

# Faith First Community Church

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December 2025

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Rev. Heidi Hulme

Office Hours: 9 am to 12 pm M-TH

## Focus on Faith



*You have shown strength with your arm; you have scattered the proud in their conceit; you have deposed the mighty from their thrones and raised the lowly to high places. – Luke 1:50 (Inclusive Bible)*

In 1865, William Chatterton Dix penned a poem that would become the beloved Christmas-time favorite, “What Child Is This?” During Advent, we will dive into this question that is much more complicated than the lilting lullaby tune, “Greensleeves,” conveys. We will see the story of the time leading up to the birth of Christ in its historical trauma-informed fullness. The story of humanity and its recurring themes of oppression and corruption run right through history and into our own narratives. Yet, we can rely on the assurance of the carol to confirm that God is “present with us” in powerful ways that continue to be the Word of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love even and especially in the midst of hard times.

**Advent 1:** “King of Kings” (Hope)

**Advent 2:** “The Silent Word” (Peace)

**Advent 3:** “Son of Mary” (Joy)

**Advent 4:** “Enthroned by Love” (Love)

**Christmas Eve:** “The Babe”

**Sunday After Christmas:** “This, This...”



### Sunday, November 30 “King of Kings (Hope)”

Adult Faith Formation—9:00 a.m./Children—9:15 a.m.  
Worship – 10:30 a.m.

### Sunday, December 7 “The Silent Word (Peace)”

Adult Faith Formation—9:00 a.m./Children—9:15 a.m.  
Worship – 10:30 a.m.  
Pizza following worship  
Caroling following lunch—EVERYONE IS WELCOME

### Wednesday, December 10

Women’s Group at Deb Sullivans - 6:00 p.m.  
\$10 Christmas Gift Exchange / Bring an appetizer

### Sunday, December 14 “Son of Mary (Joy)”

Adult Faith Formation—9:00 a.m./Children—9:15 a.m.  
Worship – 10:30 a.m.  
Chili lunch — Following worship  
Youth/Children Christmas Program following lunch  
*Free will donation will go toward camperships*

### Sunday, December 21

Blue Christmas Service - 5:00 p.m.

### Sunday, December 21 “Enthroned by Love (Love)”

Adult Faith Formation—9:00 a.m./Children—9:15 a.m.  
Worship—10:30 a.m.

### Wednesday, December 24 “The Babe”

Worship – 5:00 p.m.

### Sunday, December 28 “This, This...”

NO FAITH FORMATION  
Worship – 10:30 a.m.





# FROM THE PASTOR

*"While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was not guest room available for them. And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people."*

~ Luke 2:6-14

"Do not be afraid." An angel appears to Zechariah as he prays at the altar of incense, to tell him his wife—who was barren—was going to have a son, John the Baptist.

"Do not be afraid." An angel appears to Mary, "because she found favor with God." He tells her she is going to give birth to a son (without the traditional method of conceiving, by the way) and he will be called the Son of the Most High."

"Do not be afraid." An angel of the Lord appears to the shepherds in the middle of the night to announce the birth of Jesus. "I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people."

Don't be scared—we have the best news EVER! I haven't ever been visited by an angel like this—and I'm sure it was to scare me. But then there is that news of great joy for all the people. After the initial scare, wouldn't you be at least a little curious? What kind of news would bring joy to all people—not just joy—GREAT joy? And not to just a few, but to ALL the people?

The news of GREAT joy for ALL the people is that God decided to come to earth in the human form, as a baby, tiny, vulnerable, crying and screaming, cooing and laughing. He came to bring us back into right relationship with God. To show us how to live so that we would be worthy of eternal life. To teach us that hope endures forever, that mercy, grace, and forgiveness are things we cannot earn, and that Love always wins. Even when we are scared. Even when we are in the lowest of the lows, the deepest valleys, and most oppressive times.

I don't like being scared, but I do love good news. Is there a time in your life when you were scared beyond scared? How were you able to get over it? Did it come with news? Good or bad?

How did you react to the fear? How did you react to the news?

Every time the angel says, "Do not be afraid." The news gets better. Barren Elizabeth. God's favored one, Mary. And then, Jesus. And God wanted to share it with the lowly shepherds first, not those in power, but the ones who were despised. What a radical move, from a radical God.

As we prepare to celebrate the coming of the Baby Jesus, where can we show up in radical ways for those who need to hear this story? And as we prepare for the second coming of Christ, where do we need to share God's radical love? To whom can we say, "Do not be afraid? I want to tell you a story that is filled with GREAT JOY for ALL OF YOU!"

In this season of preparation, be of great courage. Prepare yourselves for the moment the angels come to you. And in turn, be the angel for those around you. May it be so!

Always Peace,  
Pastor Heidi

May the joy of Christ's birth fill your heart with peace, hope, joy, and unending love this Christmas. As we celebrate the Savior's coming, may His light guide your path, strengthen your faith, and bless your home with warmth and grace.



Blessings of Christ This  
Christmas

~ Love, The Hulmes

Pastor Heidi and family will be on vacation from December 29—January 3. Jill Pepper will be on call in case of emergencies. You may contact her at 563-370-1359.



## BIBLE QUIZ



Who told Mary that her child would be called “the Son of the Most High”?

- A. Zechariah
- B. Gabriel
- C. Simeon
- D. Joseph

Answer: (See Luke 1:26–32.)

### Hope at the Brick House

We are scheduled to serve on December 11th.

### Share-A-Meal

We are scheduled to serve On December 30th.



**Christmas Gift Exchange**  
**Deb Sullivan's home**  
**December 10th at 6 p.m.**  
**Please bring dish to share!**

**Newsletter articles due the 3rd Sunday of the month.**

**January Newsletter article deadline is Dec 21.**

**January Newsletter will be mailed by Dec 28.**

Treasurer's Report October 2025			
PLEDGE ACCOUNT	MO.PLEDGE	OCTOBER	GIVEN YTD
General Fund	\$ 6,950.00	\$ 7,260.00	\$ 65,822.00
Non-Pledge Gen Fund	\$ -	\$ 190.00	\$ 3,527.00
OCWM	\$ 151.00	\$ 68.00	\$ 1,487.00
DOCM	\$ 45.00	\$ 37.00	\$ 477.00
Maintenance Reserve	\$ 360.00	\$ 314.00	\$ 3,172.00
<b>Total Giving</b>	<b>\$ 7,506.00</b>	<b>\$ 7,869.00</b>	<b>\$ 74,485.00</b>
GENERAL FUND			
MO BUDGET			TOTAL YTD
Pledged & NP Giving	\$ 6,950.00	\$ 7,450.00	\$ 69,349.00
Misc Gen Fund Giving	\$ -	\$ 137.03	\$ 2,505.59
Transfers In	\$ -	\$15,000.00	\$ 48,092.13
<b>Total Gen Fund Inc</b>	<b>\$ 6,950.00</b>	<b>\$22,587.03</b>	<b>\$ 119,946.72</b>
Pastor Expense	\$ 7,549.00	\$ 6,742.92	\$ 73,449.15
Employee Expense	\$ 1,373.00	\$ 1,295.71	\$ 13,108.75
Church Ministry Exp	\$ 383.00	\$ 1,207.93	\$ 3,545.13
Office Expense	\$ 520.00	\$ 552.19	\$ 4,874.21
Property Expense	\$ 2,169.00	\$ 1,751.03	\$ 23,672.61
<b>Total Gen Fun Exp</b>	<b>\$ 11,994.00</b>	<b>\$11,549.78</b>	<b>\$ 118,649.85</b>
<b>Net General Fund</b>	<b>\$ (5,044.00)</b>	<b>\$11,037.25</b>	<b>\$ 1,296.87</b>

Submitted by Martha Watters



## DECEMBER birthdays

- 1 Don Emde  
Don Walton
- 4 Alexander Marvin  
Sophia Marvin
- 10 Kyleigh Lackas
- 16 Pam Edmond
- 19 James Walck
- 21 Becky Christy



## Board Notes

### Board Meeting— November 9th

1. Martha presented the October financials.
2. The security committee met on November 2nd.
3. General Fund—the operating account is at a positive balance through October 31. \$1,290.87.
4. Approved to become charter organization for Boy Scouts Troop 828. Cheryl Leamer will be liaison between Scouts and Church. No cost to church.
5. Next meeting - January 11, 2026.

### CHRISTMAS PRAYER: THE TRUE GIFT

Dear Lord,

You have brought us to Christmastime once more. Help us not to get lost in the glitter and the glow, but to see the true glory of the birth of Your only begotten Son. Keep our hearts from clinging too tightly to parties, presents and decorations, and turn our eyes instead to Christ — who bears Your very image and brings us Your message of love and hope.

In the glorious name of Christ, we pray. Amen.



## CHRISTIAN SYMBOL



**POINSETTIA** — This shrub, native to Mexico, is at the heart of legend about a poor girl who wanted to bring Baby Jesus a gift one Christmas Eve. As she walked to church, she gathered a bouquet of weeds — which Jesus miraculously transformed into lovely red flowers. Thus the poinsettia (named for Joel Poinsett, the U.S. ambassador to Mexico who first brought the plant to America) is known in Mexico as la flor de la Nochebuena (flower of the Holy Night). The poinsettia is also an ideal Christmas symbol because its leaves turn red when deprived of sunlight and its flowers (the red inner buds) bloom in December.

### Our Faith First Family

Jill Pepper  
Deb Lobdell  
Glenn Perreault  
Don Walton  
Pastor Heidi  
Sid and Ardella Boots  
Karen Risler  
Rev. Barb Koenig

### Our Homebound

Paul Dammeier  
Nancy Giles  
Dennis Jacobsen  
Jan Johnson  
Hazel Jones  
Virginia Lemons  
Harriet Meye  
Colleen Skinner  
Harry Stroupe

### Our Family and Friends

Albert Perreault  
Fran Frutiger  
JR Showens  
Dillon Poole  
Lorie House  
Alison Byers  
Garrett Paxton  
Kylie  
Cindy Norman  
Tania Waters  
Terry Showens  
Judy Cummings

### Our World

Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan, and the Mainland of China, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Stateless People.



**AS WE APPROACH WINTER**, please be aware of the weather. If you question whether to be in church, chances are, you shouldn't be in worship! We will announce on Facebook, as well as the television news stations (WQAD and KWQC) if we have to cancel worship. But even if we don't choose to cancel worship, if you don't think it is safe outside, then please stay home and watch us online. Be safe!



~

## CANDLES THAT TELL A STORY

Lighting its candles each Sunday is a treasured tradition during the four weeks of Advent. Depending on denomination, churches use different color combinations for the candles. Some place four blue candles around the wreath with a white one in the center, while others use all white.



Many light purple candles on the first two Sundays, pink on the third, purple again on the fourth, and then a large white candle on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. Each part of the wreath carries symbolic meaning:

**THE WREATH:** Its circular shape represents the everlasting love of God, having no beginning or end. The four candles mark the four weeks of Advent. One tradition says that each candle also represents 1,000 years, totaling 4,000 years from Adam and Eve to Christ's birth.

**PURPLE CANDLES:** The first purple candle represents Hope; the second, Peace; and the final purple candle, Love.

**THE PINK CANDLE:** Lit on the third Sunday, it represents Joy and marks the halfway point of Advent.

**THE WHITE CANDLE:** The large white candle in the center is the Christ candle. Its light symbolizes Christ the Savior — "the light of the world."



**WE HAVE A TREE** set up in the narthex to put mittens, hats, scarves and socks. We will be giving these to the EICC Student Success Store. Please drop off items for the tree now until Christmas. If you aren't able to shop, we'll accept cash and someone will shop for you!

~



### FAITH FIRST'S COOKIE WALK

Our first Cookie Walk is scheduled for December 6 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Come pick out your favorite cookies for the Christmas holiday. There will be a Santa's Workshop

for the kids as well as a visit from Santa. All sorts of baked goods will be for sale along with frozen entrees! And, last but not least, there will be some crafts for sale. Come check it out!



The Advent wreath is more than just greenery and candles—it's a symbol of watchfulness and growing joy as Christmas draws near.

# Bible Scavenger Hunt

## FOR ADVENT



Prepare for Christmas with this Bible-based Advent activity. Each day in December, look up the answer to one question.

**1** What will God's Son be called?  
(Isaiah 7:14)

**2** Where will Jesus reign?  
(Isaiah 9:7)

**3** Where will Jesus be born?  
(Micah 5:2)

**4** How many generations are between Abraham and the Christ?  
(Matthew 1:17)

**5** Who tells Mary she is having a baby?  
(Luke 1:26-31)

**10** Who issues the decree about a census?  
(Luke 2:1)

**9** What does Jesus' name mean?  
(Matthew 1:21)

**8** Until his son John the Baptist is born, what can Zechariah not do?  
(Luke 1:20, 64)



**4** What does Mary say that God has done for her?  
(Luke 1:49)

**6** Which relative of Mary is also having a baby?  
(Luke 1:41)

**11** From where do Joseph and Mary start their journey to Bethlehem?  
(Luke 2:4)

**12** What does Mary use to wrap up baby Jesus?  
(Luke 2:7)

**13** What serves as Jesus' first bed?  
(Luke 2:7)

**14** Who tells the shepherds the good news about Jesus' birth?  
(Luke 2:8-12)

**15** When the shepherds tell others about Jesus, how do people react?  
(Luke 2:8-12)



**20** Where does Joseph flee with his family for safety?  
(Matthew 2:14)

**19** What three gifts does Jesus receive from the wise men?  
(Matthew 2:11)

**18** Who is upset to hear about a newborn King?  
(Matthew 2:3)

**17** From what direction do the wise men (or Magi) come to worship Jesus?  
(Matthew 2:1-2)

**16** On what day is Jesus presented in the temple?  
(Luke 2:21)

**21** When does Jesus' family return to Israel?  
(Matthew 2:19-21)

**22** In what district does Jesus grow up?  
(Matthew 2:22)

**23** What free gift does God give us through Jesus, his Son?  
(1 John 5:11)

**24** Where do all our gifts come from?  
(James 1:17)



**25** How should we respond to our gifts?  
(2 Corinthians 9:15)

Answers: 1. Immanuel 2. On David's throne 3. Bethlehem 4. 42 5. The angel Gabriel 6. Elizabeth 7. Great things 8. Speak 9. He will save his people from their sins 10. Caesar Augustus 11. Nazareth, in Galilee 12. Cloths, or swaddling clothes 13. A manger 14. An angel of the Lord 15. They are amazed, or in wonder 16. The eighth 17. The east 18. Herod 19. Herod 20. Egypt 21. After Herod dies 22. Galilee 23. Eternal life 24. From above, from the Father of lights 25. Give thanks to God!

# December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b>  Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	<b>2</b>  Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 	<b>6</b>  Cookie Walk And Crafts  9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
<b>7</b> Faith Formation 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Pizza after worship. Caroling following lunch—EVERYONE IS WELCOME	<b>8</b>  Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	<b>9</b>  Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	<b>10</b>  Women's Group at Deb Sullivan's 6 p.m.	<b>11</b>  Hope at the Brick House 3:30 p.m.	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 
<b>14</b> Faith Formation 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m.  Chili lunch — Following worship. Youth/Children Christmas Program following lunch.	<b>15</b>  Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	<b>16</b>  Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>  Basket Class 5:30 p.m.	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  Fellowship Hall reserved 3—8 pm
<b>21</b> Faith Formation 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Christmas Offering Blue Christmas 5:00 p.m.  <i>Newsletter Articles Due</i>	<b>22</b>  Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	<b>23</b>  Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	<b>24</b>   <i>Office Closed</i>	<b>25</b>   <i>Mail Newsletter</i>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> No Faith Formation Worship Service 10:30 a.m.	<b>29</b>  Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	<b>30</b>  Share A Meal 5:15 p.m.  Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	<b>31</b>			