



FPC Tidings



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WHERE ARE YOU?

Now that we have celebrated the birth of Jesus, what's next? The story of Jesus' early childhood includes several special characters. I often find it interesting to wonder about which of the characters I would be if I were in the story. First we have Joseph's family in Bethlehem. They apparently invited Joseph and Mary, his betrothed to come on down from Nazareth and stay with the family while they were involved in the Roman census. We're not certain if Joseph and Mary were married when they arrived in Bethlehem, but we do know that Mary was pregnant and about to deliver. They were asked to stay on the first floor (or in the rear of the house) with the animals because of the ritual uncleanness of childbirth, and the family didn't want to tie up a guest room for several days. What the family didn't know was that Joseph, Mary, and Jesus would be hanging out with them for a couple of years. I wonder if it was really an angel who came to Joseph in a dream, telling him to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt or was it the rest of his family sending subliminal messages to move on.

Next we have the Magi. They were the astrologers or wise men from the east. We know that there were more than one of them, but we don't know for sure how many there were. In about the 8th century we decided there were three and we named them Balthasar, Melchior, and Gaspar. Who knows why? They traveled for two years following a star. That seems a bit over the top to me. Then we have Herod who was the Roman King of Judea at the time. He got ticked off when the Magi didn't obey him and report back Jesus' exact whereabouts, so he decided to kill all male children two years old and younger in Bethlehem and surrounding areas. I guess he didn't like it when the Magi called Jesus "King of the Jews." What about Joseph? An angel of the Lord first appeared to him in a dream and told him to go ahead and take Mary as his wife, even though she was already pregnant. Then after about two years in Bethlehem, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in another dream and told him to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt because Herod wanted to kill Jesus.



January 2022

Freezer Meal Time!

Mark your calendars for Tuesday morning @ 9:00AM, January 25th—Freezer Meal Prep time again.

Starting January 16th a list of ingredients will be in the narthex if you would like to donate.

DEAR FRIENDS,

Since we are not regularly meeting for Bible Study until January, with everything going on, I'll meet anyone who is able and wants to meet at 1:30 on Tuesdays (Dec. 28th) in the fellowship hall to pray for some of the people, situations, etc... Bring your prayer lists. If you can't be there call the church office with who/what you need pray for and let Dawn know (270-821-6426).

Share with others.

Come, Holy Spirit, Come.

Anna Leasure



From Pastor Pete

In light of our recent events, let me borrow the following from Buffalo Christian, **God is always with us.**

If you are a Christian, then you know that God is always with you. He will never leave your side and he will always be there to help guide you through the tough times. The bible tells us that “a thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it shall not come near thee.” **Psalm 91:7**

You may have felt discouraged by your struggles in life. You might feel abandoned and alone. But God is always with you! The bible says in **Psalms 139:7** that “God is always with me. I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me.” This is a promise from God to all Christians alike. We have a guardian angel watching over us and we should never feel alone or abandoned. Have you ever been in a situation where you’re feeling down and out? Maybe it’s because of something that happened to you, or maybe it’s because of something someone said. It doesn’t really matter what the reason is, but sometimes we just need to take some time for ourselves and pray about things and have faith that God is always with us.

Michah 14:11 says, “For I am with you and will save you,” declares the Lord. “Though I completely destroy all the nations among which I scatter you,” declares the Lord, yet not even a scratch shall touch you.” This verse assures God’s protection to all Christians.

Even if God decided he had enough of us and wanted to destroy the world, we would be safe because nothing can touch us. This verse promises God is always with you in every situation no matter what happens around you.

A verse that is often quoted as a reminder to be strong and courageous in the face of adversity, **Psalm 121:4** says Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. This verse has been transformed into

a popular song in several countries of the world.

The Bible says that a confident heart is a life to the body and there’s nothing more valuable than this. King David urges us to remember that God always watches over His children.

It doesn’t matter if you’re scared or alone; we are never without hope as long as God is with us.

Psalm 121:5-8 says The Lord watches over you the Lord is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all harm he will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

There are many other verses in the Bible that assure us God is always with us.

The first verse of Psalm 23 says “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures he leads me beside still waters.” This seems to be one of the most famous and well-known verses in the Bible.

This verse, and the others that follow remind us of God’s continued presence with us in our everyday life.

One thing we can be sure of is that God will never leave His children; He will always watch over them. **Isaiah 43:11** says I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me *there is* no savior.

No matter what difficult situation you are faced with, God is always with you.

He will never leave your side and He will provide for all of your needs. These verses assure us that we are not alone in this world; God has a plan for our lives and is there to help guide the way!

I am sure that no matter what, we are not alone. I’m sure of this because God is never too far away to help us through the hard times and he will always be there with us when they come.

We have been given a guardian angel as

our protector, and if you are in Christ then you have an army on your side made up of all those who have died in Christ before us (**1 Thessalonians 4:14-17**)

The Bible says “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” These words from **Jeremiah 29:11** remind me that God has my well-being in mind, so I know he is with me.

“Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall.” This verse from **Psalm 55:22** reminds us that we don’t have to carry this weight alone when there’s a God who carries our worries for us.

We know that God is faithful and will continue to do what he promised, so we can trust him in the midst of our storms (**Hebrews 13:20**). No matter where I am or when it happens, if my faith falters for a moment God’s presence remains with me because he doesn’t leave me alone, he is the great shepherd who never abandons me no matter what (Psalm 23).

The Bible offers many promises that God is with us, and it’s comforting to know these verses when we’re feeling alone in our circumstances. As he said through **Isaiah 41:13** “I am the Lord your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you.”

The Bible assures us that God will always be by our side., and it’s comforting to know these verses when we’re feeling alone in our circumstances. As he said through **Isaiah 41:13** “I am the Lord your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you.”





BACK TO SQUARE ONE

The Pastor Nominating Committee sadly reports that the candidate who had been offered the position of Solo Pastor for our congregation has decided to accept an enhanced position with his own congregation. This takes us back to square one, so we are now reviewing an additional 25 candidates who have been computer matched for us by the

PCUSA Church Leadership Connection database. We are disappointed but hopeful. We all realize that God has already selected our next Pastor and He will eventually lead us to this person. We certainly appreciate your prayers for our committee and will continue to keep you updated as we move forward.



NOVEMBER FINANCES AT A GLANCE

		YTD	
Income	\$67,754.92	YTD Income	\$305,100.62
Expense	<u>-\$17,548.93</u>	YTD Expense	<u>-\$298,006.25</u>
Net	\$50,205.99	YTD Net	\$7,094.37

		YTD Undesignated	
Income	\$61,951.92	Income	\$248,426.93
Expense	<u>-\$17,190.15</u>	Expense	<u>-\$232,986.85</u>
Net	\$44,190.15	Net	-\$15,440.08

		YTD Designated	
Income	\$5,803.00	Income	\$56,673.69
Expense	<u>-\$358.78</u>	Expense	<u>-\$65,019.40</u>
Net	\$5,444.22	Net	-\$8,345.71

Operating Funds	
Beginning Balance	\$100,000.70
Ending Balance	\$145,286.20
Investment Account	\$210,535.63





- 4TH Cheryl Lane
- 6th Tem & Julie Major (A)
- 7th Mike Bourland
- 9th Jim Hendrix
- Claudia Arnett
- 12th Haley Cope
- Kaleb White
- 13th Leslie Major
- 14th Suzanne Henley
- 19th Bob & Marge Wilkerson (A)
- 24th Pete Phelan
- 26th Dick Peyton
- 27th David Thomas
- 28th Logan Taylor
- 29th Paula Milligan
- Suzanne & Larry Wilson (A)



January 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Communion Sunday	3	4 1:30 Bible Study/ Prayer 6:00 Session Mtg	5 5:15 Fellowship Meal	6	7	8
9	10	11 1:30 Bible Study/ Prayer	12 5:15 Fellowship Meal	13	14	15
16	17	18 1:30 Bible Study/ Prayer	19 5:15 Fellowship Meal	20	21	22
23	24	25 Freezer Meal Prep 1:30 Bible Study/ Prayer	26 5:15 Fellowship Meal	27	28	29
30	31					

