

FIRST THINGS FIRST

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

JANUARY 2024



All things
New.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation;
old things have passed away;
behold, all things have become new.
2 Corinthians 5:17

HAPPY NEW YEAR

2024

A MESSAGE FROM MICHELLE. . .



New Year, Same You

Have you heard the expression, “Wherever I go, there I am...”? It speaks to the temptation we sometimes feel to run away from our problems, only to find our problems were less contextual and more internal.

There is a temptation at the start of the new year to attempt to overhaul the self and eradicate every bad habit. Of course, we set ourselves up for failure when we set unrealistic resolutions. And yet...

God’s mercies are new every morning, and in Christ we are promised: *The old life has gone; a new life has begun!* I often think the problem with New Year’s resolutions is they are too grand and unrealistic, but I’m beginning to wonder if the problem isn’t the scale of our resolutions but the frequency. Maybe the problem isn’t that we aim too high, but that we aim only once a year.

That’s why I like the spiritual practice called [Examen](#). It’s a method of taking stock that can be used at the end of a year, at the end of a week, at the end of a day (or even in the middle of the day). It’s so helpful to be deliberate about naming our disappointments and regrets, as well as our gratitude, so that we can give thanks to God for the good stuff and surrender to God the tough stuff. Otherwise, we fail to appreciate blessings and we ruminate on struggles.

How do you approach the new year? Do you make resolutions? (Do you keep them...?)

However you step into the new year, may God guide you by the light of God’s love.

Rev. Michelle

DISCOVER



Following Christ, we discover The Way.

**What can we discover in the season of Epiphany
as we begin a New Year?**

December 31: **Discover... *there's more than one road.***

January 7: **Discover... *your truest identity and deepest calling.***

January 14: **Discover... *the unexpected.***

January 21: **Discover... *a fresh start.***

January 28: **Discover... *a new teaching (freedom).***

February 4: **Discover... *we all have demons.***

February 11: **Discover... *the voice in the cloud.***

I don't like to make New Year's Resolutions, instead after my prayers, I like to Thank God for something that happened that day or something I'm grateful for. E.g. "Thank God for blessing me with my wonderful family." or "Thank God for the blessing of beautiful snow that's bringing moisture to our farm ground."

Towards the end of the year, it gets harder because I have a self-imposed rule that I can't use the same blessing twice in one year. The end of one year, was particularly challenging. I felt my nightly Thank You's weren't very genuine. In church, the first Sunday of that year, we were able to pick our Star Words. They were face down, so you didn't know what word you were choosing. My word that year was "Sincere".

Delinda Korrey McDowell



Epiphany & New Year's Eve

Sunday, December 31st ~ 10:30am

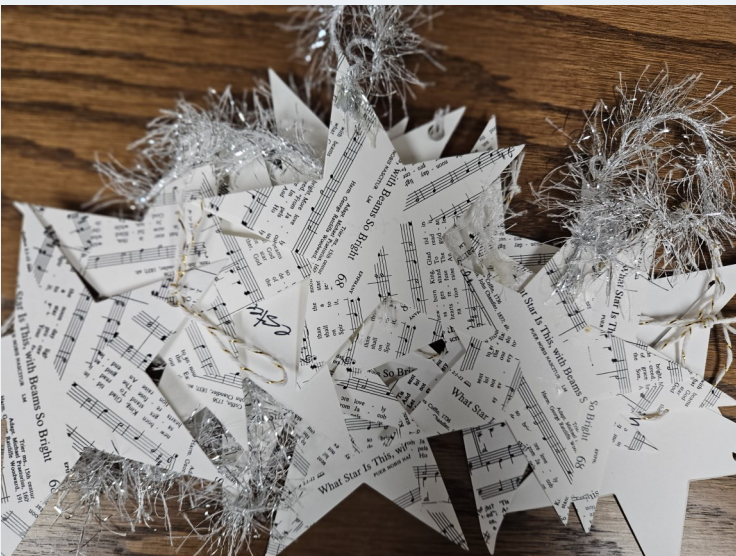
Before you ring in the New Year, take time to intentionally reflect on the year that's ending.

At this service, we'll **give thanks** for the blessings we enjoyed in 2023; we'll acknowledge our disappointments and **surrender** them to God, and we'll think about how we want to **begin the new year**.

We'll also celebrate **Epiphany**, so if you enjoy receiving a star word, this is the service we'll be sharing star words.

The magi followed the star
to the Christ child...

**May God guide us all toward the light
of Christ's love in the coming year.**



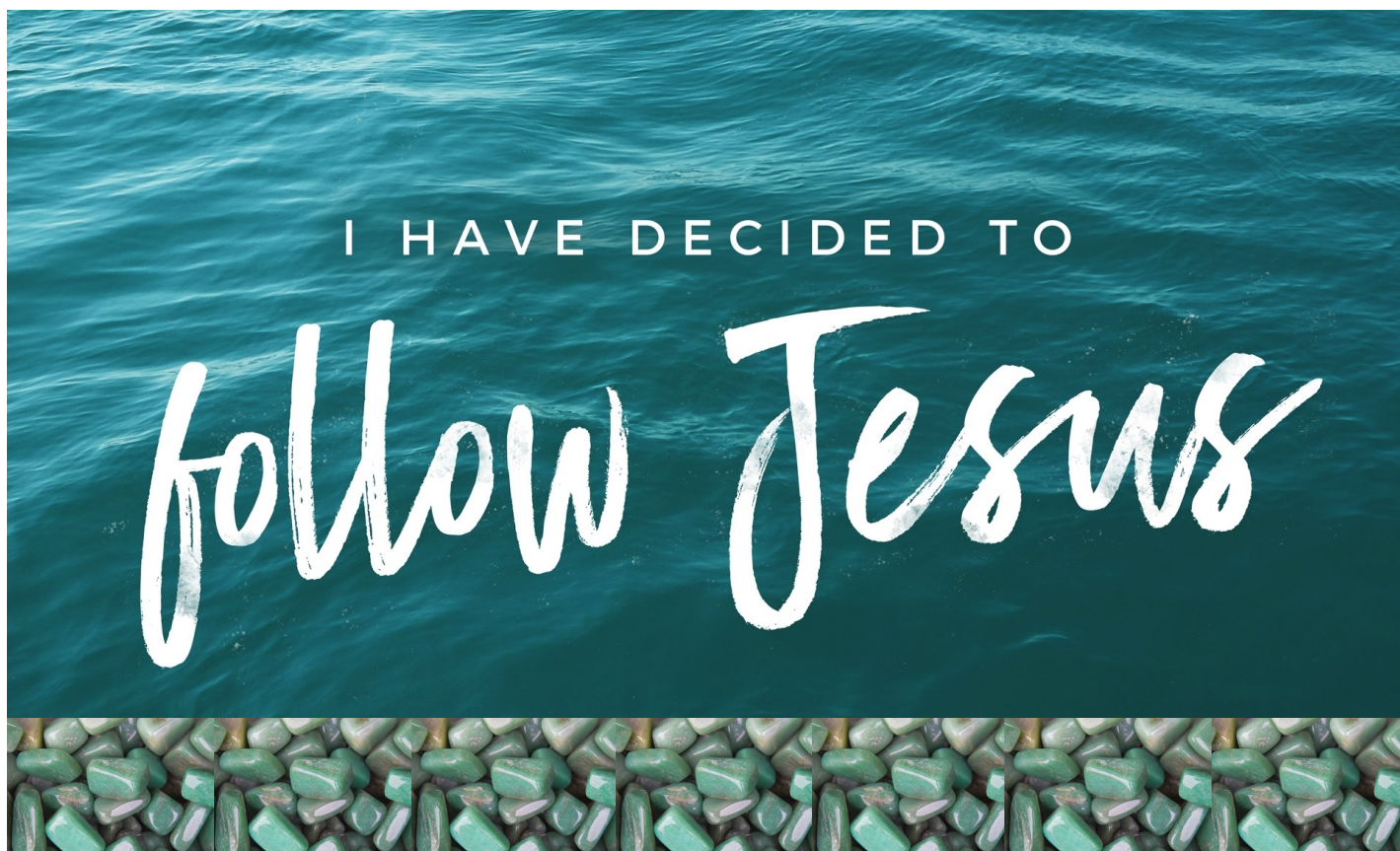


Baptism of the Lord Sunday... January 7th

Looking for a clean slate or a fresh start?

On **Sunday, January 7** when we remember the baptism of our Lord, we will have an opportunity to remember and reaffirm our baptismal vows. We will also celebrate the sacrament of communion.

Join us for this special service seeking and celebrating renewed faith.



NEW MEMBERS... WELCOME!

Jackie Barton



Jackie was born in Germany, where her parents met (her dad was in the U.S. Air Force). From Germany, they moved to Omaha, NE. Jackie has lived in Sterling for about 6 years. She has three dogs, and she works at Centennial Mental Health. Jackie enjoys cooking and she's already jumped in and joined the Fellowship Committee and the Chancel Choir. Welcome, Jackie!

Originally from the Atlanta area, Phillip has lived in Sterling for about six years. His father was a church bell choir director, so Phillip has lots of experience ringing, in addition to singing, and choral directing. Phillip has taught high school choir and math. He currently works at Domino's in Sterling, and is thinking about getting back into teaching.
Welcome, Phillip!



Phillip McKibbin



Gary Rich & Kay Bringham Rich

Gary and Kay are not new to Sterling or to FPC. Kay's parents, Howard and Jean Bringham, were members at FPC, so even before Kay and Gary moved to Sterling, we'd often see them when the family gathered here for holidays. Kay is the Curator at the Overland Trail Museum, and Gary teaches elementary kids. Gary and Kay have been involved with the Chancel Choir and the children/youth programs at FPC, and we're delighted to officially welcome them as new members.

THANK YOU...

“We would like to extend our expression of Gratitude for All the Kindness our Church Family have shown to us, since we have had medical problems. It is not just one or two experiences of these, it is many, many Kindnesses.”

Barbara & Bart Thiele

PER CAPITA

**2024 Per Capita:
\$56/member**

Per Capita envelopes and more information about per capita can be found on the table outside the church office.



Stewardship Update

Estimates of Giving for 2024

54 EOGs — \$214,547

2024 Goal: \$225,000

Estimate of Giving cards are available at church if you would like to turn one in for 2024.

Profit & Loss Summary	Jan-Oct 2023
Total Income	\$207,357.93
Total Expense	\$281,170.77
Net Ordinary Income (Loss)	(\$73,812.84)
Budgeted Transfers	\$30,641.16
Other Transfers	\$20,000.00
Net Ordinary Income (Loss) with Transfers	(\$23,171.68)

Your generosity makes mission & ministry possible... ***Thank you!***

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

UPCOMING EVENTS...

First Friday
@ First Presbyterian

Darren Luft

~
*Contemporary
Christian Piano*

January 5 ~ 12:05pm



Sunday, December 31 ~ Epiphany Sunday

Sunday, January 7 ~ Baptism of the Lord Sunday with Communion

Sunday, January 14 ~ Ordination/Installation of Elders and Deacons

Sunday, January 21 ~ Fellowship Lunch

Save the Date...

Sunday, February 11 ~ Annual Congregational Meeting & Fellowship Lunch

Food Pantry

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.

Cooperating Ministry: December

Canned Sloppy Joe

NJC Food Pantry:

Nuts, Dried Fruit, Trail Mix; Jerky;
Tuna or Salmon (cans/packets);
Protein Bars; Peanut Butter; Nut Butter;
Crackers; Granola; Fruit/Nut Bars;
Instant Oatmeal; Popcorn; Microwavable meals.

THANK YOU!

CAST ALL YOUR
ANXIETY ON HIM
BECAUSE HE CARES
FOR YOU.

1 PETER 5:7

January **BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 George Witherspoon**
- 5 Mary 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
Ken Fritzler
Alex Norell
Addison Steele
- 20 Sam Chaney**
- 21 Liz Chaney**
- 22 Jeff Christenson**
Cooper Jackson
Kyle Lock
- 24 Baylor Manuello**
- 27 Karlee Manuello**

Happy Birthday...

May your day be blessed!

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
Florence Annan
Grace Ann (Connie Clark's relative)
David Balabanis Family
Tye Bennett (Neblett's grandson)
Brenda Boeff
Gabe Chapin
Cooperating Ministry
Jeanne Crouch & Family
Cierra Davis (friend of Becky Cranwell)
Andrew DeSouza (Michelle Hawkins' son)
Gary Espinosa (Arden Fennell's family)
Family Resource Center
Norman Foos
Koehn Gertner (Mike's grandson)
Meredith Goodwin (friend of Propsts)
David Hashman, SCF Inmate
Highlands Camp
Sonja Holden (friend of Arden Fennell)
Hollis Jackson
Chris Jutz
Josh Jutz & Kaylee
Dennis Kaan
Janae (Klindt) Kerr
Kiel/Alva Family (friends of Weingardts)
Robert Koehler (friend of Laura Guenzi)
Debby Korrey (Delinda's & Darla's sister)
Ann Leh and Family
Delinda Korrey McDowell
Aline Marquez (friend of Becky Cranwell)
Montelle Martens
Rev. Betsey & Eric Moe,
& the people of Guatemala

Rose Neblett
Jeni Porter (In-law of Blackburns)
Frances Rhodes (Dave's mother)
Jerry Rich (Gary's brother)
Agnes Rundus
Betty Scharf
John Seffens (friend of Mike Tyson)
Steven Shinn (friend of Jim Leh)
Darrell Smith
AJ, Sara, & Baby Leo Sonnenberg
(friends of Weingardts)
Becky Stieb, Justin & Torin
(friends of Michelle Hawkins)
Charlie & Roseanne Thompson (friends of Nebletts)
Mike Tyson
Amy & Byron Uhrich (Jill Vollmer's parents)
Under the Umbrella
Robert Vance (Michelle White's dad)
Norma Wagner (Jana Lock's mom)
Derek Weingardt
(nephew of Rhodes and Weingardts)
Violet Weingardt (Rick and Kim Weingardt's mom)
Masi Wells (friend of Taylor Cranwell)
Jeff Weskamp
Jim & Jean Williamson

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. . .

Highlights from the October 2023 Session Meeting:

The Session of First Presbyterian Church, Sterling, Colorado, held a joint meeting with the finance committee on **Tuesday, October 17, 2023**, at 5:30 in the conference room.

Present were the Moderator, Rev. Michelle D. Witherspoon, Bookkeeper Karlee Manuello, Finance Committee members Bev Cumming and Connie Ham, and elders from session. A quorum was present.

IT WAS VOTED to elect Jackie Reynolds to take minutes.

IT WAS VOTED to celebrate the sacrament of communion at the meeting.

Devotions including communion and prayers of intercession for the congregation and community were offered.

BUDGET:

After discussion, IT WAS VOTED to approve the 2024 budget as finalized.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

A written report was received.

The Baby Bear Hugs County Coordinator wrote to let us know they are not interested in using our space in the church building at this time.

The session will host a breakfast at the church on December 3, 2023, for new church members and prospective members.

David Wood from the Resonance Project will visit our church on November 18-19, 2023.

CLERK REPORT:

The session will need to elect a new clerk before the end of the year to begin serving in January 2024.

OTHER BUSINESS:

IT WAS VOTED to approve the building use request on November 1, 2023, from the Sterling Reviewers Club to use the fellowship hall and kitchen.

The Family Resource Center has asked the church to provide meals for the Parenting Class at noon and in the evening once a month. By consensus, it was decided to use funds in the Rummage Sale Fund and Christmas Tea Fund to support this activity.

NEXT MEETING/IMPORTANT DATES:

Called Congregational Meeting on Sunday, October, 29, 2023, following fellowship.

Session meeting: The session will combine November and December meetings and meet on December 5, 2023, 5:30 pm.

SERVING IN CHURCH — JANUARY

USHERS

January 7 Audrey Reeves
Traci Reeves
January 14 Dean Boeff
Tammie Malone
January 21 Kim Weingardt
Alie Sheldon
January 28 Delinda Korrey McDowell
Ken McDowell

FIRST RESPONSE/BULLETIN DELIVERY

January Dean Boeff

FELLOWSHIP COFFEE

January 7 Membership / Stewardship Committee
January 14 Finance Committee
January 21 Fellowship Committee
January 28 Bell Choir

COUNT OFFERING

January 7 Bev Cumming
January 14 Linda Meisner
January 21 Bob Smith
January 28 Connie Ham

LITURGISTS

January 7 Gary Slimmer
January 14 Jacob Paiz
January 21 Jeff Rice
January 28 Ann Blackburn

AV TECHS

January 7 Justin Cranwell (sound)
Pam Trimble (slides)
January 14 Dean Boeff (sound)
Myra Westfall (slides)
January 21 Tanna Prince
& Rex Witherspoon (sound)
Jeff Christenson (slides)
January 28 Justin Cranwell (sound)
Jacob Paiz (slides)

PREPARING/SERVING COMMUNION

January 7, 2024

Preparing: Sue Weingardt, Tanna Prince

Serving: Dennis Kaan, Connie Ham, Pam Werner



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

January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Church Office Closed	5:15 Fellowship	10:30 Worship & Sacraments	5:30 Bells 6:30 Choir	12:05pm First Friday Concert (Darren Luft)	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10:30 Worship/ Communion 11:30 Fellowship Coffee 11:45 Officer Education				5:30 Bells 6:30 Choir		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
10:30 Worship/ Officer Ordination/ Installation 11:30 Fellowship Coffee	Office Closed (MLK Day) Newsletter Deadline	5:30pm Session	5:15 Finance	1:30 Women's Book Study 5:30 Bells 6:30 Choir		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
10:30 Worship 11:30 Fellowship Lunch				5:30 Bells 6:30 Choir		
28	29	30	31			
10:30 Worship 11:30 Fellowship Coffee						

Christmas Eve 2023...





FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

130 S. 4TH STREET ~ STERLING, CO 80751

WORSHIP

Sunday, 10:30 a.m.

onsite ~ online ~ radio

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

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

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MUSIC COORDINATOR/ORGANIST ELSIE FETZER

CHOIR DIRECTOR DARLA KORREY GERTNER

BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR LINDSEY JACKSON

PROPERTY MANAGER JANET KLOBERDANZ

NEWSLETTER EDITORS TAMMIE MALONE
AND JACKIE REYNOLDS

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