



January 26

Annual Spaghetti Dinner
Seatings at 4:30 & 6:30 p.m.
Supports our Youth Ministry

January 26

Congregational Meeting
11:45 a.m.

March 6-8

Weekend with the Arts

FIRST PRESS

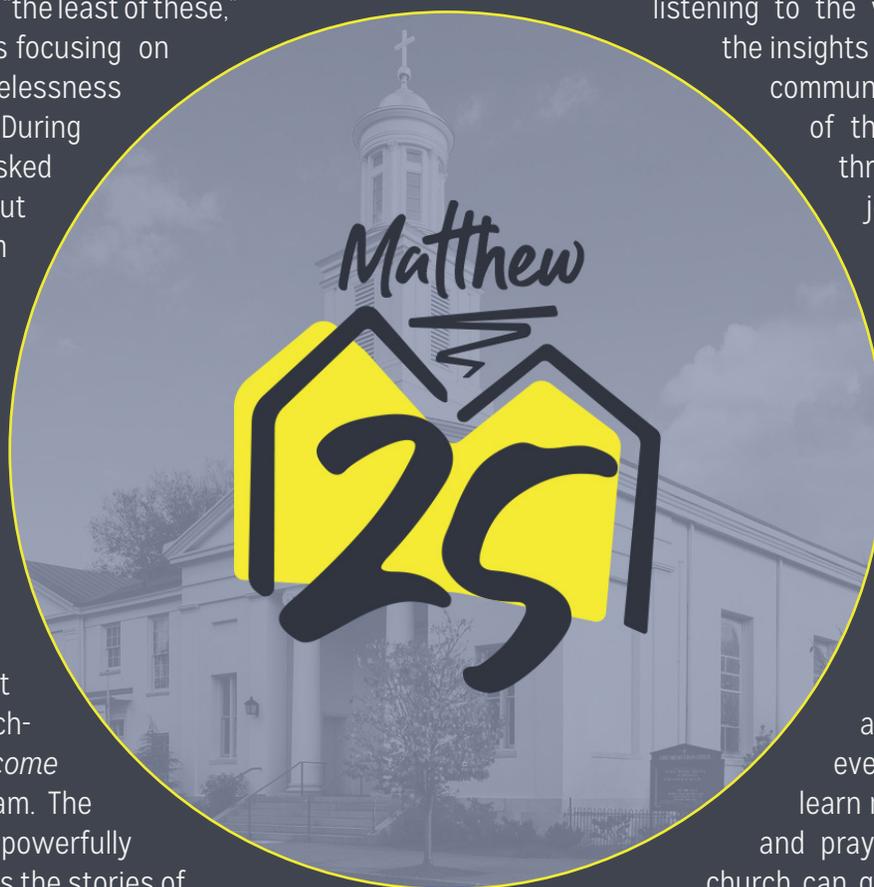
First Presbyterian Church, West Chester, PA

January/February 2020

It's a brand-new year, a brand-new decade, and we're ready to get our brand-new initiative rolling at full steam! If you haven't heard, 2020 brings with it the Matthew 25 Initiative. This initiative takes its shape from Jesus' words in, you guessed it, Matthew 25, where Jesus says, "just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." This passage gives many examples of people who might be considered "the least of these,"

but for 2020, First Pres is focusing on the challenge of homelessness in our community. During this year, we'll be asked to learn more about this growing problem and to participate in addressing the issue in several ways, some small, some large, some active, and some financial.

Our very first step is to learn more about the challenge of homelessness. One way we're doing that is the First Pres church-wide book study of *Welcome Homeless* by Alan Graham. The book is beautifully and powerfully written as Graham shares the stories of the homeless, and the stories of those whose worldviews have been shifted by the homeless in a raw, humorous, and honest voice. The study kicked off earlier this month and it's not too late to jump in!



There are many ways to participate. You can pick up a copy of the book in Fellowship Hall, or order it through Amazon, Kindle, or Audible. To help guide your study, get a copy of the free reading guide. Paper copies are available in Fellowship Hall or download it from the Matthew 25 webpage. Each week we'll also release an episode of the Matthew 25 podcast. You can follow the book's stories and discussions of its themes by

listening to the week's episode featuring the insights of special guests from our community and congregation. One

of the best ways to journey through this book is to

join a weekly discussion group here at church on Thursday afternoons at

1:00 pm. In addition to all of that, there will

be a weekly adult class during Bridge on Wednesday nights

from 6:30 - 7:30 where we will be exploring Biblical texts around homelessness.

All of these resources are being offered to help everyone in our congregation

learn more about homelessness and prayerfully consider how our church can grow in the ways that we

show God's compassion, care, and radical hospitality to the homeless community around us. To access the reading guide, podcast episodes, and more, go to firstpreswc.com/m25.

NEW - YOUNG JUSTICE BUILDERS CLUB

(i.e. Matthew 25 for Kids)

Justice building: *helping restore the world to the way God intended it to be*

As the adults of First Pres dig into the theme of homelessness this winter, we wanted to provide an opportunity for our kids to participate too. The result is a 4-part program that will help our children see and understand the world through the lens of God's justice and compassion.

Beginning Sunday, January 19, we will hold the first ever meeting of the **Young Justice Builders Club!** Geared for elementary aged children and their grown-ups, this group will meet once a month to read stories, play games, learn about poverty, how we can respond, and how all of that connects to our faith.

It may sound like a lot of ground to cover for young minds and hearts. We will be conscientious about carefully approaching our topics of discussion. Our goal is not just to teach children about poverty but also give them hope, both in their ability to respond and in God's living presence throughout it all.

A parent or other caretaker is requested to attend each of these sessions with their kids so that they can participate and learn with their children and continue the conversations at home.

We will be meeting from noon - 1:00 p.m. on the following Sundays:

January 19: Understanding Poverty

February 23: Poverty and Marginalized Groups

March 22: Building a Sense of "Us"

April 26: So What Do We Do?

Lunch for everyone will be provided as part of our program. RSVPs for each session are strongly encouraged.

Please contact Director of Christian Education, Sara Pantazes, to RSVP and discuss any questions - (610) 696-0554 or spantazes@firstpreswc.com.

*** This series will be advertised within the community as well. Feel free to bring a friend! ***



Save the Date! VBS

Evenings of

Sunday, June 21 - Thursday, June 25

Knights of North Castle

Quest for the King's Armor

First Presbyterian Youth Hosts the 9th Annual

SPAGHETTI DINNER

DATE: JANUARY 26

Seatings at 4:30 PM & 6:30 PM • firstpreswc.com/spaghetti

Mark your calendars for **January 26!** The **Annual Youth Spaghetti Dinner** will be happening once again! This fundraiser goes toward youth retreats, mission trips, and events. Tickets are \$15 for Adults, \$10 for Children (4-8). Children 3 and under are FREE (as are youth assisting as servers). We will have two seatings: 4:30 and 6:30.

Come join us for an evening full of fun! There will be live music during both seatings. Tickets will be sold in Fellowship Hall starting Sun, January 5! You can also reserve tickets by calling the church office or by emailing Cole at cseaman@firstpreswc.com

FIRST PRES TRAVELERS - QUEEN ESTHER

QUEEN ESTHER - MARCH 24

FPT will visit Sight & Sound Theater to see the show, Queen Esther on Tuesday, March 24th. The 11:00 am matinee will be followed by a family style lunch at the Hershey Farm Restaurant. Total cost is \$104 which includes bus transportation, show ticket, lunch, and driver gratuity. For more info, contact Thom & Irene Clapper, psuthom@verizon.net, 610-436-5667.

FIRST PRES TRAVELERS - NASHVILLE

NASHVILLE TRIP - APRIL 24-29

The First Pres Travelers group is planning a 6-day trip to Nashville, TN and stops along the way and return. On our way, we will stop overnight at Bedford, VA and visit the National D-Day Memorial. On Saturday we will check into the Gaylord Opryland in Nashville and begin our personal exploration of this unique hotel and surroundings. On Sunday we will tour The Grand Ole Opry, and afterwards we will board the General Jackson Showboat for a show and luncheon cruise on the Cumberland River where we can view natural and historical sights. We will have a guided backstage tour of the Ryman Auditorium which was the home of the Grand Ole Opry from 1943-1974, and is considered the "Soul of Nashville." In 1892, the Ryman was established as the Union Gospel Tabernacle.

On Monday, we will tour the RCA Studio B and the Country Music Hall of Fame. At the Country Music Hall of Fame we will enjoy the Stories behind the Songs package. The evening will be capped with a relaxing performance at the Grand Ole Opry. On Tuesday we will arrive at Natural Bridge, VA where we will enjoy dinner and the "Drama of the Creation" light show. On Wednesday before checking out and heading home, we will have time to walk the famous Natural Bridge and visit the Indian Village and gift shop.

Single - \$1685pp | Double - \$1335pp | Triple - \$1235 | Quad - \$1185

For more info, contact Thom & Irene Clapper at psuthom@verizon.net or 610-436-5667.

GINNY BAUDER MEMORIAL ORGAN

The Ginny Bauder Memorial Organ is currently being built by Pecs Organ Manufactory in Hungary. To see pictures of the building process please go to firstpreswc.com/organ. Also mark your calendars for **Box Organ Dedication Concert** on **May 3rd** at 4:00 p.m. It will be a big celebration with orchestra, soloists, choir, chancel organ, and, of course, the new box organ.

A LETTER OF THANKS - POCOPSON HOME



THE COUNTY OF CHESTER



November 18, 2019

First Presbyterian Church
130 W. Miner Street
West Chester, Pa 19382

Dear Members and Friends of First Presbyterian Church,

The kindness, compassion, and generosity you all have towards others is truly a blessing! So many wonderful and generous donations -- a simple "thank you" does not seem sufficient! But, from the bottom of our hearts -- Thank You!

We greatly appreciate all the amazing donations of ladies and men's toiletries, art supplies, puzzle books, calendars, jewelry, cosmetics cases, spa bags, greeting cards -- the list goes on! The items you donate to our residents let them know that they are still part of a greater, caring community and that they are remembered and cherished. Please know how much the residents and all the employees of Pocopson appreciate your thoughtfulness and your generosity of your resources and time.

Thank you for thinking of and caring for the residents of Pocopson Home.

Sincerely,
The Residents of Pocopson Home
The Activities Department

Nancy Zunino McGready



(Presbyterian Women delivering gifts to Pocopson Home)



(Giving Tree benefits Pocopson Home and other mission partners)

A LETTER OF THANKS - ACT IN FAITH

Dear First Presbyterian Church Congregants,

ACT in Faith has been blessed to have your support since our inception over 9 years ago. We most definitely would not be where we are today if it hadn't been for your continued generosity of time, talent, and treasure. A mere "Thank you" seems to be a bit of an understatement given the depth of your support and the impact that you have had on our community. Your ongoing support helps us provide the important gap services that, left unfilled, become debilitating barriers for those in need of housing stabilization, help securing or maintaining employment, and those whose needs are as basic as personal care and household items.

Over the years you have provided the following support to our organization and those we serve:

- transport of office furniture and large appliances,
- yard care services,
- monthly personal care and household item donation and deliver,
- volunteers to move into and paint our office space,
- collected stockings for our clients,
- bi-monthly food pick-up from the Chester County Food Bank,
- support for our annual fundraisers, and
- weekly volunteers for our Community Cupboard.

By supporting us, you support our community's most vulnerable...what a blessing you are!
Sincerely,

Hallie Romanowski

Hallie Romanowski
Executive Director, ACT in Faith of Greater West Chester



Congregational Meetings:

Jan. 12

For the Election of Officers - 10:00 a.m.

Jan. 26

Annual Congregational Meeting - 11:45 a.m.

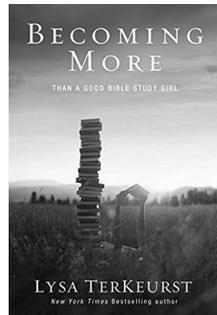
BOOK DONATIONS - PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Each year, the Presbyterian Women Association of First Pres make a book donation to the libraries of our church in loving memory of our sisters in faith who have passed away the previous year. These books are dedicated to the following women:

Florence T. Herman
Geraldine Hinz
Betty Y. Rollins
Margery B. Lockwood

Holly A. Silverthorne
Caroline E. Williams
Shannon M. Cortigine
Dorothy N. Gaul

Beatrice Brandow
Anne Brown Little
Anne Louise Rice



Donation to the church library

Becoming More Than a Good Bible Study Girl by Lysa Terkeurst

Is something missing in your life? Lysa knows what it's like to consider God just another thing on her to-do list. For years she went through the motions of a Christian life: Go to church. Pray. Be nice. Longing for a deeper connection between what she knew in her head and her everyday reality, she wanted to personally experience God's presence. Drawing from her own remarkable story of step-by-step faith, Lysa invites you to uncover the spiritually exciting life we all long for. With her trademark wit and spiritual wisdom, Lysa will help you:

- Learn how to make a Bible passage come alive in your own devotion time
- Replace doubt, regret, and envy with truth, confidence, and praise
- Stop thinking that there's something bigger and better that you're supposed to be doing
- Have inner peace and security in any situation
- Sense God responding to your prayers

Donation to the Preschool Library

A Big Mooncake for Little Star by Grace Lin

A Big Mooncake for Little Star is a 2018 picture book written and illustrated by Grace Lin. The story is about Little Star gradually eating the mooncake that her mother has baked. The book was a departure for Lin both thematically and in her use of illustrative style. The book was well reviewed and was awarded a Caldecott Honor. The illustrations feature heavy use of black and rely on both the pictures and words to convey the story and its themes.

FABRIC MISSIONS - THANK YOU

Our recent Fabric Missions Sale was a huge success. The groups are sincerely grateful for the support and generosity of our congregation. Our groups provide comfort quilts and pillowcases for the patients and their families in hospice at Paoli Hospital. They also provide quilts for children entering the Social Services System, a frightening experience. These quilts are labeled "My Quilt" along with the child's name. Our ladies also make a quilt for each baby baptized at First Pres and pillowcases for the pediatric department at Chester County Hospital, as well as special projects as the opportunity presents. Thank you for supporting this ministry and making a difference in our community!

COMING UP @ FIRST PRES

- Jan. 8: Bridge Dinner Resumes
- Jan. 12: Congregational Meeting for Election of Officers - 10:00 a.m.
- Jan. 20: Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Church Office Closed
- Jan. 26: Congregational Meeting - 11:45 a.m. // Youth Spaghetti Dinner 4:30 & 6:30 p.m.
- Feb. 17: Presidents Day - Church Office Closed
- March 6-8: Weekend with the Arts

For a full calendar of events, visit www.firstpreswc.com or contact the church office.

In Memoriam

- Martha S. Smith, member of First Presbyterian Church from November 21, 1971 to October 28, 2019
- Former member Judith K. McKee, member of First Presbyterian Church from March 27, 2006 to November 23, 2009
- Marian L. Bartlett, member of First Presbyterian Church from April 21, 2002 to December 15, 2019

The sympathy and prayers of the congregation are extended to:

- The family of Martha Smith
- Peter and Elizabeth Guman and family in the death of their nephew, Matt
- The family of Judith McKee
- Bob and Sally Schwabe and family in the death of their granddaughter
- Bruce and Donna Schneider and family in the death of Donna's mother
- Bob and Eileen Smith and family in the death of Bob's brother
- Francis and Frances Abbott and family in the death of Francis's brother
- Charles and Pamela Stathopoulos and Penny McIlmoyle and families in the death of Charles and Pamela's son and Penny's grandson
- Greg and Susie Stovell and family in the death of Susie's uncle
- Doc and Emily McClure and family in the death of two of Doc's uncles
- The family of Marian L. Bartlett
- Vicky Zajac and family in the death of her husband, John

Baptisms

- Dylan Joseph Battavio, born August 17, 2019, son of Joseph and Rebecca Battavio
- Lyle Andrew Cady, born September 19, 2018, son of Josh and Julie Cady
- Kade Jonathan Gallagher, born July 11, 2018, son of Sean and Kimberly Gallagher

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

(A full financial report will be available at the Jan. 26 Congregational Meeting)

	November Actual	November Budget	Year to Date Actual	Year to Date Budget	Full Year Budget
Income	\$91,006	\$96,051	\$1,039,694	\$1,085,953	\$1,246,388
Expenses	\$82,071	\$93,716	\$1,059,882	\$1,138,429	\$1,246,388
Difference	\$8,935	\$2,335	(\$20,188)	(\$52,476)	\$0

FIRST PRES CONTACT

Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell
gstovell@firstpreswc.com

Associate Pastor

Rev. Caroline Cupp
ccupp@firstpreswc.com

Program

Music Director: Sándor Kádár
skadar@firstpreswc.com

Children's Music/Accompanist: Kira Boros
kboros@firstpreswc.com

Creative Arts Director: Eric Hankins
ehankins@firstpreswc.com

Youth Ministry: Cole Seaman
cseaman@firstpreswc.com

Director of Christian Education: Sara Pantazes
spantazes@firstpreswc.com

Nursery Coordinator: Maurisa Warren
mwarren@firstpreswc.com

Bucket School Director: Jen Drap
jdrap@firstpreswc.com

Church Office

Finance and Operations: Jeff Somers
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Office Manager: Karen Goldstein
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Administrative Assistant: Claire Kramer
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Weekend with the Acts

14th Annual

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