

NEWTON FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 2023

Newsletter

From Pastor Scott:

The Gift of Our Church

You really can't have too much gratitude in life. Thanksgiving for life, for food, for shelter, for family, for friends, for a warm church to worship in, for the fellowship of brothers and sisters in Christ, and for the filling of the Holy Spirit. We have been given an abundant life in Christ, which is because His life fills our life to make it abundant. We really can't have too much gratitude when we realize all the blessings we have in Jesus.

This Christmas I'm thankful for our church family and I'm thankful for the new members who joined our church in November. Youth and adults, they all have been an encouragement to me in my ministry and so I encourage you to get to know them in our Sunday morning Sunday School class, in the choir loft, in the Fellowship Hall at potlucks, and in the pews, as they are a wonderful part of our church family. Each has brought their own story of following Jesus and they are an inspiration to me.

This Christmas season I simply want to encourage you to enjoy our church family. We have been given many gifts by Jesus and one very valuable one is the gift of our church family. Give thanks and enjoy!



INSIDE:

PW Updates

Thank Offering
and PW Sunday

Car Winterizing Event Photos

Youth Activities

Nurture Team News

New Members

Holms in Malawi

Updates on
Miranda Kennedy

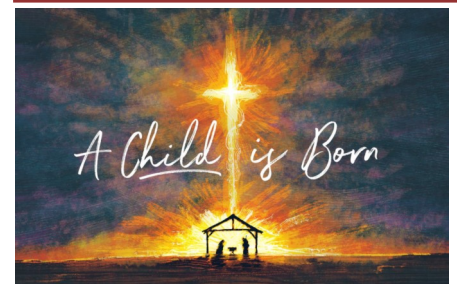
Christmas Joy Concert

Salvation Army Needs

Prayer Requests

December Birthday
and Anniversaries

December Calendar



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



PW Post by *Sandy Larson*

November was a great month for Thankfulness. We had a good Circle meeting with Karen Wilson leading us in our Bible Study. We had a wonderful Presbyterian Women's Thank Offering Sunday service that had Rev. Ruby Kleymann, of our church, giving the message on being thankful. The service included adding 8 new adult members joining, baptizing two of 3 new youths joining, lovely music by our Choir Ensemble and their accompaniments and concluded with a bountiful Presbyterian Pot Luck Dinner. We collected \$500 in donations to the PW Thank Offering recipients selected by the National PW Mission Committee. A large thank you to all the ladies (and men) that helped with the dinner. All this led to a full worship day to be thankful for.

December will hold our last **Circle meeting** of this year. We will meet in **Fellowship Hall, on December 13, at 10:00 AM**. Carol Cheyney will be our hostess and treat us with her famous December Brunch. Those that have not been to our December Brunch Circle meeting will be "in for a tasty meal." So mark your calendars now!

We will again start our Bible study lessons, Sacred Encounters, at our January Circle meeting. These lessons are proving to be quite interesting so please plan on meeting with us in the New Year.

As we celebrate Advent in the coming weeks, my wish for you is to have a meaningful and blessed month. May it be filled with times spent with family and good friends, good food and special Holiday treats and numerous moments reflecting the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



Photos from PW Thank Offering Sunday Potluck.



Photos from PW Thank Offering Sunday Potluck.

The Car Winterizing event was held on Sunday, November 5th. There was an excellent turn out! It's estimated that 35-40 cars came through! There was enough supplies to serve everyone. Newton Fast Lube and other organizations also reached out to donate items. Thank you to everyone



Photos by Pastor Scott

Youth Updates & Activities:

by Mary McGehee

JUMP: We just finished our unit on Feelings. We discovered that even Jesus and God got angry and it is okay to have these “yucky” feelings. It is how we react when we have these feelings that we are discovering and working on. We are getting our boards ready and are anxiously waiting to add more on to them. We have started on an Advent series called: “Advent Seasoning”. We are changing our focus of saying “HUNGRY” instead of “HOPE”. As teenagers we are always hungry and want to eat NOW! During this Advent season we are not only going to feed our tummies, but also our souls. We are going to learn to be hungry for God and Jesus. We are going to hunger for more information on them. We will also play some Christmas games and have a Christmas party. We will meet on November 29th and December 6th and 13th and then be done until January, 2024.

KIDS CONNECTION:

We met after the Thank Offering Potluck. We made Thanksgiving leaves and Turkeys. We got a chance to play around some too. We received our parts for the Children’s Christmas play and read through our parts. We are getting excited to perform it on December 17th during church. Mark your calendars now. We will be busy with practicing for the play, that we will not meet again as a group until January, 2024. We will get together and have a Christmas party with JUMP at the Pastor’s house

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND LIL’ WORSHIP WARRIORS:

We will have Sunday school on December 3, 10 & 17: We will finish up At The Zoo with the Zoo Keeper. Just like the zoo keeper takes care of the animals, Jesus takes care of us. Then we will be practicing for our Christmas program. We will also do some Christmas projects. We will have Lil’ Worship Warriors on December 3 and 10. We will be hearing different versions of the Christmas story and practicing our songs for the program. **Then we will not meet again until January 10’ 2024 for both Sunday school and Lil’ Worship Warriors.

FOR ALL JUMP AND KIDS CONNECTION KIDS AND THEIR FAMILIES!!



CHRISTMAS PARTY

- When: December 10th
 - Time: 4-7 pm
 - Where: McGinnis' home
 - Address: 2605 Minnesota Ave. North Newton
 - Who can come: The kids/youth and their parents.
 - Why: To get to know each other better and meet the Pastor, his wife and children.
 - RSVP: By December 5, 2023 to Mary McGehee. Text her at 316-461-1829.
- What to bring: A gift which can be silly or good (one for each person who is coming.) The limit is no more than \$5.00. Don't know what to bring? A \$5.00 gift card to Norm's or Sonic is a great idea.
 - We will be eating pizza from Little Caesars and a special sweet treat. There will be games, gift exchange, singing carols and lots of visiting.
 - Please join us for the Christmas Party!!



POINSETTIAS

We are excited to announce the return of our Adoption of the Poinsettias. For the low price of \$15.00, you can adopt a Poinsettia and help out the JUMP and Kids Connection groups. The Poinsettias will stay here and be enjoyed by all who come to our church and then will be carefully stored away until next year. Thank you for your support of our kids.



ADOPT ME

Hi there: My friends and I are back again this year. You were all so nice last year adopting us like you did. We were stored very carefully all year and now we are out again and ready to be adopted. We are going to stay right here for all to enjoy this Advent and Christmas season. We are \$15.00 and all the proceeds go to the kids groups to do more fun activities. So, please adopts us. **MERRY CHRISTMAS!!**





THE SHINIEST STAR!!
Children's Christmas Program
December 17, 2023
10:30 AM
First Presbyterian Church

**Come join us for our
Children's Christmas
Program.**



Nurture Team News:

Music: The bells will join the Children's Christmas program this year on the 17th of December by playing 2 songs. Then they will play even more Christmas music throughout the service that morning.

Advent Material: There are new and old Advent materials on the table in the Narthex. Help yourself.

First Presbyterian Church had the pleasure of welcoming eleven new members; Lori Staeffler, Bob & Pat Schott, Katherine Grimsley, Tammy Geiger-Stephenson, Doug and Charlene Loyd, and Jane Shirley, Jessa Robinson, Deja Giles, and Jonathan McGinnis.

Jessa Robinson and Deja Giles were also baptized.



Sending Advent blessings to you from Mzuzu, Malawi!



Our family has so much to be thankful for this Advent Season. We are deeply thankful for you and your willingness to join us in prayers and financial support of our family's call to serve in Malawi to support theological education, and bringing water, sanitation and health access to all. Please continue praying for the country of Malawi, its government, its leaders, its students, its future, and also pray for our local partner the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, and the universities that we work for.

Merry Christmas,

Tyler, Rochelle and Mphatso (age 10) Holm



Thank you from the Kennedy's

We want to thank our friends at First Presbyterian of Newton for your support and meaningful prayers for our daughter Miranda and her family while she waited for a liver donor. Miranda received her new, healthy liver on Monday, November 6th at UC Health in Aurora CO. The results were immediate. Her eyes were less yellow, and her skin was more normal the next day, and she was up and walking the halls of the hospital (a major feat with all the connecting tubes). We are so blessed to have so many kind and considerate friends whose prayers and goodwill sustained us during this time. Miranda and her family have dealt with her illness for nearly 25 years. Her two sons have not known their mom truly healthy. Life has been renewed for Miranda and her family. Miranda's church family in Colorado, friends, and the entire staff at UC Health were outstanding. Praise God from whom all blessings come and bless all of you at First Presbyterian. The Thanksgiving holiday could not be sweeter than it is in 2023. Thank you.



Christmas JOY



Treble Clef Christmas Vespers
Sunday, Dec. 3
3 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church
900 Columbus, Newton

Freewill offering for the
Treble Clef Scholarship Fund



To watch the Treble Clef Club's Christmas Vespers
Concert on youtube please click here!



DEACONS REQUESTS

NEWTON MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry is in need of Ramen noodles, macaroni and cheese, Spaghetios, canned dinners, soups, poptarts, oatmeal, individual snack items, peanut butter, jelly, canned fruit, canned vegetables, and spaghetti noodles and sauce.

They can always use cream soups for casseroles, peanut butter and jelly. Individual snacks, bottled water and Gatorade are needed for the transients since they are at the lake for the summer.



Coffee with the Pastor
Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m.
@ Common Grounds

Men's Breakfast

Wednesday, December 13th

9:00 a.m.

Del Puente Café
701 N Main St



Please join FPC's choir ensemble!

The choir ensemble are meeting every Sunday at 10 am. We may sing special music or we may sing a hymn -

We just wanna sing! Do you?

First Presbyterian Bell Choir will be practicing Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

Prairie Bronze Choir will be practicing Tuesdays from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.



Please keep the following in prayer

Kayden Watson
(Allmon's grandson)

Bob Wyman

Duane Graham

Nila Chambers

Mary Eck

Kristin Kliever

If you have a prayer request or want to become a member of the prayer chain, please contact

Rojean DuBois at 316-772-8128.

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

December 7th - Lauren Regier Clifford

December 8th - Elinor Kliever

December 16th - De Ja Giles

December 17th - Gregory Nye

December 18th - Mary Anne Sandwell

December 19th - Helen Eberle, Thomas & Mary Anne Sandwell

December 21st - Julie Robinson, David and Kristin Kliever

December 22nd - Cameron & Kelly Laswell

December 23rd - Dave & Judy Welfelt

December 24th - Mike Enz

December 26th - Bob Pomeroy

December 28th - Tom & Angela Altum

December 27th - James and Donna Anderson

December 29th - Larry Trussell

December 30th - Jan Roecker



January

Newsletter

Deadline

December 18th

FPC has a new number for

TEXTING!

The number is

316-477-2007.

This is a free phone number through Google Voice.

Please save this number in your phone and use it for any church related text communication.

Thanks!





In case of inclement weather, please check KWCH.com/weather/closings for closings.



Thank You!



Be on the lookout for ornaments at FPC to bless the men at New Jerusalem this Christmas!



SHARE SMORES AND HOT CHOCOLATE WHILE HEARING:

- STORIES OF PAST IMPACT
- CURRENT PROGRAMS
- FUTURE STORY

DROP BY OUR OPEN HOUSE CELEBRATING 40 YEARS!

November 30 | 6 PM - 8 PM
209 S Pine Street
Newton, KS

TO INSPIRE TRANSFORMATION IN PEOPLE AND SYSTEMS BY BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS, RESOURCES, AND RESILIENCE.



Westminster Woods in Fall River, KS is a camp we send youth to in the summer. They are fundraising for the remodeling of one of the original cabins. You can find more information on projects, retreats, camps and to donate at westminsterwoodscamp.com.





Newton First Presbyterian Church

December 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday Schedule @ FPC	9:15 am - Adult Bible Study 10:00 am - Choir Ensemble Practice 10:10 am - Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am - Worship & Livestream	5 Prairie Bronze 6:30 - 8:30 pm	6 10:00 am Coffee/w Pastor 7:00 pm FP Bell Choir Practice JUMP 7-8:15 pm	7 7:00 pm Operations Team	1 10:30 am Treble Clef Practice	2 10:30 am Treble Clef Practice
3 First Sunday of Advent Communion Sunday Treble Clef Vespers' Concert 3:00 pm	4 Prairie Bronze 6:30 - 8:30 pm	5 Prairie Bronze 6:30 - 8:30 pm	6 10:00 am Coffee/w Pastor 7:00 pm FP Bell Choir Practice JUMP 7-8:15 pm	7 7:00 pm Operations Team	8 7:00 pm Operations Team	9 7:00 pm Operations Team
10 Children's Christmas Program Bell Choir Performance Practice 9:15 - 10 am	11 Prairie Bronze 6:30 - 8:30 pm	12 Prairie Bronze 6:30 - 8:30 pm	13 9:00 am Men's Breakfast 10:00 am Circle in FH 10:00 am Coffee/w Pastor 7:00 pm FP Bell Choir JUMP 7-8:15 pm	14 7:00 pm Operations Team	15 7:00 pm Operations Team	16 7:00 pm Operations Team
17 Children's Christmas Program Bell Choir Performance Practice 9:15 - 10 am	18 Prairie Bronze 6:30 - 8:30 pm	19 Prairie Bronze 6:30 - 8:30 pm	20 10:00 am Coffee/w Pastor 7:00 pm FP Bell Choir Practice	21 7:00 pm FP Bell Choir JUMP 7-8:15 pm	22 7:00 pm FP Bell Choir JUMP 7-8:15 pm	23 7:00 pm FP Bell Choir JUMP 7-8:15 pm
24 Christmas Eve 5:15 Prelude Music 5:30 Candlelight Service	25 	26 Prairie Bronze 6:30 - 8:30 pm	27 10:00 am Coffee/w Pastor 7:00 pm FP Bell Choir Practice	28 7:00 pm FP Bell Choir JUMP 7-8:15 pm	29 7:00 pm FP Bell Choir JUMP 7-8:15 pm	30 7:00 pm FP Bell Choir JUMP 7-8:15 pm
						31