

First Presbyterian Church of Fulton

God's People Building...Brick by Brick!

December 3 through December 9, 2021!



MATTHEW 25

Building ...Our Faith!

This Week Pastor Aaron Asks: "How do we, like John, rightly direct ourselves and others to look for the true Savior who is coming?"

As John proclaimed his message of repentance to those who gathered with him in the wilderness, he compared the coming of the Messiah to a farmhand who came to clear the threshing floor. (Luke [3:17](#)) The farmhand would do this by separating the wheat, which was gathered into the granary, from the chaff, which was thrown into the fire. As people heard John's words, they probably wondered, "Which one am I?"

If we're also wondering whether we are "the wheat" or "the chaff," we should consider if we have answered John's call to "bear fruits worthy of repentance." (v. 8) Typically, the wheat's purpose is not fulfilled simply by being gathered. Likewise, those who truly repent and receive God's forgiveness have been saved from death, so that we might live to serve. Just as the hand works wheat into flour, which is then kneaded into dough, the hand of God's Holy Spirit is shaping us into a form that suits God's will. As we wait for our Savior to come, we must yield to the divine hand of God.

As we prepare for worship this week, we encourage you to reflect upon our Scripture lessons: Luke 3:1-18 and Philippians 1:3-11. You may also wish to consider your own responses to the following questions:

- What emotions do you experience when John describes one who is coming to "cut down" (Luke 3:9) and "burn with unquenchable fire" (v. 17) those who do not repent?

- Though they were “filled with expectation,” (v. 15) some mistakenly thought John would be the Messiah? How do we, like John, rightly direct ourselves and others to look for the true Savior who is coming?

You are welcome to share your reflection by sending them privately by sending in an email to the pastor: pastor@fultonpresbyterian.org.

Hear the Word: Looking Ahead Toward Sunday, December 5, 2021



Worship & Reflection This Week!

In-Person Worship Service in the Sanctuary!

Sunday, December 5, 2021 - The Second Sunday in Advent - Year C

Livestream on YouTube: <https://bit.ly/fpcfultonyoutube>

Liturgical Color: White

Special Liturgical Acts: Lighting the Advent Wreath (led by Brad & Debbie Calder)

Celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion

Acolyte: Elliot Davis

Usher Captain: Tim Baysinger

Gospel Lesson: [Luke 3:1-6, 7-18](#)

Epistle Lesson: [Philippians 1:3-11](#)

Sermon by Rev. Aaron J. White



To a World in Knead

As we continue to approach the celebration of the Nativity, John the Baptist calls us this week to “Prepare the Way of the Lord.” (Luke 3:4) But for John, the work of preparation looks nothing like the sorts of joyful celebration that we commonly associate with the Christmas season. Instead, this is a time to acknowledge one’s sins and to seek forgiveness through repentance.

But then, what does repentance mean? Or as the crowds in the wilderness asked John, “What should we do?” (v. 10) Repentance requires that we look inward and surrender ourselves to the Holy Spirit, so

that we might be shaped into a form that is suitable to God. At the same time, we must also join John in looking outward, so that we might call out injustice in the world and proclaim that “the ax is lying at the root.” (v. 9) The powers of this world must act now to change their ways, because Emmanuel is coming soon! As we watch and wait, now is the time for all people to choose whether or not we will “bear fruits worthy of repentance.” (v. 8)

Additional readings from the Revised Common Lectionary:

[Malachi 3:1-4](#); [Luke 1:68-79](#) (Canticle)

Hymns This Week:

- Hymn of Praise: #106 Prepare the Way, O Zion
- Hymn of Reflection: #96 On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry
- Hymn of Dedication: #92 While We Are Waiting, Come
- Wreath Lighting: #85 Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah
- Kyrie Eleison: #578 O Lord, Have Mercy
- Gloria: #583 Glory to God (*Gloria, Gloria*)***
- Children’s Moment: #137 He Came Down
- Congregational Blessing: #91 Come, Come Emmanuel

A Reminder: Please see below for current COVID-19 Safety Protocol.

Notice of COVID-19 Safety Protocol Update!

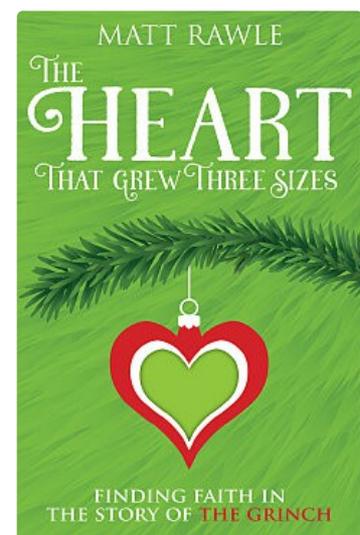
An Update of COVID-19 Safety Protocols by the Session of First Presbyterian Church of Fulton.

Effective November 28, the wearing of masks when entering the church building is optional. All other COVID-19 Safety Protocols remain in place. This includes the observance of social distance, using disposable Communion elements, and no contact collection of the offering. Our church COVID-19 Safety Protocols extend to all church activities.

Sunday Morning Advent Study Series for Adults & Children Continues!

Rediscover the gift of Advent that comes without packages, ribbons, and bows.

For Adults: *We don’t know why the Grinch hated Christmas. We just know he did. In this new Advent study, Matt Rawle explores the faith themes in the Christmas classic, How the Grinch Stole Christmas! including, how did the Grinch’s heart grow three sizes come Christmas morning? How did Christmas save the Grinch? Could it be that the very thing we think we hate is the one thing that changes our lives? This Advent and Christmas season, look at a familiar classic through the lens of faith and see how Christ speaks to us through our culture.*



The study will take place on each Sunday in Advent; Dec 5, 12, & 19. It will be in person at church and on Zoom from 8:45 – 9:45am. We will have several books at the church available for \$13 each.

Week Two: When Christmas Isn't Christmas, Neal Powers - Study Leader

This Week's Zoom Link active at 8:30 am on Sunday is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88904876590?pwd=SUdWWHZpSExUQkwyYTJoWHIXeFBkUT09>

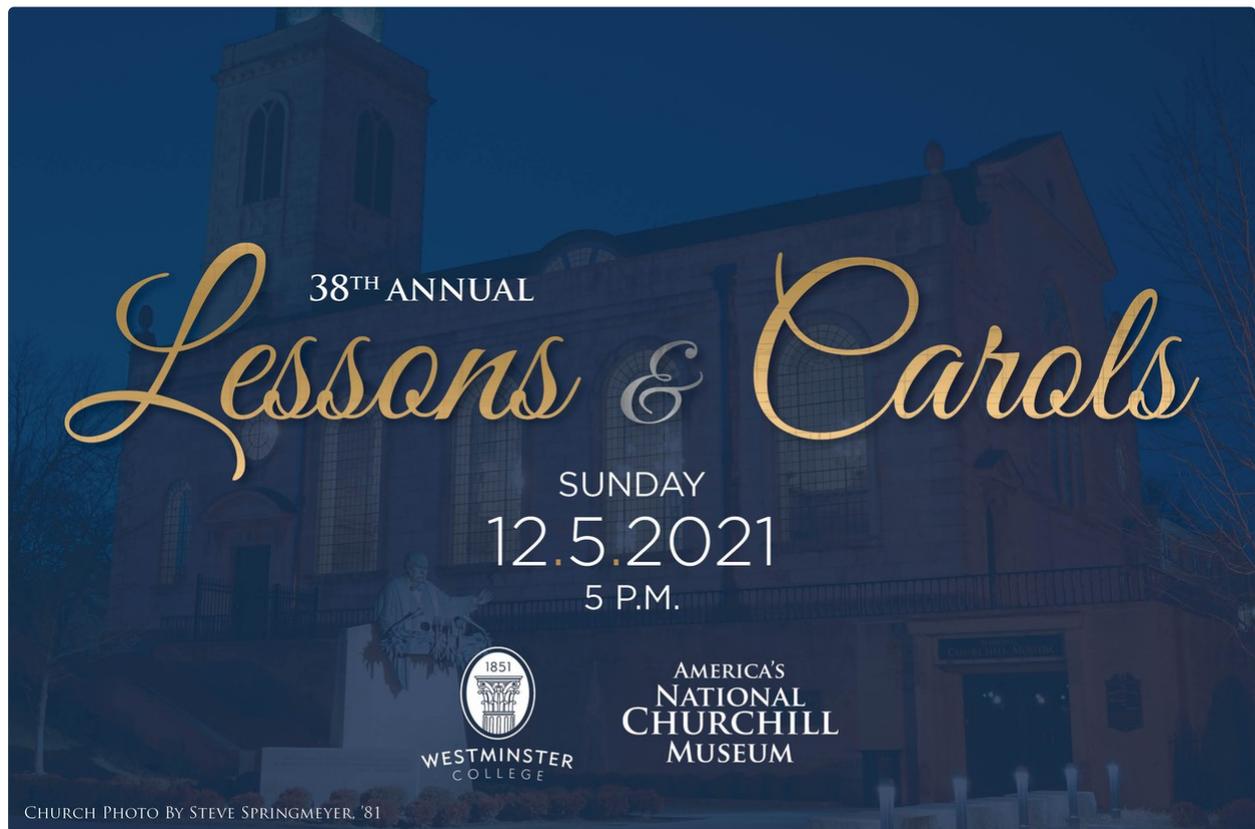
For Children:

Rev. Aaron White will present an in-person Advent Sunday School for our young disciples at the same

In-Person With the Pastor

Dec. 5, 12, & 19

8:45-9:45 am



Westminster College Announces Livestream Lessons & Carols on Sunday, December 5th!

Fulton, MO – Nov. 30, 2021: Westminster College will celebrate the 38th Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols via livestream at 5 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 5, 2021, at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury.*

The livestream will be available on Westminster's [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) pages, Westminster's [livestream](#) page, and the [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) pages of [America's National Churchill Museum](#). Westminster's beloved, time-honored Lessons and Carols event is patterned after the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at King's College, University of Cambridge, England.

The service includes the reading of nine biblical scriptures that pertain to the Christmas story. Each reading is followed by a reflective carol.

Like the yearly service at Cambridge, Westminster's service begins with the processional "Once in Royal David's City" and features a student who sings the first verse of the song a cappella from the church balcony.

"It's a moment that is at once solemn and hopeful, and for many in our community I think it marks the beginning of Christmas," says Associate Professor of Music Dr. Natasia Sexton, who conducts the Churchill Singers.

A decade-long tradition at Westminster is the singing of "Joy to the World" after the ninth reading. Sexton explains, "This particular arrangement is marked by a magnificent organ accompaniment, and hearing it in that space on our Mander organ played by Gretchen is unparalleled," Sexton says of Gretchen Huedepohl, a Jefferson City organist and church musician, who has accompanied the Churchill Singers since 2009.

In addition to the Churchill Singers, the service will also feature carols played by Caleb Alexander, guitarist and Visiting Instructor of Fine Arts; Ken Kehner, jazz pianist and Instructor of Piano; as well as alumni Audrey Sharp, '13; Kelsie Slaughter, '20; and Jack DeArmey, '20.

The annual event traditionally takes place at Westminster on the second Sunday of Advent.

Rev. Kiva Nice-Webb, Chaplain and Director of the Center for Faith & Service at Westminster, explains that Advent is a season of expectant waiting, and many at the College wait excitedly each year for this particular performance. Last year, event sponsors were forced to prerecord and share the concert online after the holidays because of COVID concerns.

Nice-Webb explains, "This year we will usher in the Advent season with a mixture of live and pre-recorded selections."

She adds that the livestream allows a wider audience to enjoy the event, balancing safety with festivity.

"The loss of marking time in traditional ways has been difficult for many people during the pandemic, and we are so delighted to offer Lessons and Carols with the Churchill Singers in St. Mary's once again," Nice-Webb says.

The Festival of Lessons and Carols is co-sponsored by Westminster's Center for Faith & Service, the College's Fine Arts department, and America's National Churchill Museum.

Presbyterians Today: Come to Bethlehem, The Second Candle of Advent



For a Downloadable PDF of Week Two Advent Devotional with Bread Recipes & Reflections, Click Here!

Advent Devotional: Week 2-Act of Joy!

The Sacrament of Christmas

BY HOWARD THURMAN

I make an act of faith toward all humankind, Where doubts would linger and suspicions brood.

I make an act of joy toward all sad hearts, Where laughter pales and tears abound.



I make an act of strength toward feeble things, Where life grows dim and death draws near.

I make an act of trust toward all life,
Where fears preside and distrusts keep watch.

I make an act of love toward friend and foe, Where trust is weak and hate burns bright.

I make a deed to God of all my days – And look out on life with quiet eyes.

Reflect

As we enter the second week of Advent, take time to reflect on the second stanza of Howard Thurman's "The Sacrament of Christmas." How will God use you to "make an act of joy toward all sad hearts?"

Pray

Advent God, while the world around us is making merry and singing choruses of "Joy to the World," we know that for many, such joy is only on the surface. Many hearts are sad, many hearts are breaking, and tears abound. This week, open our eyes to those who are hurting. May we be the hands of Christ to catch their tears. Use us to bring more acts of joy into your world. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

For a downloadable pdf of the entire Advent Devotional, click on the photo above or go to:

<https://bit.ly/3xvks11>

An Interactive Advent and Christmas Devotional: Bread Making as a Spiritual Practice!

This year's devotional invites you to be part of building a tighter-knit community right where you are. Share the devotional with friends and family. Read and reflect together as a small group meeting over Zoom or in person. You are also encouraged to bake bread and share the loaves as gifts with others. Each Friday in Advent, a bread recipe will be offered. Make more than one loaf so that you can share one and keep the other to be part of your Sunday Advent practice of having a simple meal as you light the candles around the Advent wreath. You can enjoy the bread as you light the Advent candles as part of your breakfast or later in the day for supper. For either meal, keep it simple: bread, butter and jam for breakfast; bread and soup for dinner.

Advent was originally embraced as a winter Lent, so having simple meals during a season of holiday feasting will make a wonderful spiritual practice. And for those whose baking skills are not the best – or if there is a week where there is no time to mix, knead and bake – seek out artisan bread in your neighborhood bakeries or specialty shops. Buy a loaf for yourself and a loaf to give away. The local shops will appreciate the business.

An Advent Social Media Project

Share your loaves of bread or your lighted Advent candles (or both together) with others. Submit pictures to communications@fultonpresbyterian.org. Please include your name, and a brief description of and/or reflection about the picture. Watch future newsletters to see your Advent Share!



MATTHEW 25

Building ...Response to Need!

CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD THE INTERNATIONAL FAIR TRADE CHRISTMAS MARKET DIGITAL NEWSLETTER!

**First Presbyterian Church of Fulton
Invites You to Shop Our...**



Shop Live & In-Person in our Fellowship Hall!

Friday, Dec. 3: 4:00-7:00pm

Enjoy an evening of shopping handmade & unique gifts from around the world!

Enjoy an Hour of
Christmas & Winter Chamber Music with a Hint of Jazz
to Celebrate the Holiday Season!
FPC Music Director Ethan Forte and Organist Kelley Head will be performing
on
Friday, December 3rd from 6:00-7:00 pm

Saturday, Dec. 4: 8:00am-3:00pm

Shopping for a cause continues!

Profits from this event will fund our Matthew 25 Church Initiatives!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Rev. Aaron White, Pastor



718 Court Street Fulton, Missouri www.fultonpresbyterian.org





Adopt-a-Family Gifts are Due Sunday!

Are you able to make a difference for a child this Christmas who otherwise would be without? The Adopt-A-Family Christmas Assistance Program sponsored by SERVE, Inc. allows our community to help others in need. This year, we will be adopting 20 children. There will be a Christmas tree where you may choose a tag describing the needs and wants of the child.

- Sign the list next to the tag(s) you choose
- SERVE is suggesting we spend \$100-125 per child giving each child the following gifts:

Something they want

Something the need

Something to wear

Something to read

- DO NOT wrap your gifts
- Place the whole ID number on duct tape and place on the outside of a black trash bag.
- **Return to the Fellowship Hall by Sunday, December 5th.**

Please note, for those who wish to give but are unable to shop, call Shirley Dixon Home: 573-642-6500 Cell: 573-220-8801.

You may also put a check or cash in the offering plate or send it to the church office specifying Adopt-a-Family. Please make sure the money is received no later than December 3rd.

**Thank you for helping provide a beautiful
Christmas to children in need!**



MATTHEW 25

Building ... Community!

To the Parents of Young Children (and Anyone Else Who Needs to Take a Break During the Worship Service)...

MAY WE SUGGEST.... RELAX!!!!

God put the wiggle, giggle, and wail in children. He put the hitch in an older person's get-along. He makes all of His children to move in rhythm with His universe. Please don't feel like you have to

suppress it in His house. FPC is a place of worship and praise for the whole family.

For your convenience and comfort, rocking chairs and children's tables/resource centers are located in both the Sanctuary, the Lobby, and the Fellowship Hall. If you have to leave with your child or to visit the restrooms, feel free to do so, but please come back. ***In fact, the door from the Sanctuary directly into the lobby is the preferred exit during the service.*** As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me."

Sunday services contain a Children's Moment during which the pastor provides a child-friendly version of the sermon. Please feel free to accompany your child to the front of the church, or send them alone or with other children for this special time just for them.



Below are a few tips for parents we hope you find helpful:

- Go ahead and quietly explain the parts of the service and actions of the pastor, ushers, choir, etc.
- Sing the hymns. Voice the prayers and responses. Children learn liturgical behavior by copying you.
- If a shoe slides under the pews, a hymnal hits the floor, or the friendship folder ends up as a scribble pad, remember that ALL parents have been there. You are surrounded by people who love children!

For the whole congregation: Be joyful when our young disciples express themselves in non-conventional ways. Remember that the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to the Church, to God, and to one another. Let young families know they are at home in this house of worship!



Support The Rock by Purchasing a Cool Tee-Shirt or Hoodie!

Our community youth group members have been trying to arrange for "The Rock Gear" order, but need a few more sales to accomplish their goal. You can show your support by purchasing a shirt or hoodie for yourself or someone on your gift list this holiday season.

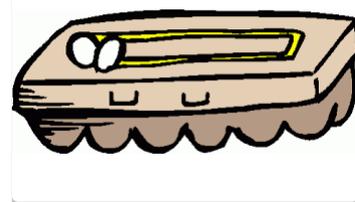
Short Sleeve T-Shirts - \$13 for S-M-L-XL (XXL +\$1.50)
Long Sleeve T-Shirts - \$15 for S-M-L-XL (XXL +\$1.50)
Hoodie - \$30.00 for S-M-L-XL (XXL +\$1.50)

To place an order, please click the link below!

<https://bit.ly/3pm7lqZ>

Bring Your Contributions to Church & Help SERVE's Food Pantry!

There is a continual need for plastic bags and egg cartons at the SERVE, Inc Food Pantry. We invite you to save and donate these items. Not only does this help our environment through recycling, it helps fill a need for the food pantry as larger food packages are broken down for distribution to various-sized families.



~Beginning November 28~

Just bring your plastic bags and clean, gently used paper or plastic egg cartons to church with you on Sunday and place them in the marked bin located in the lobby.



Did You Know....

NAACP Meetings are Held 6:30 pm on the 2nd Monday of Each Month at the Guiding Light Baptist Church located at 1023 Westminster Ave, Fulton, Missouri.

As a Matthew 25 church, our congregation works to dismantle structural racism in our community. Consider attending a meeting or joining this organization.

For more information, contact Rev. Aaron White or Neal Powers.

Save Moser's Receipts & Best Choice Labels for our Building Fund!

Convert your Moser's Grocery Store Receipts and Best Choice Labels to Building Funds. All funds raised through the redemption of Moser's Discount Food store register receipts and Best Choice product labels from either Moser's or C&R Market are being donated to the FPC Building Fund. They can be placed in the offering plates on Sunday mornings, left in the church office, or turned in directly to Nola Garner, who organizes this effort.



Love in Action

- **NAACP Meetings are Held 6:30 pm on the 2nd Monday of Each Month** at the Guiding Light Baptist Church located at 1023 Westminister Ave, Fulton, Missouri.
- **The Coffee & Donut Bar is Back! Can You Help?** We need someone to pick up the church donuts at Jamolee's each Saturday morning and take them to church and put them in the church kitchen. The donuts will already be paid for. If you are willing to do this, please contact Ramona Dobson at clerk@fultonpresbyterian.org or call her cell: 573-310-1048.
- **Have you thought of joining the FPC Choir?** Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. To find out more about joining this unique group, or to share you musical talent, please contact Choir Director Ethan Forte at ekfgw7@mail.missouri.edu or call 573-416-2605.
- **Spread the Word to All of the Middle & High School Students in Your Life: The Rock is Back!** *We welcome all middle and high school students to join us at The Rock each Sunday evening at 6:00 pm. 715 Nichols Street, Fulton, Missouri.*
- **Would you like to join the Usher Team?** Volunteers are needed to help carry out our Hospitality Mission. If you are interested in being a regular or fill-in usher, please contact Shirley Dixon to find out more!
- **Would you like to learn how to livestream worship services?** *If you would like to learn how to operate the recording equipment*

and are willing to help with this Sunday morning duty, please contact Shaun Speers or Rev. White for more information. We are now able to livestream services on our YouTube channel. If you would like to participate in Sunday worship, but cannot attend in person, you can now open any web browser and go to: <https://bit.ly/fpcfultonyoutube> at 10:30 am to participate in real time, or any time you choose to view the recorded version.

- **Church Lock-Up Volunteers are Needed!** Volunteers are needed to lockup the Church after Sunday service. A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in the lobby. Those that can support, please sign up for desired dates. If you have any questions on what it entails, please ask Mark Covey at 573-327-0297, or another Property Committee member.

CLICK HERE FOR THE FPC CALENDAR!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



WE ARE A
MATTHEW 25 Church

Actively Engaged in the World



Rev. Aaron White, Pastor
pastor@fulonpresbyterian.org – (573) 642-5541
718 Court Street, Downtown Fulton, Missouri
Visit our Website: www.fultonpresbyterian.org



Office Hours & Contact Information!

How to Contact Rev. Aaron White

Rev. Aaron White is holding virtual office hours at this time. Please call him on his cell phone, (573) 590-3136 or contact him by email pastor@fultonpresbyterian.org.

How Will I Continue Giving During This Time?

Checks for pledges and offerings, and documents that are normally hand-delivered on Sunday mornings can be mailed to:

First Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 6037, Fulton, MO 65251

If you prefer online giving, use our new GIVE+ Online giving system through the website or the GIVE+ Mobile app.



Our committees Gmail accounts that can be used to email them suggestions, concerns, and thanks. The addresses are:

- Session Clerk, "clerk@fultonpresbyterian.org"
- Administration Committee, "administration@fultonpresbyterian.org"
- Christian Education Committee, "education@fultonpresbyterian.org"
- Fellowship Committee, "fellowship@fultonpresbyterian.org"
- Mission Committee, "mission@fultonpresbyterian.org"
- Congregational Care Committee, "pastoralcare@fultonpresbyterian.org"
- Property Committee, "property@fultonpresbyterian.org"
- Worship Committee, "worship@fultonpresbyterian.org"
- Communications, "communications@fultonpresbyterian.org"



Welcome to Our Church!

 Facebook

 @FPCFulton

First Presbyterian Church is located at 718 Court Street in historic downtown Fulton, Missouri. Worship services, under the direction of Rev. Aaron White, are held each Sunday morning. For more information, go to: www.fultonpresbyterian.org or find us on Facebook or on Twitter @FPCFulton.

Subscribe to our YouTube channel:

<https://bit.ly/fpcfultonyoutube>

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