

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY: FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
A SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS
DECEMBER 26, 2021 11:00 AM



OPENING VOLUNTARY

I HEARD THE BELLS ON CHRISTMAS DAY
THE JOYBELLS

TRADITIONAL CAROL

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL #140

ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY
BRENDA LUGER, FLUTE

"IRBY"

OPENING PRAYER

Loving God, we welcome you and invite you to be present in our worship. Yes, we were not ready to welcome your Son into our world on that night in Bethlehem so long ago. But today, on this side of Bethlehem, the Cross, and the Empty Tomb, we are more than ready to listen to your voice, to be obedient to your Son, and to be empowered by your Spirit. Thank you for your triune presence today made possible because you came to live among us. Amen.

And we pray together the prayer Jesus taught us, saying:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON

GENESIS 1:1-5, 27-31
THE CREATION OF GOD WAS VERY GOOD

DEBI MULLAN

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day. So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground." Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food." And it was so. God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

INSTRUMENTAL DUET

I DANCED IN THE MORNING
 BRENDA LUGER, SANDY MITCHELL, FLUTES

“LORD OF THE DANCE”

Reflective Text:

*I danced in the morning when the world was begun
 and I danced in the moon and the stars and sun
 and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth.*

At Bethlehem I had my birth.

*Dance then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
 and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, and I'll lead you all in the dance, said He.*

THE SECOND LESSON

GENESIS 22: 15-18

JOSH GILHART

GOD PROMISES TO THE FAITHFUL, ABRAHAM

The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time and said, “I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed because you have obeyed me.”

CONGREGATION CAROL #129

LO, HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING

“ES IST EIN ROS”

THE THIRD LESSON

LUKE 1:26-38

DAVID STICKLER

THE ANGEL GABRIEL SALUTES THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.” Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.” “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?” The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail.” “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

INSTRUMENTAL CAROL

TO A MAID WHOSE NAME WAS MARY

“ANNUNCIATION”

BRENDA LUGER, SANDY MITCHELL, FLUTES; JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

Reflective Text:

*To a maid whose name was Mary, the angel Gabriel came.
 “Fear not,” the angel told her. “I come to bring good news;
 good news I come to tell, good news, I say, good news.”*

*For you are highly favored by God the Lord of all,
 who even now is with you, You are on earth most blest;
 you are most blessed, most blessed, God chose you, you are blest.”*

*“Fear not, for God is with you, and you shall bear a child.
 His name shall be called Jesus, God’s offspring from on high
 And He shall reign forever, forever reign on high.”*

THE FOURTH LESSON

LUKE 1: 39-56

JANE BELT

MAGNIFICAT: THE SONG OF MARY

At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!”

And Mary said:
 “My soul glorifies the Lord
 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
 for he has been mindful
 of the humble state of his servant.
 From now on all generations will call me blessed,
 for the Mighty One has done great things for me—
 holy is his name.
 His mercy extends to those who fear him,
 from generation to generation.
 He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;
 he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.
 He has brought down rulers from their thrones
 but has lifted up the humble.
 He has filled the hungry with good things
 but has sent the rich away empty.
 He has helped his servant Israel,
 remembering to be merciful
 to Abraham and his descendants forever,
 just as he promised our ancestors.”
 Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

VOCAL RESPONSE SING OUT, MY SOUL TAIZE

CONGREGATION CAROL #145 WHAT CHILD IS THIS? “GREENSLEEVES”

THE FIFTH LESSON MATTHEW 1:18-24 BUCK BELT
JOSEPH'S DREAM

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”). When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.

INSTRUMENTAL MEDITATION WINTER'S DREAM PAUL HALLEY
KURT CLAUSSEN, SOPRANO SAX; JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

CONGREGATION CAROL #144 IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER (VS. 4 ONLY) “CRANHAM”

THE SIXTH LESSON LUKE 2: 1-7 DAVID STICKLER
LUKE TELLS OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

INSTRUMENTAL CAROLS AWAY IN A MANGER TRADITIONAL CAROL
BRENDA LUGER, SANDY MITCHELL, FLUTES

INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY TRADITIONAL CAROL
THE JOYBELLS

THE SEVENTH LESSONLUKE 2: 8-16
THE SHEPHERDS

JANE BELT

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

CONGREGATION CAROL #113*ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH*

"GLORIA"

THE EIGHTH LESSONMATTHEW 2: 1-12
THE WISE MEN

JOSH GILHART

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel." Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

CONGREGATION CAROL #147

THE FIRST NOWELL (VS. 1,3, & 5)

THE FIRST NOWELL

THE NINTH LESSONJOHN 1:1-14
JOHN UNFOLDS THE GREAT MYSTERY OF THE INCARNATION

DEBI MULLAN

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

INVITATION TO OFFERING*(Please place all tithes and offerings as well as any orange prayer request cards in the offering plate.)***OFFERTORY***THE HOLLY AND THE IVY*
THE JOYBELLS

TRADITIONAL CAROL

*** DOXOLOGY #143***ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY*

"REGENT SQUARE"

**All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son
Evermore your voices raising to th'Eternal Three in One;
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.**

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

CONGREGATION CAROL #134

JOY TO THE WORLD

“ANTIOCH”

* BENEDICTION

The Light which has entered our darkness cannot be extinguished! Receive the Light and live for him:

Shine on as his disciples!

The Christ Child – we welcome. The Light – we receive. The charge is ours:

We will shine on as his disciples! Amen!

POSTLUDE

IMPROVISATION ON “ANTIOCH”

JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

* When this symbol precedes an element of the service, if you are able, please stand.
Please join in reading or singing those parts of the service printed in **bold**.

This Morning’s Worship Leaders

Director of Music Ministries.....	Judith Brown
Liturgist.....	Buck Belt
Lesson Readers.....	Buck Belt, Jane Belt, Josh Gilhart, Debi Mullan, David Stickler
Organist.....	Judith Brown
Director of the JoyBells.....	Julie Courtney
Musicians.....	The Sanctuary Choir; The JoyBells; Brenda Luger & Sandy Mitchell , Flute; Kurt Claussen, Soprano Sax
Audio/Video Technicians.....	Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
Ushers.....	David Stickler & Kathy Dowell

MUSIC NOTES

We are pleased to welcome our **instrumentalists**, the JoyBells and our in-resident flutists, Brenda Luger and Sandy Mitchell, to our worship this morning. We so appreciate your talent and your ongoing support to our Music Ministry. In addition, we welcome Kurt Claussen as our guest soprano saxophonist. Mr. Claussen teaches public school in Northfield, Minnesota and is the saxophone professor at St. Olaf College. He performs throughout the Minneapolis and St. Paul area as well as throughout the USA and internationally. He is spending the holidays here in Cumberland visiting family and we are very pleased he has joined us.

OUR STAFF

Teaching Elder/Pastor.....	Rev. Alison Peters
Director of Music Ministries	Judith Brown
Executive Administrative Assistant.....	Brittany Jackson
Sexton.....	Zach Dodge
Sound Tech/Security.....	Joe Aurigemma
Audio/Video Technician.....	Eric Ringler

MISSION STATEMENT

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we worship God and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ by loving our neighbors and promoting peacemaking, justice and care of the earth.

VISION STATEMENT

We strive to be a community grounded in the good news of God’s love in Christ where all of God’s children are:

- Welcomed and cherished
- Called to worship, learn and grow together in faith, and
- Sent to share God’s love and justice with a broken and hurting world.

-Adopted by the Session on September 17, 2015

SESSION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CLERK OF SESSION

David Stickler

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

Cindy Corley & Gary Hendrickson

BUILDING & GROUNDS

Bob Courtney & Evan Swanger

CONGREGATIONAL CARE & OUTREACH

Jan Layman & Mikayla Dodge

FAITH FORMATION

Josh Gilhart & Katie Ross

MISSION

Aaron Hendrickson & Judy Stern

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Sharon Kazary & Carl Belt

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME: A very warm welcome to everyone who comes to worship with us here at First Presbyterian Church! We are proud of being a “Big Tent Church” where everyone is welcome to join us in worshiping and serving our Lord, Jesus Christ. We welcome and encourage worshipers of all races, all women, men, and members of the LGBTQ+ community, all political parties, and all walks of life. We welcome you to worship with us.

WELCOME VISITORS: We are glad you found your way to First Presbyterian Church of Cumberland. For more information about opportunities to worship, learn and serve with us, we encourage you to visit the table outside the church office. You can also learn more about us at www.fpc-cumberland.org and www.facebook.com/First.Pres.Cumberland.

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP: We welcome you to bring your child with you to worship. We have "worship bags" in the back of the sanctuary that include materials for drawing and coloring, as well as Bible stories and Bible word-find games. Our "Young Children in Worship" pew card contains information about why young children should be encouraged to come to worship and how parents and others can engage them more fully in worship.

THE PRAY-GROUND is a special space in the sanctuary for our youngest children and their families. All families are welcome to come and sit in the right front pews with their children seated on the rug. This front row seat will allow God's youngest children to participate in the service in a place where they can see and hear best. There will be activities provided so that their little hands are kept busy while participating in worship. “Jesus said to them, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it’” (Mark 10:14-15).

FRIENDSHIP PADS: Please locate and sign the red pad in your pew, tear off the sheet and place it in the collection plate during the offering. This important practice allows us to be mindful of new folks and long-time members as well, and is a good way to learn (or remember) the names of those with whom you are seated. **If you are visitor, please fill out the “Welcome to First Presbyterian Church” card in the pew rack and put it in the offering plate when it comes by during the service.**

PERSONAL LISTENING DEVICES: (amplifiers) are available in the back of the church for use during worship. Please see an usher for assistance.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS: Please contact Michael Levitas or the church office if you would like to sponsor flowers for a special occasion like a birthday or anniversary or in memory or honor of someone. You may specify live or silk flowers. Silk flower money will be directed to the Special Ministries Fund.

SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS: Please use orange prayer request cards in the back of the sanctuary by the bulletins to share any joys and concerns. Place the card in the offering plate once you have completed your request. The ushers will bring them to the pastor during the offering.

CHURCH WIFI UPGRADE: Last week, our wireless network was fully upgraded by Smart Choice Computers. The new wireless user name is FPC Guest and the password remains wehavewireless.

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE
RULING ELDERS: GARY HENDRICKSON & CINDY CORLEY

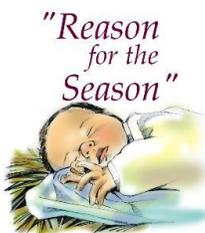
ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:	as of December 19, 2021
Total 2021 Pledges Promised	\$192,124.00
Pre-paid pledges	\$ 400.00
<u>2021 Pledge Balance Promised</u>	<u>\$191,724.00</u>
Pledge Balance Received Year-to-Date	\$199,564.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$191,862.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 7,702.00

2021 YEAR END GIVING: Thank you for your faithful support of the mission and ministry of First Presbyterian Church during 2021. Remember that year-end contributions must be received by the church no later than Wednesday, December 29th in order to qualify as 2021 contributions for tax purposes.

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2022 are now available on the table in the back of the sanctuary. If you do not see a box with your name on it, please contact the church office.

CHURCH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

Monday, December 27, 2021- CLOSED
Thursday, December 30, 2021- Open until Noon
Friday, December 31, 2021- CLOSED
Monday, January 3, 2021- CLOSED



We've all heard about broken supply chains causing shortages, panic buying, and higher prices. "Get those gifts now to avoid a blue Christmas!" is heard. Maybe we should use this "crisis" as an opportunity to focus instead on the true Christmas.

Our "Reason for the Season" is a good way to do that. It's an alternative giving opportunity that can be a donation, or a gift in lieu of a material gift. Each highlighted mission has a close connection to our church. This year the projects selected are:

PAKISTAN EDUCATION BOARD (PEB) - Donations provide scholarships for "our" seven students who otherwise could not get an education. Often parents cannot support their family on low monthly wages. Receiving a scholarship of approximately \$30/month means that students can continue their education. They learn more than just subjects. Muslims and Christians study side by side in PEB's 25 schools (approximately 42% of students are Muslim and 58 % are Christian). Because all faiths learn together and are respected in PEB's schools, 6,000 students are learning the values of tolerance, respect, and love, which lead to a more peaceful society. www.friendsofpeb.org

VSETÍN DIAKONIE, Czech Republic- In the past, the elderly were cared for by families in their homes. Soon after Communism fell in 1989, the church's Diakonies began providing social services for people with needs. This Diakonie has two homes for the elderly, one of them specializing in Alzheimer's patients. They also care for senior citizens who still live at home, and provide rooms for seniors whose families need respite care. In addition there are activities with the Roma community's children. Our partner church in Vsetin supports this center through volunteer work, prayer and donations. Dan Žarský, the Director, visited our church when our partnership started 10 years ago. www.diakonie.cz (click "CZ" upper right and scroll to "EN" for English)

AFGHAN REFUGEES, Maryland – Lutheran Social Services (LSS) is well known for, among other things, its Good Neighbor Program, which resettles refugees. Since Operation Allies Refuge’s evacuation of over 100,000 Afghans who served alongside our troops, the LSS of the DC Metro area welcomed nearly 1,930 refugees since July 31st. They expect 2,400 more in 2022. State and federal funding is limited, so donations are crucial for housing, food, transportation, and daily needs. Setting up a home for an average family of 4-6 people costs \$4K-5K in donations and purchases. LSS will be opening a new office in Frederick in January. https://lssnca.org/take_action/afghan-allies.html

JANE’S PLACE INC., Cumberland – Allegany County’s Child Advocacy Center is named in honor of our late church member, Jane Dawson, who felt that every child should have the opportunity to grow and receive support necessary to be successful in life. Her husband Bob serves on the Board, and her son designed the teddy bear logo. Jane’s Place provides a child-friendly environment committed to reducing the trauma to children who have been abused, neglected, or sexually assaulted and provide them the space where they can begin to heal. It’s the county’s hub for all agencies that investigate child abuse and provide advocacy. They work as a team with the focus on the child. www.jpjac.org

MEN’S AXIS HOUSE, Union Rescue Mission (URM), Cumberland – Axis House is a center for men who have reached a turning point in their lives and want to live a sober, Christ-filled life. It’s not a rehab center, but a recovery residence where they can focus on discipleship (training in the Bible) while living a sober life. Those who commit to the Axis House are agreeing to sober living and participation in discipleship to become or grow as a believer in Jesus Christ. The House provides: safe housing, basic needs met through URM, daily accountability, Biblical instruction, and planned activities. There are currently 5 men in the house. It’s a \$1000/month operation including transportation, meals, housing and utilities. www.urmcumberland.org

INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY, Cumberland – This all-volunteer emergency food resource for people who live in Cumberland, MD was started in 1975 by the 23 local churches of the Interfaith Consortium. The pantry provides nonperishable food and vouchers that can be used in three local markets to purchase perishable foods. To receive pantry services, patrons need a referral card provided by the Department of Social Services or any of the supporting churches. Besides monetary donations, they are in need of volunteers to continue this much-needed service to our community. It is located at 301 Cumberland St., in the basement of the Head Start Building.

Other ministries that our church supports can also be chosen: This Child Here (Ukraine); WACT, and Shanti Nepal; Juna Amagara (Uganda); Q Mt.(Lesotho); Mulanje Hospital (Malawi); Ihanktonwan Learning Camp (SD); Family Crises Resource Center; NAILS; Western Maryland Food Bank; Salvation Army; Allegany Health Right; Allegany Law; United Campus Ministries; After School At-Risk Meals.

Please prayerfully consider what your donation could provide for a project(s) you’d like to help. Use the insert in the bulletins through December to indicate which mission you’d like to help, or put them on a piece of paper. Inserts and checks or money can be put in the offering plate or Brittany’s office. Merry TRUE Christmas!

REASON FOR THE SEASON GIVING FORM - 2021

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

Please make your total amount payable to “First Presbyterian Church”, and marked “Reason for the Season”.

PEB (Presby. Ed. Bd.) scholarships, Pakistan	\$ _____
VSETÍN DIAKONIE, Czech Republic	_____
AFGHAN REFUGEES, Maryland	_____
JANE’S PLACE INC., Cumberland	_____
MEN’S AXIS HOUSE, (URM), Cumberland	_____
INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY, Cumberland	_____
OTHER: _____	_____

(Special Ministries, Nepal, “This Child Here”, SD Learning Camp, FCRC, etc, . . .)

TOTAL: \$ _____