

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church of Monroe

January 2026 Epistle



Greetings Church Family,

Greetings and Happy New Year! Christmas has come and gone, and here we are in 2026. We are still in the time of Epiphany, when the Spirit led the Magi by the Star to find the Christ child. This is a picture of how the Spirit leads us all into an unknown future, but we have the light of Christ to guide our way – often as we “go home by another way.”

God has led our church in so many good directions this past year. God continues to add new friends to our fellowship, and God has provided for us financially. I thank you for your generosity to our church, to our missions’ partners, and to our community.

We are also thankful for our leadership. Our session consists of the elders we had in 2025: Sarah Williams, Carole Queen, Ann Hall, Neal Howard, Tim Blalock, George Carroll, and me.

We also welcome to the session a new ruling elder, Freda Doster, who will be serving as our stated clerk. We also want to give a big THANK YOU to Gwen Roberts, who has served as our stated clerk for the past several years. Thank you so much, Gwen, for your great service!

I wish you all the best for a happy and healthy 2026!

Pastor Bruce



Worship With Us!

Join us for worship, Sundays at 11 am. You may also join us virtually through Facebook Live by clicking [here](#). You do not need a Facebook account to view the service.

Sunday, January 4 is Communion Sunday.



January Missions Offering

F.I.S.H.

Please remember that the first Sunday of each month is a special offering for F.I.S.H. Checks can be made out to FPC with FISH in the memo line.

F.I.S.H. Mission

FPC is participating in the "2026 item of the year" with F.I.S.H. **Our item for 2026 is canned fruit.** Please purchase the cans with the pull tab top if you can. We will collect every month of 2026. Each month we will deliver to F.I.S.H. what has been collected. Thank you for your kind assistance in feeding the most needy in our community through the FISH food pantry.

F.I.S.H. is currently in need of clothing and household items. All proceeds from the F.I.S.H. thrift stores pay all operating costs of all aspects of F.I.S.H., FISH4Kids, and F.I.S.H. Medical and Dental. 100% of all financial donations are used to assist someone in need.

For the month of December, we collected a total of \$220 for our monthly F.I.S.H. Mission. We also collected for Presbyterian Homes - Santa Claus Express, in the amount of \$910. Thank you for your generosity!

Missions Special Emphasis for January – Brown Bag Ministry for FISH

Starting in January we will again do the Brown Bags with the shopping list for the FISH food pantry. Please take a bag and fill it with the items from the shopping list and bring it back to the church during the month of January.

Thank you to Danny Boozer and Jim Williams for their faithfulness in delivering the food we collect to the FISH food pantry following the last Sunday of every month.



The staff would like to thank you for your generosity with the Christmas Love Offering. We are most grateful for your love and support. We are blessed to work alongside you all!



December 2025 Financial Report (as of 12/31/2025).

DECEMBER Giving (Pledged, Unpledged, Loose Offering)	\$22,597.24
DECEMBER Designated Giving	\$6320.81
DECEMBER TOTAL REVENUES	\$28,918.05
DECEMBER Expenses	\$31,836.28
DECEMBER Net Total/budget	-\$2918.23/+\$2770.86
YTD Giving (Pledged, Unpledged, Loose Offering)	\$270,258.97
YTD Designated Giving	\$32,989.72
YTD TOTAL GIVING	\$303,248.69
YTD Expenses	\$289,664.88
YTD Net Total/budget	+\$13,583.81/+\$33,250.54



Chili Cook-Off

Sunday, January 25 following worship



Viticulture

Will not meet in January.



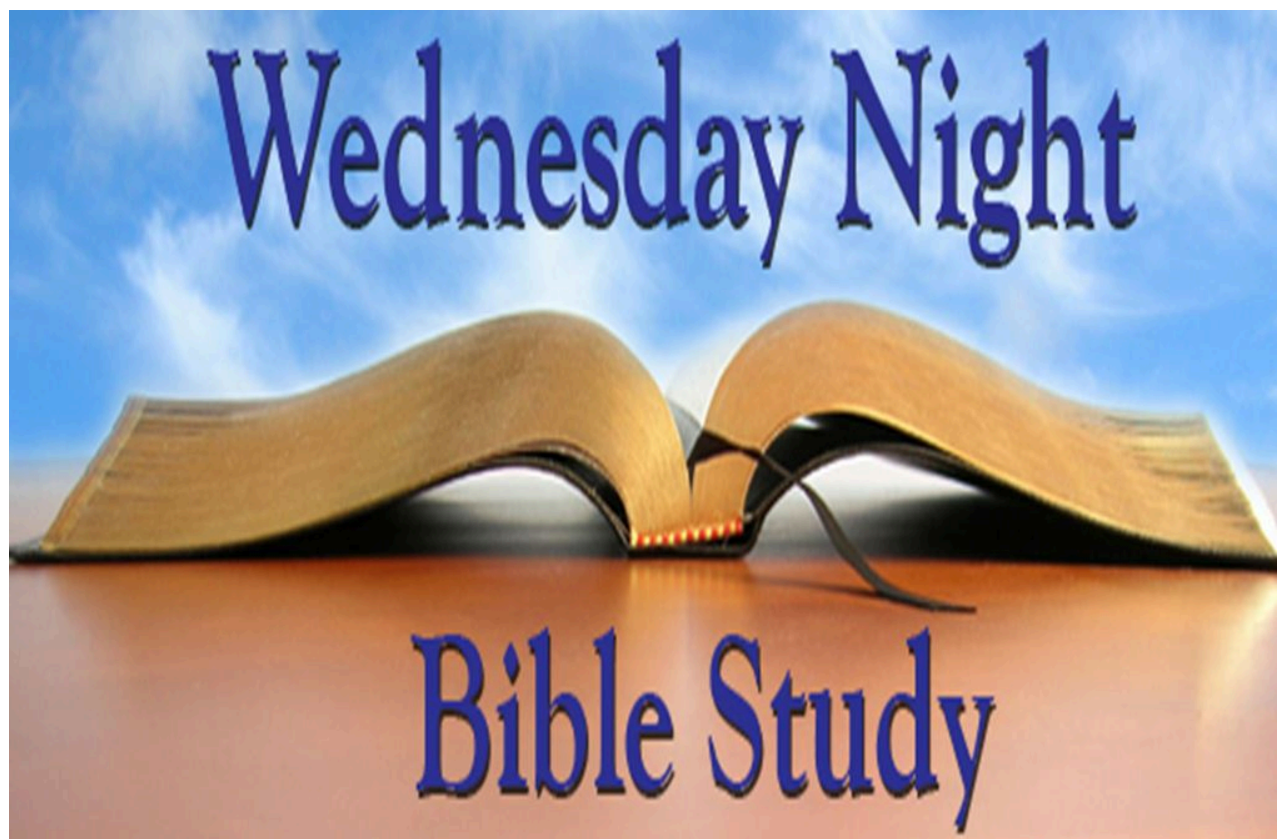
Sanctuary Sisters

Will not meet in January.



Joy Circle

Will not meet in January.



Wednesday Night Bible Study

The Wednesday night Bible Study Group will resume in February. Leaders will include Freda Doster, Gwen Roberts and Sarah Williams. We will meet from 5:30 – 6:30 and would love to have anyone who is interested (both men and women) as well as any friends of the church join us. We will be doing the Bible Study “Angels” by Melissa Spolestra. We will meet in the bible study room.

The study includes 8 Sessions – However, based on our last study, we will be breaking the lessons down so that each session (with the exception of the first session) covers a two-week period. Our first session will be on Wednesday, February 4, 2026. We will conclude on Wednesday, May 20, 2026. We will NOT meet on Wednesday, April 8, 2026, due to Spring Break.

Study Summary: The author “traverses the terrain from Genesis to Revelation to learn about angels – who they are, what they do and what they have to do with you. There’s no reason to fear or ignore what’s happening in the supernatural, unseen realm – we can live with confidence that God is in

control of it all. Angels is a call to put your hope in the God of angel armies who reigns over heaven and earth.”

Study Books can be purchased from Lifeway, Amazon, The Armory Bookstore (they have two copies in stock)- the cost of the book is \$21.99.



FPC Sunday School Classes

Sunday School starts at 10am
9:45-10am coffee and fellowship

Hanson Sunday School Class -

Teacher - Sarah Williams

Curriculum - Presbytery Materials Quarterly

Fall Quarter we will be covering Isaiah, Jeremiah, & Ezekiel.

There is a book provided for those who like to prepare ahead and to follow along during class. Please join us for fellowship and study.

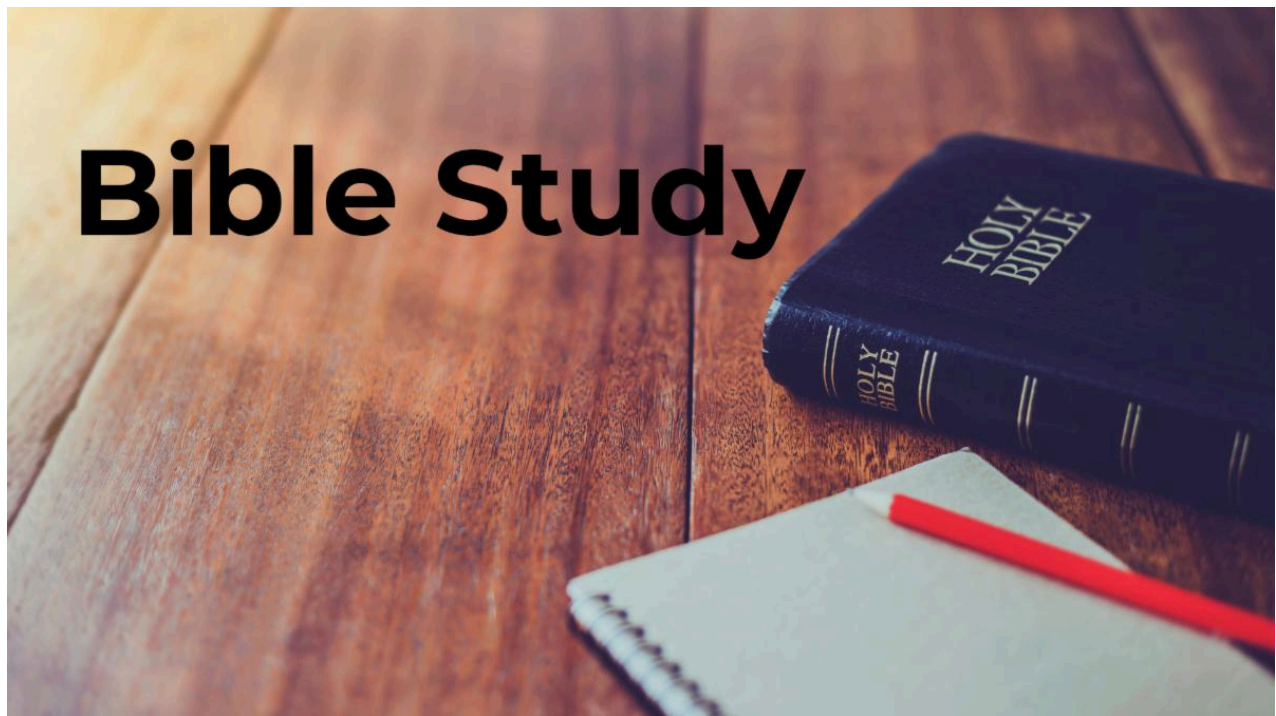
Inquirer's Sunday School Class -

Teaching/study material for the class comes from recommendations from class members, i.e. The Book of John (Bible/Commentaries); books 'Twelve Extraordinary Woman' by John MacArthur; works by Chuck Swindoll. Currently, the Inquirer's class is exploring 'Pleasing God' by R.C. Sproul. The class format is interactive with open discussion facilitated by Kim Smith.

Seekers Sunday School Class -

Teacher - Ann Hall

The Seekers Sunday School class discusses the Bible verses supporting the sermon for Sunday.



Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Tuesday mornings at
10a.



Man Cave

Man Cave meets weekly for fellowship and biscuits on Thursdays at 10am in the Fellowship Hall.



Bulletin & Epistle Announcements

If you have an announcement for inclusion in the bulletin or monthly Epistle, please email Valarie at office@fpcmonroe.com. Bulletin announcements are due by

Wednesday morning weekly. Epistle announcements are due on the last Wednesday of each month.



Prayer Request

If you know of someone who needs prayer and want them to be included on our Prayer List, please send your prayer request to Valarie at office@fpcmonroe.com, and Beattie at ble1120@icloud.com.



Check Reimbursement

If you need reimbursement by check from the church, please request a reimbursement form from Valarie Malcom or Neal Howard. At that time, the request will be reviewed and a check given. Thank you for helping us as we use our gifts in service to the Lord.

Neal Howard, Treasurer



Main Office Hours

Monday - Friday, 9 am - 1 pm

DIRECTORY

Please contact the church office to request a copy of the January 2026 directory.

FPC Session

Gwen Roberts

Clerk of Session

404-915-1182

gweenroberts@gmail.com

Neal Howard [Class of 2027, Term 2]

Admin. & Finance

678-642-4476

howardnc@windstream.net

Tim Blalock [Class of 2025, Term 3]

Building & Grounds

678-859-4476

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Ann Hall [Class of 2027, Term 1]

Congregational Care

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George Carroll [Class of 2027, Term 2]

At Large

770-266-5288

gmcmmc@monroeaccess.com

Carole Queen[Class of 2026, Term2]

Missions

678-858-3745

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Sarah Williams [Class of 2027, Term 2]

Hospitality & Care

770-601-1699

s.hester.williams@gmail.com

FPC Staff

Dr. Bruce McRae

Pastor

770-331-1378

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Beattie Evans

Music Director

770-601-9315

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Harriet Jett

Pianist

678-427-5686

harriet.kilpatrick@gmail.com

Valarie Malcom

Executive Assistant

770-267-3404 - office

office@fpcmonroe.com

Neal Howard

Treasurer

678-642-4476 - cell

howardnc@windstream.net



January.

Fran Cone	2
John Clendenen	5
Tim Blalock	8
Foster Young	11
Connie Roberts	12
Gina Meadows	14
Jayne Howard	14
Kay Stringer	17
Glenn Cook	18
Susan Evans	20
Morgen Howard	29

Monroe, GA 30655

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