

December 2021

OPEN DOOR

FROM THE PASTOR:

Advent is a time of waiting. We wait for the celebration of Christmas. And we wait for the return of Jesus and his kingdom. Waiting is not our strong suit. We want to skip right to the party without any of the planning or preparation. A folk duo, Wendy and Mary, wrote a song in 1981 that still makes me smile. Perhaps we could update some of the imagery, but the thought remains:

Instant breakfast, instant light, Anything easy 'cause that's what we like.

Fast food places and banks with no lines, Anything easy, that will do fine

Microwave oven, Mom's dream come true, Put it on credit and take it with you.

Drive-thru car wash only 2.98, Very convenient, the American way.

Instant Christian, changed overnight, Anything easy 'cause that's what we like.

Help me grow, Lord, show me how. Give me the patience

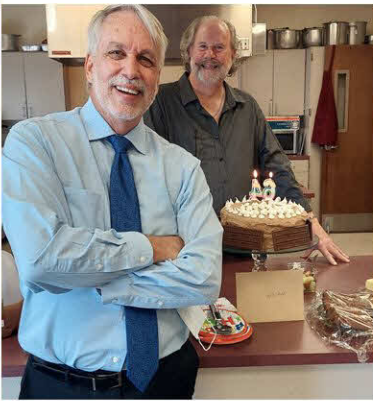
I want it now!

May your waiting be blessed with the presence of God.

Pastor Ray



We had a visit at the church from The Niehaus's! They thought the building and Memorial Garden were beautiful. It was lovely getting to walk and talk with them as we toured the building.



We celebrated Pastor Ray's birthday with a delicious homemade chocolate cake! "Will you still need me" was the inscription on the cake. What would we have made as the inscription if not for The Beatles song lyric about being 64.... Lol

Thanks Tim for the cake!!

Thank You & God Bless You!! To ThermoFisher for their generous donation of numerous packages of socks & 25 pairs of shoes. A great big THANK YOU also to Bright Futures for the donation of 2 bags of socks.

The Deacons have already delivered 12 pairs of shoes in the first half of November and a total of 41 pairs of shoes so far this year.

Children in the Ottawa County School District now have shoes and socks due to your generous donations and support of this ministry.





December 5 Waiting for the Light
December 12 Waiting for Strength
December 19 Waiting to be Satisfied
December 24 Love's Arrival
December 26 Rev David VanDonkelaar preaching



Kum Ba Yah aka Kum Ba Zoom

We meet every Wednesday on ZOOM for fellowship, study and prayer. 7:00 PM. The link to the Zoom Meeting is sent in the Wednesday eMail each week.

Kum Ba Yah topics:

December 1 Philippians 4
December 8 The Happy Prince
December 15 Giving Ourselves to God
December 22 No Kum Ba Zoom
December 29 No Kum BA Zoom

Adult Sunday School

Sundays at 9:30am on Zoom and in Person!

December 5 Fire and Snow
December 12 The Temple in Jerusalem
December 19 Incarnation
December 26 No Sunday School

BACKPACK PROGRAM

We are grateful for the leadership of Dave Foster and Janice Johnson who organize our weekly food program with children at Roosevelt Elementary School. We are currently serving 43 students by providing weekend “backpacks” of simple, nutritious food. Your support is essential and appreciated.

The foods we give are single serving, easy open containers, no cooking required, and without nut products. The food can be divided into two breakfasts, two lunches, and two dinners.



Fellowship Dinner Sunday December 5th



Come ready to deck the halls!!

The hanging of the greens will be on
Sunday December 5th



The Mission Committee met on November 16, 2021. Those present discussed some different places and organizations that may benefit from our donations. This month the committee decided to donate \$300.00 to Malawi for health supplies (medications) and \$200.00 To Serving Christ Ministries



They discussed the upcoming Christmas Joy Offering season and members from the committee volunteered to speak during this special season of offerings.

FPC Miami Church ministries of the Backpack program and the food pantry have been a blessing to our community. 161 food pantry bags and over 1000 backpacks have been handed out so far this year.

Thank you everyone for your continued support, we do great things here at First Presbyterian, Miami!

Some wonderful news from The Rev. Levi Nyondo, who visited us in 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters in The Lord,

Warm greetings to you all from Mzuzu, Malawi, We are all fine here regardless of the Covid19 Pandemic which is still serious in some towns of Malawi. I am writing to officially inform you that the Malawi Government has appointed me as the new Ambassador to Brazil, South America. If all logistics can be over I am supposed to go in January of 2022, with my wife Ruth. This means that the CCAP Synod of Livingstonia shall have to second me to go and work in Brazil and again the Synod shall have to appoint another Principal of Ekwendeni Campus, University of Livingstonia.

However, my daughter Lusekelo Nyondo who is Headmistress and Administrator at Kileni Private School shall continue with the role of looking after Kileni School;, Kileni Women Craft Team and the distribution of all materials we sometimes get from you friends through the Bana Box container or containers from PCI. All the work of distribution to the needy shall be in her hands.

4-State Teens 4 Equality

A new group is forming to provide a safe place for area teens to explore their uniqueness as created and loved by God. First Presbyterian is happy to offer space for this new group. The first vision for this group came from the story of a young gay man who has experienced bullying in an area school and rejection by his local church. We look forward to learning and growing together.

They have decided to participate in the Miami Christmas parade this year by entering a float along with the NEO Pride group.



DECEMBER

2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10-12 Food Pantry 2:30 Backpack 7:00 KumBaZoom	2 10-12 Food Pantry	3 10-12 Food Pantry	4
5 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Fellowship 11:30am Dinner 7:00 pm AA	6 10-12 Food Pantry 6:00 4States 4 Equality	7 10-12 Food Pantry	8 10-12 Food Pantry 7:00 KumBaZoom	9 10-12 Food Pantry 2:30 Backpack 7:00 Gamblers Anon.	10 10-12 Food Pantry	11
12 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Fellowship Deacon Mtg 7:00 pm AA	13 10-12 Food Pantry 6:00 4States 4 Equality	14 10-12 Food Pantry 11:00 Mission Mtg 7:00 Session Mtg	15 10-12 Food Pantry 7:00 KumBaZoom	16 10-12 Food Pantry 2:30 Backpack 7:00 Gamblers Anon.	17 10-12 Food Pantry MPS No School	18 10:00 - 1:00 Christmas basket Dis- tribution
19 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Fellowship 7:00 pm AA	20 10-12 Food Pantry 6:00 4States 4 Equality MPS No School	21 10-12 Food Pantry 11:00 Mission Com- mittee Meeting 7:00 Session Meet- ing MPS No School	22 10-12 Food Pantry 7:00 No KumBaZoom	23 No Backpack MPS No School	24 7:00 Christmas Eve Service MPS No School	25 Christmas Day
26 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am No Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Fellowship 7:00 pm AA	27 10-12 Food Pantry 6:00 4States 4 Equality MPS No School	28 10-12 Food Pantry MPS No School	29 10-12 Food Pantry 7:00 No KumBaZoom MPS No School	30 No Backpack MPS No School	31 MPS No School	



Jeraldine Wilcox.....12/2
 Karen Norris.....12/4
 Richard Whalen.....12/6
 David Foster.....12/7

Bill Neill.....12/7
 David Prince.....12/12

*Should your name be here?
 Please let the office know your birth date so we can include you!*

Reverse Advent Calendar

Advent begins **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28TH** this year.
DECEMBER 24th will end the season as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Here's an idea that that can help so many people.

To get started....find an empty box.
Each Day of Advent add an item.



On December 24th, bring your box to the Christmas Eve Service for our Food Pantry at the Presbyterian Church!

November 28 Mac & Cheese
November 29 1 lb. Dried Pinto Beans
November 30 1 lb. Rice
December 1 Spaghetti Sauce
December 2 Package of Pasta
December 3 Can of Corn
December 4 Can of Green Beans
December 5 Pork & Beans
December 6 Can of Tuna
December 7 Package of Ramen Noodle
December 8 Can of Chicken Noodle Soup
December 9 Package Dry Milk
December 10 Jar of Peanut Butter
December 11 Box of Instant Oatmeal
December 12 Small box of Raisins

December 13 Granola Bars
December 14 Cup of Fruit
December 15 Saltine Crackers
December 16 Applesauce
December 17 Can of Vegetable Soup
December 18 Can of Mixed Veggies
December 19 Can of Chicken
December 20 Box of Cereal
December 21 Can of Tomato Soup
December 22 Peanut Butter Crackers
December 23 Jar of Jelly
December 24 Can of Cream Soup

Servers in the Lord's House		
	Usher	Coffee Host
December 5	Dave Foster	Fellowship Dinner
December 12	Dave Foster	Open
December 19	Deanna Duvall	Open
December 24	Deanna Duvall	Open
December 26	Open	Open

Please call the office or talk to Pastor Ray to sign up for servers slots!

Backpack Helper Schedule		
Wednesday 12/1	Melinda Thiesing	John Thiesing
Thursday 12/9	Kate Prince	Open
Thursday 12/16	Open	Open
Thursday 12/23	No Backpacks	Christmas Break
Thursday 12/30	No Backpacks	Christmas Break

If you would like to sponsor a Sanctuary Poinsettia this year. Please complete this form and return it to the church office by 12/11



Poinsettias Sponsorships will cost \$18.00 each.

Please have form turned in by December 11th.
Your name as you would like it printed in the Christmas Bulletin:

Dedication as you would like it printed in the Christmas Bulletin:

For example: In Memory of Selma Mae Thomas

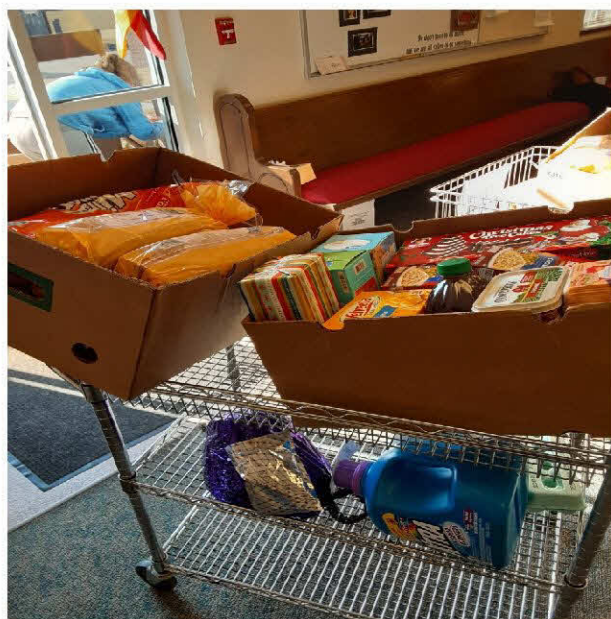
2021 Daily Lectionary

December	Old Testament	Epistle	Gospel
12/01/2021	Amos 3:12-4:5	2 Peter 3:1-10	Matt. 21:23-32
12/02/2021	Amos 4:6-13	2 Peter 3:11-18	Matt. 21:33-46
12/03/2021	Amos 5:1-17	Jude 1-16	Matt. 22:1-14
12/04/2021	Amos 5:18-27	Jude 17-25	Matt. 22:15-22
12/05/2021	Amos 6:1-14	2 Thess. 1:5-12	Luke 1:57-68
12/06/2021	Amos 7:1-9	Rev. 1:1-8	Matt. 22:23-33
12/07/2021	Amos 7:10-17	Rev. 1:9-16	Matt. 22:34-46
12/08/2021	Amos 8:1-14	Rev. 1:17-2:7	Matt. 23:1-12
12/09/2021	Amos 9:1-10	Rev. 2:8-17	Matt. 23:13-26
12/10/2021	Hag. 1:1-15	Rev. 2:18-29	Matt. 23:27-39
12/11/2021	Hag. 2:1-9	Rev. 3:1-6	Matt. 24:1-14
12/12/2021	Amos 9:11-15	2 Thess. 2:1-3, 13-17	John 5:30-47
12/13/2021	Zech. 1:7-17	Rev. 3:7-13	Matt. 24:15-31
12/14/2021	Zech. 2:1-13	Rev. 3:14-22	Matt. 24:32-44
12/15/2021	Zech. 3:1-10	Rev. 4:1-8	Matt. 24:45-51
12/16/2021	Zech. 4:1-14	Rev. 4:9-5:5	Matt. 25:1-13
12/17/2021	Zech. 7:8-8:8	Rev. 5:6-14	Matt. 25:14-30
12/18/2021	Gen. 3:8-15	Rev. 12:1-10	John 3:16-21
12/19/2021	Zeph. 3:14-20	Titus 1:1-16	Luke 1:1-25
12/20/2021	1 Sam. 2:1b-10	Titus 2:1-10	Luke 1:26-36
12/21/2021	2 Sam. 7:1-17	Titus 2:11-3:8a	Luke 1:39-48a (48b-56)
12/22/2021	2 Sam. 7:18-29	Gal. 3:1-14	Luke 1:57-66
12/23/2021	Jer. 31:10-14	Gal. 3:15-22	Luke 1:67-80
12/24/2021	Isa. 60:1-6	Gal. 3:23-4:7	Matt. 1:18-25
12/25/2021	Micah 4:1-5; 5:2-4	1 John 4:7-16	John 3:31-36
12/26/2021	1 Sam. 1:1-2, 7b-28	Col. 1:9-20	Luke 2:22-40
12/27/2021	Prov. 8:22-30	1 John 5:1-12	John 13:20-35
12/28/2021	Isa. 49:13-23	Isa. 54:1-13	Matt. 18:1-14
12/29/2021	2 Sam. 23:13-17b	2 John 1-13	John 2:1-11
12/30/2021	1 Kings 17:17-24	3 John 1-15	John 4:46-54
12/31/2021	1 Kings 3:5-14	James 4:13-17; 5:7-11	John 5:1-15



*Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
7:00*

*Please join us as we
worship our Lord and
Savior, Jesus Christ!!*



Deacons Christmas food baskets:

This year the Deacons will be providing food baskets for 25 families at Roosevelt Elementary School.

The distribution of the Christmas baskets is on:
Saturday December 18th.
Noon - 1:00 pm

If you would like to help distribute these baskets please let the Office or Pastor Ray know. Volunteers should arrive at 10:00 am

Thank you to all the Deacons for their hard work on the Christmas baskets.

Also, a great big thank you in advance, to all of you who will be volunteering to help with the distribution of the Christmas baskets.



Contemporary English Version

Isaiah 44:23

Tell the heavens and the earth to start singing! Tell the mountains and every tree in the forest to join in the song! The LORD has rescued his people; now they will worship him.



*The First Presbyterian Church
1410 N.E. Veterans Blvd.
Miami, OK 74354*