

## February Newsletter



# First Presbyterian Church

400 Lakeview Road, Mexico, Missouri

Phone: 573-581-5689

[office@mexicofpc.com](mailto:office@mexicofpc.com)

Volume 34, Issue 02

Published Monthly

January 24, 2025

### STAFF

#### **Pastor**

*Rev. Dr. Susan Presley*

#### **Student Ministries**

#### **Director**

*Micah McNeal*

#### **Organist & Handbells**

*Barbara Green*

#### **Choir Director**

*Josh Yancey*

#### **Administrative**

*Sandy Weber*

#### **Financial Secretary**

*Lori Ray*

#### **Custodian**

*Sharon Cossey*

#### **Nursery Attendants**

*Barb Brandt*

*Piper Higgins*

#### **Sunday Schedule**

#### **Worship Service**

*9:00 a.m.*

#### **Fellowship**

*10:00 a.m.*

#### **Sunday School**

*10:15 a.m.*

#### **High School Youth**

*7:30 p.m. Sundays*

*(First Presbyterian Church)*

#### **6th—12th Youth**

*6:00 p.m. Wednesdays*

*(First Christian Church)*

#### **Email:**

[office@mexicofpc.com](mailto:office@mexicofpc.com)

#### **Web page:**

[www.mexicofpc.com](http://www.mexicofpc.com)

#### **Facebook:**

[www.facebook.com/  
mexicoFPC](https://www.facebook.com/mexicoFPC)

**Wifi:** MexicoFPC-Guest

Password: #liv2srv

### Daily Devotions

It takes time to develop a habit. I've read that it takes anywhere between 18 and 250 days for a person to develop a daily habit. For the average person, 66 days of repeating a practice usually turns it into a habit.

I'm frequently asked by people in church, in the community, and online how they can grow spiritually. The quickest and possibly best answer is just two words: Daily devotions. A devotion usually involves three parts: Reading scripture, reading someone's thoughts on the scripture (or writing one's own), and prayer. A devotional time can last any amount of time: Some people spend a few minutes while others spend up to an hour. It's a highly customizable practice, but useful in any measure.

We've been given the word of God. There was a time not too long ago, in the grand scheme of things, when people weren't able to read scripture for themselves. Before most people were literate, scripture needed to be read to them. Before the advent of the printing press, people didn't typically have Bibles in their homes. Now, though, we have the ability to open up a Bible, read, contemplate, and challenge ourselves. If we don't listen to hear from God through scripture every day, we're missing a great opportunity!

If you're experienced at daily devotions, I'd love to hear about what you're reading currently! If you're new to the idea, we have two daily devotionals at the church that are free to pick up: Our Daily Bread and These Days. Both offer brief, insightful thoughts and prayers about scripture and could be a great place to start. If you'd like suggestions for a daily devotional, talk to me or Micah McNeal (Student Ministries Director) for suggestions. We'd love to help.

It does take time to develop a habit. If it's a habit as valuable as having a daily time with God, though, the investment will be worth it.

Blessings,

Pastor Susan



## FEBRUARY SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Worship 9:00 a.m.

Fellowship 10:00—10:15 a.m.

Sunday School 10:15—11:00 a.m.

PreK-1st—Room 105

2nd-5th—Room 104

Confirmation Class—Room 206

Middle & High School Youth—Room 307

Young Mom's—Westminster Room

Wired Word—Room 200

Fenlon's Class—Room 305

Sermon Discussion—Room 201

Nursery is open 8:45—11:00 a.m.

## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

### PreK-1st Grade Room 105

February 2 Deb Haag & Steve Haag

February 9 Deb Haag & Steve Haag

February 16 Julie Huffman & Layne Meyers

February 23 Deb Haag & Steve Haag

### 2nd—5th Grade Room 104

February 2 Nancy Baker & Kyle Louder

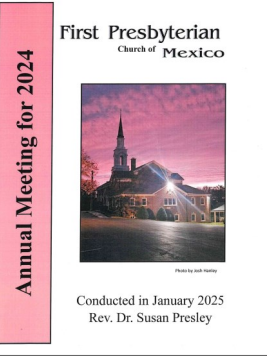
February 9 Lori Ray & Stephanie Robinett

February 16 Lana Parmenter & Megan Schutte

February 23 Whitney Lewis & Dustin Lewis



What ministries might benefit from your experience and talents? Time and talent forms are being circulated on Sundays. They are also available from the office. Pick one up or we can email one to you! Joining a committee is a great way to get to know other church members!



## 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Our annual report for 2024 was given on January 12th. There are still copies available in the narthex and outside of the office. The year end report summarizes committee work, financial reports and names of current officers.

# Prayer Requests

## CURRENT REQUESTS

- Annette Hatfield
- Cheri Erdel
- Arya Green (Danton's daughter)
- Sharon Linss

## LONG TERM REQUESTS

- Barbara Neumann
- Anna Rentschler
- Rona Wilson
- Melissa Fayad
- Carolyn Riley (Sheryl Louder's mother)
- Tom Matich (Scott's father)
- Michael Painter (Jody Fetterhoff's son-in-law)
- Betty Coari
- Dale Robb (Kim Robb's father)
- Daniel Nunnely
- Bob Kimes (Pam Miller's father)
- Larry Bauer (Jessica Olson's father)
- Connie Robley
- Judy Lowery (Jody Fetterhoff's sister)
- Bob Wilburn (Janis Strode's son-in-law)
- Jessica Jolly
- Michael Schuessler (friend of the Ray's)
- Luke Pickett
- Denzil McNeal (Micah's uncle)
- Linda Baker (Lana Parmenter's sister-in-law)
- Stan Beard Jr. (Becky Fischer's brother)
- Nancy Fischer (Scott Fischer's sister in law)
- Tom Biesemeyer (Linda Sue's cousin)
- Lydia A. Neill (Linda Sue's cousin)
- Don Munford (Robby & Cara Miller's brother in law)
- Dan Kriwiel (Peggie's husband)
- Debra Kreyling
- Cathy Scholz (Betty Coari's friend)

## Sunday Morning Nursery

Infants and children are welcome to come and play during worship and/or Sunday school. Our caregivers are **Barb Brandt & Piper Higgins.**



# REMINDER



If Mexico Public Schools are cancelled for weather or holidays, Kids for Christ is also cancelled.

## Wednesday Youth Group

6th grade & up  
6:00–7:30 p.m.

First Christian Church

## High School Youth Group

9th grade & up  
Sunday, 12:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church



Jayden Green	1	Josh Hanley	19
Bob Zinkel	1	Marcos Matuz	20
Karen Linnemeyer	3	David Huffman	21
Jennifer Benne	4	Patricia Myers	21
Lester Runnels	4	Janis Strode	22
Judy Twells	4	Becky Fischer	23
Alan Atkins	7	Elizabeth Hamlett	23
Danton Green	8	Jeremy Diederich	25
Morris Crews	9	Donna Haerer	25
Gale Bybee	11	Blake James	25
Patsy Hannah	11	Bob Kerr	26
Bernie Rothrock	11	Teresa Carlson	28
Matthew Kimbel	13	Marvin Rice	28
Brooke Smith	14	Jude Yancey	29
Kim Brown	15		
Fred Crews	15		
Linda Hamlett	15		
Koven Louder	15		
Marlis Love	18		



## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

**REBEKAH CIRCLE** is a women's Bible Study group led by Lois Runnels. They meet on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 10:00 a.m. in Room 305.

**MARY CIRCLE** is a women's Bible Study group led by Elaine Mensching. They meet on the 4th Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Both groups welcome new members!

## What's On Your Mind?

This men's study group meets on the second and fourth Saturday of each month at 7:30 a.m. in the Westminster Room. Topics vary from session to session. Join us for coffee and conversation.



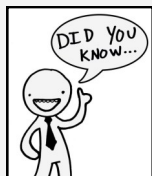
## STREAM SUNDAY WORSHIP ON LINE @ YOU TUBE

Just go to: [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

and search for: **Mexico First Presbyterian Church.**

Scan this QR code

(We are also on Facebook.)



## Creeds and Confessions—Month 8

*During our summer Sunday school class, we had a session in which we learned about the PC(USA)'s creeds and confessions. Some 25 years ago, women of our church made beautiful, intricate banners to represent each creed and confession.*

The blue, the red, and the gold are the colors of the official seal of The United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America.

The golden, down-reaching hand (repeated from the Nicene banner) represents God, relating to his world.

The crown (repeated from the Westminster banner) and the nail-scarred hand are about the death and victory of Christ as he reconciles the world.

The four hands of different colors, the clasped hands, and the green circle represent the reconciled world at the foot of the cross – God's act of reconciliation being the starting point and theme of the Confession of 1967. The stars and planets on the blue background show the Space-Age setting of this confession.





Thank you to everyone who came out to clear the sidewalks during the December and January snows!



Children's Mission



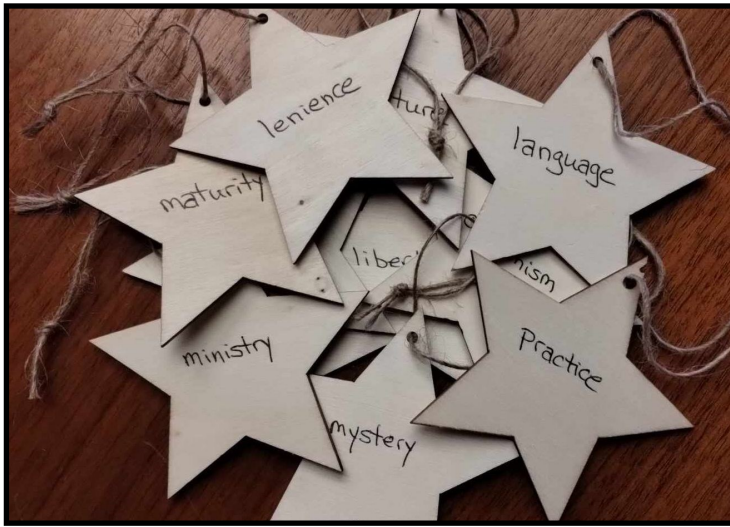
KFC CRAFTS



Blue Christmas







### EPIPHANY STAR WORDS

Star words are still available. You are encouraged to hang your word up where you are sure to see it every day. The idea is for these words to speak to you. As the year goes on, look for ways the word applies to your daily life. May your star word speak to you!



### DEACONS

Lee Dalton	'25
Danielle Louder	'25
Elliott Rice	'25
<b>Liz Schutte *</b>	'25
Ross Fryer	'26
Dustin Lewis	'26
<b>Liz Rice *</b>	'26
Megan Schutte	'26
Jody Fetterhoff	'27
Paul Carlson	'27
Scott Fischer	'27
Peggie Kriwiel	'27
Myles Yancey ( youth)	'25

### ELDERS

<b>Dianne Maguire (Clerk)'25</b>	
Andrew Cauthorn	'25
Elaine Mensching	'25
Ron Ray	'25
Stephanie Robinett	'25
Steve Haag	26
Micah McNeal	'26
Robby Miller	'26
Josh Yancey	'26
Michelle Doolittle	'27
Kim Sydenstricker	'27
Keith Louder	'27
Andy Ekern	'27

### SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FROM JANUARY 20, 2025

The session met on Monday, January 20, 2025. The meeting was opened in prayer by Pastor Susan. Our new elders (Andy Ekern, Keith Louder, Michelle Doolittle, and Kim Sydenstricker) were welcomed. Joys and concerns were shared. Dianne Maguire was re-elected as Clerk of Session for 2025. The consent agenda was accepted into the record, including prior minutes, financial reports, and the current meeting agenda.

Adult Education: Keith Louder, new chair of this committee, shared that he is investigating some ideas for adult ed, with the goal that all adults have good learning opportunities.

Deacons: Ross Fryer attended as the Deacon of the Month. He reported on their recent meeting and activities.

Property: Ron Ray reported that the new monitor in Fellowship Hall had been installed.

Staff: The Staff Committee's report was received. Their motion to terminate the employment of the last custodian and hire the new custodian passed unanimously.

Trustees: Ron Ray reviewed the Trustees' recent report. Ross Fryer assisted and explained the goals of the various funds in the report.

Youth & Young Adult: The mid/high youth group meeting is now at 12:00 on Sundays.

New Business: Micah McNeal was elected as our commissioner to the February, 2025 Presbytery meeting, which will be in Jefferson City. Kim Sydenstricker was elected as the elder representative/chairperson for the 2025 Nominating Committee. Ron Ray was elected as the Trustee liaison for 2025. Robby Miller was elected as the Columbarium liaison for 2025.

Clerk's Report: Communion was served on January 12, 2025. The annual statistical report will be distributed and voted on via email.

The meeting closed with a devotion and prayer from Steve Haag and the meeting was adjourned.

The next Session meeting will be Monday, March 3, 2025 at 6:00 PM.



# PANCAKE BREAKFAST

First Presbyterian Church of Mexico and Scout Troop 38 have a long and rich relationship. Don't miss worship on February 2, when Scouts will have a "Pancake and Sausage Breakfast Fundraiser", before and after the church service. They will also help lead worship and serve as greeters and ushers. Come welcome and support the Scouts, have a delicious breakfast, and worship together!

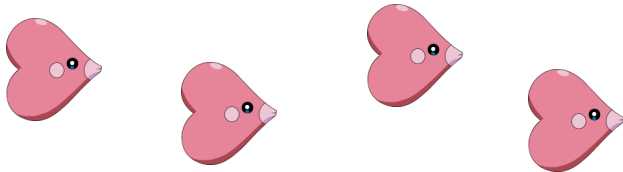
*(all donations go to support the scouts)*



## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

8:00 to 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Fellowship Hall



### High School Mission Trip

The High School Youth are planning a trip to Rolling Fork, Mississippi from May 25th—31st. The town was devastated by an EF4 tornado almost one year ago. The youth (ages 14-18) will lend their time and talents to help out with the ongoing recovery. Stay tuned for more information, or talk to Micah!

March 26-27, 2025

Camp Jo-Ota

# Spring Retreat

Games, Food Bible Study, and time at camp  
Permission forms due back March 5th

### LUNCH BUNCH

The January Lunch Bunch met  
at The Oaks.

Join us at 11:30 a.m. on  
Wednesday, February 19th at  
Pizza Hut.

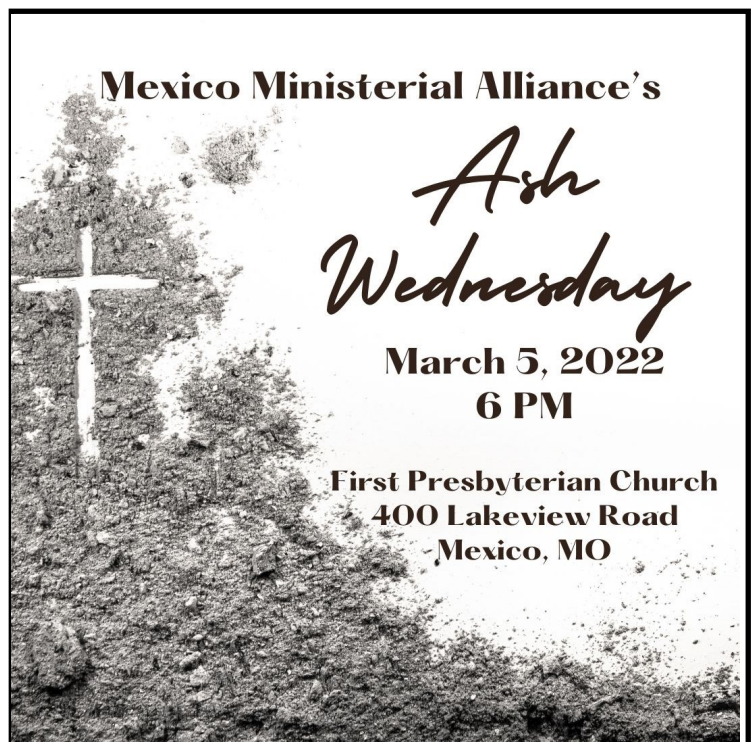


Mexico Ministerial Alliance's

# Ash Wednesday

March 5, 2022  
6 PM

First Presbyterian Church  
400 Lakeview Road  
Mexico, MO





**CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING**

On Christmas Eve, we collected \$2709 through our offering. It was divided equally between the Help Center and ACCIS!

**Memorials**

Katherine Staley  
Dan Benne  
Ed Hodge

**Collins Scholarship Fund**

Ed Hodge

**Columbarium Fund**

Ann Decker

*(These are monetary memorials received in the last 30 days)*

**Help Center**

Please bring your plastic grocery bags and egg cartons to the barrel by the office or drop off at the Help Center.

**Blessing Box**

Place items in the barrel by the office, the box outside of Fellowship Hall or directly in the blessing box. All donations are appreciated!

**GIVING STATEMENTS**

Lori has either mailed or emailed 2024 Giving Statements to congregation members. If you have not received yours, please call Lori at the office. New giving envelopes are available. If you would like to have numbered envelopes, they are available at the office or from Lori.

**NEED A RIDE TO/FROM CHURCH?**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
SHARE-A-RIDE MINISTRY  
Call our dispatcher: 573-936-6625



THINGS  
I LOVE...

H Z F N C O Q N A Y  
E P R O Z J Q E B I  
A R J E L G R D K H  
R T E C J L V L I Y  
T Y S G O O O N N H  
A B U J E L I W D O  
H N S O E N O C S P  
J Q G Y Q T T V E E  
W U R E F F S L E S  
T W X H L L N A E A

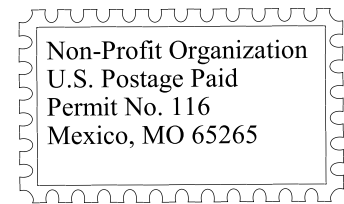
REJOICE  
HEART  
LOVE  
FOLLOWS  
ANGEL  
HOPE  
GENTLE  
JESUS  
KIND  
JOY

**BUDGET REPORT  
As of 01.02.2025**

INCOME	Actual \$	Budget for Year \$	Actual vs Budget %
Pledged Giving	0	\$294,000	0%
Non pledged	0	\$130,000	0%
Other Income	0	\$18,100	0%
<b>Total all income</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$442,100</b>	<b>0%</b>
EXPENSES			
Administration	0	\$6,050	0%
Adult Ministries	0	\$1,100	0%
Children's Ministry	0	\$4,500	0%
Local Mission	\$933.00	\$13,000	7.2%
National & Global Mission	0	\$7000	0%
Other programs	\$3,000	\$40,500	7.4%
Outreach	\$125	\$2,200	5.7%
Property	\$2,604	\$67,961	3.8%
Personnel	\$9,671	\$319,923	3.0%
Technology	0	\$9,474	0%
Worship	0	\$5,300	0%
Youth & Young Adult Ministries	0	\$7,500	0%
<b>Total all expenses</b>	<b>\$14,460</b>	<b>\$484,508</b>	<b>3.4%</b>

*First Presbyterian Church*

400 Lakeview  
Mexico, MO 65265



Return Service Requested

## DATED MATERIAL

2025	February 2	February 9	February 16	February 23
Liturgist	Troop 38	Logan Ray		
Children's Message	Joanne Nelson	Teresa Carlson	Micah McNeal	Steve Haag
Flowers			Betty Coari	Donna Haerer
Ushers	Troop 38	Bruce Oliver Nancy Oliver Bill Woods Linda Woods Rob Cox Will Cox Teddy Cox	Phyllis Wirths Donna Haerer Mark DeJaynes Jerry Ahillen Whitney Lewis Charleigh Lewis	Brad Brett Jan Douglas Ron Ray Lori Ray Grant Toellner Ollie Toellner
	Deacon Of the Month  Dustin Lewis	February Session Devotion  Ron Ray		