



There have been a number of people talking to me recently about “Blessings,” and how they have seen God move in their lives. When I say to them that I am so excited about what God is doing here at First Presbyterian they will often look at me and reply, “He is, how?” So I thought that today I needed to write down my thoughts on how I see God blessing us day by day. So the first and most obvious sign that God is at work is in our Sunday worship attendance across the three services. Week by week we are seeing new people walk through our doors and finding a seat in our sanctuary or chapel. I have asked new visitors why they came and the answer is often, “I am looking for a church,” or “I have seen or heard about how your church serves this community.” This is in my mind, God planting seeds in the minds of people, just like I preached about last Sunday, and we are reaping a harvest. When I talk to them again after they have been coming back to church for a number of weeks and I ask what made them come back, they always say, “I just felt at home!” My friends, I can’t tell you how much this answer excites me because I know that we have not set up an ingenious plan that makes people want to come back, no, they come because they feel at home in the presence of God. God is here and God is at work, Hallelujah! We have seen so many new members and new families become part of our

church family and what a blessing that is. One of the other things that sets my heart racing is the growth of our outreach to young families. Did you know that Little Stars has over 50 parents and toddlers engaged in our Thursday program. This year alone we have seen tremendous growth and there is seldom a Thursday that goes by that we don't see a new mom appear in the nursery. Also, one year on from the start of Messy Church, which is once a month in the gym, we have around 60 moms, dads, babies, toddlers and elementary kiddo's enjoying a meal together, praying, crafting and hearing a story from the Bible whenever they can make it. For the vast majority of these families this is their first interaction with church or they haven't been in a church worship event since they were a child. But this is church not as we know it but it is church that connects with them and allows them to interact with our families and "BE THE CHURCH."



Then we have our Youth Group that meets on a Wednesday night with 30 plus people in our first few weeks of this new term. Around half of these wonderful young people are from outside our church but God is gathering them in under our wing to care for them and to bless them. We have our Men's Group painting houses, we have our Mission Committee supporting and helping so many groups and people throughout our city and then because of a generous donation from a member to help people with air conditioning needs during the extreme hot spell we supplied 5 families with a new unit. We have our partnership with Lincoln-McCandless, HMS 7, Avenue A, and now I am also a part of USD 308 steering groups because they see us as key players in the district. Look these are just a few of the ways God is blessing us, there are so many more. When someone asks if God is blessing us at FPC you can say with confidence that indeed He is. There will always be blessing, we just need to look for them and remember to share the blessings with others.