

## JUST A FEW THINGS WE WANT YOU TO KNOW

We are a family church. We understand when children make noise or fuss, so please relax. We want you to enjoy the service! We have a wonderful nursery for babies, located on the second floor of the Main Building. Although we are grateful for any offering (large or small), please do not feel obligated to contribute if you just are visiting. Please silence your cell phones during the service. If you need assistance or directions, please don't hesitate to ask one of our ushers at the back of the sanctuary. Once again, we are very happy to have you here with us today, and we hope you feel the warmth of our community.

### PRAYER AND PRAISE

**Jim and Claudia Merritt**—request prayers for her as she begins the fourth round of chemotherapy.

Praise God for the birth of **Kysa Roselle Greenleaf**, born on Dec. 2. Her parents, **Bethany and Drew**, and siblings, **Avery and August**, have welcomed her into their family.

Please pray for **Bob Gorham**, who fell and broke his hip.

**Deacons:** One of our Jobs For Life students just has completed an extensive dental procedure. Please pray for her successful healing and adjustment to the changes in her mouth. Also, please pray that the students, mentors, and Bridges of Love staff will be blessed by God's love this Christmas.

### FOCUS ON MISSIONS

Four members of our church family are leaving this week on a short mission trip in Guatemala, and they will be with Edwin Martinez. Please pray for God's direction, their safe travel, and good health for Shannon and Grace Pressley and Leah and Ella Browning.

### ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

**Lead Pastor:** Eric Jacobsen **Assisting:** TJ Purdy

**Minister of Worship:** Daniel Perrin **Worship Assistant:** Jon Hillstead

**Organist:** Patrice Barnett **Worship Band**

**Candle Lighting:** Connie Connally

**Prayer of Illumination/Scripture Reading:** Eric Jacobsen

**Offertory:** Chancel Choir; Melinda Perrin, Soloist

**Prayer:** Steve Franzke **Announcements:** Michelle Martinez

**Audio/Video:** Jeff Reinmuth, Steve Richards, Chip Van Gilder, and Drew Smith

**Cover Design:** Torin Holmes

## STAY IN THE LOOP



**FACEBOOK:** [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)  
“First Presbyterian Church Tacoma Official”



**INSTAGRAM:** [www.instagram.com](http://www.instagram.com) “FPCTACOMA”



**CHURCH APP:** “First Pres Church of Tacoma” in the app store

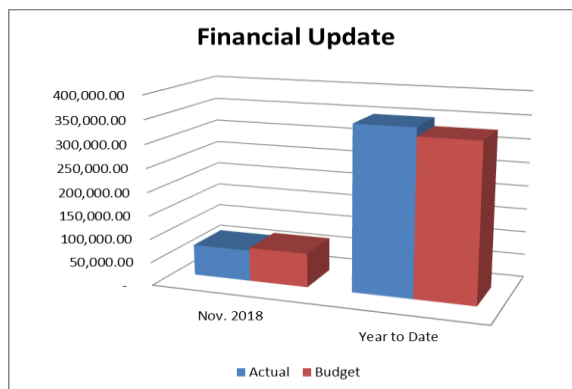
**CHURCH WEBSITE:** [www.fpctacoma.org](http://www.fpctacoma.org)

For our e-blast emails, sign up online via our website by clicking on the **E-News Sign Up** button.

### CHURCH OFFICE INFORMATION

(253) 272-3286 20 Tacoma Avenue South, Tacoma, WA 98402

**Office Hours:** Monday - Thursday, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM (closed on Fridays).



	Nov. 2018	Fiscal YTD
FPC Income—Budget	\$72,608	\$332,191
FPC Income—Actual	\$66,762	\$350,271
Difference	(\$5,846)	\$18,080

**Financial Update:** “As we move through the fall months, giving continues to be strong. Each week we have many new faces in our Sunday morning worship. Attendance remains in the upper 300s. Many of our programs, such as children's ministry, the nursery, and youth ministries, are experiencing the same growth. Thank you for your faithful support of God's work through the FPC.” Aaron Byers, Director of Operations



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH TACOMA

December 23, 2018

### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Prelude	“Gloria Patri, from Magnificat”
Call to Worship	
Opening Hymn #190*	“Angels from the Realms of Glory”
Confession/Assurance of Pardon	
Gloria Patri #142*	
Welcome	
Passing of the Peace*	
Worship Songs*	“He Shall Reign Forevermore” “There’s No One Like Jesus” “Silent Night”

### HEARING THE WORD

Lighting of the Advent Candle	
Prayer of Illumination	
Scripture Reading	<b>John 3: 16 - 17</b>
Sermon	“Receiving the Gift”

### RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Commissioning of Guatemala Mission Team	
Tithes and Offering	
Offertory	“Praise You”
Prayer	
Announcements	

### SENDING INTO THE WORLD

Closing Hymn #205*	“Go Tell It on the Mountain”
Benediction*	
Sending	
Postlude	“God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen”

**\*PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE.**

## INFORMATION AND EVENTS

Family room with audio/video is available in Ferguson Chapel.

Ask an usher for the directions.

### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

**Monday, Dec. 24, 7:00 PM.** Our annual Christmas Eve candle lighting service is one of the most beautiful and anticipated worship services of the year. Come and find peace as we join together to celebrate the light of Christ this Christmas Eve.

### FPC KIDS’ NEW YEAR’S EVE PARTY

**Monday, Dec. 31, Fellowship Hall, 10:00 AM to Noon.** We will have board games for all ages, over-sized games, a toddler fun room, 30-foot obstacle bounce house, yummy snacks, and a New Year's Eve countdown at Noon! Free of charge and you're welcome to bring a friend!

### ALPHA IS COMING IN JANUARY!

**Sunday, Jan. 20, 6:00 PM.** Got questions about God? Never really understood Christianity? Alpha was designed for you or anyone curious about the Christian faith. Invite a friend and join us for our Alpha Intro Night. For additional details or to RSVP, go to the Connect tab on our app or [fpctacoma.org/alpha](http://fpctacoma.org/alpha).

### WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY BEGINS JAN. 8 AND 9, 2019

Join us for “The Faithful: Heroes of the Old Testament,” a DVD and workbook study. Strengthen your faith as you walk alongside these larger-than-life figures, who all chose to obey God no matter the circumstances. Tuesday evenings from 7:00-8:30 PM and Wednesday mornings from 9:00-11:00 AM (childcare available on Wednesdays). Books are \$20 and will be available on Sundays, Dec. 30 and Jan. 6. For more information, please contact Mary Hagel at [maryhagel@netventure.com](mailto:maryhagel@netventure.com).

### WINTER SMALL GROUPS

Now is the time to think about signing up for a Winter Small Group. Groups will begin the last week of January and will wrap up before Easter. Stay tuned for registration details.

### WOMEN’S RETREAT

**Friday and Saturday, Feb. 22-23.** Save the date for the 2019 Women’s Retreat. Hollylu Coon will be the speaker! Registration starts on Sunday, Jan. 6, in Fellowship Hall.

### GUATEMALA MISSION TEAM

Please pray for the Guatemala Mission Team being commissioned today. The team consisting of Leah and Ella Browning and Shannon and Grace Pressley will leave on Wednesday, Dec. 26, for a ten-day trip to Huehuetenango, Guatemala. They will be working with FPC-supported missionary evangelist, Edwin Martinez, and people from three other churches, performing concerts and giving testimonies in both cities and remote villages.

## WEEKLY EVENT CALENDAR

### Sunday, Dec. 23

9:15 AM: Taproot Christmas Play, Fellowship Hall

10:30 AM: Worship Service

### Monday, Dec. 24

4:30 PM: Promise Keepers, Prayer Room

7:00 PM: Christmas Eve Service

### Tuesday, Dec. 25

**Church office closed.**

None

### Wednesday, Dec. 26

**Church office closed.**

Bell Practice, Choir Practice, and Youth Group will resume on Jan. 9.

### Thursday, Dec. 27

None

### Friday, Dec. 28

**Church office closed.**

7:30 PM: AA, Gold Room

### Saturday, Dec. 29

4:00 PM: AA, South Chapel

### Sunday, Dec. 30

10:30 AM: Worship Service

### NO BULLETIN ON DECEMBER 30

**Sunday, Dec. 30.** There will not be a regular bulletin for this service. Submissions for the Jan. 6 bulletin will be accepted through Noon on Jan. 1, 2019.

### DAILY BIBLE READING

Do you want to read the Bible every day? The new year is a good time to start! There are several daily Bible reading plans available in the church library in Fellowship Hall. You can pick one up for free! Please come by and take a look.

### MANY THANKS TO JEFF REINMUTH

We want to acknowledge and thank Jeff Reinmuth for his 15+ years of faithful service as our amazing Sound Technician. We have been blessed by the countless hours he has dedicated ensuring a quality worship experience.

### ADDITIONAL CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS

We received several memorials in addition to those which were printed in last week’s insert.

In Loving Memory of:

George and Madeline Byers, Bud and Marnie Krona, parents and grandparents of Bob and Gretchen, Aaron and Justine, Kyle, Jonathan and Naomi, and Gillian.

Lester & Reba Hayden, and sons Bob and Don, from Chuck & Marie Hayden, Dorothy Hayden, their children, and grandchildren.

Ragna Myhre Larson, loving Christian grandmother of Marie Hayden.

Mary Gorham, our dear friend from Chuck and Marie Hayden.

James W. and Margaret Craig Fory and Floyd and Gladys Groves, parents of Kay and Steve Groves, grandparents of Maggie Groves Shawver.

My wife, Dorothy, from Don Gunovich.