

DECEMBER 1st, 2024

Worship with FPC | December 1st, 2024 | Daniel 6.6-27

O Come O Come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, who mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear...

The Daniel of our Scriptures was forcibly removed from Jerusalem. Exiled to Babylon. Imprisoned by a foreign land, language, culture and king. And if he should refuse to worship the king alone? Lions.

But exiled from home, Daniel waited for God.
Mourning grave loss, Daniel held onto hope.
Threatened by death, Daniel looked for the Lord to come close and save.

'Advent' means 'coming.' And so, even as the people of Israel awaited their Messiah, we who trust Jesus wait with expectation in this season of Advent for Christ to come close to our homesickness, our mourning, our lions' dens of vulnerability and threat. With Daniel we hold onto hope of rescue, believing that

*Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted,
but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
they shall run and not be weary;
they shall walk and not faint. -Isaiah 40.30-31*

Prayer: *O Come O Come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, who mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear...Come, Lord Jesus....*

We will be together in the Sanctuary for worship this Sunday at 9:30am. You can also click this link to **live-stream** our worship service (or view it afterward): <https://www.youtube.com/live/dr65RtuntqA>

To listen by phone to the live 9:30am worship service on Sunday via Zoom, call 253-215-8782. You will be asked to enter three codes:

Meeting ID: 84025131691 (then #)

Participant ID: (just press #)

Password: 658627 (then #)

You will also be able to join worship by clicking the link on FPC's web page at www.fpcmissoula.org, or find it on Facebook at 'First Presbyterian Church Missoula.'

Snow Removal: Volunteers Needed

In anticipation of winter, we are asking for volunteers to help with snow removal. If this is something that you feel called to help with please contact FPC Facility Steward, Robert Miller at (406)546-5972.

Announcing FPC Gifts to Surprise Missoula and Beyond!

On behalf of this church family, FPC's Sending (Mission) Team is joyful to report the disbursement of \$14,000 in gifts from FPC's General Mission Endowment: \$3500 for Rev. Courtney Arntzen, Missoula Community Chaplain; \$3500 for Glacier Presbytery's Glacier Camp (Lakeside, MT); \$1000 for Habitat for Humanity; \$3000 for Family Promise/Meadowlark; \$3000 for Missoula Interfaith Collaborative's Houselessness Prevention Program (which aims to prevent families from losing housing and needing shelter). Separately, our congregation will make a \$500 Giving Tuesday donation to Casas por Cristo toward the purchase of a new 15-passenger van. Additionally, FPC's Session is grateful to share the decision to make two gifts totaling \$10,000 from the generous \$100,000 anonymous donation our church received earlier this year: \$5000 for Helping Hands, through which FPC provides direct emergency financial assistance especially to aid houseless families; and \$5000 to Missoula Interfaith Collaborative's Houselessness Prevention Program (which, again, aims to prevent families from losing housing and needing shelter). We pray that these gifts may address the needs of many who are currently encountering a significant waiting list at the Meadowlark Family Housing Center.

New Members Welcomed

A few weeks ago Session welcomed 6 new members to our congregation. Please welcome them!
Micah Broch, Kate and Brian Savage (with son Luke), Enzo Martelli, Chris Caldwell, Jill Gilliam.

2025 Pledge Cards

Along with the beautiful fall weather we have been blessed with, this is the time of year in our church calendar when we wish to remind all that our pledge letter will be coming forth. You should have received a pledge invitation letter via mail in the past 2 weeks. Along with this there will be an enclosed pledge card. This communication will be our request for you to prayerfully consider pledging your families' time, talents and funds to FPC for 2025. In planning the 2025 budget it is very helpful to have your family complete the pledge card with this information and monetary pledges for God's work via giving to FPC. **Please return your pledge card by December 3, 2024 or if you have not received an invitation letter contact the church office, (Tues-Fri 9-3) 1-406-549-5144. Blank pledge forms will also be available in the narthex or can be picked up from the church office.** Thank you for your faithfulness in making stewardship a priority in your life helping to further Jesus' love and grace. Neil Shepard, Jack Chambers and Noah Hill Stewarding Elders, for the Session.

Advent Devotionals

Advent begins on December 1st. If you are looking for a way to meaningfully engage in this Advent season, you may wish to use an Advent devotional. We have attached one to the weekly email by Kate Bowler, a professor, author and podcaster. There will also be various Advent devotionals in the Fellowship Hall following worship starting December 1st.

Senior Luncheon: Tuesday, December 10th, 11:15am, Fellowship Hall

December is a simple wish that brings spectacular moments." – Unknown

Please come to the Senior Luncheon on Tuesday, December 10th gathering in the Fellowship Hall at 11:15 am. Dress up in your best ugly Christmas sweater and bring your holiday cheer! Call Barbara Miller to reserve a spot at 406-239-7999. We look forward to celebrating with you!

Handbell Christmas Concert - Sunday, December 15th, 3:00pm - First United Methodist Church

The FPC bell choir and the FUMC bells will combine to present an hour of beautiful music at the Methodist Church. Free admission with refreshments available following the concert. Hope to see you there!

Longest Night Worship: Thursday, December 19th, 7:00pm, Sanctuary

We will be holding a worship service on Thursday, December 19th – near the Longest Night of the year – in the Sanctuary at 7:00pm. We know that this time of year does not always bring feelings of joy and cheer. So we want to make space for lamenting, for grieving, for acknowledging the pain that may be present in our hearts as we walk through various forms of loss, waiting and watching in the dark for the light of Christ to come near. We invite you to come, hear words of God's comfort and peace, sing songs of lament, sit in silence, offer prayers of longing, and be reminded of God's love for you and presence with you in the midst of deep sadness and grief.

Livestream link: <https://youtube.com/live/yRSnmSOrBcc?feature=share>

Helping Hands Giving Trees

Giving Trees are up! Please stop by one of our 2 Giving Trees, in the church narthex or Fellowship Hall, and pick up one or more ornaments and return it along with a gift card(s) to either Walmart or Target...\$15-\$20-\$25. A decorated box has been placed below each tree for your donations. Your gift cards will be shared with local families that our HAN mentors have helped get into housing this past year as well as other Helping Hands families. Thank you for your generosity! Your cards brought joy to about 30 children last Christmas season. (Note: Please write the value on each card)

Upcoming Dates for FPC Gatherings:

December

- Tuesday Morning Prayer: 8:30am, FPC Sanctuary
- Senior Luncheon: Tuesday, December 10th, 11:15am, Fellowship Hall
- Longest Night Worship: December 19th, 7:00pm, Sanctuary
- Christmas Eve Worship: December 24th, 5:00pm and 8:00pm, Sanctuary
- Christmas Day: December 25th, Office Closed
- Lessons and Carols Worship: December 29th, 9:30am, Sanctuary

Announcement Guidelines and Office/Staff Hours

Announcements for FPC's Friday News Emails and for Sunday Worship must be sent to secretary@fpcmissoula.org by Wednesday.

- FPC Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday, 9am - 3pm, 406-549-5144
- FPC Staff Meeting: Tuesdays, 11:00am - 12:30pm
- Pastor and Ministry Directors (Dan Cravy, Emma Thackston, and Austin Graef) work Monday - Thursday; unavailable Fridays
- Operation Manager (Becky Kress) works Monday - Thursday; unavailable Fridays
- Secretary (Haleigh Adair) works Tuesday - Friday; unavailable Mondays
- Program Support Administrator (Jo Ruby) typically works Tuesdays & Thursdays

Helping Hands

For questions related to emergency assistance, please contact our Helping Hands Team: Jan Everett (jeverett53@gmail.com), Jane Hogan (2jhogan@gmail.com) or Krista Hellem (kristahellem@yahoo.com).

Prayer List

Ongoing Prayer Support: Victor Schlimgen, Eva Tsosie and son Chaske, Tom Tucker, Sheryl Tegelberg, Kelley Nicholson, Haleigh Adair, Nick Bailey

Prayers for Health and Healing: Annabelle Olds, Pam Dubois, Jill Gilliam, Barbara Miller, Sarah Shephard, Red Barringer, Linda Brooks-Curtis, Betty Winchell

Condolences: The family and friends of Ruth Card