

The Tidings

FBC's monthly newsletter

DECEMBER 2023

First Baptist Church, 125 SE Cows St., McMinnville, OR 97128
503-472-7941 • www.fbcmac.org • office@fbcmac.org

- ADVENT 2023: Welcome Home -

Saturday, Dec. 2 - Hanging of the Greens
12n - Help decorate our Church Home for Christmas

Dec. 3 - 1st Sunday of Advent with Communion

Dec. 10 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

First Baptist Church presents Our Annual Christmas CONCERT Sunday, Dec. 10th at 4:00 pm

Enjoy the beautiful holiday sounds from our Choir, Bell Choir as well as many other talented musicians as they share their talents and help us celebrate this Christmas Season through music.

Followed by FBC's traditional
Candlelight DESSERT BUFFET
Everyone brings their favorite holiday dessert.

Dec. 17 - 3rd Sunday of Advent
Worship - Christmas Cantata, 'O Holy Light' (see pg 3)
Beloved Carols capture the moods of the Christmas Season.

After Worship Advent Activism event
3 pm - Christmas Caroling (meet at FBC)

Tuesday, Dec. 19
Service of Remembrance - 7 pm
A quiet, reflective service for those carrying heavy sorrows or bearing difficult burdens.

Thursday, Dec. 21
Winter Solstice Event - 7 pm
Celebrate the return of the light on the shortest day and longest night of the year. Through music, story, song, ritual and meditation, we will together honor the birth of the SUN in preparation for the Birth of the SON. Designed and facilitated by Kathleen Verigin. All are welcome!

Dec. 24 - 4th Sunday of Advent
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - 7 pm

First Sunday Speaker Series: December 3rd *Interfaith Lessons Learned from a Georgian Baptist Bishop, with Virginia Holmstrom*

In 2013, Virginia Holmstrom began taking groups of women to the other side of the world to experience interfaith dialogue in a small Evangelical Baptist church in the country of Georgia. She returned from her eleventh visit this month, during which she and husband Eric participated in the dedication of a newly constructed Synagogue and Mosque inside the Baptist church. Come and find out why and how it evolved!

Bring a lunch and join the conversation.

In 2024, gather with a small group of FBC friends to make the ordinary sacred.

Journey through the seasons of the year and the seasons of the church with invitations to explore, reflect, create, learn, discuss, pray, and feast.

We'll be using Seasons of Wonder, described by its publishers as "a 52-week interactive devotional that helps families and friends discover God enfleshed in the world." The church will provide the books at no cost to you, as well as many of the project supplies.

Each month, FBC's practice will include:

- * Readings from the book
- * A meeting with your small group
- * A field trip or sharing feast
- * A creation care challenge
- * A project/making/crafting gathering

Seasons of Wonder is designed to be used by small groups or households, so we'll have sign-ups for groups available at church and online beginning December 3. Send any questions you have to erika@fbcmac.org.



YTD Actual for Period % of Amount Budgeted

Contributions Income:	\$224,857	99.6%
Total Income:	\$270,437	100.2%
Total Expenses:	\$258,071	95.6%
Net Income:	\$ 12,366	

Financial Update:

We appreciate your ongoing contributions in support of our ministries. You may check on your financial contributions to First Baptist Church through our secure church software database, Realm. If you would like assistance creating a Realm profile or have other questions, please contact:

Treasurer, Don Watson (donjw@comcast.net) or
 Realm administrator, Barbara Burr (barbaracoleburr@gmail.com).

FBC Finance Committee: Don Watson, Barbara Burr, Judee Kunze,
 Roger Dell, and Jane Apel

A NOTE ABOUT YEAR END GIVING

There is still time to turn in
 your 2024 Estimate of
 Giving card.

FBC office open for drop off:
 Dec. 27, 28, 29

Wed-Thur-Fri, 9am-Noon

For 2023 Year End Gifts that
 are mailed, they need to be
 postmarked by Dec. 31st
 for 2023 tax credit.

THANK YOU for GIVING!

Church Board Notes, November 8th

The Church Board met as scheduled on Nov. 8th in person (we had advertised it as a hybrid meeting, but no one elected to join via Zoom).

Heidi Toth got the meeting started with a devotion from M.S. Lowndes. They wrote, "The Lord is in your midst, always there, never out of reach. He listens to us, delights in us, and rejoices over us. There is no mention of past mistakes. God wants us to move on and forgive ourselves."

Kathleen reported that 15 people participated in the First Aid/CPR training held at the church last weekend. Mary shared that the recent youth lock-out was a big success. Steve wanted to make sure we all knew how much work is involved by Ron to keep our HVAC system running. Erika said that the All-Church Retreat at Arrah Wanna went well, and we thank all who gave of their time and talents to make it a success.

We are in search of a special person to fill a vacant position on the Board. Marianne Mills had to step down, so if you are interested, please contact me or Erika for more information.

Don shared the financial report and budget update. We are still running with a small positive balance, but this cushion continues to shrink each month. We may have some tough decisions to make in our 2024 budget. You should all be receiving your third quarter giving statements soon, and we ask you to prayerfully consider your support for our church and all we do for others near and far.

We have now met twice with our consultants on FBC's strategic plan. These first two meetings have been devoted to getting them more acquainted with us and

our current offerings and activities. At our next meeting, we hope to dive into how best to gather feedback from our members and friends to help us identify key goals that align with our mission and vision statements.

Pastor Erika attended a recent meeting of Together Works to gather more input on the Gender-Neutral bathroom discussion. Steve had an interesting and cost-effective solution: By installing locks inside the outer doors, each restroom on the main floor can be used by a single person at a time. The Board was supportive of this solution. There will be more to come on this topic soon.

Steve also brought information to the Board about holding a car raffle as a fundraiser that would allow us to purchase a handicap-friendly bus. This would allow us to transport folks of all stages of mobility to worship on Sunday, as well as to attend outings and other activities. These raffles are popular among car enthusiasts. With the support of the Board, Steve will investigate the details of running a car raffle and report back to the Board.

The Board also discussed holding a fundraiser dance in June of 2024. This would be an adult prom with a theme and decorations. This event will be planned like the Baptist Boogie events, with proceeds to benefit FBC programs. Kathleen agreed to head up the prom committee.

Finally, our next Board meeting will be held at 6:30pm on Wednesday, December 13th in hybrid format -- in person in the FBC second floor conference room AND also on Zoom. Guests are always welcome at Church Board meetings, so if you would like to be added to the agenda, or if you would like a meeting invite to attend via Zoom, please email me at gbdlinor@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted, Dave Larmouth, Moderator



Sunday Worship Highlights

DECEMBER 2023

*FBC is a Matthew 25 church, inspired by the words of Jesus,
"Whatever you do unto the least of my sisters & brothers, you do unto me."*

Adult Sunday Classes: (details on page 11)

- ✦ 8:30 am - **CONNECTIONS Class**
Contact - barbaracoleburr@gmail.com
- ✦ 8:45 am - **CHAPEL Class** - Contact -
gary@portlandconsultinggroup.com
- ✦ 8:45 am - **FAITH & JAVA** - 1st Sundays only,
in person, Fireplace Room
Contact - schulmanrob@yahoo.com
- ✦ 8:45 am - **BEREAN Class**
Contact - doug.verigin@outlook.com

10:00 am - WORSHIP in person in the sanctuary,
or streaming live: www.facebook.com/firstbaptistmac/



MUSIC Rehearsals:

Wed., Dec. 6th
Rehearsals for
Bells 5:20pm
Christmas Choir 6:30pm
Worship Team 8:00pm

Thursday, Dec. 7th
Dress Rehearsal for
all Concert participants
(including Techs) 5-9pm,
sanctuary & music room

This Advent, welcome home.

Welcome home to FBC, where you are always invited in and celebrated for who you are. And welcome the ideal of home, into your life and into our communal life - the promise of warmth and care, protection and safety, nurture and growth. Let's think together about the homes opened and denied, offered and chosen, in the old stories of this season, and about how our call to radical hospitality can be lived into here and now.

December 3, Advent 1: The Sunday of Hope & Communion Sunday

Sermon from Matthew 1:18b-24; Luke 1:26-37

Rev. Erika Marksbury preaching

Music led by Tegan Johnson & the Worship Team

*First Sunday Speaker Series with Virginia Holmstrom
sharing about inter-religious dialogue (see page 1).*

December 10, Advent 2: The Sunday of Peace

Sermon from Luke 1:39-56

Rev. Erika Marksbury preaching

Music led by Tegan Johnson & the Worship Team

Fellowship in the Gathering Room following worship

December 17, Advent 3: The Sunday of Joy A Musical Service!



At this service, the FBC Choir
will present the cantata
'O Holy Light.'

This work is filled with many beloved carols,
familiar tunes and original music that
captures the many moods of the season.

*Mark your calendars & invite friends as this
will be a special, memorable day at FBC this
Christmas season!*

December 17, continued

*Fellowship hosted by the Community Low-Barrier Shelter,
plus an Advent Activism event (letter-writing in support of
peace, food for all, and human rights) following worship*

December 24, Advent 4: The Sunday of Love Christmas Eve Morning

Sermon from Micah 4:1-4, Luke 2:57-79

Rev. Erika Marksbury preaching

Music led by Marilyn Dresser & Tegan Johnson

December 24 - Christmas Eve

Lessons & Carols & Candlelight Service

7pm in the Sanctuary & Streaming on Facebook

This service remembers and celebrates the birth of
Jesus long ago, and the ways God is still being born,
and making a home, among us today.

December 31 - New Year's Eve Day

Sermon from Luke 2:25-38

Rev. Erika Marksbury preaching

Music led by Robin Pederson

*Fellowship in the courtyard after worship - "Burning the
Old Year" prayer card ceremony, offering up the prayers
of 2023 one more time, in gratitude and/or in continued
hope*

Community HOLIDAY Musical Concerts

Friday & Saturday, Dec 1st & 2nd - 7:00 pm
 Community Choir Celebrates Handel's "Messiah"
 Christmas part of oratorio & singing of 'Hallelujah Chorus'
 at First Presbyterian Church sanctuary
 Conducted by Robin Y. Pederson
 Audrey Horowitz & Anne Britt, Accompanists

Tuesday, December 5th - 7:00 pm
 Linfield University's Winter Choral Concert
 at Melrose Hall Ice Auditorium

Saturday, December 9th - 4:00 pm
 McMinnville Women's Choir presents a Joyful
 Celebration of the Season, 'O Sing!'
 in the First Baptist Church sanctuary
 \$15 online / \$20 at the door (cash/check)
www.mcminnvillewomenschoir.com

Sunday, December 10th - 4:00 pm
 First Baptist Church's Annual Christmas CONCERT
 & Candlelight Dessert Buffet

~ Keynote CONCERT Series ~
 Featuring Lauren Kinhan
 Wednesday, December 20
 at First Baptist Church sanctuary
 Doors open at 7pm,
 Concert starts at 7:30 pm.
 Reception to follow concert.



POINSETTIAS needed for Christmas CONCERT

We'd like to decorate the front of the sanctuary with
 as many Poinsettias as possible.

If you'd like to share yours for the concert,
 please mark your name on the bottom and
 leave it in the church office Sunday morning,



Those remaining will beautify our sanctuary during
 the Advent Season. Thank You!

NATIVE VOICES BOOK GROUP IN JANUARY

The Climate Action Team is sponsoring a book group
 that will expose us to the voices of native peoples in
 order to learn more about their perspectives and
 wisdom around caring for the earth.

Starting January, we plan to read a book once a
 month for 6 months starting in January. The day and
 times of our discussion group will be determined by
 the group and there will be a Zoom option. We can
 purchase books as a group. If you are interested
 please sign up at our next hosting after church on
 Dec. 10 or let Lynn Crowell know,
herballynn@comcast.net.

The book, *'The Naturally Clean Home,'*
 will be on sale for \$5.00 Sunday, Dec. 10, when the
 Climate Action group hosts Fellowship time.
 Only 6 copies available! Full of great non-toxic tips!

Climate Action - Recipe of the month: Chocolate Zucchini Cookies

These chocolate zucchini cookies are soft & chewy.
 A tasty cookie, made without eggs - everyone will love!
 This recipe yields 36 cookies.

Ingredients:

- 1 cup unsalted butter, melted
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup brown sugar, lightly packed
- 2 tsp vanilla
- 3/4 cup shredded zucchini, drained
- 2 1/2 cup all purpose flour
- 1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips

Instructions:

1. Preheat oven 350°
 2. In a stand mixer, or bowl with electric mixer, combine the melted butter, sugar, brown sugar, and vanilla until smooth.
 3. Stir in the shredded zucchini. Set aside.
 4. In medium bowl, whisk together the flour, cocoa powder, salt, baking powder, and baking soda.
 6. Add this mixture to the butter mixture - mix with cookie paddles (for electric hand mixer) until everything is well combined - Stir in Chocolate chips.
 8. Roll cookie dough into 1.5 tbsp size balls - place on cookie sheet (2" apart, they don't spread much in the oven) - flatten balls to about 1/2" thick.
 9. Bake for 7-9 minutes. Let cookies cool for 5 min. then remove to a wire rack.
- Store in airtight container up to 5 days/ or freeze.



All gifts are completely confidential - only our financial secretary will know who has given.

Thanking Our Staff

First Baptist Church has customarily given our staff a financial gift at the end of the year as one way of thanking them for their dedication and devotion to our congregation and community.

We are again extending this opportunity for thanking our staff to each member and friend of First Baptist.

The gifts will be divided among Erika, Sean, Donna, Ron, Tom, Geoff, Marilyn, Tegan, Muriel, Virginia, Zoila, and our cheerful childcare workers.

There are three WAYS YOU CAN PARTICIPATE:

1. You can donate using Realm - Go to www.fbcmac.org - Give - Ways to Give - Give Online - Click Here (under Give Online in black box) - Give Online. Enter amount you wish to give and then click on the drop down menu of the Fund box and look for Holiday Staff Gift. Follow directions to finish the payment.
* If you have difficulty using Realm, please contact Barbara Burr, our Realm administrator, (971) 241-6112, or Don Watson, (503) 510-2816.
2. You can put your cash or check in an offering plate any Sunday, with a notation of "Staff Gift"
3. You can mail your check to: Roger Dell, Financial Secretary
First Baptist Church, 125 SE Cows Street, McMinnville, 97128

**Thank you, and may you be richly blessed during this holy season and throughout the coming year. Gary Langenwalter, Personnel Team chair
Mike Burr, Pastoral Relations Team chair**

FBC's FELLOWSHIP Fund could use a boost!

This year we've provided over \$545/on average/monthly, for assistance requests such as car repair, utility, rent, and more.

You can see just how quickly our fund becomes depleted.

Please consider a year-end gifting to this fund to help our community. Check payable to FBC / Note: Fellowship Fund



FBC's Food Pantry provides food bags for AFP families and food for the many houseless folk in our community who come in hungry.

We're in need of any nourishing non-perishable foods, especially easy to open 'flip top' small cans of food that tastes good cold. Many don't have the luxury of a can-opener or microwaves. Remember, they can't carry much.

Also 'Cup of Soup/Noodles' that you only need to add hot water to providing a warm meal. Anything that is tasty and simple to eat.

In Desperate need!!



WINTER brings cold & wet conditions and is really hard for our houseless neighbors.

Please continue to bring warm jackets, coats, jeans, socks, non-dress shoes/sneakers, gloves, scarves/hats and warm clothing to FBC. ANYTHING WARM!

CHANGE FOR CHANGE: Supporting AMOS Health & Hope and FBC's 2024 Delegation to Nicaragua

This Advent, we're reminded of the homes FBC delegations have visited as part of our partnership with AMOS, a Christian non-profit organization training local health care workers in rural Nicaragua. We've visited homes to install and check on water filters, to offer handwashing education, to meet new health committee members, and to visit Silvina, whose home doubles as the health clinic, where she welcomes community members in need. It has been a gift to walk alongside these communities and to be welcomed into these homes.

The next FBC delegation to AMOS Health and Hope is preparing to leave for Nicaragua in late January 2024. You can support their trip, and the rural communities FBC has partnered with for 20 years, by participating in a special giving opportunity this Advent.

In the Gathering Room every Sunday in December, you'll find a Giving Wall full of cards with suggested donation amounts on them. You are invited to take a card for yourself or to use as a gift for someone else. The cards explain to receivers how the gift in their honor helps AMOS and the rural impoverished of Nicaragua.

On the 2024 trip, the FBC delegation will again partner with AMOS and the local communities to accomplish projects identified by them as needs.

We'll help with cooking classes (we've got a green fritter recipe!), offer water filter checks, and share in other work suggested by members of the community. Thank you for supporting this ongoing partnership.

Getting to Know your First Baptist Church Family

Irene Stuart grew up in the Midwest to devout Seventh Day Adventist parents. Her mother was an RN and her father was a medical doctor, who served as such in WWII. Music was a big part of their daily lives and Irene started piano lessons at age four. She attended a Seventh Day Adventist school and was carefully protected from influences from outside the church. At age fourteen, Irene went away to a Seventh Day Adventist boarding school, where she stayed for four years, thoroughly enjoying the experience and never living again full-time at home. She attended Emmanuel Missionary College (now Andrews University) in Michigan where she married Ronald Holland. They had two children, Steven and Anne, who live back East (adding along the way four grandchildren, one step-granddaughter and three great-grandchildren).

After a divorce, Irene began her working life in Washington, D.C., where she stayed for 22 years, loving the D.C. experience and her job with two different trade associations. She was a single parent for ten years before she married Jack Rutman. When he retired, they moved to San Diego. Always the adventurer, Irene did a lot of traveling both with Jack and alone. They also took up square dancing, gardening and Jack was a great cook. Unfortunately, Jack died fairly young following heart surgery.

Some time later, Irene got together with Tom Stewart, a neighbor who had lost his wife. They married in 1987 and Irene says he was a wonderful husband. They moved to McMinnville in 1990 and looked for a church home. Mary Martin, who was their realtor, told them about the superb music at First Baptist. Marion VanDyk was the music director and Irene says she loved singing in the choir with so many who are now gone. Joining the church in 1992, Irene remembers that she was the church secretary when Marilyn VanDyk was moderator, sometime in the 1990s.

Irene and Tom did a lot of traveling until Tom's dementia made that no longer possible. Always an avid gardener, Irene is also an avid birder, having enjoyed many birding adventures with Marilyn VanDyk and others. Irene and Tom moved to nineteen acres near Ballston, where they had 34 llamas, many ducks and geese, 35 or so quail in an outdoor pen and, as Irene says, she was able to enjoy all her critters and still be available to care for Tom. The llamas were Irene's pets, but she did sell llama fiber, breed and show her llamas, and the gentle llamas were a popular draw for school groups. Tom died in 2002 while they were living on the ranch.



Three years later, Irene moved back to McMinnville and for a few years was co-owner of the Inner Oasis store on Third Street. She was responsible for the bookkeeping and helped with the buying. On her own, she went to Ecuador for over a month, both to see that area and as a buying trip for the store.

In 2015, Irene met Hunter Brunk, with whom she spent eight wonderful years until he passed away just a few months ago.

Besides being caring and upbeat, Irene has always been a free spirit and fiercely independent. She has led a fascinating life and we are pleased that she chose to put down roots here at First Baptist and in Yamhill County over 33 years ago.

Getting to Know your First Baptist Church Family



Holly Galer

The FBC Family probably knows Holly Galer best as the Handbell Choir member who plays on the far left of the group, with the highest notes. She is known for playing four notes (two in each hand!) and is probably the most accomplished bell player in our church group. Well...she started playing handbells at the age of eleven years old!! Her older sister encouraged her to join the Junior Bell Choir in the Carpinteria Community Church where they grew up. Holly spent 22 years in Carpinteria which is near Santa Barbara, California. During that time she was able to participate in a high school Handbell Choir trip, to play in a few churches in the Bay Area of Northern California. The second memorable trip was to Southern California, to play a special Disney Medley, composed by her sister, at Disneyland.

While growing up, Holly spent three weeks of the summer camping in Cascade, Idaho and/or visiting her uncle's family farm in Dayton, Oregon. So Holly grew up knowing Lloyd, whom she would marry at

the age of 22 and move to Hopewell, Oregon. Holly and Lloyd raised two children in Hopewell, Jessica and Christopher, who were raised at FBC. Holly stayed at home with the kids until they were in the second and fourth grades. Her first job was with the Amity School District, where she prepared meals to deliver to the Perrydale School District. Then she worked a year at the Amity Alternative School before returning to the Middle School Learning Resource room. She retired as the Middle School Attendance Secretary, after 24 years in the Amity School district.

After Lloyd and Holly married and were settled in Hopewell 37 years ago, Holly looked for a church in the area that had a handbell choir. Her father-in-law's friend, Ted Lehman, told her about the FBC Bell Choir, led by Marion VanDyk and Sally Geistweit. Although Marion and Sally sealed the connection, since she grew up in a Presbyterian tradition, the structure of FBC's services made it feel like a natural fit. (FBC is thankful that Holly didn't find the Presbyterian Bell Choir across the street first!) While Holly's kids were growing up at FBC, she taught middle school Sunday School and then helped in the elementary school Children's Chapel. Holly has continued to participate in the Handbell Choir because she says our church is like an extended family.

Some of you may know that Holly's husband Lloyd grew up in Hopewell, where they continue to live and Lloyd runs the family auto shop. She recounted a story when in 2002 a fire, most likely started by fireworks on the morning of July 4th, devastated the shop. The business was their livelihood and Holly remembers miracles extending from their community. Even before "Go Fund Me" existed, a neighbor opened a Washington Mutual account so when they needed money to rebuild the business, funds were available to them.

Since Holly retired two years ago and Lloyd is close to retiring, they appreciate time with their two kids and four grandchildren. They continue to enjoy camping and waterskiing. FBC's Handbell Choir is blessed to have Holly continue to play and offer her years of experience with the group. The Bell Choir was even able to meet and play with her sister in the Spring while she was visiting Oregon!!

The Handbell Choir will be playing at the Christmas Concert, so be sure to look for Holly playing four (or more) bells!



Because every child has the right to be safe. ❤️

Juliette's House Expansion Reaches Milestone: A Journey of Growth, Innovation, and Impact

We're excited to share a major update on the expansion project at 1075 S.W. Cedarwood St., McMinnville. For Juliette's House – this is a transformative journey initiated in May that has now surpassed the halfway mark. The ongoing construction adds 2,200 square feet to the existing 6,118 square foot building, including a second floor on the northeast end.



The expanded space will feature five offices for therapy and case management, four offices for operations, and renovated areas such as the play therapy room and conference room, along with a new outdoor pavilion.

A focal point of our enthusiasm is the prevention education suite, where a conversion of three small offices and a corridor into a spacious area is underway. This dedicated space will serve as a central hub for staff to develop innovative curricula and strategies focused on ensuring the safety of children.

WD Construction is leading the project, with Marcia Mikesch as the architect. The total estimated cost is \$1.3 million.

Anticipate a Grand Celebration in February:

We're gearing up for a significant event in February to mark the completion of this momentous project, highlighting its various significances. The expansion not only enhances our physical space but also plays a vital role in shaping the future of the community by providing crucial support to children, families, and adult survivors.

Expanding Beyond Walls:

In addition to physical growth, Juliette's House has expanded its staff and introduced a groundbreaking program – **Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI)**. Developed by the Texas Christian University psychology department, TBRI is proving impactful in building relationships within families and preventing children from moving between different care settings.

Your Support Matters:

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our supporters who contribute to the transformation of lives and the stories of hope and healing that Juliette's House brings to the community. As we continue our mission, we kindly ask for your support through a donation. Your contribution will play a pivotal role in strengthening our efforts, making a meaningful impact, and enabling us to extend our reach in fostering positive change. Thank you for considering a donation to Juliette's House – where every contribution makes a difference in building a brighter future.





Hello First Baptist Church!
Henderson House is honored to receive your support over the years.

Since 1981, Henderson House has served survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in Yamhill County, Oregon – in that time we have provided over 80,000 nights of shelter and answered over 30,000 calls for help. This year we faced some really daunting challenges and shared some really meaningful moments of healing. I'll share some highlights first, then more about the difficulties we face.

Through the support of Yamhill Community Care, this year Henderson House was able to offer a healthy cooking class once a month for Henderson House clients. We not only provided a hands-on cooking class where a meal was shared with attendees, but we sent each participant home with the ingredients and cookware needed to recreate the dishes at-home. This proved to not only be a nourishing, empowering, lesson in self-care for our clients, but it provided an outlet for creative problem-solving that fueled the process of creative problem-solving in other aspects of their lives. The result was beyond what we even hoped.

This year we also received some alarming updates from community stakeholders at many levels about the interpersonal violence happening at our county's high schools. Henderson House had – previous to the pandemic – a presence at our local high schools. But, since 2019, those programs had been on hold. After receiving requests from county mental health workers, law enforcement, and school administrators, we heard the call that investment in prevention work needed to be reinstated. Without knowing where the dollars would come from to bring additional advocate services on-site, we committed to reinstating our "One Circle" groups at McMinnville, Newberg, and Yamhill Carlton High Schools. Subsequently we applied for and were awarded a capacity-building grant over the next five years, to support the growth of this program from the Oregon Department of Justice's Sexual Assault Task Force.

Two challenges we hope to make progress on in 2024 are remote advocacy and transitional housing. Though our service area is all of Yamhill County, our Advocacy Center has always been located in McMinnville which creates the barriers of time (up to an hour round-trip from the corners of our county) and fuel/transportation for many survivors who may be monitored by their abuser. We are not effectively fulfilling our mission unless we can bring services where survivors are, and our first step toward this is committing a full-time position to providing advocacy services once a week in each corner of our county. With the routine of a weekly presence in our smaller surrounding towns, we hope this provides an easier access point to services.



Also, on our horizon is creating a transitional shelter solution for our clients. Our emergency shelter is always full and doesn't allow for the length of stay really needed for a survivor to re-establish their lives in safety (at least six months, up to two years). Marion, Polk, and Washington counties have already created this solution for survivors. We need a transitional shelter for DV/SA survivors in Yamhill County too – our affordable housing crisis is extending wait times for affordable housing units to years, and supply won't be meet demand for at least a decade or more. Please continue to show your support for our work through advocating for these solutions as they come before decision makers in our community.

Thank you to you all for your investments in Henderson House!

Rachel Flores, Development Director of HENDERSON HOUSE, 610 SE 1st St., (PO Box 26), McMinnville OR
rflores@hendersonhouse.org / 503.472.0244 (Ext.301)



Youth Group

December 3 & 10 & 17
at First Presbyterian Church
Middle School from 5-6 pm
Dinner for ALL from 6-6:30 pm
High School from 6:30-7:30 pm

Christmas Party @ Youth Group

Sunday, December 17
Bring a wrapped item for our gift exchange and invite friends to join us!

Youth Dinner

Wednesday, December 20 @ 6 pm
at Nancy Jo's Burgers & Fries
Drop off & pick up there,
bring money for dinner, and friends!



Family Christmas Celebration

Join us Saturday, December 2
from 10-11:30am
at First Presbyterian Church
(390 NE 2nd St in McMinnville)

All children and families from FBC
and any friends from the community
are invited to gather for a morning of
Advent/Christmas celebration for all ages.

**We'll have Christmas crafts, cookie
decorating, caroling, Advent wreaths,
fellowship, and snacks.**

We hope you will be part of this fun, special
way to kickoff and prep for the holiday
season all together!



It's time for Parents DAY Out!

Saturday, December 16 from 10am-2pm
at First Baptist Church
for children age zero through 5th grade
(and we need youth volunteers to help!)

FREE!

Registration Required

Deadline is Wednesday, December 13

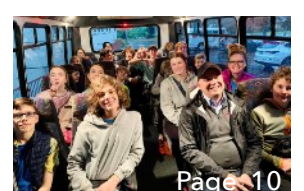
While the Parents are OUT...

Nursery/Childcare and lunch will be
provided for infants/toddlers/preschoolers.
And we'll have games, lunch, and a movie
for elementary children.

To learn more and/or register, visit
fbcmac.org/parents-day-out-december-2023

McMinnville Youth Collective LOCK OUT 2023

The MYC did one of our favorite annual events on November 3 - the Lock Out! Forty youth and adults from McMinnville spent seven hours together, trying to get out of escape rooms in Salem, eating and playing at the aquatic center in Dallas, and doing some late night snacking and video gaming at the arcade in Amity. Everyone had an awesome time and we're already excited about our next lock out!



Stay connected with your church family!

There are many FBC Committees, Classes, and Small Group Opportunities that meet, both in-person or via Zoom, to help our community stay connected. Join one!

FBC Classes

Bible Study - Tuesdays, 12 noon

This group meets with Pastor Erika. All are welcome!

In-person in the Fireplace Room OR via Zoom.

A discussion-based Bible study with opportunity to delve deeper into highlighted scripture for the week. It's a great forum for asking difficult faith-based questions and/or sharing life's ups and downs, and requesting prayer, too.

Sunday Connections - Sunday, 8:30 am, via Zoom

Each week this class watches a short video by an interesting speaker, on various topics, with lively discussions that follow by all participants. Our format gives us the ability to connect with one another and with others beyond our local area. Join us!

Contact: Barbara Burr, barbaracoleburr@gmail.com

Sunday Bereans Class - Sunday, 8:45 am, in person

Currently the class is reading and discussing *Re Imagining the Divine: A Celtic Spirituality of Experience* by Dara Molloy. Join us any Sunday for good, meaningful conversation with friends.

Contact: Doug Verigin, (503) 913 3401

Sunday Chapel Class - Sunday, 8:45 am, in person

Join our class in the Chapel each Sunday (for those members who cannot join us physically, see you on Zoom). We'll be reading and discussing *Holy Disruption: Discovering Advent in the Gospel of Mark* by Tracy S. Daub during the Sundays in the Advent season. Differing viewpoints are very welcome and honored. Hope you join us for a facilitated discussion.

Contact: Gary Langenwaller, 971-221-8155 (mobile), or gary@portlandconsultinggroup.com.

Sunday Faith & Java Class - Sunday, 8:45 am

1st Sunday ONLY - in-person in the FBC Fireplace Room

This class is dedicated to exploring questions, issues, and experiences in finding spirituality and bliss in everyday living.

Contact: Rob Schulman, schulmanrob@yahoo.com

Sunday Rainbow Class - for Special Needs Adults

Contact: Cynthia Parker, cynp007@gmail.com

Caring for One Another

It has been suggested that another way we can better care for members and friends of FBC would be to **be inclusive in our holiday gatherings**. If you choose to participate in this opportunity, you are invited to let it be known that you are (1) willing to host one or more for your Christmas dinner gathering. We would also encourage (2) those who would welcome an invitation to join in a planned celebration to make that known also.

Please indicate your desire to host or to be included, in a call or email to Donna Weed in the office.

Email: office@fbcmac.org or Phone: 503.472.7941.

FBC Small Groups

Climate Action Group - Meeting times/locations vary

Contact: Lara O'Brady, lara_obrady@yahoo.com

Together Works - Dec. 11 at 7 pm, in-person
(no meeting on Monday, Dec. 25)

Fireplace Room at FBC - 2nd & 4th Mondays

Contact: Dee Moore, 971-241-8256, togetherworksinfo@gmail.com

Dad's Group - Dec. 11 at 8 pm, in-person (please RSVP)

2nd Mondays each month, location varies

Contact: John Linder, john.linder93@gmail.com

Senior Breakfast - Wednesday, December 6 at 8 am, in-person

1st Wednesday each month at American Legion Post 21

126 NE Atlantic (near Highway 18) / RSVP: Gina Foster, 971-237-2789

Sew & Soss - in-person

Weekly opportunities for individuals and/or small groups to sew together at FBC (2nd floor sewing room).

Contact: Susan Chambers, susanlanechambers@gmail.com

Knit Wits - Knitting hats, hand/neck warmers & prayer shawls!

PM Group - 7 pm, in-person - Meets 1st & 3rd Tuesdays

Dec. 5 & 19 at Gina's / Contact: Gina Foster, 971-237-2789

AM Group - 9:45 am, in-person - Meets 2nd & 4th Thursdays

THIS MONTH ONLY - Dec. 21 & 28 at Linda's

Contact: Linda Watson, 971-237-2793

FBC Singles - Tuesday, Dec. 12, 10:30 am

Coffee/Chai Tea at Mac Market with great conversation!

Topic: What do the holidays bring up for you?

Monday, Dec. 25, Christmas Brunch Potluck, 10:30 am

at Emily Kerrigan's home, 2461 SW Howard St.

She'll provide an egg dish & beverage. All singles invited!

Please RSVP: emily2.kerrigan@gmail.com

Sister Circle - Every Friday at 11 am, Fireplace Room

Reading *Chatter* by Ethan Cross

Interested in joining? Contact: Sherill Roberts,

shrobert@linfield.edu or 971-237-3630

Men's Breakfast - December 16 at 9:00 am

Les Toth's Toy Barn, 2700 NW Pinehurst Drive

The speaker will be Carson Benner, member of McMinnville School Board, "*Update on McMinnville Public Schools*"

Contact: Neil Kunze, kunze@sou.edu

SAVE-the-DATE - WORD OF INTENTION -

It's the 5th time Kathleen Verigin has offered this unique class, designed to guide us into 2024 by seeking and claiming a Word of Intention. It's informative, collaborative, and fun! Please RSVP to Kathleen:

kathleenverigin333@gmail.com

Sunday, January 7, 2024, 12:30-3:00 pm, FBC Room 102

DECEMBER at FBC

DECEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				9a-3p - American Red Cross Blood Drives at FBC Friday, Dec. 1 Tuesday, Dec. 19	1 FBC Office Closed 9:15a - STARS Breakfast 11a - Sister Circle 7:30p - Friday Shelter	2 10-11:30 - First Presby Advent Fair 12-2p - FBC's Hanging of the Green Decorate our church
3 8:45 - Faith & Java, in person Adult Classes (see pg 11) 10 am - WORSHIP in person & Live Stream 11:15a - Speaker Series	4 9:15a - STARS Breakfast 10:30a - Matthew 25 12n - Personnel Committee 4p - Mission Team 5:15p - KidVenture 7p - Worship Planning	5 12n - Bible Study in person & via Zoom 11a - Endowment mtg 7p - KnitWits at Gina's	6 8a - Senior Breakfast at VFW Post, Atlantic Ave 6:3 Music Rehearsals: 5:20p Bells / 6:30p Choir 8p Worship Team	7 5-9p - Christmas Concert Tech Rehearsal	8 FBC Office Closed 9:15a - STARS Breakfast 11a - Sister Circle 7:30p - Friday Shelter	9 4 pm - McMinnville Women's Choir Christmas CONCERT at FBC
10 Adult Classes (see pg 11) 10 am - WORSHIP in person & Live Stream 4 pm - FBC CHRISTMAS CONCERT	11 9:15a - STARS Breakfast 5:15p - KidVenture 7p - Together Works 8p - Dad's Group	12 9a - Building & Grounds 10:30a - Singles meet at Mac Market 12n - Bible Study in person & via Zoom	13 6:30p - Church Board	14 Music Rehearsals: 5:20p Bells / 6:30p Choir 8p Worship Team	15 FBC Office Closed 9:15a - STARS Breakfast 11a - Sister Circle 7:30p - Friday Shelter	16 9a - Men's Breakfast 10a-2p - Parent's DAY Out
17 Adult Classes (see pg 11) 10 am - WORSHIP in person & Live Stream 3p - Christmas Caroling 5p - Youth Christmas Party	18 9:15a - STARS Breakfast 5:15p - KidVenture	19 12n - Bible Study in person & via Zoom 7p - KnitWits at Gina's 7p - Service of Remembrance	20 1p - Membership Team 6 pm - Youth Dinner 7:30p - KeyNote CONCERT at FBC	21 9:45a - KnitWits at Linda's Music Rehearsals: 8p Worship Team (Bells & Choir on hiatus) 7p - Solstice Ceremony	22 FBC Office Closed 9:15a - STARS Breakfast 11a - Sister Circle 7:30p - Friday Shelter	23
24 NO Adult Classes 10 am - WORSHIP in person & Live Stream  7p - Candlelight Service	25 CHRISTMAS DAY 10:30a - Brunch Potluck at Emily Kerrigan's home	26	27	28 9:45a - KnitWits at Linda's Music Rehearsals: 8p - Worship Team (Bells & Choir on hiatus)	29 FBC Office Closed 9:15a - STARS Breakfast 11a - Sister Circle 7:30p - Friday Shelter	30
31 NO Adult Classes 10 am - WORSHIP in person & Live Stream NEW YEAR'S EVE	HAPPY NEW YEAR 2024!					

DECEMBER Birthday

Tom Simpson 1
Cheryle Polte 1
Global Servant,
Ray Schellinger 2
Keira Dressel 4
Nancy Skowrup 5
Clark Olson 6
Kathleen Verigin 8
Walt Parry 9
Don Watson 9

Linda Watson 11
Margy Porter 12
Adam Diesburg 12
Roger Krug 12
Mary Jackson 13
Rachel Jacob 13
Tim Phillips 14
Holly Galer 15
Neil Kunze 16
Annette Horlyk 16
David Spalding 16
Marcy Berg 17

Miles Dresser 19
Eliana James 19
Tom Riggs 21
Rachael Frame 23
Stewart Stout 25
Dash Diesburg 26
Bernie Turner 29
Helen Anderson 30
Dee Moore 30
Donna King 31



DECEMBER Anniversary

Jay & Jessica Payne 11
John & Beccie Holland 12
Gregg & Charlotte Hendricks 21
Doug & Kathleen Verigin 21
Sherill & Mike Roberts 27
Joel & Laurie Kiff 28
Don & Linda Gilbert 28
Frosty & Pat Lay 29