

PRESBYTERIAN PROGRESS

602 Clarke St., Clay Center, KS 67432

December Helpers

Sermonette

- Dec 3- Reta Hemphill
- Dec 10 - Deb Moon
- Dec 17 - Connie Frigon
- Dec 24 - Holly Chestnut
- Dec 31 - Charissa Chestnut

Hosts for Coffee

- Dec 3 - Nicole Graham
- Dec 10 - Emily Roe/Sally Chestnut
- Dec 17 - Sam & Linda Gibbs
- Dec 24 - No Coffee Time
- Dec 31 - No Coffee Time

Greeters

- Dec 3 - Chelsie & Bri Langvardt
- Dec 10 - Christie Hartner
- Dec 17 - Karen Langvardt
- Dec 24 - Spencer & Jae Paget
- Dec 31 - Charissa Chestnut

Nursery Assistant

- Dec 3 - Andy A. & Raquel A.
- Dec 10 - Christie H. & Caley H.
- Dec 17 - Karen B. & Grace D.
- Dec 24 - Celisa R. & Jae P.
- Dec 31 - Angie F. & Simon L.

Deacon: René Langvardt

The Christmas Feeling

Christmas has a certain feel to it. The decorations, music, good food, being with family and friends all lend to Christmas' warmth. Most of all, celebrating the birth of our Savior fills us with joy and thankfulness. But sometimes the busyness and stress surrounding Christmas fills us with emotions we'd rather not have: frustration and worry. It's interesting that when the Bible describes the angels' visit to the shepherds and the shepherds' visit to Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus, the emotions of the events are recorded—probably to help us experience emotionally what God wants us to experience. Here's the passage:

“And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, ‘Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!’

“When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.’ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them” (Luke 2:9-20).

The shepherds feared greatly when they first saw the angels—but that quickly changed once they heard the angels' message. The angels had to be filled with joy as they gave their message of good news and great joy, and as they praised God for his great salvation. The shepherds had to feel curious and hopeful as they embarked on their search. They had to be filled with joy when they found the baby—their Savior. When the shepherds told about the angels, those they told were filled with wonder. Mary felt a quiet, deep joy as she treasured all these events. And the shepherds, were thankful as they returned home praising God. These emotions combine to create the true Christmas feeling. May God help us to feel Christmas as we should!

Love,

Pastor Scott

December Birthdays



- 1 - Benjamin Tiemeyer
- 1 - Lois Staley
- 2 - Irene Huffman
- 3 - Christie Hartner
- 5 - Anndalee Anderson
- 7 - Nora Finson
- 7 - May Ann Fowles
- 8 - Keith Blake
- 10 - Jace Brownell
- 11 - Doris Dunn
- 11 - Josey Weller
- 15 - Bruce Blake
- 18 - Barbara Rollman
- 20 - Brenda Heeren
- 20 - Sherry Hess
- 20 - Mark Langvardt
- 24 - Emersyn Reding
- 26 - Amanda Doster
- 27 - Heather Dreith
- 30 - Ryan Affolter
- 30 - Laura Hoffman
- 31- Stuart Buchmann

*If you have any additions or corrections to the monthly birthday list, please contact the church office at 785.632.2813.

MomsCONNECT
 Tuesday, December 5, 2017
 9-11am at First Baptist Church.
 “Beauty for Ashes: Overcoming Life’s Trials with Grace and Joy”
 Join us for connection, food, speaker, and a craft. This event is free to attend with free childcare for ages birth through PreK.
 Invite another mom!

- December Youth Group Schedule**
 December 3 - No Youth Group/Journey to Bethlehem
 December 10 - Combined Youth Group
 December 17 - Youth Group Christmas Party
 December 24 - No Youth Group
 December 31 - No Youth Group

Young Adults Group

Are you between the ages of 18 and 30 and looking for your place in the church? We have heard you and would like to invite you to our new Young Adults Group! It will be held once a month at Drew and Celisa’s house, typically on the third Saturday of each month, at 6:30pm.

There will be dinner, a Bible Study, and time to fellowship with those your own age. We will be meeting again Saturday, December 16, 2017.

December Mission Focus

Rev. Thomas and Jennifer McIntyre are EPC missionaries serving in Taiwan. They would like prayers for:

- Our church plant to continue to grow through new conversions and baptisms.
- More opportunities with ‘open’ people to share the Good News.
- Our kids to continue to flourish in both Mandarin and English.
- A missionary satellite school to begin in our area so we can ensure our kids a suitable Western education.

Giving Tree

The church is again putting a tree up in front of the office for the congregation to decorate with gloves, mittens, scarves, and hats. We received such a great response last year and The Lighthouse was very appreciative of the warm items we were able to give them.

Keep a look out for the tree and get your winter accessories ready!

Thank you!



**THE POWER
of a
SIMPLE
GIFT**

Operation Christmas Child Update

I would like to say a big THANK YOU to everyone who brought a shoebox for Operation Christmas Child! There were a total of 49 boxes collected at our church. Please continue to pray for these boxes as they make their way to the children who will receive them, and that their hearts would be open to the love of Jesus!

Stephanie VanMatre

Journey to
BETHLEHEM

When: December 2 & 3, 6:00pm - 9:00pm

(Last journey begins at 8:30pm.)

Where: First Presbyterian Church

602 Clarke Street, Clay Center

Admission: \$1 or 1 canned/boxed food item

(All proceeds go to the Lighthouse for Christ.)

Take a walking Journey to Bethlehem with an interactive, hands-on experience. Guides will take visitors back in time where they will encounter King Herod, Roman soldiers, market place vendors, wise men, an angel, shepherds, and innkeepers as they make their way to Bethlehem to witness the birth of Jesus.

Financial Stewardship Update

October General Fund Income: \$18,989.39

October Expenses: \$16,698.40

Amount Needed Each Month to Meet Projected Budget:

\$20,121.67

Poinsettias

It's time to think about ordering poinsettias in honor or memory of family and friends. This year there will be two options.

1. You may order a poinsettia through the church office to be purchased from Clay Center Floral. The cost is \$21.00 each, payable to First Presbyterian Church.
2. You may bring in a poinsettia that you have purchased to be displayed. It must be at the church no later than December 14, 2017.

Please let Amanda know which option you would prefer by December 1, 2017 and she will have you fill out a dedication form. The poinsettias will be displayed from Sunday, December 17 through Sunday, December 24. Any poinsettias left beyond December 27, 2017 will be donated to the Presbyterian Manor.

College Finals Week Care Packages

The Deacons have put together care packages for all of the college aged students in the congregation to help them through their upcoming Final Exams. Please pick up your care package in the Junior Chapel as soon as is convenient! They are labeled and arranged in alphabetical order.

Thank You!

Pecans!

The pecans have arrived! We ordered seven cases of beautiful Azalea mammoth pecans last week and they are here ready for purchase!

Each 1 pound bag is \$12.00 and they can be purchased from Amanda during office hours.

FPC Kids Corner