



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN OF FULTON, MO

MATTHEW 25 CHURCH

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

Digital Newsletter Vol. 7, #48 - 11/28/25 - 12/4/25!



WE ARE A MATTHEW 25
CHURCH!

Building Our Faith.... Through These Waters!

Worship & Reflection This Week!

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

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

Sunday, November 30, 2025: The First Sunday of Advent (Year A)

Liturgical Color: Purple

Usher Captain: Jim Harrison

Greeter: May Powers

Acolyte: Jill McCaulley

Live Stream/Sound: Shirley Dixon & Shaun Speers

Slide Management: Ramona Dobson

Liturgist: Jim Stevermer

Worship Leader & Sermon By: Rev. Carol Pierson

First Scripture Reading: Isaiah 2:1-4

Second Scripture Reading: Matthew 24:36-44



From the Hymnal This Week

Advent Hymn--# 83--"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Advent Hymn--# 92--"While We Are Waiting Come"

- {Note: We will sing this each week, using it as a Hymn of Petition}

Advent Hymn--# 103--"Come, Now, O Prince of Peace"

Hymn of Sending----"Go All Ye Faithful" (Tune: Adeste Fideles, "O Come All Ye Faithful")

- {Note: We will sing this each week, using it as our Hymn of Sending. Sung to the tune of Adeste Fideles, "O Come All Ye Faithful," the lyrics will be presented on a slide. For those who would like to practice prior to worship, just click on the QR Code above.

Go All Ye Faithful

Go, All Ye Faithful! All who know the savior.

Carry the message far beyond these walls.

Hold forth the Christ-light. Conquer every darkness.

Go forth, O church of Jesus! Proclaim the one who frees us!

Speak peace! Reach out in mercy, in kindness and love.

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***Additional Scripture Readings for Sunday, November 30, 2025***

***The First Sunday of Advent (Year A).***

- First Reading - Isaiah 2:1-5
  - Psalm - Psalm 122:1-9
  - Second Reading - Romans 13:11-14
  - Gospel - Matthew 24:36-44
-



## Draw Near: A Devotional Lighting the Advent Path with Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love

Each day of Advent, this devotional written by Teri McDowell Ott and published by Presbyterian Outlook offers a gentle invitation to draw near — to Scripture, to stillness, and to the heart of God. Following the traditional Advent themes, you'll light the way week by week with hope, peace, joy and love, preparing not just for Christmas, but for Christ's presence among us.

Alongside daily reflections, this journey is enriched by artwork from children — tender, honest interpretations of sacred texts that remind us what it means to receive the kingdom like a child. Their drawings offer not just illustration, but illumination — echoing the wonder and welcome of the season.

To download a printable copy of Week 1, November 30 through December 6, go to:

<https://bit.ly/3LZ0rLT>

To download a printable copy of the full devotion booklet, go to:

<https://bit.ly/4iqynwR>

# The First Sunday of Advent

WEEK 1 | SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30

## Field of vision

MATTHEW 24:42

*"Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming."*

Shug Avery, in *The Color Purple*, offers this bit of holy mischief: "I think it pisses God off if you walk by the color purple in a field somewhere and don't notice it." It's a startling image of divine disappointment, but it has always struck a chord with me. I imagine God, the artist of stars and oceans and wildflowers, yearning for someone – anyone – to stop and take notice.

Jesus' words in Matthew carry that same ache. Keep awake, he says. Pay attention. Don't miss what matters. Advent begins not with sentiment but with summons: a call to wake up, to notice the beauty, the ache, the holy presence woven into our days.

Scripture is full of moments when God's people lost focus, when we drifted into distraction or despair. But even then, God did not turn away. Even then, the Artist kept painting. Kept reaching. Kept hoping we'd lift our eyes.

This first Sunday of Advent is less about countdowns and candles and more about clarity: Where is God in your field of vision? What distractions have dulled your sight? This season is a sacred invitation to reawaken our attention and open our hearts to the presence of the One who never stopped noticing us.



### FOR REFLECTION:

Set a timer for 10 minutes and take an unrushed walk, outside if possible, inside if not. As you move, ask yourself: *What "purple" have I been passing by?* Notice one small, easily overlooked sign of God's artistry — a splash of color, a sound, a scent, a fleeting kindness. Pause with that sign, name it aloud, and thank God for the awakening.

How might staying this alert reshape the rest of your Advent?

### PRAYER:

*Awaken us, God, to your wonder and your artistry. Stir our sleepy spirits. Draw us near this Advent. Amen.*

# First Presbyterian Church

Rev. Carol Pierson, Pastor

Located at 718 Court Street in historic downtown Fulton, Missouri

**Come Join Us on  
Sunday for:  
Adult Sunday  
School at 9:30 &  
Youth Sunday  
School at 10:30!**

## ***Foundations on Sunday Morning...***

### **Adult Sunday School at 9:30 am in the FPC Library!**

This Fall we are using Theoacademy's video and discussion series :Being Presbyterian: Foundations of Presbyterian Discipleship. ***This Week We Begin...***



#### **Lesson 5, Part 1 - Blessed to be a Blessing**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S14oyv97gwY>**

To be Presbyterian is to join a way of life informed by a particular rhythm: *God calls us in grace and love; we respond in gratitude.* This video series will comprise the base curriculum for Adult Sunday School SY 25-26, and introduce the basic rhythm of life to which all Presbyterians are called. The first week, we'll view a short video together, then spend time in study. The next week, we'll share reflections around the themes presented. On the third week, we'll examine how we might apply aspects of this theme to our modern lives. A different Foundation of Discipleship will be examined every three weeks. Lori Covey and Mary Van Orden will be your facilitators.

**All adults are welcome to join!**

### **Children's Sunday School Presents Foundations in Practice!**

On the ***First and Fifth Sundays of the month***, the children will stay in the larger worship service with the congregation. In this way, the children will become familiar with the prayers, songs, and sacraments we practice each week. The first Sunday being our Communion Sunday is especially good for this exposure. On the fifth Sunday, Pastor Carol intends to construct a special student-



friendly service that will allow them to be more actively involved. On the ***Second, Third, and Fourth Sundays of the month***, the children will go out to Sunday School immediately after the Children's Moment as before. During Sunday School, they will learn and practice weekly the special prayers, songs, and Passing of the Peace we use in the larger worship service. In addition, we will be using the Growing in God's Love Story Bible for core lessons.

- Our Foundational Element for the month of October and November is: Songs of Praise.  
First up: The Doxology! Click the picture to hear the lyrics!

Westminster College students be serving as our Children's Sunday School Teaching Team during the pull-out sessions again this fall. Bryce Hale and Charlotte Hawkins will be serve in the regular positions, and Paul Adjor will come out of his summer role to serve as substitute should Bryce or Charlotte be unable to serve. We are so grateful to have the God-given talents of these three young adults at work in our congregation!

## Confirmation Class for Students in Grades 5-9 Has Begun. Next Class is This Sunday!

This year we have enough children who are in grades 5-9 to present a formal Confirmation Class. Whitney McCaulley has agreed to be our leader for this 16-week series using the Theoacademy Confirmation curriculum.

**The Schedule:** The organizational class was held on 9/14. Class was held again on Sunday, September 21. Now it is the intention to meet every other Sunday after the worship service in the first semester.

The Confirmands will be received by the Congregation on Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026.

**The Time & Location:** We will meet in the FPC Library immediately after church. Classes begin ~ 11:40 am and last approximately one hour.

**How to Prepare:** Each young disciple will receive their very own Study Bible to use throughout their study as a gift from the church. In addition, a personal notebook and all the supplies needed for activities are included. Just come and have a fun learning and growing in our faith.

**How Can Adults Help:** A light lunch is included (pizza & a drink), but if anyone would like to contribute packaged snacks or drinks (juice boxes, bottled water) please bring them to church on Sunday. There will be a basket in the Kitchen marked "Confirmation Snack Donations."

**Would you like to be a mentor to this group?** We are looking for adult members of the congregation to assist Whitney throughout this time. If you are interested in being a mentor who can drop in on the regular sessions to offer support and example, please let Mary Van Orden or Whitney McCaulley know.



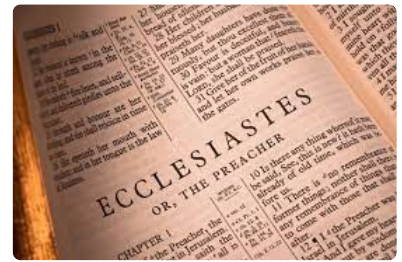
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## ***Foundations on Wednesdays....***

**Dwelling in the Word is in the Book of Ecclesiastes!**

***Dwelling in the Word*** meets at the church on Wednesdays at 11 am. A take on the spiritual practice of Lectio Continua, the participants will listen to a selection of scripture and pay attention to the words, phrases, and questions that come to mind for them in the reading. Join Pastor Carol for focused discussion each week..

**All are Welcome to Join in the Discussion!**



## The Rock - A Christian Education Experience for Middle & High School Students!

The Rock is a safe, inclusive space for youth in the Fulton area to explore the Christian faith. We meet at 715 Nichols St. every Sunday evening 6:00-7:30 pm during the school year. All are invited!

Here is an important announcement from your team at The Rock.

- **Parking** - Please be aware that the parking lot across the street from the Rock building will no longer be accessible for any

reason. The old Methodist Church building has been purchased, and the buyer has made it clear that we should not use their lot for any reason. Please use the parking on the side of the Rock building or the Baptist Church lots.

- On November 30, there will be **no Rock**. We hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving break!

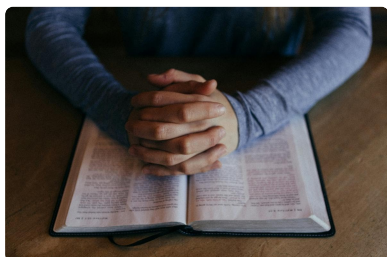
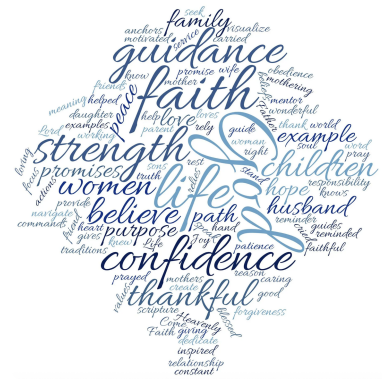
## Women of Faith Group Meets Every 2nd Saturday!

Women of Faith Group Meets Every 2nd Saturday!

Take a short break from Saturday morning chores to be with friends. This newly-formed group especially for women will gather in the church library at 10:00 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month to enjoy an hour of fellowship, Bible study, and discussion of outreach projects.

**Next Meeting is Saturday, December 13th.**

Snacks will be provided; please bring your own beverage. Contact Mary Powers (314-277-5440) with questions



## A Prayer for Our Presbytery...

Gracious and Loving God,

Thank you for hearing our prayers and for your many loving responses. We have so much to be grateful for - for healings, for your gentle companionship with those who were and are ill, for

leadership that has come to walk with us and for those who have not yet appeared. We have seen leaders begin to emerge from our congregations and we have seen new paths emerge to supply the needs of our amazing congregations. We continue to seek your face, to follow your will, to learn to follow you more closely in this time and place. Thank you for allowing your work to continue to emerge through us in this beautiful part of Missouri. Bless all our congregations by allowing us to continue to seek your will, to walk in your way and to lead others to the love you have for them. Amen.

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PCUSA CJO25 M4M video



## Christmas Joy Offerings Are Now Being Accepted!

In Isaiah 40, the prophet asks those listening to do a very simple task with major implications: prepare the way. Isaiah is not asking those listening to prepare the way for themselves; rather, our call is to prepare the way for the very real presence of God. Every year the Christmas Joy Offering prepares the way to bring hope through leadership development, education and critical financial assistance.

Offerings will be accepted now through December 24th. Please pick up an envelope in the Sanctuary on Sunday!

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**UNIQUE STOCKING STUFFERS & ONE-OF-A-KIND  
GIFTS: FTM #2 ON FRIDAY, 12/5, 4-7 PM!**

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## Bring Your Adopt-A-Family 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 a 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 it Works!

- 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, November 30** and the Mission Committee will see that they get delivered to the Mueller Center on time.

**PLACE YOUR DONATIONS UNDER THE TREE IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL!**

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## FILLING THE LITTLE RED WAGON ....

Each Sunday our Young Disciples collect food in the little red wagon for donation to the SERVE, Inc. food pantry.

**DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER,**  
**FPC DONATED 156.1 LBS. OF FOOD!**

During the winter season, there is a special need for ***high protein donations*** such as canned or pouched meats and fish (like tuna, salmon, and chicken), peanut butter and other nut butters, and canned or dried beans and lentils. Other excellent options are nuts and seeds, canned stews or chili, and shelf-stable powdered or shelf-stable milk alternatives.

If you choose to make a **monetary donation** instead, just make a check out to FPC with the words "SERVE Food Pantry" in the memo line. You can hand it to one of the young disciples as they collect food or drop it in the collection plate in the Narthex or at the Lobby door of the Sanctuary.

**LET'S FILL THE WAGON EACH WEEK!**

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## Moser's Receipts & Best Choice Labels: Winning Combo for Building Fund!

*Your Dedication is Showing!*

*FPC has just received an \$80 check for the Building Fund ! Saving your Moser's Discount Food receipts and the labels from Best Choice food items has resulted in adding an other \$80 for the Building Fund this month .*

*Let's do it again in December!*

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!**

## Next Baby Grace Open House is Friday, December 19, 2-4 pm!

Young families 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).

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Donations to Baby Grace Ministries determine supplies available for distribution.

To make a donation of consumable supplies such as diapers, wipes, 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.

An Advent Devotion from the Creation Care Perspective - Download Your Copy Here!

The 2025 Advent Daily Devotional is Here! New Daily Advent Devotions based on the Revised Common Lectionary texts from Creation Care Perspectives. We hope the devotions will inspire more people help care for God's creation in these challenging times. PEC has partnered with [Red Presbiteriana Para el Cuidado de la Creación](#) as a collaboration with both English and Spanish Advent Devotionals to share. Both translations are available on the PEC website:

<https://presbyearthcare.org/devotional-and-worship-aids/> to view or download your copy.



What is an Earth Care Congregation?

The First Presbyterian Church is a certified Earth Care Congregation by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Presbyterian Hunger Program. The Earth Care Congregation certification is designed to recognize churches that make the commitment to take seriously God's charge to "till and keep" the garden.

Earth Care Congregations exist as strong community partners in their own areas as well as models for Presbyterian congregations across the country. One of the goals of this program is to inspire churches to care for God's earth in a holistic way, through integrating earth care into all aspects of their church life. It is the intention that the earth care ethic becomes ingrained in a congregation's culture, spreads to the surrounding community, and impacts the personal lives of individual church members.

Obtaining this status speaks to the serious commitment that Fulton First Presbyterian has made to care for God's earth.

For more information on the Earth Care Congregations program visit www.pcusa.org/earthcarecongregations.



GRATITUDE EXTENDED: Thanks for the Many Hands That Make Work Light at FPC!

There have been so many volunteer hands at work in our church during this wonderful season, we want to pause for a few extra minutes this Thanksgiving Weekend to say THANK YOU!

A Prayer of Gratitude for Servant Hearts

*Gracious and Loving God,
On this Thanksgiving weekend, we pause in humble gratitude for
the many hands and hearts that make Your work visible among us.*

We thank You for the Fair Trade Christmas Market workers whose energy extends our mission into the world; for the church decorators whose creativity helps us see beauty as a sign of Your presence; and for the property protectors who quietly safeguard this place of worship we cherish. We give thanks for the Red Cross Blood Drive volunteers who offered time and compassion to bless strangers they may never meet; for the kitchen helpers who nourish both body and spirit; and

for our Sunday School teachers who plant seeds of faith in the hearts of our children. We are grateful, too, for the willing parents and their marvelous children who bring joy, laughter, and life to our congregation. And we lift up our Congregational Care workers, whose steady kindness reflects Christ's own love to those who need it most.

Lord, for every servant heart and every pair of moving feet, we give you praise. Strengthen these volunteers, bless their efforts, and let their gifts ripple far beyond what they can see. May our gratitude flow freely, and may all we do together bring glory to Your holy name.

In Christ, our Servant and Savior, we pray.

Amen.

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



Cargiver Support Group Meets Every Third Thursday!

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 at our next meeting on December 16!

In the meantime, use this link to check out an article on

3 Things to Do While Visiting Aging Parents for the Holidays

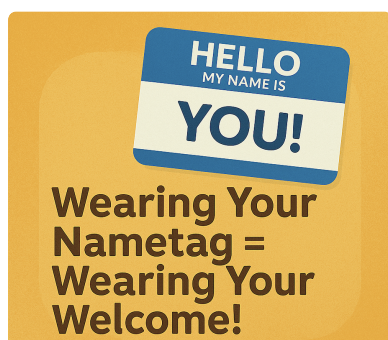
<https://bit.ly/487jLir>

Facilitators are: Rhonda Cundiff 573-826-1050 and Lois Long 573-642-3691

Presbyterian Women Justice & Peace Calendar - November!

DECEMBER

- **01 World AIDS Day;**
presbyterianmission.org/ministries/phewa/pan
- **05 International Volunteer Day;**
un.org/en/observances/volunteer-day
- **10 International Human Rights Day;**
un.org/en/observances/human-rights-day
- **18 International Migrants Day;**
un.org/en/observances/migrants-day
- **25 Christmas;** presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/christianyear



Wearing Your Nametag = Wearing Your Welcome!

At **First Presbyterian Church of Fulton**, we believe in creating a space where everyone feels known, seen, and loved. One small way to do that? **Wearing your nametag!**

💬 It helps visitors feel more at ease.

🔄 It fosters connection and conversation.

♥ It reminds us we're all part of God's family—by name!

So this Sunday, grab your nametag and help make our church a little warmer, one name at a time. See you at 10:30 a.m.!

#FPCFulton #NameByName #ChurchFamily #Matthew25Church #WelcomeOneAnother #FPCMo

Giving & Contact Information-Pastor's Office Hours!

Notice of Pastor Vacation!

Rev. Pierson will be out of the office December 28 through January 3. The church office will be closed during this time. Please contact one of the Elders listed below for emergency assistance.

The Church Office May Be Contacted in the Following Ways...

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

Rev. Carol Pierson's Regular Office Hours Are:

Monday - Thursday 9:00 am to Noon

Contact Pastor Carol by phone at: 573- 273-8738 (if no answer, please leave call-back information)

Contact Pastor Carol by e-mail at: pastorcarol@fultonpresbyterian.org

Please Join Us for Worship Each Sunday Morning at 10:30 am.

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 Mary Van Orden, "communications@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



NATIVIDAD