

The Chimes

of First Presbyterian Church

November 2016

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



A New Start...

Genesis 12:1-2 *"The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing."*

We are at the end of Fall. I guess we are at the corner of winter. Facing the new season of our lives, I want us to get a fresh new start and push it forward to the end of this year. A story of Abram gives us good insight for this.

God asked Abram to leave his place, his friends and his family. Reading this passage, a few things came into my mind. Abram was seventy-five at the time of the calling, and comfortably lived his life in his father's homeland. I was wondering, why did God ask him to leave everything behind? Why didn't God bless Abram in his hometown where he had already settled his life?

Abram lived in a city named Ur, which was in the country of Chaldea, known today as Iraq. This city was not far from where Nimrod tried to build the city of Babel with its tall tower. The people of the land worshiped idols. Like all of Adam's offspring, Abraham was born in the darkness of sin. Abram's father, Terah did not know the true God and neither did Abram. In order to make him a great blessing to all nations, God had to relocate him in a new place. It was necessary for Abram to refresh his life, and see God and His plan from the new start.

I'm not saying that we must move geographically into a new place; but, emotional newness is needed for a new beginning. It is making yourself ready for the next project.

Following God requires us to discern His spiritual guidance. And the discernment entails our effort of renewing our mindset and our new attitude toward the Lord and ourselves. What we accomplished in the past is not as important as what we do today and will do tomorrow. God gives us a new project every day from a small thing to a bigger one. Every day is a new day, because God wants to lead us to a new level of life.

Thus, the Lord might ask you to take your mind off of what you're holding, and take a step toward a challenge. It could be risky to leave something behind that you already settled. But, you will be amazed by God's blessing followed by your obedience to His callings.

Jay Kim



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- Website: www.alliancefpc.com - Reverend Jay Kim, Pastor -

It Takes a Lot of People

| Wk | Flowers For Month | Elders Communion | Deacons | Ushers For Month | Greeters | Liturgist | Prayer Team | Children's Message |
|-------|-------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| 12/4 | Phyllis Simpson | 1) S. Fry 2) P. Dobry J. Kim | K. Essex L. Dalbey D. Prella | J. Hansen C. Hansen M. Goodell C. Clarke | Karla Kutschke | | Available Prayer Team Members | Hannah Weisgerber |
| 12/5 | | Communion Crossroads & Highland | | | | | | |
| 12/11 | Phyllis Simpson | | | Same | Kent and Jill Green | | Available Prayer Team Members | Amanda Mittan |
| 12/18 | Phyllis Simpson | | | Same | Amy Boots | | Available Prayer Team Members | Manda Clarke |
| 12/25 | Phyllis Simpson | | | Same | Jess and Manda Clarke and Family | | Available Prayer Team Members | Kim Hielscher |



The Prayer and Worship Team would like to thank the Memorial Team for providing the funds for the new garland in the Sanctuary. They would also like to thank everyone who responded to the purchase of the new poinsettias for the poinsettia tree. We have three arrangements left for sponsorships at \$10 each. Please let Joyce or Pat know if you would like to help out with the remainder of the project.

Statement of Receipts - Fin'l Secretary - November 2016

| Offerings | 11/6 | 11/13 | 11/20 | 11/27 | | | | Monthly Total | Bal. Fwd | YTD - 2016 |
|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|--|--|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Pledged Offerings | 5,147.50 | 1,743.50 | 737.50 | | | | | 7,628.50 | 89,154.37 | 96,782.87 |
| Un-pledged Offerings | 815.00 | 169.00 | 195.00 | | | | | 1,179.00 | 20,434.00 | 21,613.00 |
| Loose Offerings | 43.00 | 40.00 | 21.00 | | | | | 104.00 | 1,328.42 | 1,432.42 |
| Total Offerings | \$6,005.50 | \$1,952.50 | \$953.50 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | | | \$8,911.50 | \$110,916.79 | \$119,828.29 |

*Please join us on
December 1st at
Crossroads Assisted Living
At 2:00 P.M.*

For cake and to give

Phyllis Knoflicek

a hug and wish her

A happy 99th Birthday



Circle Meetings

The Good Morning and Serendipity Circles will not be meeting in December because of the Annual Christmas Tea that will be on Saturday, December 3rd.

Decorating for the Tea will be taking place at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, December 2nd. If any of the Circle members can help with this it would be appreciated. Also, food for the Tea can be brought at that time, or early on Saturday the 3rd. C.T. will not be meeting in December.

December Birthdays

- 1 Phyllis Knoflicek
- 2 Mildred Colwell
- 2 Wally Seiler
- 3 Pat Nelson
- 5 Phoebe Boots
- 5 Don Freiburger
- 8 Pete Kendle
- 9 Baily Hood
- 9 Linda Johannes
- 10 Geoffrey Evert
- 10 Nancy (Shaw) Gatti
- 15 Lyllus Dalbey
- 16 Floyd Colwell
- 20 Jim Irwin
- 22 Cassandra Foster
- 24 Vick Krause
- 24 Marvin Toedtli
- 26 Carolyn Jones
- 27 Brandon Foster
- 29 LeRoy Fry



December Anniversaries

- 31 Richard and Eileen Spencer



****Men's Breakfast****

Our Men's Life Group will have their next breakfast on Saturday, December 10th in the Fellowship Hall. Make sure to bring a friend to breakfast.





Children and Youth News — December 2016

It's the last month of 2016, and time to celebrate the precious gift of the birth of Jesus, our Savior.

Thanks to Helen McConnell for teaching in the Elementary Classroom in November. Misty Nollette will be leading the Elementary Classroom in December. Please note that there WILL NOT be Sunday School on Christmas morning, Sunday, December 25th.

Sunday, November 6th, five of the children and youth of the church participated in the shopping trip for the Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes, along with teachers, Helen McConnell and Barbara Kendle. We shopped first. Returning to the church, we enjoyed a meal together before packing the shoe boxes.

The children filled and labeled twenty-one boxes—five more than last year! We are thankful to our congregation for their support of our bake sale which provided the funds to not only buy the items for the shoe boxes, but also provided enough to cover the donation for the shipping and handling of all twenty-one boxes.

At this blessed time of year, please keep the Sunday School Teachers and children of our congregation in your prayers.

The CYM Team will meet next, as part of the Spiritual Formation and Outreach Teams, in the Conference Room on Sunday, December 4th, after worship and fellowship.

Barb Kendle
CYM Director

NOTE: There will be no Sunday School on December 25th.



Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Update.



Fifty-Four is the number of Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes that were delivered from First Presbyterian Church to the Alliance Relay Center at Evangelical Free Church on Wednesday, November 16th.

Of that number, twenty-one were packed by the children and youth of our church.

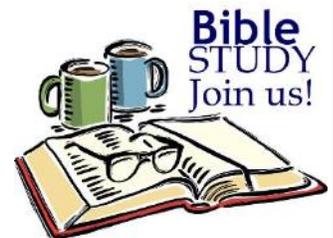
Thank you to everyone in the congregation who chose to pack a box or more, or donated monetarily to this international mission activity offered through Samaritan's Purse. Also, thanks to all of those who contributed shoe boxes for this activity.

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Barb Kendle, Operation Christmas Child Coordinator

Bible Studies and Times:

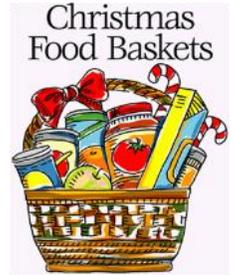
- Sunday—Morning Star—8:00 a.m. (Agents of Babylon)
- Sunday—Adult Sunday School —9:00 a.m. (Living With Confidence in a Chaotic World)
- Tuesday—Early Morning Bible Study—6:30 a.m. (Escape the Coming Night)
- Tuesday—EWG Bible Study—9:00 a.m. (Encounter With God)
- Wednesday—Young Family Bible Study—6:30 p.m. (Fight Back With Joy)
- Thursday—Women of Faith—9:00 a.m. (Armor of God)
- Thursday—Living Stones—2:00 p.m. (Ten Questions Christians are Asking) **Note: New Meeting Time**



This and That . . .

Christmas Food Baskets . . .

We will be assembling the Christmas Food Baskets in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, December 20th at 12:30 pm. Anyone who would like to help will be welcome. We will start at 12:30, and have the baskets ready for people to pick up between 2:00 and 5:00 on that day. Thank you for the nonperishable items that have already been brought and the monetary donations. There are containers at each door for your monetary donations which help purchase the perishable groceries we put in the baskets. If there are any questions call Janet at 762-8647.



SEE YOU THERE!

* A new flower chart will be placed on the Narthex bulletin board soon. We need volunteers to be in charge of making sure there are Sanctuary flowers each week. The Presbyterian Women's Group has purchased a number of seasonal silk arrangements to facilitate this pleasurable part of our worship scene.

* The person in charge of flowers for a given week will :

- * 1) choose a dedication for the flowers
- * 2) Decide to provide personal garden (or roadside) flowers, purchase fresh flowers from one of our local floral shops or choose from the silk arrangements in the Banner Room in the basement,
- * 3) Make sure that the flowers are in place before worship and
- * 4) Remove them following Worship—silk arrangements returned to the Banner Room and personal or fresh flowers taken home or shared.

* If getting flowers from or returned to the Banner Room is difficult for you because of the stairs, please let the office know and someone will be available to assist you.

Sanctuary Flowers



A note to the **Moderators** of all ministry teams of the church. Please remember that you will need to submit your Annual Reports to Pat in the office before the end of December, in preparation for the Annual Meeting Booklets. If you are missing any copies of your minutes, they should be on file in the Church Office.



thank you!

Georgia Heckman would like to extend her thanks to all of the nurses and emergency personnel who helped her when she had her medical situation at the church; and, also thanks to Pastor Jay and for everyone else who prayed for her. All is well!



Come start your Christmas Season with us.

Presbyterian Women Annual Tea

December 3, 2016

10:00 A.M.

5th and Emerson

Alliance, Nebraska

Please RSVP to one of the following

Church office 762-1775

Pat Howell 762-1998

*****If you would be willing to bring cookies, bars, or breads to serve at the Tea, please bring them on Friday, December 2nd at 10:00 a.m., (we will be decorating at that time), or by 9:00 a.m. on December 3rd, the morning of the Tea. Any and all donations will be appreciated. We usually have at least 80 ladies attending, and at times have had up to 100! Thank you!*****



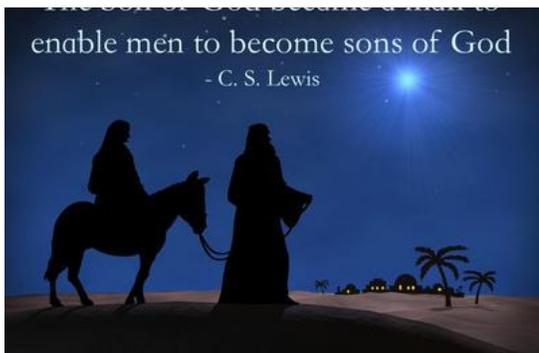
December 2016



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| 4 -8:00 Morning Star Bible Study -9:00 Adult Bible Study -9:50 Choir Practice -10:30 Worship, Communion -11:45 CYM, SPF, Outreach Mtg -11:45 Baptism Class | 5 12:45p Communion at Crossroads | 6 -6:30 Early Morning Study Group -9:00 EWG at Crossroads -9:00 Missions Meeting | 7 -6:30p Family Bible Study | 8 -9:00 Women of Faith -2:00p Living Stones | 9 -12:00 Noon Hilltoppers | 10 -8:00 Men's Life Breakfast 10:00 Annual P.W. Christmas Tea  |
| 11 DOVES Sunday -8:00 Morning Star Bible Study -9:00 Adult Bible Study -9:50 Choir Practice -10:30 Worship | 12 -7:00p Session Meeting | 13 -6:30 Early Morning Study Group -9:00 EWG at Crossroads -6:30p Trustees Meeting | 14 -6:30p Family Bible Study | 15 -9:00 Women of Faith -2:00p Living Stones | 16 Young Family Retreat | 17 Young Family Retreat |
| 18 -8:00 Morning Star Bible Study -9:00 Adult Bible Study -9:50 Choir Practice -10:30 Worship -11:45 Deacons Meeting Young Family Retreat | 19 -7:30p Prayer and Worship Mtg. | 20 -6:30 Early Morning Study Group -9:00 EWG at Crossroads -12:30p ASSEMBLING CHRISTMAS BASKETS Chimes Deadline | 21 -6:30p Family Bible Study | 22 -9:00 Women of Faith NO Living Stones Pat will be out of the office on this day. | 23 Christmas Eve Service 5:00 P.M. | 24 Christmas Eve Service 5:00 P.M. |
| 25 -8:00-8:30 Worship (This is only tentative at this point. Watch your bulletins and listen for announcements or call the office for definite time.) Happy Birthday Jesus! | 26 -11:30 Ladies Lunch at Arbys?? | 27 No Early Morning Study Group -9:00 EWG at Crossroads Pat will be out of the office on this day. | 28 -6:30p Family Bible Study NO Choir Practice | 29 Pat will be out of the office on this day. | 30 Pat will be out of the office on this day. | 31 New Year's Eve |

First Presbyterian Church
515 Emerson Avenue
P.O. Box 396
Alliance, NE 69301

Return Service Requested



December 2016

Thoughts for the Journey—How We Worship...

THE WORSHIP OF GOD IS THE HEART OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH AND CENTER OF OUR LIFE TOGETHER IN THE CHURCH. The Westminster Shorter Catechism affirms that our chief end in life is “to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.” This places the worship of God at the very center of what it means to be God’s people and makes worship the highest expression we can render to our God-given humanity. Christian worship is a corporate act of the people of God where we gather to realize God’s presence and respond with praise to God’s gift of love to us in Jesus Christ.

The next several months this column will focus individual acts of worship that take place each Sunday.

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD’S WORD

11. **THE CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**—provides an important time each week for the younger children of our congregation to spend a choice learning period with an adult Christian leader. The theme for the children’s time is often reflecting what is being done that day in Worship.

12. **THE ANTHEM**—is the worship of the congregation sung through the voice of the Choir. The Choir offers praise to God on our behalf.

13. **THE SERMON**—is the proclamation of the Word of God as set forth in Scripture. Drawn from one or both of the Scripture readings, and using these texts as foundation, the sermon seeks to make the message of these texts come alive in the faith and life of the hearers. The sermon provides a bridge between the ancient, abiding truths of Scripture and our contemporary experience. The faithful proclamation of the Word has been a central concern and strength of Presbyterian and Reformed Worship.

Let’s begin to approach our morning of worship as we enter the Sanctuary—directing our hearts and minds towards our gracious God in order to glorify Him and give ourselves totally to Him in praise and worship.