



# First Presbyterian Church News

Keeping Our Faith Family Up-To-Date

February 2025

## EPIPHANY 2025 FOCUS ON THE LIGHT

We continue the celebration of the season of Epiphany, which began in January and continues through the month of February.

Epiphany is the a-ha season, a time of being surprised by moments that make us think, or even say out loud, a-ha! It is a season about deep mysteries revealed. It's about Jesus Christ, the God of the universe, the Light of the World, revealed in human form so that we can see God up close. It's God surprising us in the everyday and in every way.

May we draw close to God, knowing that we are welcomed and loved. May we be surprised by how God breaks into our lives this year.

May the Light shine on us all .... Woody

### WORSHIP DURING THE SEASON OF EPIPHANY SUNDAY MORNINGS

**February 2 - 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

***Finding Light When the Bible Flies out the Window***

I Corinthians 13:1-13 and Isaiah 61:1-3

*Celebration of Communion*

*Youth sponsored "Groundhog Day" Lunch*

**February 9 - 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

***Finding Light When You're Just Out Fishing***

Luke 5:1-11 and Isaiah 6:1-8

**February 16 - 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

***Finding Light When You Laugh***

Luke 6:17-21 and Psalm 1:1-3

**February 23 - 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

***Finding Light No Matter What***

Genesis 45:1-15 and Psalm 37:1-8

**March 2 - Transfiguration Sunday**

***Finding Light in a Holy Moment***

Luke 9:28-36 and Exodus 34:29-35

*Celebration of Communion*

### February Birthdays

- 1 - Walt Vandelicht
- 2 - Natalie Mendez
- 4 - Judy Rapps
- 4 - Tom Hickman
- 5 - Zaia Pack
- 6 - Jennifer Hickman
- 7 - Susan Lowry
- 7 - Linsey Snodgrass
- 7 - Audrey Shinkle
- 9 - Duane Nichols
- 9 - Marilyn Hofmann
- 9 - Shelley Swoyer
- 11 - Stacie Holt
- 12 - Shannon McPherson
- 13 - Dave Epema (Sr.)
- 13 - Ray Schneider III
- 16 - Cheryl Smallwood
- 16 - Beth Archias
- 16 - Eva-Rose Penserum
- 17 - Don Lehman
- 17 - Marcia Reed
- 17 - Jeannine Toomey
- 18 - Cole Ahrens
- 18 - Blake Merrick
- 18 - Kate Merrick
- 19 - Jan Haviland
- 19 - Greg Schildmeyer
- 20 - Mary Kabiri
- 20 - Mary Clark
- 20 - Jack Ledgerwood
- 21 - Shelby Beasley
- 23 - Denzil Hawes-Davis
- 24 - Abby Bax
- 24 - Harmony McPherson
- 26 - Carter Epema
- 26 - Carly Merrick
- 27 - Libby Hafley
- 28 - Sharen Lehman
- 28 - JP Dunn
- 29 - Roger Connell
- 29 - Woody Berry

## **IDEAS FOR LENT 2025**

LENT is one of those special seasons in the life of the church as we journey through the days leading to the joyous celebration of Easter. This year it begins with Ash Wednesday on March 5 and culminates on Easter morning, April 20. We journey through this season with daily devotional books, book studies together, a focused mission emphasis, vesper services, and Holy Week services.

We would love to hear your ideas for celebrating this season. Perhaps there are traditions you would like to preserve; perhaps you have ideas from other churches about something different that would be good this year; or perhaps you would like to be enlivened by a discussion where ideas are openly discussed, igniting creativity in you and others.

A one-hour think tank is scheduled for Thursday, February 6 at 4:30 in the afternoon at church. Woody will be leading this time and we'll all be listening and learning from one another. You are invited to come; or if you can't come, but have thoughts or ideas to share, you can send them to Woody ([woody.berry@gmail.com](mailto:woody.berry@gmail.com)) or drop them by the church office.

The Worship Committee will meet at 5:30 that day to finalize plans for the worship parts of the season.

One idea has already been chosen – the theme for the season this year is **KNOWING JESUS MAKES A DIFFERENCE.**

### **February Save the Dates:**

- 2** - Groundhog Breakfast
- 3** - Men's Group
- 3** - Facilities Committee Meeting
- 3** - Communication's Committee Meeting
- 3** - Christian Education Committee Meeting
- 4** - Deacon's Meeting
- 5** - PW Bible Study
- 9** - Worship at Primrose
- 12** - Preschool Muffins with Mom
- 12** - Care for Creation
- 13** - PW Afternoon Circle
- 13** - Social Justice Ministry Team
- 13** - Social Justice Speaker - Knox Hall
- 17** - Men's Group
- 17** - Stewardship Meeting
- 18** - Session Meeting
- 20** - Retired Adult Fellowship
- 22** - Missouri Union Presbytery Meeting
- 24** - Preschool Muffins with Mom
- 25** - Mission Committee Meeting
- 25** - Coral Circle
- 26** - Care for Creation
- 26** - Kaffee Klatsch
- 27** - Fellowship Committee Meeting

## At the end of 2024 the Session took action that establishes a Communications Committee.

The committee's charge is to support the Core Purpose of the Church and specifically establish communications strategies to engage church and community audiences by planning, creating and organizing effective messaging and supporting communications needs of the other church committees and organizations.

The Communications Committee will have its first meeting in February, and kick off its efforts to meet the requirements established by the Session.



HOBBIES:  
How They  
Help Us!

## Retired Adult Fellowship

Join us at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, February 20 for lunch with Greg & Vicki Schildmeyer and Susie Perkins as hosts. We'll be thinking about the topic "Hobbies: How they help us" and sharing our favorite hobbies. We'll talk about them and even show examples. See you then!

**Battery Recycling Update:** Since our October Care of Creation Month when we began using the red bucket in Knox Hall to recycle all kinds of small household batteries, we have received an average of 22 pounds/month. All the batteries have been taken to Batteries Plus at 1922 Missouri Blvd. Thanks to everyone who has remembered to dispose of batteries in a way that protects the environment! For your information, besides free recycling of batteries, Batteries Plus also accepts lightbulbs for recycling, including CFC, LED, fluorescents etc). There is no charge except for 4ft fluorescent tubes. You can drop them off yourself or check with Vicki Schildmeyer or another member of the Social Justice Ministry Team. Keep up the great work!

## Christian Education

Our lessons for the month will center around how God calls us to live a life of Peace and to choose Love over hate. As we celebrate Black History month, we will highlight sit-ins, separate is not equal, marching for equal rights and standing up when we see unfair treatments. We will study the leaders who chose Peace and Love to initiate social change, such as John Lewis, Rosa Parks and Ralph Abernathy, children's book authors and more .

Feb. 5th- "Blessed are the peacemakers, because they will be called children of God," Matthew 5:9

Feb. 12th- "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, so whosoever believed in Him, should not perish, but have eternal life." John 3:16

Feb. 19th- "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love." Ephesians 4:2-3

Feb. 26th- "Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it." Psalm 34:14

PCF activities for February, please come and join in the fun!

Family Lunch on Sunday, Feb. 9th at Cinco De Mayo-Miller St. 12:00 noon (this is after Confirmation classes).

Family Lunch on Sunday, Feb. 23rd at Poppos-Mo.Blvd. 12:00 noon (this is after Confirmation classes).

Bill Zimmerman, a volunteer with the Farmer-to-Farmer (F2F) program will offer a fascinating program at First Presbyterian on Thursday, February 13, at 6:30 pm in Knox Hall. F2F supports farmers and agribusiness professionals in developing countries to improve their livelihoods and food security. F2F sends US based volunteers on technical assignments to provide hands-on training to communities, cooperatives, agribusinesses, and educational institutions.

Bill is an agricultural and environmental microbiologist from Jefferson City. Since he began volunteering with F2F in 2014, he has accepted 45 assignments in 23 countries, including Malawi. In fact, scheduling Bill to speak is difficult because he is so frequently out of the country on an assignment. He works directly with one of the implementers of the program funding, National Cooperative Business Alliance (CLUSA is their developmental arm). A few weeks ago, he was named the CLUSA volunteer of the year. He loves working with the local farmers to discover their needs and find ways to improve their production, and he does it all with humility and respect.

## PW News – February 2025

All women at First Presbyterian join in thanking God for the faithful life of Brenda Waters, who entered into God's eternal presence on Wednesday, January 22, 2025. Brenda has been integral in the leadership and planning for PW for many years and her loving, dedicated service has sustained this ministry. May her faithfulness and vitality inspire each of us to give our best selves in Christ's service. Thanks be to God!

Discussion and study of *Lesson 6* in the PW Bible study **Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation** will be **Wednesday, February 5, at 10:30 in the library.** All are welcome! This hour long workshop is especially helpful if you plan to lead the circle study in February.

**Afternoon Circle will discuss Lesson 5** about Air Quality (due to January cancellation). ***Concerns about Air Quality remind us that the wind itself often signals a holy moment, and helps increase our awareness of our own breathing and God's Spirit moving among and through us.*** Circle begins with a short devotion, prayer, and updates. We also receive PW offerings and enjoy sharing personal perspectives and encouragement. The meeting concludes with prayer about 2pm. For more information or to reserve a study book, call/text Barb Slevin (573) 690-0640 or email [slevin\\_b@yahoo.com](mailto:slevin_b@yahoo.com) All are welcome; prior study is helpful, but optional. Come and meet some new friends, while discussing how we can live together as Christ's disciples.

Coral Circle gathered in **Knox Hall Tuesday, Jan 28 at 6:30 pm. Please text/call Margaret Tyler (573) 694-4517 or Marty Gardner (573) 353-9566 to confirm the February meeting date,** when they will consider Lesson 6. Coral Circle enjoys light refreshments and wide ranging discussion of each month's lesson. A small but warm and welcoming group!

**Mark your calendar and make plans for a PW Mission-Craft Time on Saturday, Feb 15, from 9:30 to 11:15 at church.** We will assemble small mission kits of school supplies to send with our mission team in March to share with special needs children at the SCOTA school in Tamshiyacu, Peru. Jane Bedsworth has also prepared a simple gift we will make for each child who will receive a kit with simple supplies. We'll start with some refreshments and coffee/tea, work on the kits, enjoy friendly fellowship, and plan our spring paper products mission project. Some fun and relaxing work with great fellowship, too. Come as you are and bring a friend! Call/text or email Vicki Schildmeyer (678) 478-7078 or [vschild@mchsi.com](mailto:vschild@mchsi.com) to find out more.

**Kaffee Klatch** is a "just for fun" group that gets together on the last Wednesday of the month at the **Hy-Vee dining room. We met Jan 29 and will gather again on Wed, Feb 26 at 10:30 to 11:30 am.** Come to catch up with friends and share and unrushed conversation in the middle of your week.





## FPC-JC TO HOST PRESBYTERY MEETING

**On Saturday, February 22**, our church will be hosting delegates (elders and ministers) from Presbyterian churches across central Missouri for their first gathering of 2025.

This is a great opportunity to hear and see directly what is going on in other churches in our areas.

The **Moderator for the meeting is the Rev. Rick Watson**, the pastor at Vandalia Presbyterian Church. He completed his degrees from Dubuque Presbyterian Seminary in Iowa and has wonderful credentials as a preacher, pastor, and administrator. He does all this as a person who is blind, using the skills of braille, listening well, and always living with a heart of love. The **preacher for worship is another new minister in our midst, Rev. Kati Collins**, who is the new senior pastor at First Presbyterian, Columbia. She is a graduate of Columbia Presbyterian Seminary in Decatur, GA. She and her husband Robbie have preschool daughters, Abigail and Samantha. She brings a deep educational and mission orientation, having served in various churches, including two years in a church in the Czech Republic.

Other pastors and elders are as interesting as these two and as hosts for this event, you have the opportunity to meet and learn and broaden your horizons with individuals and by seeing how the business of the wider church is conducted.

**The meeting begins at 10am and is over by 3pm. Worship takes place at 11:00 before lunch at Noon.** You can come and go at any times and join in the meeting which will be happening in our Sanctuary.

**Helpful hands are needed.** We are preparing pastries and coffee during the registration time, 8am to 10am. We are also serving lunch at noon around tables in Knox Hall. The Fellowship Committee (Karen Laves, chair) are in charge of this meal and would love your help in setting up, fixing foods, serving, and cleaning up at either of these times. Ushers are needed to greet people in the morning and pointing them toward registration (Knox Hall), the meeting (Sanctuary), and of course the well-hidden bathrooms in our building. For the worship times, our elders have already volunteered to help serve communion. We also need volunteers to collect the morning offering, which will go to support our Sunday Night Live @ 5 service. Marilyn Hofmann has a list of volunteers needed and would be glad to help you find a place to be of help.

## Did You Know & What Can You Do? From Social Justice Ministry Team



The recent ongoing wildfires in California have had a devastating impact on people, animals, and habitat. The blame game is ongoing and will continue. There wasn't enough water, the politicians were all to blame, the pressure in hydrants was insufficient. Too little is heard about climate change and another culprit – the prevalence of invasive species. Our planet evolved in ways that made each specific ecosystem ideal for that particular place and climate. Non-native plants disrupt and can have negative impacts on local ecosystems.

Southern California's landscape is dominated by chaparral with perennial native grasses that maintained moisture and helped prevent the spread of fire. In the 1700s, European settlers brought non-native grasses which soon outcompeted native species. These annuals die each year, leaving behind a dense layer of dead vegetation that is highly vulnerable to fire, acting like a wick to carry the fire into the shrub land.

In Missouri, we don't worry much about wildfires, but even here we should consider the benefits of landscaping with native plants and trying to rid our yards and public spaces of highly invasive plants, such as Japanese honeysuckle. Native plants are more resilient, provide food and shelter for local wildlife, are easy to maintain, improve air quality, and reduce the amount of chemicals you need to use. Consider adding natives to your yard. You can also contact Parks and Recreation or your city council representative and express your support for planting natives in our parks and public areas.

# Local Farmer-to-Farmer Volunteer Will Share Experiences

Volunteer of the year Dr. Bill Zimmerman, agricultural and environmental microbiologist, has been on 45 assignments in 23 countries working with local farmers to promote their livelihoods and food security.



First Presbyterian Church  
324 Madison

February 13 – 6:30 pm







# *Celebration* **CONCERT**

Come join us for a candlelit evening of music & community

**FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 2025 | 6PM**

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

324 Madison St, Jefferson City, MO 65101

**Tickets: \$15.00/person**

More Information &  
Purchase Your Ticket

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



**SPONSORED BY:**

**HITACHI**  
Inspire the Next



**DOUGLAS LADNIER**



**SYLVIA FERGUSON**



**AMELIA LUFKIN**