



The Good News

MID-MONTH EDITION

No. 22

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What Are You Thankful For?

I bought a lottery ticket recently, actually several, when the top prize was over a billion dollars. Even as I knew I wouldn't win, I couldn't help thinking about what I would do with the money if I did win. I thought of all the good that I could do with my winnings, but I also envisioned some personal pleasures like paying off bills, making home improvements, buying a new car, and taking a glamorous vacation.

Needless to say, I didn't win, but I didn't need to. The things I already have, which money cannot ever buy, are what matters far more. I have a wonderful wife and family of whom I couldn't be prouder. I'm healthy. I live in country that, while not perfect, gives me freedom to live up to my potential. I have the power to make my life and the lives of those around me better. I believe my God loves and cares for all life.

As Thanksgiving approaches and we all think about everything we are thankful for, there will be many other things that I haven't mentioned that can be added to our lists. Whatever your list contains, when you give thanks, remember who makes all things possible.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Free Thanksgiving Day Meal

You are invited to give thanks and share a Thanksgiving Day meal of roasted turkey, dressing, green beans, sweet potatoes, and homemade pie.



This annual event on Thursday, Nov. 22, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. is at the First United Methodist Church, 1709 Hwy. 24, in Commerce (across from the football stadium).

Hosted by the Commerce faith community, the meal is free. If you don't have a way to get there or you can't leave your home, just call the FUMC office at 903-886-3220 by Tuesday, Nov. 20, and you'll be picked up or your meal will be delivered to you.

Church Office Closed

The FPC office will be closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 22–23, in observance of

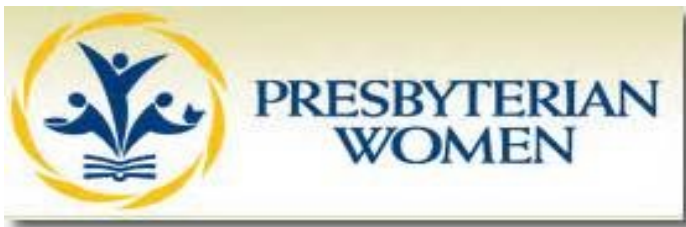
T H A N K S G I V I N G

Advent Is Almost Here

Advent marks the beginning of the liturgical year here at FPC. It begins on Dec. 2 and marks the start of a four-week period of anticipation as we look forward to the celebration of Christ's birth and to the hope of his second coming.

For a Presbyterian description of Advent, click [here](#) for a story from the Presbyterian Mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).





By Toni Deaton

Bettina Is the Incoming Grace PW Moderator

Though it has been challenging, I have thoroughly enjoyed my two-year term as Moderator of the Grace Presbytery PW Coordinating Team. I will leave that post on Dec. 31 as my term expires.

But I exit with excitement knowing that I leave that position in very good hands. That is because our own **Bettina Zvanut** will succeed me, starting her two-year term on Jan. 1. She is now completing a two-year term as



Vice Moderator for Programs and before that, she served as a Cluster Leader. As Moderator for Grace Presbytery PW, she will also be a member of the Synod of the Sun Coordinating Team. Congratulations, Bettina!

I am proud that our church has been well represented in our Presbytery PW in the past several years. **Brenda Estes** is now serving as Cluster Leader for two areas (East 1/East 2) that extend from Greenville on the western edge to Texarkana, the extreme eastern edge. Before my term as Moderator, I served as Vice Moderator for Programs. While I am leaving as Moderator, I will continue to serve on the Coordinating Team as a member of the Search Committee.

Baby Cap Trace and Cut

The group of PW ladies pictured below (from the left—**Toni Deaton, Brenda Estes, Mona Towne, Nila McQuary, Nancy McFarland, and Martha Clevenger**) met in Fellowship Hall on Nov. 5 to cut and trace hundreds of bright red newborn baby caps for hospital donation during the holidays!



In Our Prayers at First Presbyterian

Our Troops	Gordon Hunter	Sara Grace Pullen	Melba Blount
Amy Lopez	Joe Yeakley	Grace Byrd	Gayle Shumate
Gladys Gray	Mildred Miller	Gaye Furry	Preston Helton
Catherine King Robertson	Bennie Neve	Ron Davis	Jan Burns
Audrey Hucks	Larry Ratliff	Jack Gray	Jean Angotti
Jim Calvert	Tammi Fucci	Adele Reeves	Bob Wilkins
Joe Dipiazza	Deryl McKenzie	Danny Spruel	Kristen Anderson
Family of Freda Lambert	Nancy Smith	Petra Strassberg	Gary and Melba Strobel
Pat Skaug	Joe Tinch		

Upcoming Bible Readings

**Sunday (Nov. 18) Is the
26th Sunday after Pentecost**

Gospel: Mark 13:1-8 *The Destruction of the Temple Foretold*

Epistle: Hebrews 10:11-25 *Christ's Sacrifice Once for All / A Call to Persevere*

Old Testament (and sermon focus): 1 Samuel 1:4-20 *Samuel's Birth and Dedication*

Old Testament (and responsive reading): 1 Samuel 2:1-10 *Hannah's Prayer*

**Sunday (Nov. 25) Is the
Christ the King Sunday**

Hanging of the Greens—Selected Scriptures

**Coming Up Soon On the
FPC Calendar**



Sunday, Nov. 25, during worship—The annual *Hanging of the Greens*. Children are encouraged to participate.

Sunday, Dec. 2—A special treat during worship, the FPC choir will perform a Christmas Cantata. Then, come back at 6 p.m. for a much-anticipated annual community event—TAMUC Chamber Singers Christmas Concert. The Presbyterian Women will cater a reception following the concert.

Assisting with Worship

The following people are assisting with worship the next two Sundays.

November 18

Head Usher: **Walt Davis**

Candle Lighter: **TBD**

Liturgist: **Keith McFarland**

November 25

Head Usher: **Bob Johnson**

Candle Lighter: **TBD**

Liturgist: **Nancy Green**

Remember to let our worship leaders know how much you appreciate them. If you would like to help FPC in some capacity, contact Rev. Rasco or the church secretary.

Christmas Gift Suggestion

Scratching your head over what to give a Presbyterian friend for Christmas? Socks might be too personal, but another suggestion is a Christmas gift subscription to The Presbyterian Outlook which is now being offered at a reduced price.



This informative gift continues all year long and comes with full access to all the magazine's online content. This year issues such as mental health, moving beyond accessibility to welcome of persons with disabilities, engaging the Old Testament in the 21st century will be discussed. And, of course, there will be the magazine's popular spring and fall book issues.

[Click here to purchase a gift subscription for \\$9.95.](#)

Treasurer's Budget Update



Budget Update

Our budget for 2018 is \$142,341 or \$11,862 of operating expenses per month. Receipts were ahead of expenses through June. These numbers do not include special designated donations such as SCAMP and flooring. It is typical for receipts to fall behind during the summer months when many church members are travelling. It is also typical for donations to increase again in the fall to cover the deficit. While September of this year had over \$11,500 in receipts, October donations were surprisingly only \$5,700.

Through October, we have received revenues totaling about \$103,000, leaving us behind in our anticipated budget revenues by about \$15,000. That means we will have to average about \$19,000 each month for November and December to balance our budget. It will be greatly appreciated if you can contribute in the next two months to help FPC erase the current deficit and reach our budget goal of \$142,341 for 2018.

A Good News Story

This is our second installment of a feature we are calling "A Good News Story." Once again, this story came from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) and its Presbyterian Mission, but you are invited to share a good news story of your own in the coming issues.

Just send it to fpc-commerce@embarqmail.com and tell us why you sent it.

This story is about a really small church discovered it could have a really big impact for good. Read it by clicking on this link: [Small church, big God](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/small-church-big-god).

If you can't click, reach the story by going online to www.presbyterianmission.org/story/small-church-big-god.



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Part of Giving Tuesday

While Thanksgiving is a time to be thankful, it is immediately followed by the first of many shopping promotions. The day after Thanksgiving has become well-known as **Black Friday** and the Monday after Thanksgiving as **Cyber Monday**, urging consumers to shop in stores and online, respectively, to get an early start securing Christmas presents.

But another promotional day, this one for giving, not buying, has arisen in recent years. **Giving Tuesday** (Nov. 27) comes the day after Cyber Monday. It is described by its organizers as "a global day of giving that harnesses the collective power of individuals, communities and organizations to encourage philanthropy and to celebrate generosity worldwide."

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) has set up a webpage to give people participating in Giving Tuesday an opportunity to direct some of their giving to a wide range of church related ministries and causes. To see this webpage, click [here](http://www.presbyterian-givingtuesday.org) or go online to www.presbyterian-givingtuesday.org.



*The Commerce Food Pantry
Has Been Blessed!*

Thanks to all the support from individuals, businesses, and organizations who contribute their time and resources to make sure the Commerce Food Pantry can continue its mission to provide food for those in need.

New

on the

Bulletin

Board

- ♦ A letter to Rev. Rasco from **Steve and Marlene Holland of Flower Mound** that detailed the “great experience they had during a recent visit and thanking Micah Krajca for selecting their grandson to be in our choir.
- ♦ A flyer inviting everyone in Commerce to a free Thanksgiving Dinner (Nov. 22, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.) at the First United Methodist Church here.
- ♦ A flyer inviting the community to the Merry Marketplace and Lunch for Missions. This annual FUMC event is set for Saturday, Dec. 1, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- ♦ A copy of an email received by Rev. Rasco from Bill Abernathy who attended First Presbyterian Church of Commerce as a child. He sent a sincere thank-you to the congregation for ... well, you’ll just have to read it to find out.

Food Pantry Donation Items

The Commerce Food Pantry typically serves between 30-40 different families in need each week—over 120 families each month. Donations remain an important source of its ability to help these people. Remember to help out the food pantry with a donation of food each Sunday.

Suggested donations:

1st Sunday—Saltine crackers

2nd Sunday—Ranch Style Beans

3rd Sunday—Spaghetti sauce (in cans)

4th Sunday—Chili without beans

5th Sunday—Canned pineapple

In addition to the above, the Commerce Food Pantry is always in need of grocery paper bags with handles (Braun’s paper bags are perfect). If you have any spare paper bags, please consider donating them at any time.

Upcoming Community Events



RUN. GOBBLE. NAP
7TH ANNUAL MALOY ROAD TURKEY TROT

Benefiting Commerce Food Pantry Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 22

Begins 9 AM at 3920 FM 1568 (Maloy Road)

Family Fun! Come Join Us! Walk or Run 5K!

Register by Nov. 12 to Guarantee T-shirt!

(Note that deadline has passed, so the following information is not guaranteed. Call, text, or email ahead of time to see if T-shirts are still available)

1. Text 903.450.5579 or email

celesteprath@hotmai.com

2. State your name and size of shirts needed

3. Receive reply with payment method options

****\$20 registration fee per participant includes T-shirt****

A Opportunity to Help Those Less Fortunate at Christmas

The **New Life Congregational Methodist (CM) Church**, located at 911 Jernigan St. in Commerce, is once again bringing Christmas gifts to people in need. With the help of individuals and businesses, the call has gone out for donations of Christmas gift items which will be given free to individuals and families on **Dec. 1**.

This “Spirit of Giving” gift drive began in 2015.

(Continued on page 6)



Upcoming Community Events

(continued from page 5)



Newsmakers

Last year, over 550 new items were given to over 250 boys and girls and adults. The gifts included bicycles and toys for children, blankets, household products, small appliances, scarves and jewelry for women and teen girls, tools and fishing gear for men, etc.

Many gifts have already been collected, but the goal is to help as many people as possible, and more is needed. If you or your business would like to donate items, anything is welcome. However, more queen-size sheet sets, towels and washcloths, gifts for men, small kitchen appliances, and diapers are needed at this time. These items can be dropped off at New Life Church or at the church office here at FPC. They will be picked up for distribution at New Life Church on **Dec. 1 at 10 a.m.**

If you know of a family who needs help with Christmas, let them know about the **Spirit of Giving** program. It is important to note that all family members must be present to receive tickets for free gifts. There is no requirement other than to attend a short devotional.



This just in from Tina Fletcher Selvaggi: "Lily sent us a message that she's having an acro flight today.(Nov. 9). I take this to mean she is flying around upside down somewhere - as in acrobatics. I try not to think about it too hard."

The Holidays are fast approaching. Send us pictures to share—of a trip, a visit by or to you, decorations, etc.

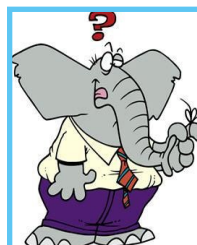
Be sure to send information about each one.



DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

The Good News for December will go out either Thursday or Friday, Nov. 29 or 30. If you have news, pictures, or a story to share, the deadline is Monday, Nov. 26. Email it to tofpc-commerce@embarqmail.com

Did We Forget Something?



Maybe we forgot an event you are organizing for FPC or a committee report you wanted to get in *The Good News*. Whatever it is, let us know. If you forgot, remember to remember next time!