

The First Word

The Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Littleton

December 2025

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Join us Sunday at 10am

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Each year, as Advent begins, we enter a sacred season of waiting. We do not wait in the same way we wait at the DMV or in traffic — *frustrated, impatient, counting the minutes* — Advent waiting is a holy practice. Advent invites us into an expectant hope and longing for God’s promised renewal.

We light candles, sing familiar hymns, and re-tell stories of prophets who spoke of light breaking into darkness. We wait with Mary, whose “yes” to God opened the way for Christ’s birth. We listen with shepherds and angels, hearing again that wondrous announcement:

*“For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior,
who is Christ the Lord.”*

But Advent isn’t only about waiting — it is about preparing. In our worship and in our lives, we prepare by making room for the greatest gift... God’s gift of Messiah (or the Greek translation “Christ”). We prepare our hearts through prayer, repentance, and generosity.

We seek reconciliation where there is division,
simplicity where there is excess,
and peace where there is anxiety.

Preparing for Christ’s arrival means shaping our lives so that when the gift of God’s love arrives, the home within our hearts are ready to receive it.

Advent's waiting and preparation happens, and then Christmas comes, the celebration of God's taking on flesh and breath. Our waiting on God gives way to wonder. Yet, the story doesn't end there.

Receiving the gift of Christ calls us to live differently. The One we have been waiting for now sends us out — to love as Jesus loved, to forgive as Jesus forgave, to bring light into the shadows of our world. Advent shapes us to become people who live as if Emmanuel — God-with-us — is more than a story, but a reality transforming our everyday lives.

We are invited as we move through Advent, to deepen our faith as we wait, to prepare to open our hearts, and to reflect the joy in our living of those who have received the greatest gift of all: God's own self, given to us in Jesus Christ.

Come, Lord Jesus.

We are waiting.

We are ready to live as your people.

Rev Jonathan Murray

The Reverend Jonathan Murray
Pastor, First Presbyterian, Littleton



A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING HAS BEEN CALLED ON DECEMBER 14 FOLLOWING WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY TO ELECT NEW CHURCH OFFICERS.

WINTER ACCESSORIES DRIVE

The mission committee will be collecting new hats, gloves and scarves during the month of December. Collection bins will be placed at the Windemere entrance and in Chandler Hall.



Pastor Response Phone Line

FPCL has a phone number specifically for emergency Pastoral needs. Keep this phone number handy to reach the Pastor on-call for emergency pastoral care. You can call [720-662-7277](tel:720-662-7277) directly to reach the Pastor on-call, or you can call the Main Church Office phone number [303-798-1389](tel:303-798-1389) and select #6 on the menu tree to reach the Pastor on-call for any emergency needs. You may need to leave a message, and this message will be sent to the pastor on-call, prompting them to get back with you.



DEACON'S CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA SALE

Order Deadline: Monday, December 15, 2025

- Your purchase helps provide assistance to members and the local community through the Deacon's Fund. \$20 each
- Poinsettias may be picked up after any of the Christmas Eve Services, Wednesday, December 24.

Please circle one: In *Memory of* or in *Honor of*

Name:

Ordered by:

Phone:

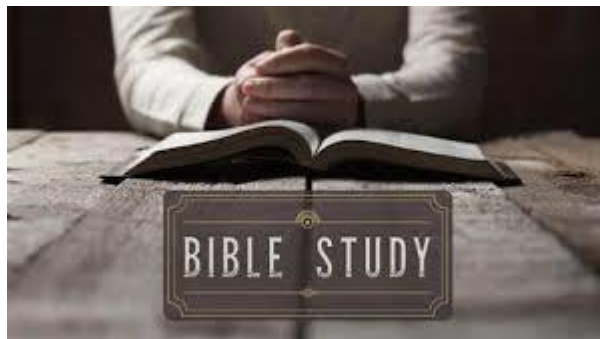
Make checks payable to:

First Presbyterian Church. Please include payment with order.

Place order form in the box in Chandler Hall or mail to:

First Presbyterian Church Littleton, 1609 W. Littleton Blvd, Littleton, CO 80120





Men's Bible Study

Join in the fellowship and study,

(2 studies that alternate every other Monday between a morning study and an evening study).

Morning Study 7:00am

Evening Study 6:30 pm

Contact Scott C for morning information,

MINUTE FOR MISSION

The mission committee has been working with Mike Hole to add the mission statement and non-profit organizations we support onto the church website. We hope you will take a look as well as others that check out the FPCL site. This month we supported Habitat For Humanity, Uplift International (started by our member Dr. Jaime Yrastorza) and Valverde Presbyterian Church. We are also so pleased that Becky G has joined our committee. We also encourage you to help out on Tuesday with our benevolence gifts to the hungry and homeless. Thank you for your support.





Thankful for Sharon P and Heidi T having transferred their membership to First Pres. They are both such a great addition to our little church and represent the 'giving' church we are!

Thankful for the leaves that Sue C made and put up in Chandler Hall for us to ALL share what we are thankful for! Bless her! It is a great new tradition she began last year!

Thankful for the Stewardship famous chili cook-off on November 9th that brought in over 70 guests who enjoyed time together and getting to know others better. Such a gift!

Thankful for Dave LM who works so hard as our Stewardship leader for the church and all that is needed, from finance to renovations and grants and more!

Thankful for having had the joy of being on Stewardship for over eight years and the very passionate team who is determined to keep things going! It has truly made me a better child of His in every way!

Thankful that with so many churches closing and struggling financially in the U.S., that we are currently not one of them; and I pray people will continue to want to come to church. God "loaned" us what we have on this earth, and I pray that we can all give of our time, talents and treasures and be guided by God to find people at First Pres who want to serve and give in those ways to First Pres. Please pray for this when you pray for others. First Pres is our second "Home" that we all love so much!

Thankful for this newsletter where I can share and especially during this time of "giving" in our church. Martin Luther, a famous German theologian, said, "Show me where a man spends his time and treasures, and I will show you His God."

His message represented to me, our "family" at First Pres! As we love to say, "We are small but mighty," and every time I enter this great little church of His, I see GOD! Our family at First Pres shows me God! Thank you and God bless you all!

Blessings, Dee

The Giving Tree in Chandler Hall will once again be adorned with ornaments for our Whiz Kids and their families. Gift wishes or ideas will be listed on the back of the ornaments. Please be sure to let one of the Mission Committee members know which ornament you have adopted.

Gifts need to be wrapped and labeled with the ornament attached and returned to the church no later than **Sunday, December 14th**. The gifts will be distributed at the Whiz Kids Christmas party on December 18th. Your gifts are such a blessing to these families and help to make their Christmas special. Thank you!



	October 2025		Year to Date 2025	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Income	\$39,310.62	\$37,100.00	\$ 370,076.64	\$ 379,923.00
Expenses	\$34,773.06	\$36,993.74	\$ 377,482.48	\$ 390,962.14
Operating Surplus/Deficit	\$4,537.56	\$106.26	\$ (7,405.84)	\$ (11,039.14)

Although the church is showing a surplus for October, there is a deficit for the year.

If you haven't completed your 2025 pledge, please do so this month. If you are unsure, please contact Lydia to find out. Thank you to all who have turned in their 2026 pledges.

This is so very helpful for us to determine which missions we can support or the amount of expense trimming that needs to be done. The finance committee is determined to present a balanced budget for session approval. The Heart and Home campaign has been very successful and we look forward to the improvements that money will provide.

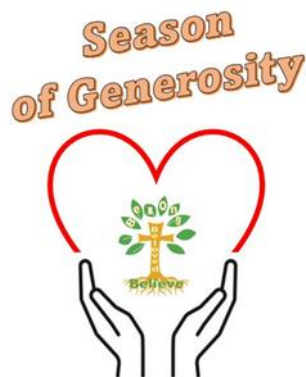
Hoping your holiday season is filled with family and friends.



Open Door Circle

will be meeting every
3rd Thursday,
at 10:30.

All women are welcome.
Please call Hedy L
with
any questions.



A Minute for Stewardship - Celebration Sunday Recap

On Sunday, November 9, we joyfully celebrated the ministry of FPCL in 2025 and affirmed our commitment to 2026 and beyond. Heartfelt thanks to everyone who joined in the Celebration Sunday Chili Cook-Off Potluck!

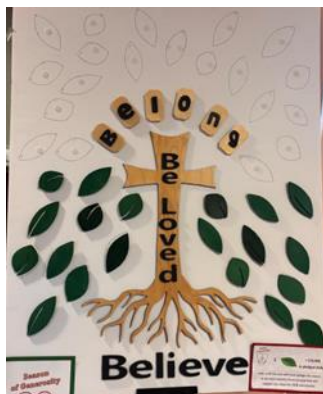
More than 70 of us gathered in Ficklin Hall after worship to share delicious food, fellowship, and fun. Congratulations to our award-winning chefs:

- Best Overall Chili – Jeff C
- Spiciest Chili – The O's
- Most Original Chili – Trey McD (with special thanks to Bonnie B)

It was truly a wonderful time of community and celebration.



As you may have seen on our pledge tracker display, we are well on our way to filling the tree!



If you haven't yet returned your pledge card, please do so within the next two weeks so the 2026 Budget can be finalized by Session on Sunday, December 7. Need a pledge card? Contact the church office or ask the Trustee on duty each Sunday.



**Peacemakers Country Store Christmas Sale Save the date
December 7, 2025 8:30-10:00, 11:00-2:00, Chandler Hall.**

Homemade items, jams, breads, cookies, quilts, bags, and more!

All proceeds of the sale go to Community Outreach—Food bags, bus passes, ARC cards, etc. Thanks for any items you wish to donate to sale! Contact the peacemakers, Blythe L, Kathie M, Linda G, Michelle B.

See you at the sale!



Worship Plans

Sermon Series *Caroling the Christmas Story*

November 30: '*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*' --- Haggaí 2:4-9; Luke 2:25-32

December 7: '*What Child is This?*' --- Isaiah 11:1-10; Matthew 1:18-25

December 14: '*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*'--- Psalm 96; Luke 1:39-56

Saturday, December 20, 1p.m. Blue Christmas Service

*--- a service for those not feeling merry or bright
and seeking space to embrace grief*

December 21: "*Carols: A Cantata for Congregation and Choir*"

December 24: '*Joy To The World*' --- Luke 2:1-20

1p - Baroque

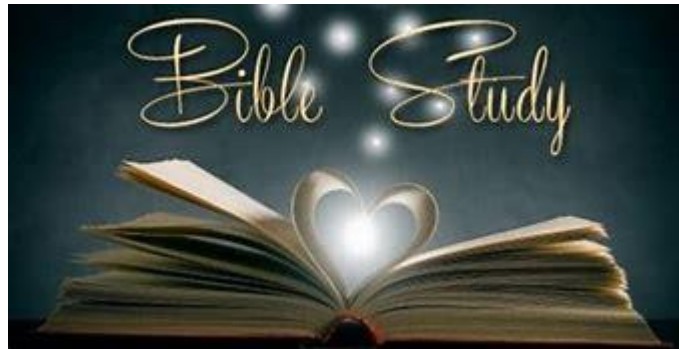
4p - Children & Family

7p - Communion and Candlelight

December 28: '*First Nowell*' --- Isaiah 63:7-9; Matthew 2:1-12

January 4: *Epiphany & Communion*

SHABBY SHEEP BIBLE STUDY



Sunday Bible Study

Bible Study will be the 1st and 3rd Sundays, following worship. Bring a 'brown bag' lunch and join us as we discuss God's Word to us. Both children and Adult Sunday Bible Study will meet, starting in Ficklin Hall for lunch.



FPCL BOOK CLUB

We are a small, friendly group and we welcome anyone who likes to read for casual discussions about books.

We share thoughts about the books and about our lives with no judgement.

Come join us on the

Second Thursday of each month at 12:30pm in Ayers' Parlor

or Zoom in with us if you can't make it to church.

Contact Janice F if you have any questions or want to join us.

Here's what we are reading next:

For December 11

no book, just a Christmas potluck lunch get-together!

December's RightNow Media picks

Here is FPCL's Christmas gift to you!!

All content from RightNow Media is accessible for you to conveniently enjoy from your computer or mobile device--absolutely free! Your account is already paid for through FPCL, so all you have to do is sign up here:

<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/join/fpcl>

If you have any trouble creating your account, or accessing content, please contact Pastor Blakeley for assistance!

For children "The Story of Christmas": Squiggles the Caterpillar leads children through this animated retelling of the age-old Christmas story.

<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/content/details/518092>

For general audience "Advent": Join well-known Pastor Jd Greear in this fascinating Advent study that will help prepare your heart to celebrate Christmas as you take a deeper look at some of the Title of Jesus as revealed through the Old Testament prophets.

<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/content/details/458407>

For general audience "God came near": Best-selling author and pastor Max Lucado is your guide to a deeper appreciation for the miracle of Christmas in this study, filmed on location at a beautiful and historic English church.

<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/content/details/308931>





FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LITTLETON

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Office Email fpcl@fpcl.org

Pastoral Care Emergency Line 720-662-7277

Staff Members

Pastor Jonathan Murray, Minister of Word and Sacrament

Pastor Blakeley Winslow, Pastor of Christian Discipleship

Lydia Cooper, Office Manager

Mary Dailey, Director of Worship Arts

Karen A. Meersman, Director of Handbells & Children/Youth Music

Joan Lund, Financial Secretary

Tracy Eidson, Child Care

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- 10:00 am Sunday Worship
- 11:30-12:30 1st and 3rd Sunday of the Month Bible Study

KING SOOPERS REWARDS 3rd QUARTER (July to Sept 2025) UPDATE –

The church received our 3rd quarter payout for the 2025 King Soopers reward card program. We received **\$403** from **62** rewards members cards used. **This was similar from proceeds received in the 2Q of this year !** For those who used your rewards, thank you for linking your King Soopers reward number to the FPCL church account. Remember to use your KS rewards account each time you are purchasing groceries, pharmacy, and other purchases.

We are happy to help people sign up for the program anytime. It's easy to use so we are encouraging more people to sign up to help the church. Encourage your family and friends to sign up also.

Using your rewards card helps raise monies for our church.

Any questions, please call Sue Chandler, 303-347-9191.



Mission Statement

*We Believe the Good News that all of Littleton is called
Beloved by Jesus Christ*

And together we Belong to God's Kingdom