

The Chimes

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

OCTOBER
& NOVEMBER
2020

PASTOR'S COLUMN

Happy Autumn! I love the fall—the smell in the air, the way the sunlight looks as it gets lower in the sky, the changing leaves, the invigorating snap when you step outside. I enjoy experiencing the fall, but it also reminds me that it is really all just a time of preparation. It is a time of getting ready for the winter that is coming. The plants and animals are getting ready to settle down until the warm weather returns. The home owners are putting away hoses and draining sprinklers. I found myself on our roof recently clearing branches and leaves off after the storm and getting our gutters ready for winter.

For FPC, this season is a time of BOTH growth and getting ready for what is next. I'm so happy that so many of you are engaged in our Immerse adventure through the New Testament. Reading and discussing Scripture is the best way to grow closer to God, understand more about Jesus, and discover how your faith intersects with your life. It is not too late to join in, just visit <http://fpcslc.org/immerse/> for all the details.

I am especially excited that over fifty of us are gathering in various groups to discuss our readings. This is NOT a typical Bible study but is more like a book club. It is a great way to get to know some other folks in our congregation and to connect during this time of physical distancing, as well as to learn from one another. Hearing God speak through an comment someone makes in a book group is thrilling! We are made to be together. Please let the office know if you need help connecting with a group.

I am convinced that our congregation will be changed by our reading Immerse together. I can't wait to see what God has in store for us! In the meantime, we are getting ready in many ways! Your Session, Mission Study Team, and Nominating Committee have all made great steps forward in our progress towards calling a new pastor. We have completed our (excellent!) Mission Study. We will be electing a Pastor Nominating Committee at our congregational meeting on Oct 4. These are significant steps forward as we move closer to the time when you will welcome your new pastor!

At the same time, your Session is getting ready for the time when we can gather together physically again. You should have received an email with a congregational survey related to that work recently. Session is relying on the best medical, scientific and public health information we can get as they develop plans for how and when we can safely gather. All of this is motivated by faith, not by fear. We are acting out of love. Our desire to gather, our precautions when we gather, and the restrictions on our gathering are all efforts to love and serve one another, especially the most vulnerable. This is a powerful witness to Jesus for our neighbors.

Finally, we are getting ready for our big celebrations—Kirkin, Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas—they all are coming and I can't wait to celebrate with you, in whatever way we are able to celebrate! Friends, God is good and He is on the move at FPC!

May you feel God's blessing and pleasure in the autumn sunshine!

Pastor Steve

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FROM THE PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

By now hopefully you are getting into our reading of the New Testament called Immerse. This is a way to take in a large amount of scripture for more of view from above, rather than pick apart just a few verses. But why? Why are we spending time on the whole New Testament? Haven't we been reading this book for a long time? Well, in Luther's view it was that "scripture alone contains all things necessary for salvation, communicates them effectively, compels one's conscience, determines doctrinal truth, and commands the church's allegiance above all other earthly powers and authorities..." When you put it that way, it sounds like a pretty important book, and it is. The reformers called this sola scriptura...scripture alone. This means that even your pastors do not have the authority to tell you anything about God as truth that is not in the Bible. But how do we deal with the many interpretations of it? And what about the scholars that say it should be abandoned because of the challenges of hermeneutics (how we interpret and understand things)? Is the study of the Bible going to be confusing???

Sola scriptura does not mean scripture alone is what we need or get. It just means scripture has the authority over any other source of truth about God. There are definitely other things at work. As you approach the Bible, Old Testament or New Testament, try to keep a few things in mind:

Keep it simple. If the statement in a verse is clear, let it be clear. Don't get caught up in looking for something that is not there.

Remember we are not alone in understanding the Bible. The Spirit is there to illuminate our minds. Let it be an experience rather than just a reading exercise.

Clearer portions of scripture help us interpret the harder ones. It is all one book and all there for a reason.

Deficiency in understanding is not the Bible's fault. It is because we have limited knowledge of God and God

knows that. God has given us what we need, not everything.

God's communication involves grace, again, something we do not have to supply.

So, I hope you will read the Bible with a healthy balance of respect, but not fear. It is the only written document God has provided us with to tell us about God's rescue plan for us. Let's read it with joy and hope and expectation.



Pastor Chris
pastorchris@fpcslc.org

TREASURER'S REPORT

Income & Expenses

Total Income and Expenses for the FPC ministry as of August 31, 2020

	Budgeted	Actual
Estimate of Giving	\$ 240,111	\$ 253,351
Total Income	415,447	373,656
Total Expenses	415,447	385,924
Monthly Income and Expense	Budgeted	Actual
Estimate of Giving	\$ 30,014	\$ 23,178
Total Income	51,931	38,360
Total Expenses	51,931	47,387



**WE APPRECIATE
EVERYONE WHO HAS
CONTINUED GIVING
DURING COVID-19.**

I have appreciated your thoughtful notes and well wishes during these unusual times.

Nancy Savage

Treasurer

nancy@fpcslc.org

UPDATE ON OUR PASTOR SEARCH PROGRESS

Our Mission Study Team completed its work, and it has been approved by both our Session and by the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry. It has been highly praised by Presbytery and is a great overview of who we are, where we have been and where we are headed. You can read it here: http://fpcslc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/FPC-Mission-Study-Report_August-2020-revised.pdf Or find the link to it on our website. www.fpcslc.org

Your nominating committee has prayerfully identified a slate of candidates to serve as our Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). We'll be electing the PNC at the congregational meeting on October 4. The PNC will then work with Pastor Steve and the Presbytery as it searches for our new called Senior Pastor. The PNC's first job will be to draft our congregation's "Ministry Information Form" for the PCUSA's computer

matching service. That is essentially the job description for our new pastor. Then they will receive and review "Personal Information Forms" (resumes) from candidates, reach out to possible candidates, and research people's background, references, preaching, ministry experience and more. This is a prayer-soaked process. We want the Holy Spirit to be actively involved, both in the work of our PNC and in the heart of the pastor who God has chosen for us.

You can expect the PNC's work to take at least 6 months, but possibly more. Please be in prayer for us as we elect a PNC, for the PNC as they work, and for our new pastor as he or she discovers this new call from God on their life!



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Wed,
Oct 14

**Dinner @ Vinny's
Sandwich Making**
3:30 pm

Thurs,
Oct 15

**Dinner @ Vinny's
Sandwich Making**
9:30 am

Wed,
Nov 11

**Dinner @ Vinny's
Sandwich Making**
3:30 pm

Thurs,
Nov 12

**Dinner @ Vinny's
Sandwich Making**
9:30 am

Office Hours

Pastor Steve

Monday
12:00 pm—2:00 pm

Jen

Wednesday
9:00—4:00 pm

Pastor Chris

Thursday
12:00 pm—2:00 pm

Kirkin o' the' Tartan Kids' Activities

Saturday, October 25th

Check out our Facebook page @FPCSLCkids for some kids crafts and games you can do at home! Take a picture of your finished product and share.

Greening of the Church

Sunday, November 24th

The Faith Explorers have a tree of their own to decorate for the Advent Season. Bring a homemade ornament to the church on or before Sunday, November 24th. We'd love to display them on tree. If you need supplies or ideas, stop by the church office or contact Ms. Christin Christin@fpcslc.org.

Friday Family Movie Nights

October 9, October 23, November 6, and November 20

Join us for a virtual Family Movie night! Check out our Facebook page @FPCSLCkids for a devotional and discussion questions to talk about together. Our first movie will be *Ratatouille*—grab it from your local library or streaming service and join the discussion.

Autumn Curriculum

After Jesus ascended to heaven, he gave his disciples the task of spreading the good news to the whole world! One of Jesus Apostles, Paul, took Jesus' message as far as Rome! Read ahead in your **Jesus Storybook Bible: God sends help (Acts 1-4; John 15) and A new way to see (Acts 6-9, 12-28; Colossians 2, Romans 8, Ephesians 2)**.

Family activities and devotionals are available weekly at <http://fpcslc.org/faith-explorers/sunday-school-curriculum/>. Check them out and spend time with the family reading and discussing God's Word.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

October

Ayden LaRosa 10/6
Thatcher Crawford 10/13
Callum Smith 10/10
Katie Tani 10/24

November

Eli Mullen 11/1
Isabella Decaria
11/3

Christin Abbott

Children's Ministry Director
christin@fpcslc.org



YOUTH MINISTRY

The students of FPCSLC have been meeting virtually on Zoom and in person. Follow us on Instagram @fpcyouthgroup to keep up with what is going on!

The Jr. and Sr. High School students have been meeting every Sunday morning at I Iam for Sunday School on ZOOM. We also had our first (and second) in person Sunday School lessons. We met at the pavilion at Creekside Park and Ledgemere Picnic Area in Big Cottonwood Canyon. We had a great turnout, all wore masks, maintained social distance, had a fire, and wonderful fellowship.

At the end of September, we all gathered at Crossroads Urban Center for a Fund Drive. We helped with a mass mail order that goes out to all the people that support

CUC. We had Sunday School in their main room and then set tables up outside for the project. It was awesome to see everyone!

We are all looking forward to continuing the IMMERSE curriculum with the church! Our calendar of projects/ events can be found on the church website and Instagram pages.

Much love,

Nathan Parrish

Youth Director

nparrish@fpcslc.org



NITES OUT GROUPS

Covid 19 has done its utmost to prevent us from getting together!

While the original intent was to mix up the groups every six months, we kept the same groups in March and will continue with those same groups in October.

Your group may choose to meet with the appropriate social distancing and face coverings now, while the weather still allows outdoor events.

The plan is to form new groups in March 2021.

JOIN AN IMMERSE GROUP!

Many small groups are meeting throughout the week discussing our readings in Immerse. If you have not found “your” group yet—let Pastor Steve or the office know and we will get you connected. This is a great way to discuss what we’re reading, make new friends, and connect with people even during this time of distancing.



PAMELA'S CLOSET

This pandemic has been so difficult for so many people and in particular, for our vulnerable populations. As we have worked hard to protect them from the COVID-19, many needs surfaced as donations decreased dramatically because of donor fatigue over the past seven months. I am so grateful to those of you who continue to donate to Pamela's Closet and the financial contributions have made a huge difference in so many people's lives. So many homeless and formerly homeless men and women living in the Homeless Resource Centers have been asking for underwear. Because of your generosity, we have donated hundreds of pairs of both men's and women's underwear to the Men's Resource Center, (300 Men), the Women's Resource Center, (200 Women), the Miller Resource Center, (160 Men and 40 Women), the Street Outreach Team, (serving 200 homeless adults), Weigand Day Center, (1-200 unsheltered men and women per day), and numerous low-income families and individuals.

Additionally, we have paid rent for families to prevent eviction working in collaboration with several agencies whose staff perform the initial screening for me. Finally, Bev Simpson suggested we help people out with their food needs; the Family Resource Center (350 families), wanted to provide their diverse residents with food other than boxed sandwiches etc so we gave sufficient money to provide the families with a variety of foods that they cooked numerous meals in the family kitchen – such joy was expressed by the children and their parents!

As you can see I have used your donations very judiciously and many of our homeless and low-income friends have expressed their gratitude to you all for your kindness and generosity. Please know that the recipients of your gifts appreciate the fact that you care enough to give which in turn, helps them feel cared about and gives them a sense of hope.

NEEDS FOR FALL AND WINTER

- *New Underwear for men, women and children
- *Jeans for men
- *Jackets for men, women and children-New or gently used
- *New Socks for men, women and children

Please remember that although you do not see the end results of your generous gifts, the Lord knows what is in your heart and He is so pleased that you are “the hands Christ!”



of Jesus

My heartfelt thanks to you all!
Pamela

C STREET ONLINE BOOK FAIR

Hi **FPC** Community!

C Street Child Development is so excited to be having an online book fair fundraiser!! The Story Cupboard, a local independent book fair company since 1994, is providing our book fair. There are over 1800 titles to satisfy readers, artists and scientists of all ages. There are great books, experiments and activities to enjoy all fall long! Kids can make wish lists to share with the adults in their life, or to remember what they would like to get from the library. The Story Cupboard has titles across many genres, popular series, award winners, Beehive Book Award Nominees and Battle Books. The book fair from the Story Cupboard is a wonderful opportunity to support getting new books for our library and teachers, as well as support a local business!! Here is what you need to get started:



Book Fair Dates: Monday, September 28, 2020 to Sunday, October 11, 2020

Link: www.storycupboard.com

C Street Child Development Fundraiser code: cstreeet2020fall

This code must go in the “Discount Code**” box at checkout for our school to receive credit towards our fundraiser.

Also, at checkout, in the “Company**” field, please put **C Street Child Development** so they can be sorted correctly.

Wish Lists

Create an account first by clicking the “Sign Up” prompt at the top of the website.

Student Wish Lists can be made by selecting “**Add to Wishlist**” on a particular book. You will notice a purple heart down in the right-hand corner of the website. Once you click on that, your wish list books will pull up. If you would like to share this wish list with extended family or friends that you think might want to participate in supporting C Street, give them your login information, and how to find your wish list books. Then they can “add to cart” from there and purchase.

***Make sure they have the information above for the C Street Discount Code, and C Street Child Development in the Company field.**

Teacher Wish Lists

Previous book fairs our teachers were able to create a wish list of books they would like to have for their class. It is a little tricky this year with being online. It is not required, but if you would like to donate, feel free to choose a book for your child’s class.

At checkout, there is a box titled, “Special instructions for the Seller**”. This is where you can put which book or books in your order are for teachers, and if you want your child’s name on a donation label in the book.

For example: Diary of a Wimpy Kid / Donated to Ms. Jones / Donated by Emma Wilson

Order Pick Up and Delivery

You may pick your order up at **C Street Child Development** about 5 days after the online book fair closes. The book fair pickup day will be on our school website. You may also pay for your order to be directly shipped to your home. For your out of the area or state extended family and friends, they would choose the shipping option.

KIRKIN O'TH' TARTAN 2020

Join us for our annual celebration of our Scottish Heritage and the Reformation at this year's Kirkin o' th' Tartan! It will be on Sunday, October 25th at 9 and 11 am. Due to the increasing case numbers of COVID we are not able to have our Scottish Festival on Saturday this year and our worship will be virtual. But, we are working with singers, pipers, dancers, and speakers to have a full Kirkin' worship experience! And it is easier than ever to invite your friends! You don't even have to arrive early!



The blessing of the clans will be taped in advance, on the steps of the church. If you need information about that, contact the church office asap.

We will also have a number of special videos posted to help people visit our building even during this time of restrictions. Be on the look out for them!

CUB SCOUT PACK 3034

Cub Scout Pack 3034 has been gearing up to have a FUN 2020-2021 season. Despite the Pandemic, the overwhelming response from families has been to HAVE Cub Scouts and to have meetings continue outside and with masks and social distancing.

Several members of the Pack went to Summer Camp at Camp Tracy in July. Scouts were able to shoot BB guns, try archery, do an obstacle course, and learn about nature.

In August several members of the Pack helped Eagle Scout candidate Anton Goodick with his Eagle Scout service project at Mill Creek and Gerald Moss Elementary Schools. The Scouts BUILT and STOCKED two food pantries for families who have been harmed by the Pandemic and the recent economic downturn. It was truly inspiring to see the huge difference that the entire group made thanks to the contributions of each young person at the event. The Project was completely planned and run by Anton with the help of other youth Scout members (yes, the adults followed their directions!).

Later in August, three of our adult leaders attended Akela's Council Cub Scout Leader Training at Camp Tracy in Millcreek Canyon. The intensive four-day event gave the leaders insight in how to improve and an opportunity to act like Cub Scouts again by participating in fun events. Admittedly, it took a little while for some of us to "shed" our adult personalities to become kids again. Leaders are also undergoing additional training to help expand our offerings and to make for a better experience for our Cub Scouts.

We were excited to restart our year with Den Meetings outside at the 11th Avenue Park. Webelos worked on outdoor ethics and skills. Bears learned knife safety and even tried their hand at whittling soap. The Pack will be having a hike later in September for families.

Cub Scouts meet Tuesday Nights from 6:30-7:30pm. Due to the Pandemic, meetings are taking place outside, weather permitting, with masks and social distancing. ALL children in grades Kindergarten through Fifth Grade are WELCOME! We also invite parents and other adults to help us with our activities and events. For more information, please contact Michael Stahler, Cubmaster at michael_stahler@yahoo.com.



SCOUT TROOP 34

Greetings from Troop 34!

I hope all of you are doing well and staying safe. As a Troop, we would love to be of service to the First Presbyterian Church (FPC) and its parishioners if anyone needs it in this time of downed trees. My family was without power for 2 days and I know there are still others without power and/or may need assistance with clean up. Please feel free to reach out to me if anyone is having challenges and we will see if we can help.

In August, eight Scouts attended the Camp Hunt Scout camp, located at Bear Lake. This was Camp Hunt's only camp this year due to Covid and the staff was dedicated to providing a safe and instructive Scout Camp. All the staff were in masks and so were the Scouts. We took temperatures every day and practiced physical distancing. This was one of the first camps for many where there were female Scouts in attendance and a great opportunity for us to see Scouting becoming even more inclusive. The Scouts had a great time and were very productive earning a total of 30 Merit Badges, participated in a flag ceremony, completed a camp conservation project, and earned the Honor Troop award. Great trip!

We resumed our normal weekly Troop meetings on September 2nd. With the FPC currently unavailable, we've chosen to meet outside as long as we can, dependent on weather and daylight. Our first meeting was held at Lindsey Gardens and went well. Our second meeting was supposed to be at Lindsey, but the windstorm came in and dropped a tree right next to the pavilion! We're moving to different open spaces and look forward to being able to meet in the church again.

We currently have 34 Scouts and 15 Leaders (Scouters) on the roster and are open to all youth. No matter where you live. Please watch for our annual Wreath fundraiser coming up in the near future. Thanks again to the First Presbyterian Church as our Chartering organization and we look forward to seeing all or some of you soon!

Brian Bevan, Scoutmaster Troop 34

C# 801-661-9912, brian.r.bevan@gmail.com



GROUP STUDIES

Our classes, small groups, prayer groups and children and youth ministries are moving online during this time fpcslc.org/ministryupdates

Adult Sunday School—

Our adult Sunday School class will be launching on Zoom every Sunday at 10:00 am

Contact pastor Steve for the Zoom link: pastorsteve@fpcslc.org

Tuesday Men's Breakfast—

Meet with the Tuesday Morning Men's group on Zoom for the next few weeks on Tuesday morning at 7:30 am. Contact Chuck Britter for the Zoom link:

spyder79cb@gmail.com

Women's Bible Study—

Meet with the Women's Bible Study on Zoom every other Wed. starting June 10th. Contact Pastor Chris for the Zoom link:

pastorchrisc@fpcslc.org

Thursday Evening Men's Group—

Meet with the evening Men's Bible Study on Zoom for the next few weeks on Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm. Contact Chuck Britter for the Zoom link:

spyder79cb@gmail.com

Thanks to everyone who contributed their articles to the October & November Chimes.

Please note the deadline for the **December & January** articles is Sunday, November 15.

CHURCH STAFF

Steve Aeschbacher,
Interim Pastor

pastorsteve@fpcslc.org

Christine Myers-Tegeder,
Pastoral Associate

pastorchris@fpcslc.org

Nathan Parrish,
Youth Director

nathan@fpcslc.org

Christin Abbott,
Children's Ministry

christin@fpcslc.org

Larry Blackburn,
Organist

larryb84097@gmail.com

Alla Keoppel,
Choir Director

alla@fpcslc.org

Jen Caldwell,

Office Administrator

jen@fpcslc.org

Nancy Savage, Treasurer

nancy@fpcslc.org

Annie Haile,

C Street Director

ahaile@fpcslc.org

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SALT LAKE CITY

12 C Street

Salt Lake City, Utah 84103

Phone: (801) 363-3889

Email: office@fpcslc.org

Website: www.fpcslc.org

[Facebook.com/fpcslc](https://www.facebook.com/fpcslc)

Instagram: [fpcslc](https://www.instagram.com/fpcslc)

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Online at 9 am: Praise Band & Songs
and online at 11 am: Organ, & Hymns

Series: Immersed in God's Good News!

Oct 11 | 1 Cor 1:4-11, 1 Cor 11:23-26
You've Got Mail!

Oct 18 Eph 2:13-22, 4:1-7
Reconciled in Jesus!

Oct 25 Mark 10:23-27, 9:17-29
Grace to You! Kirkin

Nov 1 Matt 4:17-22, 20:25-28
Running After Jesus

Nov 8 Heb 11:1-3, 8-10, 39-40; James 2:14-19, 26
Walking by Faith

Nov 15 Rev 21:1-7, 22:16-21
The Rest of the Story

Nov 22 Ps 24, Luke 6:35-38
Free at Last!

Nov 29 Isaiah 64:1-9, Mark 13:24-37
Getting Ready First Sunday of Advent