

# FPC NEWS

A NEWSLETTER FOR FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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## APPROACHING THE NEW YEAR

BY PASTOR ANDREW GILMAN

For many, New Year's is just another holiday. For others, it's a time of deep reflection, both on the past year and on the one ahead. For followers of Jesus, New Year's has no unique significance. There's no central biblical narrative informing our celebrations.

But this doesn't mean Christians shouldn't pause and reflect on the turning of the calendar. Moses asked of the Lord, "Teach us to number our days, so we may get a heart of wisdom" Ps. 90:12. Time; seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, years is a gift to us from a good God. To wisely follow him, then, is to redeem our time Eph. 5:16.

How will we redeem our time individually as Christians and collectively as members of FPC in 2024? (Continued on page 8)

### KEY DATES

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#### **JANUARY 6**

BFB Revitalization Dinner

#### **JANUARY 7**

Communion

#### **JANUARY 21**

Annual Meeting

#### **FEBRUARY 4**

Renovation Reveal Lunch & Officer Ordination/Installation

#### **FEBRUARY 9 & 10**

Midwest Presbytery Meeting

# DEEPEN YOUR FAITH

THE WESTMINSTER LARGER CATECHISM

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## Q. 64. What is the invisible church?

**A.** The invisible church consists of all the elect who have been, are, or ever will be gathered into one under Christ, the head.<sup>1</sup>

1. Eph 1.10,22-23, Jn 10.16, 11.52.

## Q. 65. What are the special benefits for members of the invisible church through Christ?

**A.** Through Christ, members of the invisible church experience union and communion with him in grace and glory.<sup>1</sup>

1. Jn 17.21,24, Eph 2.5-6, 1 Jn 1.3.



# READING PLAN

## WEEK 1 | JANUARY 1-5

- Luke 1
- Luke 1:1-4
- Luke 1:5-25
- Luke 1:26-38
- Luke 1:39-45

## WEEK 2 | JANUARY 8-12

- Luke 1:46-56
- Luke 1:57-66
- Luke 1:67-80
- Luke 1
- Psalm 1

## WEEK 3 | JANUARY 15-19

- Luke 2
- Luke 2:1-21
- Luke 2:22-40
- Luke 2:41-52
- Luke 2

## WEEK 4 | JANUARY 22-26

- Luke 3
- Luke 3:1-20
- Luke 3:21-38
- Luke 3
- Psalm 2

## WEEK 5 | JANUARY 29-31

- Psalm 3
- Psalm 4
- Psalm 5

## YOUR MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

PSALM 1

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law, he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. The wicked are not so but are like chaff that the wind drives away. Therefore, the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; for the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

## BIRTHDAYS

- 1/3 Philip Gilmore  
1/4 Rebecka Turner  
1/11 Mindy Rehmert  
Matthew Hounshell  
1/12 Jane Tester  
1/14 Jerry Garrison  
Maleah Hines  
1/16 Shirley Headley  
Tish Shepherd  
1/17 Jan Roestamadji  
1/18 Jenna Gilman  
1/31 Braxton Moore

## ANNIVERSARIES

- 1/20 Darrell & Gina Fryman



## MIDWEST PRESBYTERY

**WHAT:** The Midwest Presbytery is made up of all EPC teaching elders (pastors) and commissioned ruling elders (members of our local session here at FPC) in our region. This meeting is one of three times they will gather this year to discuss/vote on church business and worship together.

**WHEN:** We are hosting the meeting on February 9 and 10. Friday's meeting (Feb. 9) will begin at 1pm. Dinner will be served about 5:30pm and we will close the evening with worship at 7:00pm. Saturday, February 10th we will reconvene with worship beginning at 8:30am. We encourage you to mark these dates on your calendar and plan to be a part of the weekend wherever you are able. ALL members and visitors of FPC are welcomed and encouraged to be a part of this weekend.

**HOW:** There are a variety of ways you can be a part of the weekend. The main way we would like to see *everyone* participate is by attending dinner Friday night and worshipping with us Friday night and/or Saturday morning. If you are interested in witnessing what a meeting actually looks like, you are also welcome to sit in and observe the days activities in the sanctuary or serve at various stations around the building, where needed.

We will need help with dinner on Friday night, sign-in each day, and the worship services. An official sign-up to serve is available in the hallway behind the sanctuary and on the app. Dinner is free for all volunteers or \$15 for anyone just coming for dinner/worship. Please RSVP for dinner so we can get an accurate head count.

## RENOVATION REVEAL



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2024

Following communion and worship on February 4<sup>th</sup>, we invite you to join us for our first meal as a church family back in our new space! This lunch will be catered, but we will have baskets out for donations to help cover the cost of your meal. Following lunch (about 12:30pm), we will have a short service to ordain and install our new elders and deacons. Please plan to attend and support our new servant leaders. Sign-ups to attend this lunch are available on the app and in the hallway!  
Nominated Elders: Rebecca Detling (Ordain and Install), Lisa Headley (Install)  
Nominated Deacons: Kelsey Ervin (Install), Jenna Gilman (Install), Nikki Gilmore (Ordain & Install)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting will begin immediately following service on Sunday, January 21, 2024. Members and visitors are welcomed to attend. Members of session and deacon officers need to submit their reports to Paige Ervin in the office ASAP. The agenda will be available to view one week prior; Sunday, January 14.

### RENOVATION REVEAL PREP

The renovation is coming to an end! We have a small team ready to help with installing all the finishing touches. However, there are some pieces that still need assembly before then. If you are willing to help with the assembly of some kid's toys and small furniture pieces, please let Paige Ervin know in the office. She has quite a few different items that might take some individuals a few hours or more to assemble. Your help would be greatly appreciated!

### ASH WEDNESDAY DINNER

Ash Wednesday is on Valentine's Day this year and the youth have something special in store for you! They would like to treat you to a very sweet dinner cooked with lots of love. More details will be available soon but mark your calendars now for dinner and worship on Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. Doors will open at 5:30pm. All donations for the night will go towards the Youth's mission trip fund they hope to use in the summer of 2025!

### CAST YOUR CARES CHALLENGE

The challenge is for you to submit a weekly, personal, prayer request via the app (or the offering boxes) to Pastor Andrew. We encourage you to use the offertory time to submit your request each week. Pastor Andrew thanks you all for your continued participation in this challenge each and every week.

## GROW OPPORTUNITIES

### MEN'S STUDY

The men will meet again on Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am at the church, in the parlor. Please contact Augie Roestamadji (906-523-4459) for more details.

### WOMEN'S STUDY

The women will meet again on Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 8:15am at the church in the parlor. If you have a book (not required), please read chapters 7 & 8 before the next meeting. Contact Jan Roestamadji (937-692-6404) for more details. (\*There will be NO WOMEN'S STUDY in February due to Presbytery.\*)

### PASTOR'S STUDY

Every Wednesday at 10:30am, Pastor Andrew will continue his study through II Kings. All are welcome to attend. Study will resume the last week of January and will be back at the church, in the parlor.

### COVER THE CHURCH

In the parlor, this prayer group focuses on praying for FPC, its' Sunday morning worship service and ministries. You are invited to pray silently in the parlor or pray aloud as you feel led. They will meet every Sunday at 9:30am and pray until 9:45am, leaving plenty of time for socializing before church!



# PRAYER

Please continue to pray for the following updates from last month.

## December 2023 Prayer Requests:

**12/28/2023:** Your prayers are appreciated for the family of Janet Birch. Janet is the mother of Jason Hughes' girlfriend, Debbie. Janet passed away on Christmas day.

**12/19/2023:** Tom Stevenson has requested prayer for his friend's family. A dad and his son are both having major health issues right now. Your prayers are appreciated!

**12/07/2023:** Please keep Betty Grooms and her family in your prayers. She is currently in hospice care at Wayne. (Betty went home to be with the Lord later that evening on December 7<sup>th</sup> at the age of 92. Please continue to include her family in your prayers.)

**12/07/2023:** Prayers for Tiffany Conley are appreciated! Pray that she can make it through the round ligament pains and headaches she has been having with this pregnancy.

**12/06/2023:** Chastity Westfall, Tina Smith's daughter, was told she is cancer free! This has been our prayer, but nobody thought it would happen this soon. PRAISE THE LORD!



# FPC LIFE (CONT. PG. 9)

## NOTE OF APPRECIATION

Jocelyn, Ted, and Bonnie Sheldon thank all at FPC for the prayers following the birth of baby Noah. After 8 weeks in the NICU, he is now home. Words of concern and encouragement have been a true blessing.

## SEASON OF ADVENT

Thank you to all our children/youth who participated in the advent services; Meeka Conley, Shane Gilman, Sienna Gilman, Philip Gilmore, Ruth Gilmore, Carson Henry, Ethan Henry, Garrison Henry, Maleah Hines, Mylee Hines, Inara Howell, Jonathan Howell, Tessa Leensvaart!

## BELL-RINGING THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who served the Community Christmas Drive by helping us tend the kettle at Eikenberry's! We do not have an official count of how much money was raised for the community this year, but we will share when we do.

## DECEMBER BFB DINNER

Thank you to Randy and Jane Tester for hosting our December Revitalization Dinner in their home. We had a great turnout and even better discussion. Your continued prayers for this ministry are needed!

## FPC KIDS SPECIAL

By Maleah Hines

*\*Look to hear from another one of our FPC Kids next month!\**

## HELLO FROM FLORIDA

It's that time of year. We are back in Florida and enjoying the sunshine!!! It's been a little chilly, but still not as cold as it is in Ohio. This year, my family is going to enjoy a cruise in the Caribbean while we are down here! I am looking forward to that in February. See you all in March when we return home!



First Presbyterian Church of Greenville Ohio  
Minutes of the Session of  
November 9, 2023

I. **Opening**

A. **Call meeting to order with reading of the Word and prayer**

The November 2023 stated meeting of the Session of First Presbyterian Church of Greenville was called to order on November 9, 2023 at First Presbyterian Church at 7:15 PM (due to the late arrival of the clerk) by Pastor Andrew Gilman. Pastor Gilman opening the meeting with prayer.

**Members Present:** Pam Bowman, Wes Jetter, Jan Roestamadji, Helen Miller Peter Haviza, Craig Leland and Randy Tester (7)

**Members Absent:** None

**Guests:** Paige Ervin

**Approval of Agenda** A motion was made to approve the docket with additional Worship Committee discussions by Jan Roestamadji and seconded by Craig Leland. The motion passed 7-0.

**Approval of Minutes** Pam Bowman motioned to approve the October 2023 minutes. This motion was seconded by Wes Jetter. The motion passed 7-0.

II. **Agenda Items**

**Financial Report** No written financial report was given tonight, because of Marnelise's trip to South Africa. Craig Leland did report that a first run had been made at putting together a budget for 2024 and a meeting, which lasted about two and a half hours, took place on November 7.

**Renovation Project** Pam Bowman and Paige Ervin gave an update on furniture choices for the building project. After meeting with representatives for Innovation Office Solutions and selecting furnishings they have recommended that the church allocate \$70,000 towards this portion of the project. This amounted to roughly 12,000 for office furnishings and the remainder for the other renovated areas of the project. A motion was made by Randy Tester worded: *The Session agrees to move forward with the purchase of new furnishings through Innovative Office Solutions for the amount of \$70,000*, which was seconded by Peter Haviza and passed 7-0.

Additionally, Pam and Paige recommend that Session support, in the amount of \$5,000, the acquisitions of toys and various other miscellaneous items outside of the scope for furniture for the three class rooms. Expenditures may exceed that amount, but Paige and Pam indicated that the amount spent beyond \$5,000 would be met by a fund raiser. Jan Roestamadji made a motion worded: *The session agrees to purchase any remaining items on the committee's registry for the children's classrooms up to \$5,000*. This was seconded by Wes Jetter and passed by a margin of 7-0.

John Vehre reported that the building project had 7 change orders occur since he last reported in October. Some of these changes have resulted in cost savings, but overall, \$10,560.90 has been added to the cost of the project through these alterations. JV also mentioned that these additional costs have not caused the project to exceed the 1/3-2/3 ratio between fund raising and investment contributions toward the project outlined and approved by an earlier Church Congregational meeting.

**Annual Reviews of Rolls** While the church's membership dues to the Presbytery are no longer tied to a per capita cost, it is still useful to update the membership rolls on an annual basis. Session reviewed the membership rolls during the November meeting. A series of motions were made related to these changes.

*The Session of FPC hereby adds (Tish Shepherd, Elaine (Snyder) Hawley, Dan Hawley, Alex Thomas and Shannon Thomas to the active roll. Additionally, the Session of FPC hereby adds (Philip Gilmore, Ruth Gilmore, Brice Thomas and Samuel Howell to the baptized roll. The Session also adds (Frank and Nikki Gilmore to the active list. Peter Haviza motioned to accept these additions to the active roll, seconded by Jan Roestamadji and passing by a 7-0 margin.*

Session also moved 19 members from the active roll to the inactive roll. A motion was then made by Pam Bowman to

approve this update, seconded by Peter Haviza, and passing by 7-0. Fran Nord due to her recent death was also removed from the active roll a motion being made to the effect by Wes Jetter and seconded by Craig Leland. The motion passed 7-0.

Session also reviewed the Inactive rolls and removed 10 individuals from that list. Pam Bowman motioned to make those changes, seconded by Helen Miller and passing 7-0.

**Nominating Committee (Peter Haviza)** Peter reported that a slate of candidates had been found both for Session and the Deacons, and he made the following motion: *The Session puts forward the following names for vote to the office of Elder, class of 2027 : Lisa Headley and Rebecca Detling. Additionally, Session puts forward the following names for vote to the office of Deacon, class of 2027: Kelsy Ervin, Jenna Gilman, and Nikki Gilmore.* This motion was seconded by Jan Roestamadji and passed 7-0.

**FYI Committee Assignments** Andrew had drawn up committee assignments for 2024. Mission Committee: Craig Leland, Worship Committee: Lisa Headly, Finance Committee: Jan Roestamadji, Building Committee: Randy Tester, Parish Life Committee: Rebecca Detling, Personnel Committee: Pam Bowman and Nominating Committee: Peter Haviza.

**Worship Committee (Jan Roestamadji)** Jan reported that some new materials for worship were needed. The new materials she discussed involved the sacraments. No vote was needed.

**Employee Payroll Changes for 2024** To discuss COLA adjustments and other changes, the session moved into executive session and had Andrew Gilman leave the room. A motion was made by Peter Haviza and seconded by Craig Leland to move into executive session. The motion passed 7-0. After several minutes of discussion pay changes were proposed and session then left executive session. A motion being made by Peter and Craig again to leave, passing 7-0. The following changes were agreed upon. Paige Ervin and Ben Clark will not receive any adjustments for 2024. Lori Conway will receive a \$1.00 an hour increase. Marnelise van der Walt, Andrew Gilman and Terri Fryman will receive 3% increases. A motion to accept these changes was made by Jan Roestamadji and seconded by Wes Jetter. The motion passed 7-0.

**Pastor's Report (Andrew Gilman – written submission)** Pastor Gilman submitted a written report of his activities for October. Due to the lateness of the hour, he skipped the oral summation. Pam Bowman motioned to accept the report, seconded by Peter Haviza, and passing by a margin of 7-0.

**Deacon's Meeting** A written report was submitted for the November 5, 2023 meeting. After session reviewed the report, a motion was made by Craig Leland to accept it, seconded by Wes Jetter and passing 7-0.

### III. Closing

**Prayer.** A closing prayer was made by Jan Roestamadji.

**Adjournment.** Peter Haviza motioned to adjourn, which was seconded by Wes Jetter. The motion passed 7-0.

John Vehre  
Clerk of Session

Andrew Gilman  
Moderator of Session

## LEADERSHIP MEETINGS THIS MONTH

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DEACONS	MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2024	7:00PM
SESSION	THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2024	7:00PM
WORSHIP	THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2024	10:00AM

# APPROACHING THE NEW YEAR (CONT.)

The first way that I would like to lead our congregation in redeeming our time is to have us actively reading and meditating on God's Word this year. The scripture reading plan in the monthly newsletter, as well as, some personal devotional material will help us stay active in God's Word from day to day. David said it well in Psalm 119 when he wrote,

*"I hope for your salvation, O LORD, and I do your commandments. My soul keeps your testimonies; I love them exceedingly. I keep your precepts and testimonies, for all my ways are before you."*

As we draw near to God in His Word we will begin to see the ways that He continues to bless us and guide us into the next season of our congregation's life. The people God sends to us will find a church that is dedicated to seeking the Lord and experiencing the joy of the Holy Spirit in relationship to Jesus our Savior.

The next way that we might redeem the time in 2024 will be in our relationships. As my own children grow day by day I notice how quickly these days go by. The same is of course true with our loved ones (family and friends) across any age group. Whether early in life or at the twilight of our years, each year is a gift to spend together. This is true of our church family as well. We hope to redeem the time by how we keep our meetings with one another. Hebrews 10:25 has something to say on this matter.

*"... not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."*

Maintaining our regular practice of worship each week is an important part of how God will continue to bless and grow you in His grace. It will be how He blesses and grows our entire congregation together. The various small group ministries, Bible studies, service opportunities and special gatherings will all afford you an opportunity to make the most of the time together as Christians. Each of these special days is set aside for the purpose of enjoying the family God

put you in; with other believers saved by grace and walking this road of faith.

The last thing I would like to highlight for us as we band together in the common goal of redeeming our time is in calling each member of FPC to recommit themselves to living 'on mission'. What do I mean by living 'on mission'? To be a Christian who is actively pursuing life in Christ is to be one who takes the Great Commission Command of Jesus to heart. We must be people committed to sharing our faith with others. This year we will have two specific days when you will be encouraged to invite a friend to join you at church. These dates are specifically designed to help us all focus on connecting with unbelievers or un-churched friends and family. To be sure, any Sunday is a good day to invite friends and family to church but sometimes an extra bit of intentionality can help us live on mission.

So as you make your plans for 2024 let us keep our relationship with Jesus front and center in our hearts. Let us pray and seek the Lord's will in our planning and in our New Year's resolutions. Let our resolve be to love and obey Christ. Let our desire for change be a desire to change how we live for Christ's glory. In many ways these changes must begin from the inside out. So let me encourage you as your pastor to reflect on the marvelous grace of Christ. Christ's grace, mercy, and love for each of us gives us every bit of motivation to approach 2024 with tremendous hope for new and joyful days together. Praise the Lord for the dawn of a new year and a new season in the life of FPC.

## NEW SERMON SERIES FOR 2024:





# FPC LIFE (CONT.)

## CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE

Thank you to everyone who played a part in the Candlelight Christmas Eve worship service! It was a beautiful night and service. What joy it brings God to see His people use their gifts to glorify and worship Him! Instrumentalists for the evening included: Terri Fryman, Pastor Andrew Gilman, Jane Tester, Ben Clark, and Alex Vehre. Vocalists for the evening included Tish Shepherd, Amanda Hines, LuAnn Boyer, and Didi Howell. The booth was run by Chris, Molly, and Jayden Mumaw. Special thanks to our scripture reader, Mark Howell, and acolytes, Maleah Hines, Shane Gilman, and Sienna Gilman. Finally, thank you to the "Warehouse Dance Project" at Final Bow Center for Children's Performing Arts and Hillary Holzapfel for their contribution to the service. Dancers included: Landrey Huffman, Kennedy Guillozet, Christina Crawford, Samantha Beyersdorff, Naomi Swallow, and Adalee Boner.



## RENOVATION UPDATE

The renovation is moving along right as scheduled. Here are the floors from the original part of the building that were uncovered during the renovation. Do any of you remember seeing these floors in their prime?

We look forward to a full reveal on Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup> after worship. We hope you can join us to see it all fully furnished for the first time. See more details about the day at the top of page 4.



# FPC LIFE (CONT.)

## YOUTH LOCK-IN

The youth enjoyed their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Christmas Chaos Lock-In on Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> with 20 youth in attendance! Enjoy some pictures from the night below.





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**PRESBYTERY  
MEETING**

**FEBRUARY 9 & 10**

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**RENOVATION  
REVEAL**

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2024

FIRST SATURDAY EVERY MONTH

**men's  
bible  
study**

LEARNING THE WORD TOGETHER

8:30am



**WOMEN'S  
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SECOND SATURDAY EVERY MONTH AT 8:30AM

**CAST YOUR CARES  
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