



**First
Presbyterian**
CHURCH OF PORTLAND

Spire
JANUARY 2021



We are glad for all who viewed our Candlelight Christmas Eve, Children and Family and Blue Christmas services this year! We are thankful for all who have helped over Advent and Christmas to make the worship services beautiful; thanks to our musicians, Greg, and Maddy and our soloists, as well as those who have helped with streaming the services, Erich, Murlan, Chris, Russell and Dan. Thanks to our chancel guild for hanging the greens in the sanctuary, and to our readers and candle lighters! Thanks to the Deacons for delivering poinsettias to

2021 Stewardship Campaign **“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith.”**

The focus of our stewardship campaign this year is “Live Our Faith”. After a challenging year we have much to be thankful for, and much to do. We are entering into 2021 with a renewed commitment to our church ministries and our place as a “Heart for the City” in a time of great need.

Many thanks to those who have already joined in pledging, as we have reached our budgeted goal for pledges! We will still welcome additional pledges and gifts, because the shortfall in income from the church’s parking garage is likely to be greater than anticipated. Further gifts will help the church to reach out in mission and service in the coming year. If you have not yet joined with your financial pledge of support, please do so today – by mailing a pledge card to First Presbyterian Church, 1200 SW Alder St, Portland, OR 97205. Or submit your pledge online via this link:

<https://firstpresportland,ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/39/responses/new>

Questions? Please contact Marc Lavender, Church Business Administrator at cba@firstpresportland.org or 503.228.7331, ext.110. Thank you for your faithfulness to First Pres!





Rev. Dr. Audrey Schindler preaching on Christmas Eve. Photo by Chris Nilson

Dear friends,

As we greet the new year, perhaps never have we been as eager to turn the page on the year just ended! The year of 2020 will be long remembered, in our lives, and in the life of our church. With the vaccine promising to lead at last to an easing of the pandemic, even as we continue through the remaining challenges, we look ahead in hope.

A note of Scripture conveys a blessing for this new year:

*May God strengthen you in God's glorious might
with ample power to meet whatever comes
with fortitude, and with patience, and with joy.*

Col 1:11

I wish you God's blessings on this new year; may it be a kinder one for us all!

— Audrey

Thank you for Supporting the Giving Tree!

– Lurna Shively

Our FPC Giving Tree was especially successful this holiday season. We gave over 300 gifts to 6 organizations plus hundreds of toiletry items to the residents of Alder House.

Even during a pandemic FPC came together, learned how to give online and as always gave generously. Makes me #Proud to be a Presbyterian (First Presbyterian)!

The organizations we gave to this year were:

- With Love Foster Care Support
- Life Change for Women and their Children
- Portland Public Schools (PPS) Homeless
- New Avenues for Youth Homeless
- EMO (Ecumenical Ministries Organization)
- HIV Day Center for Men
- and our wonderful Friendly House Senior Citizens

Many thanks to Bette Hess, Jeane Isles, Molly Spencer and Jane Vanboskirk for helping with deliveries!

Emergency Food Closet for Alder House

Through a generous grant from the Capital Campaign Mission Giving Grant and in partnership with Lift Urban Portland, FPC has adopted the Alder House Building. This adoption provides the residents of Alder House with an Emergency Food Closet (EFC), temporarily housed in the Julia West building. To make this successful, we will need your help! We need volunteers to help assist residents fill out the request forms and to help fulfill their orders. We are also collecting paper shopping bags to place the orders in and new personal hygiene supplies. To volunteer or drop off a donation, please contact Brenna bdykman@firstpresportland.org

Sanctuary Flowers

Would you like to purchase flowers to adorn the sanctuary during worship in honor or in memory of your loved ones? There currently are available spaces on the 2021 calendar - February 21, March 21 and August 8. If you are interested in honoring your loved ones, please contact Gail Rogers in the Church office (503) 228-7331 or via email at office@firstpresportland.org

Children's Ministry at FPC:

A big thanks to the 11 families and 23 kids that participated in the Children & Family Christmas Eve service this year! Children read scripture, played instruments, and acted out the Christmas story in a prerecorded service available here: <https://vimeo.com/492230387>

Open Circle Resumes January 7th!

Open Circle welcomes every woman in our congregation to participate in a weekly Bible study and supportive fellowship. We will begin our 2021 meetings at **10:30 am, Thursday, January 7th**, on Zoom, with a new Zoom Meeting ID: 834 4311 0822. We will start a new study, using the book *Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament* by P. Lyn Miller, and will continue in this book through May. To obtain a copy, please order it at: www.presbyterianwomen.org/shop or by calling (800) 533-4371 (M-Fri, 9 am to 5 pm, EST). The Item Number is HZN20100, and the cost is \$10, plus shipping. There are a few books available from an earlier bulk order, if you would like one of them, contact Marilyn Howe harrietwho92@gmail.com

Holy Listening: Ted Talks on Racism

To continue our learning and exploration on racial justice, FPC's invites you to a two-part class Holy Listening; Ted Talks on Racism Sunday, Jan 17th & 24th, 9-10am. We will watch together a Ted Talk video on race from a person of color; listening to their experiences, expertise, and examination of racism. We will then explore and reflect together. Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81632238038>

Open Circle Support for the Rose Haven Shelter

The Rose Haven Day Shelter for Women and Children thanks FPC members of FPC for their recent donations of so many urgently needed items. Rose Haven direct donation hours are from 1-3 pm, Monday through Thursday. They are located at 627 NW 18th Avenue. Visit their website at rosehaven.org for top needed items which are updated weekly. Questions? Please contact Cindy Finch cindyloufinch@yahoo.com



**First
Presbyterian**
CHURCH OF PORTLAND

WOW! The Impact of Northeast Emergency Food Program



NEFP Program Manager AJay Scipio & FPC Volunteer John Jensen

This Christmas Eve, Northeast Emergency Food Program provided food distribution for nearly 2,500 people! FPC has a volunteer team serving regularly at this site! Volunteer shifts are 8:30 am-3:30 pm Tuesday-Friday, and Tuesday & Thursday evenings from 5 pm-8 pm. Visit this link to sign-up for a volunteer shift: <https://bit.ly/volunteerNEFP> Questions, or to volunteer with our FPC group, please contact Bill Resley kayak500@gmail.com