



January 2024

Our firm decision is to work from this focused center: One man died for everyone. That puts everyone in the same boat. He included everyone in his death so that everyone could also be included in his life, a resurrection life, a far better life than people ever lived on their own. Because of this decision we don't evaluate people by what they have or how they look. We looked at the Messiah that way once and got it all wrong, as you know. We certainly don't look at him that way anymore. Now we look inside, and what we see is that anyone united with the Messiah gets a fresh start, is created new. The old life is gone; a new life emerges! Look at it! All this comes from the God who settled the relationship between us and him, and then called us to settle our relationships with each other. God put the world square with himself through the Messiah, giving the world a fresh start by offering forgiveness of sins. God has given us the task of telling everyone what he is doing. We're Christ's representatives. God uses us to persuade men and women to drop their differences and enter into God's work of making things right between them.

2 Corinthians 5:14-20 (The Message)

Blessings to you all in this New Year! This passage from 2 Corinthians is one of the traditional readings for the New Year. It names the renewal of our hearts and lives that comes from God, but speaks of so much more. I especially appreciate the Message translation of this passage because it offers us a different perspective. It first reminds us that we are called to make a firm decision to work from the focused center of Christ and what his coming means for us and for everyone. I also love the part about how Christ changes everyone's perspective, not just about our own lives, but about everyone's lives.

We no longer evaluate people by what they have or how they look. We no longer evaluate ourselves by what we have or how we look. We consider ourselves and all God's people from Christ's perspective and we live accordingly (settle our relationships with each other). Finally, this passage reminds us that in response to the gift of Christ that has been given to us and the new way we see ourselves and others, we have a responsibility to tell everyone what God is doing in and through Christ.

This sounds like a great list of new year's resolutions to me! While resolutions to be healthier, eat better, exercise more, or seek ways to center ourselves and reflect on our lives are all great resolutions, I think, in this passage, Paul offers us a list of resolutions that precede all the others. 1) Make a firm decision to live with Christ in the center of our lives. 2) Remember that Christ changes our perspectives of our own lives and others, and live and act that way! Seek to settle our relationships with each other. 3) Tell everyone what God is doing in and through Christ. Once we begin working our way through those resolutions, we can turn to any others!

I invite us all to consider our resolutions or perhaps just our lives from this perspective and to see how God is renewing our hearts and lives in Christ for the New Year.

Peace,

Pastor Leigh

January 2024

**Growing
Together
in Faith**

- **Thursday, January 4 10:30 AM** Cornerstone Room - Bible Study: Sacred Encounters: *The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke -Acts* - Study 5: A Person with Leprosy Encounters Jesus.
- **Sunday, January 7 10:00 AM** Sunday School resumes for all ages.
- **Thursday, January 11 7:00 PM** Cornerstone Room - Bible Study: *Twelve Women of the Bible* - Study 12: The Syro-Phoenician Woman This lesson will conclude our study of *Twelve Women of the Bible*.
- **Sunday, January 14 10:00 AM** Cornerstone Room - Andrea Roche will begin a 5-week study of the Old Testament for all adult and youth Sunday School classes.
- **Sunday, January 21, 12:15 PM** Cornerstone Room - "Exploring Grief" will meet immediately following worship. You may bring a sack lunch.



COMFORT FOOD

POTLUCK LUNCH

Sunday, January 21st

after 11:00 worship

Bring your favorite comfort food - soup, stew, dip or dessert or anything else that you enjoy - to share with church friends. If you have a story about your favorite dish we'd love to hear it. Contact Kathy Farnon with questions (kfarnon15@gmail.com)

Grief Group

The Grief Group Meets January 21st in the Cornerstone Room immediately after worship. Bring your own snack or lunch and come for a time of reflection and prayer. You do not have to have attended previously to come to the group. All are welcome.

Christmas Eve 2023



From the Session:

Following are the highlights from the 12/19/2023 Session Meeting:

1. The 2023 Annual Statistical Report is due Cherokee Presbytery by 2/15/2023.
2. A motion from Congregational Life to remove certain members from the FPC membership rolls, to send a letter to certain members, and to reach out to certain members was approved.
3. Andrea Roche will teach an adult Sunday school class in the Cornerstone Room beginning 1/14/2024 for 5 weeks on the Old Testament.
4. Stewardship & Finance reported a current deficit as of 11/30/2023 of \$30K, but it is anticipated that FPC will finish the year in the black.
5. Stewardship & Finance reported that the 2024 Budget should come in at about \$600,000 which is about 3% ahead of the income budgeted last year.
6. Pastor Leigh recently authorized a \$400 purchase of basic necessities (soap, deodorant, lotion, etc) for middle school-aged children in Bartow County at the suggestion of Nancy Kelly and read some thank you notes to the Session from those children.

LADIES NIGHT OUT

January 18 - 6:30pm

at Jefferson's 28 W. Main Street

All ladies are welcome!



FPC Book Club
January 25th at 10:30am
Cornerstone Room

The book selection this month is The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles. Come join us.



Sunday, January 7th, at 9:00am in the Fellowship Hall. All men of the church are invited to come. Great food and fellowship.

Martin Luther King Day

The FP Preschool and Church Office will be closed on Monday, January 15th.



Thanks for always showing up!

Because every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
of CARTERSVILLE BLOOD DRIVE
Wednesday, January 10, 2024

2:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Fellowship Hall

All presenting donors will receive a gift.

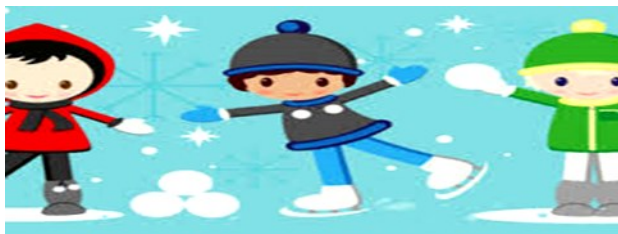
Your name will also be entered into a drawing to win a trip for 2 to Super Bowl LVIII in Las Vegas-includes airfare, hotel and \$1,000 Gift Card.

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

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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Happy New Year!

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

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



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

January 2024

Happy winter days from
First Presbyterian Preschool!

Monthly Bible Verse: *I am the way, the truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.* John 14:6

2024-2025 Registration Begins Soon!!!!

We will begin registering for the 2024-2025 school year for church members and current families already enrolled in the preschool starting January 22nd! 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 Jennifer Graves at 770-382-0755 or jennifer@cartersvillepres.org.

We will open preschool registration up to the public starting February 5th. **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 giving tours for new families to sign up on February 5th and have had many calls and emails about registration!



Important Dates:

January 15 – MLK Day – No School

January 22 – Preschool Registration begins for church members and current preschool families

February 5 – Preschool Registration opens to the public

February 9 – 100th Day of School



Study of the Old Testament Class

Beginning January 14, during the 10 a.m. Sunday School Hour, Andrea Roche will be leading a 5-week class on the Old Testament. Learn more about the Historical Books, Wisdom Literature, the Major & Minor Prophets, and a timeline of the entire Old Testament. Class will be in the Cornerstone Room, and it is open to ALL adult and youth.



Save the Dates – Summer 2024

- * ***High School Youth Montreat*** – June 9-15
- * ***Worship & Music*** (Children, Youth, & Adults) – June 23-29
- * ***Vacation Bible School*** - July 8-12, 9am-noon
- * ***Middle School Youth Montreat*** – July 17-21



VBS Save the Date & Volunteers Needed

VBS is coming to FPC this Summer!

July 8-12, 9 a.m. until noon

VBS is open to all children in our community, and it is a time for kids to hear God's Message, deepen their faith, enjoy songs, create crafts, and have a wonderful week.

Volunteers with all abilities are needed: teachers, snack coordinators, set builders, guides for our children, game leaders, decorators, etc.

There is a place for everyone at VBS!

If you want to volunteer for VBS, contact

andrea@cartersvillepres.org.



Artificial Christmas Trees Needed for VBS (July 2024)

We will create a "forest" for VBS this summer, so if you are thinking about getting rid of an artificial Christmas Tree after this season, or have one to

loan to us in July, please let

andrea@cartersvillepres.org know. All trees are welcome, no matter the height, shape, or color.

January Birthdays

1	Janet Strange	19	Nannette Enloe
1	Scott Panter	20	Tinsley Cline
1	Sara Gregory	22	Cat Klingbell
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	Patti Hall	29	Tommy Porter
10	Louise Panter		
10	Drake Brush		
11	Rick Shireman		
11	Ross Bridges		
12	Becky Broome		
14	Jim Allen		
15	Alaina Ellis		
16	Jean Robinson		
17	Vernon Ferguson		
17	Alexandria Baker		
18	Jack Cummings		



In January Pray for Our Church:

Staff: Laney Radford, Louisa Thacker (Preschool), Hailey Thorn (Preschool)

Officers: Jenny Brannan (Session), Molly Collins (Diaconate)

Ministries: Worship Ministry

Families: January 1-7: Sarah Payne, Tommy and Beth Porter, Jonathan and Lauren Pressley (Harris, Marshall, Russell), Randy and Heather Pullen (Maddie), Terry and Carla Purdy

January 8-14: Brian and Paula Purtymun, Mike and Pam Radford, Mike Rawls, Perry and Kim Rentz (Anna, Laura), Rick and Patty Richardson

January 15-21: Jean Robinson, Paxton Robinson, Andrea Roche, Karen Rodgers, Georgie and Ashton Russell (Wren)

January 22-31: Paxton and Cara Russell (William), Kyle and Karen Russell, Margaretta Shaw, Renee Shields (Grace, Mya, Christopher), Rick Shireman and Sara Craighead

First Presbyterian Church

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770-382-3511

Contact

Leigh Jones, pastor

pastorleighjones@gmail.com

Andrea Roche, children & youth director

andrea@cartersvillepres.org

Jim Stanley, choir director

music@cartersvillepres.org

Fred Drifmeyer, organist/pianist

Becky Ferguson, ministry assistant

becky@cartersvillepres.org

Angie Hood, church administrator

angie@cartersvillepres.org

Jennifer Graves, preschool director

jennifer@cartersvillepres.org

January Calendar

January 1 & 2

New Year's - Church Office Closed

Preschool Holidays

January 2

6:30pm - Properties Committee Meeting

January 3

8:00am - Preschool Staff returns

January 4

8:00am - Preschool resumes

10:30am - *Sacred Encounters* Women's Bible Study

January 7

9:00am - Men's Monthly Breakfast

January 8

6:00pm - Worship Committee Meeting

7:00pm - Faith Development Meeting

January 10

2:00pm - Red Cross Blood Drive

January 11

7:00pm - 12 Women of the Bible Study

January 14

10:00am - 5 week study of the Old Testament (wk 1)

January 15

MLK Day - Preschool Holiday & Church Office closed

5:30pm - Stewardship & Finance Meeting

January 16

7:00pm - Session Meeting

January 18

6:30pm - Ladies Night Out @ Jefferson's

January 21

10:00am - 5 week study of the Old Testament (wk 2)

12:00pm - Exploring Grief Group

12:00pm - Potluck Lunch/Fellowship Hall

January 22

Preschool Registration begins for church members & current Preschool families

January 25

10:30am - FPC Book Club

January 28

10:00am - 5 week study of the Old Testament (wk 3)

January 30

7:00pm - Diaconate Meeting

