

The Chimes

of First Presbyterian Church

January 2016

A monthly newsletter for friends and members of our church...



Greeting from Jay Kim

God Becomes a Personal God...

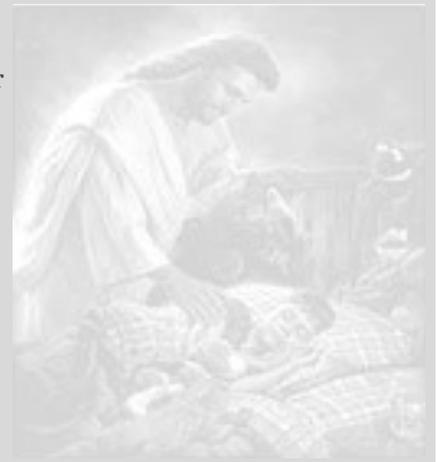
Luke 2:10-12

"But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger. "

One late night, when my son Jayden was 8 months old, I peeked through the door to his room to see if he was asleep. I noticed that he was awake and whimpering. To discipline his sleep, I would not enter the room to comfort him, but my heart broke leaving my crying son alone. On a different night, I peeked through the door and checked to see how my son was doing. To my surprise, he was awake, but this time, he wasn't crying. In the darkness, he was sitting down and playing in the crib alone. It caused tears of joy in my eyes that he was not crying hysterically. But then I thought, "Isn't he scared all by himself in the darkness?" I kept watching him play for a while and left him alone. He eventually went back to sleep.

Through the birth of Christ, God became our personal God. He has been there for us all the time, peeking through that door, and watching us through the nights when we were all alone by ourselves. God is our father who saw us standing alone in a place of darkness, humiliation, and uncertainty. All of these experiences were necessary for us to have if we were to be the humble servant we needed to be, wanted to be, and prayed to be. He could have been born in a castle or palace but to signify that He was human (and one of us) He lowered himself to the humblest and most humiliated place, a manger. God wanted to indicate His connection with us through Jesus and feel our experiences as well as our journey. We should always know that He is there watching over our struggles and peeking through that door even though He doesn't walk through to make Himself known. Is God your personal God, do you know that He is there for you?

Jay



Cookie Corner...

Have you signed up to make and serve cookies after church on Sunday?



Here we are—headed into a new year of meeting together as God's people and spending time in fellowship together.

Please sign up on the sheet provided in the Parlor kitchen to bring cookies in the coming months.

Thank you for participating and making our after worship time a delicious time together!

Flower Ministry

Our new flower calendar can be found on the bulletin board in the church narthex. Please sign-up to provide flowers for our Sunday services. Please don't forget that here are also seasonal bouquets now that have been provided by the Presbyterian Women for you to use when sponsoring a Sunday for flowers.

Thank you for participating in this ministry and making our church beautiful and appealing!



Circle Meetings

Good Morning Circle will be meeting on January 6th at 9:00 a.m. at Norma Green's home with Norma as Hostess. Carpool at church at 8:30 a.m.

Serendipity Circle will be meeting on January 6th at 1:30 p.m. with Pat Dobry as Hostess

C.T. Will meet on January 20th with coffee at 9:00 a.m. followed by the meeting at 9:30 a.m. Hostesses are still to be determined.

January Birthdays

- 1 Duane Bantam
- 2 Mavis McLean
Shari Nason
- 4 Dale Lawrence
- 7 Roberta Banjoff
Laurie Boots
- 9 Cody Green
- 12 Belva Krejci
- 13 June Tolstedt
- 14 Jane Krause
Jessica (Mills) Cooksley
Jay Herian
- 15 William Nollette
- 16 Sherri Fry
Carmen Minnick
- 18 Diane Prella
- 20 Jayne Reeh
- 21 Kyle Debus
Paul Maxwell
- 24 Peggy Sampson
- 28 Richard A. Spencer
Shirley Watson



January Anniversaries

- 5 LeRoy and Sherri Fry
- 18 Mike and Kay Wallace





Children and Youth News — January 2016

It's the first month of 2016 already. Let's welcome the New Year and look forward to all the blessings the Lord has in store.

First, we are thankful for the blessings at the end of 2015. **Blessing number one** is a donation from an anonymous donor that allowed the children to select a gift from Heifer International. The children decided on an irrigation pump that would benefit the whole community.

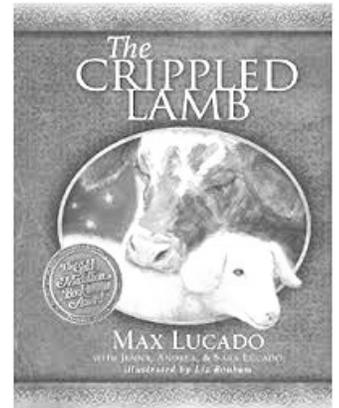
Blessing number two was the Christmas Program by the children on December 20, during the morning worship. The short program was adapted from Max Lucado's book, The Crippled Lamb. Besides Gayle Redecker, who taught the elementary classroom in December and helped put the program together, we had help from several members of the congregation in gathering or making supplies for the staging of the program. Much warranted thanks goes to Marty Jones, Kent and Jill Green, Janet and Ron Schlattmann, Jerry Johannes and Pat Dobry. Also, a big thanks goes to Helen McConnell for being the story teller in the program.

January will see Colleen Hood teaching in the Elementary Classroom.

As always, please keep the Sunday School teachers and children of our congregation in prayer.

The CYM Team will meet next, as part of the Spiritual Formation and Outreach Team, on Sunday, January 3rd, after worship and fellowship. The meeting will be held in the Conference Room. There is always room for more at the table. You are invited to join us.

Barb Kendle
CYM Moderator



Food Baskets

Thank you to all the members of our church family who donated food, money and their time to prepare the Christmas Food Baskets. We assembled 20 baskets on Saturday, December 19th. Thanks to all!

Pat Howell



Christmas Coffee



We are truly blessed. Thank you to everyone who donated desserts and their time to make the Christmas Coffee a success.

There were about 80 women there and Maureen Roller's program was enjoyed by everyone. What a great beginning to our Advent Season here at the church.

Poinsettia Tree

Thanks to everyone who purchased poinsettias for our "poinsettia tree" this year. They add so much to the decorations and their color is beautiful. Special thanks to Joyce Butzine for seeing that the poinsettias were purchased, brought to the church and diligently watered so they

would remain an attractive part of the scene! Please make sure to take yours home with you!



Phyllis Knoficek would like to extend a big "thank you" to her church family for your outpouring of sympathy at the time of her brother, George E. Rothwell's passing. She would also like everyone to know how grateful she is for all of the birthday cards that she received from all of you. Phyllis says, "It is so nice to be remembered. Blessings to all who made everything so special for Phyllis!"

Jesus as a Boy

Read about Jesus as a boy in Luke 2:40-52.
Then find the words below hidden in the puzzle.
Words can be forwards, backwards, up, down and diagonal.

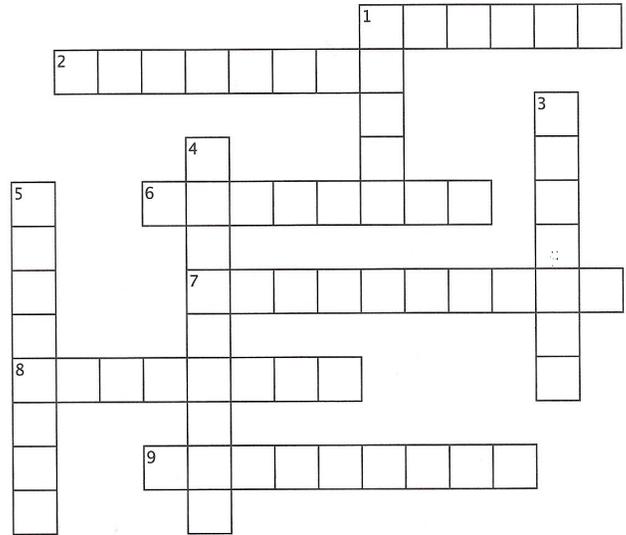
T S A E F R E V O S S A P A H
N U O V C W B U R G A G K T V
A Y D L Q Z V I E N D R H G T
Z K O E O W D G A I A I I I E
A J G W Q C O N D D M S H C A
R F P T S O I I A N A C B H C
E Q I S T R O N G A Z H M K H
T U H S Q T B E I T E O O X E
H E S W E N M T W S D O D H R
G S R J L E V S T R R L S P S
N T O E P I T I V E I P I E A
I I W S M D G L N D C T W S F
K O L U E E F Q M N G R E O C
S N I S T B A U K U H Z N J O
A S I P W O R K B E N C H I C

JESUS
JOSEPH
WORKBENCH
WORSHIP GOD
NAZARETH
SCHOOL
READ

WRITE
STRONG
WISDOM
PASSOVER FEAST
TWELVE
TEMPLE
TEACHERS

LISTENING
ASKING
AMAZED
UNDERSTANDING
QUESTIONS
OBEDIENT

Jesus at Twelve



Across

- Jesus' parents found him in the _____. (Luke 2:46)
- Where did Jesus live when he was twelve-years old? (Luke 2:39)
- Who was Jesus talking to when His parents found Him? (Luke 2:46)
- When His parents found Jesus, they were _____. (Luke 2:48)
- When Jesus and His parents went back to His hometown, Jesus was _____ to them. (Luke 2:51)

- In what city did his parents find Jesus? (Luke 2:45)

Down

- Number of days Jesus' parents looked for him. (Luke 2:46)
- Jesus said, "I had to be in my _____ house." (Luke 2:49)
- Jesus parents began looking for Him among _____ and friends. (Luke 2:44)
- Every year, Jesus' family went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the _____. (Luke 2:41)



Syllable Box	
A	NA
AN	NAZ
AN	ON
E	PI
GEL	RETH
GEONS	RU
JE	SA
JE	SIM
LEM	SUS



- Who told Mary and Joseph what to name their baby? (2) _____
- What did they name their baby? (2) _____
- Mary and Joseph traveled to what city? (4) _____
- What offering did they bring to the temple? (2) _____
- Who was the faithful man at the temple? (3) _____
- Who was the prophetess at the temple? (2) _____
- When Mary and Joseph went home, where did they go? (3) _____

Here are some questions about Luke 2:21-40. You can build your answers with letters from the Syllable Box. The number of syllables needed is in parenthesis. The number of letters is shown by blank lines. (Hint: each syllable is used once, so cross out each one as you use it.)

Syllable Stumpers

Worship and the Sacraments

Sunday: *Lord's Day Worship* 10:30 A.M.

(September— May), 9:30 A.M. (June—August)

Communion is served on the first Sunday of the month and by appointment where needed.

Baptism is offered by advanced arrangement with the Pastor and Session.

Christian weddings are conducted by the Pastor. Premarital Counseling is required.

Funerals are an important part of the church's ministry and are offered to members and friends of the church when needed. Please contact the church. We normally work with Bates-Gould Funeral Home. On occasion an out-of-town funeral home can be used.

Church Membership

We encourage you to become a Member of the Congregation as an expression of personal faith in Jesus Christ. The Pastor offers an Inquirer's Class once a quarter. Following the class, those desiring membership will meet with the Session for reception. Please call the office or contact Pastor Jay Kim for information.

Our Vision Statement

We aspire to be a church...

...where the risen Christ is exalted and the Holy Spirit dwells with power.

...where the Holy Spirit's power calls forth a yearning for prayer and hunger for the Scriptures.

...where prayer and the Word kindle a concern for others, awaken a willingness to sacrifice, and energize the exercise of spiritual gifts.

...there is power to change lives.

Your Session

Barb Kendle	Children and Youth Ministry Team
Carolyn Jones	Clerk of Session
Joyce Butzine	Prayer and Worship Team
Sherri Fry	Memorial Committee
Larry Curtiss	Stewardship
Frank Tolstedt	Personnel Committee
Kathie Toedtli	Missions Team
Betty Blakey	Presbyterian Women Representative
Gene Gatti	Outreach
Jill Green	Outreach

Your Deacons

Carolyn Krause, Gayle Redecker, Diane Prella, George and Belva Krejci, Marvin Toedtli, Norma Green (Moderator) Polly Potmesil, Phyllis Knoflicek, Sue Kammerer, Steve Nelson, Karel Essex, Cliff Furrow

Contact Us

Office Hours

Church Office: Monday - Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (Office is closed on Fridays)

Pastor's Office Hours: Monday to Thursday, 8:30^{am} to 12:00 noon; Appointments at other times may be made by contacting the office.

Staff contact information

Church Email	fpca@bbc.net
Church Phone	308-762-1775
Pastor Email	jaykim@bluedeepwater.org
Pastor Cell Phone	424-331-9050
Mailing Address	P.O. Box 396, Alliance, NE 69301
Facebook	

Your Church Staff

Pastor	Jay Kim
Secretary/Financial Secretary	Pat Dobry
Choir Director	Kim Hielscher
Custodian	Nancy Brunner
Librarian	Helen McConnell
Nursery Attendant	Macala Hood
Treasurer	Mike Sautter

First Presbyterian Church

515 Emerson Avenue

P.O. Box 396

Alliance, NE 69301

Return Service Requested



January 2016

Thoughts for the Journey...

Got a second? Sure. We've got lots of them—60 per minute, 3,600 per hour, and 86,400 per day. Everyone has the same number, but not everybody uses them wisely. How do you use yours?

The American Bureau of Labor Statistics published an extensive study on how adults use their time, out of which came a graphic showcasing a typical day in the life of an employed person, between 25 and 54 years of age, with children. In an average day we spend:

- 76 hours sleeping
- 8.6 hours working
- 2.6 hours in leisure
- 1.1 hours doing household chores and activities
- 1.2 hours caring for children and family members
- And 1.8 hours in "miscellaneous"

Put this in lifelong terms. Based on an average lifespan of 78 years, most of us spend:

- 26 years sleeping
- 10.3 years working at our jobs
- 9 years watching television
- 3.6 years eating and drinking
- 4.3 years driving

- 3 years surfing the Internet
- 1.1 years cleaning.

Another group of researchers compared current time usage with that of earlier generations. The website *Business Insider* found that people use their waking hours far differently now than 150 years ago. Both then and now, of course, everyone had 168 hours per week, and most people slept about 56 hours a week. But what of the remaining 112 hours?

"The average workweek in most countries has dropped to 30 hours," said the article. "This remarkable drop in working hours has freed up a lot of extra time. So what do we humans do with all the extra hours our miraculous progress and productivity enhancements have allowed us to create for ourselves? We spend them watching television. According to recent figures, the average human spends about four hours a day, or 28 hours a week, watching television."

Another website, TED.com reported that the average young person plays 10,000 hours of video games by age 21—about the same amount of time spend in a classroom for all of middle school and high school.

How will you spend your time in 2016? Will you **Pray? Win Souls? Invest in the Next Generation? Use Your Spiritual Gifts? Read and Study God's Word?** Let's be wise about how we use the time God has given us.

Dr. David Jeremiah