Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Foundation & LUNCH!

Sunday, February 2, 2020, following the 11 am service. (No 8:30 or 12:30 services)
Join us for a celebration of another year of ministry and a look forward to 2020!

“Angels Still Appear”
by Ann Weems

Angels still appear to those ready to receive blessings
in spite of the barren impossibility of their lives.
Elizabeth still recognizes Jesus and calls him Lord, receiving him to her heart,
in spite of the distraction of her own blessing.
Blessings still come to those who believe that nothing is impossible in the hand of God.
Mary still gives birth, not just every Advent; Mary still gives birth each day to this Child who advents into hearts, unexpectedly and forever.
   Herods still live who would kill this Child,
   but Mary and Joseph still flee into the desert,
and the night, to protect the One given into their keeping.
   Doors still slam in the inns of the world.
Herods still plot, deserts and darkness still threaten our safety, but God still lives.
   In spite of war and terror, Mary gives birth to the Prince of Peace.
   In spite of hunger, Mary gives birth to the Bread of Life.
   In spite of lost sheep, Mary gives birth to the Good Shepherd.
   In spite of hearts pregnant with hatred, Mary gives birth to LOVE.
   It is not done! It is not done! It is not done!
   The birthing is not over. The blessings continue.
   Angels wait in the wings!
January Forum - Death by Sue!
Sunday, January 5, 10 am in Great Hall

Have you planned your funeral yet?
it is a real gift when loved ones have taken the time while they are able to put down their thoughts about
death, dying, faith, and of course their preferences for music and scriptures for their funerals. One of the
beautiful things about having these conversations about death is they tend to be some of the most real
conversations we will ever have about what is truly important to us and the place of faith in our lives. Those
stories then become a legacy of faith to those who come after us.

This is for both the young and old – trust me – you’ll be glad you came! (Bonus – you’ll get your own
planning guide to help you have these conversations with those you love.)

Bible Discussion Class: The Bible for Real People
Wednesdays, 6-7 pm, January 15 – March 4, in HeBrews 2:11

We had such good conversations reading the New Testament, we decided to delve into the first five books of the Old
Testament. This is not your typical Bible study, it is a conversation about what “hits” us as we read. We go down rab-
bit trails, dive into the weeds about what some passages say, talk about how what we read challenges or resonates with
our understandings of God, and what it means for us today. And everything in between.

We’ll be using The Books of the Bible: Covenant History (New International Version) as our textbook, and we’ll be
reading 10-12 pages a day, 5 days a week. This book removes the chapter headings, numbers, and verses, so it is more
like reading a novel. If you’d like a copy, let Pastor Sue know. Cost is $10. You can also listen online to the daily
readings here: https://www.thenivbible.com/community-bible-experience/daily-audios/

NO bible knowledge is necessary for this class! Come as you are, and let’s just talk about what we’re
reading.

Holy Waggers Therapy Dog Ministry
Love, Smiles, and Comfort, with Tails!

Do you have a dog? Do you love people? Then you may have what it takes to be a Holy Wag-
gers Therapy Dog Team! Holy Waggers Teams visit our members, friends, and community,
sharing the love of God with them.

If you are interested in being a Holy Waggers Therapy Dog Team, come to the Introduction to Therapy Dog Ministry
class on Sunday, January 19, at 3 pm, in room 106. (Humans only for this class  ) Everyone who wants to be a Holy
Waggers team must attend an Introduction class. You do not have to be a member of First Presbyterian Church to par-
ticipate in this ministry, so if you have friends who may be interested, please invite them.

More information about Level 1 & 2 training classes, fees, certification and registration can be found on our website:
fpclincoln.org/therapy-dog-ministry
Sofía Rei
Vocalist
Saturday, January 25, 2020 - 7:00 p.m.

Folklore and futurism, graceful elegance and raw passion, virtuosic precision and spontaneous exploration – all merge together in the music of award-winning vocalist, songwriter and producer Sofía Rei.

Redefining authenticity from an intensely personal perspective, Rei has carried diverse Latin American traditions from her native Buenos Aires to the multi-cultural mecca of New York City, where she’s fused those sounds with jazz, classical, pop, and electronic music influences to forge a singular and ever-evolving sound.

Summer Choir in January?!?
That’s right, as part of our church-wide sabbatical, we will be doing summer choir the first three Sundays in January (5, 12, & 19) this year! That means no Wednesday night rehearsals. We will just meet on Sunday mornings at 10:10 am in the sanctuary to learn the music for that day. Even those who don’t normally sing with choir are welcome to join us!

(It would be helpful if you would let Brian Pfoltner know if you plan to sing)

In addition to singing at worship services, the choir has also been busy lately singing at several locations outside of church. On November 20 they sang music from the recent "Sing from the Heart" concert for residents at the Legacy Terrace Retirement Community.
On December 4 they were at Sumner Place Nursing Home singing a few songs, and then leading a Christmas carol sing-a-long, and on December 15 they lead a similar event at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital. Thank you to all the choir members who were able to take part in some or all of these events.
Happy Holidays from Presbyterian Women

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Thank Offering. We were able to send $643 to Church wide for the Thank Offering. In 2018 there were 18 applicants selected to receive thank offering grants. We need to keep this grant as well as the Birthday Offering grant in mind when we come up with mission opportunities that could use extra funding. Over $200,000 dollars was given out in 2018.

We are looking forward to the new year and will REJOICE AND GIVE THANKS for our many blessings.

Daily Devotions: For an online daily devotion visit www.d365.org.

FPC Youth Social Media You can also find out what’s happening and get updates by following us on our various social media outlets. You can follow us on Facebook and Instagram @1pcyouth. Don’t forget to join our Facebook page for updates, announcements, and pictures.