

FPC CONNECTIONS

The Official Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Neola

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 7TH

WORSHIP 10:30AM IN PERSON & YOUTUBE

Online Worship

YouTube Live:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCE0fq93ZkAZnkLGzUPspwZQ>

- Click on the link above
- Or go to www.youtube.com and search for **First Presbyterian Church Neola** or www.fpcneola.com
- Subscribe to our YouTube channel to find it anytime
- Watch live at 10:30am or anytime at your convenience after Worship.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Herb	Korlys
Don	Frank
Teresa	James
Liz	Mark
Mark	Cheryl
A safe harvest	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Morning Circle will be held on November 18th at 9:30am.

Youth Sunday School will be next week: kids during worship and Middle and High schoolers afterwards.

Our yearly congregational meeting to elect elders and committee members will be right after worship on November 21. If you are interested in serving on Session or on a committee, please let Cliff Killpack, Sarah Elliott, or Cheryl Christensen know!

Members have been mailed pledge cards. Hopefully you got yours already. We also have extra here at the church. Please prayerfully consider giving a pledge for 2022. We will dedicate pledges on November 14.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY

Lorie Horn	1-Nov
Zachary Elliott	3-Nov
Ashley Manhart	3-Nov
Karen Hundt	4-Nov
Michelle Baatz	6-Nov
Ashlynn Eckrich	9-Nov
Tillie Heim	17-Nov
Sophia Gengler	18-Nov
Sarah Elliott	20-Nov
Brett Cook	27-Nov
Carol Cook	27-Nov

ONLINE GIVING

If you would like to give online click [here](#) or visit our website www.fpcneola.com. You will be asked to create a user account the first time you log in.

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MARTHA

Remember when the acronym W.W.J.D. was a big phenomenon?

There were bracelets and t-shirts and probably even tattoos to remind us to think "What Would Jesus Do?" in any given situation. I love this sentiment because it reminds us to focus on what's most important in life: following Jesus. But I think somewhere along the line, even for those who didn't get caught up in the "cool" factor, the message devolved into becoming a moral compass: you take an action because it is either "right" or "wrong." A right action would be an action Jesus would take, and a wrong action would be an action Jesus wouldn't take. It mostly boiled down to recalling the stories about Jesus helping others to remind us to be kind, and not ignoring those in need.

Being kind is of ultimate importance, do not get me wrong, but we don't need Jesus to remind us to be kind. Any half-way decent person can be kind. Jesus said that even the reviled tax collectors in his day were nice to their friends. The more we read scripture, the more we realize that what Jesus did was often particular to the people he was with and the situation he was in rather than some agreement to be kind. To top it off, we aren't Jesus, so asking "What Would Jesus Do?" is unhelpful if we're ever at a wedding with water and no wine: we can't do what Jesus would do because we can't turn water into wine.*

What we don't want to forget is the WHY in what Jesus did. Maybe it should be "What Was Jesus Doing?" When the teacher says, "What are you doing over there?" they don't care that you are technically sharpening your pencil. They want to know why it's taken you five minutes. Why did Jesus turn water into wine? Why did Jesus heal someone he didn't know? Why did Jesus turn over the money-changer's table? If we only look at the action, we don't go deep enough. Jesus was building a community of disciples; he was connecting people into community, he was healing and making people whole, he was calling out those who were corrupt. He was calling his followers to join in, not on the specific actions, but on the core of what it means to be disciples of Jesus. He was inviting and nurturing those who were interested in following him. It's about the WHY. It's about what we do in relation to others. Are we inviting and nurturing others into discipleship in our actions?

How often do we think about our actions as right or wrong: Christlike or not Christlike instead of considering the lasting impact we are making. Does what we do help build those around us – particularly in our church community – into disciples of Christ, or does it push them away? Being kind is certainly a part of it. And it goes deeper.

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MARTHA - CONTINUED

I remember an older congregation member complaining – while I was pregnant – about parents who let their children make a little noise in worship. This person was focused on what they thought was "right" about their own actions and "wrong" about someone else's. This person was "right" to go to worship, and the other person was "wrong" for disrupting that. And what's the impact of that statement? Does it build up the community in Christ? Does it lead people to discipleship? Does it create healing, wholeness, connectivity, relationship, or any other reason Jesus had for the "why" behind his actions? I can tell you that it made me worry about what would happen when my daughter was born and whether there was a place for our family at that church, and that's not what Jesus would want. At that very same church, there was a gentleman with mental disabilities who often fell asleep and snored loudly through parts of the service each week. Would Jesus have fallen asleep during worship? Of course not. But would waking this man up or chastising him do anything to build up the community in Christ? Undoubtedly, no. The congregation supported his presence in worship, his place in the community, and his growth in Christ. That is exactly what Jesus was doing out there in his ministry.

So let's ask ourselves, WWJD: What was Jesus doing? What are we doing?

Peace in Christ,
Pastor Martha

*Although, to be fair, Jesus started by telling his mom that it wasn't his problem, and she had to twist his arm, so a lot of teenagers may be more like Jesus than we give them credit for!

OCTOBER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Fellowship: If anyone would like to assist with planning our next all church Sunday School please reach out to Jessica Cook.

Marketing/Outreach: The Marketing Committee is working on replacing or updating the church sign outside of Arrowhead Park. If you are interested in helping with this project please contact Renae Carlson.

SESSION NOTES: OCTOBER 12, 2021

MOTION: Move to select Holy Cow, a strategic planning consulting company, to move forward with church planning and begin the process, sharing the costs among committee budgets. CARRIED.

Rationale: At the last session meeting, session members declared an "all in" stance to creating a plan for the church to move forward. Pastor Martha has researched and vetted 4 possible options, which will be presented in the session meeting. The options are: Holy Cow!, Arise, Bridgebuilders, and 7 Systems Church Consultation.

MOTION: Go back to masks being strongly encouraged for those in attendance during in person indoor large group worship. CARRIED.

Rationale: Several members asked this issue to be brought to the Session.

MOTION: Move to approve the estimate from KPS HV/AC to replace the furnace and A/C at the manse. CARRIED.

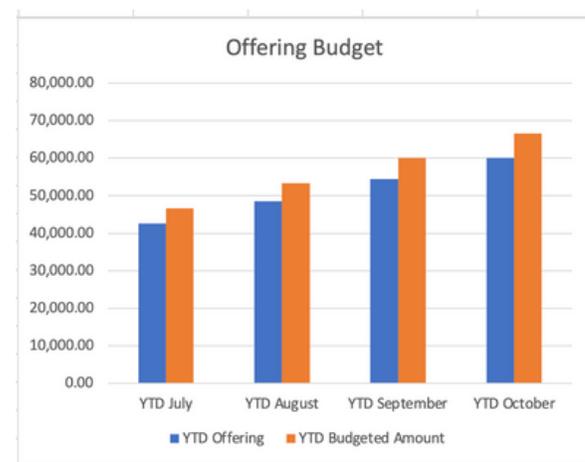
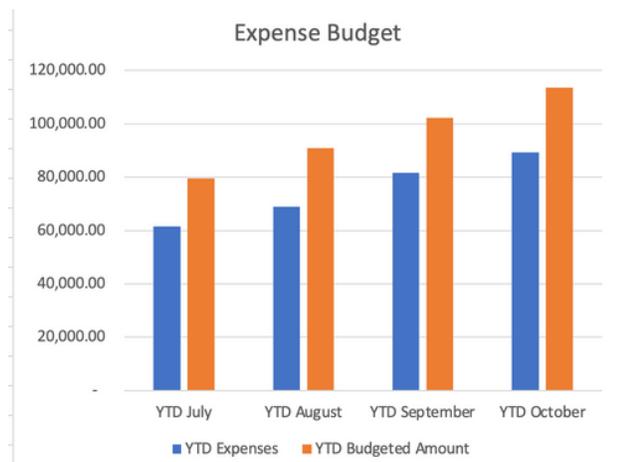
Rationale: The issue with the manse furnace and a/c have been known for quite some time. The church needs to remedy the dangerous situation before this year's heating season.

MOTION: Make plans for all church Sunday school inside during cold weather. Carried

GENERAL MOTION: To receive and place on file the reports of the committees and ministries of FPC of Neola. CARRIED

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Income Statement	YTD July	YTD August	YTD September	YTD October
General Offerings	42,547.29	48,527.82	54,510.86	60,131.06
Expense Budget				
YTD Expenses	61,511.00	69,023.00	81,735.00	89,274.00
YTD Budgeted Amount	79,584.00	90,948.00	102,322.00	113,686.00
Over/Under Expense Budget	-22.71%	-24.11%	-20.12%	-21.47%
Offering Income Budget				
YTD Offering	42,547.29	48,528.00	54,511.00	60,131.06
YTD Budgeted Amount	46,667.00	53,333.00	60,000.00	66,667.00
Over/Under Income Budget	-8.83%	-9.01%	-9.15%	-9.80%
Offering Income and Expense Overview				
YTD General Offering	42,547.29	48,527.82	54,510.86	60,131.06
YTD Expenses	61,511.00	69,023.00	81,735.00	89,274.00
Income Deficient	-31%	-30%	-33%	-33%



WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

November 7th

Greeter: Barb Farley
 Ushers: Josh Able & Dave Hartwell
 Worship Leader: Frankie Munch
 Session Leader: Dawn Goodsell
 Fellowship: Bobbie Munch
 Communion: Renae Carlson

November 14th

Greeter: Ron & Jan Elliott
 Ushers: Rodney Carlson
 Worship Leader: Kim Carlson
 Session Leader: Jessica Cook
 Fellowship: Sarah Elliott

November 21st

Greeter: Cliff & Kathy Killpack
 Ushers: Dan Elliott
 Worship Leader: Kendal Jensen
 Session Leader: Joe Munch
 Fellowship: Jean Hartwell

November 28th

Greeter: Carole Police
 Ushers: Jerry Christensen
 Worship Leader: Chris Slocombe
 Session Leader: Andy Manhart
 Fellowship: Michelle Baatz

CALENDAR

7	NOV, SUN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All day ● 10:30 – 11:30am 	Communion First Presbyterian Church of Neola Worship
8	NOV, MON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 6 – 7:30pm 	Women's Bible Study First Presbyterian Church of Neola
10	NOV, WED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 6:30 – 8:30pm 	Session Meeting First Presbyterian Church of Neola
14	NOV, SUN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All day ● 10:30 – 11:30am ● 10:45 – 11:30am ● 11:45am – 3pm 	Pledge Dedication First Presbyterian Church of Neola Worship Children's Sunday School Ages 4-12 First Presbyterian Church of Neola Middle School/High School Sunday School First Presbyterian Church of Neola
15	NOV, MON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 6 – 7:30pm 	Women's Bible Study First Presbyterian Church of Neola
17	NOV, WED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 6 – 7:30pm 	Group 3:16 at FPC Neola
18	NOV, THU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9:30 – 10:30am 	Morning Circle First Presbyterian Church of Neola
21	NOV, SUN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All day ● 10:30 – 11:30am ● 11:30am – 12:30pm 	Thanks Offering Worship Congregational Meeting for the Election of Elders and Committee Members
22	NOV, MON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 6 – 7:30pm 	Women's Bible Study First Presbyterian Church of Neola
25	NOV, THU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All day 	Thanksgiving - Office Closed
26	NOV, FRI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All day 	Office is Closed