



December 2023



Christmas (even more than Easter) is the most obvious and celebrated “Christian” time of the year! Some people, who have nothing to do with the Church, will decorate the house, inside and out, to the max. I suppose doing such is considered by some to be a “witness”, to some degree.

Being a witness to Christian faith and life is a demand placed upon each of us who say “yes” to following Jesus. I certainly have my moments when I fall short of those expectations and I believe the same is true for all Christians. It is a struggle to constantly live and witness the faith.

A story comes out of Romania. A village church had planned a program to preach and witness to the poor people in the community. Conspicuously missing from the organizing meetings was a member who was a wealthy farmer. Those in the meeting were convinced the farmer was an uncaring and hypocritical person. During the meeting the farmer’s son arrived at the church. He began unloading sacks of wheat from his farm wagon. He put the sacks at the door of the church and said to the others. “This is my father’s witness”.

Perhaps it is John 21:17 that identifies the most important witness we can make. “Do you love me?” Jesus asks Peter. Then “feed my sheep”. May our witness be for that which God cares most about and it isn’t limited to Christians. God’s care and love is for all people. I am certain God is watching and hoping we Christians will “witness” in a way as was done by the wealthy farmer – to feed God’s people. So, what are you “witnessing” for Christmas?

Blessings, Don

a letter from the pastor



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Church Staff

**Interim Pastor
Rev. Don
Hammond**

**Office Manager
Susan Riswold**

**Organist &
Handbell
Director
Barb Mix**

**First Presbyterian
Church**

Mailing Address:

**P.O. Box 557
Twin Falls, ID
83303-0557**

**209 Fifth Avenue N.
Twin Falls, ID 83301**

208.733.7023

www.twinfallsfpc.org

**© First Presbyterian
Church,
Twin Falls, Idaho**

Christmas Eve Service - 4:00pm

Come join us to celebrate the birth of Jesus
Christ at our Christmas Eve Candlelight
Service at 4pm

***Please note:*

*No morning service on Sunday,
December 24 or Christmas Day*



January thru October 2023

Total Member Contributions - \$116,569
Per Capita - \$1,020
Total Other Income - \$29,788
Volley Ball Rent - \$7,000
Total Income - \$146,357

Total Expenses - \$110,268
Administrative - \$67,954
Office - \$19,264
Per Capita - \$7,265
Facility - 23,050
Insurance - \$10,147
Net Gain - \$36,089

Mission - \$16,578 - from outside

*Please let the Church
office know if we are
missing your birthday,
anniversary, would like to
make an announcement or
need to make a correction
- thanks!*

Church Office Hours

**Tuesday - Friday
9am - 2pm**

**Please call the office to
make an appointment
with Pastor Don**





**Sunday Worship 10:00am
Adult Bible Study 8:30am**

Please join us after Worship for fellowship and a light snack in the downstairs Fellowship Room.

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME

To worship with their families in the sanctuary.

Fun bags are provided for children to use in their pew.

WIGGLE ROOM FOR CHILDREN

The Family Room at the back of the sanctuary offers rocking chairs, a changing table, books and toys for the very young. Downstairs in the Fellowship Room, children's corner off to the left with toy bin containing puzzles, soft toys, and board books to keep young ones busy.



Happy Anniversary

<i>Olen & Linda Foreman</i>	<i>12-8</i>
<i>Gene & Deanna Baxter</i>	<i>12-20</i>
<i>Bob & Judy Wright</i>	<i>12-23</i>
<i>Roger & Kristin Keller</i>	<i>12-26</i>
<i>Ray & Shirley Harris</i>	<i>12-27</i>
<i>Bob & Linda Parkinson</i>	<i>12-28</i>
<i>John & Linda Howar</i>	<i>12-30</i>

*Happy Belated Anniversary
Molly and Gene Senkbeil
November 17th.
We hope you had a great anniversary!*

Happy Birthday

<i>Audrey Daisher</i>	<i>12-4</i>
<i>Robin Wells</i>	<i>12-5</i>
<i>Boden Youree</i>	<i>12-13</i>
<i>Darlene Annen</i>	<i>12-20</i>
<i>Jeff Geist</i>	<i>12-22</i>
<i>Brendan Mix</i>	<i>12-24</i>
<i>Cyndie Koffer</i>	<i>12-25</i>
<i>Barbara Mix</i>	<i>12-26</i>
<i>Judy Chapin</i>	<i>12-27</i>
<i>Betty Westerhoven</i>	<i>12-31</i>



First Presbyterian Church of Twin Falls

2023 SESSION ELDERS

Mark Crothers
(People Committee)

Phil Winn
(Resources Committee)

Bob Parkinson
(Resources Committee)

Judy Wright
(People Committee)

Lawrence Flournoy
(Property Committee)

Chris Talkington
(Property Committee)

Monica Youree
(People Committee)

Judy Pollow
(Faith Committee)

Mark Koffer
(Faith Committee)

ELECTED OFFICERS

Rene Horner
Clerk of Session

Bob Parkinson
Treasurer

GIFTS, MEMORIALS & ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

Phil Winn — Chair

COMMISSIONED DEACONS

Darlene Annen & Candee Hawk
(Memorial Dinners)

Charlotte & Bill Eberlein
(Mission | Christmas Project)

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Co-Moderators
Darlene Annen
Susan Harris
Secretary
Joan Leir
Treasurer
Colleen Miltenberger

Book Clubbers

Thursday December 28 at 1pm
Great Harvest Bakery

“The Zookeeper’s Wife”

By Diane Ackerman

A true story in which the keepers of the Warsaw Zoo saved hundreds of people from Nazi hands.



The Zookeeper's Wife is a non-fiction book written by the poet and naturalist Diane Ackerman.

Drawing on the diary of Antonina Żabińska, it recounts the true story of how Antonina and her husband, Jan Żabiński, director of the Warsaw Zoo, saved the lives of 300 Jews who had been

imprisoned in the Warsaw Ghetto following the German invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939.



ABIGAIL CIRCLE

Thursday, December 14 at Noon

Christmas Potluck at

Marsha Niebling's House

All are welcome to join us

Contact Deanna Baxter,

Susan Harris, Candee Hawk or Joan Leir.

BOOK CLUB

Thursday, December 28 at 1pm

at Great Harvest Bakery

CIRCLE FIVE

Thursday, December 21 at 10am

Perkins Restaurant

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Every Wednesday at 7am

at Idaho Joe's Restaurant

Join us for breakfast & fellowship

Session Members Needed!

We are searching for volunteers to serve on Session for the coming year. We have 3 vacancies to fill, if you are interested contact Pastor Don Hammond or another Session member.

Dear God,

We place our worries in your hands. We place our sick under your care and humbly ask that you restore your servant to health again. Above all, grant us the grace to acknowledge your will and know that whatever you do, you do for the love of us.

Amen



Prayer Requests

**Call Church Office at
208-733-7023**

Or email at

Dear Lord,

We pray for Carol Benson's niece Emily, she is being readmitted to the Mayo Clinic for a brain tumor. Let your grace be with Emily, guide the doctors and give her family comfort.

Amen

Poinsettias the Christmas Flower

The shape of the poinsettia flower is thought to symbolize the Star of Bethlehem, with the red leaves of the poinsettia symbolizing the blood of Christ. Poinsettias are a perfect Christmas gift and a symbol of remembrance for family and friends.

Order your Christmas Poinsettias by December 8th

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia as a gesture of thanks to someone or as a memorial for a loved one, you can order one or more through the Church for \$12 each. Order forms can be found in the Fellowship Hall on the tables and upstairs outside the Sanctuary. The poinsettias will be used to decorate the Sanctuary on the Christmas Eve Service at 4:00pm afterwards you are welcome to take them home to enjoy. The funds will support the local high school Future Farmers of America (FFA).



We would be pleased to print the name of the individual(s) you are thankful for or in memory of your loved one(s) in the worship bulletin on Sunday, December 17th as well as the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on December 24th. In order to do that, Susan, in the Church Office must have the name(s) and payment **by December 8, 2023.**

Please place completed order form and payment (either cash or a check made payable to "First Presbyterian Church") in an envelope found on the table at the back of the upper foyer outside the sanctuary (envelopes are at the table) by the former "Rainbow Box", or place in the offering marked poinsettia – or mail to the Presbyterian Church Office, P.O. Box 557 Twin Falls, ID 83301

Any questions please contact Church Office.

5th Sunday Worship December 31st

*Bring a treat to share after worship from your
Ancestors Country!*

*Examples: Scotland = Shortbread
Norway = Lefsa*

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16



2023 Deacons' Christmas Project

*The "Giving Tree"
has been set up in the Upper Narthex.*

*If you like to shop please select a gift tag,
with an item to purchase and return it to the
Church by Sunday, December 3rd.*

*If you would prefer to give a cash donation
towards the Christmas Project, we'll do the
shopping for you!*

*We will collect cash donations through
December 3rd, Please make check payable
to First Presbyterian Church and to note
"Deacon's Christmas Project" on memo line.*

*Thank you for your help with the
Christmas Project!*



Thank you for your very generous donations of gifts and money to support the Deacons' Christmas Project. Our main focus has been working with the CSI Refugee Center to assist the adults and children who have recently arrived in Twin Falls. We're also delivering small gift bags to each of our home-bound seniors.

For those of you who have purchased gifts, please bring them to the church by Sunday, December 3 with the gift tag attached. If you prefer to give a cash donation, we will still be collecting them through Sunday, December 3. Please make your check payable to First Presbyterian Church and note "Deacons' Christmas Project" on the memo line.

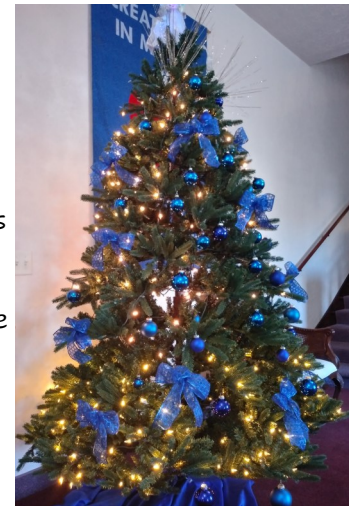


*Thank you very much for your support and
generosity. If you have questions or need help
with bringing gifts to church, please feel free to
call Charlotte or Bill Eberlein at (208) 733-0543.*

WHY BLUE DECORATIONS?

Blue symbolizes royalty...a coming King. It is also the color of the sky just before dawn. Many Christian churches now use blue to speak of the Kingship of Christ when the occasion is joyful. At Advent we wait with anticipation and celebration for our coming Christ. Blue perfectly reflects our anticipation as we wait with hope and expectation. Colors, paraments or coverings, and banners are some of the most important visual ways Christians have used to express their faith in worship. The objective in covering the Communion Table with cloths of various colors is to help focus the attention of worshipers on the special nature of Christ as the Perfect Sacrifice.

Thank you to everyone who helped decorate the Church for Christmas - It looks beautiful!



Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.'

All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel", which means, 'God is with us.'

Matthew 1:18-23

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6



Hark the Herald Sings Written by Charles Wesley 1739 Adapted into song by: George Whitefield 1753

*Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled:
Joyful all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies,
With the angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem:
Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King.*

*Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb!
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with men to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel:
Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King.*

*Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings;
Mild, he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth:
Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King.*

Advent - For unto us a child is born...

Advent serves as a time of preparation and anticipation leading up to Christmas. This observance acknowledges the dual nature of Christ's first coming and his anticipated return, with its primary focus on spiritual reflection and renewal.

December 3rd - First Sunday of Advent Week 1: Hope (or promise)

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

“The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness, a light has dawned...For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.”

December 10th - Second Sunday of Advent Week 2: Preparation (or waiting or prophecy)

Isaiah 40:3-5

“A voice of one calling: ‘In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

December 17th - Third Sunday of Advent Week 3: Joy (or peace)

Matthew 2:10-11

“When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.”

December 24th - Fourth Sunday of Advent Week 4: Love (or adoration)

John 3:16-19

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.”





December 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 Head Usher Mark Koffer	27	28 Volleyball Practice Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fridays Thru Feb. 28, 2024 Gym	29	30	1	2
3 ADVENT Begins Communion Worship 10am	4	5 Barbershop Quartet 6pm	6 Men's Breakfast 7am Idaho Joe's	7	8 Poinsettias payments due	9 Sandwich Saturday
10 Worship 10am	11	12 Barbershop Quartet 6pm	13 Men's Breakfast 7am Idaho Joe's	14 Abigail Circle Potluck Noon	15	16
17 Worship 10am	18	19 Session Mtg 5pm Barbershop Quartet 6pm	20 Men's Breakfast 7am Idaho Joe's	21 Circle 5 10am Perkin's Start of Winter	22	23 Sandwich Saturday
24 Candle Light Service 4:00pm	25 Merry Christmas	26	27 Men's Breakfast 7am Idaho Joe's	28 BookClubbers 1pm Great Harvest Bakery	29	30
31 Worship 10am	1 Happy New Year!	2	3	4	5	6





FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
P.O. Box 557
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

