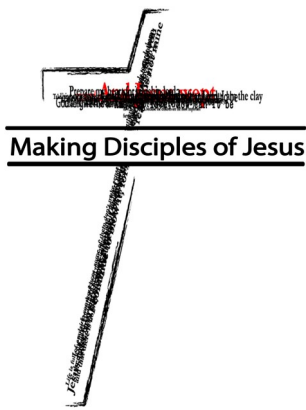


November 2019

Making disciples of Jesus Christ who go to make disciples of others.



FIRST PRESS

What comes to mind when you hear the word thanksgiving? Turkey? Pilgrims and Indians? No School? These are all correct answers, but what about thanksgiving in the Bible? The idea of giving thanks is found in all areas of Scripture, in both the old and new testaments. 1 Chronicles 16:34 says to “Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; His love endures forever.” The psalmist talks about giving thanks: Psalm 9:1 “I will give thanks to you Lord with all my heart” and Psalm 107:8 “Let them give thanks to the Lord for his un-failing love and wonderful deeds.”

The biblical idea of thanksgiving is not a once a year occurrence, rather it is a regular expression of praise, a way of life. Is this true in our lives? Do we regularly give thanks to God for what he has done? An expression of thanksgiving to God should flow from us regularly. It’s more than just gratitude for what He does for us, it is a true praising and thankfulness for each and every day we have. Jeremiah 30:19 says “From them will come songs of thanksgiving and the sound of rejoicing.” True thanksgiving causes joyful shouting, singing, and praising God.

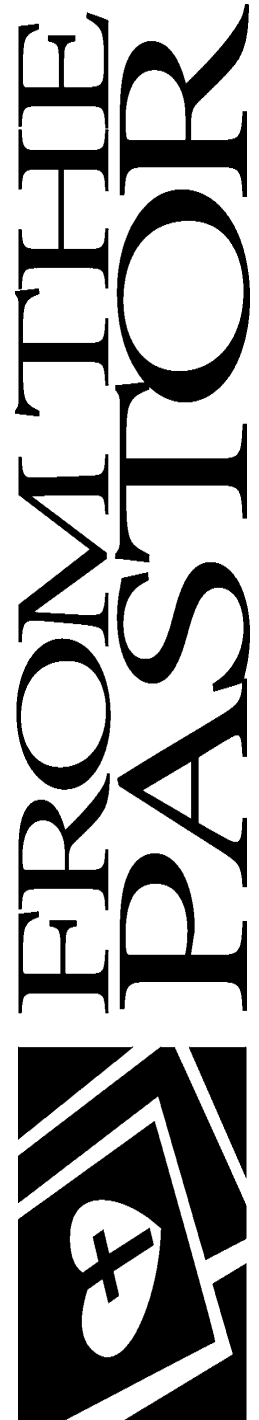
The act of thanksgiving in the Bible goes beyond our selfishness. We are always asked around this time what WE are thankful for, how WE have shown gratitude and thanks to others. The Bible tells us that true thanksgiving is not for us, 2 Corinthians 4:15 says “that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God” and 9:11 says “you will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.”

We are called to give of ourselves, of our time, of our money with joy and gladness. The Bible reminds us that we are enriched so that we can be generous in our offering and our praise to God. God will then take our joyful giving and in turn bless others. However, we are not only called to give thanks joyfully when things are going well. 1 Thes-salonian 5:18 says “Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” Sure it’s easy to be thankful and grateful and joyful when things are going well, but what about when tragedy strikes?

We at First Presbyterian Church are learning first-hand what it means to give thanks to God in ALL circumstances. We give thanks to God that Pastor Tony is still alive. We give thanks to God for each day he gains strength. We give thanks to God that Sheri is able to be by his side. We give thanks to God for each of you that has supported the Winterowd family and our church family.

As this month of thanksgiving begins I challenge each of us to seek God, to thank him with all our hearts, to sing songs of praise and thanksgiving, that this may cause gratitude and thanksgiving to overflow in all areas of our lives blessing and enriching the lives of all those around us. I pray that we continue to give thanks to God in ALL circumstances and that we would be an example to the world around us as to what true biblical thanksgiving is.

Blessings,
Jaime Christoph



Church DEACONS

Reminder! Deacons hope you can bring some non-perishable food on **Nov 3** to feed those in our community who are in need.



Christmas is a time for giving. We at First Presbyterian Church have the opportunity to give to those less fortunate. We will again obtain names from the Salvation Army for 20 children in families not able to provide Christmas gifts for their children. This program is known as Santa's Angels.

We have also contacted Diamond Terrace to receive names of those who wish to receive a Christmas present. Santa for Seniors provides gifts to their residents which at this time numbers about 22.

We will set up a table by about November 24 in the social hall between services when you can choose a child or senior. We trust the people of First Presbyterian Church of Hanford will again open their hearts and wallets to serve the less fortunate of our community.

- Janet Harader



Summary of the October 15, 2019 Session Meeting

Deacons: • Deacons reported that some "Shut-Ins" have requested communion. Session approved for current Elders to provide communion.

Finance: • Giving is greatly reduced this year and FPC is operating with a deficit of over \$16,000.00. • Tentative budgets were distributed to committee chairs with requests to incorporate reductions in spending for 2020. Should the current deficit be overcome, previously planned budgets could be restored and requested cuts may be avoided. • Anonymous donors have agreed to pledge \$9,000 towards a "matching challenge." They will match dollar-for-dollar any contributions to the FPC general fund that are in addition to your regular tithe.

Buildings & Grounds: • Approved repairs to the ceiling in the Outreach Building using designated funds. • Approved repairs to the trusses in the C.E. Building using designated funds.

Church Growth: • Three parking stalls will be designated for "Visitor" by painting the curb stops and erecting signs using donated funds.

Other Session Business: • Discussions regarding moving to a single-blended service are being heard and options are being discussed. These discussions have been prompted by some congregation member's suggestions. Session is interested in hearing all of your opinions.



A Message From Your Missions Ministry Team

Missionaries Jeff & Christi Boyd

Missionaries Jeff and Christi Boyd work hard in their respective areas!

Christi works in four French-speaking African countries — Congo, Madagascar, Niger and Rwanda — and the non-French-speaking country of South Sudan. She accompanies global partners as they seek to remedy the marginalization of women and children in their communities, and she engages with Presbyterian constituencies in the U.S. that wish to come alongside and promote those efforts. Christi fosters relationships with U.S. Presbyterians aimed at furthering the interests of women and children.

As regional liaison for Central Africa, Jeff Boyd facilitates support for the relationships, programs and activities of partners in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cameroon, and Equatorial Guinea. He also resources mission personnel and helps connect partner churches with U.S. congregations that want to be involved in ministry in the region.

Most of the countries where Christi and Jeff work are rich in natural resources, but only a small and powerful segment of the population benefits from the revenues they produce. In fact, poverty is rampant, educational access is limited, and disease is widespread. The wealth created by the abundant natural resources often fuels regional conflicts that exacerbate the vulnerability of women and children to cultural and gender-based violence. The Presbyterian Church works with partners in all seven countries to address these challenges. Congo, Cameroon, Rwanda, South Sudan and Madagascar have large and growing Presbyterian/Reformed churches. The Reformed presence is much smaller in Equatorial Guinea, which is predominately Roman Catholic, and Niger, which is mostly Muslim.

Having completed 13 years as facilitator for the “Joining Hands” Initiative in Cameroon, Christi has particular expertise in building bridges of solidarity that connect people to tackle problems of a globalizing world. Christi’s efforts on behalf of the marginalized are rooted firmly in her faith. “Through the words of Jesus and the prophets, God consistently defends the cause of the poor, vulnerable and oppressed,” she says. “The Scriptures call us to follow in their footsteps.”

Since arriving in Africa in 1990, the Jeff and Christi have lived in Tanzania and Cameroon, and they are now in Congo for the second time. As Christi puts it, “We discerned that the Author of all good things indeed had not yet finished the Congo chapter of our life in mission service.” Jeff and Christi feel a strong call to serve in Africa. “We feel this is where God wants us at this time,” Jeff says. “Christi and I are both constantly challenged in our work. There remains so much to learn and work on.”

We are thankful for the work that Jeff and Christi are doing;
please keep them in prayer as they continue their service in Africa!

Faith & Fellowship

Many opportunities for you to join with others . . .

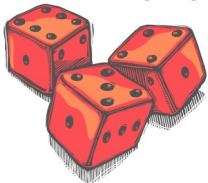
Jolly 1's & 2's

November 24 is our next activity. We will be attending a play at the Temple Theatre. "Paradise Lost and Found" is the feature. The story is as follows: Mavia and the employees of the Lost and Found Dept. of the Paradise Bus Co. deal with strange things. Their biggest may be controlling a rumor that a certain big shot is coming to visit. Add a ruse for their by-the-book manager and the mysterious arrival of a young girl. Crazy confusion and misunderstandings ensue.



Please let your caller or me (Janet Harader – 583-8817) know by November 10 if you wish to attend. Tickets for Temple Theatre shows go quickly. Tickets are \$12. Those who wish can join us to eat at Asia Garden before the show.

**Games
& Company**



Nov 1 Rosemary Clark
1980 Rio Hondo Wy

Dec 6 Sue Hensel
860 E. Grangeville, #59

Women's Society (Agape)

November 14 annual Agape sale.



We still need donated goods. This is our only fund raiser for the year. Funds raised will allow us to give money to organizations needing funds to continue their ministries. Distribution of funds will take place at our January meeting.

Items such as food, kitchen goods, home-made items, & small appliances are some of the things that sell well. You may have items you no longer need, to add to that list. What I listed is not comprehensive. Come to find items for yourself, for Christmas gifts, or ones you just like, at reasonable prices.

Carol Speer is coordinating the food for the luncheon. Darlene Keast will be preparing the ham, sweet potatoes, and green beans.

Jean Knudson is donating her decorations. We may need some help putting them on the tables.

Everything is shaping up to be a great afternoon of sharing lunch together and purchasing sale items.

Please join us for another successful sale.



Fall Body Life

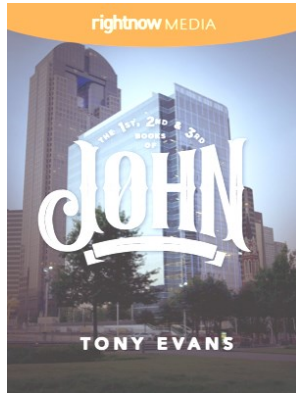
Wednesday, Nov 6 & 13 @ 6:30pm

Dinner—6:00pm

- Adults, \$6
- Teens, \$5
- Children (to age 10), \$3
- \$18 (max for family)

Study:

Comfortable Christianity often means a weak Christianity. In this study on John's three letters, Dr. Tony Evans challenges Christians who have grown comfortable and complacent in their faith. Fellowship with God is the essence of our faith, and Dr. Evans walks through 1, 2 & 3 John to paint a picture of love, obedience, and truth. In a world that hates Jesus, we are called to love Him and His people with a fierce love.



Alpaca Box



Will Ewe?



Operation Christmas Child Samaritan's Purse Dedication

Sunday, November 24th



First Friday Coffee and Prayer

Women of the Church please join us for
"First Friday Coffee and Prayer."

Friday, Nov. 1st

9:00am - 10:30am

Ladies Saturday Bible Study



1 Corinthians

by Jennie Allen
(RightNow Media)

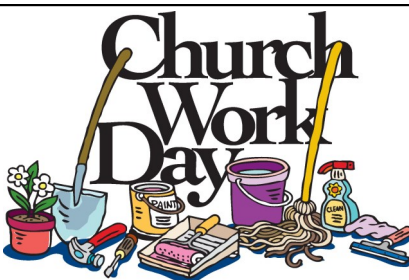
Christianity calls us to sacrifice instead of living for oneself. We have to choose one or the other—we can't do both. The Christians in Corinth tried to live the Christian life in a worldly way. Paul wrote the letter of 1 Corinthians to a divided and self-centered people to remind them to follow Jesus and only Jesus.

In this 12-part series, author and speaker Jennie Allen walks into the messy lives of the Corinthians and takes us through Paul's words to the conflicted church. We'll see how the truth of the gospel and the Spirit of God can empower us to choose to follow Jesus every day of our lives.

Meets selected Saturdays 9-10:30am

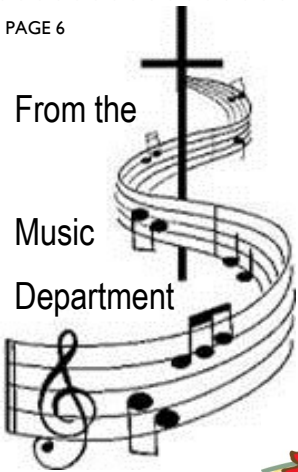
Contact Jaime Christoph or Mary Kinney for more information and to be added to the contact list

Childcare is provided



Nov 16th

8 - noon



Though our musical endeavors require time, energy, and work, the joy from an acceptable musical sacrifice well makes up for the effort. So we are thankful for everyone who participates...the choir, praise team, our children, special musicians and the congregation.

We would love for you to join our **Chancel Choir for the Holidays**. Christmas music rehearsals begin on Wed. November 1st (6:30 pm). Please feel free to join us. We have great music again this year from "O Magnum Mysterium" to "Amen, Tell It On The Mountains" and all styles in between including our hand bells.



We will also have a very special "**Thanksgiving Sunday**" on Nov. 24th with music of gratitude.

Our chancel choir **Christmas Program** will be held Sunday Morning, December 15th, with one service at 10:30am. It is a service of acclamation and praise to our great God for the truly unfathomable gift of His Son.

... And then of course **Christmas Eve**: A most solemn, joyful and beautiful service of worship, again including our many musical groups.

~ Margie Fritz



Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

The Dessert fundraiser on Sept 29th raised \$376.00 and the "Pie in the Face" contest raised \$1,628.00 toward "EPC Askings." Thank you to all who donated desserts as well as to those who purchased the wonderful desserts! The "Pie in the Face" contest was a huge success – thank you to everyone who donated and for the great participation that made this a fun event. A big thanks goes especially to Paul Dixon who enjoyed a whip cream pie in the face as he had the highest donations of our four participants.

This ministry supports EPC missions and services as well as providing resources and making connections to encourage EPC leaders, churches, and presbyteries. Your Session and Pastor believe this is financial resources well directed, especially in light of our denomination's commitment to uphold biblical authority and commitment to mission efforts around the world.

Thank you for your continued support!

The Finance Ministry Team

Did you know your First Press is also available Online?



You can find copies of the First Press newsletters online at our website www.fpchanford.org along with audio versions of previous sermons and the Pastor's blog. Click "**MEDIA**" from the homepage and select you preference from the dropdown box.

FPC is preparing to take the **First Press** to a primarily digital/online format. We are aware some may not have internet access or prefer a printed copy of the First Press and we will accommodate those requests.

Please let us know if you prefer to continue receiving your printed copy of the First Press through USPS mail, by completing the form you will find in the morning bulletins or by calling the church office at (559) 582-0283.



Nov. 3rd

FPC Kids will be selling
Cider for Carlla

between services

The funds raised will be used by our FPC Youth to support Carlla, the Compassion International Child they sponsor.



Refuge
YOUTH NEWS

Questions, Comments, Concerns or Ideas...contact:
Jaime Christoph 850-776-5234



Friends Giving

Nov 23rd

6pm at the Kinney's home

Guys & Gals



BIBLE STUDY

SR High Girls 1st & 3rd Sundays @ 6:30pm

JR High Girls 2nd & 4th Sundays @ 6:30 pm

Guys 2nd & 4th Sundays @ 6:45pm

Contact Jaime Christoph at
850-776-5234 for more information.



FPC
TruthSeekers



Our AWANA TruthSeekers are being "grounded" in the truth of God's Word. We have been discussing the Bible, God and His creative works. Many of our clubbers are able to locate and memorize Scripture. Our newest member in Monique Ferreira who wishes to earn her own Bible.

Congratulations to Owen and Emmett Montoya who have received their study Bibles. Our club continues to grow as our children invite others to join the fun. ALL are welcome...because Kids matter to God.

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STAFF:

Tony Winterowd	Pastor
Tom & Margie Fritz	Music Directors
Janice Mills	Music Ministries
Jaime Christoph	Director of Youth & Children's Ministries
Davena Clemente	Child Care Coordinator
Annette Rajskup	Office Manager
Gail Forsythe	Bookkeeper
Nancy Roller	Custodian

Send staff emails to
staff first name@fpchanford.org
send prayer requests or other information to
office@fpchanford.org

November Birthdays & *Anniversaries

- 4. *Chris & Allison Burch
- 8. Catherine Connelly
- 10. Amy Cossey, * David & Ann Wrigley
- 12. Sue Bairstow, Kelly Ann Garcia
- 14. David Wrigley
- 16. Haley Baker
- 17. Carol Connelly, Margaret Feaver
- 21. *Nick & Sue Kinney
- 22. Darlene Keast
- 24. Angelika Loewen
- 28. *Kevin & Sheryl McCarty



Please contact the office with any updates, additions or corrections.
We don't want to miss anyone or list your special date incorrectly.