

✦ First Focus Newsletter ✦

2026 PER CAPITA

Per Capita is an amount of money per member that the PC(USA) congregations pay to support the work of the wider church. The 2026 Per Capita for each member is \$39. Please make payments to the church with memo: Per Capita. Thank you!

2026 PLEDGE CARDS

Please submit your 2026 Pledge Cards. You can mail them, submit them in person, or schedule them electronically. Contact our Finance Coordinator, Barb Lemmon at blemmon@firstpresnormal.org with any questions you have.

Want to conserve paper?
Consider subscribing to the
First Focus Newsletter email
instead! Contact Anne at
alunt@firstpresnormal.org.

DEC. 24TH CHRISTMAS EVE

4pm Contemporary
Worship Service

9pm Traditional
Worship Service
with Communion

UPCOMING WORSHIP TIMES

December 28
10am Pajama Service

January 4
Two Services Resume
Happy New Year!



FAIRVIEW ANGEL TREE ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦



PICK AN ORNAMENT

Our church has been given the opportunity to bring a little joy to 20 children at Fairview Elementary School this year. If you are willing to help, please visit the Angel Tree display outside the sanctuary and pick a numbered tag off the small Christmas tree. Please purchase a minimum of 3 gifts for each angel (between \$30-\$50) and place your unwrapped gifts in a large bag with the number tag on it. Thank you!

**Please drop off gifts in the library no later than Tuesday,
December 9th. Thank you for your generosity!**

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CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

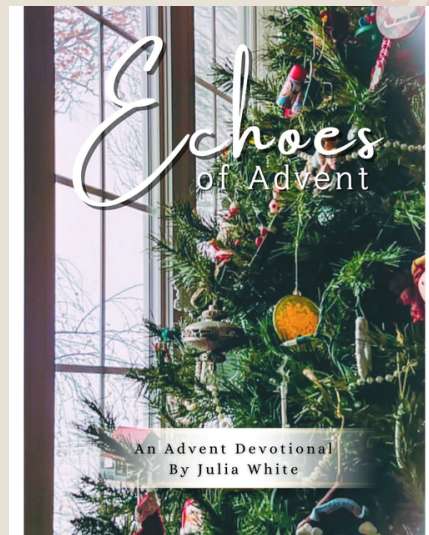
The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we reflect God's perfect gift to us, with generous support of church leaders among us – past, present, and future – who have pointed us to God. We honor and celebrate leaders like retired pastors, church workers, and their families who have faithfully guided and led us, but who now find themselves in critical financial need. We honor and celebrate emerging leaders like students in schools and colleges, equipping communities of color, who develop leadership skills as they pursue their education and prepare to bring their gifts in service to the world God loves so much. Gifts are welcome throughout December. Please note "Christmas Joy Offering" with your gift.



10 YEARS OF ADVENT DEVOTIONALS

**WITH JULIA WHITE ON
NOVEMBER 30 AT 9:45AM**

Join our very own Julia White as she shares some themes and excerpts from her 10th annual Advent devotional, *Echoes of Advent*. Join us in the Lounge at 9:45am. Free copies of the devotional are available at the Welcome Center.



Matt Wilcox, Senior Pastor (Sabbatical Oct. 1–Dec. 31)
 Karol Schilling, Associate Pastor (Acting Head of Staff)
 Phil Enge, Director of Music
 Kelli Owens, Director of Family Ministry
 Anne Lunt, Administrative Assistant
 John Anderson, Property Manager
 Tyler Gatto, A/V Technical Engineer
 Tristan Bishop, Childcare Coordinator
 Robin Schaefer, Director of Playmates Preschool
 Barb Lemmon, Finance Coordinator

Thank You!
Monthly Featured
Group: FPC Staff!

Thank you to all our staff for their hard work throughout the year!

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All I Want for Christmas

The Christmas spirit is marked by kindness and generosity—in words, actions, and gifts. But when Christmas is over, it seems like the Christmas spirit often goes with it. Why is that? Why can't this attitude of kindness be part of our lives year-round? And is this really how God meant for us to celebrate Jesus' arrival on earth? What if we had the Christmas spirit all year? That could change everything. In this 3-week video series from Live a Better Story, we'll look at the Christmas story—one marked by generosity – and discover what that means for us. Sign up online by Thursday, December 4.



Purchase Handmade Items!

The Artisan Sale hosted annually by our Knit-Crochet Ministry will be held Sunday, December 14, 8–12 in the Library. This will be a great opportunity to purchase last-minute gifts for others (and yourself) lovingly created by many talented members and also to help Home Sweet Home's shelter village, The Bridge. Watch for an opportunity to participate in a Silent Auction for three items beginning November 30, ending the morning of the sale (need not be present to win). This is another way we can help raise funds for the unhoused in our community.

**SAVE THE DATE: JANUARY 27 AT 11:30AM
THIRD ANNUAL SUPER SOUP STAR
COMPETITION**

Email Becky Mentzer if you would like to be one of the five contestants at becky.mentzer@gmail.com.



The women's Annual Christmas Gathering is Saturday, December 6th, from 9–11:30am. The BLESSINGS actresses will put on a play that will tickle your funny bone as well as your heart. Enjoy Christmas carols, fellowship, a continental breakfast, and a copy of Julia White's Advent devotional. There is no fee to attend, but please donate to Bringing Hope Ministry – an outreach for women who are victims of illicit massage parlors. Please RSVP online.

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December 7 Noisy Offering for Kemmerer Village – Local Mission Partner

Our November Noisy Offering will take place on December 7 to accommodate our guest (and recipient) – Kemmerer Village! They will share a little bit about their mission and ministry to children with our church family that morning in both services! Come with your nickels and dimes, and let's bless their important work!



RightNow Media December Featured Resource: Emmanuel

Jesus: Emmanuel. God with us. For the Advent season, this is what we celebrate, what we meditate on, why we worship the Lord. In the midst of the busy season of Christmas parties, gifts, family, friends, traveling, and shopping, we want to invite you to have an encounter with Jesus. To experience Jesus as Emmanuel—who is with us, with you. Through this four-week study (5 short videos per week), we pray that you will experience the beautiful, life-changing meaning of Emmanuel—God with you.



Advent Series – A Trio of Concerts

4PM CONCERTS - EACH FOLLOWED BY A RECEPTION



DECEMBER 7

Chicago Recorder Trio: Winter's Charm: Baroque Delights and Seasonal Joy



DECEMBER 14

A Trio of Organists: Brian Tanaka, Louie Jones, & Philip Enge



DECEMBER 21

Festive Trio of Organ, Vocal (featuring Kate Tombaugh, mezzo-soprano) and congregational carols