

First Presbyterian Church Winter E-News



Connect with First Presbyterian Church

A Note from the Pastor

New Year Greetings!

As we go boldly into 2023, we are excited to see what God will do in our midst.

Reflecting on the year behind us, we cannot linger in the past. One of my favorite chapters in the bible is Isaiah 43. It is full of beautiful reminders of God's love, God's protection, and God's ability to create good things when it seems like there isn't a way.

Verses 18-19 are a constant reminder for us to keep our eyes peeled and to pay attention to how God is making a way for us.

"Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

The wilderness that we have all experienced in this pandemic and the wilderness we feel in ourselves during the winter months is nothing for God. No matter the situation, God can and will create a way. May we faithfully perceive God's actions in our community and us.

Join us as we worship and seek out the good things God is bringing us. I

can't wait for what's next.

With Excitement,
Pastor Alison

A Note from the Clerk of Session

Happy greetings to all for this new year! Session did not meet in December but did enjoy mingling at an open house hosted by Rev. Alison. Our monthly meetings resume on January 19th.

Looking deep into January, church members should plan to attend the annual meeting of the congregation which is scheduled for Sunday, January 29th beginning immediately following worship.

I'll have more to share about activities of the Session as we move into this year. Until then, I'll share a nature note about what I'm watching out my window as I write this.

We enjoy feeding the birds during the winter months. This morning, the birds are active at the feeders, in particular, the woodpeckers working on the suet. I've seen male and female hairy woodpeckers, male and female downy (smaller than hairy), and a male red-bellied woodpecker. The female red-bellied usually comes later in the day for some reason. Woodpeckers have long tongues so they can reach deep into tree cavities for the insects they seek. Their tongues average 3.9 inches long! So where do they keep all of that tongue when not in use? The tongue retracts to wrap around their brains! The tongue and all of the rest of their unique anatomy are fascinating adaptations and wonders of God's creation.

I encourage you to begin each day with God. We are happy when we enjoy fulfilling His purpose for our life.

Through Christ who strengthens us,

Carolyn Mathews, Clerk of Session



Please note that the Church Office will be CLOSED on Monday, January 16th in observances of Martin Luther King Day.

FREE MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID CERTIFICATION

We will host a Mental Health First Aid Training on **Sunday, January 22nd (12:30 pm-5:30 PM)**. This course will teach you how to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges among adults. The class is limited to 15 participants and will require about 2 hours of self-paced online pre-work.

If you are interested in this training, [click here to sign up.](#)



THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION-CORPORATION of
First Presbyterian church of Cumberland, Maryland is called by the Session

for next Sunday, January 29, 2023.

The purposes of the meeting are:

- To hear the Annual Report of the Session
- To elect an Auditor to the Auditing Committee
- To elect a new class of Ruling Elders
- To elect a 2023 Congregational Nominating Committee
- To receive the 2023 Budget
- To elect Officers of the Corporation
- To approve the pastor's terms of Call
- To conduct any other business properly coming before the Congregation-Corporation

-By Order of the Session

Nurture

Joys and Concern



Happy
Birthday!

Georgene McKenzie 5-Jan
Mike Fiscus 7-Jan
Royce Hodges 9-Jan
Sharon Kazary 9-Jan
Renee Kiddy 9-Jan
Alleine Courtney 12-Jan
Betty Richtmeyer 12-Jan
Juliana Parker 15-Jan
Brittany Jackson 18-Jan
John Brown 20-Jan
Bridget Forbes 23-Jan

Katie Ross 2-Feb
Marybelle Light 3-Feb
Brenda Clark, CPA 5-Feb
Debi Mullan 8-Feb
Martha Jane Hochard 11-Feb
Gail Plitnik 13-Feb
Barbara Aber 16-Feb
Tom Chappell 16-Feb
Linda Mellon 16-Feb
Judy Stern 16-Feb
Sterlin Rebeck 17-Feb
Laura Fiscus 18-Feb
Gwyn Chappell 19-Feb
Deb Hendrickson 19-Feb
Phil Mills 21-Feb



SYMPATHY & PRAYERS to the family of Bill Shaffer, on his death on Saturday, December 24th.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held at First Presbyterian Church on Saturday, March 18th in the sanctuary at 3:00 PM. Prior to the service at 2:00 PM a visitation and light refreshments will be held in the Gathering Place.

SYMPATHY & PRAYERS to the family of John Johnson, on his death on Friday, December 30th.

Learn and Grow

JANUARY 15, 2023

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

10:00am - 10:45am
First Presbyterian Church

you are invited to join us on Sunday January 15th for an exciting class on Learning Like Jesus. There will be stories, snacks, and crafts for you to join in on. Don't forget to bring an adult! They'll want to participate too.

We hope to see you there!

Activities:

Bible Stories | Crafts | Snack Time | Mealtime Prayer

Worship With Us

Save the Date



Join us on the evening of Wednesday, February 22nd for our Ash Wednesday Service. More details will sent out as they become available.

