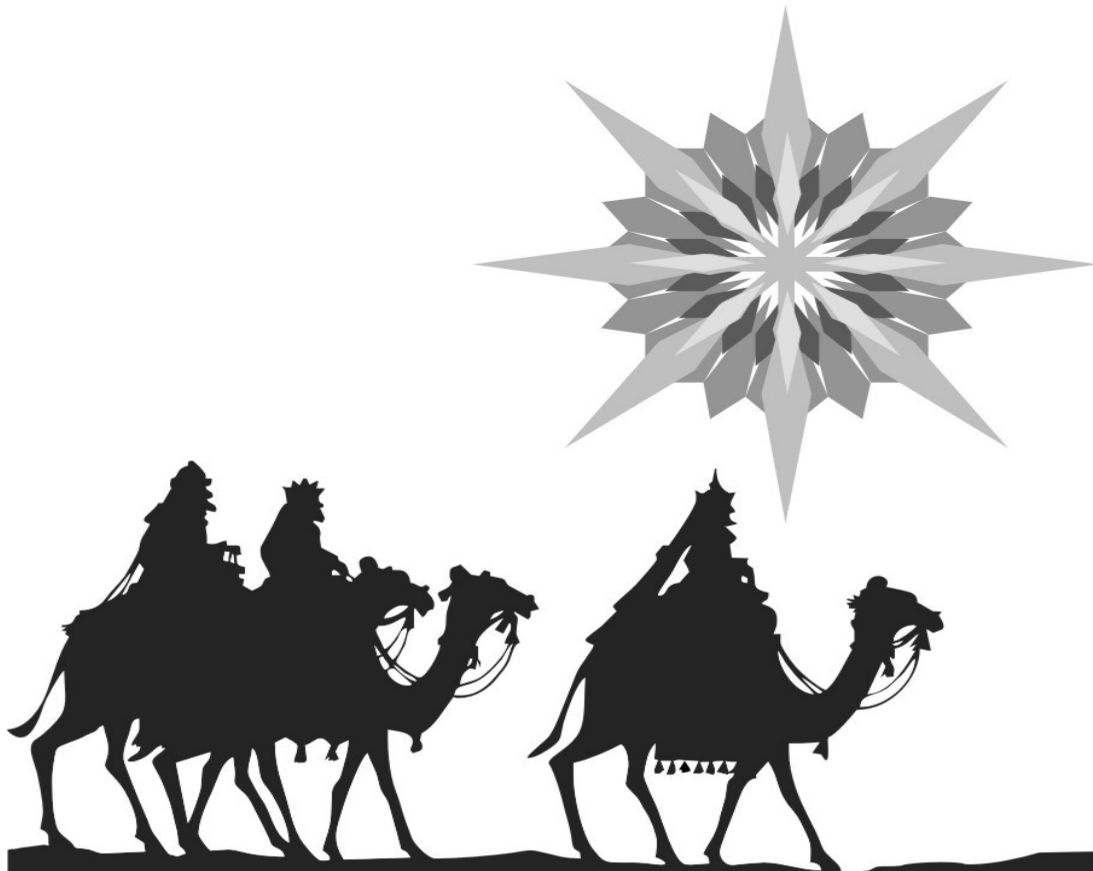


# FIRST THINGS FIRST

NEWS FOR THE CHURCH FAMILY AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STERLING, COLORADO

JANUARY 2023



**T**hey set out; and there,  
ahead of them, went the star  
that they had seen at its rising,  
until it stopped  
over the place where  
the child was.

**Matthew 2.9**

# A MESSAGE FROM MICHELLE. . .



*'You are the salt of the earth...  
'You are the light of the world...  
... let your light shine...  
~ Matthew 5:13-15*

How do we live into our God-given purpose?

How do we let our light shine?

How do we answer God's call. . . ?

After all of the build-up and anticipation, after all of the joys and challenges of the Christmas season... now (just like that!) Christmas is behind us, and a new year begins. We may be wondering: "Now what?"

Join us in the new year for a new series that looks to scripture for deeper understanding about what we are called to do with our lives.

We are called and chosen to be salt and light — let's live into that call together.

Find your fresh start at church.

*Rev. Michelle*

# PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

## Military Personnel

Luke Brigham (Randy & Terry's son)  
Thomas Gage Snyder (Kim Schlup's son)  
Cameron Venn (Doris Ramsel's grandson)

## For those with special needs or concerns....

Carl Anderson	Aline Marquez
Florence Annan	(friend of Becky Cranwell)
Grace Ann (Connie Clark's relative)	Rev Betsy & Eric Moe & the people of Guatemala
Norm Blackburn	Jeni Porter
Brenda Boeff	(In-law of Blackburn's)
Luke Brigham (Kay Rich's nephew)	Frances Rhodes
Randy and Terry Brigham	(Dave's mother)
Paul Budin	Jerry Rich (Gary's brother)
Gabe Chapin	Agnes Rundus
Cooperating Ministry	Steve Shinn (friend of Jim Lee)
Jeanne Crouch & Family	AJ, Sara, & Baby Leo Sonnenberg (friends of Weingardts)
Cierra Davis	Darrell Smith
(friend of Becky Cranwell)	Becky Stieb, Justin & Torin
Teri DeBord	(friends of Michelle Hawkins)
Andrew DeSouza (Michelle Hawkins' son)	Sid Tadolini
Gary Espinosa (Arden Fennell's family)	Charlie & Roseanne Thompson
Family Resource Center	(friends of Nebletts)
Norman Foos	Peggy Thompson
Meredith Goodwin	(Carol Arnold's daughter)
(friend of Propsts)	Mike Tyson
David Hashman, SCF Inmate	Amy & Byron Uhrich
Highlands Camp	(Jill Vollmer's parents)
Sonja Holden	Under the Umbrella
(friend of Arden Fennell)	Robert Vance (Michelle White's dad)
Hollis Jackson	Norma Wagner
Chris Jutz	(Jana Lock's mom)
Josh Jutz & Kaylee	Declan Nash Warner
Janae (Klindt) Kerr	(Jason Rose's grandson)
Robert Koehler	Derek Weingardt (nephew of Rhodes and Weingardts)
(friend of Laura Guenzi)	Masi Wells
Debby Korrey	(friend of Taylor Cranwell)
(Darla's and Delinda's sister)	Jeff Weskamp
Patty Moriarity Korrey	Deb White (Ellen Mile's in-law)
(Delinda and Darla's sister-in-law)	Joan Whitney
Haley Mead, Braxton & Kaisen	Jim & Jean Williamson
Jimmie McCaffree	
Emerson McClanahan	
(Ellen Bernhard's daughter)	
Delinda Korrey McDowell	

# JANUARY

## BIRTHDAYS

1	George Witherspoon
5	Marv Budin
	Kathy Rice
	Faithe Spicer
10	Carlee Hicks-Lovenburg
	Rex Witherspoon
12	Tripp Sheldon
14	Lena Witherspoon
18	Ann Blackburn
19	Gavin Jackson
	Andrew DeSouza
	Kenneth Fritzler
	Addison Steele
20	Samuel Chaney
21	Liz Chaney
22	Jeffrey Christenson
	Cooper Jackson
	Kyle Lock
24	Baylor Manuello
27	Karlee Manuello

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!



### Prayer List Updates

Do you have an update on anyone listed on our church prayer list? We'd love to hear the good news of recovery, healing and answered prayer. If you have a joy to report, let us know!

# SESSION. . .

## From the October 18, 2022 Session Meeting

The Session of First Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Sterling, Colorado, held a regular meeting on Tuesday, October 18, 2022, at 5:15 p.m. in the conference room.

**IT WAS VOTED** to seat and give voice to deacon representative, Sue Weingardt; members of the finance committee, Connie Ham, Bev Cumming (Office Administrator), and Karlee Manuello (Bookkeeper).

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

**IT WAS VOTED** to approve the 2023 Budget.

### **PASTOR'S REPORT:**

A written report was received.

A card and a letter of thanks for the recent financial support for the Sunday free lunch program at Zion Congregational Church was received. The letter included statistics and information about the program.

Larry Yeager entered life triumphant September 12, 2022. A memorial service was held at Tennant Funeral Home on September 17, 2022, officiated by Rev. Michelle D. Witherspoon.

Dona Mae (Green) Lightsey entered life triumphant October 5, 2022. A memorial service was held at Tennant Funeral Home on October 15, 2022, officiated by Rev. Michelle D. Witherspoon.

### **CLERK'S REPORT:**

Dona M. Lightsey was removed from membership because of death. She had been a member for 70 years.

### **DEACONS:**

**IT WAS VOTED TO** approve the ELMST request for \$5,000 to provide medical support for a church member as recommended by the Deacons.

### **WORSHIP AND SACRAMENTS:**

**IT WAS VOTED** to hold only one service for Christmas Eve/Christmas Day on Saturday, December 24 at 4:30pm (with no service on Sunday, December 25).

### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

**IT WAS VOTED** that the church sell poinsettias for \$20 each as a fund-raising project to support the missions of the church.

### **NEXT MEETINGS/IMPORTANT DATES**

Sunday, October 23, 2022, Congregational Meeting to elect officers (during worship)  
December 7, 2022, 5:15 pm November/December Session Meeting.

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## Financial Information October 2022

	<u>October, 2022</u>	<u>YTD 2022</u>
Income/Offerings	20,486.30	231,887.19
Expenses	<u>28,179.14</u>	<u>280,002.32</u>
Income / (Loss)	(7,692.84)	(48,115.13)
Investment Transfers	<u>7,222.13</u>	23,858.98

# CONGREGATIONAL MEETING...

The congregation of First Presbyterian Church, Sterling, Colorado, held a called meeting during the morning worship service on October 23, 2022. The meeting was for the purpose of nomination and election of officers. The meeting was called to order by the Moderator, Reverend Michelle Witherspoon. A quorum was present. Reverend Witherspoon opened the meeting with prayer.

IT WAS VOTED to elect George Witherspoon as acting Clerk.

On behalf of the nominating committee, Taylor Cranwell presented the following:

Elders, Class of 2025: Becky Cranwell, BJ Eaton, Bob Smith, Mike Tyson

Youth Elder, Class of 2023: Ava Reeves

Deacons, Class of 2025: Michelle Hawkins, Alie Sheldon, Kim Weingardt

Youth Deacon, Class of 2023: Audrey Reeves

2023 Nominating Committee Members at Large: Bev Cumming, Darla Korrey Gertner

There were no nominations from the floor. A voice vote was taken. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

There being no further business, the moderator closed the meeting with prayer.



12.5.22

Dear Deacons,

Again, when Sue came to my door with the pretty poinsettia plant, it reminded me of how wonderful it is to be a member of this church. Thank you for thinking of me this Christmas season. God bless each of you.

Carol Arnold

Board of Deacons  
First Presbyterian Church.

Just a note to thank you so much for my lovely poinsettia - it is so nice & so very nice of you to bring it to me. Thank you  
thanks you

Thank you so much for everything you all do for our church.  
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year  
to each of you. God Bless you  
Rene Morrison





# CHURCH HIGHLIGHTS...

Pat Borner is the chairperson of the First Presbyterian Fellowship Committee. This committee—as we all anticipate with glee—plans, prepares, and serves meals in our church during the year. We have all enjoyed their monthly feasts, Seder Suppers, Blue Christmas soups, Mother’s Day meals, Easter breakfasts, and Lenten lunches. Many church members also call on the committee to prepare a funeral luncheon when a family member dies.

Pat remembers that the Fellowship Committee was formed about 20 or so years ago when Steven Schorr was pastor. He wanted to provide an opportunity for congregation members to share fellowship time while eating a nutritious and homecooked meal. Pat has served on the committee since its inception. That means that she and her committee have prepared and served at least 250 meals to our church friends and family over the years!

The Fellowship Committee meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 5:15 pm. They enjoy discussing favorite recipes, planning future meals to serve, and the fellowship time together. The members of the group change as people move to other duties or decide to “take a break from cooking” or simply decide they can no longer handle the physical work of cooking, washing dishes, and moving big pots of food. Almost every month members of the committee prepare and bring a part of the meal. Pat observed that the committee members have become close friends and are our “church sisters and brothers.”

The group celebrated a Christmas meal together—of course it was delicious—in early December and Santa blessed us with Tidings of Good Cheer!



**First Friday @ First Presbyterian**

**In Person & on Facebook**

## Woodwind Trio



**Risa Lamorie, Ryan Rosete & Shauna Snyder**

January 6, 2023

12:05

130 South 4th Street, Sterling

[facebook.com/FPC.Sterling](https://facebook.com/FPC.Sterling)

Free and open to the public

# THE MIRACLE OF ADVENT...





# CAN YOU PASS AN EPIPHANY QUIZ. . .

1. What is the name of the period between December 25 and January 6 when Epiphany is celebrated in the Western calendar?

- A. Advent
- B. Lent
- C. Twelve Days of Christmas

5. What does Epiphany commemorate?

- A. Birth of Christ
- B. The angel Gabriel's visit to Mary
- C. The Magi's visit to Jesus

2. Epiphany is one of three principal and oldest festival days in the Christian Church. What are the other two?

- A. Easter and Christmas
- B. Lent and Easter
- C. Advent and Lent

6. The story of the Magi appears in the Gospel according to whom?

- A. Matthew
- B. John
- C. Mark

3. What is the evening preceding Epiphany called in the Western Church?

- A. All Saints Day
- B. Twelfth Night
- C. Advent

7. What is myrrh?

- A. Arabic word for silver
- B. Resin used in ancient times for its healing properties
- C. Jewish word for Nutmeg

4. When children receive small gifts on Epiphany, where can they find them?

- A. Under their pillows
- B. In their shoes
- C. Under the Christmas tree

8. Where did Epiphany originate?

- A. The Eastern Orthodox church
- B. The Roman Catholic church
- C. The Anglican church



Answers to the quiz are elsewhere in the newsletter.



Estimate of Giving (EOG) Goal for 2023: \$225,000

Total EOG's received so far:  
56 for \$209,924

*Thank you for your faithful support of the mission  
and ministry of First Presbyterian Church.*

EOG cards are still available if you haven't turned one in yet.

**Thank you!**

*Stewardship Update*  
Nurturing LIFE in  
**ABUNDANCE**  
at First Presbyterian Church



***Salt & Light – Called & Chosen***

A series for the season of Epiphany exploring the theme of *call*.

**Sunday, January 8 — *Do You Come to Me?***

Baptism of the Lord Sunday; bell choir; Matt 3:13-17

**Sunday, January 15 — *Pay Attention***

Ordination/Installation of Officers;  
Isaiah 49:1-7; 1 Cor 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

**Sunday, January 22 — *Withdraw***

Per Capita Sunday; 1 Cor 1:10-18; Matt 4:12-23

**Sunday, January 29 — *The Call Is Simple  
(and, It's the Same for Everyone)***

Micah 6:1-8; Matt 5:1-12; (1 Cor 1:18-31)

**Sunday, February 5 — *Salt & Light***

communion; Matt 5:13-20

**Sunday, February 12 — *Choices***

Deuteronomy 30:15-20; 1 Cor 3:1-9; Matt 5:21-37

**Sunday, February 19 — *Come Up to Me***

Transfiguration Sunday; Exodus 24:12-18; Matt 17:1-9

**FOOD PANTRY**

For the Cooperating Ministry,  
this month we are collecting:

**Canned Spaghetti Sauce**

For NJC, we are always  
collecting **nutritious non-  
perishable food** items.

You may bring your donations  
to the church and put them  
under the table outside the  
church office, or in the box in  
the elevator vestibule.

# PER CAPITA SUNDAY

JANUARY 22  
2023



Per capita is crucial to the overall health of the PC(USA), because it binds presbyteries, synods, and congregations together in one church.

REV. DR. J. HERBERT NELSON, II, STATED  
CLERK OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

## WHY PER CAPITA

Each year, Presbyterians across the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) make a commitment to support one another through per capita giving. This call to generosity is deeply rooted in the values that guide what it means to be a Presbyterian:

**We are a priesthood of all believers.** All people are equally created and called by God to serve God's church. As a part of this call, we share in the responsibility of supporting the church.

**We are a connectional church.** No worshipping community is isolated. Rather, the whole of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is called to work with one another in making ministry possible. Congregations, presbyteries, synods, denominational offices, and more work with one another to offer support, guidance, collaboration, and other opportunities through per capita funding.

**All worshipping communities are equally important and valuable to God's church.** All congregations are given equal access to resources and support funded by per capita. Through sharing of financial responsibility, no congregation is privileged due to their financial capacity.

**We can only be the church with one another.** Through sharing in generous support of per capita and participating in the opportunities per capita funds, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) uplifts and empowers all worshipping communities as an integral part of being the church.

In these and in many other ways, per capita giving is shaped by the call that God has extended for us all to join in the pursuit and formation of God's kin-dom. By gathering together in per capita giving, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) commits to connection and is empowered to live out the ministry of the church.



# PER CAPITA MAKES IT POSSIBLE

At its heart, per capita enables ministries that seek to discern God's call and support the health of the church. These ministries reach congregations, mid councils, and assembly work in a variety of ways, including:

- Supporting those called into ministry through the ordination process and equipping both congregations and ministers to discern relationships and calls;
- Empowering mid councils, including Korean speaking non-geographic presbyteries, in equipping leaders and engaging with their communities;
- Holding one another accountable and upholding the constitution of the church through judicial processes;
- Building relationships with ecumenical and interreligious partners to strengthen God's work in the world at-large;
- Preserving the history of the church through the Presbyterian Historical Society, so that we may build bridges between who we have been, who we are, and who we are called to be;
- Embracing the church's support of just immigration through accompanying members and councils as they navigate both joining the church and welcoming into the church;
- Encouraging and equipping leaders to pursue the ministries to which God is calling them through service to assembly committees and mid council roles;
- Pursuing personal and communal opportunities to embrace the diversity of God's creation through church policies and procedures;
- and providing for an equitable and inclusive General Assembly, where members from across the church gather together to discern God's will for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in a worshipful community.

2023 Per Capita: \$56 per active member

Thank you for supporting FPC and the connectional Church.



**THE TIME IS  
ALWAYS RIGHT  
TO DO WHAT  
IS RIGHT.**

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

**MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY  
MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 2023**  
**Martin Luther King Jr. Day is the only  
federal holiday in America that is  
considered a national day of service.  
The church office will be closed.**

Answers to the Epiphany Quiz:

1. C 2. A 3. B 4. B 5. C 6. A 7. B 8. A





# BIG GOD BIG QUESTIONS

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## CONFIRMATION FOR A GROWING FAITH

Parents of Middle School Students: We are planning a Confirmation class for winter/spring 2023. Confirmation will prepare youth to authentically answer the questions they are asked when they become active members of the church:

*Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?*

*Who is your Lord and Savior?*

*Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love?*

*Will you devote yourself to the church's teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers?*

Accompanied by mentors and gathering regularly for lessons and discussion, Confirmands will be equipped to study scripture, the Christian tradition, and to tell their own story.

Let us know if your middle school student will participate in the Confirmation Class of 2023.

---

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Parents email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Student Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Mentor (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

# January 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10:30 Worship with communion	<b>Church office Closed</b>	5:15 Fellowship Committee		5:30 Bells 7:00 Choir	12:05 - First Friday @ First Pres.— Kori Maier & Ryan Rosete	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
10:30 Worship			10:00 Membership/ Stewardship Committee	5:30 Bell Choir 7:00 Chancel Choir		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
10:30 Worship & Ordination/ Installation of officers  Newsletter Deadline		5:15 Session	5:15 Finance Committee	1:30 Women's Bible Study  5:30 Bell Choir 7:00 Chancel Choir		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
10:30 Worship Per Capita Sunday  11:30 Fellowship Lunch				5:30 Bell Choir 7:00 Chancel Choir		
29	30	31				
10:30 Worship						

# SERVING IN CHURCH

## USHERS

**January 1** Delinda Korrey, Ken McDowell  
**January 8** Dean Boeff, Sue Weingardt  
**January 15** Jeff Christenson, Tammie Malone  
**January 22** Terri Rhodes, Justin Cranwell  
**January 29** Mike Werner, Delinda Korrey , Ken McDowell

## FELLOWSHIP COFFEE

**January 1** Membership / Stewardship Committee  
**January 8** Worship & Sacraments Committee  
**January 15** Fellowship Committee  
**January 22** Finance Committee  
**January 29** Bell Choir

## COUNT OFFERING

**January 1** Bob Smith  
**January 8** Connie Ham  
**January 15** Bev Cumming  
**January 22** Linda Meisner  
**January 29** BJ Eaton

## AV TECHS

**January 1** n/a  
**January 8** Tanna Prince, Rex Witherspoon, George Witherspoon  
**January 15** Jeff Christenson, George Witherspoon  
**January 22** Dean Boeff, George Witherspoon  
**January 29** Justin Cranwell, George Witherspoon

## FIRST RESPONSE

**January** Justin Cranwell  
**February** Sue Weingardt

## LAY READERS

**January 1** Jeff Rice  
**January 8** Tara Guenzi  
**January 15** Becky Cranwell  
**January 22** Dennis/Cheryl Kaan  
**January 29** Jackie Reynolds

## BULLETIN DELIVERY

**January** Justin Cranwell  
**February** Sue Weingardt

Remember to let the church office know if you trade serving dates with someone (522-2708).

**Serving schedules subject to change. Check the website for most up-to-date schedules.**  
**[www.firstpressterling.org/servingschedules](http://www.firstpressterling.org/servingschedules)**



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
130 SOUTH 4TH STREET  
STERLING, COLORADO 80751

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit  
Organization  
US POSTAGE PAID  
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Sterling, Colorado



## January

### FIRST THINGS FIRST

If you wish to be taken off this Newsletter mailing list, please call the church office at 522-2708.

Newsletter Deadline is the 15th day of the month prior to publication. Items may be submitted on flash drive, on CD or in text format to Tammie Malone or Jackie Reynolds c/o the church office, by e-mail ([newsletter@firstpressterling.org](mailto:newsletter@firstpressterling.org)) or phone (522-2708).

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### WORSHIP

Sunday, 10:30 a.m.

Morning Worship in person or  
on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/fpc.sterling](http://www.facebook.com/fpc.sterling)

### RADIO MINISTRY

Sunday, 10:30 a.m. On KSTC (AM 1230)

CHURCH PHONE 970.522.2708

Fax 970.522.1365

WEBSITE [www.firstpressterling.org](http://www.firstpressterling.org)

OFFICE HOURS: M-W-F, 9-noon ~ T-Th 1-4  
(or by appointment)

### Staff:

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BOOKKEEPER KARLEE MANUELLO

E-mail [karlee@firstpressterling.org](mailto:karlee@firstpressterling.org)

MUSIC COORDINATOR/ORGANIST ELSIE FETZER

CHOIR DIRECTOR DARLA KORREY GERTNER

BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR LINDSEY JACKSON

PROPERTY MANAGER JANET KLOBERDANZ

COORDINATOR OF CHILDREN, YOUTH,  
AND FAMILY MINISTRIES KAY BRIGHAM RICH

NEWSLETTER EDITORS TAMMIE MALONE  
AND JACKIE REYNOLDS

E-mail [newsletter@firstpressterling.org](mailto:newsletter@firstpressterling.org)