



January 2024

Our Vision

“By the grace of Jesus Christ, we will strive to share the Good News with the world, to nurture each other in our faith and to go into the world sharing Christ’s love and mercy.”

Our Children’s Church School Program

Have you noticed the children that have been coming back to church? You may have also noticed that after the children’s sermon, the children leave with an adult and go upstairs to the children’s church room and have their own 20 -25 minute lesson. Christian Education has purchased cards that are full-color, and attractive illustrations of Bible stories, that have the story written on the back of the card. This makes it easy for **ANY** adult to volunteer a Sunday and share a lesson from the Bible with our young people. The children return to the sanctuary during the hymn following the sermon. (Someone will come to the room and let you know the sermon is over and you can send the children back to their parents). You can also supplement the lesson with fun activity sheets found on the internet, or a CE member will be glad to find pages for you if you are unable to do this.

So . . . start the year out right and take a turn to help our children learn more about God. There is a sign-up sheet at the foot of the stairs, or see Jill Anderson if you have any questions.

And, there is one more opportunity to give—until we hire a child care worker, please let Jill know if you would be willing to help out in the nursery.



Editor: Linda Pettit

Church Office Hours

- M 10-3
- T 10-3
- W 10-3
- Th 10-3
- F 10-3

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Packet Articles are due
Third Friday of every month.

The **Annual Meeting of the Congregation** will be **January 28**, after church, for the purpose of receiving reports of the session and organizations of the church and the 2024 budget.

From Reverend Mike's Desk

Let me begin by wishing all members and friends of First Presbyterian Church a happy and prosperous New Year. May the blessings of God be yours throughout the months ahead.

I have always found it interesting to note how each month got its name. The month of January is named for the Roman god *Janus*, protector of gates and doorways. *Janus* is depicted with two faces: one looking into the past, the other into the future. We are blessed that our future is in the hands of a loving God, the God of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, Jacob and Leah — the God who has secured our redemption through Jesus Christ.

I want to give a “shout out” to the faithful ministry of Elder Bonnie Donnelly, CRE. Without any fanfare, Bonnie has decided not to continue her ministry on the staff of First Presbyterian. She has served faithfully for several years. Her love for the Lord and her love of the church motivated her to make valuable contributions during the time of the pandemic and in the transition to an interim pastor. On a personal note, I have found her ministry as “assistant to the pastor” invaluable in my taking on the role of transitional/interim pastor.

In this new year, Bonnie will be able to spend more time with her family, both locally and in other parts of the country. She certainly deserves this. She will remain an active member of First Presbyterian and an active presbyter. She will continue to be a sister in Christ to all those in the church she has served. I know that I will consult with her taking advantage her experience and her kind heart.

When you see Bonnie at church or out and about, thank her for the ministry she has so faithfully offered to this church. I know I will.

A Note From Bonnie

I have some updates to share as the new calendar year begins. First, you are invited to come to Monday Prayers in the library from 11:00 am - noon, with the Rev. Tom O'Connor. I am glad to say that in our third year of weekly gatherings, we have never missed a Monday! This year we even had good-sized groups for Christmas and New Years Days. Please come to experience this spiritual time with the Lord together as we are called from Matt.18:20 and Eph. 3:12.

Second, Front Porch fellowship continues with new leadership from Carol Seely and Ann Stewart. This ministry assures church members who cannot come into sanctuary worship of once-a-month visits with communion offered from Rev. Mike from five teams of two volunteers. You may participate in baking for FPF by contacting either Carol or Ann for details.

Third, in January, my CRE duties for FPC are completed to allow Bill and me more time to travel. It has been a wonderful opportunity to serve you these three years. The two years prior spent getting my certification in congregational leadership with the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary, and then serving the Lord with you in this personal, pastoral way has been a major blessing in my life.

Bill and I will see you in worship and, of course, for other times in the life of the church. This is not good-bye – it is simply “see you later if we’re not traveling!”

Together in Christ,

Bonnie





Katie Evans	Jan 4	Robert Donnelly	Jan 13	Marilyn Mills	Jan 24
Sarah Taylor	Jan 6	Sam “Spike” Taylor	Jan 14	Terry Rake	Jan 26
Megan Dowler	Jan 8	Linda O’Brien	Jan 18	Judith Deering	Jan 29
Marilyn Moody	Jan 8	James Deering	Jan 20	Kennedy Schuck	Jan 30

Some people say . . . that those born in January:

- possess a very good sense of humor.*
- are kids at heart and develop a sense of intense maturity during difficult situations.*
- own up to their mistakes and understand others very well.*
- are born leaders and most of them grow up to become excellent CEOs.*
- tend to end up in creative or health professional fields.*
- often stay healthy as they grow up.*



Session summary for December 12, 2023

Motions presented and approved by session:

- 1. To approve the proposed operating budget for 2024 as presented by Stewardship and Finance.**
- 2. Annual meeting of the corporation and congregational meeting will be January 28, 2024**



Youth
ACTIVITIES

December 2023



faux stained glass fun night



food ♦ fun ♦ fellowship

**Feb.
11th**

The Youth are looking for donations of soup in slow cookers for their February Mission Project. Let Heather or Jim Warner know if you would like to donate soup for this event. Thank you.

**Souper
Bowl
Sunday**

“The future of the PC(USA) is pastor-less, and that’s OK”

Excerpt From “The Presbyterian Outlook” Jan. 2024

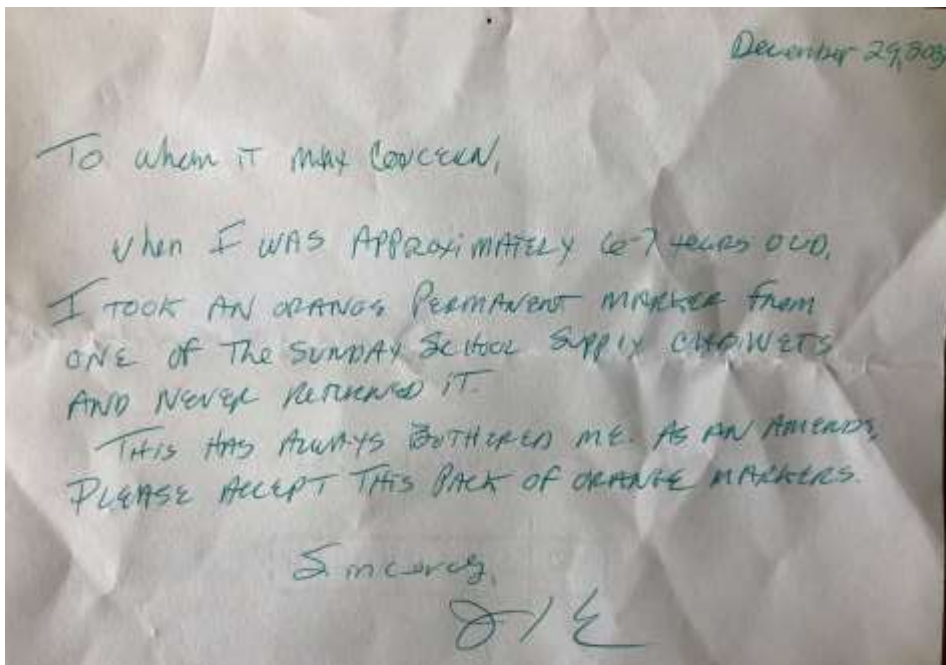
A church doesn’t need to have a pastor to be a church. A church without a pastor is a viable church. This state of affairs is not a step down from being a ‘real church,’ whatever that means. Once we embrace this idea instead of trying hard to fix it, churches can go about their work of being Christ’s body. The Book of Order (G-1.0101) says the congregation is the church engaged in the mission of God in its particular context. The triune God gives to the congregation all the gifts of the gospel necessary to being the church.

This article is by Catherine Neelly Burton, the mission and ministry connector for the Presbytery of Southern Kansas. “The good news is that a lot of our churches in southern Kansas want to live, so they have figured out how to do so without a pastor.”

For the full article, see January, 2024 issue of The Presbyterian Outlook.



2024 started off with the receipt of a heartfelt letter and a “gift”.



Third Monday of January, this year it’s 1/15/24

- 1983 -Ronald Reagan signed the MLK Day bill in to law
- 1986– First observance of MLK Day as a federal holiday
- 1994– Congress designated MLK Day as a national day of service
- 2000– all 50 states observed MLK Day

January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship 11:15am - Glory 11:15am - Sip & Chat	11am - Mon. Prayers	12pm - Endowments 12pm - Euchre club	5pm - Handbell Rehearsal 6pm - Manna dinner 6:30pm - Bible Study 6:30pm - Youth Group 7pm - Chancel Choir 8pm - Joyful Hearts	8:30am - Harvest of Hope 7pm - AA	10am - Front Porch	Front Porch Ministry 9am - AA 12pm - Girl Scout Cookie
9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship 11:15am - Glory 11:15am - Sip & Chat	11am - Mon. Prayers 6pm - B & A	6pm - Session	5pm - Handbell Rehearsal 6pm - Manna dinner 7pm - Chancel Choir 8pm - Joyful Hearts	5:30pm - Stampin' Up 7pm - AA		9am - AA
9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship 11:15am - Glory 11:15am - Sip & Chat	11am - Mon. Prayers	4pm - Tea and Tones 6pm - Eve Board Meeting	5pm - Handbell Rehearsal 5:30pm - Legal Services 6pm - Manna dinner 6:30pm - Bible Study 6:30pm - Youth Group 7pm - Chancel Choir 8pm - Joyful Hearts	7pm - AA		9am - AA
9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship 11:15am - Glory 11:15am - Sip & Chat	11am - Mon. Prayers	11:30am - Com. Meal	5pm - Handbell Rehearsal 7pm - Chancel Choir 8pm - Joyful Hearts	7pm - AA		9am - AA 9am - Building Work Day
9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship 11:15am - Glory 11:15am - Sip & Chat	11am - Mon. Prayers		5pm - Handbell Rehearsal 6pm - Manna Dinner 7pm - Chancel Choir 8pm - Joyful Hearts	7pm - AA	10am - Front Porch	Front Porch Ministry 9am - AA

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PRESBY



PACKET

MARIETTA, OHIO

Help with Monthly Free Community Meal?

Do you hate driving after dark, attending meetings or having to make a long term commitment to something? If you do, we have the perfect opportunity for you to volunteer just once a month without making that commitment or going to a meeting and It's during the day time. Consider helping with the monthly free community meal held on the fourth Tuesday of the month from 11:30 -12:30. You are always welcome to join the faithful group that comes in early to prepare and set up, but there is also a need for people to come in at noon to help dry and put away dishes, and clear off the tables etc.



Harvest of Hope has been generous to us by providing bread and desserts most of the time, along with chicken and ground beef to help us make our soups, salad, or casseroles. There is also a Mission endowment that helps offset other costs. Sometimes we get in a rut and ask that familiar question that we all have asked before - "What am I going to fix for dinner?". If you have a favorite casserole dish or meal suggestion that serves 10-12, share it with us or better yet join us in making it as we take it times 10 to serve the approximately 100 meals we give out. Let Pauline Lee know when you would like to help or have a recipe to share, or have any questions.