



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN OF FULTON, MO

MATTHEW 25 CHURCH

Established 1875 - 718 Court Street, Fulton, Missouri - www.fpcfulton.org - 573-642-5541

Digital Newsletter Vol. 6 #48, 11/29 - 12/5, 2024



Building Our Faith.... Through These Waters!

Worship & Reflection This Week!

Welcome, Pastor Rob Dalton, CRE!

In-Person Worship At 10:30 am in the Sanctuary!

Livestream on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@fpcfulton>

Sunday, December 1, 2024: The First Sunday in Advent - Year C

Liturgical Color: Purple

Usher Captain: Tim Baysinger

Greeter: Tim Wilkerson

Acolyte: Luke Davis

Live Stream/Sound: Shirley Dixon & Graham McCaulley

Liturgist: Joe Davis

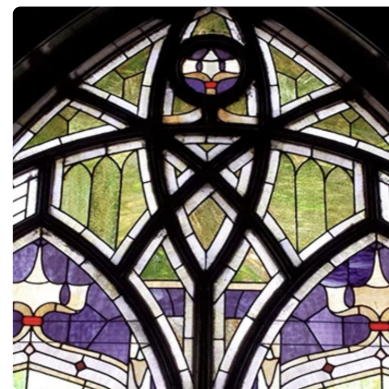
Worship Leader: Pastor Rob Dalton, CRE

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 9:2

New Testament Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:18-19a

Sermon by Pastor Rob Dalton, CRE: Advent In Narnia: Part 1

Too often, Christianity may seem to be a known quantity. We can take its radical values for granted and see Jesus as a cliché instead of our Savior. Lewis, by placing Christianity into another world, makes it unfamiliar again. He gives us the chance to feel a newfound wonder at the depth of God's love, the power of Christ's grace and the totality of his sacrifice, and the wonder of a world infused with the Holy Spirit. We all can use a spiritual wake-up call like this, whether we aren't sure Christianity can mean anything to us or whether it means everything.



From the Hymnal This Week

#451 Open My Eyes (verses 1-3)

#357 The Days are Surely Coming (verses 1-3)

#530 One Head, One Body (verses 1 & 2)

#530 One Head, One Body, (verse 3)

Revised Common Lectionary Readings for Sunday, December 1, 2024, the First Sunday of Advent (Year C)

- [First Reading Jeremiah 33:14-16](#)
- [Psalm 25:1-10](#)
- [Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13](#)
- [Gospel Luke 21:25-36](#)

Christian Education Opportunities Available for Everyone!



Adult Sunday School!

**In-Person Adult Sunday School Each Sunday Morning
at 9:30 am in the FPC Library!**

In December, the topic is: Go Tell

Go Tell demonstrates to us a practice of sharing a gift in love. The stories for this unit are grounded in the prophecy and events surrounding the birth of Jesus, and so are ideal for Advent. However, this story isn't one that should just live in the month of December. God's people can, and should, share this good news every chance we get.

Children's Sunday School!

Children's Sunday School with Brooke Lopez & Bryce Hale!

We are excited to welcome Bryce Hale as our second children's Sunday School teacher. Bryce is a Junior at Westminster where he is playing football and majoring in physical education. Bryce has

worked with kids of all ages and is looking forward to meeting the children in our church. So, parents, please encourage your kids to join Brooke and Bryce each Sunday after the Children's Moment for a short Sunday School class. Parents may pick them up after the Worship Service in those locations.

Our Young Disciples are an important part of our regular gatherings, serving as Acolytes and conducting the Fishes & Loaves Food Collection as they come to the front for the Children's Moment each week.

Infants and any school-age children who wish to remain in the Sanctuary for the remainder of the service are welcome to do so. They may sit with their parents, friends, or take advantage of the children's area of the Narthex.



No Rock This Week-12/1: Meetings Resume on 12/8!

Join Us In Praying for Each Other Each Sunday...

There are slips of paper and pens/pencils available in the lobby for prayer concerns, celebrations, requests, etc. Please write out your request and hand it to the children as they collect food on their way to Children's Moment. A time of prayer and reflection will immediately follow each Sunday morning Worship Service.





Make Room for Christmas

*An Advent Devotional
By
Pastor Rob Dalton, CRE
First Presbyterian Church
Fulton, Missouri*

Introducing The 2024 First Presbyterian Church Advent Devotional

To download the first seven days
of this 24 day devotional, just
click on the photo or go to:

<https://bit.ly/41gQcb0>

A limited number of printed
copies of the full devotional will
be available to pick up in the
narthex and the lobby.


You Are Warmly Invited to Join Us for These Special Advent Events

at

First Presbyterian Church

718 Court Street -

Historic Downtown Fulton, Missouri

- 
- Sunday, December 1 - The First Sunday in Advent,
"Advent in Narnia" Sermon Series Begins
Worship Service at 10:30 am
 - Sunday, December 8 - The Second Sunday in Advent,
Worship Service at 10:30 am
Westminster College Lessons & Carols
at FPC at 5:00 pm
 - Sunday, December 15 - The Third Sunday in Advent,
Children's Pageant at 10:30 am
 - Sunday, December 22 - The Fourth Sunday in Advent,
FPC Chancel Choir Presents a Christmas Cantata at 10:30 am
 - Wednesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 4:30 pm
 - Thursday, December 25 - The Nativity of the Lord
No formal worship services held.

**Peace, Hope, Joy, & Love Abound as
Every Home is Filled with the Holy Spirit!**



WE ARE A MATTHEW 25 CHURCH!

Responding to Need... Through These Waters!



Make Your Christmas Joy Offering in December!

The Christmas Joy Offering provides assistance to current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need, and develops our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

The Christmas Joy Offering is one of four annual special offerings. The church-wide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) play an important role in defining what it means to be a connectional church in the 21st century, bringing together the diversity of the PC (USA) to focus and take faith-based action on shared concerns. The Special Offerings offer opportunities for partnership, learning, and witness and they profoundly affect the life of the church as a collective witness to Jesus Christ's love for the whole church.

Select One of These Ways to Donate:

- Place your check in the offering plate any Sunday in December.
- Send a check to: Christmas Joy Offering, First Presbyterian Church, PO Box 6037, Fulton, MO 65251
- Use a credit card online at: pcusa.org/christmasjoy .

Your Gifts At Work!

Thanks to the Christmas Joy Offering, a church educator and her family receive emergency assistance in their time of greatest need. To read Jenny's Story, go to:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/the-gift-of-peace-in-a-season-of-upheaval/>



It's Time to Adopt-A-Family! Bring Your Gifts to Church THIS SUNDAY!

This year, our church will adopt children through the annual SERVE Adopt-A-Family program. Each family that applies for assistance is pre-screened, and determined to have limited income and resources to provide food for their family or gifts for their children. This program provides gifts for the children in the family, groceries for a full holiday meal, and hygiene products for the family. SERVE is asking us to purchase 4 items for each child - Something they want, something they need, something to wear, and something to read. The suggested dollar amount is \$100-\$125 per child, but it is up to the adopter on how much they spend. Please give based on what you can afford.

Here's how you can participate!

- Select a gift tag from the Adopt-A-Family tree. This tag will provide you details about the child such as sizes, needs, and desires, etc. You can use this information as you shop. Don't lose the tag. It will be needed in the next step!
- Please do NOT wrap your Christmas gifts. Instead, keep each child's gifts separate by simply placing them in a black trash bag with the gift tag securely attached to the bag. If you wish to contribute wrapping paper or gift tags to be used by the family, you may place these items in

the back with the gifts. Please also write the ID number on duct tape and place on the bag in case the gift tag comes loose.

- Bring your gifts to the **Fellowship Hall by Sunday, December 1st** and the Mission Committee will see that they get delivered to the Mueller Center on time.

For those who would like to participate, but are no longer physically able to shop, Elder Shirley Dixon has volunteered to be your personal shopper for this project.

Please contact Shirley in one of the following ways:

Home Phone: 642-6500

Cell Phone: 220-8801

E-mail: sdixon3046@gmail.com

FAIR TRADE CHOCOLATE IS HERE! COME TASTE & BUY ON 12/6!

First Presbyterian Church of Fulton Presents an...



**INTERNATIONAL FAIR TRADE
CHRISTMAS MARKET**
OUR NOVEMBER EVENT WAS A GREAT
SUCCESS! LET'S DO IT AGAIN ON...
FRIDAY, DEC. 6, 4-7 PM
*Handmade, Fair Trade, &
Specialty Items from Around the World!*



***Fair Trade Gifts, Food, & Locally
Crafted Holiday Decor by
Barb & Mallory Reuter!***

- Chocolate & Coffee
- Woven Baskets
- Nativity Scenes
- Olive Oil & Specialty Food Items
- Equal Exchange Teas
- Holiday Wreaths & Tabletop Decor
- Christmas Tree Ornaments
- Textiles
- Children's Gifts & MUCH MORE!



***On December 6th, join
us for some hot cocoa
and an evening of
shopping for unique
gifts from around the
world!***

**Proceeds Benefit Our Matthew 25 Social
Justice Initiatives, Which Includes...**

- Working to eradicate systemic poverty!
- Supporting Baby Grace Ministries!
- Purchasing Fair Trade products that can make a real difference for farmers and artisans by paying fair wages and offering safe working conditions.
- Actions that address food security, fair housing, and safe communities for all people.

We are a Matthew 25 Church located at 718 Court St. in historic downtown Fulton, MO!

Learn Fair Trade Products & Sustainability Work Together.

Why does Fairtrade mean sustainable trade?



Welcoming New Arrivals Through **Baby Grace Ministries** Open House Every Third Friday From 2:00 to 4:00 pm!

Baby Grace is Growing! Can You Help?

More & more young families are using the services of Baby Grace Ministries. Donations to Baby Grace Ministries determine supplies available for distribution.

To make a donation of consumable supplies such as diapers, wipes, shampoo, lotion, clothing sizes Newborn to 5T, and feminine hygiene products, request a drop off appointment by emailing: mission@fpcfulton.org *Monetary donations* may be made by sending a check with the words **BABY GRACE** in the memo line to: First Presbyterian Church, PO Box 6030, Fulton, MO 65251.

To Volunteer to work a Baby Grace Open House, sign the volunteer sheet located on the bulletin board in the lobby.

NEXT OPEN HOUSE IS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20th FROM 2-4 PM!

All young families in our community are invited to browse our collection and take what is needed. There are some guidelines and rules we ask that you follow so that we may help as many families as possible.

- You will be asked to register when you attend the open house then you may look for clothing and pick up diapers.
- You will be given a package of diapers per child (40 diapers in each package) with a package of baby wipes.
- 3 complete outfits per child (includes a pair of shoes, socks, pants or slacks and shirt or dress, jacket, underwear)

Every Moser's Receipt & Best Choice Label Counts!

Save Your Mosers Discount Foods Receipts

Remove & Save Best Choice Product Labels.

These are Two Great Ways to Support our Building Fund!

The Moser's Discount Food cash register receipt project raises money for use by the building fund. If you have saved Moser's cash register tapes, please bring the whole receipt tape to church and place them in the collection can located in the lobby. In addition, Best Choice labels are also being collected for the Best Choice Label Project. BUT, to redeem your collections for \$\$, we must have the whole UPC code on the label. Take a look at the samples here for reference.



Every label or register tape you turn in adds up!

Thanks for bringing YOURS to church on Sunday!



Alternative Christmas Gift

Available during Advent

Give a lasting gift! Suggested donations \$5.00, \$10.00 or your choice!

Take an ornament and card that explains the project.

This year's ornament represents a moringa seed bag. Moringa trees are often called "the miracle tree." Moringa leaves can be an important source of nutrition since they can be ground and added to food to provide protein, amino acids, vitamins, and minerals in

communities that struggle with malnourishment. Moringa oil is used for cooking oil, in soaps, lamps and lubrication for farm and food production equipment. A gift of a sack of Moringa seeds is enough to start a small nursery of these quickly growing, drought-tolerant trees.

The Salvation Army is Requesting Our Help...

Can You Help Ring a Bell During the Callaway County Red Kettle Campaign This Season?

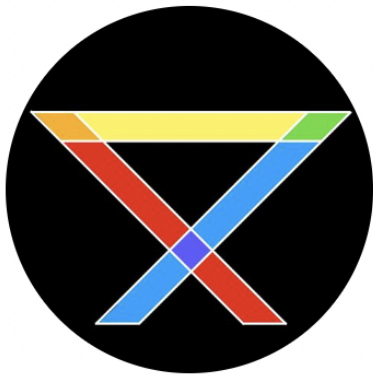
Callaway County Salvation Army helps those in need in Callaway County. We raise money during our annual Red Kettle campaign to provide utility assistance. This year, our church has been asked to help supply some manpower by inviting volunteers to work a shift at Wal-Mart or Mosers Discount Foods in Fulton.



If you are interested in volunteering, please go to:

<https://bit.ly/3CDv7xf>

Open Table Provides More Than a Meal...



Open Table welcomes any of our neighbors who are in need of a prepared meal but lack the means to purchase adequate nutritious food and/or the ability to prepare a meal. Our host of volunteers from the community come together each Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evening to serve FREE suppers from 5 p.m. until 6 p.m. at the [John C. Harris Community Center](#) in Fulton. Meals are prepared for in-house dining, so that our guests might not only be fed in body but that they might also enjoy a place to sit and share in fellowship with their neighbors.

To find out more about Open Table, find them on Facebook
@<https://www.facebook.com/OpenTableCallaway>

If you are interested in joining in by helping to prepare a meal for our First Presbyterian Church team, please contact Shirley Dixon!

Bring Your SERVE Donations to Church Each Sunday!

FPC Gave \$713.25 & 124.1 lbs. of Food This Quarter!

SERVE is requesting hygiene items such as soap, shampoo, deodorant, etc. Their shelves are full with food due to the success of Harvest for Hunger campaign so our Mission Committee is asking that the membership focus on bringing hygiene items instead for the next several weeks.

Food is always needed, but we ask that in November you also keep in mind our homeless population who receive food items through SERVE. When you donate food this month, please think of items that are easily consumed by those who do not have access to electricity. Pop Tart pastries, nutrition bars, small fruit-nut-cheese & cracker packages that can be easily opened, and canned food with pop tops are preferred items.





WE ARE A MATTHEW 25 CHURCH!

Creating Community... Through These Waters!

Giving Thanks for Thanksgiving Helpers!

WARMEST THANKS:

I want to thank the following people for helping me prepare our church Thanksgiving meal and then cleaning up afterwards. We are blest to have such wonderful folks in our church: Linda Baysinger, Mark Covey, Lee Dalton, Shirley Dixon, Angela Grogan, Barb Huddleston, Arlys and Carl Kremer, and Mary Osburn.

Give them all a hug,

Ramona Dobson

P.S. We received enough donations during the meal to cover the cost of the turkeys. That's fabulous!!



Festival of Lights Lighting Ceremony

DECEMBER 5TH @ 5:30 PM

VETERANS' PARK IN FULTON

JOIN THE CITY OF FULTON AND CALLAWAY COUNTY
FOR THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS LIGHTING CEREMONY!

THE FIELD OF JOY WILL BE LIT AS WELL AS THE ENTIRE
VETERANS' PARK CHRISTMAS DISPLAY.

COOKIES AND HOT CHOCOLATE WILL BE THERE TOO!



First Presbyterian Church is an Earth Care Congregation!

Seat & Hand Warmers Are Available Each Sunday in the Lobby!
Anyone who finds the sanctuary a bit cooler than they find comfortable may pick up one of our handy seat or hand warmers in the lobby. They are pre-charged and ready to use!

An Earth Care Congregation Makes a Pledge!

- Our worship and discipleship will celebrate God's grace and glory in creation.
- Our education will encourage and support each other in keeping and healing the creation.
- Our facilities will be managed, maintained, and upgraded to respect and cherish all creation.
- Our outreach will encourage community involvement and public policy to protect and restore the earth.

To find out more about what it means to be an Earth Care Congregation and to follow a path toward justice for the Earth and its creatures, read the Eco-Journey blog at www.pcusa.org/eco-journey.

or go to:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/environment/earth-care-congregations/>

Caregiver Support Group Meets Every Third Tuesday!

The Fulton Caregiver Support Group meets monthly on the third Tuesday from 11:00 am until noon at the First Presbyterian Church, 718 Court Street. Caregivers of persons with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias are welcome to share concerns with each other, learn about the disease and support one another. Find comfort and reassurance about feelings of guilt, frustration, and fear.

Learn more about Alzheimer's disease and related dementias and make new friends. You are not alone in this journey. Join us.

Facilitators are: Rhonda Cundiff 573-826-1050

rhondacundiff62@gmail.com and Lois Long 573-642-3691

jhlong@socket.net



Top Ten Reasons to Wear Your Nametag in Church....

1. **Helps people remember names:** It can be difficult to remember everyone's name, even in small congregations.
2. **Saves embarrassment:** It's embarrassing to call someone by the wrong name, and name tags can help avoid this.
3. **Invites conversation:** Knowing someone's name breaks down barriers to conversation.
4. **Makes fellowship more personal:** Knowing someone's name can make fellowship feel more personal.
5. **Guests feel less conspicuous:** Name tags can make guests feel more welcome and part of the group.
6. **Says "We want to know you":** Asking someone for their name says "We want to know you".
7. **Provides opportunities for service:** A "nametag" ministry can provide opportunities for service.
8. **Creates a warm atmosphere:** Name tags can help create a warm atmosphere.
9. **Lowers anxiety:** Name tags can help lower anxiety.
10. **Enhances discussion and prayer:** Name tags can help enhance discussion and prayer.

BEST OF ALL ... It saves our pastor's sanity as he learns all our names!

Pastor Rob is in the Office on Wednesday - 10am-4pm!

Pastor Rob Dalton is in the church office each Wednesday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Otherwise, he may be reached at 573-642-5541 or on his cell phone at 573-721-8305.

Email is: pastor@fultonpresbyterian.org



LUNCH BUNCH

Wednesdays at Noon
in the FPC Fellowship Hall!

ALL
are
Welcome!

ALL
are
Welcome!

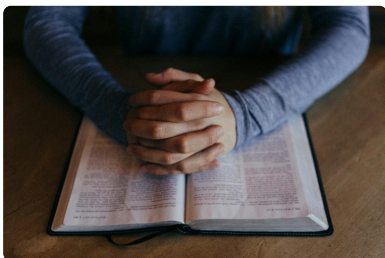
Bring your own lunch and
enjoy a time of fellowship with friends!

Do You Have a Prayer Request to the Congregational Care Committee?

If you have a prayer concern, you have several ways to let us know. You can click on the "Prayer Concerns" tab at the top of our website and the link will email our Congregational Care Chair, after you fill in the information. Arlys Kremer is the chair of

Congregational Care. You can call Arlys or email her (preferred method). There is also a link to the Congregational Care Committee (found under contacts) on our church website.

Arlys Kremer: 573-864-6120 or congregationalcare@fpcfulton.org



MUP: Prayer Circle Prayer for December

Loving Lord, there is none like you. We wait on you in this season of Advent for your coming, remembering the time your love for us became enrobed in flesh and bone and you chose to be "God with us," Emmanuel. We wait again for you in hope. We, the people of Missouri Union Presbytery wait in expectant faith. We wait for your answers to our cries for the rise of good leadership in our congregations and presbytery. We wait for you to claim, call, and move leaders to serve by our side. We need Pastors to come to Missouri, drawn by your unseen hand, officers to step forward in courageous faith, committees to deeply discern the path of the future church, congregations to step out in joy to follow the Spirit as it moves among us. Transform us, O God in these days of waiting. Make us more and more in your likeness, so all may see and know that you are Emmanuel, God here with us. Amen.

Office Hours, Giving & Contact Information!

How to Contact Us:

Temporary Pastor Rob Dalton may be reached at 573-642-5541 or on his cell phone at 573-721-8305. Email is: pastor@fultonpresbyterian.org

Street Address: 718 Court St, Fulton, MO, United States, Missouri

USPS Address: PO Box 6037, Fulton, MO, 65251

Telephone: +1 573-642-5541

E-mail: communications@fultonpresbyterian.org

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

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@FPCFulton>

Website: fpcfulton.org

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

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.

How Can I Give?

Checks for pledges and offerings, and documents are normally hand-delivered on Sunday mornings by dropping them in the collection plate located at each door of the Sanctuary. Otherwise, if you are unavailable to attend church, any of these items can be mailed to:

First Presbyterian Church

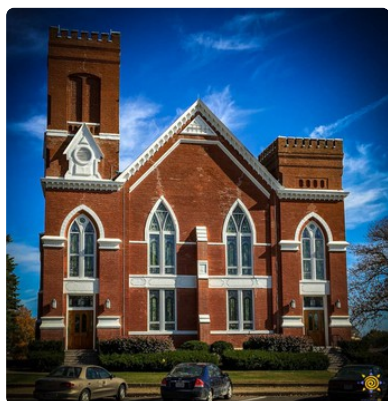
P.O. Box 6037, Fulton, MO 65251

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

How to Contact Our Committees!

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

- Session Clerk, Elder Ramona Dobson, "clerk@fpcfulton.org"
- Administration Committee, Elder Graham McCaulley, "administration@fpcfulton.org"
- Christian Education Committee, Elder Angela Grogan, "education@fpcfulton.org"
- Mission Committee, Elder Tim Wilkerson, "mission@fpcfulton.org"
- Congregational Care Committee, Elder Arlys Kremer, "pastoralcare@fpcfulton.org"
- Property Committee, Elder Shaun Speers, "property@fpcfulton.org"
- Worship Committee, Elder Shirley Dixon, "worship@fpcfulton.org"
- Communications, Elder Mary Van Orden, "communications@fpcfulton.org"



Welcome to Our Church!

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

Subscribe to our YouTube channel:

[youtube.com/@fpcfulton](https://www.youtube.com/@fpcfulton)

Email: communications@fpcfulton.org

Website: fpcfulton.org

Location: [718 Court Street, Fulton, MO, USA](#)

Phone: [573-642-5541](tel:573-642-5541)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FPCFulton>

Twitter: [@FPCFulton](https://twitter.com/FPCFulton)



Mary Van Orden

Mary is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters