

Faith First Community Church

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Rev. Heidi Hulme

Office Hours: 9 am to 12 pm M-TH

Focus on Faith



YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR A THANKFUL DINNER PARTY

Thursday, Nov. 27 at NOON
Faith First Community Church

Bring a side dish or dessert to share! Hosted by Amanda and Andy Ranfeldt. Sign up in the Fellowship Hall.

A THANKSGIVING HYMN THAT SEES GOD'S HAND EVERYWHERE

For a hymn that captures the beauty and gratitude of Thanksgiving, "All Things 'Bright and Beautiful'" is a perfect choice. Its lyrics paint vivid pictures — flowers opening in the morning sun, birds singing, golden sunsets, purple-topped mountains and rivers rushing by. It all leads to this joyful reminder: "He gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell: How great is God Almighty, who has made all things well."

The hymn was written by Cecil Frances Alexander (1818–1895), an Irishwoman with a passion for teaching children about God. She wrote many hymns for her Sunday school class, later collected in *Verses for Holy Seasons*.

But her ministry went beyond music — she spent her life serving the poor, comforting the sick, and caring for the grieving. When she passed away, "a great throng" gathered to remember her, honoring both her faith and the beauty she shared with the world.



REMEMBERING THE SAINTS

When Paul wrote to the church in Rome, he addressed his letter "To all God's beloved ... who are called to be saints" (Romans 1:7, NRSV). Paul regarded his fellow believers as people who have responded to the good news of Christ by choosing to follow and serve God.

The New Testament emphasizes that Christians are God's beloved — special people set apart to receive his grace and to be his witnesses. All people whose minds and hearts are devoted to God are "called to be saints."

About 700 years after the church began, leaders designated November 1 as All Saints' Day to honor people whose lives reflect Christ dwelling within them. Because of what God has done for us, all Christians can wear the label of saint.

We will honor the members and friends who have passed since Nov. 2024 on Sunday, November 2nd during our worship service.





FROM THE PASTOR

"But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"
~ Luke 11:28

While I was on my way to swim class one morning, Olivia Lane, DJ on The Message on Sirius XM, said something that will not leave my brain. She said, "It is not how many people you lead. It is not how many people follow you. It is not how many people you influence, or how much power you have. What matters is how quickly you obey God when God calls you."

I tried for decades to run from God's call. I was in no way, shape or form, going to become a pastor. I watched what it did to my mother, and to other friends, and I wasn't going there. Until I had no choice. And by no choice, I mean God continued to clear my path, and lay every step in my lap, to the point that I could no longer ignore God's call. And to be completely honest, I am so grateful every single day that I finally got out of my own way, and listened to God. I might think I know what I want, or what is good for me, but God knows. God's ways are not my ways, and God's thoughts are not my thoughts. (Thank HEAVEN for that!)

As we continue to move through our Changemakers worship series, each Sunday we are being challenged to think about what it means to be a Change-maker, and to think about where God is calling us to make small changes to make our part of the world a better place.

In the church, part of the challenge is thinking about where our passions lie. Is there something we see that needs changes, and are our hearts set on fire for that fill in the blank? Is there a ministry that we can begin, or collaborate with others, to bring God's world to our world?

The other part of the challenge is in our giving financially to the church. Giving our first fruits back to God. We call this Stewardship. But what does that mean? And how does obeying God fit into this?

First, God calls us to give back to God that which is God's in the first place. Matthew 22:21, Mark 12:17, and Luke 20:25, read: "Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's."

The real teaching in this verse comes with the second part. It implies that humans are made in God's image, and we belong to God. This means we are to obey God in everything we do, with our entire being—heart, soul, mind and strength, including worship, obedience, and resources—our wealth and time.

Second, when we (the church) use the resources that are entrusted to the church, we are to use them in a way that honors God, that builds people up, and doesn't tear them down. By doing that, we obey God.

God places God's call on each of our hearts, and those calls are different for each one of us. But each of our calls are not given in silos. Our calls, our gifts, are meant to be used in collaboration with those gifts and skills of the people around us, in order to fully bring God's Kingdom to fruition.

Last Sunday, we held our Annual Budget Meeting, where we approved the Proposed 2026 Budget. While there wasn't much discussion (there rarely ever is, and that can be okay), there is concern. We unanimously approved a budget that is 4.15% increase over the 2025 budget. We also approved the transfer up to \$25,000 more out of our Special Donations Fund to cover any shortfall that we have at December 31. Our current shortfall as of 9/30 is more than \$9,000.

Now, I fully understand that there may be a feeling of conflict between giving to a ministry such as Share-A-Meal, weekly sandwiches, the Little Food Pantry, Student Success Store, Hope at the Brick House, or any of the other worthy ministries we have or support, and giving to a general budget that includes overhead costs and salaries—specifically when the salaries make up about 74% of that budget. This is where the real challenge comes in—addressing the elephant in the room—are we obeying God's call by having this staff—including a full time pastor? Is it our call—the call of Faith First Community Church—to continue moving forward in the way that we are, or are we being called in a different direction?

This is absolutely a legitimate question that we need to ask, and we need to discuss. And we very well may be obeying God's call (spoiler alert—I whole-heartedly believe we are—but then again, I am the full time pastor!). If this is what we discern, then the next step is to figure out how we are going to make sure we meet our budget.

This is the point where each one of us must hold conversation with God. We must listen to what God has placed on our hearts. Maybe God has placed an idea about how we can meet our budget. Maybe God has placed the call to give more—or to pledge for the first time. Whatever it is that God is calling you to do, it isn't how much power or influence you have. It isn't how many people follow you, or how many you lead. What matters when God calls you, is how quickly you obey.

Always Peace,
Pastor Heidi



BIBLE QUIZ

James 1:17 reminds us about the source of every blessing. According to this verse, how is God described?

- A. The one who changes like shifting shadows
- B. The giver of wisdom to the faithful
- C. The Father of heavenly lights who does not change
- D. The one who rewards those who are generous



Answer: (See James 1:17)

Hope at the Brick House

We are scheduled to serve on November 13th.

Share-A-Meal

We are NOT scheduled to serve in November.



NOVEMBER *birthdays*

- 1 Adam Christy
- 2 Sandra Holdt
- 6 Morgan Barclay
- 11 Andrea Holdt
Virginia Lemons
- 12 Jarrod Hulme
- 22 Jim Perreault
- 23 Warren Holdt
- 24 Samantha Ozmon
- 27 Michelle Holdt
- 28 Brianna DeGraff



Women's Group
We do not meet in
November

Newsletter articles due the 3rd Sunday of the month.

December Newsletter article deadline is Nov 16.

December Newsletter will be mailed by Nov 28.

Treasurer's Report September 2025			
PLEDGE ACCOUNT	MO.PLEDGE	SEPTEMBER	GIVEN YTD
General Fund	\$ 6,950.00	\$ 5,535.00	\$ 58,562.00
Non-Pledge Gen Fund	\$ -	\$ 910.00	\$ 3,337.00
OCWM	\$ 151.00	\$ 168.00	\$ 1,419.00
DOCM	\$ 45.00	\$ 322.00	\$ 440.00
Maintenance Reserve	\$ 360.00	\$ 314.00	\$ 2,858.00
Total Giving	\$ 7,506.00	\$ 7,249.00	\$ 66,616.00
GENERAL FUND			
MO BUDGET			TOTAL YTD
Pledged & NP Giving	\$ 6,950.00	\$ 6,445.00	\$ 61,899.00
Misc Gen Fund Giving	\$ -	\$ 230.91	\$ 2,368.56
Transfers In	\$ -	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 33,092.13
Total Gen Fund Inc	\$ 6,950.00	\$ 13,675.91	\$ 97,359.69
Pastor Expense	\$ 7,549.00	\$ 8,222.06	\$ 66,706.23
Employee Expense	\$ 1,373.00	\$ 1,303.48	\$ 11,813.04
Church Ministry Exp	\$ 383.00	\$ 212.04	\$ 2,337.20
Office Expense	\$ 520.00	\$ 406.61	\$ 4,322.02
Property Expense	\$ 2,169.00	\$ 2,177.90	\$ 21,921.58
Total Gen Fun Exp	\$ 11,994.00	\$ 12,322.09	\$ 107,100.07
Net General Fund	\$ (5,044.00)	\$ 1,353.82	\$ (9,740.38)



Board Notes

Board Meeting— October 12

1. Martha presented the updated proposed budget.
2. Reviewed the security assessment and decided to form a committee to review to prioritize the options.
3. General Fund—the operating account is at a negative balance through September 30. \$9,740.38.
4. Next meeting - November 9 at Noon.

A Thanksgiving Prayer

Gracious God,
thank you for every good gift—
for the food before us,
the people around us,
and the love that surrounds us.
Help us to pause, reflect, and rejoice
in Your constant goodness and grace.
May our hearts overflow with gratitude,
not just today, but every day.

Amen.



CHRISTIAN SYMBOL



CIRCLE — The circle is a symbol for God, as well as for eternity, due to its lack of a beginning or an end. It also reminds us of how the church year (not unlike the secular calendar) flows from season to season and moves smoothly from Christ the King Sunday (the culmination of the liturgical calendar) to the First Sunday of Advent (a new beginning). Indeed, the One who rules all is the same One whose first and final comings we anticipate anew during Advent.

Our Faith First Family

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

Susan
JR Showens
Dillon Poole
Lorie House
Fran Frutiger
Alison Byers
Kylie
Cindy Norman
Taunia Waters
Nilofar Basti
Terry Showens
Judy Cummings



Our World

Canada, United States of America, Oceania: American Samoa, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia (Maohi Nui), Kanaky, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Aotearoa New Zealand, Australia, East Timor (Timor Leste), Indonesia, Philippines

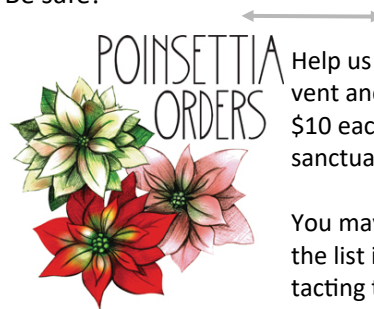


You have shown strength with your arm; you have scattered the proud in their conceit; you have deposed the mighty from their thrones and raised the lowly to high places. — Luke 1:50 (Inclusive Bible)

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...”

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!



Help us adorn the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas! Poinsettias cost \$10 each and will be placed in the sanctuary by November 30.

You may order one by signing up on the list in the Fellowship Hall or contacting the office by November 19.

A Day to Honor Our Veterans

On this national holiday, churches around the nation hold services of prayers and praise. Followers of the Prince of Peace pray for peace among the nations of Earth and for the day when “they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more” (Isaiah 2:4, NRSV).



November 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				 <p>Fall back, not behind! CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS and join us on time for worship.</p>		1 Attic Shop 7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Change your clocks
2 All Saints Sunday Faith Formation 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m.	3 Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	4  City / School Election 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.	5	6	7	8
9 Faith Formation 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Board Meeting 12:00 p.m. <i>Bless Pledge Cards</i>	10 Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	11 Happy Veterans Day Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	12	13 Hope at the Brick House 3:30 p.m.	14 	15
16 Faith Formation 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. <i>Newsletter Articles Due</i>	17 Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	18 Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	19	20	21	22
23 Thanksgiving Offering Faith Formation 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m.	24 Troop 828 Meeting 6:30-8 p.m.	25 Merit Badge 6 to 8 p.m.	26 <i>Mail Newsletter</i>	27 THANKFUL DINNER PARTY AT NOON 	28	29
30 Faith Formation 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. First Sunday of Advent	 <p>Bless the LORD <i>Oh my soul,</i> and forget not all his benefits. Psalm 103/2 KJV</p>					