofhope](http://www.facebook.com/homesofhope)