

January Newsletter



First Presbyterian Church

400 Lakeview Road, Mexico, Missouri

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Volume 33, Issue 01

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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)

Email:

office@mexicofpc.com

Web page:

www.mexicofpc.com

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/mexicoFPC

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

Wifi: MexicoFPC-Guest

Password: #liv2srv

Start At the End

Happy New Year!

Traditionally (and practically), New Year's is an opportunity for each of us to take stock of our lives, think about the future, and make some changes. Some of us make resolutions. We plan and hope to accomplish something in the next 12 months. Others of us set goals, which gives us a target to shoot for, but might feel a little less onerous than a resolution. Either way, this practice usually has us focusing on the last year and making a plan for what should change.

New year's resolutions aren't a new thing. The ancient Babylonians had a practice of starting each year with a pledge to return items they'd borrowed. The ancient Romans started their years by promising one of their gods that they would just do better overall in the coming year.

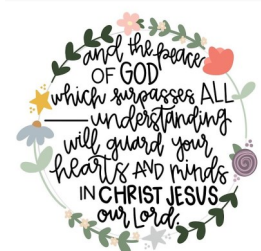
While making a goal or resolution isn't a bad idea by any means, two problems can occur:

Statistically, people aren't very good at keeping resolutions. Studies vary, but all the statistics and surveys I found showed that over 50% of people who rely on their own willpower don't make their annual goal.

Resolutions don't account for the unexpected parts of life that inevitably happen. The Apostle Paul, for example, surely didn't start a year off with the goal of landing in prison for his faith – yet that's what happened. In spite of that, he managed to use the experience to glorify God.

That's the beauty of the new year. As 2023 draws to a close and 2024 begins, whether you make resolutions or goals or just hope for a good year overall, let's keep these things in mind: First, if we rely on the Lord, our results are much more likely to be successful than if we rely on ourselves. And second, when the unexpected happens (and it surely will), God will be there with us. As the Apostle Paul told us, "The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." God is our fortress and our strength. He always has been and will continue to be all through 2024. Let's focus on God's power, beauty, and glory.

Blessings on your new year,
Pastor Susan



JANUARY WORSHIP
9:00 a.m.

January 7

Scripture—Psalm 128:1-6

Sermon—In With the New—Walking in Obedience

Preaching—Rev. Dr. Susan Presley

January 14

Scripture—Proverbs 28:26, James 3:13-18

Sermon—In With the New—Walking in Wisdom

Preaching—Rev. Dr. Susan Presley

January 21

Scripture—Ephesians 5:1-2

Sermon—In With the New—Walking in Love

Preaching—Rev. Dr. Susan Presley

January 28

Scripture—1 John 1:5-10

Sermon—In With the New—Walking in Light

Preaching—Rev. Dr. Susan Presley



FPC Offices will be closed on:

Monday, January 1st

New Years Day
and

Monday, January 15th
Martin Luther King Day

FLOWERS ON THE CHANCEL

We all enjoy the beautiful floral arrangements that decorate our chancel each Sunday. Thank you to everyone who has provided those in honor of a dear loved one or special occasion! Moving forward, each person or family that provides the arrangements will be responsible for taking them home or delivering them to a place of their choosing.

Another option will be to make a donation to a memorial fund or other area of our church in honor of your loved one or event. When those donations are made, we will display one of our silk flower arrangements or art while mentioning your tribute in the bulletin and out loud on Sunday morning as we do now.

The sign-up sheet for arrangements is on the wall near the church office.

Thank you for contributing to our worship services!



JANUARY 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

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Hayes Scott Sebold (Jan Harlow's great grandson)
- Don Munford (Robbie & Cara Miller's brother in law)
- Carl Smarr
- Carol Wyss
- 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)
- Clifford Wilson
- Lucas Coari
- Dick Schmidtke
- Sue Kare (Peggie Kriwiel's sister)
- Bonnie Kimbel
- Katherine Staley
- 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
- Dan Kriwiel (Peggie's husband)
- Cathy Scholz (Betty Coari's friend)

MEMORIAL FUND

Sara Roberts



THANK YOU LOGAN RAY & SLUMBERLAND FURNITURE

Thank you for your generous donation of new sofas for our community room(301) and youth room(300). Your crew was very professional moving it all in and we are very grateful that they also hauled off the old! It is wonderful to have people like you in our community that truly want to help make a difference.



COMMUNION WAFERS

The Lord's Supper (also called Communion) is a very important part of our shared worship experience. In the Presbyterian Church we practice open communion, which means it is available to all to participate. In order to more effectively do that, our church is blessed to be able to serve gluten-free communion bread every week.

We want to say a big thank you to Pam Miller for not only providing the bread for us each week, but making it herself. Because of her sincere love for God and her church family, she is helping us all to participate more wholly and completely in this holy moment that we share each month.

Thank you, Pam!



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FROM DECEMBER, 2023

The Session of First Presbyterian Church, Mexico, Missouri met for a stated meeting on December 18, 2023. Pastor Susan opened the meeting in prayer.

The consent agenda was accepted into the record, including minutes from the November stated meeting, the November congregational meeting, and the November financial reports, and the agenda for the December meeting. Highlights of the meeting included:

New Members! Session met with Scott and Becky Fischer, and joyfully voted to accept them as new members.

Adult Education: Mike Briggs reported that the Saturday Men's Group will begin a new study of the Gospel of John in January. Bob Fenlon's Sunday School class will be starting a new study using a book by C.S. Lewis.

Children's Ministry: Stephanie Robinett reported that the Pen Pal Program will kick off with a Pen Pal Party on January 7th.

National and Global Mission: Bob Fenlon reported that the committee is working to bring in presentations from Mobility Worldwide and Presbyterian Childrens Home and Services early in 2024. Elaine is going to let us know when the Whites' (missionaries that we support) have their next conference on Zoom.

Staff: Dianne Maguire reported that Staff annual evaluations are underway.

Stewardship and Finance: Andy Baker explained the proposed budget for next year, and brought a motion from Committee to the session. The motion passed unanimously.

Trustees: Ron Ray mentioned that in January there will be endowment monies that the session will be tasked with deciding what to do with. These funds are not included in the budget.

Visioning Task Force: This committee has two more meetings and will then present their findings and recommendations to Session early next year.

New Business: Motion was made and approved for the installation and ordination of officers, the congregational meeting and the corporation annual meeting to occur on January 7, 2024 immediately following the worship service. The special Christmas Eve offering was approved, with funds being split between ACCIS and the Help Center. Session approved a request from Jaye Jackson and the MLK Jr. Committee to have a service here the afternoon of January 14. The Blue Christmas service, co-hosted with First Christian Church, was approved for January 18. Session approved a request from *Friends and Family Veterans' Support Organization* to meet in the building on a monthly basis. A motion was made and approved to add the responsibilities of *Nursery Supervisor* under the Student Ministries Director's Job Description. The baptism of Brixten Louder was approved for January 14, 2024.

Clerk's Report: Communion was served on December 3, 2023 in the worship service and at King's Daughters Home. The clerk passed around a *Ministry Engagement and Support Letter* from the Presbytery for all the elders to see.

The outgoing elders (Rob Dalton, Bob Fenlon, Joanne Nelson, and Judy Dye) were thanked for their gracious years of service.

The meeting closed with a devotion and prayer from Stephanie Robinett and the meeting was adjourned.



Dear Church Family:

As a staff, we are incredibly grateful for the generous gifts we have received from you this Christmas season. From delicious treats to a kind monetary gift, we are each humbled by your generosity. It's an honor to serve God through our work. God be with you in the new year, and we look forward to ministering together with you in 2024.

Sincerely,

Pastor Susan Presley

Micah McNeal

Barb Green

Sandy Weber

Lori Ray

Josh Yancey

Ryan Totten

Eric Meranda



To My Church Family,

I would like to take this time to say thank you for such a beautiful reception, and for all the cards and gifts that I received.

May God bless you all.

Thank you ♥

Eric Meranda



A NOTE FROM THE SKINNERS

Thank you for all of the things people have done for us during this season of advent, including cards, caroling, kind thoughts and prayers.



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.



Scout Sunday Troop 38

Pancake Breakfast
February 4th, 2024
8:00 a.m.
Fellowship Hall

Scouts in the News



Troop 38 hiked and camped at Mark Twain State Park in early December. It was wet and cold and they had a great time!





Christmas Carolers—December 17th, 2023



Quartet



Presbyterian Women's Luncheon



Kids For Christ VA Wreath



Mexico High School Jazz Band



Christmas Spirit



Kids For Christ Dinner Theater

Lunch Bunch

Please join us January 17th at 11:30 a.m. at:



Ori Hibachi
621 East Liberty



YOUR GIVING STATEMENT

If you would like a statement of your giving in 2023, you may access it on your Breeze account (*on the left side of your Breeze page, click on "giving" to view your statement*) or call and leave a message for Lori. You are the only one that can see your totals besides the financial secretary.

National & Global Committee

Because of the generosity of our church family, we have enabled international mission work in Europe and provided aid to those affected by the Maui wildfires and Hurricane Ian in Florida. We have ensured that those on the Pine Ridge Indian reservation and in Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services will be better provided for this winter. Villagers in Africa will have a well producing clean water and people all over the world will move with dignity on self-propelled carts built and shipped by Mobility International.

As we celebrate Christmas in our warm and comfortable homes we can be thankful that we have been able to provide for those less fortunate in the name of Jesus Christ, the babe in the manger. Peace!

Bob Fenlon - Chair

BUDGET REPORT

As of December , 2023



INCOME	Actual \$	Budget for Year \$	Actual vs Budget %
Pledged Giving	327,172.49	325,000	100.67
Non pledged	68,563.90	69,200	99.08
Other Income	11,261.40	5,800	194.16
Total all income	406,997.79	400,000	101.75
EXPENSES			
Administration	3,671.59	6,050	60.69%
Adult Ministries	981.89	850	115.52%
Children's Ministry	2,486.41	3,700	67.20%
Local Mission	8,336.75	9,500	87.76
National & Global Mission	40,600	40,600	100.00
Other programs	4,127.63	1,800	229.31%
Outreach	1,553.02	2,200	70.59%
Property	48,931.71	68,700	71.23%
Personnel	290,921.73	303,256	95.93%
Technology	8,595.29	7,724	111.28%
Worship	4,498.50	4,500	99.97%
Youth & Young Adult Ministries	2,763.80	6,000	46.06%
Total all expenses	417,468.32	454,880	91.78%

First Presbyterian Church of Mexico 2024 Officers

Elders

Andy Baker
 Mike Briggs
 Whitney Lewis
 Sheryl Louder
 Andrew Cauthorn
 Elaine Mensching
 Ron Ray
 Stephanie Robinett
 Robby Miller
 Josh Yancey
 Steve Haag
 Micah McNeal

Deacons

Bill Woods
 Clarissa Cauthorn
 Michelle Doolittle
 Ginger Huddleston
 Elliott Rice
 Lee Dalton
 Liz Schutte
 Danielle Louder
 Megan Schutte
 Ross Fryer
 Dustin Lewis
 Liz Rice

Trustees

Kim Sydenstricker
 Alan Atkins
 George Huffman
 Kenny Nelson
 Paul Gillette
 Chuck Rentschler

Youth Deacon

Marcos Matuz



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Barbara Neumann	3
Linda Woods	3
Shirlee Dubbert	4
Matthew Huffman	4
Caleb Robertson	4
Sarah DeLong	6
EllaBelle Schutte	6
Adolph Ogar	10
Alicia Hagan	12

David Miller	12
Ryan Colley	13
Scott Matich	13
Ronald Ray	15
Mike Briggs	16
Tom Young	16
Kristine Smiley	18
John Dial	19
Hadley Stolte	20
Deacon Haag	21
Jerry Isaacs	21
Kenny Nelson	21
Danielle Baumgartner	22

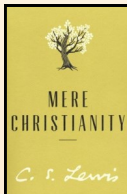
Caroline Groves	24
Keith Louder	28
Andy Baker	30
Madge Moore	30
Bradley Hutchinson	31
Lori Ray	31



Mere Christianity

Have you ever wanted to read Mere Christianity, the classic of Christian writing but just never quite got around to it? Here's your chance! You don't have to read it. You don't have to prepare for a weekly lesson. You'll never be asked a question. Bob Fenlon will read it to the class and you are free to make observations, ask questions and share thoughts. Think of an interactive podcast.

Come as you are and give it a try. If it turns out that it's not for you, just stop coming, there'll be no hard feelings. We'll continue until we finish the book. The class will start after fellowship on February 4.



PEN PALS—The Children's Ministry Committee would like to invite congregation members to be Pen Pals with the kiddos of the church! Sign-up is found on Breeze at:

<https://mexicofpc.breezechms.com/form/824d25>
We'll be hosting a "Pen Pal Party" on January 7th from 3:30 - 5:00. We'll be playing games and eating some snacks!

Questions can be directed to Stephanie Robinett or Whitney Lewis.



Help Center

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

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!

NEED A RIDE TO/FROM CHURCH?

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SHARE-A-RIDE MINISTRY

Call our dispatcher:
573-936-6625



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
KNITWITS PRAYER SHAWLS**

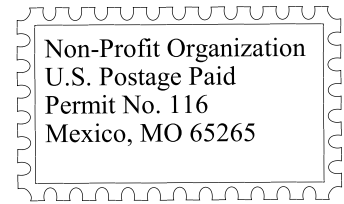
The Knit Wits have lovingly crafted prayer shawls for people going through hardships such as times of stress, bereavement, illness and or recovery. Giving a prayer shawl is a thoughtful physical reminder of God's love and prayers being said for a person. There is a supply of shawls in the Board Room. Simply record your name and the name of the recipient on the clipboard provided. Talk to a Knit Wit for more info.

The Knit Wits meet Sundays at
10:15 a.m. in room 204.




First Presbyterian Church

400 Lakeview
Mexico, MO 65265



Return Service Requested

DATED MATERIAL

2024	January 7	January 14	January 21	January 28
Liturgist	Steve Haag	Liz Schutte	Dianne Maguire	Lauren Hanley
Children's Message	Teresa Carlson	Joanne Nelson	Steve Haag	Lana Parmenter
Ushers	Jim Dye Judy Dye Karen Linnemeyer Donna Haerer Whitney Lewis Charleigh Lewis	Bruce Oliver Nancy Oliver Bill Woods Linda Woods Stephanie Robinett Bryce Robinett	Freddie Crews Karagen Matich Stuart Miller Pam Miller Molly Hanley Lauren Hanley	Paul Parmenter Lana Parmenter Dan Erdel Cheri Erdel Megan Schutte EllaBelle Schutte
				Deacon Of The Month Michelle Doolittle