

Church Bell



From the Pastor's Desk...

Friends,

It's tradition in our November *Church Bell* for me to offer you a way to give thanks throughout the month. This year, I'm offering the *ABC's of Gratitude*, which were compiled by Jo Nygard Owens of Vibrant Communications for the Church. Note that a few letters appear twice so there are words and questions for each of the 30 days of November. Print out this page and answer or pray about the daily question for a short, but meaningful, spiritual practice. Or, check out the church's page on Facebook or Instagram each day for a definition of each word, a quote, and a Bible verse relating to it. You can journal your thoughts, just ponder them over coffee, or share some responses to the questions on social media throughout the month.

It can sometimes feel hard to work spiritual practices into our real, actual lives. Rather than feeling frustrated about that, I invite you to give this practice a try. It's a simple way to connect with God and your Spirit during this month of thanksgiving. C is for Community. I am thankful for our community and especially for you being part of it.

Grace and peace, *Pastor Emma*

A is for Abundance: Where do you find abundance and how do you give thanks for it?

B is for Beauty: How does appreciation help you see more beauty?

C is for Community: Where do you find true community that enriches your life?

C is for Creation: How does your gratitude for creation change how you interact?

D is for Discern: When were you grateful that discernment led to an unexpected direction?

E is for Empathy: How does empathy change your heart and mind?

F is for Forgive: How can forgiveness bring gratitude to your life?

G is for Generous: How does generosity lead to gratitude?

H is for Healing: When can gratitude be a part of healing?

I is for Imagination: How can imagination change a situation for the better?

J is for Joy: Does thankfulness lead to joy or joy to thankfulness? Why do you think that is?

J is for Justice: When have you seen justice enacted and been thankful?

K is for Known: When have you felt truly known? Give thanks for that time.

L is for Laughter: When were you particularly thankful for a good laugh?

M is for Music: What music helps you express your gratitude?

M is for Meaning: What simple thing in your life brings much meaning and gratitude?

N is for Neighbor: How does our interconnected world expand who our neighbors are?

O is for Observe: Take note throughout your day - how many things can you be thankful for?

P is for Present: When you stay in the present moment, how do things change?

Q is for Questions: What questions lead you to deeper understanding? Give thanks for growth!

R is for Renew: Where is renewal needed in your life? How can gratitude play a part?

R is for Risk: What was a time you took a leap of faith and you were grateful you did?

S is for Stillness: Make room for stillness in your day and name what you are thankful for.

T is for Time: What do you give thanks for at this time in your life?

U is for Understanding: When has understanding led to gratitude for you?

V is for Vocation: What gifts are you thankful to be able to share?

W is for Welcome: When were you thankful for being welcomed? How can you welcome?

X is for eXample: Whose example are you thankful for? Can you tell them?

Y is for Youth: What are you thankful for from your youth? How is it still part of your life?

Z is for Zeal: How can your gratitude inspire you to bring your whole self to all you do?

In-Person Worship

Sunday Worship:
9 am in Evans Chapel,
and 10:30 am in
the sanctuary.
**On November 27, one
service at 10:30 am.**

Livestream Worship

Sundays at 10:30 am
watch the livestream
of the worship service
on Vimeo, Facebook or
YouTube. (Or anytime
later in the day/week.)

Sunday school
for children pre-
kindergarten through
5th grade begins after
the Time with Children
in worship at 10:30.

The nursery is open for
infant-toddler care at
10:15 am.

our staff

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tenor **Brady DelVecchio**
soprano **Olivia Donnel**
soprano **Audrey Frieberg**

our soloists



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contributions to newsletter@fpcro.org.
Deadline is the 15th of each month.

IS YOUR INFO CURRENT?

Please let Sally Gilreath (sgilreath@fpcro.org) know of changes to your contact information in order to maintain current and up-to-date member records.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

FPCRO is a Stephen Ministry church. Stephen Ministers are lay caregivers trained to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting.



How has your star word inspired thankfulness in you this year?



ADVENT BEGINS NOVEMBER 27

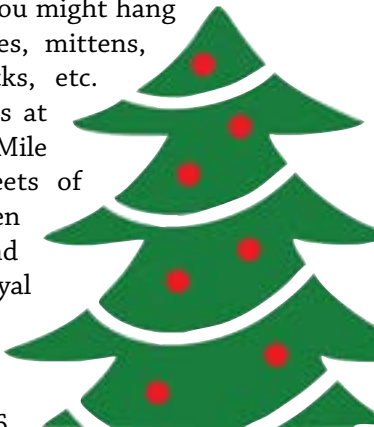
We'll take the traditional journey of Advent preparation through Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. As we anticipate the birth of Christ and God's incarnation, we'll read from the prophet Isaiah and hear God's word proclaimed in word and song.



THE MITTEN TREE

Hard to believe, but it's time to think about Advent, the 'Hanging of the Greens,' and the Christmas tree we use to gather warm things for those less fortunate than ourselves.

Please think about what you might hang on the tree—warm gloves, mittens, hats, scarves, warm socks, etc. Our gifts will go to adults at the Welcome Inn, Second Mile Center, and on the streets of Detroit, as well as children at Second Mile Center and at local schools in Royal Oak. The need is great! Thank you in advance. Questions? Contact Julie Matthews at 248-647-3796.



SHINING GOD'S LIGHT INTO THE FUTURE...

Sunburst Stewards honors members who have included the church in their estate plans with a gift to the endowment. Knowledge of future gifts offers the church an opportunity to thank donors and allows church leadership to plan for the future. The ultimate benefit comes from knowing that we have recognized the importance of God in our lives and have made a powerful witness of that love through a gift to the church.

For more information about Sunburst Stewards, please contact Rev. Emma Nickel or the chairperson of the Finance and Investment Committee. All information given will remain confidential.



memorials & gifts

Memorial gifts were given in memory of Pat Campbell, Shirley Cranbury, Barbara Luttrell, William "Bill" Roberts, and Mildred Singler.

HANGING OF THE GREENS

After worship on **Sunday, November 20**, stick around and help with the annual Hanging of the Greens. Many hands make light work!



A SERVICE OF HEALING AND WHOLENESS

As the holiday season approaches, many find it to be a time of sadness and/or struggle. On **Wednesday, November 16 at 7 pm**, our FPCRO Stephen Ministers and Staff will lead a service of **Healing and Wholeness**. We invite you to come as we seek God's comfort and healing during this time of difficulty. If you have experienced the death of a loved one, are in physical pain, or have had an emotional upset, please consider joining us for a time of comfort and renewal. The brief 30-40 minute worship service will be in **Evans Chapel**. All are welcome.



COLUMBARIUM & MEMORIAL GARDEN

Contact Ken Bissey
248.709.4849
for an information packet

Congregational News

There are people in the building! We said those words several times at a recent staff meeting as we were coordinating events and meetings. This fall, we have seen many of our activities and outside groups have more people opting to participate in-person. It is great to see the hallways full again on a regular basis. We wanted to highlight a couple of new groups that will be around the building in November, the **Sportsman's Dog Training Club** and **Nacho Grill Food Truck**.

Sportsman's Dog Training Club

was founded in 1942 and is proud to be Michigan's Oldest Dog Training Club. They help train dogs to be a well-mannered companion, compete in obedience or rally, strut in the confirmation ring, or fly through an agility course. They will be hosting an AKC Scent Work Trial at First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak on **November 19 and 20**.



Sportsman's will be using our entire building on Saturday and Sunday for scent trials except the worship wing starting at the reception desk and extending through the sanctuary and the nursery. **During their rental on November 19 and November 20, we are asking that you please:**

- Enter the building through the Chapel or Hendrie doors. We will have the sandwich board signs out as reminders.
- Remain in this section of the building as much as possible. The rest rooms will be open. If you are able, please use the ones at the top of the stairs in the CE Lobby.
- The dogs are being timed, please don't interact with them in any way.

The American Kennel Club explains scent trials on their website AKC Scent Work—American Kennel Club below:

Fascinating fact: Dogs have a sense of smell that's between 10,000 and 100,000 times more acute than ours! The sport of Scent Work celebrates the joy of sniffing, and asks a dog to sniff to their heart's content; turning your dog's favorite activity into a rewarding game. It is a terrific sport for all kinds of dogs, and is a wonderful way to build confidence in a shy dog.

In so many dog sports the handler is in control but this isn't true in Scent Work. Neither the dog nor handler knows where the target odor is hidden. The handler has to rely on the dog, and follow the dog's nose to success. In Scent Work, it is the canine who is the star of the show.

The sport of Scent Work is based on the work of professional detection dogs (such as drug dogs), employed by humans to detect a wide variety of scents and substances. In AKC Scent Work, dogs search for cotton swabs saturated with the essential oils of Birch, Anise, Clove, and Cypress. The cotton swabs are hidden out of sight in a pre-determined search area, and the dog has to find them. Teamwork is necessary: when the dog finds the scent, he has to communicate the find to the handler, who calls it out to the judge.

Nacho Grill: Lynette Rogers and Omar Raines will be regular faces in our building as they are the newest renters of our commercial kitchen. They have been in business for about two years and are now the owners of the **Nacho Grill Food Truck**. The truck made its inaugural debut at Arts, Beats, and Eats and Dequindre Cut this fall. Lynnette jokes about choosing the two biggest festivals in the Metro area as their firsts, as learning to swim for the first time in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. But they learned a lot and both were successful events. They were grateful for the use of our facility as they did the majority of the prep for these events in KFH Kitchen.



Prior to purchasing the truck, they were doing corporate lunch services for the past 18 months. They come in and setup in under 30 minutes and feed 100-300 people during the lunch-time hours. They started small but their customers now include Amazon, Beaumont, Henry Ford, and Chrysler.

Lynnette worked in recruiting and Omar owned a print and advertising company in Ferndale. They consider themselves ultimate foodies and enjoy the pleasure of a great eating experience. They were constantly asking themselves what they liked most about the cuisine they had just enjoyed, and what they could have done better. Since the curiosity and spark to enter the market was already there, they just took the leap of faith. We welcome them and wish them success.

Sharing the Kitchen

- Nacho Grill will have an event calendar posted on the whiteboard in the kitchen so we know when to expect them in the building.
- We will share with them the dates the church needs use of the kitchen.
- They will have a labeled shelving unit assigned to them to store their dry goods in the storage area.
- They will be allotted use of half of the refrigerator which will be labeled.
- All persons using the kitchen will need to make sure everything is cleaned and put away at the end of their event to leave the space ready for the next group.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW SOLOISTS/SECTION LEADERS!



Bryan Clinthorne is a bass-baritone in his first season with First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak's Chancel Choir. He is in his final year of undergraduate education in Music Journalism at Oakland University. During his time at Oakland University, Bryan has studied vocal performance under Dr. Edith Diggory (Mellow), was a member of Oakland University's Chorale, performed as Carl Olsen in the 2019 production of Kurt Weill's *Street Scene*, as well as chorus roles within Friedrich von Flotow's *Martha*. In 2020, Bryan served as an assistant audio engineer at Oakland University. In addition to his solo performance work, Bryan is an alumnus of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia fraternity and he participates annually in the Oakland Symphony Chorus.



Brady DelVecchio is an American lyric tenor and actor. His career has focused mostly on operatic, theatrical and recital repertoire. After attending The Peabody Conservatory of Music at Johns Hopkins University and New York University's Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Human Development, Bachelors of Music and Masters degrees of Music respectively, he has focused on creating memorable and poignant characters. His credits have included, Le Prince Charmant in *Cendrillon*, Mercurio in *La Calisto*, Rektor/Komár, Pasek in *Přihody lišky Bystroušky*, Don Ottavio in *Don Giovanni*, Tony in *West Side Story*, and most recently Nanki-Poo in *The Mikado*. He is currently working at Detroit Opera and is in the Chorus of *Faust*, *Aida* and singing in the outreach program.

Christian Education

H.O.M.E.

Thank you to all who took a H.O.M.E. bag in September and donated items for the Days For Girls workshop in October. Feminine hygiene products are a necessary need throughout the world.

In November, H.O.M.E. bags containing Advent Wreath materials will be available for pick up in the CE Lobby. The wreath base is floral oasis, so if you prefer live greens, the base will keep them fresh. Enjoy creating and using this D.I.Y. at-home project with your family!

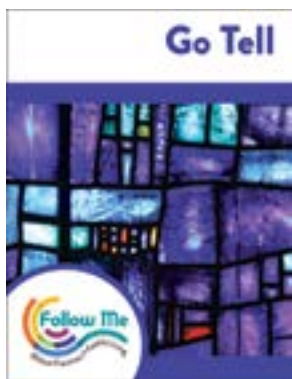
– Marilyn Sutton,
Christian Education Committee



Children's Ministry

"GO TELL" ADVENT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Ever since angels lit the Bethlehem sky and sent amazed shepherds to meet the baby, people whose lives have been touched by Jesus have been telling others the story. During Advent, our children will explore the "Go Tell" lessons from the PCUSA curriculum Follow Me. It will be a time to hear the Christmas story and learn how we can share the exciting news.



GETTING READY FOR CHRISTMAS

As the fall air sets in and leaves fall, we start to look ahead to Advent. Our children will lead our family Christmas Eve service by sharing the story of Jesus' birth. During November, we will spend time with children choosing what costumes are best for them. Watch your email for more details from Miss Joelle. If your child has a special request for a costume, please let Miss Joelle know.



YOU ARE A CHILD OF GOD! KNOW IT! LIVE IT! LOVE IT!

Our congregation is blessed to have wonderful children in the life of our church. We see them each week and now we have opportunities to get to know them a little bit better.

November Child of God — Jack Kortlandt

Jack is the son of Megan and Scott Kortlandt and he has a younger sister, Charlotte. He is a 4th grader at Jane Addams Elementary School in Royal Oak and his favorite class is Art. Jack's favorite autumn activity is making leaf piles and jumping in them and a special thing he enjoys is celebrating Thanksgiving with his family. Did you know Jack has a pet rabbit? *"I have one rabbit named Jasper. He is grey and white. His favorite things to do are eat and get pet. His favorite food is parsley. He is kind of nosy and loves to follow you around."* In his free time, Jack enjoys drawing and he loves to cook — be sure to ask him about his favorite recipes!

Jack is a special part of FPCRO and we are also special to Jack. *"My favorite thing about church is getting to see friends, sing songs, and meet new people."* Jack Kortlandt is a child of God! He knows it! He lives it! He loves it!

Sunflowers Christian Preschool



November brings a month of happily giving thanks! Our preschoolers have settled into new routines, are developing new friendships, and working hard. For all these things, and all of our dear students and their families, we are truly thankful! We are so thankful that we have all remained healthy and safe!

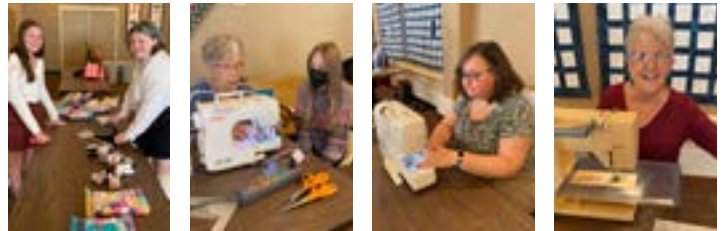
Brown is the color of the month. Colorful feathered brown birds will be hanging around our room and hallways. Both classes will also decorate a large turkey with feathers, telling about the things for which we are thankful. From the Bible, our study of Moses and the Ten Commandments will help us to know how God wants us to live.

All classes will celebrate Thanksgiving later this month, followed by no school on November 24-25 as we celebrate Thanksgiving with our families. A very blessed Thanksgiving to our church family, as well!

Our Monthly Mission project has been underway! It is fun to learn about and help those in need. We will help with a food drive in the month of November to stock our little food pantry.

Mrs. Gibson and Mrs. Heitchue

October Meal with a Mission Event—Days for Girls



TIME TO ORDER CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS



Yes, I wish to order # _____ poinsettia plant(s) to be displayed in the sanctuary on Christmas Eve.

Choose Color(s): Red # _____ White # _____

Please print:

In Loving Memory Of: _____

In Honor Of: _____

Donor's name: _____

Phone Number & Email: _____

Each plant is **\$14**. Please make checks payable to **First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak**. Leave your check and order form in the basket at the reception desk.

You may mail your order to: Chris Klein,
4405 N. Verona Circle, Royal Oak, MI 48073

Please Check:

I will pick up my poinsettia(s) after the Christmas Eve or Christmas morning service.

Orders must be received by Sunday, December 4, 2022.

**Worship with us at 9 & 10:30 am,
or online anytime at www.fpcro.org**

www.fpcro.org • [facebook.com/fpcro](https://www.facebook.com/fpcro)

248.541.0108 • fax 248.541.1859

529 Hendrie Blvd.

Royal Oak, Michigan 48067



fpcro

opportunities for all ages!
servicing • learning • growing

find us on:



November Dates to Note:

Sunday, November 6 • Daylight Saving Time Ends
Sunburst Singers Kids' Music Program

Wednesday, November 16 • Service of Healing and Wholeness, 7 pm

Sunday, November 20 • Christ the King Sunday
Sunburst Singers Kids' Music Program
Hanging of the Greens

Thursday, November 24 • Thanksgiving Day, *Church office closed Nov 24 & 25*

Sunday, November 27 • First Sunday of Advent,
One Worship Service at 10:30 am