

FOOD BANK SENIOR BOX BUILD

Our FPC group volunteer team has 10 slots reserved for Wednesday, January 22, 2025 for the Senior Box Build from 9:00 a.m. to noon at Food Bank Alaska. If this is your first time volunteering at Food Bank, you'll need to complete a profile as part of getting registered as a volunteer. Please contact Rich Jackson at 907-727-9217 (cell/text) or via email at rjackson6098@gmail.com.

DEACONS NEED COOKIES!

Calling all bakers! Our cookie supplies for Sunday fellowship is dwindling. We also need cookies for the Christmas Eve Service. There are sign-up sheets next to the coffee service in the narthex if you can help out.

CALENDAR

Sunday, December 22

9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School Class – Advent Reflections
10:15 a.m. Christmas Pageant Practice
11:00 a.m. Worship and Christmas Pageant Practice

Monday, December 23

10:30 a.m. Pioneer Home Christmas Service
1:00 p.m. Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal
5:00 p.m. Emergency Cold Weather Shelter

Tuesday, December 24

3:45 p.m. Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship Service

Wednesday, December 25 *MERRY CHRISTMAS!*

8:00 a.m. Downtown Hope Center Christmas Breakfast

Thursday, December 26

12:00 p.m. AMEN lunch, Village Inn, 1130 E. Northern Lights Blvd.

Sunday, December 29

9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School Class – Advent Reflections
11:00 a.m. Worship and F.I.S.H. Service Project

First Presbyterian Church

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Announcements December 22, 2024

FAITH FORMATION FOR CHILDREN will meet following the “Time with Children” today. The children will be practicing for the Christmas pageant.

The **CHILDCARE CENTER** is open today. Children five and under are welcome to go to the childcare center during the worship service. Parents need to take their children down so you can sign them in with our childcare providers. You can watch the service with your cell phone in the childcare room if you want to stay with your children.

JOIN US TODAY FOR:

9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School Class – Advent Reflections
11:00 a.m. Worship and Faith Formation for Children

JOIN US FOR ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join us during advent for conversation centered around the symbolic meaning of the four advent candles: hope, peace, joy, and love. The class meets in the library at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday.

EMERGENCY COLD WEATHER SHELTER

Thanks to all of you who are volunteering to help at the shelter. With the support of members of First Presbyterian and Eagle River Presbyterian Churches, and the larger community we are able to provide an evening meal, snacks, and hospitality and security for the families each Monday night. Volunteers serve the meal and then engage with the families throughout the evening: playing games, doing craft projects, and visiting with the parents. Throughout the night volunteers are present to provide security and fire watch. In addition, we use some of our mission budget and other donations designated to ECWS to buy beds, mattresses and other household items for the families when they move into permanent housing. With travel plans and health challenges for some of our current volunteers we need a few more people to help us out. Sign up to help and see what a difference you can make.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH CHRISTMAS PAGEANT PRACTICE SCHEDULE

There is still time for your child or grandchild to be a part of our Christmas Pageant for the 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Here is our schedule:

December 22: 10:15 a.m. and during Faith Formation

December 23: 1:00 p.m. Dress Rehearsal in sanctuary

December 24: 3:45 p.m. Final Rehearsal

December 24: 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship Service

Contact Danna Larson at: 907 538-7313 or dllsitka@gmail.com for additional information and to let her know who in your family can be a part of the pageant. Adult volunteers are needed to help with this. It is a fun time for everyone!

BRING JOY TO OTHERS THIS CHRISTMAS

1. *F.I.S.H. Service Project*

Bring pasta to help us collect 100 pounds of pasta for Christmas baskets that F.I.S.H. will be making. Help the children bag rice on December 29 following worship.

2. *Deliver a Deacon Goodie Bag*

Pick up one of the Christmas bags after worship and deliver it to one of the homes of our elderly congregation members.

3. *Help with the Downtown Hope Center Christmas Breakfast*

Help us make a special Christmas morning breakfast to the 70 women at the shelter.

4. *Epiphany Gifts*

Begin collecting baby items for our Epiphany “Baby Shower for Jesus” on January 5. Our gifts will be donated to Covenant House Passage House to support new mothers.

THANK YOU!

We mailed 500 pairs of socks and 500 candy canes to the Gambell Presbyterian Church congregation on Tuesday, and they will be given out at their Gambell Community Christmas Celebration on December 25. We are known as the “sock congregation” I am told by one of the pastors of the church.

On Thursday 250 Christmas cards were delivered to the chaplain at the Hiland Correctional Center and will be distributed to the residents for Christmas.

Partnering with Catholic Social Services Refugee Assistance and Immigration, we used some of the mission budget to buy gifts for three

families (two from Ukraine and one from Russia) who have recently relocated to Alaska. Youth from our church did the shopping for the five adults and ten children.

Gifts from the Angel Tree will be delivered to families at the Emergency Cold Weather Shelter and our church community to help support them during this Christmas season.

CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST AT DOWNTOWN HOPE CENTER

First Presbyterian Church will be serving a Christmas Breakfast to the women at the Downtown Hope Center on Christmas morning. We will gather at the Downtown Hope Center at 8:00 a.m. to prepare and serve the breakfast to 70 guests. There are two ways to get involved:

1. Come and help prepare breakfast. Contact Danna Larson if you are interested.
2. Donate to help pay for breakfast supplies. Make your donation to FPC and earmark it Downtown Hope Center Christmas Breakfast. Thanks for helping us share Christ’s love with the women on Christmas morning.

PC(USA) CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

The PC(USA) Christmas Joy Offering will be taken today. Funds from the Christmas Joy Offering help the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions provide critical financial assistance to eligible workers in the PC(USA) and their families, and to qualified retired church workers and their families. This offering also supports the education and development of our future leaders at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, we share hope by providing support to our church workers, racial ethnic young people and their families. You can give on-line on the church website or write a check through December 31 and designate it Christmas Joy Offering.

EPIPHANY PARTY

Mark your calendars for our annual **Epiphany Party**. This year’s party will be held on Sunday, January 5 following worship. Join the fun as we welcome the Magi to the manger with gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The party will include lunch, star making activities and our special “Roscas de Reyes” cake. You are invited to bring gifts for our “Baby Shower for Jesus” with the donations going to Covenant House Passage home. Suggested donations include diapers, sleepers, onesies, receiving blankets, t-shirts, baby wipes, shampoo, and lotion. Gifts can be left in the CE office if you cannot come to the party!