

# The VOICE

Pastor's Corner

This newsletter is posted on our website. Please check us out and stay up to date on all activities.

[www.the-anchor.org](http://www.the-anchor.org)

January 2024

Happy New Year Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

As we step into a new year in fellowship and ministry, let's never lose the focus of where our strength comes from nor **our absolute desperate need for our Savior Jesus Christ.**

The chosen passage for this the first month of the new year is from Psalms 28:7. It reads, *"The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him and He helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise Him."*

We have just been renewed in the promises of God our Creator, who promised to send a Savior to His hurting people thousands of years ago and today and everyday going forward. We've just celebrated the most priceless gift ever given.

King David acknowledged the place where his strength and protection, his joy and his salvation had come from. **He knew the Lord our God was not only with him, but also the very place where all that he needed had come from.**

King David was a warrior. He knew God and trusted Him with his confidence and protection. We can too. ***When we place all of our trust and all of our heart in the hands of our Creator, we come to a place of perfect peace and joy. We find ourselves anchored to God our Creator.***

As we start this New Year, some of us might feel as though we're stepping off into the abyss, a place of the unknown. In a sense, this is absolutely true. However, with God in the driver's seat, ***the pilot of our ship***, we can be confident that He has our best interest at heart. ***We can trust God will chart the raging seas of our lives and be able to navigate with Him handling the storms.***

When we are struggling and all seems lost, **we must turn with confidence to the very one who Created and Redeems us from our own misery and suffering.** In the arms of Jesus, we find the power of the Holy Spirit moves us to perfect peace.

Here is where ***our thanksgiving will turn into rejoicing and worship.*** The Lord God is our greatest strength.

In the love of Christ who came to dwell among us, He will soon return to complete His work for us.

Have a blessed New Year.

*Pastor Kathi Kraus*

## **Newsflash!!**

We are excited and pleased to announce a new name for our church:

### The Anchor Church

This name change was approved by session after discussions with the congregation. The new name will appear on all advertising and pamphlets. Legal documents will include The Anchor Church, First Presbyterian. Please note the new website address [www.the-anchor.org](http://www.the-anchor.org) and various emails as follows:  
[info@the-anchor.org](mailto:info@the-anchor.org)  
[pastor@the-anchor.org](mailto:pastor@the-anchor.org)  
[donate@the-anchor.org](mailto:donate@the-anchor.org)

### ***Introducing Our New Bible Study***

Greg Myers will be leading a new Bible Study class "Lead Like Jesus" beginning Sunday, January 14, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. each Sunday for 7 weeks. The first class will be an introductory session. His last Bible Study was a huge success with 15 attendees. If you are looking for an uplifting and enlightening way to learn more about Jesus, this will be the class for you. If you are interested in joining the study please let Greg or Patti Myers know so lesson plans can be made accordingly for attendance.

Thank you Greg for your enthusiasm toward this endeavor.

## **A Favorite Bible Verse**

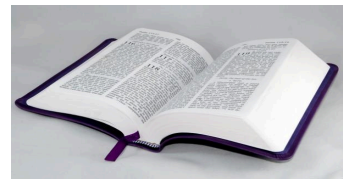
Jack Blanton shares his favorite Bible verse with us this month:

John 3:16

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

"As a small child, I lived in a very small house on Acid Mine Rd. In fact, it was only one room. My parents' bed was in that room and over their bed they had a sign with this scripture verse. It was written on a piece of blue cardboard. I don't know where my mom got it but it was visible all day long, every day of the week. I saw it there and read it every single day.

When I was about 5 years old, my mother and I started going to church but my father did not go with us. It was at that time that I started understanding the meaning of this verse. I will always have a special connection to it." ~ Jack ~



### **Session Highlights - December 20, 2023**

- We will be receiving an outside flag gifted by a member of the church.
- Approved \$250 mission pledge to the Presbytery for 2024.
- Approved "The Anchor Church" as our name change.
- Served communion to approximately 27 on 12/3; 28 on 12/17 and 56 on 12/24 Christmas Eve service.
- A new Bible Study entitled "Lead Like Jesus" starts at 1pm on Sunday 1/14/24.
- We will be hosting a "Hoot-N-Nanny" here on 1/26 for a little boy, Amari Brandon.
- We will be collecting personal items for Spiritual Solutions in January and July.

## January 2024 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.

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

**Movie Matinee** the last Wednesday of the month at 1:00 PM. 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

Continued Deacon Training in **January** - TBA

**January 28th** - Pat Andrea joins the church

**January 28th** - Believers meet for a movie

**January 31st** - Movie Matinee 1 p.m.

**February 14th** - Ash Wednesday Service 6 p.m.

**February 17th** - Mt. Helicon Art Fair 9 a.m. - 4p.m.

**February 28th** - Movie Matinee 1 p.m.

## January Birthdays & Anniversaries

11...Kathryn McGill

19...Cali Koppelman-Blue

25...Remmi Koppelman-Blue

26...Pete Kraus

26...Pat Andrae

**No Anniversaries**

## 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

## March Birthdays & Anniversaries

1...Ransom Dudley

6...Carol Kroenung

7...Terri Sappington

11...Al Watz

12...Jane Watz

19...Michelle Walka

24...Barb Komo

29...Dennis Komo

**No Anniversaries**

## Greeters

**January, 2024**

7 Jack & Sharon Blanton

14 Kathryn McGill

21 Charlie & Valeta Betz

28 Tim & Nettie Peterson

**February, 2024**

4 Royce Scott

11 Steve & Kathy Gallop

18 Walka Family

25 Greg & Patti Myers

**Liturgist for January**

Dan McWhorter

**Elder on Call for January**

Tonette Barnes

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Visit our Website at [www.the-anchor.org](http://www.the-anchor.org)

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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@the-anchor.org](mailto:donate@the-anchor.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

### C o o k i e s



### January~2024

7 Dan & Marilyn McWhorter  
14 Charlie & Valeta Betz  
21 Zenas & Sally Jo Blevins  
28 Tim & Nettie Peterson

### February

4 Carol Kroenung  
11 Steve & Kathy Gallop  
18 Walka Family  
25 Greg Myers

