

February Newsletter



First Presbyterian Church

400 Lakeview Road, Mexico, Missouri

Phone: 573-581-5689

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Volume 33, Issue 02

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January 25, 2024

STAFF

Pastor

Rev. Dr. Susan Presley

Student Ministries

Director

Micah McNeal

Organist & Handbells

Barbara Green

Choir Director

Josh Yancey

Administrative Assistant

Sandy Weber

Financial Secretary

Lori Ray

Custodian

Ryan Totten

Sunday Schedule

Worship Service

9:00 a.m.

Fellowship

10:00 a.m.

Sunday School

10:15 a.m.

High School Youth

7:30 p.m. Sundays

(First Presbyterian Church)

6th—12th Youth

6:00 p.m. Wednesdays

(First Christian Church)

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www.mexicofpc.com

Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/mexicoFPC)

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Wifi: MexicoFPC-Guest

Password: #liv2srv

What Aisle Are You In?

Have you noticed the trend in stores this time of year? When shopping one day, I noticed that there were several aisles in a row with different color themes.

- ◆ The first aisle was full of pink and red aisle had hearts, chocolates, cards, and balloons to give your loved one on Valentine's Day.
- ◆ Next, a green row was full of shamrocks, leprechauns, and pots of gold for St. Patrick's Day.
- ◆ Moving to the next aisle revealed pastels with bunnies, chicks, eggs, and flowers for Easter.
- ◆ Finally, there was a ragtag red and green aisle of leftover gift tags, ribbon and lights in a discounted Christmas section.

There is no shortage of aisles that have been carefully crafted into displays to attract your attention and encourage you to purchase items you might not even need. Honestly, do we really *need* all those totes full of plastic Easter eggs?

One aisle you're sure to visit soon, though, is the aisle in the center of our sanctuary. It really can be awe-inspiring to enter our worship space and just pause for a moment, realizing all that happens in that room. Thousands of songs have been sung and innumerable prayers have been prayed; love has been declared during weddings and grief has been shared at funerals. Connections have been made and community has been formed. So many sacred moments have happened here that a person can feel that it's a special place as they come up the aisle.

The next time you come up the aisle, you might take a little time to think about what the sanctuary means to you. If you feel moved to share any stories, thoughts, or feelings with me, I'd love to hear them! May you be blessed as you continue to worship and create new memories here.

Pastor Susan



FEBRUARY WORSHIP
9:00 a.m.

February 4

Scripture—Jonah 1:1-17; 4:11

Sermon—Jonah, Part 1

Preaching—Rev. Dr. Susan Presley

February 11

Scripture—Jonah 3:1-10

Sermon—Jonah, Part 2

Preaching—Rev. Dr. Susan Presley

February 18—(Week 1 of Lent)

Scripture—Psalm 51

Sermon—A Clean Slate

Preaching—Rev. Dr. Susan Presley

February 25—(Week 2 of Lent)

Scripture—Matthew 6:1; 19-21

Sermon—Where Your Treasure Is

Preaching—Rev. Dr. Susan Presley



FEBRUARY SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Worship 9:00 a.m.

Fellowship 10:00—10:15 a.m.

Sunday School 10:15 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Pre K—1st Grade Room 105

2nd—5th Grade Room 104

Sr and Mid High Youth Room 300

Young Mom's Westminster Room

Wired Word Room 200

Fenlon's Bible Study Room 305

Sermon Discussion Room 201

Knit Wits Room 204



2024 Star Words

(pick up your star at the office)



Welcome to your 2024 star word!

If you can, keep it in a place where you'll see it often.

The idea is for your star word to speak to you.

May your star word speak to you in the new year!



- ◆ Carol Wyss
- ◆ Donna Browning (Jan Harlow's extended family)
- ◆ Don Munford (Robbie & Cara Miller's brother in law)
- ◆ Rona Wilson
- ◆ Bonnie Kimbel
- ◆ Katherine Staley
- ◆ Dick Schmidtke
- ◆ Dan Kriwiel (Peggie's husband)
- ◆ Betty Coari
- ◆ Carl Smarr
- ◆ Larry LaRue (Barb Brandt's brother)
- ◆ Anna Rentschler
- ◆ Connie Robley
- ◆ Quinlan Gillette (The Gillette's grandson)
- ◆ Debra Kreyling
- ◆ Barbara Neumann
- ◆ Linda Baker (Lana Parmenter's sister-in-law)
- ◆ Stu Miller (deployment to Kuwait)
- ◆ Lucas Coari
- ◆ Sue Kare (Peggie Kriwiel's sister)
- ◆ Michael Schuessler (friend of the Rays)
- ◆ Luke Pickett
- ◆ Bob Kimes (Pam Miller's father)
- ◆ John Robinson (Linda Sue's cousin's husband)
- ◆ Jane Cooper (Jody Fetterhoff's sister-in-law)
- ◆ Judy Lowery (Jody Fetterhoff's sister)
- ◆ Bob Wilburn (Strode's son-in-law)
- ◆ Stan Kent and Nancy Harvieux
- ◆ Cathy Scholz (Betty Coari's friend)

Welcome Rev. Kathryn Collins who has accepted the call to First Presbyterian Church of Columbia, MO.



Join us for Fellowship Sundays after worship!



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FROM JANUARY 15, 2024

The Session of First Presbyterian Church, Mexico, Missouri met on Monday, January 15, 2024 at 7 PM. Those in attendance shared joys and concerns and the moderator opened the meeting with prayer. New elders were welcomed with great joy.

Dianne Maguire was elected clerk of session for 2024.

The consent agenda was accepted into the record, including prior minutes, financial reports, and the meeting agenda were accepted into the record.

Adult Fellowship: This committee is in need of a chairperson for 2024.

Adult Education: Mike Briggs reported on the upcoming study on C.S. Lewis' *Mere Christianity*.

Children's Ministry: Whitney Lewis reported that the PenPal program is going well.

Columbarium: At their recent meeting, the committee approved a budget of \$600 for crack maintenance and sealing of the concrete slab.

Local Mission: Elaine Mensching mentioned that the church was used as a warming station on Saturday 13th during the below-zero temperatures. Visitors enjoyed coffee, cocoa, and requested us to pray with them. The committee also responded to an urgent plea for gloves at the Room At the Inn.

Music and Worship: Josh Yancey explained that the committee will use Breeze to help expedite scheduling of duties and reminders.

Presbyterian Women: Elaine Mensching said PW will continue to send Valentine boxes to our college freshmen.

Stewardship & Finance: Robby Miller reported that for 2023, the budget income exceeded projections, and expenses were less than projected, thus ending the year in the black. During their recent meeting, the committee approved the 2024 budget as well. Session voted to approve Robby as a check signer for a three year term.

Old Business: Rob Dalton has successfully (and excellently) completed two of his four required courses for his CRE program and submitted his transcript.

New Business: Mike Briggs was elected as commissioner to the February, 2024 Presbytery meeting in Marshall, MO. Andy Baker was elected as Session representative and chair of the 2024 Nominating Committee. Ron Ray was elected 2024 elder liaison for Trustees, and Andy Baker was elected the 2024 elder liaison for the Columbarium Committee. The future wedding of Kevin Hogan and Shyanne Fagan was approved. Mike and Nancy Bunge had requested removal from the membership roles, which was approved with our best wishes.

Clerk's Report: Session voted to accept the Clerk's 2023 annual statistical report into the record. Communion dates were approved for 2024.

The meeting closed with a devotion and prayer from Micah McNeal and the meeting was adjourned.



Scout Sunday
Troop 38
Pancake Breakfast
 February 4th, 2024
 7:00—9:00 a.m.
 and during fellowship time
 Fellowship Hall

Visioning Committee
Meeting with the
Session
 February 18th
 11:00 a.m.
 Fellowship Hall



Spring Youth Retreat
Camp Jo-Ota
Clarence, Missouri



March 26-27
6th—12th grade
Talk to Micah for more information!

STREAM SUNDAY WORSHIP ON LINE @ YOU TUBE

If anyone is needing assistance in learning how to stream live services on Sundays, please reach out to Michelle Doolittle with Outreach Committee. We are offering to come to homes, nursing homes, etc., if needed to assist in learning how to do this. Our church services are now being streamed live on **You Tube**. You just search: First Presbyterian Church of Mexico, or go to: **www.youtube.com** and search for **Mexico First Presbyterian Church**.

Scan this QR code with your phone's camera to go directly to site.



Saturday, Feb 3 at Noon
First Christian Church—Fellowship Hall
Chili Cook Off—Youth Fundraiser



A love offering will be collected at the door. All money collected will be split between "All Together Youth Ministries" and "Room at the Inn".
 \$5.00 entry fee
 (money goes to cover prizes)
 Each participant will need to bring 1-2 gallons of chili (crock pots are preferred but we will have stove tops available).

Categories

- 1) Hottest
- 2) Best Over All
- 3) That's Good, But You Know That's Not Chili

Contact First Christian Church at smannfcc77@gmail.com or 573-581-4628 to register your entry. Entry fee can be turned in on Feb. 3rd.

Lent



Ash Wednesday is February 14th.

Ash Wednesday and Lenten worship services will be on Wednesday evenings at First Presbyterian Church.

Join us for Lenten Lunches Mondays at noon in Fellowship Hall beginning February 19th. Soup & sandwiches will be provided by the Fellowship Committee.



NEED A RIDE TO/FROM CHURCH?

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SHARE-A-RIDE MINISTRY
 Call our dispatcher:
 573-936-6625



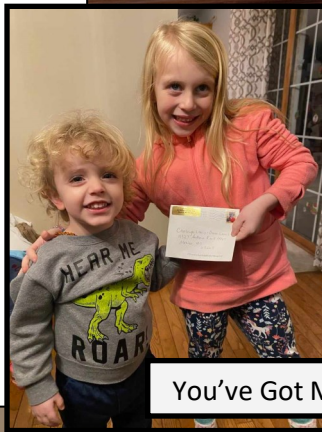
Installation of Officers



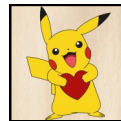
New Members



Children's Message 1/7/24



You've Got Mail!



Pen Pal Party



Lunch Bunch

Please join us February 21st at 11:30 a.m. at:



Diner 54
2751 S. Clark Street



Dear Church Family,

I would like to thank you for your prayers for my sister-in-law, Mary Beth Dicus! She battled pancreatic cancer and treatments. A few weeks ago tests showed her cancer free. Currently she is on dialysis three times a week, but is managing fairly well.

She definitely felt your prayers.

Phyllis Wirths

Thank you ❤️

First Presbyterian Church Funds

Each month we list in this newsletter memorials that have been given that were made in honor of or in memory of members and/or others. If you are interested in giving to a fund, there are many to choose from.

Some of the more popular funds are:

ACCIS Donation, Bequest Fund, Blessing Box, Camp Fund, Columbarium Fund, Endowment Fund, Fellowship Committee, Gift from the Heart, Help Center, Kids For Christ, Memorial Fund and the Kitchen Fund.

Simply write on the check or envelope where you would like your donation to go and who you would like it to honor.

IN LOVING
Memory

BUDGET REPORT As of 1.17.2024



INCOME	Actual \$	Budget for Year \$	Actual vs Budget %
Pledged Giving	13,809.80	325,000	4.25%
Non pledged	4,286.26	87,250	4.91%
Other Income	239.00	12,750	1.87%
Total all income	18,335.06	425,000	4.31%
EXPENSES			
Administration	250.00	6,050	4.13%
Adult Ministries	0.00	850	0%
Children's Ministry	0.00	4,000	0%
Local Mission	933.33	13,000	7.18%
National & Global Mission	2,940.00	42,280	6.95%
Other programs	15.58	3,500	.45%
Outreach	100.00	2,200	4.55%
Property	484.38	66,810	.73%
Personnel	20,393.21	318,548	6.40%
Technology	210.98	8,000	2.64%
Worship	378.00	4,500	8.40%
Youth & Young Adult Ministries	0.00	6,000	0%
Total all expenses	25,705.48	475,738	5.40%

GUIDELINES FOR A PRODUCTIVE MEETING

- 1) Each committee is assigned a chair by the pastor. The chair will find a committee member to serve as secretary. It is nearly impossible for a chair to do both.
- 2) Minutes should be kept of every meeting and should include: when the meeting took place, who was at the meeting, what actions the committee took (motions), and when the committee will meet again. Minutes should be sent to the office in a timely manner to be included in the session packet. Extraneous information & discussion should not be included.
- 3) Committee chairs may send their agenda to the office so it can be printed before the meeting with the last meetings minutes.
- 4) Sticking to the agenda during the meeting will make the meeting more enjoyable and productive for everyone.
- 5) Some people enjoy the social aspect of meetings, while others have extensive commitments and appreciate shorter meetings. Both needs can be met if time is set aside after the meeting adjourns for people who want to visit.
- 6) Learning the basics of Robert's Rules of Order is an asset to anyone attending a meeting here or at other organizations.



If you would like 2024 offering envelopes, please come by the office or talk to Lori on Sunday.

Jayden Green	01	Fred Crews	15	Katherine Staley	27
Bob Zinkel	01	Linda Hamlett	15	Teresa Carlson	28
Karen Linnemeyer	03	Koven Louder	15	Everett Rice	28
Jennifer Benne	04	Marlis Love	18	Jude Yancey	29
Lester Runnels	04	Josh Hanley	19		
Alan Atkins	07	Marcos Matuz	20		
Leila Inlow	07	Tris Myers	21		
Morris Crews	09	Janis Strode	22		
Gale Bybee	11	Becky Fisher	23		
Pat Hannah	11	Elizabeth Hamlett	23		
Bernie Rothrock	11	David Thomas	24		
Matthew Kimbel	13	Donna Haerer	25		
Brooke Smith	14	Bob Kerr	26		



The Blessing Box in Cold Weather

If you are wondering what types of food can be donated in extreme weather, here are some ideas.

- Dry foods like pancake mix, rice, dried beans, dry pasta
- Dried fruit and nuts
- Crackers, granola bars, cereal/instant oatmeal

Take what you need, give what you can.

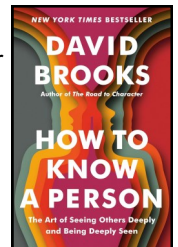


A Book Recommendation

How to Know a Person by David Brooks is a positive book that aims to remedy the fragmentation, hostility, and misperceptions which are so common in today's world. Many individuals feel invisible and/or misunderstood. Though it is not a particularly religious book, it fosters many of the same principles we use in Stephen Ministry, such as empathy grounded in active listening. The book also emphasizes the joy that comes from being seen and understood by others, making it an excellent Christmas gift suggestion.

Other books by Brooks that I would recommend to you are *The Road to Character* and *The Second Mountain*, but *How to Know a Person* is my favorite. If the principles are applied, I think it can be a life changer for you and those around you. It's that good!

Mike Briggs



Stephen Ministers are trained to be CONFIDENTIAL and compassionate listeners to persons experiencing special needs:

- Loss of Loved One
- Separation or Divorce
- Terminal Illness
- Job Crisis
- Financial Stress
- Loneliness or Depression
- Hospitalization
- Being Homebound Spiritual Crisis
- ... And many more!



If you or someone you know could use the care of a Stephen Minister, please contact Pastor Susan or send your name and phone number to the church in care of "**Stephen Ministry, Confidential,**" 400 Lakeview Rd., Mexico, MO 65265.

A friend is one who comes in when the rest of the world has gone out. For a friend in time of crisis call 581-5689 for a Stephen Minister.

If you don't call, we can't Help!

Scouts in the News

Venturing Crew 2020 enjoyed a winter campout, hike and mountain biking.

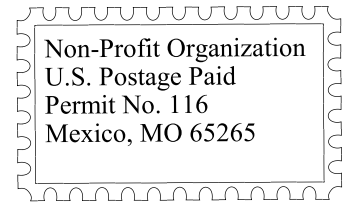


Help Center

Please bring your plastic grocery bags and egg cartons to the barrel by the office or drop at the Help Center.


First Presbyterian Church

400 Lakeview
Mexico, MO 65265



Return Service Requested

DATED MATERIAL

2024	February 4	February 11	February 18	February 25
Liturgist	Julie Huffman	Amy O'Brien	Jolene Matich	Grace Matich
Children's Message	Micah McNeal	Deb Haag	Teresa Carlson	Joanne Nelson
Flowers	Jim Dye			
Ushers	Troop 38 Megan Schutte Clara Schutte	Bruce Oliver Nancy Oliver Bill Woods Linda Woods Stephanie Robinette Raigan Robinette	Lana Parmenter Paul Parmenter Mark De Jaynes Jerry Ahillen Whitney Lewis Charleigh Lewis	Stuart Miller Pam Miller Donna Haerer Bob Fenlon Ashleigh Rice Madison Rice
	Communion Servers Jim Dye Andy Baker Elaine Mensching Micah McNeal	Communion Preparer Darlene Isaacs		