



FPC December E-News

Dec. 1, 2022



It's deeper than just diapers and wipes...

I wanted to share a story from the pantry this past week. It was a windy and rainy day; honestly, a day to stay cozy inside. A young mother walked into the church. I recognized her as a familiar face; a quiet, friendly mother who has visited the pantry often. On one side of this mother stood her toddler who was carefully taking her time on the basement steps while holding on tightly to her mother's hand. On the other side of the mother, a newborn carrier swung balanced on her arm with the coziest baby inside, fast asleep.

The mother filled out the appropriate paperwork and presented her two forms of identification. As the pantry volunteer looked up the child's log sheet, she pointed out to me that this mother was making her third visit for November that day. Surprisingly, this has never happened before, but our policy states each child can be serviced only twice monthly. I began to tell the mother this would be her third visit for November. She embarrassingly stopped me while grabbing her child's hand and said, "Oh my goodness, I'm so sorry. I thought it was December today... I'll come back next week." As she began to turn up the stairs, I stopped her. "You've always had the correct paperwork and I can see you've attended the pantry twice monthly since we opened. You've also carried two children into a building during poor weather. How about this: take your bundles today and just return once, rather than twice, during the month of December."

The mother put her free hand to her face, buried her head, and began to cry. My heart ached for her as it was evident, she was overcome with emotion. With another embarrassed look on her face, she quickly grabbed her things to head to her car. Scott carried the bundles while I carried that sweet baby's carrier so mama would have her hands free for her toddler. As I walked beside the mother, I felt God's nudge to encourage her. "Motherhood can be so hard, but you are doing a wonderful job," I said softly. She couldn't speak as the tears continued to flow, but she shook her head in understanding and showed us to her car.

As Scott and I walked back into the church, neither one of us had words for what just had happened. All the scheduling, organizing, bundling, and grant preparations of the last several months flashed before my eyes. As I fought back tears myself, Scott reminded me, "This is our why."

...And that is why I share with you today. I am overwhelmingly honored that I attend a church that's ready to do God's work. Sometimes, I'm lucky enough to get a front row seat to watch it affect those that need it the most. As you may know, the number of diapers we give in a bundle (1 bundle = 3 diapers a day) is not the full supply a child needs; parents must supplement. Two days after the mother visited the pantry, she returned to the church. Previously, she had purchased a small number of diapers, but as her son grew, the diapers became too small. She was back at the church to donate the unused diapers to our pantry so another mother could be blessed.

Folks, God's work in that mother goes way deeper than just diapers and wipes. Keep being a blessing... these Jackson County parents need you.

With heartfelt gratitude, Jessica Olsen

Chamber Movie Night!

December 11th 4:00pm
In partnership with the Chamber, FPC is showing The Grinch! Popcorn for all and candy for sale. Feel free to dress in your Christmas pj's... open to the public and all ages!

THANK YOU!

To those of you who have already volunteered for our youth or are scheduled to do so soon... thank you!! Our youth are loving a variety of adults giving of their time and attention- it's really that simple. Let's keep pouring into our future leaders. Ready to sign up?? See the narthex table.



Sweet Cheeks is looking for January and February volunteers! See the sign-up sheet on the narthex table.

P.S... Apparel orders are close to being finished- we can't wait for the sea of blue to hit the community!

Christmas Day Fellowship and Worship

Come join in on some holiday cheer, Sunday, December 25th at 9:00am. Bring any holiday goodies you might have to share with others. Coffee and cider will be hot and ready to be served. Dress casually; kids are welcome to come in their jammies.

At 10:00am, we will have a time of worship, including a carol sing. Pam and Cristina have a special piece to share as well!

Poinsettia Orders

We will be ordering poinsettias for those who would want to honor their loved ones this holiday season. Red poinsettias are \$10 each. Order forms will be available in the service bulletins and in the office. The deadline to place an order is **December 4th!**

Financial Series Part 2

"Why We Plan" Financial Series #2. Starts on December 5th, 2022 @ 7:00 PM EST to 8:00 PM (Year End Planning Strategies)



December Birthdays

Gene Gladney
 Mary Jane Lasater
 Monty Shields
 Steve Stanfield
 Isaac Soto
 Jessica Olsen
 Belen Zambrano

December Calendar

Be sure to take a look at the calendar below to keep up with events happening throughout the busy month!

December 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Pantry: 5-8p	2	3 A.A. Christmas Fellowship Reservation
4 Chimes Rehearsal @ 9:30a Pantry: 12-3p	5 Pantry: 12-3p "Why We Plan" @ 7p	6	7 Adult Bell Choir @ 5p Choir Rehearsal @ 5:45	8 Pantry: 5-8p	9 Wedding Rehearsal @ 6p	10 Wedding @ 2:30p
11 Pantry: 12-3p Chamber Movie @ 4p	12 Pantry: 12-3p "Worship" Committee Meeting @ 6p	13	14 Adult Bell Choir @ 5p Choir Rehearsal @ 5:45	15 Pantry: 5-8p	16	17
18 Pantry: 12-3p Choir Christmas Cantata @ 10a	19 Pantry: 12-3p Sessions Meeting @ 6p	20	21 Adult Bell Choir @ 5p Mom's Night Out @ 5:45p	22 Pantry: 5-8p	23	24 Worship Service @ 5p
25 NO PANTRY Worship & Breakfast @ 10a	26 Pantry: 12-3p OFFICE CLOSED	27	28 Adult Bell Choir @ 5p Choir Rehearsal @ 5:45	29 Pantry: 5-8p	30	31