



# The VOICE

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[www.firstpresbyteriansullivan.org](http://www.firstpresbyteriansullivan.org)

December 2023

Blessings for a season of love and peace for you and yours.

The season of Christmas is a season of peace and love being shared and remembered between family and friends as well as those we don't even know. So many people have lost contact with loved ones and spend their Christmas season alone feeling lost or rejected.

I chose the passage of Colossians 3:13-15, as a reflection for the month. ***“Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.”***

Christ came into this world as an infant to live the human life as each of us do without one big thing. **He came in purity, to be the perfect example of what true love and forgiveness is to look like.** God created each of us as individuals and different from one another for a reason. Each of us falls short of the glory of God and none of us are perfect in any way. So, ***why do we try so hard to put those we love in containers?***

The verse starts off telling us to ***“bear with each other and FORGIVE each other,”*** **holding NO grievances.** But Satan loves to separate us and even rewards us, according to his ideas of what a reward looks like, if we fall in line with his plan.

The verse goes on to say, ***“Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”*** This part of the verse is so often overlooked. **Why do we allow ourselves to be convinced that we are the ones being wronged? Why do we allow our hearts to give into the schemes and tricks of Satan?**

We must **“let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts”** today and everyday. **Let's put on LOVE this season which will bind all things together in perfect unity just as Christ loved us and forgave us.**

*Wishing All of you and your families the peace and love of Jesus our infant Savior!*  
**Pastor Kathi Kraus**

## THANK YOU!!!!

Trivia Through The Decades on November 4th was a tremendous success! Turning Point needed \$3,000 to reach their goal of \$50,000 and we raised \$4,161.78 to put them **over the top!** There were 69 participants having a wonderful evening of food, fun and fellowship. Steve Campell from Turning Point thanked our church for all the support saying our congregation has been the largest supporter of Turning Point's campaign donating \$10,000 total.

Thank you to everyone who participated and donated baked goods, silent auction items, your monetary donations and your time! We do make a difference! God Bless you all.

## Jesus Revolution Bible Study

Fifteen church members have just completed the six-week Bible Study "Jesus Revolution." This study was written by Greg Laurie who was Pastor of the California church which experienced a Jesus Revolution in the 1970's. This entire story was portrayed in the recent movie of the same title.

The study focused on ways to achieve a more personal relationship with Jesus. Weekly topics included:

(1) Where is Your Hope? (2) Who Is The Spirit? (3) How Do We Pray? (4) What Is The Bible? (5) Who Goes To Heaven? and (6) What Can We Do Now? Bible Scriptures each week fostered thought and group discussion.

Thanks to Greg Myers for organizing and leading this very meaningful study. Participants included: Pat Andrea, Jack & Sharon Blanton, Steve & Kathy Gallop, Katherine McGill, Dan & Marilyn McWhorter, Patti Myers, Butch & Michelle Walka, Rosco Walka, Sylvia Walka, Greg Myers (Moderator) and Kathi Kraus (Pastor).



Merry Christmas

## Sermon Series for the Season of Advent

Join us in worship either in the pew or live streaming for the Advent sermon series.

The Star: A Journey to Christmas. Come and explore together the treasure of the Star. It's not just an image of a star among millions, even billions. It is the Star that shows us the way to the Christ Child, our Immanuel.

## A Favorite Bible Verse

Carol Kroenung shares her favorite Bible verse with us this month:

Matthew 6:1-15

"Be careful not to do your acts of righteousness before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets...Do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret...And when you pray,...go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father who sees what is done in secret and He will reward you...Your Father knows what you need before you ask...For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you."

"I was brought up with this belief and have it in my heart still. It takes a lot to do this at times but I will do it with God's help." ~Carol~

### Session Highlights - October 18th

- The joint project with Solarium Productions for raising funds for restoration of Clark Family Cemetery resulted in \$323 collected at the Art Fair. Michelle Walka is doing research on the cemetery and ownership. A committee has been formed for cemetery improvement and upkeep.
- Jesus Revolution Bible Study starts on Oct. 11th.
- Communion served to approx. 35 on 10/1; 30 on 10/15; home communion to 5.

### Session Highlights - November 15th

- Deacon training started at Joint Meeting.
- Gave Chamber \$50 for Christmas Drive Thru Light Display; \$50 for Toy Drive.
- Per Capita per active person is \$36.
- Rev. Dr. Brandon Eddy elected as new Stated Clerk for Presbytery.
- Upcoming Art Fairs 2024 on February 10, one day in June and two days in October.
- Communion served to approx. 30 on 11/5; 29 on 11/19; home communion to 5.
- Trivia Night collected \$4,161.78 for Turning Point.
- Memorial Books will list only the person who passed away and not people who gave memorials.
- Records Review was listed in the Omnibus as approved with no exceptions.

## December 2023 Happenings

**Sunday Worship services** Starting 10:30 AM (1st & 3rd Sundays Celebrate communion and all special services)

**Disciple Time** included in each worship service.

**Fellowship** immediately follows our worship service in the Fellowship hall for Cookies, juice and coffee.

**Knitters** Every Tuesday at 10:00 AM

**Adult Bible Study** 2nd through the 4th Thursday of each month at 3:30 PM in the library at the church.

**Praying with Flair** meets 1st Thursday monthly via zoom 7:00 PM. Please submit your email address to join the group.

**Believers** meet the 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month from 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM. (with the exception of December they will be meeting each Sunday before special Christmas Service)

**Session** 3rd Wednesday monthly 1:00 PM.

**Movie Matinee** the last Wednesday of the month at 1:00 PM. (with no movie in December) Free for all.

**TOPS meets** Thursdays 5:00 PM

**AA meets** Mondays & Thursdays 7:00 PM

**NA meets** Tuesdays 6:00 PM, Fridays 9:00 PM and Saturdays 4:00 PM

### Upcoming dates - mark your calendars!

- ★ Dec. 17th Christmas Joy Offering (see below)
- ★ Dec. 24th Christmas Eve Special Service begins at 6pm ~ Believers Youth presents:  
"The Star, A Journey to Christmas"
- ★ Dec. 25th ~ Birth of our Lord & Savior  
**Jesus Christ**  
**Merry Christmas!**
- ★ Pastor Kathy ~ Vacation, December 25-31
- ★ Per Capita of \$36 per active member is due  
**before December 31, 2023**
- ★ Stay tuned for the new Bible Study series to be announced soon.

### Christmas Joy Offering

When we give to the Christmas Joy Offering, we share our love with the leaders of our Church - past, present and future. 50% of our gifts make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. 50% of our gifts assist current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs. This offering will be **collected on December 17, 2023.**

## December Birthdays & Anniversaries

11...Marilyn McWhorter

19...Kathy Gallop

### Anniversaries

None

## January Birthdays & Anniversaries

11...Kathryn McGill

19...Cali Koppelman-Blue

25...Remmi Koppelman-Blue

26...Pete Kraus

26...Pat Andrae

### Anniversaries

None

## February Birthdays & Anniversaries

9...Jean Krebs

11...Zenas Blevins

20...Kammi Kraus

22...Connie Delcour

### Anniversaries

4...Charlie & Valeta Betz

13...Bob & Terri Sappington

15...Greg & Patti Myers

## Greeters

### December

3 Greg & Patti Myers

10 Royce Scott

17 Tim & Nettie Peterson

24 Dave Law

31 Royce Scott

### January, 2024

7 Jack & Sharon Blanton

14 Kathryn McGill

21 Charlie & Valeta Betz

28 Tim & Nettie Peterson

### Liturgist for December

Valeta Betz

### Elder on Call for December

Tim Peterson

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**Help us build the kingdom of God! You can share your gifts electronically, by visiting our website or by sending an email to: [donate@firstpresbyteriansullivan.org](mailto:donate@firstpresbyteriansullivan.org)**

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## Meet Our Staff here at FPCS

Pastor: Kathi Kraus

Pastor Assistant/Treasurer:

Valeta Betz

Clerk of Session: Tonette Barnes

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### **We are NOW Live Streaming our Worship**

You are welcome to join us each Sunday morning from wherever you are through live stream. Please follow us on FaceBook or go to our website to join us in worship.

Join us in the pew every chance you get!

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**Join us for worship service every Sunday at 10:30am.**

Fellowship immediately follows with cookies, juice and coffee!



### **Life Team Members are as follows:**

**Team A** - Patti & Greg Myers

Pete & Kathi Kraus

**Team B** - Michelle Walka & Dave Law

Tim & Nettie Peterson

## Cookies



### December

3 Jack & Sharon Blanton

10 Royce & Suzanne Scott

17 Carol Kroenung

24 No cookies this date

31 Terri Sappington

### January~2024

7 Dan & Marilyn McWhorter

14 Charlie & Valeta Betz

21 Zenas & Sally Jo Blevins

28 Tim & Nettie Peterson

