

# Fairview Presbyterian Church Weekly News

**“Love Grows Here!”**

**November 20-26, 2023**

## **Worship This Sunday**



This time of year can be filled with worry about finding the perfect Christmas gifts. Deep down we want people in our lives to know they are special and that we love them. But sometimes we overlook the greatest gift of all - our very presence.

## **The Gift of Being Present**

During Advent and Christmas, we remember that God came to be present among us through Jesus. How can we be more fully present this season?

Our spiritual ancestors cried out in the midst of their political occupations: “Save us!” The idea of a Messiah went hand-in-hand with the need for God to help them in their distress. The Roman occupation of Jesus’ time and of the early Christian community is expressed with a sense of waiting, watching, and anticipation of restoration to freedom. All this points to the presence of hope, essential to survival in difficult times.

This week we’ll consider what it means for us to have hope too, and be fully present this Christmas season with hope.

If you are joining us virtually:

1. You can find us live on Sunday mornings on Zoom:  
<https://zoom.us/j/905436486>  
Meeting ID: 905 436 486
2. You can also find our service posted to our YouTube Channel later on Sunday, here: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvb\\_imMOOo6qnV6jwQTGKTQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvb_imMOOo6qnV6jwQTGKTQ)

Hope to see you on Sunday!

## **Session calls the Year-End Congregational Meeting for Sunday, November 26th immediately following worship.**

The Year-End Congregational Meeting will include: the election of elders, deacons, trustees, and nominating committee members as well as approval of church by-laws. A copy of the proposed church by-laws were emailed out on Monday and paper copies will be available at the meeting.

### **Session Summary**

Session held its stated meeting on Thursday, November 16th at 6:30pm

- Opened with a devotional and prayer.
- Reviewed financial reports for October 2023.
- Accepted, with regret, Shannon Sanders' resignation from Session effective the end of this year, since she is now a paid staff member.
- Heard reports from all committees – Administration and Personnel, Worship, Mission and Nurture, and Christian Education.
- Based on the recommendation of the Personnel Committee, approved all employee salaries for 2024. Approved Pastor Emily's 2024 Terms of Call, which will be presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting for final approval.
- Reviewed a draft of the new church by-laws, to be presented to the congregation for approval at the Year End Congregational Meeting.
- Called the Year End Congregational Meeting for Sunday, November 26th immediately following worship, to elect officers for 2024 and to approve new by-laws.
- Elected the Clerk of Session – Tom Fetterman, Treasurer – Gina Case, Financial Secretaries – Jim Getz, Carol Loll, Lili Riberio, Marilyn Ferringer, Auditor – Terry Carl, and Memorial Committee member – Ann Lewis.

### **Office Hours**

The church office will be CLOSED this Thursday, November 23 through Monday, November 27 for the holiday weekend. It will reopen on Tuesday, November 28.



A HUGE thank you to Shannon Sanders for doing such a wonderful job coordinating the Craft Show! Thank you to all her helpers! It was a festive day with the crafters and shoppers! Proceeds will be announced.

## Hanging of the Greens



**Thank you to everyone who helped decorate the church for Christmas on Sunday!  
It looks so beautiful!**



**It was a wonderful time of fellowship!**



## Christmas Cards

The Deacons will be putting together bins of homemade cookies and delivering them to those of our members who can't make it here to church.

We want those people to know we are thinking of them, and to wish them a Merry Christmas!

If you would like to join the Deacons in sending wishes, there is a list on the table in the Lobby with the names and a wrapped card collection box. There will also be some cards provided for you by the box for you to sign, and drop in.

**Please have your cards in by Sunday, December 10.**

*Thank you for helping to share the love at Christmas!*



## Christmas Cookie Trays

**We still need bakers for 20 dozen butterballs, and 22 dozen thumbprints.**

There is a sign-up sheet with the kinds of cookies on a table in the Lobby. Please sign up under the kind you would like to bake, and how many you can make!

**Cookies MUST BE IN TO THE CHURCH BY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10.**

**THANK YOU** to those who have volunteered to bake, and to those who donated ingredients!

**Help is also needed to frost the sugar cut outs on Wednesday, December 13,  
and assembly of the trays on Thursday, December 14.**

**Cookie Trays are now on Sale - \$25 for Five Dozen**

To purchase a cookie tray please sign up on the Cookie Tray Order Sheet, place your money with an order coupon in a nearby envelope and leave in the basket.

**Orders must be in by Sunday, December 3.**

Pick up dates are Friday, December 15, 10 am – 4 pm,  
and Sunday December 17 after church.



We are continuing our yearly ministry helping families in the Fairview Schools who need help providing gifts for their kids.

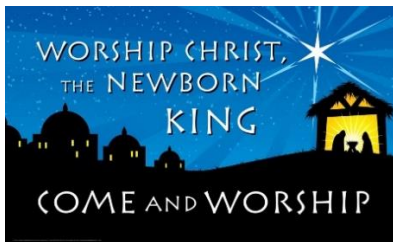
The Angels are on the tree and ready to be selected! Please feel free to come to the church during the week when the office is open to select one!

We are donating Gift Cards again this year. Each Angel – pink for girls, blue for boys – has a letter and attached to it is an index card with stores that the parents have requested the gift cards be from. Please choose an Angel and log the letter with your name and phone number onto the sign-up sheet next to the tree.

**\*Please have your gift cards back to the church, with the Angel attached to it, by Sunday, December 10.** This will give the parents plenty of time to go shopping.

The staff and families of the Fairview Schools appreciate your generosity and help! Thank you for helping to make their Christmas a good one!

## Looking Ahead ...



## Christmas Schedule

### Sunday, December 17th

Worship at 10:30am  
Children's Christmas Pageant  
NO nursery care

### Sunday, December 24th

NO morning worship  
Family Friendly Christmas Eve Worship at 7pm  
Christmas Eve Worship at 10pm

### Sunday, December 31st

Worship at 10:30am  
NO Sunday School or Junior Church