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First Presbyterian Church, Batesville AR



What's New About This Year?

I am about to do a new thing;
 now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
 I will make a way in the wilderness
 and rivers in the desert.

Isaiah 43:19

As we go into 2024, we might be asking ourselves “what’s new about this new year?” The world looks much as it always has: this Church is still waiting on her new pastor, the needy are still needy, and we are still waiting for the coming reign of Christ to make all things new. But I think there is something else going on that we need to pay attention to: what is God doing with us? For as often as we look around and say “the world’s still the same” that means one good thing is true: we are still here. We are still God’s people, and we are still here to do the work of the kingdom. We are here to live into our mission: to care for the hungry, the homeless, the sick, those in prison, and all of God’s children. We are still here. So what’s next? The pandemic changed how we do mission. The congregation had to stop Feed My Sheep, but the people in our neighborhood still need food, warmth, and care. Our job as people of faith is to listen to the movement of the Holy Spirit to see what new things are blowing—how is God calling us to respond to the needs of our community? What new thing is God doing through us and how will we respond?

Elizabeth

Resolve to go Micro

Most New Year’s resolutions are so major they seem made to be broken. Maybe that’s why “micro-resolution” is the latest January buzzword. Setting smaller goals is more realistic and helps ensure follow-through, according to experts. People who try setting micro-resolutions say that approach is more positive and leads to longer-lasting change. For example, instead of attempting to lose 30 pounds this year, make a micro-resolution to walk 10 minutes twice per day and to snack on fresh fruit at least once a day.

Micro-resolutions can also be helpful in matters of faith. If aiming to read the entire Bible in one year feels overwhelming, take five minutes each morning and evening to read a brief devotional or pray. If joining your church’s missions committee isn’t possible, try to talk to one new person each week about your faith or church. May God bless you as you take small steps that add up to big impact this year!



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- 1/8 SUE OGILVIE
- 1/8 JILL QUALLS
- 1/8 CAROLYN REED
- 1/10 STEVE CASE
- 1/13 MIKE ENNIS
- 1/14 EVELYN CLARK
- 1/15 HUTTON GRACE
- 1/20 ROBERT BAKER
- 1/21 LARRY WHIPPLE
- 1/21 JOEY STEEN
- 1/21 ALEX COOKE
- 1/22 EAMON ENNIS
- 1/22 FARRIS NELMS
- 1/24 BLAKE LANIER
- 1/26 OANA ENNIS
- 1/26 DICK NELMS
- 1/26 STERLING NELMS
- 1/27 BOB QUALLS
- 1/27 TOM CUMMINS
- 1/28 DIANE LACROIX
- 1/28 JACK LANIER
- 1/30 ERIN COGGINS
- 1/30 CHLOE MASSEY
- 1/30 APRIL QUALLS
- 1/31 KATIE TREUBIG

Star Sunday

Join us in worship on Sunday, January 7th for our annual "Star Sunday". Over the past several years, this has become a favorite Epiphany tradition here at First Presbyterian. After you take communion, pick a star from the basket to receive your special word for the coming year. Come see what star you will be following this year!



2024 Flower Chart

The flower chart for 2024 has been posted! If you would like to provide flowers for the chancel shelf this year, please stop by the chart located in the hall outside of the pastor's office and sign up! If you are worried about forgetting when you sign up, have no fear, Kathy will send you a reminder the week you are scheduled! Stop by today to ensure you get the week (or weeks) you want!

Angel Tree Gifts Delivered

Many thanks to everyone who came out to help sort and the load up and deliver gifts this year! And many thanks to everyone who purchased gifts to make Christmas a little brighter for 50 children in our area this year.

There were also 10 seniors, who do not have any family close and wouldn't have a Christmas otherwise, that were blessed by families at FPC. White River Area Agency on Aging says "Thank you for being a blessing."



Presbyterian Day School



Would you like to help PDS? The Day school would welcome any donations in the form of snacks, supplies and scholarship donations. Please check with Ms. Alyson or Ms. Laura if you would like to donate snacks or supplies. Any scholarship donations may be brought to the church office.



Join us for Fellowship Lunch after worship on Sunday, January 14th in Fellowship Hall! Come share some great conversation with your church family and enjoy a tasty lunch.



BIBLE TRIVIA QUESTION

Here's something to get you thinking! If you don't know the answer, try phoning a church friend! Let this be a way to start a conversation and check up on each other!


In the book of Judges, the warrior Barak would go to battle only if a certain female leader went with him. Who was she?

A. Rebekah B. Jael
C. Michal D. Deborah

The monthly trivia question is bought to you by your FPC Deacons!

Answer: D—See Judges 4:1-10

Drink from a can? Pull the tab and bring it to church! Drop your can tabs in the jar in the Narthex to help the local V.F.W. support the Ronald McDonald House and Children's Hospital! Tabs can also be dropped off in the office.



Your Donation Can Spread Joy

Your Outreach Committee needs your help to be a blessing to local charities. Drop your donations off at the church and they will be delivered to an agency with a specific need for that item.

This Month's Item:

Cans of soup with pop top lids

(These will be donated to our Father's Table blessing box.)



Feed My Sheep Returns



Our outreach ministry of Feed My Sheep is returning in January! On Wednesday, January 3rd at 10:00 a.m. we will cook for the first time in the new kitchen to prepare meals for Meals on Wheels! If you would like information, or to join in, please contact Elizabeth for more information or just drop in and see what all is happening. If you come to help cook bring your own apron!

Knit Wits Hit a Record!

Our knitters and crocheters in 2023 were exceptionally busy! This small group of ladies made a whopping 309 caps that were donated to Arkansas Children's Hospital! If you've wanted to learn to knit, or crochet, or would like to join this group, please contact Camille Anderson for more information!



A NOTE FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE: *If you haven't turned in your pledge card yet, please do so as soon as possible. If you have lost yours, please contact the office. Kathy will be happy to assist you.*

CURRENT ELDERS:

Class of 2023
J.R. Baker
Jesse Friert
Kathy Lanier
Bob Stroud

Class of 2024
Debra Bell
Wil Moore
Shelly Moser
Mollie Grace

Class of 2025
Gerri Coleman
Price Holmes III
Carlene Lewis
Ceil Smith

CURRENT DEACONS:

Class of 2023
Fonzie Geary
Jeremy Weaver
Carolyn Reed
Larry Whipple

Class of 2024
Betty Adams
James Anderson
Justin Clark
LeAnn Holmes

Class of 2025
Wesley Beal
Melissa Qualls
Sam Smith
Janet Wood

Preaching and Worship Schedule

January 7—Baptism of the Lord

Text: Psalm 29:1-11 & Matthew 2:1-12

Hymns: Arise, Your Light is Come!; We Three Kings of Orient Are; As with Gladness Men of Old

Liturgist: Andrea Weaver

January 14—2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Text: Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 & John 1:43-51

Hymns: Be Thou My Vision; Open My Eyes, That I May See; Take My Life

Liturgist: Bruce Johnston

January 21—3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Text: Psalm 62:5-12 & Mark 1:14-20

Hymns: God of Grace and God of Glory; How Firm a Foundation; I Danced in the Morning

Liturgist: Bob Stroud

January 28—4th Sunday after Epiphany

Text: Psalm 111:1-10 & Mark 1:21-28

Hymns: All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name; Be Thou My Vision; Blest Be the Tie that Binds

Liturgist: Kathy Lanier

Pastoral Care




PLEASE REMEMBER these members and friends of First Presbyterian Church in your prayers.

MEMBERS: Clint and Mayfan Thomas; Beth Jones; Jo Cudd; Farris and Dick Nelms; Nat Zumwalt; Trish Boylan.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS: Lynn Shetron (*cousin of Noel Lewis*); Dr. Mark Williams (*friend of Carlene Lewis*); Pam Barnett (*friend of Carlene Lewis*); Linda Richardson (*aunt of Karen Lange*); Mike O'Connor (*cousin of Kathy Altom*); Daniel Neal (*friend of Zack Mobley*); Randy Friend (*uncle of Elizabeth Brinegar*); Laurie Martin (*friend of Carlene Lewis*); Zach Miller (*son-in-law of Price and LeAnn Holmes*); Cathy Childress (*friend of Carlene Lewis*); Charlie Robuck (*grandson of Jo Cudd*); Debbie Mason (*niece of Carlene Lewis*); Paul & Susan (Critz) Guthrie (*friend of the congregation*); Marjorie Seasholtz (*friend of Kathy Whittenton*); Don Weatherman (*friend of the congregation*); Gerald Bass (*friend of Carlene Lewis*); Roger Blackmore (*friend of James & Camille Anderson*); Todd Phillips (*nephew of Camille Anderson*); Eloise Kikkert (*granddaughter of Don & Lynn Weatherman*); Jim & Diane Campbell (*brother & sister-in-law of Lenora Baldwin*); Betty Howard (*friend of Kathy Whittenton*); Nick Slagle (*nephew of Ceil Smith*); Susan Anselm (*sister of Jo Gehm*).

IN THE PRESBYTERY OF ARKANSAS, we remember to pray for these ministries:

Please Pray for... 	Jan. 7	First, Clarksville	Park Hill, North Little Rock
	Jan. 14	Mt. Vernon, Pea Ridge	First, Huntsville
	Jan. 21	Fernduff Camp & Conference Center	Active Ruling Elders
	Jan. 28	University of the Ozarks, Clarksville	Faith, Horseshoe Bend

Dear Members of First Presbyterian Church,

We want to express our sincere thanks and gratitude for all you have done during the time of the loss of our son. Scott was able to visit the church a few times and he really enjoyed it. Again thank you for the food, the visits, the phone calls, and most of all the prayers. We are so very blessed to be members of this church family.

*We Thank God for You,
Clint and Mayfan Thomas*