

the LANTERN First Presbyterian Church

January 2023

Letter from the Pastor

Happy new year! And happy epiphany!

I hope you all had a great Christmas season, as my family and I did. Consider this your formal notice that it's time to take down your decorations. Of course, if you want to hang on to them a little longer, it's OK to continue celebrating our Savior's birth. That said, if they're still up come Lent, it might be time to repent.

All joking aside, the new year brings with it the changing of seasons. We're entering a new liturgical season, a new season in our church as we welcome and ordain new elders and deacons, and often a new season of intentionality in our lives.

Whether you choose to set a resolution, a word for the year or just refocus on your goals, the new year often brings change and improvement.

I'm not big on new year's resolutions myself, but I think it's always good to refocus on our goals or our "mission", personally and as a church family. What better place to look than our own mission statement?

"Inspired by faith, hope, and love in Jesus Christ, the community of First Presbyterian Church welcomes all God's children, helps them to grow in faith, and proclaims the gospel through worship, education, prayer, fellowship, nurture, service, and mission. As Christians, we seek to be faithful stewards of all God's gifts and to build a community that reflects God's love, justice, mercy, and peace continually trusting the Holy Spirit to lead us to discover God's will."

Let it be. Amen.

Pastor Josh



We are looking forward to working with our community in the coming year. Although 2022 was a bit like riding a roller coaster, it was a great year for the Closet. While being closed most of January and February we made up for it in October and December. Our supply of volunteers to help while we are open never recovered following the pandemic and we currently have 5 to 6 ready volunteers which is cause for burnout concern.

This year we welcomed over 1,540 families through our doors who were looking for clothing for 6,400 people. A public appeal was made for donations when we ran short of clothing in the summer. Community members, Mary Immaculate Church, Community Mission and the Salvation Army Thrift Store came through for us and while we still struggle to have smaller sizes of men's clothing we have been able to keep up with the demand for most other sizes.

Our annual Bombas donation of socks, t-shirts and underwear has been a God send. During the year we gave out over 2,500 pairs of socks at several community events and in the Clothes Closet. This year's donation of 5,000 pairs of socks should be arriving soon!

Thanks to funding from CAP NEMO we have been able to fund Laundry Day once a month. We generally help 5 to 7 families a month with up to \$10 toward their laundry cost. We hope to begin some additional fundraising to help this mission continue. The

Kirksville Leadership Initiative recently set up a Community Giving Box for hygiene products at the north corner of the Closet building thanks to the generosity of the First United Methodist Church. We encourage everyone to drop an item or two off, as you are able, to help us keep it lightly stocked. Other churches and community groups will be invited to join us in this endeavor.

Last, but definitely not least, we extend a huge thank you to the congregations from the First Presbyterian and First United Methodist Churches for their support for our Christmas Shoppe. We received over 100 pairs of gloves and hygiene supplies for approximately 20 families. Those items were added to donations of new boots, toys, plants and household items we had received during the year. Thirty-six families waited patiently in line for their turn to choose items for their families and everyone left with something for everyone on their list. Funds received from the annual FPC Gingerbread building event will be used to purchase new shelving racks to replace two units that have been used in the Closet for 30-40 years. We thank you all for your continued support.

Brenda Martin

The Burton L. Picht Memorial was dedicated on December 24, 2022, during the Christmas Eve worship service. Burt was born on September 24, 1930, in Swea City, Iowa. He married Jane “Janie” Tsukimura on June 25, 1966, and they were the parents of Nancy Lee Picht of Bellingham, WA. He graduated his 1947 high school class Valedictorian. He was a US Army veteran and attended the College of Automation in Des Moines, Iowa. He and Janie lived in Kirksville for 55 years and owned *Crafts and Things* for over 20 years. His love of gardening was a prominent part of his life and appropriate for this memorial. He was a member of our church and we accept his beautiful parlor flower bouquet and framed flower picture gift with love and gratitude. We dedicate his memory to the Glory of God.

Linda Hudnall, Memorial Committee

The beautiful memorial pictures for Burt.





Presbyterian Women's lesson for January is Sabbath and Servitude. The key idea is: Work without Sabbath is servitude. We will meet January 17 at 2 pm at the home of Margaret Ferrell. Please feel free to join us; all are welcome.

Peace and Justice Calendar

National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month

6--Epiphany of the Lord

10-16--PW Together in Action Days to End Human Trafficking

11--National Human Trafficking Awareness Day

**15--Matthew 25: Dismantle Structural Racism Sunday; Racial & Intercultural Justice/Presbyterians
Affirm Black Lives Matter**

16--National Religious Freedom Day

16--Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

18-25--Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

27--International Holocaust Remembrance Day



Birthdays and Anniversaries

January Birthdays

Alex Hall—1/7

Adriana Gonzalez—1/13

John Thomas—1/20

Esther Nolker—1/22

Kate Krebbs—1/24

Elias Nolker—1/26

Grace Mohler—1/28

Dale Stone—1/28

February Birthdays

Jay Bulen—2/1

Heidi Michael—2/2

Sarah Berke—2/3

Christine Gran—2/12

Robert Sprehe—2/19

February Anniversaries

Robert & Diane Baer—2/10

Mike & Lisa Ahrens—2/15



Youth Fun

Presbyterian Youth had alot of Christmas fun during their lock-in and the White Gift Program!

Michelle took some fun pics of the Annual GingerBread Building Contest on Christmas Eve!





Church Calendar for January

January 9

5-6 p.m. Budget and Finance Meeting

January 10

1:30- 3:30 p.m. Clothes Closet

7-9 p.m. Session

January 11

5:30-6:30 p.m. Choir

January 12

3-5 p.m. Operation Joy

January 14

10 am Clothes Closet

January 15

9:30-10:30 In Person and Online Church Service

Coffee and Fellowship

11- 12 Sunday School

6 pm. PYF (TBA)

January 17

1:30-3:30 Clothes Closet

January 18

5:30-6:30 Choir Practice

January 19

3-5 Operation Joy

January 21

10-12 pm Clothes Closet

January 22

9:30-10:30 In Person and Online Church Service

Coffee and Fellowship

11- 12 Sunday School

6 pm. PYF (TBA)

January 24

1:30-3:30 Clothes Closet

January 25

5:30-6:30 Choir Practice

January 26

3-5 pm Operation JOY

January 28

10-12 Clothes Closet

January 29

9:30-10:30 In Person and Online Church Service

Coffee and Fellowship

11-12 Sunday School

6 pm PYF (TBA)

January 31

1:30-3:30 Clothes Closet

February 1

5:30-6:30

February 2

3-5 Operation Joy

