

January Newsletter



First Presbyterian Church

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December 23, 2024

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

Web page:

www.mexicofpc.com

Facebook:

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

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New Years Restitutions

My family has had a silly tradition of intentionally mispronouncing words or using incorrect words that sort of sound like the word we mean. We pronounced scissors as “skizzers” and knife as “kuh-nife.” And at the beginning of the year, we made what we called “New Year’s Restitutions.” We knew what resolutions were, but we just liked saying the wrong word. Families have silly traditions like that.

We are all familiar with New Year’s Resolutions. Some of us make them and some of us don’t. Some people set goals instead of resolutions. Regardless, the idea is the same: To turn over a new leaf and improve ourselves, our actions, or our way of being with the turning of the calendar page.

This year, maybe we could try adding a New Year’s Restitution, too. The dictionary definition of “restitution” has to do with restoring something to its proper owner. For example, if a court orders someone to pay restitution, they must give someone what they owe them.

What needs to be returned to its rightful owner in your life? I don’t mean the snow shovel you borrowed from your neighbor or the \$5 you never returned to your brother from that childhood loan. Let’s think of it from a “big picture” angle.

Did your family used to eat dinner together at the table, but now you’re all scattered and rarely have meals together? Family dinners together have shown to improve family relationships, reduce stress, and help with both work and school performance. Maybe a New Year’s Restitution could be returning that practice to your family.

Have you fallen out of the habit of reading scripture regularly and need to pick it back up? Maybe you need a plan for a new way to read the Bible in the new year. Stop in the office and we’ll help you out!

Perhaps your prayer life and your habit of praising God need to be returned to their rightful place. After all, 2 Corinthians 1:3 says, “All praises belong to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

As we enter this new year, may we set about our New Year’s Restitutions with energy and excitement, with all glory to God!

Blessings,

Pastor Susan



JANUARY WORSHIP**January 5****Scripture**—1 John 2:12-17**Sermon**—For Everyone Always**Preaching**—Rev. Dr. Susan Presley**January 12****Scripture**—Hebrews 1:1-12**Sermon**—Who's As Great As God?**Preaching**—Rev. Dr. Susan Presley**January 19****Scripture**—Psalm 19**Sermon**—What's Going On in Heaven**Preaching**—Rev. Dr. Susan Presley**January 26****Scripture**—John 5:2-18**Sermon**—What Do You Want?**Preaching**—Rev. Dr. Susan Presley

The Staff is so grateful for the Christmas gifts from our congregation. We appreciate the food, the cards, the visits, and the generous monetary gifts. We each feel blessed and humbled to be able to be part of the ministry of our church. Blessings to you in the new year!

Sincerely,

Pastor Susan Presley

Micah McNeal

Sandy Weber

Barb Green

Lori Ray

Josh Yancey

Piper Higgins

Barb Brant

**CURRENT REQUESTS**

Family of David Hill (Barb Atkinson's son)

Family of Al Moreau

Family of Raymond 'Buster' Kueckelhan (Teresa Carlson's father)

Arya Green (Danton's daughter)

Sharon Linss

Melissa Fayad

LONG TERM REQUESTS

Barbara Neumann

Anna Rentschler

Rona Wilson

Bonnie Kimbel

Betty Smarr

Colleen Kane (Sami Runnels Kane's sister-in-law)

Carolyn Riley (Sheryl Louder's mother)

Tom Matich (Scott's father)

Michael Painter (Jody Fetterhoff's son-in-law)

Mike Estes (Donna Haerer's cousin)

Betty Coari

Kris Fecht

Daniel Nunnelly

Bob Kimes (Pam Miller's father)

Judy Wagner

Larry Bauer (Jessica Olson's father)

Connie Robley

Judy Lowery (Jody Fetterhoff's sister)

Bob Wilburn (Janis Strode's son-in-law)

Jessica Jolly

Cole Nettles (Sandy Weber's nephew)

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 Kriwiell (Peggie's husband)

Debra Kreyling

Lucas Coari

Cathy Scholz (Betty Coari's friend)

**JANUARY SUNDAY SCHEDULE****Worship 9:00 a.m.****Fellowship 10:00—10:15 a.m.****Sunday School 10:15 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

Nursery is open 8:45—11:00 a.m.**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL 2025**

As the saying goes, "Make new friends but keep the old." During 2025 we'll be keeping many of the adult Sunday School classes, but we're also working on adding a new option or two. Watch your bulletins for news! There are always opportunities to grow, learn, and make connections with your church family.

FPC OFFICES HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

All FPC offices will be closed:

January 1st—Happy New Year!

January 17th—Martin Luther King Jr. Day



Presbyterian Women's Christmas Luncheon

On December 5th, Presbyterian Women delivered cookies to women cared for by their circles. At noon they enjoyed a soup and sandwich lunch. Scott Weber presented a selection of Christmas songs that were enjoyed by all.



Help Center

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



Adult Personal Support (APS) Committee

Stephen Ministry finished the year with a significant change. On December 16th the Session voted to approve a proposal to form a new church committee called the Adult Personal Support (APS) Committee. It will function much as the Stephen Ministers, only now will be an integral part of the church. The change should be easier, better, and cost less than the previous system. The training program for new caregivers has been simplified and young adults are needed to enhance the committee. If you are a young or middle-aged adult please consider taking the training so you can join the committee. For more information you can contact Mike Briggs at 573-581-2454; or better yet, just talk to Mike in person.



Caroling 2024



Dagwood Jr's/Concert Night



Christmas in the 4 Gospels Homes Advent Study

Barbara Neumann	3	Hadley Stolte	20
Linda Woods	3	John Willer	20
Shirlee Dubbert	4	Deacon Haag	21
Matthew Huffman	4	Jerry Isaacs	21
Caleb Robertson	4	Kenny Nelson	21
Sarah DeLong	6	Danielle Baumgartner	22
EllaBelle Schutte	6	April Jones	22
Adolph Ogar	10	Caroline Groves	24
Alicia Hagan	12	Keith Louder	28
David Miller	12	Andy Baker	30
Ryan Colley	13	Madge Moore	30
Scott Matich	13	Shyanne Fagan	31
Stephen Bybee	14	Bradley Hutchinson	31
Ronald Ray	15	Lori Ray	31
Mary Jane Tyra	15		
Mike Briggs	16		
Tom Young	16		
Kristine Smiley	18		
John Dial	19		



PINE RIDGE FUNDRAISER & PRESENTATION NATIONAL & GLOBAL BREAKFAST

On Sunday, January 5th the National & Global Committee will be hosting a breakfast in Fellowship Hall to raise money and awareness for Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Rick Boyce will give a presentation on Pine Ridge and the Lakota people.

All adult Sunday school classes are cancelled so everyone will have the opportunity to join in. There will be a "free will" offering for the breakfast to support Pine Ridge.



LUNCH BUNCH

The December Lunch Bunch met at Dagwood Jr's. Join us at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, January 15th at The Oaks.



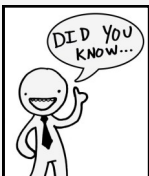
STREAM SUNDAY WORSHIP ON LINE @ YOU TUBE

Just go to: www.youtube.com

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

Scan this QR code

(We are also on Facebook.)



Creeds and Confessions—Month 7

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.

Month 7 (January) The Theological Declaration of Barmen (Germany, 1934)

The swastika crossed out and the cross rising is a protest and witness against Nazi tyranny and any effort to take the role of God and control of the church.

The fire represents the suffering and death which follows from defense of the faith against tyranny, as for some of the Barmen signers. But the cross survives such persecution and the crisis of war, rising out of the flames.





SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FROM DECEMBER 16, 2024

The session met on Monday, December 16, 2024. The meeting was opened in prayer by Steve Haag. Joys and concerns were shared. The consent agenda was accepted into the record, including prior minutes, financial reports, and the current meeting agenda.

Stephen Ministries: Mike Briggs shared a proposal from the group. They are asking to be suspended in our church, and to reform as the Adult Personal Support Committee. This change will help streamline training, which will be done in-house, saving a substantial amount of money. The success of the new program will rest on the participation of younger adults as caregivers. The motion passed unanimously.

Children's Ministry: Kids for Christ will start back in January with the start of the school year.

Local Missions: The church received generous donations for families for Christmas with which the committee was able to assist people in our community.

Music and Worship: The church has switched to new software for projection on Sundays. The committee also presented an updated Wedding Policy, which was unanimously approved.

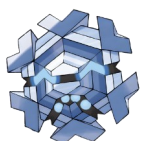
Property: New cameras have been installed on the property. Other work continues as scheduled.

Stewardship: The committee presented the 2025 proposed budget. Session approved the proposed budget of \$475,738 for 2025 unanimously.

New Business: Session voted unanimously to split Christmas Eve offerings between the Help Center and ACCIS. Session also approved communion dates for 2025.

Clerk's Report: Communion was served during worship and at King's Daughters on December 1. Chayse Samuelson was baptized and welcomed as a new member. Liz (Runnels) Rice's request to be removed from the rolls was approved, as she is active in another congregation. The death of Edward Hodge was reported.

The meeting closed with a devotion and prayer from Steve Haag and the meeting was adjourned. The next Session meeting will be January 20, 2025 at 6:00 PM.





KFC CRAFTS

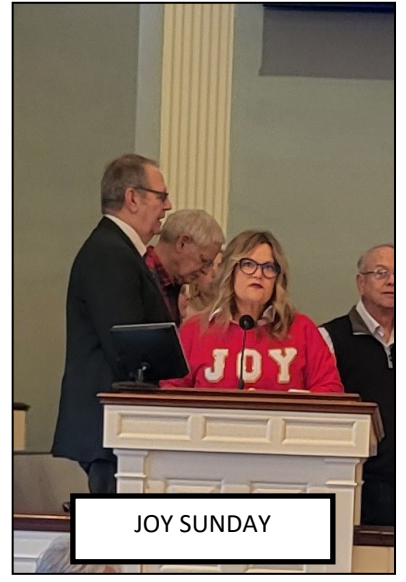


Liz & Nancy 2024

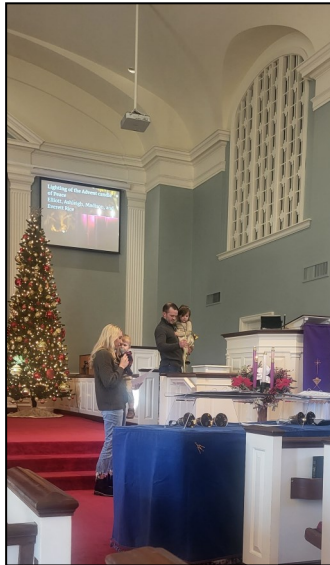


Twinning

Grace & Lucy 2012



JOY SUNDAY



Christmas Program 2024

Thank you to the kids and volunteers that help make Kids for Christ a fun and successful program!





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!



Memorials

CW & Mary Caldwell
Susan Allen
Glenn & Marie Torreyson
Peggy Cone
Randy Cone
VanNess Family
Martha Meng
Quentin & Nancy Bakke



Endowment

Carl Smarr

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

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.**



NEED A RIDE TO/FROM CHURCH?

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

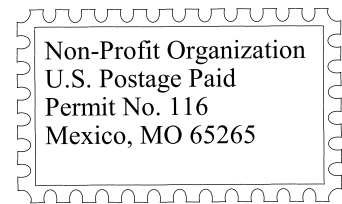


BUDGET REPORT As of 12.17.2024

INCOME	Actual \$	Budget for Year \$	Actual vs Budget %
Pledged Giving	\$297,714.59	\$325,000	91.60%
Non pledged	\$110,681.93	\$87,250	126.86%
Other Income	\$22,476.64	\$12,750	176.29%
Total all income	\$430,873.16	\$425,000	101.38%
EXPENSES			
Administration	\$3,193.60	\$6050	52.79%
Adult Ministries	\$1,514.76	\$850	178.21%
Children's Ministry	\$3,575.68	\$4,000	89.39%
Local Mission	\$10,925.07	\$13,000	84.04%
National & Global Mission	\$42,280	\$42,280	100%
Other programs	\$3,409.23	\$3,500	97.41%
Outreach	\$1,279.82	\$2,200	58.17%
Property	\$49,293.04	\$66,810	73.78%
Personnel	\$293,205.80	\$318,548	92.04%
Technology	\$9,101.75	\$8,000	113.77%
Worship	\$3,821.05	\$4,500	84.91%
Youth & Young Adult Ministries	\$1,656.08	\$6,000	27.60%
Total all expenses	\$423,255.88	\$475,738	88.97%


First Presbyterian Church

400 Lakeview
Mexico, MO 65265



Return Service Requested

DATED MATERIAL

2025	January 5	January 12	January 19	January 26
Liturgist	Lindsey Yancey	Steve Haag	Elizabeth McNeal	
Children's Message	Micah McNeal	Deb Haag	Teresa Carlson	Joanne Nelson
Flowers			Ash Crawford	Jim & Judy Dye
Ushers	Jan Douglas Larry Webber Ginger Huddleston Megan Schutte EllaBelle Schutte	Bruce Oliver Nancy Oliver Bill Woods Linda Woods Ross Fryer Ali Grace Fryer Emmie Fryer	Jim Dye Judy Dye Karen Linnemeyer Stephannie Robinett Raigan Robinett	Scott Matich Karagen Matich Kyle Louder Koven Louder
	Deacon Of the Month Megan Schutte			