

First Presbyterian Church  
Rev. Tim Snart  
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## *November - December 2020*

### *Minister's Message*

Well, here we go again. We have once again come to the place where, in order to protect the members of our congregation from getting infected with the corona virus, we have made the decision to suspend our in person worship for a time.

It is very important for all of us to realize that even though we are not able to safely gather in a traditional service of worship, we have an abundant ability to worship our Great God. After all, in the act of worship, with all of our prayers and songs and reflecting on God's word, the bottom line is that all of those things have the intention of bringing honor and glory to God. We can do that wherever we are. Each prayer sincerely offered up, has the intent to glorify the name of the Lord. Each sincere act of service, in the name of the Lord, has the intent to honor and glorify God, or at least it should have that intent. Each sincere attempt to reach out in love to one of our neighbors who is isolated or alone has the intent, or at least it should have the intent to bring honor to God. Each time we tune into worship and join in communion with our brothers and sisters in Christ on one of our YouTube worship services, we should have the intent to bring honor to our Great God. Even in the most mundane activities of everyday life, we should have the intention of offering the best that we have so that our actions bring glory to God.

In fact, God created us with one purpose in life. And that purpose is to magnify and bring glory to the name of our Great God. So, you could say that God's purpose for our whole life is to honor and glorify Him. In other words, God's plan is that every single moment of our life has the purpose of worshipping the name of the Lord. So, the fact that we are not able to gather in the place where we carry out the traditional act of worship, in no way takes away our opportunity to join in worship. Our hearts are bound together in worship by the fact that Christ's Spirit is a common bond inside each one of our hearts. We are constantly in communion and in fellowship with our God because of the Spirit's blessing. That is God's purpose. That is God's will. We are the body of Christ, whether we are in the sanctuary of our church, or sending a text to our friend who is in a senior living center. We are the body of Christ, whether we are in this sanctuary, or in our living room watching a YouTube of scripture and songs of praise. Either way, if the Spirit is leading our heart, we are worshipping in the name of Jesus, our Savior. This pandemic may make it necessary for us to look a little harder for our opportunities to honor our God, but this pandemic can never take away our life's purpose which is to worship and serve the Lord with a glad heart.

May God's Blessing join our hearts together by the Spirit's blessing.

*Pastor Tim Snart*



Thank You, LORD!



November - December 2020

## Christmas Worship



Because of the pandemic this year, we will have our Advent and Christmas services online. We will make every attempt to bring to you meaningful music and worship in order to make your Advent and Christmas meaningful, in spite of all the differences we are experiencing this year. I hope that your Christmas brings a warm and blessed encounter with the love of our Savior.

### How to find the Worship Channel

To find the online worship services you can look on the church's website. Or, you can find a link on the church's Facebook page.

Or, you can Google "YouTube". Then, open YouTube and you will see a search bar or magnifying glass. Type in "First Presbyterian Church, Coal Valley" scroll past the ads, and then you will see a picture of our church. Click on that, and then all of our worship services and midweek meditations will pop up. Just click on the one you want. If you have trouble call pastor Tim.



## Happy Thanksgiving

Although we were not able to have our Harvest Dinner this year, we would like to say how much you are missed and how joyful it will be when we are again able to gather together and share a meal. So please know in your heart that we are thankful for our church family, and you will be kept in our hearts and prayers. Enjoy this Thanksgiving and know that you are loved.

### Monthly Mission Theme

We have a different mission emphasis for each month of the year. In November, the mission theme is Heifer International. In December, the selected mission is the Christmas Basket Ministry.



# Shoeboxes

Even though we are in the midst of a pandemic, we have collected about 200 shoeboxes for “Operation Christmas Child.” If we allow God to flow through our hearts in prayer, then, as we pack and send off these shoeboxes, these children will know that we care about them, and that God cares about them. If we have filled each shoebox with love, and we are praying for each and every one, then God will wrap His loving arms around these children, and God will change their lives through this simple act of kindness. Pandemic or not, the love we share through these shoebox gifts will endure forever. We will be delivering our collected shoeboxes to the drop off location on Sunday, November 22. Thank you for all who participated in this caring mission.



## Christmas Baskets

The Coal Valley Food Pantry and the Coal Valley Lions Club are teaming up to prepare Christmas baskets for those in our community who are not as fortunate as many of us. Given the pandemic, we are going to have to do things a little bit differently this year. Here are some ways you can help make someone’s Christmas a little brighter:

- \*You can put the ministry of the Christmas baskets on your prayer list.
- \*You can contribute toward the cost of items needed for the Christmas baskets by mailing your donations to the church.
- \*You can bring canned goods or other nonperishable food items to the church by December 11<sup>th</sup>.
- \*You can help wrap presents on December 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm. We should be able to use Sunday school rooms and other areas of the church to be socially distant.

- \* Given the need to keep the numbers down, while packing the Christmas baskets, we are asking that you call the church to sign up so that we know exactly how many people to expect. We will pack the food baskets on December 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am.
- \* We will distribute the baskets on December 19<sup>th</sup> from 8-10 am. We ask that you sign up to volunteer so we can keep control of our numbers in order to keep socially distant.



### A MESSAGE FROM THE CHOIR:

This year has been difficult in so many ways for all of us, but for me the worst part has been the absence of music. I never imagined a world where we would not be able to make music together. I understand the reasons why, but that doesn’t make it any easier. For my whole life, music has expressed my joy and comforted my sorrow. Some of my earliest memories are of my mother singing to me to help me fall asleep. My family never listened to the radio when we traveled; instead we sang together, my mom on the melody, my dad teaching his daughters harmony, reserving the bass part for himself. As an instrumentalist, I can fully appreciate the beauty of the violin, the majesty of the French horn, the power of a massive pipe organ, and the versatility of the piano. But no instrument is as glorious as the human voice. We were made in God’s image and when we sing, we are taking a step closer to our Creator. True recovery will be that wonderful day when all of us, not only the choir but the congregation as well, will be able to sing together with joy, tears, praise and reckless abandon! May that day come soon!

Eilene Stephens  
November 2020



On **Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**, we will meet at the church at 1:00 pm for an afternoon of caroling for those in our congregation who are shut in. Recognizing the importance of reaching out to those who are isolated during this difficult time, we are going to make some adjustments so we can carol safely. This is an opportunity to spread some Christmas joy during this blessed season.



## New Robes

The church has purchased new robes for the candle lighters. We really appreciate the young people who volunteer to be our candle lighters. Bringing the light to our worship service and taking the light back out into the community at the end of our worship service is a blessing to all of us who worship here. Our young people take great pride in serving our church in this way. Thank you for your service.

These new robes were purchased in loving memory of Marvin Anderson. What better way is there to remember those who have gone before us than to have the children bring the light into and out of our worship service?

## Scout Bridge Walk Way Project



If you haven't yet noticed, the church has been the beneficiary of an Eagle Scout project for Landon Schelker, from troop 118. The project was to enhance our wooden bridge behind the church, next to the gazebo. They added a sidewalk to the end of the bridge leading into the back yard. Thank you to troop 118. The troop did a wonderful and professional looking job, and we are very grateful for all their hard work and attention to detail. Thank You.

## Camelot School



Did you know that the students at Camelot School (former Horace Mann School) have been helping with our shoeboxes? They have helped us fill 20 shoeboxes for "Operation Christmas Child." Also they have been helping in our food pantry too! Isn't it great when we can work together with other groups to spread God's love!

## Mitten Tree



This year because of the pandemic, we will not have our traditional mitten tree because our worship services have been suspended. If you would like to donate hats, scarfs or mittens for the benefit of those in need within our community, please feel free to drop them off at the church. Thank you in advance for your generous donations.





## Holiday Recipe!

### Carolyn's Pumpkin Dessert



When you are thankful, you worship Me acceptably- with reverence and awe. Thanksgiving is not just a holiday celebration once a year. It's an attitude of the heart that produces Joy; it is also a biblical command. You cannot worship Me acceptably with an ungrateful heart. You may go through the motions, but your ingratitude will hold you back.

Whenever you're struggling spiritually or emotionally, pause and check your "thankfulness gauge." If the reading is low, ask Me to help you increase your level of gratefulness. Search for reasons to thank Me; jot them down if you like. Your perspective will gradually shift from focusing on all that is wrong to rejoicing in things that are right...

Give thanks to Me, for I am good: My Love endures forever. I want you to set aside time to think about the many blessings I have provided for you. Thank Me for the gift of life- yours and those you love. Be grateful also for everyday provisions: food and water, shelter, clothing, and so on. Then remember the greatest gift of all: everlasting Life for everyone who knows Me, the Savior.

*Jesus Always, by Sarah Young*

Grease bottom of 9 x 13 pan. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Layer 1: 1 box yellow cake mix less 1 cup; 1/2 c. butter melted; 1 egg. Mix with fork and spread on bottom.

Filling: 3 c. canned pumpkin pie mix (kind with spices); 2 eggs; 2/3 c. milk or half & half or Milnot.

Topping: 1 c. cake mix; 1/4 c. sugar; 1 tsp. cinnamon; 1/4 c. oleo. Crumble over top and add chopped pecans.

Bake 50+ minutes or until knife comes out smooth.

Submitted by Jan Gustafson



*And His name shall be called Wonderful,  
Counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father,  
the Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6b*

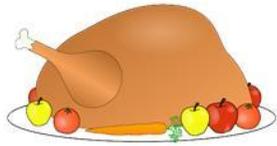
# Word Search

Find the following words.

angel  
bell  
candles  
candy  
chimney  
December  
eggnog  
gifts  
greetings  
happy  
holiday  
jolly  
lights  
merry  
mistletoe

V	K	G	N	A	C	R	D	E	T	B	B	K	O
T	N	E	B	C	A	T	O	D	T	A	R	K	P
G	Y	C	H	I	M	N	E	Y	G	N	C	W	Y
J	C	J	V	Q	D	Y	E	C	E	G	Y	P	L
Q	A	C	H	N	E	E	H	A	Q	E	A	P	L
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R	D	O	Y	R	R	E	M	G	G	X	Q	W	N
G	M	M	E	O	T	E	L	T	S	I	M	D	O





# November 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 <i>Bodie Lambert</i>	4 <i>Dwayne Blaser</i> <i>Megan Blumenshein</i>	5 <i>Teresa Bradley</i>	6 <i>Kelly Harmon</i> <i>Kathy Heiar</i>	7 <i>Kate Crane</i>
8	9	10 <i>Rick Liedtke</i> <i>Jonathan Manecke</i> <i>Melody Schnell</i>	11 <i>Zane Sandusky</i>	12 <i>Dylan Tucker</i>	13	14 <i>Leona Burnett</i>
15	16 <i>Marion Kuhn</i> <i>Shelly Johnson</i>	17	18 <i>Joyce Needham</i>	19 <i>Maxwell Gentry</i>	20	21
22 <i>Carole Bridgford</i> <i>Debbie Collins</i> <i>Mariann McWhinney</i>	23	24	25 <i>Lia O'Neil</i> <i>Tracey Tucker</i>	26	27 <i>Paul Schnell</i>	28
29	30 <i>Jack Needham</i> <i>Kaitlyn Merkel</i>					



# December 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 <i>Bill Collins</i>	2	3	4 <i>Chuck Meyer</i>	5
6	7 <i>Joyce Stephens</i>	8 <i>Gin Wray</i>	9	10	11	12 <i>Corey Lambert</i>
13	14	15 <i>Tim Devooght</i> <i>Bev Pomo</i> <i>Jim Quillin, Sr.</i>	16	17	18	19
20	21 <i>Roy &amp; Jan</i> <i>Gustafson</i>	22 <i>Dick Welsh</i>	23 <i>Violet Fiers</i> <i>Stan Karaway</i>	24 <i>Eilene Stephens</i>	25 <i>Elliot Fiers</i>	26
27 <i>Bill Blankenship</i>	28	29 <i>Jennifer</i> <i>Blankenship</i> <i>Sarah Manecke</i>	30 <i>Joan Gustafson</i>	31 <i>Landyn Leech</i>		