

# *The JANUARY Leaven 2023*

Dear Friends,

We had a blessed Advent and Christmas season – thank you to all who made this season so meaningful.

Please continue to pray for the Pastor Nominating Committee. They will be working hard for the next several months to listen to the Holy Spirit as you seek your next pastor.

I was reading a guest essay in the New York Times this week. It was entitled “Why Jesus Loved Friendship” by Peter Wehner. It focuses in part on Jesus’ conversation with the disciples in the later part of the gospel of John when Jesus says that they are now his friends. Here’s an extensive quote from that article:

*Scott Dudley, senior pastor at Bellevue Presbyterian Church in Bellevue, Wash., pointed out to me that the exchange in John revealed God’s radical love and grace. “You would expect God to befriend worthy people, educated people, brave people, or, at bare minimum, moral people,” he told me. But instead, Jesus chose to be his followers the uneducated (several fishermen), the reviled (Matthew, a tax collector for the hated Roman regime), a person who would deny him (Peter) and even betray him (Judas). Access to the divine is no longer the province of a special caste of influential, privileged people. And what Jesus did in the process is profoundly alter the understanding of the power dynamic between God and mortals.*

*“Power cannot generate love,” Pastor Dudley told me. “Power can generate obedience, fear, awe, grudging submission — but not love. The God who comes to us in Jesus doesn’t want grudging submission; he wants us to love him and be loved by him. He wants relationship, including friendship, and so he came in vulnerability, not in power.”*

I am moved by the line “power cannot generate love.” This is an interesting time both in the church and in our country. How do we, as followers of Jesus, generate love? Let’s ponder and pray over that question as we begin this new year. Peace, Krista

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## **New Adult Sunday School Class begins January 8: *The Church and Social Media***

In this Sunday School Class we will look at the issue of social media and the church. We will look at why churches use social media, what our web site and facebook page currently communicate about us, and how we might move forward in our use of social media. We will meet in classroom 8. Join us at 9am.

## **FPCLVKS TO HOST PRESBYTERY WIDE YOUTH EVENT ON MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY.**

Heartland Presbytery has asked FPCLVKS to host the Presbytery wide youth event on Monday, January 16. Heartland Presbytery youth will gather in our fellowship hall for a service project and worship. See the schedule below.

### **Day of Service and Youth Tubing Event**

**Monday, January 16, 2023**

We hope the youth of Heartland Presbytery and their adults will join us for our Heartland Presbytery Winter Youth Event 2023! We will begin our time together with mixers, worship, a service project, and lunch at First Presbyterian Church in Leavenworth, Kansas. We will conclude our time together with tubing fun at Snow Creek Ski Area.

Here is a look at our time together:

10am - Check-In @ First Presbyterian Church, Leavenworth

10am - 10:30am Icebreakers, etc..

10:30am - 11:45am - Service Project

11:45am - MLK Program

Noon - Lunch

1pm - Leave for Snow Creek & "Service/Lunch Only" participants depart

2pm - 4pm - Tubing

4pm - Depart Snow Creek

*Participants are responsible for their own transportation to and from  
First Presbyterian, Leavenworth 407 Walnut St, Leavenworth, KS  
66048 AND Snow Creek 1 Snow Creek Drive, Weston, MO 64098.*

*Churches are responsible for the liability of the youth that they are  
sponsoring to this event. Please make sure that you have all of your  
necessary forms collected.*

-Annual Congregational meeting will take place immediately after worship on Sunday, January 29.  
Look for the annual report about a week in advance.

-Please pray for the Pastor Nominating Committee

*Be part of the miracle*

## *Cover the World with Blankets*

### **"Love never fails." - 1 Corinthians 13:8**

When difficult times happen, a kind and loving response can make all the difference. That's why the CWS Blankets program was created—to give a kind, loving and tangible response to someone facing a difficult time, reminding them that they are not alone.

Through the generosity of CWS partner organizations, congregations and individual supporters, our most vulnerable neighbors around the world can feel safe and keep warm with fresh linens and clean sleeping quarters.

When our neighbors are in need, even \$10 for a single blanket goes a long way. Blanket Sunday comes early at FPC this year. Please be generous on January 8th as we collect for this worthy project. In 2022 you donated \$520. Thank you for doing your part to Blanket the World with Love.

Sponsored by PWC

## **ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

The annual congregational meeting for 2023 will take place Sunday, January 29 immediately following the morning worship service.

The meeting will give members of the congregation a chance to ask questions about the operation of the church during 2022, a year during which we witnessed the arrival of our interim pastor, the Rev. Dr. Krista Kiger, and the eventual formation of a Pastor Nominating Committee.

Two items of business members of the church will need to dispense with are the proposed approval of the pastor's Terms of Call for 2023 and the election of the Nominating Committee for 2023.

Copies of the various committee reports, the Pastor's Report, the Clerk of Session Report, the Treasurer's Report, other reports, and the minutes of congregational meetings will be available for viewing later this month in advance of the annual congregational meeting. I would encourage you to secure a copy as soon as you can and review it at your convenience prior to the meeting. I also would encourage you to be present for the meeting and prepared to take up the business at hand with the help of your fellow congregants. Thank you!

Rick Nichols, Clerk of Session

## **TIME AND TALENTS**

In January the Faithful Discipleship Committee will be conducting a Time and Talents survey involving members and friends of the church. It also will be making copies of a new Time and Talents brochure available to congregants.

I hope you will take advantage of the opportunity to complete the survey so that individuals who are willing to give of their time and talents in support of the work of the church can be plugged into one or more of the available ministry slots as soon as possible.

So please pick up a copy of the brochure and a copy of the survey, then fill out the survey at your convenience and return it to the church office.

The survey is similar to the one that was conducted in 2019 by the Faithful Discipleship Committee. That survey was very helpful in generating valuable information that was used to help put members and friends of the service into positions of service where real needs could be met in a timely manner.

Rick Nichols, Moderator, Faithful Discipleship Committee

## **HAPPY IS ON THE WAY!**

Members and friends of the church contributed a total of \$815 to the Christmas Joy Offering last month, money that will be used by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to assist past and present workers with the larger church who are struggling financially as well as future leaders of the church who are currently receiving an education at either Menaul School in Albuquerque, N.M., Presbyterian Pan American School in Kingsville, Texas, or Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

I continue to be impressed by the overall generosity of members and friends of this church, and on behalf of the rest of the Faithful Discipleship Committee, I want to thank those of you who gave a portion of your treasure to support the Christmas Joy Offering. You have made a difference in the lives of at least two individuals, one a past or present church worker (50 percent of the offering goes to this group) and the other a future church leader (the other 50 percent goes to this group). May God bless you for your gift during the Season of Giving!

Rick Nichols, Moderator, Faithful Discipleship Committee

## **FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY!**

During the lovely Christmas Eve service held in the sanctuary, members and friends of the church donated a total of \$395 to provide for the purchase of items that will eventually end up in Jenna's Little Food Pantry near the southeast corner of the building. In addition, some food items for the pantry were brought forward during the offering and placed in front of the beautiful Christmas tree there. Thank you for helping feed the homeless and food insecure in the Leavenworth-Lansing area!!!

## Bats in Search of a Belfry?

As many of you may already know, the church has had some uninvited "guests" in recent months in the form of bats that have entered the building through some opening and then proceeded to ultimately make their presence known. One bat even had the "nerve" to "crash" a meeting of the Session as it was attending to church business in Fellowship Hall one evening. That was an interesting experience to watch the poor little creature circle the room a couple of times before disappearing into the kitchen.

Anyway, if you happen to see a bat flying around the church, please let one of the custodians (Riley during the week and Jim on the weekend) know, and if you come across a dead or injured bat, please don't handle it with your bare hands or even a paper towel but instead please let either Riley or Jim know about it so that the appropriate action can be taken.

It's too bad the church no longer has the picturesque bell tower that once occupied a spot along the east side of the church. Otherwise, we might be able to redirect these bats to the belfry in the hope that they would feel more at home there and in time would come to love the sound of chimes ringing out the melodies of some of the great hymns from the past.

## Concert pictures submitted by Rick Nichols





**Left picture submitted by Sally Azbill-  
Progressive Dinner**

**Below is Christmas Eve Choir  
Picture submitted by Linda Barry**



Nativity Scene donated by Steve Finch was displayed by the main door. Picture submitted by Jim/Lorna Mathison



Following pictures submitted by Jerry Bowman. We are currently stationed in Naples Italy with joint forces command Naples Italy , part of NATO. We have traveled this Christmas to Budapest, Hungary and are now traveling with Jerry's brother (Garret Bowman) and his family (Katie, Wesley and Milo Bowman). We are currently in Munich Germany, and the photos are from Innsbruck Austria and Bolzano Italy. We have been traveling on train since a little before Christmas. We are returning to the US in summer 2023 to DC in the capital area. We miss our church and wish everyone a blessed new year!







## **PRAYERS**

**Immediate:** Dody Marsh, Safe Travels, Krista Kiger, Kelly, Bob Wallace, George (Ginnie), Pastor Nominating Committee, Sidney, Jack (Marti), Joe Hudson, John (Pam Crume), Margie Holland, Elaine Coffman, Kiara “Boo” Doby, Brianna Hoffman and Family (Cindy Scircle), Jim and Lorna Mathison, Diann Wooley (Cindy Scircle)

**Ongoing:** Steve Finch, Maria Gordon (C. Tillotson), Bernice Johnson, Shirley Rockwell, Barbara-Sue Rose, Le Thomas, Judy Jahn, Michael Brock (C. Scircle), Mike Graham (Norma Graham), Jeanie (Barbara-Sue Rose), Rick Nichols, Greta Sharp, John Garner (Carolyn T.), Richard and Linda Cooper (Darrell and Margie Holland’s daughter and son-in-law)

## **JANUARY FELLOWSHIP TREATS**

**Jan. 1**—Deacons

**Jan.8 -Potluck**    **A-C-** Main Dish        **D-K-** Salads, Sides, and/or Bread        **L-Z** – Dessert

**Jan. 15** –Session    **Jan. 22-**Choir and Bell Choir    **Jan. 29-**Circle 3

## **JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

**1-** Kathy Lemke    **1-**Linda Barry    **8-**Esther Ray    **8-**Mindy Andrasevits    **15-**Gregg Scircle  
**20-**Ron Kenton    **28-**Joe Hudson    **29-**Dennis Goodwin

## **JANUARY ANNIVERSARY**

**29-** Dick and Ruie Gibson

# January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Fellowship Treats-Deacons <b>New Year's Day</b> Taking down the Greens 9:15am Choir Practice 10:30am - 11:30am Worship	<b>2</b> Church Office Closed	<b>3</b> 10:00am Adult Study	<b>4</b> 9:30am Crafts & Fellowship 6:00pm Bell Choir	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Church Office Closed 1:00pm ESL	<b>7</b> 2:00pm Special Needs Advocacy
<b>8</b> Fellowship Treats- Potluck 9:00am Adult Study 9:15am Choir Practice 10:30am - 11:30am Worship	<b>9</b> 7:00am Men's Morning Discussion Group 7:00pm - 8:30pm Cody Choraliers	<b>10</b> 10:00am Circle 3 6:00pm Circle 5	<b>11</b> Deacons Meeting 9:30am Crafts & Fellowship 6:00pm Bell Choir	<b>12</b> <i>6:00pm                      Session                      Meeting</i>	<b>13</b> Church Office Closed 1:00pm ESL	<b>14</b> 10:00am PNC Meeting
<b>15</b> Fellowship Treats- Session Worship Lent Meeting 9:00am Adult Study 9:15am Choir Practice 10:30am - 11:30am Worship	<b>16</b> Church Office Closed 10:00am Day of Service & Youth Tubing	<b>17</b> 10:00am Adult Study 5:00pm - 6:00pm Community Meal	<b>18</b> 9:30am Crafts & Fellowship 6:00pm Bell Choir	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Church Office Closed 1:00pm ESL	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Fellowship Treats-Choir and Bell Choir 9:00am Adult Study 9:15am Choir Practice 10:30am - 11:30am Worship	<b>23</b> 7:00am Men's Morning Discussion Group 10:00am Circle 4 7:00pm - 8:30pm Cody Choraliers	<b>24</b> 10:00am Adult Study	<b>25</b> 9:30am Crafts & Fellowship 6:00pm Bell Choir	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Church Office Closed 1:00pm ESL	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Congregation Annual Meeting Fellowship Treats-Circle 3 9:00am Adult Study 9:15am Choir Practice 10:30am - 11:30am Worship	<b>30</b> 7:00am Men's Morning Discussion Group 7:00pm - 8:30pm Cody Choraliers	<b>31</b> 10:00am Adult Study	<b>1</b> 9:30am Crafts & Fellowship 6:00pm Bell Choir	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Church Office Closed 1:00pm ESL	<b>4</b>