



PRESBYTERIAN NEWS

First Presbyterian Church of Paw Paw, Michigan

120 Pine St – 269-657-3111 – firstpres1@btc-bci.com – <http://1stpresb.pawpawmi.us>

Volume 80, Issue 9

November 2011

From Tom's Study

"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock." Matthew 7:24 NRSV

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God" Matthew 5:8 NRSV

"You're blessed when you get your inside world—your mind and heart—put right. Then you can see God in the outside world." Matthew 5:8 The Message

"Life with Christ is reality. It is joy. It is hope. It is salvation. It matters more than anything in the world. It is life that infuses and subsumes the world. In despair, we have hope in God. In fear, the shattering surrender of Christ on the cross shines live glory on us. This is the heart of faith. This is the good news." Unbinding the Gospel p. 105

What foundation have we built our lives upon? That is the question Jesus poses at the end of his powerful sermon that we now call the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus suggests that we build our lives on the basic principle that we are completely dependent on God. If we believe that how does that direct our living? If we believe that how does that direct our interactions with others?

One of the foundational words of Jesus was "Blessed are the pure in heart for they will see God." As Eugene Peterson writes, pure in heart means getting our inside world put right. The result or the gift of having our inside world put right is that we see God, we see God all around us; and thus we see how to participate in God's work. What could be more important, meaningful, joy producing than spending our lives participating in God's work? As Martha Grace Reese writes, "It matters more than anything in the world." Does participating in God's work matter more to us than anything else in the world?

As we celebrate stewardship we are celebrating the opportunity to use our resources to join in God's work in the world. When we join together our talents, our financial resources, and our time we increase exponentially the impact we can have on the world for God's Kingdom. That is really exciting to think about. That is good news. As we

prayerfully consider our stewardship commitment let us rejoice in the opportunity to pool our resources so that we can have a tremendous impact in reaching out in the name of Christ. As our stewardship grows our ministries of mercy, our ministries of discipleship, our ministries of peace-making will expand as well. It is truly awesome to consider how God can use our stewardship to bring light, hope, and love to the world. Blessings on us all as we seek to live as stewards of God's good gifts!

In Christ's Service – Pastor Abbott



Celebration Sunday: Don't miss worship on November 13 as we celebrate God's faithfulness by building a rock solid foundation for our ministry together through our stewardship.

Advent Decorating: Please be looking for details about our annual Advent Decorating party.

Interested in Joining the Church? If you have questions about the church or would like some information about membership please contact Pastor Abbott at 657-3111.

Adult Small Groups

Attention Men: Men's breakfast will take place on Saturday, **December 3**, at 8:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. *Please note this change in date from normal schedule.* All men are invited and we would love to have you join us for this time of food, fellowship, and study.

Monday Night Bible Study: Each Monday night we join at 7:00 p.m. in the Library to study the Scripture Passages for the upcoming Sunday. It would be a gift to have you join us.

Sunday Morning Classes: There are two Sunday morning classes, each beginning at 9:45. All are invited to check them out.



Sunday Worship Times: Each Sunday in November there is a worship service at 8:15 and 11:00. The 8:15 service has more traditional music while the 11:00 service has a blend of music styles. We would love to have you join us.

Communion Celebration: On Sunday, November 6th, we will join together around our Lord's table during both worship services.

Invite a Friend: One of the ways we can be a beacon in our community is by simply inviting people to join us in worship. People's spirits are thirsty. Let us invite them to the well that never runs dry. Make sure to offer to pick them up.

Parking on Sundays: If you don't mind walking a bit, we would encourage folks to park on the street leaving the parking lot for folks who have a hard time walking, visitors, and parents with a car full of kids.

Meetings

Commission Meetings: Before attending a commission please check with the chairperson to make sure they are meeting at the regular time.

Administration Commission: Meets the 2nd Monday of the month at 5:00 p.m. in various locations. Contact Wendy Mickle for details 657-6738.

Education Commission: Meets the Sunday before the 3rd Tuesday after the 2nd worship service.

Mission Commission: Meets the Sunday before the 3rd Tuesday after the 2nd worship service.

Membership/Worship Commission: Meets on the 3rd Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

Properties Commission: Meets the 3rd Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

Session & Deacon Meetings: The Session and Deacon meetings will take place on Tuesday, November 15, at 8:00 p.m.

Deadline for December newsletter will be Monday, November 28. Please have all articles in to the church office by early morning.

Fellowship

Monthly Potluck: Invite a friend to join you on Wednesday, November 9th, 6:30 p.m. for potluck. We have great food and a wonderful time together.

Weekly Fellowship: Stick around and enjoy building relationships with each other after every service of worship. The food is always good as well. This a great time to grab a friend and spend some time in prayer.



Youth Ministry

Wyldlife: Attention middle school folks! We will meet on November 6 and 20, from 4:00 to 5:30 at Red Arrow Ministries. Bring a friend or two or three. We would love to have you.

Young Life: High school people please check your Facebook page for the latest Young Life news. Young Life meets most Monday nights, somewhere in the area, from sometime in the evening to later in the evening. Believe me you don't want to miss it.

Much like the life of teenager, our first couple months of Young Life have been unpredictable, fun, and exciting! After my first few weeks, I was beginning to think that I wouldn't be able to make it through an event without getting covered in shaving cream or being seriously injured. Thankfully, the next few weeks, my students decided to keep me clean and healthy! If you ask our youth what we've done in Young Life this year they may say that some of our activities have included throwing things off the top of a 3-story building, launching pumpkins with slingshots, and sailing cardboard boats across Maple Lake. What they might not think to tell you about is the conversation about Jesus Christ that they had with a leader, or the Bible study where they discussed the character of a good leader in Timothy 1. The time spent with students at the outlandish events of Young Life has given me the opportunity to build great relationships with them. If you have questions about how Young Life works or if you would like to experience it for yourself, talk to myself or Deb Abbott; we would love to hear your feedback and thoughts!

Thanks for your support,

Adam

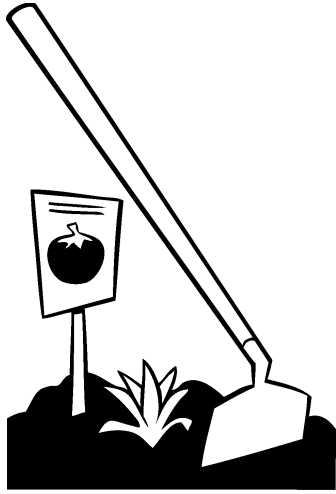
Middle School Sunday School: Adam Brown is leading the middle schoolers each Sunday morning. Their class will begin in the Gathering group at 10:00 a.m. on Nov. 16, then 9:30 the other three Sundays.

High School Sunday School: Deb Abbott will gather with the high school folks in the high school room at 9:30 a.m. She can't wait to connect with you.

Children's Ministry

Christmas Program Practice: Believe it or not the Christmas program is only a few weeks away. Check the information later in the newsletter.

Teachers Needed: This year teachers will have a partner for a three to four week stint of teaching. If you would be willing to help please contact Danean Baker (657-7803) or Sue Reynnells (674-3195).



STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

Stewardship

Our Stewardship work this fall is focusing on our families, our foundation, and our mission together. As you read this newsletter, you will have received a letter and your Commitment Card for 2012. Pastor Tom has been preaching on the Beatitudes and how they form a foundation in our lives individually and as a church family.

As you return our Commitment Cards to

the Plates of Joy or the church office, the Administration Commission as a way of acknowledging the continuing and growing foundation is adding a rock for each card received to the foundation pile Pastor Tom has been talking about in his sermons. Join us in watching and encouraging the "pile" to grow for 2012.

While we think about the campaign this year, let us find that common thread that connects each generation, and each family; as we care for each other, our community, our building; and as we continue to be a beacon for those in need locally and globally. We need to stand strong, as families do, in the midst of economic woes and spiraling prices, to keep this nurturing place alive and thriving – not only at 120 Pine, but in our community and beyond.

Thank you in advance for your continuing commitment of resources and talents to God's work in this place at this time!

Wishing you Peace,

Ric Baker (Elder), Tom Baney (Deacon), Wendy Mickle (Deacon), Andy Thorburn (Elder), Fran Kubicek (Treasurer)

Mission Opportunities

The Mission Commission would like to extend an invitation to all congregation members interested in helping in and around our community on the **Second Saturday for Service**.

Our next date for gathering will be on November 12 at 9:00 AM at the church fellowship hall. There is much to do. Our agenda includes helping at the homeless shelter in Decatur, making a meal for the Prayer Clinic in Kalamazoo, connecting with the Wings of God group, and raking lawns for our church family members. Please join us in service. The Mission Commission trip to Detroit has been changed to the week end of the 18th, 19th, and 20th of November. On this trip we will be working with the Korean Presbyterian Church of Detroit. We encourage any interested youth and adults to join us for a rewarding weekend of outreach and service. If you would like more details on the trip talk to either Tom Shoemaker or Adam Brown.

Jonas Nascimento was a guest at our church earlier this summer and while here he detailed his efforts to support a home for orphans in Sao Paulo, Brazil. I have been pondering how we might help him in his ministry. Jonas has been our guest here in Paw Paw on more than one occasion and this time he brought along the handsome piece of art work, made by his wife, which now adorns our communion table. In response to his gifts to us I am



proposing that any who wish could join me in making November the month of the **Jonas Jar**. I have at home a glass jar that I throw pocket change into on a regular basis. I plan to empty it at the end of November and send the contents to Jonas in support of his mission project "Home of the Good Seed". I would invite any others who are willing to do the same. It would be an easy project and at the end of the month I would hope to have a significant amount to send to our friend Jonas in support of his efforts. Please join me and begin filling your own Jonas Jar. – Tom Shoemaker

Thanks to each of you in our congregation who were able to listen to Dr. Betty Udongo's description of her mission projects in both Kalamazoo and her home country of Uganda. A big thanks as well to the Board of Deacons for allocating all of their profits from the Chili Luncheon to her mission. The mission commission will be searching for ways to stay connected with her meaningful ministry.

Wings of God: Wings of God Transition House hopes to have all major projects completed on the house by November 15, 2011, and hold an Open House in December.

Stuff the Bus! A number of organizations and businesses in the area are hosting "Stuff the Bus" on Saturday, November 5th to support local pantries including Eleanor's Pantry. In Paw Paw a school bus will be outside "Family Fare" on the 5th from

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Don't miss the opportunity to "Stuff the Bus!" for Eleanor's Pantry.

Eleanor's Pantry: Don't forget to shop for the pantry when you are at the store. Or if you are able, help the pantry out with a financial gift. Looking for a gift for that special someone? Make a donation to the pantry in their honor. Everyone will be grateful. If you have any questions about how you might help with the pantry please connect with Sue Miller (657-4601). I am sure we can find a niche for you.

Tremendous Need: We truly need people who are interested in learning how to run the sound system and the video projection system. If you have such an interest please connect with the church office.

Are you looking for a place to serve? Are you looking for a place to use your gifts? Please be thinking about involvement in these local mission opportunities: *Lunch with Friends, Habitat for Humanity, Restorative Justice, Eleanor's Pantry, Wings of God, Recovery Bash, The Decatur Shelter and United Christian Services.* If you have any questions about any of these please contact Pastor Abbott at 657-3111.



Children's Christmas Production & Fundraiser

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas....maybe not yet, but it *is* time to think about the kids' Christmas production: "God's Never Ending Gift." This year we will be focusing on God's greatest gift to us (Jesus!) and how God wants us to share the love of Jesus with the world around us. Not only will we be singing about God's gift, we will show the love of Jesus tangibly by raising money to finish the Heifer International project the children's ministry began a few years ago. All the money collected will go towards purchasing an "Ark" of animals for a village in need.

One of the ways we will be raising money is doing a "can drive" – the recycling of cans and bottles. We will be putting a large trash can in the Fellowship Hall to collect these items. If you have cans and bottles you'd like to donate for this project, please bring them in on Sundays or throughout the week and put them in the trash bin. Adam Brown and our middle school kids will be helping to recycle the cans and bottles on a regular

basis. We hope to completely fund the Ark by Christmas.

I've included our rehearsal schedule below. I will be sending home music, lines, and CDs with your kids soon. Please encourage your children to begin listening to the CD.

Here's the rehearsal schedule:

Sunday, Nov. 13 from 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Sunday, Nov. 20 from 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Sunday, Nov. 27 from 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Sunday, Dec. 4 from 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Saturday, Dec. 10 from 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Production: Sunday, Dec. 11 at 10 a.m.

Every good and perfect gift is from above; coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

James 1:17

NEW CHANCEL BANNERS DEDICATED

On September 25, 2011, two new Chancel banners were dedicated. Some time ago it was decided that we would like to have new banners that reflected our "Beacon" motto.

The art work was originally conceived by Deacon Karen Christensen. After meeting with the Worship and Membership Commission it was decided to ask Sandi Henson to make the banners. She consulted with Karen and Pastor Tom to turn the idea into the banners. Sandi selected all of the fabrics and did the construction. The lettering was done by Betty Roberts and the quilting was done by Debbie Bitely. Marlene Tucker helped Sandi with the binding so that they were ready to be hung for the dedication. With the wonderful help of Sandi's husband Bill to hang the banners they were dedicated on September 25.

Thank you so much to each of you who had a part in this project. The banners are beautiful and will serve our church for many years to come. We hope you are enjoying and are inspired by these banners.

**We are a beacon that:
Lights a path of hope and peace.
Reaches out to beckon and guide people to a safe harbor.
Illuminates and responds to the needs of our community.**



WORSHIP  WITH US!

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

The Worship and Membership Commission and the Session have decided that for the time being the 8:15 morning worship will be a traditional service with hymns primarily from the hymnal. The 11:00 a.m. worship will continue to be a blend of traditional and contemporary music. The sermons and scriptures will be the same for both services. We are excited and thrilled with some of the new possibilities in our music program with the addition of Tammy and Adam to our staff. They are doing some wonderful things. However, if you prefer the more traditional music the first service will offer that opportunity. This is a trend in many churches today. Music can be a sensitive issue for some people and we understand that. Therefore we are working to be sure we use some of each type of music at the later service. We hope you like this blend and find it an addition to your worship experience. Some of the words of the new music blend beautifully with the sermon and scripture of the day. If you feel unable to sing some of the new music the first time it is presented just listen to the words. We think you will find them especially meaningful.

If you have concerns about the music or any other aspects of our worship, please feel free to contact any member of the Worship and Membership commission or the Session. We are ready and willing to listen to your concerns and talk to you about this.

Judith Haefner, Worship and Membership Chair

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

The Sunday morning Bible Study class meets at 9:45 in the library. We will be beginning the book of James on November 13.

James is a powerful book. James was the half-brother of Jesus. The theme of this book is spiritual maturity. This letter was written to the Christian Jews scattered throughout the region.

James is a short book so if you want to begin a Bible study this would be a great place to begin. We welcome all who are interested to join us on Sunday mornings in the church library.

Royal and Judith Haefner

The Presbyterian Women's Tea & Style Show was enjoyed by all who attended.





- 11/02 Gerry* Jacher
- 11/02 Kyle Walters
- 11/02 Connor Baney
- 11/03 Rose* Rook
- 11/03 Cristine Martin
- 11/03 Megan Frazier
- 11/04 Sandra* Henson
- 11/06 Denyse Sherburn
- 11/07 Barbara* Kruse
- 11/08 Marlow Pardike
- 11/09 Thelma* Bennett
- 11/09 Brad Rhodes
- 11/09 Judy* Vlieg
- 11/10 Frederick* Smith
- 11/11 Trevor* Smith
- 11/12 Debra* Walters
- 11/12 Jake* Pursley
- 11/12 Gabriel Greenland
- 11/12 Claire Pursley
- 11/13 Jesse* West
- 11/13 C. Sue* Martin
- 11/13 Benjamin Hulst
- 11/14 Eden Wilder
- 11/15 Michael* Seymoure
- 11/15 Christian Buhl
- 11/16 Daniel Miller
- 11/17 Robert* Cassada
- 11/17 Catey* Bolton
- 11/18 Robert Flick
- 11/19 Bill* Henson
- 11/19 Gauge Butler
- 11/21 Florence Kaukola
- 11/21 Laura* Wells
- 11/21 Sherline Buhl
- 11/21 Alexander* Wiese
- 11/22 Bernard* Albright
- 11/23 Kathleen* Murphy-Brown
- 11/23 Elijah Smith
- 11/25 Sue* Reynnells
- 11/25 Scott Mitchell
- 11/26 Frances* Welch
- 11/30 Mary* Wyatt
- 11/30 Richard* Walters
- 11/30 Jacob* Bolton
- 11/30 Brennan Combs



- 11/01 Kirsten & Dave Wilder Jr.
- 11/07 Mary & Rick Diemer
- 11/14 Kelly & Kris Carr
- 11/18 Jack & Mary Wyatt

Thank you

To Johnell Cuddeback Weintraub, Freida Durringer, Donna Zabonick, Pat Peters and Barb Kruse for folding newsletters last month and to Jim vanWestrienen for folding Sunday bulletins.



Church Facebook Page

If you are on Facebook, come by and be a fan! If you aren't, you might want to consider it. Here's the link to the Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/First-Presbyterian-Church-of-Paw-Paw/142595359136642> Or you can do a search for First Presbyterian Church Paw Paw and it will pop up.

Thought for the Month

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

Philippians 4:6

PAW PAW COMMUNITY CHORUS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Paw Paw Community Chorus, sponsored by the Paw Paw High School Choirs, will present its 12th Annual Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 4th, 4 p.m., at the Paw Paw High School Performing Arts Center, 30609 Red Arrow Highway. The chorus, under the direction of Theresa Vaughn and accompanied on piano by Lisa Gardner, will present a variety of music including: "Prophets Knew," "Can You See the Star?" "Angel's Gloria," "There Is Faint Music," "O Holy Night," "Stille Nacht," "Holiday Processional," "Give Me a Silent Night," "Shepherds, Go Tell!" and "On With The Snow!"

The concert is free to the public, but donations are very much appreciated.

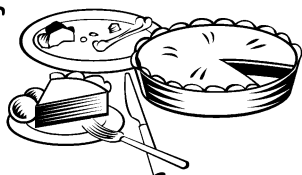
CHANCEL PROJECT

The Session is studying the possibility of making some structural changes to the chancel and are open to suggestions and opinions. We would like to see some improvement in utilization of our space to better facilitate worship through music, dance, youth programs (such as the Christmas programs) etc. Part of the vision is to remove the choir lofts, redo the floors, possibly purchase risers if this seems needed or appropriate, improve the sound system for the choir and other needs. Please let us know if you have visions of what can be done to enhance our worship experience. Your input will be appreciated. Contact any Session Member, Mike Seymoure of the Properties Commission or Judith Haefner of the Worship and Membership Commission.

November 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 3:30 Digging Deeper	2 8:00 TOPs 12:00 Lunch With Friends	3 9:00 PALs 12:00 Rotary Club 4:00 Library Autumn Tea 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	4 High School Young Life Camp	5
6 8:15 Worship 9:45 Adult Sunday School 10:00 Children's Sunday School 11:00 Worship Fellowship 4:00 Wyldlife	7 7:00 Bible Study 7:00 Comm. Chorus Young Life	8 10:00 Sharenet 3:30 Digging Deeper	9 8:00 TOPs 12:00 Lunch With Friends 6:30 Potluck	10 9:00 PALs 12:00 Rotary Club 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	11	12 9:00 Service Saturday
13 8:15 Worship 9:45 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Children's Sunday School 11:00 Worship Fellowship 4:00 Wyldlife	14 7:00 Bible Study 7:00 Comm. Chorus Young Life	15 3:30 Digging Deeper 6:00 Commissions 7:30 Joint Worship 8:00 Session/Deacons Mtgs.	16 8:00 TOPs 12:00 Lunch With Friends	17 9:00 PALs 12:00 Rotary Club 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	18	19 Detroit Mission Trip
20 2 ¢ a Meal 8:15 Worship 9:45 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Children's Sunday School 11:00 Worship Fellowship 4:00 Wyldlife	21 7:00 Bible Study 7:00 Comm. Chorus Young Life	22 10:00 Sharenet 3:30 Digging Deeper	23 8:00 TOPs No Lunch With Friends	24 Thanksgiving Dinner at K.C. Hall	25	26
27 8:15 Worship 9:45 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Children's Sunday School 11:00 Worship Fellowship	28 7:00 Bible Study 7:00 Comm. Chorus Young Life	29 3:30 Digging Deeper	30 8:00 TOPs 12:00 Lunch With Friends			

Thanksgiving Meals



The Community Thanksgiving Dinner will be Thursday, November 24 at the K of C Hall. Our church, as usual, will supply desserts. Please bring your offering to the hall on Wednesday evening or Thursday morning before 9 a.m.

Adult Prayer Group

Meeting 9 a.m. on Fridays
Pat & Dave Connor's, 217 Drew St.
(Next to Eleanor's Pantry)

This will be an opportunity to identify and pray about concerns in our church.

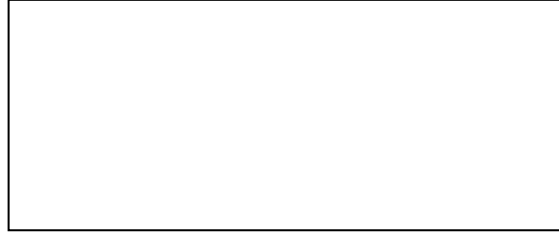
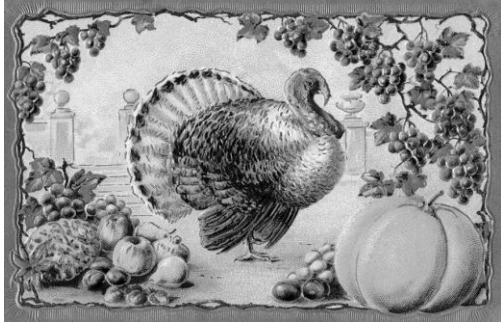
For details contact Pat at 760-2076 or Nancy Turk, 423-7645.

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Return Service Requested



November Sermon Schedule

November 6 – 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time –

Communion

**Scripture Reading: Matthew 7:24-27, Isaiah 61:1-4,
John 16:16-24, James 4:1-9, Matthew 5:4**

Sermon Title: “Blessed Are Those Who Mourn”

Synopsis: The second beatitude exemplifies the upside down nature of God’s Kingdom. What can it mean that a person is blessed when they mourn? How can mourning be a blessing? What kind of Kingdom is that? Have you ever experienced mourning as a blessing?

November 13 – 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time –

Celebration Sunday

Scripture Reading: Matthew 7:24-27, 2 Timothy 3:10-17, John 15:18-16:1, Matthew 5:10-16

Sermon Title: “Blessed Are Those Who Are Persecuted”

Synopsis: Why would a follower of Jesus be persecuted? What about the living of our lives would cause others to persecute us? These are essential questions for us to ask. Do our “good works” make other people uncomfortable because it causes them to evaluate their own life choices? If we are following the way of Jesus we will make others very uncomfortable.

November 20 – Christ the King/Reign of Christ

Scripture Reading: Psalm 100, Ephesians 1:15-23, Matthew 1:1-17

Sermon Title: “A Spiritual Genealogy”

Synopsis: What is your spiritual ancestry? How have you seen God at work through all the ups and downs of life, bringing you to this moment in your faith journey? Matthew felt it important to start the Gospel with a genealogy that begins with Abraham and ends with Jesus. Why? How does Jesus’ genealogy connect to our own spiritual journey?

November 27 – 1st Sunday of Advent

Scripture Reading: Romans 13:11-14, Isaiah 2:1-5, Matthew 3:1-6

Sermon Title: “Pointing Others to God’s Kingdom”

Synopsis: God’s Kingdom has come and continues to arrive. Theologically that is how we talk about this in-between time that live. God’s Kingdom has come, but it has not yet been fully realized. God’s Kingdom continues to move into the neighborhood. As followers of Jesus we are called to help prepare people for their eternal home with God. How can we join with John the Baptist in that essential calling?



Poinsettia Form

I wish to place _____ poinsettias in the church on Dec. 19 and 26.

Each poinsettia is \$8.00

By: _____

Your name/names as you want them to appear in the bulletin

Amount enclosed _____

Make checks payable to “First Presbyterian Church” marked “Poinsettia” and mail to the church office or place in the offering plate with this form.

In Loving Memory of

In Honor of

In Loving Memory of

In Honor of

In Loving Memory of

In Honor of

___ Please have a Deacon deliver a poinsettia to a shut-in or member who is ill on Dec. 19.

___ I will pick up the poinsettia after the service on Dec. 19.

All proceeds from the Poinsettia Flower Fund will go to the Flower Fund to be used throughout the year.