

*From under the Redbud Tree.....*



# The Redbud

*The Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church  
Mountain Home, Arkansas*



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## **ROCK OF AGES**

On walks, I enjoy searching for heart-shaped rocks. One day in 2020, I spotted a broken heart, which seemed fitting as illness, racism and suffering dominated the headlines. I thought of Psalm 34:18 (NIV): "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."

Humans can be hard-hearted—pointing fingers, assuming the worst and failing to extend compassion. We often reject people who look, think or act differently from us. All these things break hearts, including God's. Only with his help can we rise above hatred, learn to listen more than we speak, and express kindness, empathy and a willingness to learn.

Jesus, be our rock as we face life's brokenness. Stay near and start the healing. Amen. —Julie Lee

# From the Pastor's Desk

***Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,***

This has been an incredibly crazy year! We have not been able to worship in our own sanctuary for ten months. We have been forced into the virtual electronic age whether we wanted to or not. It has been dark. We have lost seven souls this year from our church membership. We said goodbye to Connie, our longtime office secretary. We welcomed with open arms our new office secretary, Kristi Nelson. We have faced change in many different ways. And when we face change we often find ourselves grieving, grieving for that which we once had and can no longer have. We grieve, facing the unknown not knowing what is next; what is the new normal? We are fearful of being with friends and family because of the virus. Many of us are feeling the loneliness of not being able to be with family. There have been too many changes in too short a time. Yes, it has been a rather dark year for us here at First Presbyterian and all around the world.

And yet, I can't help but hear those words from the Gospel of John the first chapter, Words of hope and assurance. Jesus Christ is the light of all people, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. "THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS AND THE DARKNESS DID NOT OVERCOME IT." Today and in the days ahead we cling tightly to those words from John as our hope for a better tomorrow. Even though we feel the darkness has overcome us at times, we live with great confidence that the light of Christ will continue to shine in our lives. May God's grace and love hold you tight in His arms. May the light of Christ continue to shine brightly each day as we journey on with the many unknown challenges we might face.

Be at Peace. Pastor Clark



# Special Days in January

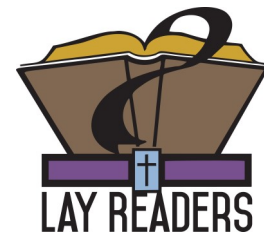


Jan.1 - Dee Crapnell  
 Jan .2 - Susan Kearns  
 Jan. 4 - Sandy Kidd  
 Jan. 16 - Mareline Bond  
 Jan.. 25- Betty Preyer  
 Jan. 27 - Chuck Beall



Jan. 18 - Chuck & Cheryl Munson Beall  
 Jan. 21 - Gaines & Jackie Hoff  
 Jan. 28 - Fred & Norma Iffland

## JANUARY LAY READERS FOR VIRTUAL WORSHIP



Jan. 3– Don Crapnell  
 Jan. 10– Nancy Priest  
 Jan. 17– Pete Wells  
 Jan. 24– Ralph Gillespie  
 Jan. 31– Doug Wells

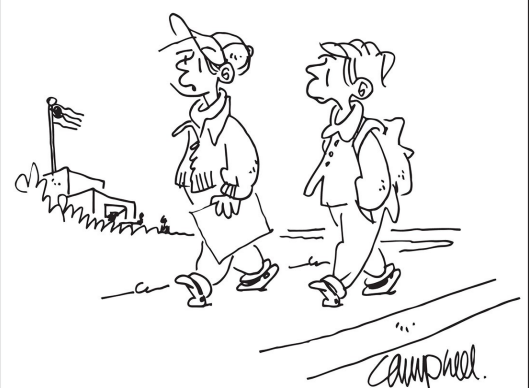
## COUNTERS FOR JANUARY

Susan Kearns & Don Crapnell



## Special Days

- New Year's Day, *January 1, 2021*
- Epiphany, *January 6, 2021*
- Baptism of the Lord, *January 10, 2021*
- Religious Freedom Day, *January 16, 2021*
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day, *January 18, 2021*
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, *January 18-25, 2021*
- **Inauguration Day, *January 20, 2021***



"I made a New Year's resolution to eat broccoli. If I can't stand it, I'll give it up for Lent."



# Church Business

The Session met for its monthly meeting via **Zoom** on December 15, 2020. Highlights from the meeting include: The Session voted to continuing to keep the church closed to in-house worship services until the cases of Covid-19 are reduced in Baxter County. The church will continue to offer virtual church services each week via our church website. The Session welcomed our newest Session member George Hove. We gave thanks to Nan Jordan, Fred Ruegsegger and Wana Thacker for their service as Session members. A special thanks to Mari Ruegsegger for serving as Clerk of Session.



## 2021 Church Directory Updates!

The 2021 Church Directory is being updated! If you have information that has changed, please contact the office A.S.A.P.



## Church Finances

Income/donations: \$8,133.30  
Expenses/checks cleared: \$6,380.22  
Checking Balance: \$32,395.34  
Uncleared checks: \$4,205.19



# Church Family

Thank you for the wonderful Christmas pictures that you sent in to the church office. You can send pictures at any time of year. Maybe you have a new grandchild or great-grandchild, or even a new pet! Share with FPC! We will post it on the website and keep everyone connected!



## New Paraments for Pulpit and Lectern

A special thank you to Wana Thacker for purchasing the new blue paraments for our pulpit and lectern. Blue paraments are the newer recommended color for the Advent season. Thank you Wana! ❤️



## Virtual Worship Service

First of all I want to say I am amazed at the number of people that visit our website viewing our Virtual Worship services. As I understand, we had about 84 visits to our Christmas Eve worship service. That is phenomenal ! We record the service every Thursday morning at 10:30 a.m. We are in the process of changing our recording equipment from using my (Pastor Clark's) aged laptop, which we have been using since we started virtual worship services, to a new camera and audio system.

A special thanks to Pete Wells and Ralph Gillespie for getting the process started. They visited St. Andrew's Episcopal Church where they were using this equipment and ordered the camera. And a special thanks to Mark Guth for stepping in and using his video/audio skills to put the finishing touches on our recording equipment.

Once we get through the learning phase and training we will be using the new camera and sound system. And finally, I want to thank Kristi Nelson, our office secretary, for getting our virtual worship services on our website and on **YouTube**. Without her computer skills we would not be able to have these services available to us. Once we are able to get back to having in-house worship services we will be able to live stream our worship services. That means we will be able watch in real time our Sunday worship services on the internet. That is coming later on in the new year.

## **"I'M BORED!" : FINDING WAYS TO COPE WHEN THE HALLMARK CHANNEL STOPS SHOWING CHRISTMAS MOVIES**

Each week the church office mails out approximately fifteen copies of the weekly church bulletin, the sermon, and a publication called "Home Touch" to those who are shut ins, or do not have the internet. "Home Touch" has great ideas for coping with quarantining and just cultivating a positive mind set. This is an idea that I thought was wonderful and fun and have tried!

**Virtual Tours!** Many famous places have wonderful virtual tours of their zoos and museums available year round. An article in Good Housekeeping published this list of the best virtual tours of 2020. *Click on your internet browser and type the blue link above into the address bar.*

**([Goodhousekeeping.com/life/travel/a31784720/best-virtual-tours](https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/life/travel/a31784720/best-virtual-tours/))** *The address bar is at the very top of your computer screen. (I know it's long – but well worth it!) You could also copy & paste the link into the address bar if you are familiar with this operation.*



Some of the listed attractions include: **The Louvre, The Guggenheim Museum, Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, NASA, The Cincinnati Zoo, National Aquarium, and even Walt Disney World!** What a wonderful way to experience places that many of us may never visit, and all from the comfort of our homes. I will put a "live" link in the Redbud email that you can click on that should take you right to the Good Housekeeping article.

**IF YOU ARE A THEATER FAN...** try [broadwayhd.com](https://www.broadwayhd.com/) It is a streaming service that shows thousands of Broadway musicals, plays, etc. for free for 7 days, and then for \$8.99 per month. No special equipment needed. Just your computer. Type in [broadwayhd.com](https://www.broadwayhd.com/) on your address bar and choose.

Some of the shows listed are: *42nd Street, An American in Paris, Carousel, Cats, Les Miserables, Nunsense, The King and I, Phantom of the Opera and Show Boat.....*

These are just a few.

I can't wait to log on and watch some musicals!





# Scripture Readings for the Month of January

*"Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good;"*

**Sunday, January 3rd**

**2nd Sunday of Christmas**

***Jeremiah 31:7-14***

***Psalms 147:12-20***

***Ephesians 1:3-14***

***John 1:(1-9) 10-18***

**Sunday, January 10th**

**Baptism of the Lord**

***Genesis 1:1-5***

***Psalms 29***

***Acts 19: 1-7***

***Mark 1: 4-11***

**Sunday, January 17th**

**2nd Sunday after Epiphany**

***1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)***

***Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18***

***1 Corinthians 6:12-20***

***John 1:43-51***

**Sunday, January 24th**

**3rd Sunday after Epiphany**

***Jonah 3:1-5, 10***

***Psalms 62:5-12***

***1 Corinthians 7:29-31***

***Mark 1:14-20***

**Sunday, January 31**

**4th Sunday after Epiphany**

***Deuteronomy 18:15-20***

***Psalms 111***

***1 Corinthians 8:1-13***

***Mark 1:21-28***



# REDBUD CALENDAR JANUARY, 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Fri	Sat
				<b>NEW YEAR'S DAY</b> 	1	2
<b>3</b> <b>Virtual Worship Service</b>  <b>2nd SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS</b>	4	<b>5</b> 	<b>6</b> 	<b>7</b>  <b>FILMING 10:30 AM</b>	<b>8</b> C L O S E D	9
<b>10</b> <b>Virtual Worship Service</b>  	11	12	13	<b>14</b>  <b>FILMING 10:30 AM</b>	<b>15</b> C L O S E D	16
<b>17</b> <b>Virtual Worship Service</b>  <b>2nd Sunday after Epiphany</b>	<b>18</b>  <b>Birthday of Martin Luther King Jr.</b>	<b>19</b> <b>DEACON'S MEETING 10:00 AM (fellowship hall)</b>  <b>SESSION MEETS 1PM ZOOM</b>	20	<b>21</b>  <b>FILMING 10:30 AM</b>	<b>22</b> C L O S E D	23
<b>24</b> <b>Virtual Worship Service</b>  <b>3rd SUNDAY after Epiphany</b>	25	26	27	<b>28</b>  <b>FILMING 10:30 AM</b>	<b>29</b> C L O S E D	30
<b>31</b> <b>Virtual Worship Service</b>  <b>4th SUNDAY after Epiphany</b>						



### Thanks to All!

I want to thank all of you for the cash Christmas gift. It is very generous of you to share your gift of wealth with me and my wife. I do appreciate all of you. -Pastor Clark



**First Presbyterian Church  
1106 Spring Street  
Mountain Home, AR 72653**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



**Church Office Hours  
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. /Monday - Thursday**

**Church Mailing Address:  
1106 Spring Street  
Mountain Home, AR 72653  
870-425-3799**

**fpcmh@centurytel.net  
Website: [www.fpcmh.net](http://www.fpcmh.net)**



**Rev. Mike Clark,  
Transitional Pastor**

**Adult Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.  
Fellowship Coffee: 11:00 a.m.**

**Secretary: Kristi Nelson  
Bookkeeper: Nancy Priest**