



January 2023

*The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever. Isaiah 40:8*

It may seem strange to focus on these words from Isaiah at the start of a New Year. After all, a New Year means embracing change and opportunity for change. Many of us may have made New Year's Resolutions or set intentions to make changes in our lives for the New Year. Although Isaiah's words remind us of what does not change, they also remind us that everything else does.

Change is a part of life, some of it is welcomed while other changes are challenging or painful. Whether change is good, positive, joyful, or difficult, it always involves grief. As human beings, we grieve that things are not the way they have been, and we struggle with the unpredictable nature of being human. As we look to the New Year and the inevitable changes that come with every New Year, we can take comfort and encouragement from these words. They remind us that although change and the grief that comes with it, is a certainty, we can also be certain in God's word, God's love, and God's sustaining presence.

With that reminder, we are also encouraged to focus on that which does not change, God's Word of love for our lives. While everything else changes and someday it may seem as if things are totally out of control, we can focus on and cling to God's promises and how those promises are lived out in Christ Jesus.

Our New Year's Day service invited us to do just that through our use of Star Words. These are words that represent God's good intentions for our lives and God's will for us which were placed on the communion table. As we came forward for communion, we each blindly drew a card and drew a card for friends or family who could not be there in person. That word is offered as a way to focus (to follow as the Magi followed the Star) and pray about God's intentions for our lives for this New Year. Star Words help us focus on God's Word which does not change. As we enter into this New Year and the inevitable changes that come with the passing of time, I invite us all to renew our commitment to focus on Christ Jesus, God's Word of love for us, and his will for our lives.

Growing in God in the New Year!

There are many small group opportunities and ways to grow in your faith journey for the New Year. Two adult groups meet **Sunday mornings at 10:00 AM** and there are opportunities for children and youth at 10:00 AM also.

For January, one adult group is studying the Sermon on the Mount and another is exploring Hope.

- The Women's Bible study group meets the **first Thursday of each month at 10:30 AM** and are focusing on Sabbath.
- An Evening group meets the **second Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM**, studying 12 Women of the Bible.
- For the month of January, join us **every Wednesday morning at 11:30 AM** for midweek prayer.
- Youth meet on **Sunday afternoons at 4:00 PM** for fellowship, service activities and time to reflect and pray.

For more information contact the church office.

**Growing
Together
in Faith**

Faith in Action

Thornwell Homes Mission Trip

Would you like to live your faith through hands on service? We are taking a group of all ages to Thornwell Homes for Children in February. Thornwell is a Presbyterian organization for children and families located in Clinton, SC whose mission is to prevent child abuse and neglect, to build up and reunite families, and to support healthy communities in the name of Jesus Christ. We will leave on Sunday afternoon Feb. 12th and work all day at Thornwell on Monday Feb. 13th, ending our day through welcoming the children who live on the Thornwell campus for dinner and games Monday evening. We will return home Tuesday morning, Feb. 14th. This opportunity is for all ages and abilities. For more information or to sign up to go, please contact Mission Chair, Betty Dundee or Pastor Leigh.

For more information about Thornwell visit www.thornwell.org.



Mission Fair

Have you ever wondered about the ways this congregation serves our community and beyond? Do you feel as if God is calling you to step forward and reach out a helping hand in this community for the New Year? Would you like to know the many opportunities to do so through our congregation? When you pray, do you pray specifically for our ministries and all the ways we touch others with God's love? If any of these questions describe you, the Mission Committee invites you to join us after worship on January 22, for a Mission Fair. This will be a time for our ministry partners and the ministries of this congregation to share briefly about their work for Christ and how you can help. For more information, contact Mission chair, Elder Betty Dundee.

TEAM SURVIVORS

**A Stroke and TBI Support Group
Meeting the third Monday of each month at
6:30pm at St. Francis of Assisi (starts Feb. 20)
850 Douthit Ferry Rd., Cartersville**

For more information, email
101teamsurvivors@gmail.com

From the Session:

The following are the highlights from the 11/15/2022 Session Meeting:

1. Cindy Sims and Tom Nebergall were approved as new members by reaffirmation of faith.
2. A new FPC credit card policy was approved.
3. A recommendation from the Worship Committee to have one worship service from 1/8/2023 through May 28,2023 was approved.
4. Communion will be served at the 5:30 and 9:30 Christmas Eve Services.
5. Poinsettias will be in the sanctuary by 12/4/2022.
6. Current preschool enrollment is 101.
7. Young families will be invited to attend a first communion class next year led by Pastor Leigh.
8. Approximately 90 children attended the Fall Festival with their families.
9. An Advent Workshop will be held in the Upper room during the Sunday School hour on 12/18/2022.
- 10, A Report dated 10/13/2022 was received from the Endowment Committee.
11. Pledge contributions through 10/31/2022 are slightly ahead of the amount budgeted.

The Session met briefly on 12/18/2022 at 10:40 AM to receive new members. The following are those highlights:

1. Dick and Jenny Brennan were received as new members on 12/18/2022 by reaffirmation of faith.

**2023 worship
(one service at 11:00)**

The Session has decided that from the season of January 8 - May, we will have one worship service at 11:00 AM. We give thanks for this season of opportunity to be together and worship as the one body of Christ. We pray for the Spirit to continue to guide us on our reflections and learnings as we go forward through this Season and look toward the seasons to come. The Worship committee welcomes your prayers, reflections, and thoughts as we continue to seek God’s guidance and will.



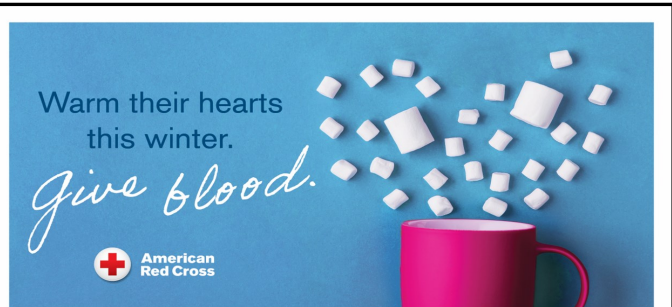
**FPC Book Club
January 26th
10:30am**

Cornerstone Room

The book selection this month is Marie Benedict’s The Personal Librarian.
Come join us. Everyone is welcome.

Ladies Night Out

January 19th at Mule House Pizza
6:30 – 8pm All ladies are welcome!



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of CARTERSVILLE

BLOOD DRIVE

Wednesday, January 11, 2023

2:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Gathering Space

All presenting donors will receive a gift!

All donors will have your name entered into the drawing to win a trip for 2 to Super Bowl LVII in Arizona.

For more information, to schedule an appointment, & to do RAPID-PASS, go to www.redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code: **firstprescartersville**



First Communion Instruction

Communion is a sign and seal of the covenant of grace made by God through Jesus Christ and extended to us.

Has your child been asking about Communion? Have they been receiving Communion, but you all would like to know more about the meaning and significance of it?

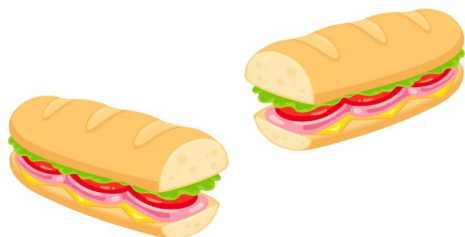
We will be having "First Communion" classes in February for any child who is interested and their parents/guardians. We will have First Communion Sunday on March 5 during worship with a celebration afterwards.

Contact Andrea – andrea@cartersvillepres.org to sign up for the classes or for more information.

Youth Group Dinners

We need help providing dinners for our youth during Youth Group on Sunday nights. Anyone, any group, any family is invited to sign up to prepare, cook, & serve dinner for our youth group one Sunday evening. It doesn't have to be a fancy meal. Delicious meals we have had in the past: Breakfast for Dinner, Pasta Bar, Publix subs, southern cooking (with Zaxby's chicken), and a Taco Bar.

To sign up for a date or for more information contact andrea@cartersvillepres.org.



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January 2023

Happy winter days from First Presbyterian Preschool!

Happy New Year!

We are so happy to be back at preschool after our Christmas break and seeing all of our children and families!

This month we will begin registration for next school year and we will celebrate our 100th day of school!!!



Pictured Above: 4-year-old and Kindergarten classes performing at our annual Sing Around the Tree performance.



Pictured Above: 3-year-old classes performing at our annual Sing Around the Tree performance.

2023-2024 Registration Begins Soon!!!!

We will begin registering for the 2023-2024 school year for church members and current families already enrolled in the preschool starting January 23rd! There will be registration forms in the church office and our preschool offices for anyone who needs one. If you or someone you know is interested in registering please have them contact Lindsay Scoggins at 770-382-0755 or Lindsay@cartersvillepres.org.

We will open preschool registration up to the public starting February 6th. **PLEASE** turn in your registration form and fee **BEFORE** we open to the public to ensure your child has a spot. Also, encourage friends and family to register early. I am already giving tours for new families to sign up on February 6th and have had many calls and emails about registration!



Important Dates:

January 16 – MLK Day – No School

January 23 – Preschool Registration begins for church members and current preschool families

January 27 – 100th Day of School

February 6 – Preschool Registration opens to the public

Hands of Christ After School Program



FPC is so blessed to have such a loving and generous congregation. This year 180 gifts were distributed at Hands of Christ. Cope Specialty Building Supply and Jordan Scott Salon were also instrumental in getting all of our angels adopted. We were glad parents could join us this year to see our fifth graders perform a "Super Hero" Christmas pageant. Thanks to you, the children who are a part of this ministry know the true spirit and joy of Christmas.



Our partnership with the Booth Museum will resume this month. Each class will have a turn for a tour and art lesson over the next several months. Art lessons will be held on Tuesdays in the Cornerstone Room. The students' artwork is collected, and selected pieces will be on display in the Borderlands gallery next fall.



Martin Luther King Day - Jan. 16th

Winter Break- Feb. 13 and 14th

Celebrating the Coming of Our Savior at FPC

Advent and Christmas was a joyful and holy season. We rejoiced in Christ as we shared gifts with our friends at Friendship Table, grew stronger through our study of God's Word, shared joy through Christmas Caroling and rejoiced in the gift of our Savior on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Many people gave their time, talents, and gifts for our joyous celebration of Christ this season. Thank you to the priesthood of all believers who helped make our service and worship possible.



January Birthdays

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|----|------------------|----|----------------|
| 1 | Janet Strange | 18 | Jack Cummings |
| 1 | Scott Panter | 19 | Nannette Enloe |
| 1 | Sara Gregory | 20 | Tinsley Cline |
| 3 | Becky Ferguson | 22 | Caroline Keen |
| 4 | Ethan Dudley | 24 | Elise Sims |
| 8 | Adam Brush | 26 | Mike Radford |
| 9 | Hayleigh James | 28 | Ellyn Olson |
| 10 | Louise Panter | 29 | Tommy Porter |
| 10 | Drake Brush | | |
| 11 | Rick Shireman | | |
| 11 | Ross Bridges | | |
| 12 | Becky Broome | | |
| 14 | Jim Allen | | |
| 14 | Taylor Patterson | | |
| 15 | Alaina Ellis | | |
| 16 | Jean Robinson | | |
| 17 | Jean Lumpkin | | |
| 17 | Vernon Ferguson | | |
| 17 | Alexandria Baker | | |

In January We Pray for Our Church:

Staff: Becky Ferguson, Rhonda Gilliam (ASP), Lorrie Holcombe (ASP), Kelly Forrester (Preschool), Jennifer Graves (Preschool)

Officers: Beth Gaines (Session), David Steinken (Diaconate)

Ministries: Worship Ministry

Families: January 1-7: Candler and Susan Ginn, Craig and Katie Godfrey (Anna, Emily, Sam), Paul and Joan Green, David and Sara Gregory (Megan, Ethan), Katelyn Grundy

January 8-14: Linda Hall, Mina Harper, Clark and Mary Hart, Clay and Catheryn Hembree (Alice, Graham), John and Lynn Herman (Ian)

January 15-21: Lois Hill, Katie Hoskins (Luke), Harvey and Sandy Howell, Brad and Pam Hughes, Jerry and Susan Ingram

January 22-31: Jim and Lynne Ireland, Sean and Rhonda Ireland (Allyson, Emily), Evelyn Itoe (Bemo), Loveline Itoe, Jean Ivie

First Presbyterian Church

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770-382-3511 www.cartersvillepres.org

Contact

Leigh Jones, pastor

pastorleighjones@gmail.com

Pam Radford, director of music

pam@cartersvillepres.org

Andrea Roche, children & youth director

andrea@cartersvillepres.org

Becky Ferguson, ministry assistant

becky@cartersvillepres.org

Angie Hood, church administrator

angie@cartersvillepres.org

Lindsay Scoggins, preschool director

lindsay@cartersvillepres.org

Jean Dudley, after school program director

jean@cartersvillepres.org

January Calendar

January 1 - New Year's Day

January 2

Preschool & HOC Afterschool Holiday

Church office closed

January 3

6:30pm - Properties Committee Meeting

January 4, 11, 18, 25

11:30am - Wednesday Prayer Group/Prayer Room

January 5

10:30am - Ladies Bible Study Group

January 9

6:00pm - Worship Committee Meeting

January 10

7:00pm - Faith Development Meeting

January 11

2:00pm - Red Cross Blood Drive

January 12

7:00pm - 12 Women of the Bible Study

January 16 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Preschool & HOC Afterschool Program Holiday

Church office closed

5:30pm - Stewardship & Finance Meeting

January 17

7:00pm - Session Meeting

January 19

6:30pm - Ladies Night Out @ Mule House Pizza

January 22

12:00pm - Mission Fair

January 23

Preschool Registration begins for church members & current students

January 26

10:30am - FPC Bookclub

January 31

7:00pm - Diaconate Meeting

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| <p>January 16th - Martin Luther King Jr. Day</p> |
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| <p>Preschool & HOC Afterschool Holiday</p> |
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| <p>Church office closed</p> |
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