



Community Presbyterian Church

December 2019

Dear Members and Friends of Community Presbyterian Church,

I couldn't write this yesterday. Yesterday was so windy the rain was blowing sideways - it was gloomy and overcast – not exactly feeling like Christmas. This morning the church has about 3 inches of snow all over it and the grounds looks like a winter wonderland – thus I am able to write about the season! (Amazing how our moods can change with the weather!)

So I was thinking about past Christmas celebrations and looking forward to our opportunities for worship during the season of Advent. If my memory is still functioning correctly, it was Christmas Eve 1978. We were in Sparta, Illinois and our congregation was having a candle light communion service at 7:00 pm and then joining with the Catholic Church to be part of their midnight mass. Trinity Presbyterian Church (where I served) had beautiful candelabras and they were wrapped in real evergreens. During the prayer of blessing for communion, I had my eyes closed and heard footsteps running up the aisle. Just as I opened my eyes to see what was the matter (sounds like the Night Before Christmas, doesn't it?) an Elder threw me out of the way and grabbed one of the candelabras (which was flaming – the evergreens were on fire) and ran with it down the center aisle and out into the parking lot. In the lore of that congregation, the service became known as the “Christ Torch Service”.

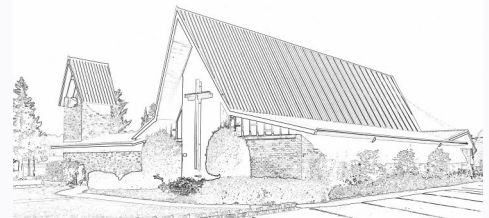
Another Christmas Eve service that comes to my remembrance is the “Don't Let Him Beat Me” Service. The custom at Faith Presbyterian Church in Colorado Springs (where I served for 20 years) was to have a family Christmas Eve service at 7:00 pm and Candle Light Communion at 11:30 pm. The family oriented service was focused on the children and was a total zoo! (You can imagine how hyped up kids are on Christmas Eve!) Anyway, this one little boy wouldn't sit still and was hiding behind the Christmas tree in front of the sanctuary. Rather than just let him be, his father decided to make him come out from behind the tree. As dad approached from one side of the tree, the boy ran out of the other side yelling, “Don't let him beat me!!” As you can imagine, this put a damper on the service (and we looked into the issue to make sure there wasn't any child abuse taking place – there wasn't).

So two rather memorable services in my past. I am anticipating our services this year will not be nearly as 'memorable'!

Over the course of the Advent season (beginning December 1st) we will be decorating the sanctuary, looking at some of the names of Christ presented by the prophet Isaiah, singing many carols and celebrating the season of our Lord's coming. May the Christ of Christmas be active in your life during this holiday time.

Blessings and Merry Christmas, Bob

Community Presbyterian Church
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Upcoming Services for Advent and Christmas

December 8: Second Sunday of Advent (10:30 am) Sermon Title: "His Name Shall Be Called Prince of Peace" – Isaiah 9:6

December 15: Third Sunday of Advent (10:30 am) Choir Cantata Selections "Touched by a Child, Touched by a King"

December 22: Fourth Sunday of Advent (10:30 am) Sermon Title: "His Name Shall Be Called The Everlasting Father" – Isaiah 9:6

December 24: **Christmas Eve Service (7:00 pm)** – "The Christmas Plan" – Luke 2

December 29: "On The Eighth Day" – Luke 2:21-38

Poinsettia Orders

Don't forget, poinsettia orders need to be returned by **December 8th**.

Under the memo line on your check, please write the word 'poinsettia'. Thanks in advance!



The Bear Tree Project is in process. This year there were **50 bears** and they were all taken! Please remember to bring back your 'bear' and the presents on or before Sunday, **December 8th**. Thanks so much for your generosity!



Presentation by White Mountain Community Choir

G. F. Handel's "MESSIAH

SUNDAY, December 15, 2019 at 7:00 PM

L.D.S. Downtown Chapel. Located near Show Low Library.

The CHURCH MOUSE

THE CHURCH MOUSE

There are a lot of reasons why we give gifts at Christmas. I would like to share one that you may not have heard. It's called

"A Christmas Request"

When ol' Kris Kringle was a lad, it's said he had a dream;
He dreamed about the Christ Child's birth, as odd as that may seem.

He came upon the manger nestled there within the trees;
And when he saw the Baby Boy, Kris fell upon his knees.

"What can I give you, Holy One, O, Lord of all the earth?
I'd like to give You something grand to celebrate Your birth."

And though no words were spoken, Young Kris "heard" the Christ Child say:
"Remember Me when you grow up by keeping Christmas Day!"

When he awoke, Kris made a vow to heed the Baby's call,
To celebrate the Christ Child's birth and lavish gifts on all.

So, on this day when you unwrap your gifts beneath the tree,
Recall the Christ Child's one request:
He said "Remember Me!"

Until next time – be happy, do good deeds, and keep love in your heart.

Love To You All,
Webster

Submitted on behalf of Webster
By Lynda Marble



MINISTRY GRATITUDE

Cup of Joe □

*Thanks to all who contributed so generously to our **Cup of Joe Fund** for deployed military members! We purchased **109** cups of coffee!*



Cookies for Our Service Members

We sent the cookies on Tuesday the 12th. There were **13** boxes sent to service members overseas and at home stations. You provided **800+** cookies for this project. Thanks for your generosity and we will do this again the end of January and beginning of February!

Thankful

Holiday Food Boxes

Through the generous contributions of our members, **60 food boxes** were prepared and donated to the following organizations serving veterans in our community: Walking Down Ranch, Fishers of Men and the VFW. Thanks to all who assisted to make This Deacon project had a significant impact on our community.

FELLOWSHIP

Thanksgiving Dinner 2019



Blessings

Thanksgiving 2019

We celebrated Thanksgiving recently and had excellent responses and turnout. Thank you to the Deacons, Elders and those that brought food and joined us for our dinner. I was so happy to see so many help with providing food and with clean up. It makes it so much easier for us when everyone pitches in. We are so blessed.

John Marble

Did You Know That You Can Donate To The Church By Using Your IRA?

Because of changes in the tax laws there is now a tax-friendly way to contribute to qualifying charities (like a church). In general, distributions from a traditional IRA are taxable in the year you receive them. But one exception to this rule is the Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). A QCD generally is a nontaxable distribution made directly by the trustee of your IRA to an organization eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions. You must be at least age 70½ when the distribution is made. Also, you must have the same type of acknowledgment of your contribution as you would need to claim a deduction for a charitable contribution. (You can't claim a charitable contribution deduction for an QCD not included in your income.)

This provision of the tax code may be of interest to taxpayers who are at least age 70½ and have a traditional IRA. These individuals must take required minimum distributions from their IRA each year. Seniors in this position can now make charitable contributions while at the same time reducing their taxable income by directing the trustee of their IRA to make qualified charitable distributions (QCD), which count towards their minimum distribution.

For more information please call the church office or see IRS Publication 590-B.

THE 'ROADMAP' TO A NEW INSTALLED PASTOR

The Pastor Nominating Committee is in place and working hard!

Just as a reminder, below is the 'roadmap' to securing a new installed pastor:

February ~ May 2019 - - Spend time getting to know congregation (**Completed**)

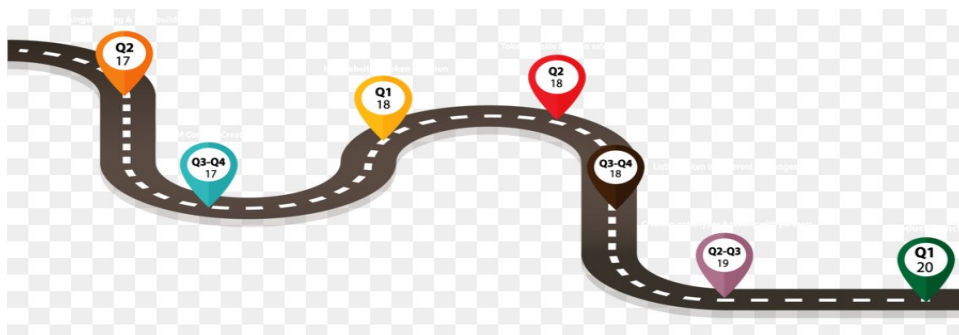
June ~ July 2019 - - Complete congregational mission study (**CHAT**) (**Completed**)

October 2019 - - Elect a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) (**Completed**)

October ~ November 2019 - - Complete Ministry Information Form (MIF)(resume of the church)

December 2019 - - Submit MIF for circulation

January ~ August 2020 - - Review Personal Information Forms (PIF) - Interviews - Neutral Pulpit presentation - present candidate to congregation for vote.





Youth Sunday School Schedule

We are trying to rebuild our youth Sunday School program. The plan is to start small and expand as we can. In order to accomplish this, we need to establish a regular schedule when the families with children can count on there being a class. Thus, the Christian Education Committee decided to start with a very limited schedule. The first Sunday of each month, the students will remain in worship to celebrate communion with the whole church. Then on the third Sunday of the month, there will be a class offered for the second half of worship. It is hoped that a regular schedule will be helpful to families with numerous other commitments. Please be praying for our young people and their spiritual development.

Updates on Website:

If you haven't checked out our website (www.cpcpinetop.org) recently, please do. You will see many updates containing different types of material. Some of the information is directed toward folks seeking a church to attend, others is information that you as a member/attender may need to know. The biggest change you will see is the addition of videos of the anthem and sermon from our Sunday services. So if you miss a Sunday and wanted to hear the message, no worries, you can watch it wherever you are!

Get It On The Calendar:

If your group has an event/meeting planned at the church, please call the church office and have Tammy put it on the master calendar. Without this information, 'double-booking' could easily happen. Thanks for your help!