

The First Word

The Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Littleton

November 2025

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Counting Our Blessings through...

Thanksgiving Day, November 27, 2025

We will deliver delicious fully prepared turkey dinners to people in our community again this year. Romano's Restaurant will order the food necessary for the delicious meal, store it at their facility and share their commercial kitchen with us. Talented chef Daniel K will be at the helm, assisted by Kathy F Justie E and many of YOU!

How you can help:

-Volunteer to cook, pack meals, deliver, clean-up etc.

Sign-up in Chandler Hall or call Kathy F

-Donate money to cover the cost of the meal

*Checks should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church of Littleton

*You may also donate on the Church's website

Please clarify "Thanksgiving Meal" however you choose to make a payment

This long-standing 18 Year Tradition, beginning in 2007, is only made possible by your generous donations of time and money.

Please consider contributing to this much appreciated effort.

Questions? Call the Church Office or Kathy F

Join us Sunday at 10am

“And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”
Hebrews 10:24–25



Dear Friends in Christ,

The author of Hebrews reminds us that being the Church is not something we simply *attend* — it's something we *become together*. In our Reformed tradition, we believe that the Church is not a building or a program, but a **community formed and sent by God's Word**. Every time we gather for worship, study, or service, the Holy Spirit shapes us into a people who bear witness to God's kingdom right where we are planted. We gather to be comforted, yes, but also to be commissioned — to take Christ's love into the neighborhoods, schools, workplaces, and homes that surround us.

Likewise, as we enter this season of gratitude, we are reminded that thankfulness is not just a feeling — it is a way of living that flows from God's grace. Gratitude shapes how we gather, how we serve, and how we give. The writer of Hebrews urges us to “*consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds*,” reminding us that our faith is always communal, always meant to move outward in love.

In the Reformed tradition, we understand that all we have and all we are belong to God. Our gifts — of time, energy, and financial resources — are ways we participate in God's ongoing work in the world and the ushering in of God's Kingdom. When we give, we are not simply meeting a budget; we are extending the reach of Christ's compassion into the very heart of our community.

Your giving supports ministries that make God's love tangible — meals shared with those who hunger through our Thanksgiving Dinners as well as our Community Dinners, visits to those who are lonely, learning opportunities for children and adults like our ‘Conversational English’ at North Littleton Promise and ‘Whiz Kids’ Tutoring, and partnerships that strengthen our neighbors near and far. Each act of generosity, large or small, becomes a seed of hope sown in God's field.

As we give thanks for the blessings we've received, may we also give with hearts wide open — knowing that our gifts are part of something greater than ourselves. When we gather and give, we embody the Church that Hebrews envisions: a community that encourages one another and provokes one another to love and good deeds.

Let us move together into this season with thankful hearts, ready to meet God not only in worship but in the faces of those we serve. In gratitude and generosity, we truly become Jesus followers who are the church in the community. This season, let us renew our commitment to **meet together** — in worship, in fellowship, and in service — so that we may encourage one another and reflect the love that has first been shown to us. May our church not only be known by its historic building, location on the corner of Littleton and Windermere for the last 95 years, or the beautiful sanctuary... let us, instead, be known by the way we love our community with the heart of Christ.

I give God thanks for each of you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rev. Jonathan Murray".

The Reverend Jonathan Murray
Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Littleton



November 30 – December 28
Caroling the Christmas Story

November 30	<i>Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus</i>
December 7	<i>What Child is This</i>
December 14	<i>Hark! The Herald Angels Sing</i>
December 20	Blue Christmas at 1p.m.
December 21	<i>Christmas Cantata</i>
December 24	<i>Joy To The World</i>
	1p – Baroque
	4p – Children & Family
	7p – Communion & Candlelight
December 28	<i>The First Nowell</i>

WORSHIP FOCUS

November 2-23 “*What Disciples Do:* _____”

November 2: Commune (**All Saints’ Day & Communion**)

November 9: Give Generously (**Bells**)

November 16: Give Testimony

November 23: Give Thanks (**Kirkin of the Tartans & Reign of Christ**)

WINTER ACCESSORIES DRIVE

The mission committee will be collecting new hats, gloves and scarves during the month of October. 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 directly to reach the Pastor on-call, or you can call the Main Church Office phone number 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.



Hanging of the Greens

*Saturday - November 29, 2025 * 9:00 a.m.*

Each year the Deacons are in charge of the “Hanging of the Greens” at church to celebrate the Christmas season. This involves pulling the boxed decorations out of the bell tower and placing them in the areas where they will be put. All the boxes are marked. There are also written directions concerning the placement of the décor! We are in need of volunteers to help us with this project. As a plus, we also serve coffee and doughnuts! If you can help the Deacons, would you please call Joy C or Deb G. Any help would be greatly appreciated.



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:

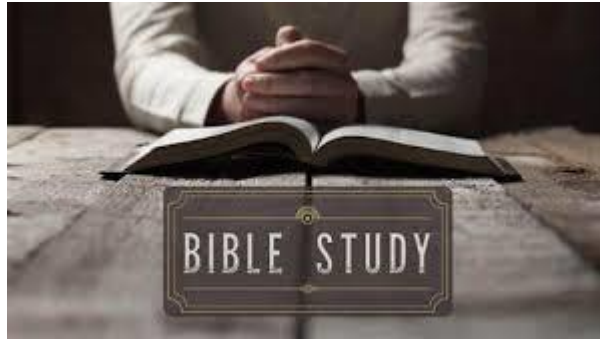
Make checks payable to:

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





Sunday Bible Study November 2 & 16

Bible Study is on 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.

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 H 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 Y) 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 the new members class in September.

Thankful for Lynda and Jim K joining us at the chancel in the sanctuary for our prayer time was very special, since I would not be at First Pres were it not for the K's

Thankful for the guests at my table at the Community Dinner on September 30. They shared about how much this gathering means to them and makes them feel special.

Thankful for the donations for Heart and Home for our wonderful church.

Thankful for our prayer chain team who really comes through for members and strangers!

Thankful that Ruth M was not injured when someone front ended her car on the way to the October Community Dinner and that her husband, Steve, was following her in his car to "be there for her." GOD IS GREAT! And thankful for the great crowd we had to enjoy Lynda K's delicious homemade chili!!!!!! We are so blessed for this great dinner Lynda began for us to serve others!

Thankful for all the volunteers who made the GREAT and fun "Trunk or Treat" happen for all the kids in our area to enjoy.
That is what we are all about~

Thankful for our church family that helps me learn who I really am through wonderful relationships. I have learned that I would not know the purpose for my life if I had not gotten connected to our little church. Nor would I have found my "role" or my value and meaning. Pastor Rick Warren said, "As a part of God's family, you have a special role that only you can play. You have a job that won't get done if you don't do it. You have contributions to make that other people won't benefit from if you're not connected to God's family." Being connected to First Pres is a gift I am so very thankful for, and it is my prayer that each of us sees what "special role" and "job" we can do that can help our church grow stronger. May we all take time to choose how we can best serve our little church, it's people and this community!

Blessings to all and go out and "be the church" and example of His love!

Dee

Youth

Event



Open Door Circle

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

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

Shabby Sheep Bible Study

Tuesday Evening Women's Bible Study

Every Tuesday, 7-8:15.

Please reach out to Sue C
or Janice F for more information

Wednesday Morning Women's Bible Study from 10:00-11:30

The guided video study is titled *Lyrics of Life* by Lisa Harper. All women are invited to attend on Wednesday mornings from 10:00-11:30 in the Shabby Sheep room upstairs at the church.

Please contact co-leaders Joy C or
Karla F with questions or to RSVP



Minute for Stewardship Celebration Sunday
As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards— 1 Peter 4:10



**Join us as
we
celebrate
our impact
in Littleton
and beyond**



**Season of
Generosity**



Stewardship Sunday coming November 9th
Join us for a “Chili Cook Off” Potluck Celebration
in Ficklin Hall right after worship



**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!

Leadership

Elders: Trey MD-Clerk of Session, Don M, Rick W, Sue C, Beth O, Jeff C and Paul P

Presbytery Commissioners: Rick W and Kathy MD

Deacons: Joy C, Becky G, Jess K, Jennie S, Deb G, Kathy F, Serena A, Justie E, Maria F, Janice F

Stewards: Karla F, Kathy MD, Stephany C, Cheri B



Hello from Pastor Blakeley

Trunk or Treat 2025

On Saturday, October 25th, FPCL celebrated its second annual Trunk or Treat outreach event! The colors of a beautiful fall day, with mild temperatures and a cool breeze provided the perfect backdrop for a fun community event. From 12pm to 3pm, dozens of neighborhood families and children stopped by the church. They walked through the parking lot to enjoy getting candy and prizes from nine different elaborately decorated cars, which were staffed by some of our amazing FPCL volunteers. Our helpers really got into the “spirit” of Halloween, dressing up not only their trunks, but donning a variety of different costumes! We also had refreshments and games available on the church lawn, which proved to be very popular. Best of all were the conversations that we got to have with all of the different visitors and guests. Many of them live very close to the church, so we got the chance to invite them to return to FPCL for one of our upcoming services or outreach events in November and December. To help solidify the connection, we had information cards that we were able to give out. Overall it was a great day, and I want to say thank you to so many from our church family who donated candy, decorations, and lawn games, as well as extend a very special thanks to all of those who helped at the event, including: Mary D, Cheri B, Jess K, Joy and Edgar C, Scott and Sue C, Deb G, Eric E, Kathy F, Kyle and Justie E, Sheri and Denny W, and four from our awesome FPCL Youth Group: Chris S. Teagan W., Grace E, and Andrew E.! Events of this size truly need a “village” to pull off, and so I’m very grateful that even on a busy Saturday, so many in our family of faith were willing to take time off to serve the community—way to go everyone! And if you missed out this year, please make plans to join us next October—hopefully this gets bigger and better each year!

IceScream with the FPCL Youth Group!

Our fearless FPCL Youth Group reconvened on Sunday afternoon, October 26th for our “IceScream” outreach event. This has become a tradition at FPCL—combining some sweet treats with the even sweeter study of God’s Word, and then a fun seasonal event. This year, our group of nine youth and three adult volunteers gathered at the church at 2pm to enjoy some ice cream bars as we delved into a devotional looking at how Scripture can help us to face all our fears and anxieties. The central verse we discussed was one of my favorites—**2 Timothy 1:7—“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind” (NKJV)**. We had some great conversations about the things we are fearful of, where fears originate from, and how our amazing God helps us to confront these! I encouraged the group to also think about a friend or family member whom they could pass some encouragement along to by sharing the verse. After our devotional and a prayer, we then boldly ventured out to brave the “Haunted Mansion”—a walk-through scary attraction in the Reinke Brothers costume store in downtown Littleton. This attraction provided just the right amount of thrills and chills to give everyone some jumps and a few laughs, and was a great bonding time. As always with our youth events, we encourage the students to invite friends, and so we were really excited to have a couple of first-time visitors joining us. I also want to extend a big thanks to Rob J and Trey MD who took time from their Sunday afternoon to help out with the event as adult volunteers!

Lastly—as our Stewardship Season of Generosity is kicking off, remember that your generous gifts to FPCL help to make outreach events like these that we’ve had in October possible. So thank you for giving!





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 1pm 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 November 13

The Lady and the Unicorn, by Tracy Chevalier

For December 11

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

	September 2025		Year to Date 2025	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Income	\$48,655.69	\$42,150.00	\$ 330,746.02	\$ 342,823.00
Expenses	\$37,389.35	\$36,998.75	\$ 342,729.42	\$ 353,968.40
Operating Surplus/Deficit	\$11,266.34	\$5,151.25	\$ (11,983.40)	\$ (11,145.40)

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

You should have received the 2026 pledge letter and a recent giving statement. Please take a moment to look at those and complete your pledge for 2026. This will help us with the budgeting process. The finance committee is striving to create a balanced 2026 budget. The pledged income number is key to determining how many programs and mission can be supported for the coming year.

Thank you for your continued support.



PAINT BOX GUILD
INVITES YOU TO VISIT OUR
FALL MINIATURE SHOW
Sunday, Nov. 2nd
8a.m. -1:00 p.m.
in The Welcome Center
ORIGINAL ARTWORK & HANDMADE CRAFTS
BY OUR MEMBERS
JUST IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS!
(Checks & cash accepted. We have bags!)

**TRUNK
OR
TREAT**



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



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LITTLETON

1609 W. Littleton Blvd., Littleton, CO 80120

303-798-1389 • fpcl@fpcl.org • littletonpresbyterian.org

Office Hours 9am-2pm Tuesday-Thursday

Office Phone Number 303-798-1389

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 C.



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