

Tidings

Monthly Newsletter



December 2025

Mission Update

We thank those who donated \$75 towards the PCUSA Peacemaking special offering; \$18.85 will be sent to the Livingston SAAFE House attached to their next quarterly payment. All who helped donate items for the shoeboxes, helped fill them and then wrap them, THANK-YOU. We took 61 shoeboxes from FPC to the Seafarer's Center on November 24th. They now have a total of 3730 shoeboxes to give out starting December 1, 2025



Three December events: 1) Ray Gearing turns 100 this year and we will recognize him in the Fellowship Hall on Dec. 7th at 2 p.m. 2) Livingston holds its annual Christmas parade on Saturday, Dec. 13th starting at 6 p.m., and riders are needed to ride on David Sessums' "float". Contact Chuck if interested in helping or riding. 3) Ethan Ainsworth will perform and lead Christmas music in our sanctuary on December 18th at 5 p.m., our final COSI event for the year. We do have a special one lined up on February 11th, 2026, so stay tuned.

Chuck
Davidson



First Presbyterian Church

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Office hours: Wed. & Fri. 9-12 pm

Special Dates

- **Dec. 3rd – Administration Team Meeting, 9 a.m., AB; Mission Team Meeting, 11:15 a.m., FH**
- **Dec. 7th – 2nd Sunday in Advent Communion worship service; Congregational Meeting after the service; Ray Gearing's 100th Birthday, 2 p.m., FH**
- **Dec. 8th – PW Circle Meeting, 1:30 p.m., FH**
- **Dec. 10th – Stated Session Meeting, 3 p.m., FH**
- **Dec. 13th – Annual Livingston Christmas Parade, 6 p.m.**
- **Dec. 14th – 3rd Sunday in Advent; Fellowship Luncheon after the Worship Service, FH (no 11 a.m. Bible Study)**
- **Dec. 16th – Naomi's Sisters, 1 p.m., FH**
- **Dec. 18th – COSI Christmas Concert, 5 p.m., FH**
- **Dec. 21st – 4th Sunday in Advent**
Sundays: Friendship Bible Class, 9 a.m., FH; **Worship Service, 10 a.m.,** Adult Bible Study, 11 a.m.
Wednesdays: Choir practice, 10 a.m., Sanctuary; Prayer Group, 1 p.m., FH; Bible Study, 2 p.m., FH

Ideas for Living Joyfully: Forty Days of Celtic Advent and the Twelve Days of Christmas 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p style="text-align: center;">Practice Grace. No need to do them all or every day. Let the Holy Spirit speak to your heart! Nativity journey – Place Mary and Joseph in one corner of the room; the wise men in another; the shepherds, another. Keep Jesus hidden. Set up the stable with animals and enjoy helping each figure journey to Bethlehem.</p>						<p style="text-align: center;">November 15 <i>Celtic Advent Begins</i> Visit a beautiful spot in or near your home. Breathe and listen. How is God preparing you for Christ's birth?</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">16 Spend time with a favourite image of art.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">17 Enjoy grilled cheese & tomato soup or another comfort dish.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">18 Give thanks for one thing you enjoy in your work.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">19 Look at your favourite photos, share them and tell stories.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">20 Say Hi to a person standing on the fringes.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">21 Take a loved one on a walk, outside or down memory lane or both.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">22 CS Lewis Day Go on a nature walk and look for God's creatures. Aslan Lives!!</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">23 Smile at a stranger and enjoy their smile! <i>Move Mary & Joseph closer.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">24 Make a meal for someone in need or visit someone who is lonely</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">25 List what you are thankful for, tell God, tell each other.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">26 Give someone you love a long hug.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">27 Write a gratitude note to a family member or friend, hide it in their pocket or lunch.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">28 Notice the really small things in life, like bugs or dust bunnies (resist the urge to sweep them away!)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">29 Take a friend to tea. Leave the smartphone in your bag.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">30 Liturgical Advent Begins Welcome a new person at church.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">December 1 Read or Tell stories to loved ones. <i>Move the Wise Men closer.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2 Sing some favorite songs—with others, if you can.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3 Take a walk and enjoy the Christmas lights.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">4 Call a friend & tell them one thing you appreciate about them.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">5 Play a game from childhood or with a little person in your life.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">6 Bake or make something that smells delicious, and give it away.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">7 Kneel down when you greet & talk to a child.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">8 Look out the window for 5 minutes & notice life.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">9 Write a love note or color a picture for a child in your life.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">10 Send a loved one on a treasure hunt today. Give them clues & giggle a lot.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">11 Say Hi to people behind the shop counters. Wish them a good day.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">12 Notice the eye- color of people close to you and <i>marvel at beauty.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">13 Light candles for whatever place or situation breaks your heart and pray for God's joy there.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">14 Gaudete Sunday Read Mary's Song: Luke 1:46-55 Light a pink candle for JOY <i>Move Mary & Joseph closer.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">15 Read a story out loud, read a story to your friend, child, parent, or spouse.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">16 Listen to and share some favourite music that makes you smile.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">17 The "O" Antiphons: Wisdom (Isa. 11:2-3) Who in your life offers wise counsel? Thank them. <i>Move the Wise Men closer.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">18 Lord (Isa 33:22) Ask God how he wants to be the Lord of your life. Listen.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">19 Root of Jesse (Isa 11:10) A Jesse Tree remembers God's faithfulness. Write memories of God's faithfulness on paper ornaments & hang them on the tree.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">20 Key of David (Rev. 3:7) What door of your life do you need God to open & bring grace? God has the key to every door.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">21 Morning Star (Isa 9:2) Pray for God's light to shine in a place or situation that is breaking your heart.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">22 King of Nations (Isa 9:6) Listen to Handel's Messiah: "For Unto us a Child is Born" What does it mean to you for Christ to be born?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">23 Emmanuel (Isa 7:14) How is God with you? How are you God's presence to others? Sing "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">24 Christmas Eve Where have you experienced God's Joy this Advent? <i>Mary & Joseph enter the stable</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">25 The Birth of Jesus Christ Make a joy list. <i>Put Jesus in the Nativity; add the Shepherds, too.</i> The 12 Days Begin!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">26 St. Stephen's Day The First Martyr John 1:1-5 Genesis 1:3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">27 St. John the Evangelist Psalm 139:11-12 <i>The Wise Men journey closer each day...</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">28 The Holy Innocents Pray for children around the world Matt. 19:14</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">29 Isaiah 58:10 Bring flowers to someone who needs their day brightened.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">30 Isa 60:19 Notice the really small things in life.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">31 Ps 43:3 Write a list of who and what you are thankful for from 2025.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">January 1 Matt 5:14-16 Take a moment to be kind to yourself: plan a day of joy.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2 John 8:12 What are your hopes for 2026? Pray for God's wisdom.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3 1 Peter 2:9 Write a thank you note and mail it.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">4 Romans 8 Choose 3 healthful habits to practice for this New Year</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">5 Twelfth Night, Epiphany Eve Luke 4:1-21 <i>Move the Wise Men to the stable</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">January 6 – February 1: Epiphany and Epiphanytide On Epiphany, January 6, chalk your lintels (doorframe) and the lintels of friends' houses with the Epiphany blessing 20+C+M+B+26. The numbers represent the year. CMB represents the names of the three wise men (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar), and also the Latin phrase, <i>Christus Mansionem Benedicat</i> – Christ Bless this House!</p>				

How we spend our days is how we spend our lives. Annie Dillard

Calendar created by Mother Susan Forshey, SCP. Find me at ContemplativeCottage.com and mothersusanforshey.substack.com.
 Please share freely!

Christmas Concert: December 18th, 5pm

Attend the final COSI event for 2025 in our sanctuary as Ethan Ainsworth with a few friends presents a Christmas concert for our entertainment. Ethan played our 1976 Visser-Rowland organ in March and returns with a few musicians to help us celebrate the Christmas season. We had a full house in March so make your plans early to attend this event.

Administration Team

The Administration Team met on November 5 with six members present. Jay opened with prayer. Jay stated that his elder term will complete in December and that the nominating team has located a replacement.

David stated that he had called the locksmith to work on making the door locks work smoothly. Joe Palmer is looking into breaking the expensive lease for the large dishwasher in the Fellowship Hall kitchen.

David has located matching carpet for the Activity Building stairs and has been given the go-ahead to install it.

He also reported the new storage building needs tying down and that he has what he needs to do that. A ramp also needs to be built.

The team discussed at length 2026 salaries and 2025 bonuses for each of the church's five paid employees. It made these recommendations to Session for their approval on November 12.

Respectfully submitted,

-Mary Lou Anderson

?? Bible Quiz ??

Fill in the blank to complete this verse from 2 Corinthians:

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new _____.
The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."



- A) Creation
- B) Beginning
- C) Season
- D) Covenant

Answer: A (See 2 Corinthians 5:17, ESV)



CHRISTMAS EVE
Service, 5p.m.



DECEMBER

birthdays & anniversaries

- Ray Gearing, 12/07
- Carol Gunter, 12/09
- David Sessums, 12/14

- Scott & Katie Ferguson, 12/04
- Chris & Katie Longoria, 12/27

Elder of the Month:

Sheri Grounds



Loving God, Loving People

At First Presbyterian Church of Livingston, our mission is to glorify Jesus Christ. Our vision is to feed the people of Polk County: emotionally, physically, and spiritually.

If you are new to the Livingston area, just visiting, or looking for a church home, please join us for worship and fellowship. Sunday Worship starts at 10 a.m. We will share our love for Christ and each other! Connect with us at: www.fpclivingston.com

Joe Palmer prepared with Mike Andjelic 40 lbs of catfish that he fried for us on second Sunday 11/9.

“You can accomplish more in one hour with God than in a lifetime without him.”
—Author unknown

Communion at FPC-Livingston

All who trust in Jesus are welcomed to the Lord’s table regardless of denomination. Home-bound communion is available to those who cannot attend worship. Please make your request by the Wednesday preceding Communion Sunday.