

FPC CONNECTIONS

The Official Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Neola

SUNDAY DECEMBER 5TH

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
Teresa	Frank
Liz	James
Mark	Mark

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Old Fashioned Christmas is Saturday December 11th starting at 4pm. FPC will be providing and serving the soup. If you are interested in helping with this event please speak with Barb Farley or Sign up in the narthex.

December 12th we will have our first practice for the Christmas program during worship service when we would normally have the younger kids Sunday School.

A reminder for the parents of the Sunday School kids, please bring cookies or bars to share after the Christmas program. We are still looking for some volunteers to lead fellowship after the Christmas program (make coffee, KoolAid, etc.)

December 19 will be our Christmas Program during worship. If you would like to help or be involved, please contact Jill Jensen!

There are Advent Devotionals from Presbyterians Today available in the Narthex on the table if you'd like one. They are also available online.

Blood Drive Thursday Dec 9 from 1-6 at the Neola Community Center.

CALENDAR

Please check the website for the latest calendar and event information. www.fpcneola.com/calendar

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

You may not have seen it from where you were sitting, but during the children's message this past Sunday, one of our very youngest kids raised her hand after I asked a question. This tiny human who babbles and toddles her way up to the front is worshipping God.

Before we learn to read, we learn the "concepts of print" in how to hold a book or turn a page; this little girl is showing that she understands the "concepts of worship" in participating in the ways that she sees and knows how: she is already playing instruments and coming forward to participate in different parts of the service, even raising her hand like the bigger kids do to take part. As a church family, we are supporting our youngest (and oldest!) in their faith journeys when we allow them to come to worship fully as themselves.

That same children's message, we had a pew full of kids answering questions and coming up with ideas for how to wait for Jesus' upcoming birthday. It brought me great joy – and I hope for you as well – that these kids feel comfortable in worship. They feel they belong enough to come up front and have a chat with their pastor. They feel heard enough that they share their ideas with me and with one another in the presence of the congregation. They feel bold enough in their faith to be a part of the worship service, whether it's during the children's message, accompanying the praise hymn, or helping with the benediction. They know that their church family supports them as they learn more about Jesus, and that makes a world of a difference to them and to us as a church family in understanding who we are as a family of faith.

Particularly during this Advent season, this time of waiting for Jesus' birth, let us come to worship with an expectation of wonder as we support and grow our capacity to worship the Lord of lords and King of kings.

Peace in Christ,
Pastor Martha

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY

Linda Carlson	Dec 4	Brian Skow	Dec 26
Kellan Jensen	Dec 6	Alyssa Baatz	Dec 28
Korlys Talty	Dec 11	Taylor Killpack	Dec 30
Martha Slocombe	Dec 19	Karly Smith	Dec 30
Clifford Killpack	Dec 22	Ruth Soppe	Dec 30
Carol Jensen	Dec 24		

NOVEMBER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Maintenance: The installation of the HVAC at the manse is complete. Bill A. has contacted our insurance company to have an assessment of the roof completed. Renae C. has researched a replacement PC for the projector.

Marketing/Outreach: If you are interested in helping to replace the park sign please let the Marketing Committee know. We are still looking for someone to write a blog. If you are interested again please let us know.

Mission: Mission Committee has elected to donate money for the Backpack Food Program at TC. Bobby will be purchasing items and submitting receipt for reimbursement. PW Thank Offering is scheduled for Sunday November 21st. Online offering and in church will be accepted. A donation Basket will be available at the back of the church for offerings.

Re-Opening Task Force: There still continues to be local positive COVID Cases. The COVID Task Force would like to remind everyone to please be considerate of others by watching online if you are not feeling well. Social distancing is still being observed at this time and mask wearing is strongly encouraged. Thank you so much for your continued support.

SESSION NOTES: NOVEMBER 10, 2021

Motion: Move to approve the Minutes of the Stated Session Meeting on October 13, 2021. CARRIED

Motion: Move to approve the payment of receipt for Backpack Food Program. CARRIED

Motion: Move to approve Sydney Handbury's request to be married at the church on August 13, 2022. Reception will be held elsewhere. CARRIED

Motion: Move to accept resignation of Mike Eikenberry from the session effective immediately. CARRIED

Motion: Move to accept the resignation of Renae Carlson from the session effective 12/31/2021 CARRIED

Motion: Move to approve Renae to purchase a new A/V PC laptop to operate the PowerPoint and projector. In the amount not to exceed \$650. CARRIED

Rationale: The tablet that operates the PowerPoint and is linked to the projector, has been extremely slow and unreliable for quite some time. There have been many attempts to improve its performance, but it is obvious the machine is simply too old and obsolete to continue its use.

Motion: Move to receive and place on file the reports of the committees and ministries of FPC of Neola. CARRIED

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - NOVEMBER 21, 2021

MOTION: Move and Seconded to approve the following Elder candidates:

Class of 2024: Josh Abel; Jean Hartwell; Dawn Goodsell (second term)

Class of 2023: Kim Carlson (finishing 2 years of a 3 year term)

Class of 2022: Carole Police (finishing 1 year of a 2 year term)

Mission Committee: 2024 Dawn Goodsell

Memorial Committee: 2024 Carole Police

Auditing Committee: 2022 Mike Eikenberry

Treasurer (Receiving & Disbursing): 2022 Jill Jensen

CARRIED

MOTION: Move and Seconded to place on the Nominating Committee 2022:
Bill Ambrose, session member and chair; Dan Elliott; Chris Slocombe; Barb Farley; Cathy Killpack

CARRIED

Full Session:

Class of 2024: Josh Abel, Dawn Goodsell, Jean Hartwell

Class of 2023: Kim Carlson, Bill Ambrose, Kyle Jensen

Class of 2022: Carole Police, Jessica Cook, Joe Munch

Full Mission committee:

2024: Dawn Goodsell

2023: Bobbi Munch

2022 Karen Hundt

Full Memorial Committee:

2024 Carole Police

2023 Bonnie Ambrose

2022 Debbie Lund

Full Nominating Committee 2022:

Bill Ambrose (session member and chair)

Dan Elliott

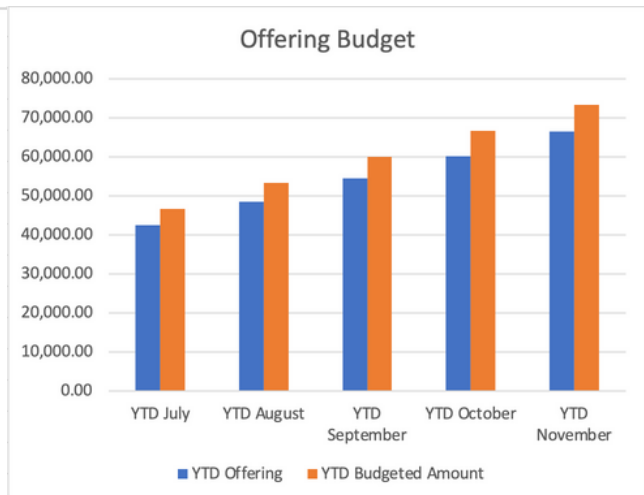
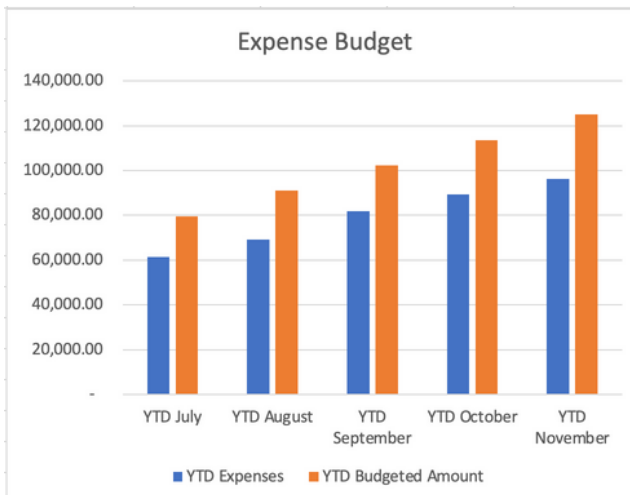
Chris Slocombe

Barb Farley

Cathy Killpack

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Income Statement	YTD July	YTD August	YTD September	YTD October	YTD November
General Offerings	42,547.29	48,527.82	54,510.86	60,131.06	66,500.71
Expense Budget					
YTD Expenses	61,511.00	69,023.00	81,735.00	89,274.00	96,147.00
YTD Budgeted Amount	79,584.00	90,948.00	102,322.00	113,686.00	125,054.00
Over/Under Expense Budget	-22.71%	-24.11%	-20.12%	-21.47%	-23.12%
Offering Income Budget					
YTD Offering	42,547.29	48,527.82	54,510.86	60,131.06	66,500.71
YTD Budgeted Amount	46,667.00	53,333.00	60,000.00	66,667.00	73,333.00
Over/Under Income Budget	-8.83%	-9.01%	-9.15%	-9.80%	-9.32%
Offering Income and Expense Overview					
YTD General Offering	42,547.29	48,527.82	54,510.86	60,131.06	66,500.71
YTD Expenses	61,511.00	69,023.00	81,735.00	89,274.00	96,147.00
Income Deficient	-31%	-30%	-33%	-33%	-31%



WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

December 5th

Greeter: Bill & Bonnie Ambrose
Ushers: Jerry Farley
Worship Leader: Joanna Cook
Session Leader: Bill Ambrose
Fellowship: Barb Farley
Communion: Jerry Christensen

December 12th

Greeter: Jerry & Cheryl Christensen
Ushers: Josh Abel
Worship Leader: Sarah Elliott
Session Leader: Jessica Cook
Fellowship: Dawn Goodsell

December 19th

Greeter: Linda Carlson
Ushers: Dave Hartwell

December 26th

Greeter: Diana Benzing
Ushers: Dan Elliott
Session Leader: Andy Manhart
Fellowship: Jan Elliott