

Chimes

First Presbyterian Church
December
2023



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: 5 pm

**** No Morning Service*

Christmas Eve Friendship Dinner: 6 pm

www.fpcrwf.org



Presbyterian Turkey Dinner

Thank You

615 Served!

A huge thank you to everyone who attended our Annual Turkey Dinner!

We appreciate all the support with this event! Thank you to Dave Danielson, chair of the Turkey Dinner, and everyone who helped with the planning/preparing/serving and cleaning up! It takes a lot of working hands but we can always count on our congregation to help!



YFA Bake Sale

Thank you to everyone who baked and donated to the YFA Bake Sale! Thank you to everyone who purchased treats from us! We raised \$700 for future mission projects! We appreciate our church family and their support! We had so much fun and lots of laughs baking for all of you! ~Youth Faith in Action Kids



From Endowment and Stewardship

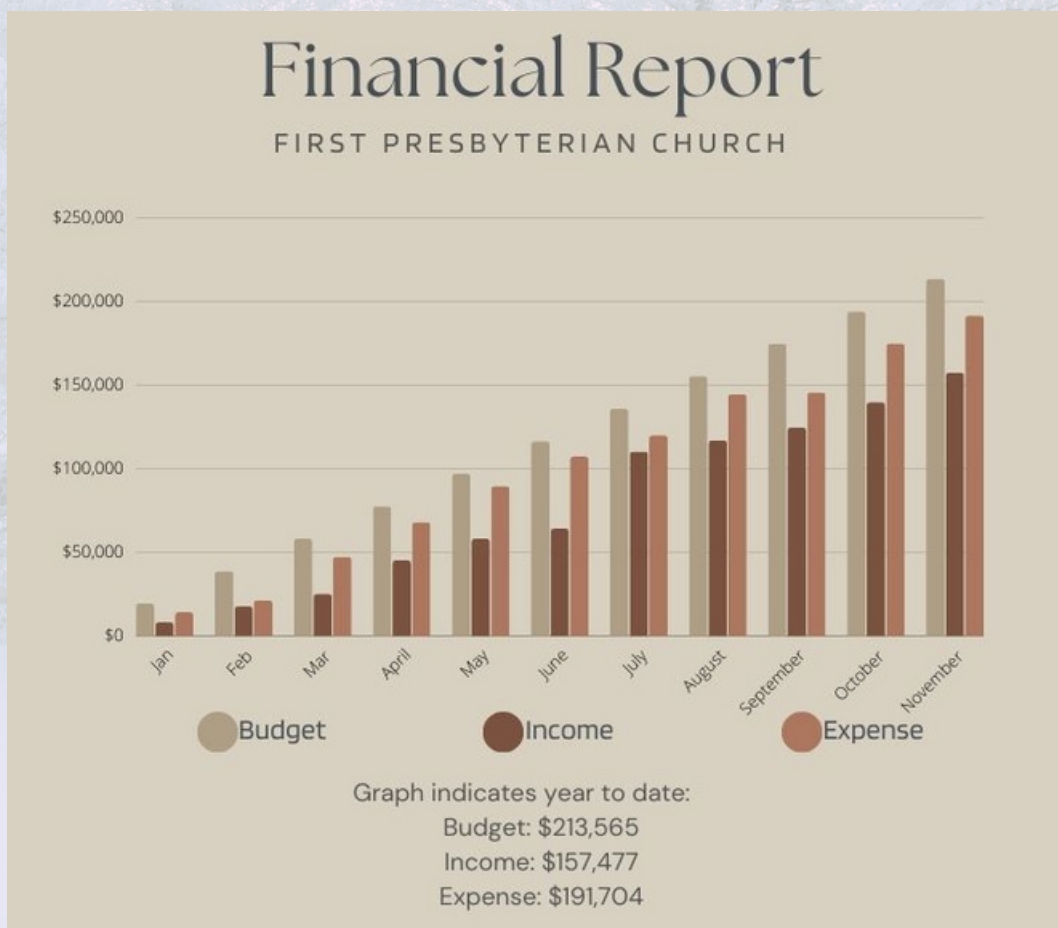
It's time to think about year-end charitable giving. Cash donations are probably the most common way, but certainly not the only way, of giving to support the mission and needs of your church. Do consider increasing your generosity and the impact of your gifts by giving non-cash wealth assets to support your faith and values. Types of non-cash assets that are often gifted could include real estate, farmland, crops or livestock, business equipment, life insurance, stocks and bonds, mutual funds, personal property and collectibles.

It is possible that the giver can potentially bypass or at least minimize capital gains taxes on assets that have increased in value since they were acquired.

Gifting certain type of assets has the potential to reduce your income and thus taxes. One common example is gifting cash from regular IRA required minimum distributions to charity instead of taking it as taxable income.

Larger gifts can be used to establish a charitable remainder trust that ultimately benefits the charity, while the giver still receives income, avoids capital gains taxes, and perhaps even claims an income tax deduction on the gift.

As always, talk to your financial advisor or attorney to explore tax-advantaged ways to carry out your charitable giving goals. Members of your Endowment and Stewardship Committees are also happy to talk with you anytime.



Endowment-30 Years and Growing ~Rick Hauge, Endowment Member

In the summer of 1993, I received a phone call from Pastor LeRoy Haynes. He told me it was time that the First Presbyterian Church of Redwood Falls developed an **Endowment Fund** and being Stewardship Committee chairperson, it would be my responsibility to head this up. He offered to help any way he could and was very beneficial in the building of the Endowment Fund. At that point it was obvious that I knew "*I didn't know what I didn't know*" about endowment funds or how to raise funds for an endowment. So, LeRoy and I set out on a mission to develop an Endowment Fund for our church. LeRoy put together the first bylaws for the fund. This was a very rudimentary contract, which is done with the original cut and paste. LeRoy literally got endowment plans from other churches and other publications, cut them apart, pasted them in a form and then photocopied them. That was our original Endowment bylaws.

In the early days we did a little fundraising, we had an "Endowment Day" at church where people donated \$5-\$10 to get it going. Eventually we got a little money in the fund, a few thousand dollars. At first, we put the money into CDS-at that time they were still paying 5-6% interest. Later, the money got moved to a money market account, which was paying decent interest at the time. But as we all know, interest rates fell and soon our endowment earnings were very low.

But we had a little money coming in and had some projects we could fund.

Donations/Projects-Payments:

Imagination Library	New Beginnings
Redwood Theater	Board of Pensions
	Sound System
	Security Cameras
	Copy Machine

We continued to grow the Endowment Fund. There were some estates that left some money to the fund plus some individuals were giving annually to the fund.

Right now, we basically have two parts to the Endowment Fund. We had \$131,000 sitting in the money market at the bank, earning about \$400 a year. We approached Thrivent Financial Corporation, and they agreed to take us under their wings, and currently we are earning about \$6,000 a year from this account. We also have some funds of stocks, that are primarily growth stocks, with small dividends that help to increase the overall value of the account but not necessarily throwing off big annual returns.

Our annual income from the Thrivent funds is used in four categories.

25% of the earnings go to *Missions*

25% of the earnings go to *Properties*


25% of the earnings go to *Christian Education/Worship*

25% of the earnings go to *Special Needs*-individuals or families that need some help

Since we have been invested with Thrivent, we have used Endowment funds for:

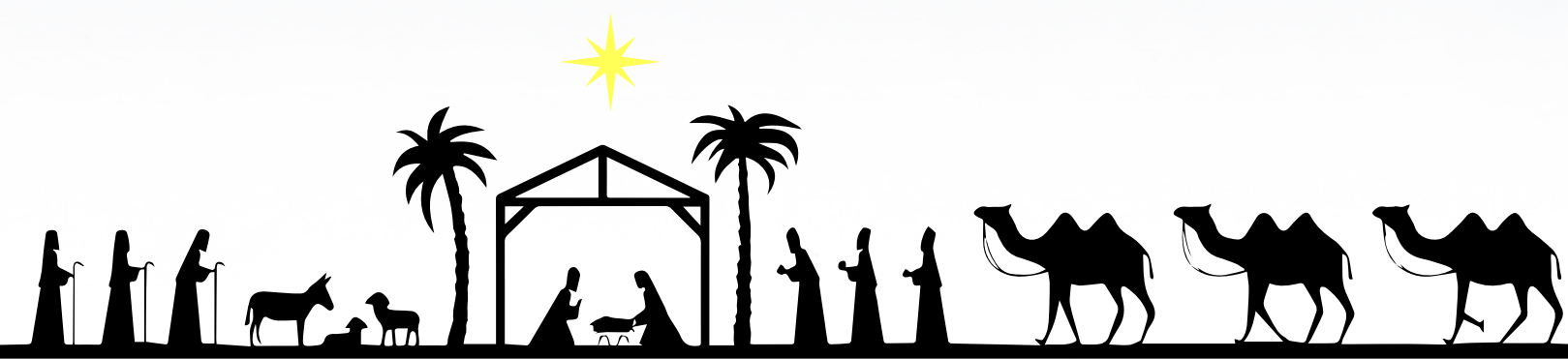
Donations:	Payments:
Rooms for Guest Speaker	Church Zoom Account
Books-Church Library	Worship Supplies
Share the Spirit	Church-Wide Survey
Bibles-Jails	Youth Television
Multiple Families in Need (Christmas/Families)	Pastor Computer
	Staff Thank You Bonus

Recently we have established a Legacy Society, within the Endowment Fund, for individuals or families who want to dedicate or give money to the Endowment Fund. More information about the Legacy Society will come in future Chimes.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Church Office Closed	2
3 *Sunday School *Choir Practice *Worship- HC *Packing Wkend Food Bags - Miller	4	5 *Pastor: Visits *Committee Meetings - ? *Dorie Use of Church	6 *OT B. Study *NT B. Study *Youth Club *Confirmation Meal: Pastor Scott	7 *Pastor: Zoom Meeting *Pastor: SEI Board Meeting	8	9
10 *Sunday School *Choir Practice *Worship	11 Church Office Closed *Pastor: Zoom Meeting *Pastor: Rotary *Session Meeting	12 Church Office Closed *Pastor: LINC Meeting	13 Church Office Closed *OT B. Study *NT B. Study *Youth Club *Confirmation Meal: Bentson	14 *Pastor: Visits *Pastor: SEI Board Meeting *Deacon Meeting	15	16

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
17 Chimes Deadline *Sunday School *Choir Practice *Worship- Christmas Celebration *Packing Weekend Food Bags - Hicks	18 *Pastor: Rotary Board Meeting/ Meeting	19 Ruby's Pantry 4:30-6pm	20 *OT B. Study *NT B. Study *Confirmation Meal: Brozek	21 *Pastor: Visits	22	23
24 Christmas Eve *Candlelight Service @ 5 *Friendship Dinner @ 6	25 Christmas Day!	26	27	28	29	30
31 *Worship- Gwen Bahlke						

Pastor Scott Vacation: December 25-January 2



DATE January 5, 2024
SUBJECT Annual Report Deadline

DATE January 21, 2024
SUBJECT Annual Congregational Meeting

DEAR FPC DEACONS,
THANK YOU FOR THE COLLEGE CARE PACKAGE! I
REALLY APPRECIATE THE THOUGHT AND ITS NICE TO
KNOW I ALWAYS HAVE MY CHURCH FAMILY
SUPPORTING ME. I'M GRADUATING THIS DECEMBER
WITH A DEGREE IN ENGLISH AND I PLANT TO GO INTO
LIBRARY SCIENCES EVENTUALLY. I HOPE TO GET HOME
AND ATTEND CHURCH SOON!
~SINCERELY, TORI FUHR

2024 per-capita
general assembly: \$9.80
syod: \$5.50
presbytery: \$29.70
total: \$45.00/per member

Happy Anniversary

27th - Julie & Ernie Fiala

• **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** •

1st - Connie Bentson & Shari Fuhr
3rd - Mackenzie Toomer
4th - Becky Stephens
5th - Tom Stough
8th - Travis Rebstock
10th - Corrine Gersema
11th - Tony Miller
13th - Marlys Mathiowetz
14th - Nicki VanderLinden & Shelby Enright
15th - Bob Nolting
16th - Sheena Rudenick & Hadley Martin
18th - Ivis Robertson
20th - Grayson Sharpe
21st - Kylan Bahr
22nd - Lois Davis, Brenda Johnson
23rd - Blake Stephens
24th - Jerilyn Kodet
30th - Rick Kramer & Savannah Carroll

**Celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ is a meaningful and joyous occasion.
Here are 25 ways to make it extra special:**

- **Attend our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service:** Participate in our Christmas Eve/Candlelight service at our church at 5:00 p.m. on December 24th to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.
- **Read the Nativity Story:** Gather with loved ones and read the story of the Nativity from the Bible.
- **Create a Nativity Scene:** Set up a Nativity scene in your home to visually represent the birth of Jesus.
- **Christmas Carol Sing-Along:** Have a Christmas carol sing-along with family and friends, focusing on songs that highlight the religious aspect of Christmas.
- **Host a Bible Study:** Organize a small Bible study session centered around the birth of Jesus.
- **Advent Calendar:** Use an Advent calendar to count down the days leading up to Christmas, with daily reflections on the biblical story.
- **Volunteer for a Faith-Based Charity:** Spend time volunteering for a faith-based charity or organization during the holiday season.

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Continued...

- **Christmas Devotionals:** Read Christmas devotionals individually or as a family to reflect on the spiritual significance of the season.
- **Prayer Time:** Set aside dedicated time for prayer, thanking God for the gift of Jesus.
- **Give to Charity:** Make a charitable donation in honor of the birth of Jesus Christ.
- **Host a Christmas Play:** Act out the Nativity story with family and friends in a Christmas play.
- **Serve a Christmas Feast:** Invite others to join you for a festive Christmas meal, emphasizing the spirit of generosity and hospitality.
- **Create Handmade Christmas Cards:** Craft handmade Christmas cards with verses from the Bible to share with loved ones.
- **Light an Advent Wreath:** Use an Advent wreath with candles symbolizing hope, peace, joy, and love, lighting a candle each week leading up to Christmas.
- **Visit a Live Nativity Scene:** Attend a live Nativity scene event in your community.
- **Write a Christmas Prayer:** Compose a personal prayer expressing gratitude for the birth of Jesus and your wishes for others.
- **Share Faith-Based Gifts:** Give gifts that have a religious significance, such as a Bible, devotional book, or religious artwork.
- **Host a Scripture Reading Session:** Gather friends and family to read and discuss relevant scriptures related to the Christmas story.
- **Reflect on the Year:** Take time to reflect on the past year, expressing gratitude for the blessings and seeking guidance for the future through prayer.
- **Create a Christmas Blessings Jar:** Throughout the season, write down blessings and moments of gratitude, placing them in a jar to read on Christmas Day.
- **Attend Advent Services:** Participate in our Advent Services the first three Sundays of December to prepare yourself for the birth of Christ.
- **Organize a Prayer Walk:** Take a prayer walk through your neighborhood, praying for your community and those in need.
- **Share Faith-Based Stories:** Read and share inspirational stories or testimonies related to faith and Christmas.
- **Encourage Acts of Kindness:** Emphasize acts of kindness and generosity inspired by the teachings of Jesus throughout the holiday season.
- **Family Devotional Time:** Establish a daily or weekly family devotional time specifically centered around the Christmas story and its significance.

These ideas aim to deepen the spiritual aspect of Christmas and help make the celebration of Jesus Christ's birth more special and meaningful.

Have a joyous Christmas season as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Scott Prouty

Pastor's Visitation Schedule

Review & Confirm your visit with the church office.

December

December 5 Pastor Scott Visits:

Sue Tiffany at 9:00 am
Leon King at 10:30 am
Laura Kohler at 4:00 pm

December 14 Pastor Scott Visits:

Dorothy Symes, Bunny Nolting &
Bob Nolting at 9:00 am
Millie Bunting at 10:00 am
Ralph Revier at 11:00 am

December 21 Pastor Scott Visits:

Rosemary Bennett at 9:30 am
Wayne Mann at 11:00 am
Merlin Goudy at Noon
Gary & Jenifer Hindt at 1:30 pm
Sally Dording at 3:00 pm
Doreen Steenblock at 4:00 pm

January

January 4 Pastor Scott Takes Communion to:

Dorothy Symes, Bunny Nolting & Bob Notling at 2:00 pm
Millie Bunting at 2:45 pm
Sally Dording at 3:30 pm

January 23 Pastor Scott Visits:

Leon King at 2:00 pm

January 25 Pastor Scott Takes Communion to:

Rosemary Bennett at 9:30 am
Gary & Jenifer Hindt at 11:00 am
Sue Tiffany at 2:00 pm
Ralph Revier at 3:00 pm
Doreen Steenblock at 4:00 pm

Thank You

Thank you Char Gilland for sharing your time, talent and countless hours of planning, prepping and organizing of the Picemakers for over 20 years. Char, you have devoted so much of yourself to making the Picemakers everything that it is and everything that it has given back to the community. Your effortless caring and connection to working to help others will forever be treasured by all the lives you have touched over the years.
~ Thank You Char!!!

December Greeters

Deacon of Month: Scott Goodyear

3: Donovan & Cassi Sharpe

10: Ryan & Lindsey Kramer

17: Nathan & Val Stephens

Christmas Eve: Joyce Nolting

31: Tom & Barb Stough

December Ushers

Head Usher: Dan Fuhr, Shari, Max & Lucas Fuhr, Brent Prouty, Aaron & Amber Rohlik, Keegan, Shellie, Kyron & Ethin Mammen, Ralph Revier

December Communion Servers

Ruling Elder Dave Danielson, Bob Alexander, Matt Tiffany, Nathan Stephens, Shari Fuhr, Scott Goodyear, Leon King

