

Our Journey Together

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New Beginnings

a word from Pastor Teresa

“Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.”

1 John 4:7-8



At this start of a new year, our new beginning, I want to share with you a prayer for the New Year from the Episcopal Presiding Bishop Michael Curry. Let us pray:

Gracious and Loving God, we come before you at the closing of a year and at the closing of a time that has been a mix of good and bad, of hope and despair.

There have been losses, dear ones have died and gone on, hopes that we have hoped for that didn't get realized, things that we grieve and mourn. That's been part of the journey. Then, there's been part of the journey that has been hope, even if it's just a shard of light, just a little bit of light in the darkness. We've been able to hope.

And so now, an old year closes, and a new year knocks. Help us to open ourselves to you. To trust you like the old hymn says, "O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come." Help us, Lord, to trust and know, and to throw our lives into your arms of love, and let you lead us, and let you love us, and let you help us be instruments of your love, your justice, your kindness, your goodness, your compassion, your truth, your love. And then help us, as a human family, all of us, to have a new year where there is real happiness.

This we ask and pray, in the name of the Jesus who taught us that love is your way. Amen.



Content Due

Do you have items you would like included in next month's newsletter? If so, please have them into the church office no later than Jan 21.



Financial Update from Administrative Council



Financial Update as of November 30, 2021:

2021 General Fund Income Year to Date:	\$117,463.51
2021 General Fund Expenses Year to Date:	\$136,824.52
General Fund Difference:	-\$ 19,361.01



Challenge

At the start of a New Year there is a time for new beginnings, for fresh starts. So, this year I have a challenge and an invitation for all of you. Would you join with me in reading through the Bible this year. Each month in the newsletter I will include a daily reading schedule. This schedule takes a bit from the Old Testament, a bit from the New Testament, and a bit from the Psalms and Proverbs each day. This is a fun way to learn and grow together as a body of faith—if we are all reading the same pieces of Scripture on the same days, and seeing how God uses that to bless us, and our community through us. If there is a desire, I would also love to hold a weekly discussion group on our readings to further our understanding of the readings. Please contact Pastor Teresa if you are interested in that.

Let's take up this challenge, and see what great things God will do!



Birthdays:

Jan 01 Bonnie Hall
 Jan 03 Roger Zens
 Jan 07 Jerry Cotton
 Jan 08 Connie Fawcett
 Jan 09 Gloria Porter
 Jan 09 Kade Whetsel
 Jan 11 Andrew Canham
 Jan 12 Marlys Aune
 Jan 13 Bryan Breitling
 Jan 13 Preslie Russell
 Jan 19 Hagen Fritzsche
 Jan 20 Scott Bowar
 Jan 22 Marshall Conkey
 Jan 22 Karen Steptoe
 Jan 23 Jim Henson

Jan 23 Doris Slunecka
 Jan 24 Myles Deuter
 Jan 24 Dwight Greenough
 Jan 25 Larry Ames
 Jan 28 Kelly Fernholz
 Jan 30 Rita Ellsworth

Anniversaries:

Jan 4 Bill & Ellen Canham
 Jan 7 Joe & Lisa Fritzsche
 Jan 9 Colton & Amber VanDerWerff
 Jan 27 Lee and Beverly Cain

READ THE BIBLE IN A YEAR – JANUARY READINGS

Day	Old Testament	New Testament	Psalms & Proverbs
1	Genesis 1, Genesis 2:1-17	Matthew 1:1-25	Psalms 1:1-6
2	Genesis 2:18-25, Genesis 3, Genesis 4:1-16	Matthew 2:1-18	Psalms 2:1-12
3	Genesis 4:17-26, Genesis 5, Genesis 6	Matthew 2:19-23, Matthew 3	Psalms 3:1-8
4	Genesis 7, Genesis 8, Genesis 9:1-17	Matthew 4:1-22	Proverbs 1:1-7
5	Genesis 9:18-29, Genesis 10, Genesis 11:1-9	Matthew 4:23-25, Matthew 5:1-20	Psalms 4:1-8
6	Genesis 11:10-32, Genesis 12, Genesis 13	Matthew 5:21-42	Psalms 5:1-12
7	Genesis 14, Genesis 15, Genesis 16	Matthew 5:43-48, Matthew 6:1-24	Psalms 6
8	Genesis 17, Genesis 18	Matthew 6:25-34, Matthew 7:1-23	Proverbs 1:8-19
9	Genesis 19, Genesis 20:1-18	Matthew 7:24-29, Matthew 8:1-22	Psalms 7:1-9
10	Genesis 21, Genesis 22, Genesis 23	Matthew 8:23-34, Matthew 9:1-13	Psalms 7:10-17
11	Genesis 24:1-67	Matthew 9:14-38	Psalms 8:1-9
12	Genesis 25, Genesis 26	Matthew 10:1-31	Proverbs 1:20-33
13	Genesis 27, Genesis 28:1-22	Matthew 10:32-42, Matthew 11:1-15	Psalms 9:1-6
14	Genesis 29, Genesis 30	Matthew 11:16-30	Psalms 9:7-12
15	Genesis 31:1-55	Matthew 12:1-21	Psalms 9:13-20
16	Genesis 32, Genesis 33	Matthew 12:22-45	Proverbs 2:1-11
17	Genesis 34, Genesis 35	Matthew 12:46-50, Matthew 13:1-17	Psalms 10:1-11
18	Genesis 36, Genesis 37	Matthew 13:18-35	Psalms 10:12-18
19	Genesis 38, Genesis 39	Matthew 13:36-58	Psalms 11:1-7
20	Genesis 40, Genesis 41:1-40	Matthew 14:1-21	Proverbs 2:12-22
21	Genesis 41:41-57, Genesis 42	Matthew 14:22-36, Matthew 15:1-9	Psalms 12:1-8
22	Genesis 43, Genesis 44	Matthew 15:10-39	Psalms 13:1-6
23	Genesis 45, Genesis 46, Genesis 47:1-12	Matthew 16:1-20	Psalms 14:1-7
24	Genesis 47:13-31, Genesis 48	Matthew 16:21-28, Matthew 17:1-13	Proverbs 3:1-10
25	Genesis 49, Genesis 50	Matthew 17:14-27, Matthew 18:1-9	Psalms 15:1-5
26	Job 1, Job 2, Job 3	Matthew 18:10-35	Psalms 16:1-11
27	Job 4, Job 5, Job 6, Job 7	Matthew 19:1-15	Psalms 17:1-5
28	Job 8, Job 9, Job 10	Matthew 19:16-30	Proverbs 3:11-20
29	Job 11, Job 12, Job 13, Job 14	Matthew 20:1-19	Psalms 17:6-12
30	Job 15, Job 16, Job 17, Job 18	Matthew 20:20-34	Psalms 17:13-15
31	Job 19, Job 20, Job 21	Matthew 21:1-17	Psalms 18:1-6

Worship Service of Christian Unity

The Hand County Ministerial Association invites us all to an ecumenical service of Christian Unity on January 23rd. The service will be held at the Presbyterian Church and will begin at 6:00pm. Hope to see you there!



Many Thanks

I would like to say “Thank you” to all who worked so hard to make our Advent and Christmas worship services so beautiful and meaningful. From those that decorated the church, inside and out, to all of those who provided special music, participated in the Advent Candle liturgy, helped with or performed in the programs, ushered, took pictures, or just wore an ugly sweater! Each of you are a blessing!

Leadership Team

Beginning this month, we transition to our new Leadership Team. I want to welcome the new members to the team, and thank those who have previously served and agreed to stay on. This transition will take some time to live into, as we learn “on the fly” the best way for this structure to function for us.



As has always been the case, our leadership meetings are open to anyone in the congregation who wishes to attend. Only in rare cases, would the team need to go into executive session, which would be closed to those not elected to leadership. If anyone has questions or concerns about how this new structure will work, is welcome to attend any of our meetings.

Please extend your thanks to those who have answered the call to leadership:
Trustees: Merle Jenner, Andrea Fiala, and Gene Moncur
Finance: Greg Palmer, Sara Gates, and Cindy Deuter
Staff-Parish Relations: Bryan Breitling, Dwight Greenough, and Kayla Wagner
Lay Leader: Chris Keeter
Treasurer: Mike Moncur
Secretary: JoAnn Testerman

January 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5 	6	7	8
9	10	11 	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 	20	21	22
23  Unity Svc 6pm Presbyterian Church	24	25  Leadership Team 7pm	26	27  Food Truck Noon-1pm	28	29
30	31  Pastor Out of Office					

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Lighting the way for others

When Ida Nelson, head tribal clerk of a remote Alaskan village, heard an airplane flying low after dark, she knew something was wrong. Igiugig (lggy-yaw-gigg), population 70, isn't normally a nighttime destination. Indeed, the medevac flight was coming to pick up a sick child.

Because the local airstrip's lights had been vandalized, the plane was having trouble landing. Nelson began alerting neighbors, and within minutes, villagers lined the runway with their vehicles, headlights blazing. The pilot was able to land and then safely deliver the sick child to an Anchorage hospital. The airlift service praised the residents' determination, but Nelson describes their effort as "normal" and "ordinary."

What everyday actions can you use to provide light amid darkness?
How can you shine Jesus' light in a world that needs him?