



PRESBY PRESS

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A MESSAGE FOR THE NEW YEAR

FROM PASTOR JOHN'S DESK

Dear FPC family,

When we developed First Presbyterian Church's mission statement in 2002, we began at the heart of what and who we are wanting to grow to be for Christ's glory - *a people whose lives and witness are identified and activated by love*. It's a supernatural kind of love. It is only by supernatural means of the Holy Spirit that we can begin to have, inside and outside of us, the kind of love that Jesus calls us to.

It is always important for us to hold up the high ideal of *Loving Community*, even as we are honest about how our love can often look in our everyday lives together. We know that our love for God, one another, and our neighbor is not perfect by any means. But we are growing up and learning more of the kind of grit and commitment it takes to really live in the love Jesus calls us to. Ordinary people like us seeking to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ have good days and bad in our discipleship journey. Sometimes we seem to be oddly matched with others in our church family, but then we find we can actually be drawn together by the grace of God that astonishes the world (and us!) with how much we are being transformed in LOVE! When we recognize this powerful truth of who we are together in Christ, others want to come find out what it is that's going on here.

(see next page)

OUR MISSION

TO BE THE LOVING COMMUNITY OF
JESUS CHRIST THAT WILL

WIN

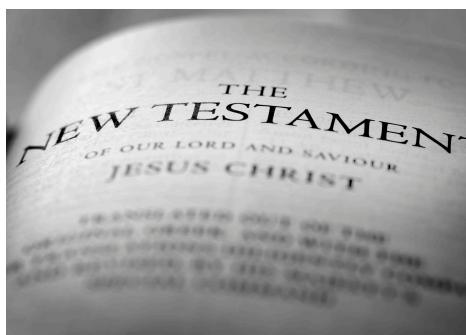
NEW FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST TO SAVING FAITH

GROW

ALL FOLLOWERS TO DEEPER FAITH

GO

INTO THE WORLD AND DEMONSTRATE FAITH



(Continued from Page 1)

This has been our experience in 2024 at FPC. In short, we are becoming more effective to *WIN, GROW, & GO in faith* to our world. That's exciting!

I've shared this previously, but here's a story of the kind of Loving Community in a church that I'm talking about. It comes from a writer and NPR commentator named Heather King. She's a recovering alcoholic who has come to faith in Christ and offers her unvarnished reflection on her initial and continuing experience with the church. See if you can relate to what she describes:

"My first impulse was to think, My God, I don't want to get sober (or in the case of the church, worship) with THESE nutcases! (or boring people, or people with different politics, tastes in music, food, book, or whatever). Nothing shatters our egos like worshipping with people we did not hand-pick.... The humiliation of discovering that we are thrown in with extremely unpromising people!—people who are broken, misguided, wishy-washy, out for themselves. People who are... us.

"But we don't come to church to be with people who are like us in the way we want them to be. We come because we have staked our souls on the fact that Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and the church is the best place, the only place, to be while we all struggle to figure out what that means. We come because we'd be hard pressed to say which is the bigger of the two scandals of God: that he loves us - or that he loves everyone else." (Adapted from Heather King, "The Better Church" Shirt of Flame blog. 10-23-11)

I am grateful for our bold and challenging mission statement that starts at square one with the great challenge to be the *LOVING COMMUNITY* of Jesus Christ. That's just where it needs to start, continue, and end. In our mission together, we are living as the growing, learning disciples whom Jesus calls to follow him every day. It's just where you and I need to start as we seek by great faith and hope in Christ to be a people whose lives and witness are identified and activate by his love.

Welcome to the grit and grace of *LOVING COMMUNITY*!

Pastor John Walker

SUNDAY SCHOOL WINTER/SPRING SESSION

BIBLE ZONE - 8:30-9am

3 yrs - 3rd grade
in the East Room

MIDDLE SCHOOL - 11-11:45am

4th-8th grade
on the 2nd floor

HIGH SCHOOL - 11-12pm

9th-12th grade
on the first floor across from the elevator

YOUNG ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

in the Pastor John's Office

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

in the church library

A SPECIAL NOTE FROM THE SMITH FAMILY



The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

We are so thankful for your friendship, support, and encouragement to our family. Though we live far away, we experience God's grace in our lives through you! On Christmas Eve, every Czech family will be enjoying their Christmas dinner, with Potato Salad as one of the staple dishes, alongside carp. We're sending a recipe so you can try it, too!

Czech Christmas Potato Salad (Bramborový Salát)

-3 lbs yellow potatoes	-10 eggs	-1 can of peas
-6 large chopped gherkins pickles.	-3 boiled and diced carrots	
1/2 large onion	-30oz mayonnaise	-1 tbsp dijon mustard
-Salt and pepper to taste	-Squeeze of lemon juice	

1. Boil the potatoes in salted water in their skins. Drain and cool.
2. Meanwhile, hard boil the eggs. Peel and cut into cubes.
3. In a large mixing bowl add the peas, chopped gherkins, and diced carrots. Coarsely grate the onion into the bowl.
4. In a separate bowl, mix together the mayonnaise and mustard.
5. Add the cooled, peeled, and diced potatoes and cubed eggs to the vegetables. Gently stir ingredients to combine. Add the dressing, mixing just enough to coat the vegetables, not mash the potatoes!
6. Season with salt, pepper, and lemon juice to taste. You can also add some gherkin juice for extra tang.

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM PASTOR FREDDY

Thank you so much for partnering with me and supporting my ministry last year. Your generosity and prayers make a big difference in the Czech Republic, and I'm deeply grateful for you.

2024 has been an exciting year of growth and new opportunities. God has continued to bless the Majak (Lighthouse) Church Network, from helping plant Ukrainian churches to seeing revitalized churches like Prostejov flourish.

Looking ahead to 2025, I'm excited about what God has prepared for us, including opportunities to expand our influence within the denomination and continue developing leaders for the Czech church.

Thank you for your partnership, prayers, and encouragement.

The Mission Committee would like to extend a huge thank you to those who contributed to the Mitten Tree this year. It was overflowing! The residents at the PADS Shelter will reap the benefits of your generosity this winter.

A special thanks to Allen Tucek's friend, Sherry Nagle, for making 40+ mittens. What a blessing that was to all who received her handiwork.



Birthdays

JANUARY

Keith Stevenson	5
Jodi Martin	5
Isabelle Hernandez	7
Betty Ehret	12
Jeff Worley	22
Nathalie Schmidt	26
Debbie Walker	27

FEBRUARY

Edythe Brockman	6
Lynn Woltering	8
Dan Brockman	11
Idalia Stricklin	13
Emilie Gibbs	13
Noah Trolinger	14
Ayden Pinney	16
Katie Kolesar	18
Lloyd Chapman	22
Tiffani Dial	24
Bill Gaspar	25
Sue Brockman	27

Advent Clean-Up

Could you please lend a hand?

The sanctuary was so beautifully prepared and decorated during the Advent and Christmas season, by many helping hands. Thank you to all of our volunteers!

Now it's time to put those items away until next year. If you are able, we invite you join us after the worship service on January 5th to help take down, and pack away, all of the decorations. We thank you for any help you can give.



POINSETTIAS

Now that the Advent and Christmas season is coming to an end, we ask that you pick up the poinsettia that you ordered and take it home after the worship service on January 5th. We also invite you to help deliver any remaining poinsettias to our FPC shut-ins and others related to FPC to whom we want to express our love and care.



FLASHBACK CORNER

Who Do You See?

TWO PICTURES THIS MONTH!

Both photos taken in

1983 😊

A LOOK BACK

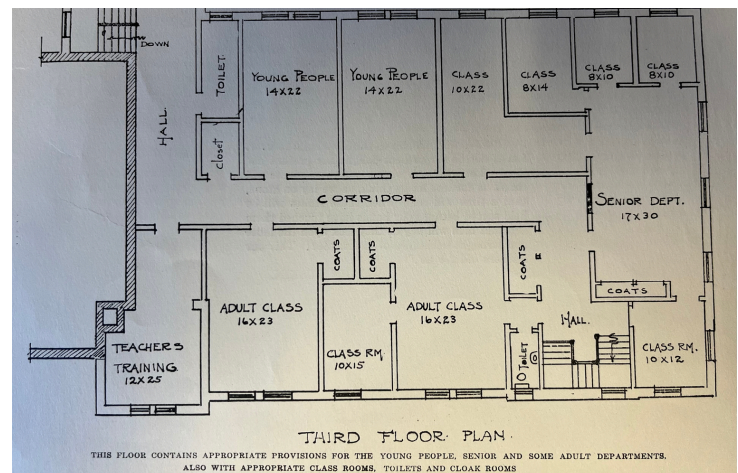
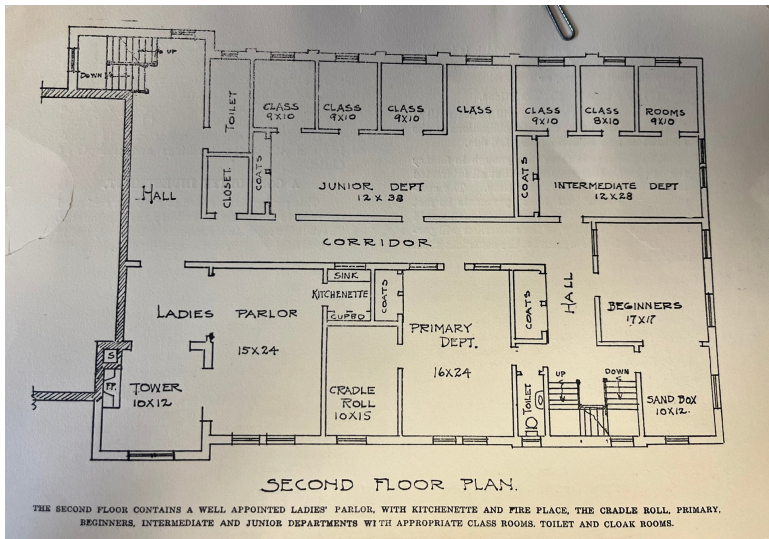
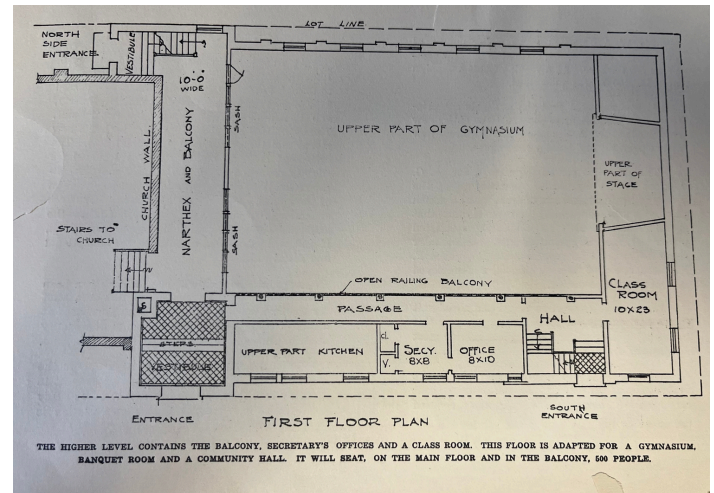
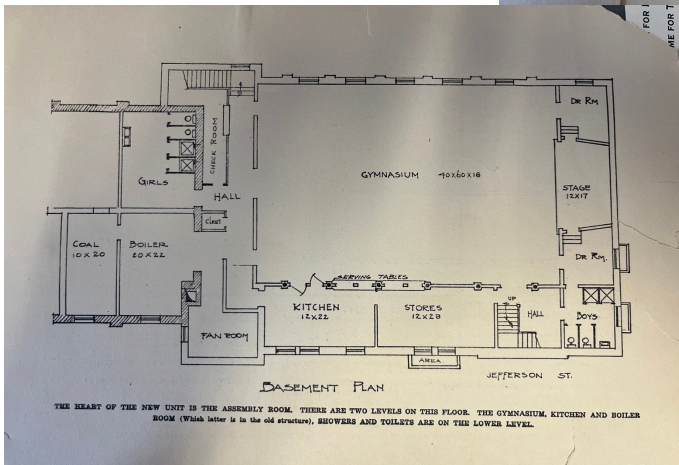
In 1926, FPC was looking to expand and add a whole new addition to the building.

With the church now housing 350 members, they needed more space. Here are the plans that were drawn up to create the new Sunday School wing. The new addition began in September of 1929 and largely completed by April of 1930. It cost \$55,000, which was a huge financial obligation during the early years of the depression, but they met all their pledges and got the building completed.

It's so fun to look back and see what was originally drawn up compared to what we currently have now. We could have had a gymnasium and an interior sand box!



THIS PRODUCTION OF THE ARCHITECT'S DRAWING GIVES A GOOD IDEA OF THE PROPOSED NEW CHURCH PLANT AS IT WILL APPEAR FROM JEFFERSON STREET



FPC STAFF and ELDERS

John Walker PASTOR	David Farrell ADMINISTRATION	Lisa Smithmeyer DISCIPLESHIP
Lori Trolinger CHURCH SECRETARY	Pete Trolinger ADMINISTRATION	Amanda Brockman FELLOWSHIP
Kerry Gerding CLERK of SESSION	Brian Huebner TRUSTEE	Peg Kramer FELLOWSHIP
Joy Huebner TREASURER	Mike Farrell TRUSTEE	Allen Gibbs WORSHIP
Lloyd Chapman MUSIC DIRECTOR	Dan Mestelle TRUSTEE	Ron Koestler WORSHIP
Diane Chapman ORGANIST	Cheryl Stohr MISSION	

WELCOME NEW ELDERS AND NEW COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We would like to sort through all the photos that are currently stored in Jim Davey's Classroom and get them organized by decade. We hoped to start doing this in 2020, then Covid hit. We'd love to revisit this and actually complete it.

Lori Trolinger will sort photos every Tuesday in January from 12-1:30pm in the church library. If you are able to help, please pop in and lend some time to see this project completed.

Our church has such a rich history and we'd love to create files for these photos in the office to make them more accessible. Thank you!

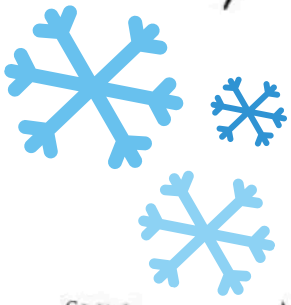
We invite you to be a part of refreshing the PRAYER LIFE of our congregation! We know that the foundation of prayer is so important for anything we do. There is an opportunity each week to be a part of this important and special work of the church; WEDNESDAY mornings from 9-10am (NOTE: from January through March we meet by ZOOM). Please come join us in the church library or by ZOOM. You can ask Pastor John for the link. Come and see what great work God is waiting to do, as we thank, seek, and ask Him in a weekly season of prayer together.

Heavenly Father, Thank you that we can come before you, our loving, powerful Father, and ask for your help and guidance. Thank you for how you have blessed FPC these past 150+ years. Will you please continue to pour out your blessings upon us? We ask for your protection and provision, for our church and leaders, as we enter this time of wanting to grow closer to you and be your disciples. Please help our hearts to be open to what you want to teach us. Help us to see your love for us and others all around us. Show us where we can be your hands and feet. Give us courage to speak out in love and kindness, in your name, where we see need. Please heal those who are sick; comfort those whose hearts are hurting; provide for those in need; bless and protect our families; heal our nation and world. Jesus, thank you for your amazing gift of complete forgiveness, because of your obedience and sacrifice on the cross, on our behalf. Please help us to live with new awareness of the freedom we have been given as your deeply loved sons and daughters. Help us to grasp and understand the rich PRIZE you have for us, and those all around us. Holy Spirit, please reveal yourself to us. Guide, lead, and protect us. In Jesus' mighty name. Amen.

**Want more help with HOW to pray and for WHAT?
See the daily calendar for PRAYER on the next page.**

<p>1</p> <p>Pray for our Restoration and Revival</p> <p>Psalm 80:19</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Pastor John and his family</p> <p>Galatians 6:9</p>	<p>3</p> <p>FPC Staff</p> <p>1 Corinthians 16:4</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Our Hurting World</p> <p>John 3:16</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Public Schools and Opportunity School</p> <p>Proverbs 22:6</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Shut-ins</p> <p>James 1:27</p>
<p>7</p> <p>Community Meals</p> <p>Matthew 25:37-40</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Worship</p> <p>Psalm 86:9-10</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Hearts of Hurting People</p> <p>Psalm 34:18</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Session</p> <p>Isaiah 41:10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>PADS Shelter and Homeless</p> <p>Matthew 25:35-40</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Protection of the Congregation</p> <p>Ephesians 6:10-18</p>
<p>13</p> <p>Invite and Welcome the Holy Spirit</p> <p>Titus 3:4-7</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Choir and Music Team</p> <p>Psalm 92:1</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Youth Group Ministry</p> <p>Proverbs 22:6</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Our Children</p> <p>Matthew 19:14</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Pray for our Missionaries strength and protection</p> <p>Acts 1:8</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Food Pantry</p> <p>Luke 21:18-19</p>
<p>19</p> <p>Health of the Congregation</p> <p>James 5:14</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Small Groups and Missional Communities</p> <p>Hebrews 10:25</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Nation, State, and Government</p> <p>1 Timothy 2:1-4</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Bible ZONE and all Sunday School Programs</p> <p>Matthew 19:14</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Our Seniors</p> <p>Psalm 90:14</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Churches of Ottawa</p> <p>Hebrews 10:24-25</p>
<p>25</p> <p>Ottawa Mayor and City Counsel</p> <p>1 Timothy 2:1-4</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Leaders of Ministries</p> <p>Hebrews 13:17-18</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Ottawa Community</p> <p>Jeremiah 29:7</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Pray for those who are far from God</p> <p>Luke 10:2</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Servant's Heart</p> <p>Matthew 25:37-40</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Under His Wings Ministry</p> <p>Jeremiah 29:7</p>

PLEASE PRAY EACH DAY WITH US
FOR OUR COMMUNITY AND CHURCH



January 2025



SUN

MON


TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

			<p>Want to join the Wednesday Prayer Team by ZOOM this Winter? Let Pastor John know.</p> 			
<p>Communion 9:30am</p> <p>Take Down Christmas Decorations 11am</p> <p>Take Poinsettias</p>	<p>Epiphany of the Lord</p>		<p>Prayer Meeting 9am by ZOOM</p> <p>Choir Practice 7:00pm</p>			
<p>9:30am Worship *elder ordination</p> <p>Sunday School Resumes</p>			<p>Prayer Meeting 9am by ZOOM</p> <p>Choir Practice 7:00pm</p>			
<p>Community Meal 12pm</p>			<p>Prayer Meeting 9am by ZOOM</p> <p>Choir Practice 7:00pm</p>			
			<p>Prayer Meeting 9am by ZOOM</p> <p>Choir Practice 7:00pm</p>			
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