



First Press Lite

FIRST EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FRANKFORT, INDIANA

Focus on God, Equip God's People, Proclaim Christ, Change the World

A monthly summary of activities at First Evangelical Presbyterian Church

December 2020

Prayer with the Pastor

Continues each Monday @ 7:00 a.m.

Bloodmobile

Thursday, December 3, 2020

11 a.m.—4 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

CIA Youth Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 6 @ 2 p.m.

Food Finders Mobile Food Pantry

Thursday, December 17

10:30 AM—1:00 PM in FEPC Parking Lot

Youth Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 20

Christmas Eve Worship

Tuesday, December 24 @ 7:00 p.m.
Communion Served

NO Wednesday Activities

December 23
December 30

Borrowing Policy

If you need to borrow tables, chairs or other equipment from the church, please be sure to check with **Colleen Spencer** to be sure it won't be needed or that it hasn't been reserved by someone else. The policy states that we will not lend out kitchen equipment.

Merry Christmas



Poinsettias

Poinsettia memorials are available for a suggested donation of \$30. They will be used to decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas services. Please send the names of those you wish to memorialize to: kalen@fepcfrankfort.org



Mitten Trees

The Mitten Christmas trees are ready for your gifts. Scarves, hats, gloves & mittens, and socks for children and adults are needed. Please help fill the branches by the end of December so we may help keep needy bodies warm this winter!

Church Offices Closed

December 24—Christmas Eve
December 25—Christmas Day
December 31—New Year's Eve
January 1, 2021—New Year's Day

Reminder — Office Phone System

Trying to contact a staff member and don't know if they are at the church? Remember, when you leave a staff member a voicemail, they receive a copy of it instantly in their email. So no matter where they are, they will receive your message. The church phone is 765-654-5558

FIRST PRESS LITE

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Sunday Morning Schedule

Sunday Fellowship: 8:30 a.m. (coffee and donuts)
Worship Service: 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School (all ages): 10:15 a.m.
*Staffed Nursery all morning

For week day staff office hours, please visit
www.fepcfrankfort.org, or phone the church.

Prayer Requests brasilianheart@gmail.com

**First Press Lite will be published on
the 1st of each month. Deadlines for
submitting articles or information
for the monthly calendar will be the
last Tuesday of each month.**

First Evangelical Presbyterian Church
352 West Clinton Street
Frankfort, IN 46041

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Focus on God — Equip God's People — Proclaim Christ — Change the World!

If you received this issue by U.S. mail but would like to receive First Press electronically, please email kalen@fepcfrankfort.org.

SERMON INFORMATION

Series: Advent Through the Eyes of
the Covenant

Dec 6 - "Abraham"

Genesis 12:1-3; 15:1-6

Dec 13 - "Moses"

Deuteronomy 7:6-8; Exodus 20

**Dec 20 - Youth Christmas Pageant
"David"**

2 Samuel 7:16

Dec 24 - Christmas Eve

"Jesus and the New Covenant"

Dec 27 - Guest Preacher

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

Dec 6 - Suzie R - Mary & Joseph

Dec 13 - Susan C - Shepherds

Dec 20 - Christmas Pageant

Dec 27 - Amanda T - Christ Child



Life in the Body of Christ

Condolences:

- To Beth Adams and her family, David & Danielle, and Rachel, on the passing of Beth's mother, Elva Inez Moore on November 12, 2020.
- To Anne Himmelwright on the passing of her brother, James Himmelwright in Alabama on November 18, 2020.
- To Marty Rodkey and Nancy McWhirter on the recent passing of sister-in-law / daughter-in-law, Kathy, in Virginia.
- To the family of Ron Rucker, who passed away recently in Florida

Continue to think of our friends at Wesley Manor who are under lock-down due to the Covid-19: Fred Agnew, Frank Beardsley, Jane Claudon, Fred Downs, Jain Egelhaaf, Nancy McWhirter, and Betty Moloney.



Stephen Ministry at FEPC

Myth #9: It's Wrong to Question God or Express Doubts

A recent "CareMail" message from Stephen Ministries in St. Louis shared this prayer:

*What does the future hold, Lord? What will become of me?
Why do I find more questions than answers? Where are you, Lord?
Do you care? Send me your Spirit. Give me confidence in your great promises
and unwavering hope in your lavish mercy.
Let me feel your tender compassion. Be with me, Lord.
Lead me into the future where you are.
Grant me a living faith and, by the strength of your arm, lighten my load.
Cheer my heart, sustain me by your mighty power,
and lead me in the paths of your own choosing.*

Though the prayer starts with several deep questions, it ends in acknowledging the character of God: his mercy, compassion, strength, and sustaining power. One child's response on hearing this prayer was "I'm glad God is with me in the ups and downs and side-to-sides." This provides an example of why Psalm 62:8 says: *Pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.* Expressing our doubts and questions to God opens our hearts to him and invites him in to reassure us and grow our faith. If you are having trouble getting through the questions in your life and getting to a place of trust and peace, don't forget your FEPC Stephen Ministers are ready to hear your concerns and walk with you through life's painful circumstances. Simply contact Pastor Kelly (314-374-6042) or Marty Rodkey (765-379-3112) to be referred to a Stephen Minister.

This is Heifer International!

Check out "The Most Important Christmas Catalog in the World" in the church display of pamphlets and information in Fellowship Hall.

This Christmas give a life-changing gift to Heifer International in honor of a friend or loved one. It's a gift that brings promise to hungry families and the opportunity for a better life to the less fortunate. Giving a Heifer gift takes the stress out of Christmas shopping while putting the meaning back into giving.

For more information visit: www.heifer.org/catalog or contact Dick Moore.



Elevator Construction is Underway!!



Need we say more? A picture is worth a thousand words.

Ready for Christmas

Thank you ... to all who helped decorate for the Christmas season.



The Chrismon Trees

A Chrismon tree is an evergreen tree often found in churches during Advent and Christmastide.

It was first used by North American Lutherans in 1957, although the practice has spread to other Christian denominations. As with the Christmas tree, the evergreen tree itself, for Christians, "symbolizes the eternal life Jesus Christ provides". However, the Chrismon tree differs from the traditional Christmas tree in that it "is decorated only with clear lights and Chrismons made from white and gold material", the latter two being the liturgical colors of the Christmas season.

The Chrismons are sometimes said to be monograms of Christ, but they are more than monograms in that they are references to the life, ministry, activities, nature and teaching of Jesus. Each design proclaims some truth about God as seen in Jesus.

Nearly 15 years ago Marvel Albits spent her summer evenings cross-stitching the 55 Chrismons that adorn the two trees in the front of our sanctuary. At the time, she said, "Each stitch is filled with love for our church."

Only a sample of our Chrismons is shown here. Each year we enjoy their beauty, but when was the last time you took a close look at our Chrismon trees? Marvel's gift to us continues to bless us each Advent season. Take time to enjoy the beauty of her stitching this season. Thank you, Marvel.



2020 Mission Weekend at FEPC



The traditional date for Mission Weekend is the first weekend in November. But God had better plans and better weather in store for our big weekend, so we held it on the second weekend. The weekend included a beautiful concert on Saturday evening by Jeremy Casella, singer and songwriter. (See jercasella.com for more info). About 65 people attended the concert live, but the YouTube link was viewed over 80 times!!

Sunday morning God brought beautiful blue skies for Grace On Wings pilot and CEO, Hal Blank to land “Nellie” at the Frankfort Airport. Hal’s message during our service that morning encouraged us all to listen for, and answer God when He calls us to a mission He has ordained for us.

About 60 congregation members enjoyed lunch at the airport and were able to climb aboard the air ambulance to see how patients are transported. Between the donations at the concert on Saturday night and those given Sunday, we were able to contribute about **\$1100 to Grace On Wings!**

The Mission Team would like to extend its gratitude to the many extra people who pitched in to make the weekend a success! Remember, there is always a seat at the table for anyone who would like to put their passion for God’s people to work in missions. The team meets on the first Thursday of the month at 5:00 pm.

--

[Amy Crawford](#)





Lunch with Nellie Frankfort Airport Mission Weekend November 2020



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

December

- 1—Rae Jahn
Abby Montgomery
- 3—Nancy Boulbee
Angie Vargas
- 5—Thresa Adams
- 10—Amy Crawford
Beverly Lewis
- 16—Beth Adams
- 18—Vivian Moore
- 19—Mike Peters
Andrea Shriver
- 23—Colleen Spencer
- 26—Caleb Calloway
- 28—Brayden Baird
Sherri McCormick
- 29—Bobbi Carter

December Anniversaries

- 7—Barry & Pam Hall
- 14—Kevin & Cathy Price
- 15—Dan & Stephanie Coapstick
- 19—Matthew & Brooke McClain
- 20—Kelly & Becky Kurth
- 21—Fred & Carol Downs
- 22—Jeff & Debbie Bracken
- 23—Jack & Connie Schied
- 26—Wayne & Peggy Williams
- 27—Eric & Gayla Davis
Joe & Jacque Snyder
Rodney & Becky Thies
Justin & Amanda Trent
- 29—Joe & Carol Dupler
Steve & Kathy Glover



YEAR-END GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

In addition to giving to FEPC there are many good organizations that are seeking contributions at the end of the year. Two such opportunities are trying to meet goals for challenge grants:

THE FARMERS BANK AND ONE80 RECOVERY RESOURCES PARTNER ON \$75,000 CHALLENGE GRANT

The Farmers Bank's Board of Directors has authorized a \$75,000 challenge grant for ONE80 Recovery Resources. This challenge grant will match dollar-for-dollar new donations from donors who wish to make a contribution to ONE80 Recovery Resources between November 10, 2020 and March 1, 2021.

If donors give \$75,000 to ONE80 Recovery Resources between now and March 1, 2021, The Farmers Bank will match those funds and grant ONE80 Recovery Resources a total of \$150,000.

A special account has been set up at The Farmers Bank for this purpose. Checks may be deposited at any Farmers Bank location or mailed to The Farmers Bank at 9 E. Clinton St., Frankfort, IN 46041. All checks should specify ONE80 Recovery Resources on the memo line.

One80 Vice-Chairman Paul Fry says "in recent years the opioid epidemic has created the need for projects like One80. The project will be a 16-bed (60-bed future expansion) in-patient residential recovery facility for men seeking recovery from addictions." A groundbreaking ceremony on the new Frankfort ONE80 facility will be announced shortly.

ONE80 Recovery Resources, Inc., is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) faith-based organization headquartered in Frankfort, Indiana. ONE80 serves our community and surrounding communities with services and resources for recovery from addiction.

*Donations to ONE80 Recovery Resources are tax-deductible. Consult your tax advisor.

WORLD MISSIONARY PRESS, INC.

World Missionary Press, Inc. is an interdenominational faith ministry producing 48-page topical Scripture booklets and Bible studies in more than 345 languages as the Lord enables.

World Missionary Press is excited about our "Blessings for Brazil" project! We will be producing more than 6 million Scripture booklets, filling three 40-foot ship containers, to help reach the people of Brazil with the good news of the Gospel.

Brazil is the sixth most populous nation in the world, and the fifth largest geographically — occupying close to half the area of the entire South America continent!

One of our long-time partners is offering a **\$110,000 matching grant** for our "Blessings for Brazil" project. That means your gifts for this project will be doubled, dollar-for-dollar, up to the \$110,000 total. Praise the Lord!

By Check

Checks can be mailed to:

World Missionary Press, Inc.

P.O. Box 120

New Paris, Indiana 46553-0120

If designating your gift, please put that in the memo line.

November Update from the Merediths

Greetings Fellow Travelers!

Patty and I will fly to Atlanta on Wednesday 4 November and visit friends and family until 19 November – mostly those we did not see in July. YAY!

Sooooo , is COVID over now and it's "safe"?

Nope. Not over, and is it EVER "safe"? We WILL wear masks and minimize contact where and when appropriate. Reminds me of Nehemiah facing opposition when rebuilding the wall in **Nehemiah chapter 4 vs 9**: "*But we prayed to our God AND posted a guard day and night to meet this threat.*"

Really? But if they are "trusting in God", then do they really NEED a WALL? Do they need to have guards posted? Apparently, taking practical precautions is NOT a demonstration of a lack of FAITH. Build a wall? Post a guard? Half the men hold spears? (Wear a mask?) YES. That is STILL trusting in God.



PLEASE PRAY – for

- Patty's meds as her neurologist continues to make adjustments - we desire more movement
And are grateful for NO psychosis for 10 months!
- She had surgery about a month ago - pray for the implanted electronic device will start doing what it was designed to do!
- Safety and wisdom as we travel and connect with family & friends!
- REMEMBER to pray for Patty's stability as we travel. Often, any "changes of environment" can upset Patty's 'thinker' causing temporary (or several month) of psychosis.
- PRAY for wisdom for Bob as he:
 - Mentors 7 Kenyan Navigator Staff interns each Thursday night 10:30 - midnight (Colorado Time)
 - As Bob manages and orchestrates the Navigator International Pandemic Compassion Fund - along with two other Navigator leaders from Nigeria and Malaysia. (Again - multiple time zones!)
- **PRAY for CONTINUED regular monthly support!** We are still solely supported on gift income and have averaged being up to budget - but need to **STAY** up to budget - as we have lost a few financial partners and picked up TWO new ones.
- WE ARE STILL AMAZED at the way God continues to fulfill His promise to us to do exceedingly abundantly BEYOND all we could ask or think! **Ephesians 3:20**
- **PRAY God will provide people to be with Patty in 2021 so Bob can visit our friends, and His disciples and Navigator leaders in Kenya and Zambia!!**

Thank you SO much for walking WITH us in and through this. We need your prayers and financial support! –

Gratefully in Him, *Bob & Patty*

God is STILL unfolding His promise to Patty & me from Eph 3:20 in 1981!

Update from: RUF – Reformed University Fellowship – Jessica Rockhold



Pulling off our first couples
Halloween costume: Mario & Peach



Discovering that GA has a bamboo
forest 15 min from our house

It has been quite an exciting month! October brought a busyness that I haven't had in my life for many months and November seems like it will be a sprint to the finish! The Lord has been so good to RUF at Georgia Tech and it has felt wonderful to rejoice in these victories with staff, students, and friends.

What's been new

Some other events from the past month have been doing tie dye with the freshman girls small group, a watercolor event with freshman and second year girls, and a Mini 500 tailgate. The Mini 500 is essentially a complicated tricycle race and a tradition that has been at GT since 1969. RUF has a very dedicated team that goes all out for this race so it was so fun to experience a taste of this race!

Because of an adjusted schedule due to COVID, students will be going home at Thanksgiving break and I won't see them again until January 14th when classes start back up. This means that last night at Large Group we had our senior night and next week will be our end of year party!

During senior night, students graduating this semester were able to share about their lives, their time in RUF, advice for younger students, and their plans after graduation. It was such a sweet time to hear from them and for me to get a look into their time in RUF, much of which I haven't been here for. It was such a testament to the ways God has worked in so many lives here at Tech and how Michael, Matt, Grace, and Robert have loved them so well and been such consistent friends to them. This night was such a sweet moment to smile, laugh, and give thanks to the Lord!

Ways God has been at work

This semester has been one of reflection, counting blessings, and giving thanks. I've discovered in my own heart how quick I have been to think negatively about this semester and how it has played out. Taking time to acknowledge the work God is doing and hear from others how they've been encouraged has been so necessary for me.

While things have been challenging, the Lord has brought new people to RUF who have connected with others. Our ministry team has been connecting better with each other and has given up a lot of time to help plan events and love students well. Many Freshman have consistently been involved in small groups. Transfer students have been more involved (one of which is a transfer student from Purdue!). The Lord has graciously kept our staff and students very healthy during a global pandemic. We have been blessed with great weather and haven't had to cancel any outdoor events. The list truly goes on!

— ***Continued on next page*** —

Jessica Rockhold — *Continued*

One-on-ones...

Meeting with girls over coffee or good food is such an amazing part of this job. This past month has been wonderful as well as challenging in this area. Wonderful because after many casual meetings of getting to know girls and hearing about school and basic get to know you type things, it feels like many of them really trust me. It is such an honor to be trusted and feels like a breakthrough when I ask how I can be praying for them and they tell me what's really going on in their lives. The things they don't tell to strangers because it's too emotional or seems too messy. It's the biggest joy to show them they are loved and cared for and to pray over them.

These harder conversations have caused me to face my own insecurities and to spend much more time in prayer. I have the tendency to want to fix people's problems. I wrestle with wanting to give them amazing advice and say just the right thing but when I don't know what to say I feel like I've failed. And so I've had to realize that I'm not called to fix but am called to listen and love and pray and be with them when they are struggling, but allow the Spirit to work. I am learning to be still and walk in wisdom so that the words I say may be a reflection of Christ.

Praises

- Praise the Lord that the Halloween party was such a success and that students had such a good time getting to be with each other!
- Praise that Senior night was so life giving and such a beautiful look into how God has been working in so many students over the years and that they recognize the Lord's faithfulness.
- A very practical praise for good health and good weather that allow us to keep meeting with students in one-on-ones, small groups, and larger events.

Requests

- Will you pray for students as they finish up their time on campus before going home for about 8 weeks. Some students are thrilled to be going home because they haven't seen their family all semester. Some students are nervous about going home because their home life isn't great and they will have to live in that space for longer than they want.
- Will you pray for me as I finish up this semester with students? My desire is that during my last one-on-ones of the semester these girls would leave knowing they are very much loved and cared for. I feel tired and in need of a break both physically and emotionally, but I want to be intentional and focused these last few weeks!

God has generously provided 93% of my budget and I am just 7% away from being fully funded for the year! I need just about \$3,000 to be fully taken care of for my first year! If you are still interested in giving you can click the link below, it's never too late!

My contact info!

Call/text: 765-639-5132 Email: jessica.mercer@ruf.org