

Dear FPC family and friends,

We had another session meeting last evening. It was our first read for the budget of the church for 2027, which is always interesting as each committee submits to the Mission and Finance committee what their vision for the future might hold. We realized last night that it is very possible that the membership isn't super aware of the ministry and the mission that takes place on a day to day basis here at the church. We are convinced that the more that you become aware of the mission that emanates from this church, the more likely you are, and the more willing you will become, to support the ministry of this church through your financial means.

Did you know that the church has a committee whose sole responsibility is to care for the financial needs of those within the community? Those in need submit applications and the committee then makes the decision on how to meet that need financially. It is called Community Impact Committee. We have helped dozens and dozens of individuals and families over these past three years with tens of thousands of dollars in order to provide relief in a time of need. This might sound like a social justice issue, but we are just trying to follow Matthew 25.

Did you know that the Food Bank continues on a course to feed the community in ways that make it a known center of relief within the community? It is probably one of our better known ministries because there is something about food ministry that is appealing to those who want to help but don't know how. Providing food for people is a clear need, and you don't have to do much soul searching to find a soft spot in your heart for those who are hungry.

Session is convinced that if you knew the personal stories of individuals who have been helped by the ministry of the church in its social outreach you would be more likely to respond to an appeal for giving that would match the tithing goal which we all have. Our worship on Sunday morning ought to lead us to have an outward looking approach to our life. The church as a body has a vision where it is the heartbeat of the borough and people would know it for the outreach that it does.

This outreach takes material and financial gifts to keep it sustainable. While I preach once a year on giving, I periodically write about the impact that our giving has on the community. We still believe that God has called us to preach the Gospel locally and in the world. We have a handful of missionaries that we support overseas which goes along with our very active local ministry. Did you know that our youth group has made it a mission to reach out to those in the community as well? You will see them giving out food every fifth Sunday, visiting Christ Home to forge relationships with the youth there. You will see them volunteering at Our Table every Friday evening. Mission is the backbone of the church which comes from our worship on Sunday morning.

But did I mention that this all takes material and financial gifts to keep it sustainable? Session believes that the more you understand how your giving impacts the lives of those in the community, the more you will want to keep that going. You are an incredibly generous congregation both in your giving while you are attending FPC, as well as in your legacy giving. I want to encourage you all to continue that trend. Continue to find the tithe that the Lord asks

for you to give to the church as well as consider a legacy gift that will come to the church in your passing. It has made a difference already.

As we look at the budget we see the people who have been impacted by it and are so grateful for your generosity. Keep it up!

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Bob

HAPPENING IN THE LIFE OF FPC...

TRUNK OR TREAT at FPCS: Sunday, October 25th from 5-6:30pm. It's not too late to have your car parked and decorated with a suitable theme by 4:30pm. Children should arrive in a costume between 5-6:30pm. For more information, contact Beth Feiler at [717-572-9683](tel:717-572-9683) or bfeiler@straspres.org.

CHURCH DECORATING DAY: On Monday, November 23rd at 6pm, we will be decking the halls and preparing the church for Advent and Christmas. Come join in the fun, have pizza and help us to decorate!

TRAINING:

The worship committee is looking to offer a training to the congregation on the different "jobs" worship has – ushers, readers, acolytes, and communion servers. Join us on November 15th at 12:15pm (right after second service). This is an open invitation for those that already volunteer, as well as one for those that may have an interest but would like to know more. Please contact Maggie Nadu or Tricia Wilson with any questions!

ALSO: On Wednesday, November 18th, at 12pm, there will be a training for food pantry, welcome desk volunteers, staff and anyone else that finds themselves regularly in the building. At the training we will learn how to welcome people in a way that reflects our love for Christ while at the same time ensuring that everyone knows the steps to take should a difficulty arise. Please contact Pastor Bob with any questions.

IGNITED Student Ministry of FPCS will be providing free to-go lunch meals on **Sunday, November 29th**. Register for a free to-go meal which can be picked up from **1-1:30pm on Sunday, November 29, 2026**, by using the following link. [IGNITED November 29 Lunch Sign-Up](#)

IGNITED STUDENTS ANNUAL FAMILY FOOTBALL LEAGUE will take place on **Sunday, November 15th from 4-6pm at the L-S Practice Field**. Adults vs. Students (Grades 6-12) compete for the FFL trophy and bragging rights. Come on out to play or cheer from the sidelines! Bring a lawn chair and dress warm. Please RSVP to Kristin at kristin@straspres.org or [908-581-5050](tel:908-581-5050).

COFFEE HOUR: Join us each Sunday at 9:30am for coffee and fellowship with old and new friends. Host for this week: Tina Dansereau. **There are currently no hosts for next Sunday, November 1st.** Volunteers will be reimbursed for their purchases. If you would like to help with Coffee Hour, please contact Theresa Rineer at [717-682-9954](tel:717-682-9954) or rineertheresa@yahoo.com. There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. Please choose the date(s) that work best for you!

Christmas is just around the corner and that means our annual **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT** is too! We are looking for adult volunteers to direct and to assist the children this year. Thank you to Ali Elias-Lizardo for directing for the past 6 years. Ali is stepping back as director to let someone else experience the opportunity to serve with the children. We also need **children and youth** to participate. **Practice will begin on Sunday, November 22nd during Sunday School time.** If you are interested in helping or being in the pageant please see Beth Feiler.