



January 2025

Star of Wonder

"Where can we find and pay homage to the newborn King of the Jews?"

Matthew 2:2 (The Message)

The familiar Christmas Epiphany hymn, "We Three Kings," has a familiar chorus: "O, Star of wonder, star of night (sing along as you are reading this), star with royal beauty bright; Westward leading, still proceeding; Guide us to thy perfect light." In the time after Christmas Day, we often lose a sense of wonder. If we had a sense of wonder before Christmas, we may feel a "let down," as we look toward the long, gray days of January. Or, for many, there was no wonder in Christmas and January looms as another difficult season.

But the sages, the wise men, offer us a different perspective. They embodied a sense of holy wonder. They were respected scholars, "wise men." Yet, they recognized that they did not know everything! They asked questions and wondered. Not only that, but they exhibit a holy imagination as they sought to find evidence of God's work in the world and even in their lives.

The Star of Wonder guided them until they found the Christ child, Emmanuel, God with us. Can that same star guide us through the long, dark days of January? The story of the wise men invites us to wonder more, not just wondering about the things of this world, but wondering about all that God is doing in and through our lives.

The wise men prompt us to embody a sense of holy wonder and imagination. Where can we find the newborn king today? How is that same star shining in our hearts and lives and leading us to holy encounters? January can be a month of seeking and worship. It can be a time of being overcome by encounters with Emmanuel, God with us, as like the wise men, we worship and present Him with gifts. I pray that we will have opportunities to follow the Star of Wonder in this Epiphany season.

Pastor Leigh

Mark your calendar

The Session has called the Annual Congregational Meeting for **January 26th** following the luncheon in the Fellowship Hall.



CHILI COOK-OFF LUNCH
January 26th

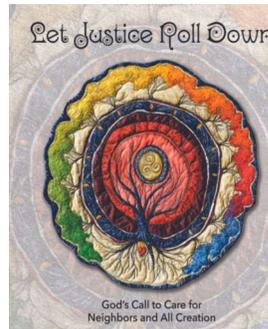
Join us for some of the best chili in the county! We have several members who will be cooking up their chili and we're looking for more. If you would like to make up a batch to share contact Kathy Farnon or Trey Gaines. We'll have a contest to see who the FPC Chili King or Queen will be!

Mission trip for MLK day

The Mission committee is prayerfully considering the possibility of taking a group to Black Mountain, NC over MLK weekend, Jan. 18-20 to help in the rebuilding after the hurricane. If you are interested in going or offering financial support for those who go, please contact Rhonda Ireland.

Holiday Closure

FP Preschool and the Church Office will be closed Monday, January 20 for Martin Luther King Day.



The monthly Bible Study, *Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation* will meet Thursday, January 9 at 10:30am in the Cornerstone Room. Lesson Five focuses on Air Quality

with scripture from Genesis and Psalms. All are welcome!

The FPC Book Club meets January 23, 2025 at 10:30am in the Cornerstone Room. Our book club selection is Shelby Van Pelt's Remarkably Bright Creatures. This 368-page novel is about the unlikely relationship between a widow and a giant Pacific octopus that explores friendship, reckoning and hope. Come join us; everyone is welcome!

Ladies Night - Thursday, January 16th at 6:00pm

We will be going to Maine Street Coastal and we hope everyone can join us! Courtney Keen 678-431-2145 with any questions!

Red Cross Blood Drive – January 8th, 2:00 – 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. To schedule an appointment, go to www.redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code: firstprescartersville.

From the Session:**At its meeting on Dec. 16, the Session of FPC:**

- Passed a balanced budget for 2025.
- Heard from the board of the FPC Presbyterian Preschool that the preschool will pay for cleaning costs in the educational building and will contributed \$6,000 to the general church budget.
- Heard from the Stewardship and Finance Committee that the church has paid off a \$50,000 line of credit.
- Learned that Steve Barnes' piano has been donated to the church.



January 2025

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 ex-*

Happy New Year!

We are so happy to be back at preschool after our Christmas break. We are so happy to see 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: 2-year-old, 3-year-old, and PreK classes performing at our annual Sing Around the Tree.

2025-2026 Registration Begins Soon!!!!

We will begin registering for the 2025-2026 school year for church members and current families already enrolled in the preschool starting Tuesday, January 21st! 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 Monday, February 3rd. **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!

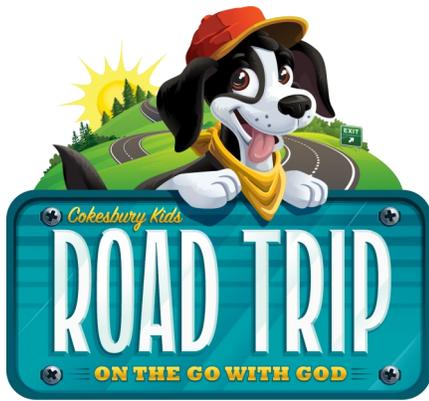


January 20 – MLK Day – No School

January 21 – Preschool Registration begins for church members and current preschool families

February 3 – Preschool Registration opens to the public

February 7th – 100th Day of School



VBS Save the Date & Volunteers Needed

VBS is coming to FPC this Summer!

July 7-11, 9 a.m. until noon.

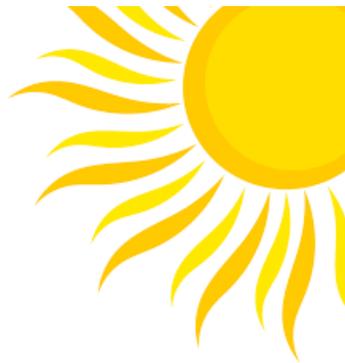
VBS is open to all children in our community, and it is a time for kids to hear God's Message, deepen their faith, enjoy songs, create crafts, and have a wonderful week.

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.

Save the Dates Summer 2025



- High School Youth Montreat – June 8-14
- Worship & Music (Children, Youth, & Adults) – June 22-28
- VBS – July 7-11
- Middle School Youth Montreat – July 16-20
- Triennium – July 28-31



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 this Winter/Spring for any child who is interested and their parents/guardians.

Contact Andrea –

andrea@cartersvillepres.org for more information.

January Birthdays

1	Janet Strange	28	Ellyn Olson
1	Scott Panter	29	Tommy Porter
1	Sara Gregory		
3	Becky Ferguson		
8	Adam Brush		
9	Hayleigh James		
10	Patti Hall		
10	Louise Panter		
10	Drake Brush		
11	Rick Shireman		
16	Jean Robinson		
17	Vernon Ferguson		
18	Jack Cummings		
19	Nannette Enloe		
20	Tinsley Cline		
22	Cat Klingbeil		
22	Caroline Keen		
24	Elise Sims		



In January Pray for Our Church:

Staff: Jim Stanley, Dede Hatfield (Preschool), Paige Lathem (Preschool)

Officers: Paul Green (Session), Dale Luengen (Diaconate)

Ministries: Worship Ministry

Families: January 1-7: Zim and Martha Choate, Scott and Tina Clark (Kellie), Jimmy and Tinsley Cline (Jackson, Mason, Julian), Jerry and Sue Coalson, Dennis and Nan Collier

January 8-14: Emily Collier, Molly Collins, Suzanne Collins, Sally Conlin, George and Debby Crim

January 15-21: Ann Cummings, John and Lori Cummings (Jack, Maggie), Norman Daugherty, Bill and Marilyn Devine, David and Betty Dundee

January 22-31: Nannette Enloe, Kathy Farnon, Vernon and Becky Ferguson, Walt Floyd, Rich and Rhonda Gaffoglio

First Presbyterian Church

183 West Main Street—Cartersville, GA 30120

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

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—New Year's Day

Church Office Closed

FP Preschool Holidays 12/23 - 1/6

January 5

9:00am - Men's Monthly Breakfast

January 6

7:00pm - Faith Development Meeting

January 7

6:30pm - Properties Committee Meeting

January 8

2:00pm - Red Cross Blood Drive till 7:00pm

January 9

10:30am - Women's Bible Study Group

7:00pm - Thursday Bible Study/*Romans for Everyone*

January 13

6:00pm - Worship Committee Meeting

January 16

6:00pm - Ladies Night Out @ Maine Street Coastal

January 18-20

Black Mountain Mission Trip

January 20—Martin Luther King Day

FP Preschool & Church Office Closed

January 20

5:30pm - Stewardship & Finance Meeting

January 21

7:00pm - Session Meeting

January 23

10:30am - FPC Book Club

January 26

12:00pm - Chili Cookoff Luncheon

12:45pm - Annual Congregational Meeting

