

How to Support First Presbyterian Church of Topeka

Your contributions make our ministries possible. You may place them in the offering plate during worship, give online through our website, or text the word "fpctopeka" to 77977.



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Office Hours

The office is open from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Volunteers will staff our front desk from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Friday.

All-Church Prayer

*Lord, like the light breaking through our windows,
break through our resistance to change,
show us the new things you want to do through First Presbyterian Church,
and empower us to embrace new opportunities. Amen.*



*All are
welcome!*

THIS WEEK AT FPC

Sunday, December 7

Usher Team 2

Nursery Open

Second Sunday of Advent

Communion

8:30 a.m. Worship Service, Chapel

9:30 a.m. Donuts & Discussion, Library

9:30 a.m. Good News Disciples

9:30 a.m. *Names of the Messiah* Advent
Class, Room 206

10:30 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary/Online

3:00 p.m. NA Group in Willard Hall

4:00 p.m. Pause for FPC Prayer

Monday, December 8

4:00 p.m. Pause for FPC Prayer

4:30 p.m. Rehearsal for Blue Christmas

5:30 p.m. Finance Meeting

Tuesday, December 9

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting

4:00 p.m. Pause for FPC Prayer

6:00 p.m. Blue Christmas Service

Wednesday, December 10

Noon Noels

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study, Conf. Rm.

4:00 p.m. Pause for FPC Prayer

5:00 p.m. Food Distribution

7:30 p.m. 12 Step in Willard Hall

Thursday, December 11

2:00 p.m. Needlework Group

4:00 p.m. Pause for FPC Prayer

5:30 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal

6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

8:00 p.m. NA Group in Willard Hall

Friday, December 12

Pastors' Day Off

12:30 p.m. Office Closing

4:00 p.m. Pause for FPC Prayer

Saturday, December 13

4:00 p.m. Pause for FPC Prayer

Sunday, December 14

Usher Team 3

Nursery Open

Third Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. Worship Service, Chapel

9:30 a.m. Donuts & Discussion, Library

9:30 a.m. Good News Disciples

9:30 a.m. *Names of the Messiah* Advent
Class, Room 206

10:30 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary/Online

12:00 p.m. Youth cookies & gift exchange

3:00 p.m. NA Group in Willard Hall

4:00 p.m. Pause for FPC Prayer

Welcome to FPC!

Wherever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome here! Please fill out a Connection Card (in pew backs) and place it in the offering plate or hand it to a pastor. We also have a small visitor bag for you. If you're not given one by an usher, please select a blue gift bag at any of the entrances into the sanctuary.

We're so glad you are here!

In Our Prayers

Joys: Noon Noel's, first snow fall of the year, welcoming Sheri Winter as a member of the church

Concerns: Allen Freeman and Zach, Randy Scott (brother of Kay Wischropp), Callie Anderson (daughter of Terri and Cal Warrem), Roberta Schultz, Linda Mets, Bonnie Gray, Melba Banion, Jason Carmichael (son of Bob and Pam Carmichael), Kay Wischropp

Sympathy: Prayers for the family of Robert Dake, father of Pam Kellim, who passed away on November 20

Prayers for the family of Margaret Arnold, sister of Norma Pettijohn, who passed away on November 22

Prayers for the family of Lee Buller brother-in-law of Shirley Martin

Herman Jones Retiring

Quiz: Who has been a huge, funky chicken during the Children's Moment? A gigantic, friendly lightning bug for VBS? And our cherished Director of Children & Family Ministries? You guessed it—our own Herman Jones. Herman has decided to retire for real at the end of December, to spend more time with his family and traveling. Though we will miss having him on staff, we wish Herman the best and look forward to the tales (and puns) about his new adventures. We'll celebrate Herman's dedication to our church family during the fellowship hour after 10:30 worship on Sunday, December 28.

Poinsettia Order Forms

If you have not yet purchased a poinsettia, the deadline is fast approaching. Fill out the form located in your bulletin and either attach a check or pay online. You may pick up your poinsettia after the Christmas Eve service or during business hours the following week.

A Christmas Wager

Looking for a way to get into the holiday spirit? There is a brand new Christmas play making its world debut on December 12 running through the 14th at the Beacon. This romantic Christmas fable of love and loss and the magic of second chances is sure to magnify the holiday spirit. If that isn't enough of a reason to see the play, they are partnering with us to help our food distribution efforts. Bring a can of food with you to the play and receive \$5 off your ticket. Visit www.achristmaswager.com for more!

Blue Christmas Service - December 9

Our annual Blue Christmas Service will be Tuesday, December 9, at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary and online. This contemplative service is especially designed for those who have experienced a loss in recent years, anyone who is grieving or struggling, anyone for whom Christmas may not feel very merry this year.

Lessons and Carols - Christmas Eve Service

Join us on Christmas Eve for a traditional service of Lessons and Carols at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. This is a service that alternates scripture readings with beautiful music of the season. Following the service, please join us in Disciples Hall for wassail and cookies. All are welcome! We are in need of cookies for our reception. Please sign up in Disciples Hall to bring cookies.

Names for Messiah Advent Class

Fran Crouch will lead this 4-week class on Walter Brueggemann's *Names for the Messiah*. The class is meeting at 9:30 a.m. on the 2nd floor in room 206 (the classroom next to the elevator). Books are available at the front desk for \$12, or order one online if you prefer.

Noon Noels

Please sign up to help at Noon Noels on Wednesday, December 10 and 17.

The sign-up sheet is located in Disciples Hall. Greeters are needed at the outside doors and sanctuary door. Ushers in the sanctuary are needed to answer questions and help people find seats. The service begins at 12:00 noon. Lunch will be served at 11:15 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

December 10: Shawnee Heights High School "Choraliers"

December 17: Cair Paravel 2nd-Grade Bell Choir

Communion Music

Church member and composer Gordon McQuere has written "Two Christmas Miniatures for Organ" that will be heard in a variety of settings this season. The first piece will be offered today during Communion at 10:30. Both pieces will be part of the prelude for the Noon Noel on December 17 and on Christmas Eve. Thank you to Gordon for sharing his faith and artistry.