



# The **RED**bud

The Newsletter of First Presbyterian  
Church Mountain Home, Arkansas

## DECEMBER 2023



Sunday Worship Services 10:00 am

Coffee Fellowship after Worship Service

Phone: 870-425-3799    email: [fpcmh@centurytel.net](mailto:fpcmh@centurytel.net)

Office hours: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Monday– Thursday

### Ponderings at the end of a day — or year

Dutch Catholic priest and theologian Henri Nouwen found it useful to reflect on several questions at the end of the day: “Did I offer peace today? Did I bring a smile to someone’s face? Did I say words of healing?” Pondering such questions may prove valuable at the end of a year as well: “How did I contribute to peace in the world this past year? Did I bring smiles to others’ faces? Did I offer words of healing?” Nouwen continued, and we can too: “Did I let go of my anger and resentment? Did I forgive? Did I love?”

Many of us set New Year’s resolutions for self-improvement, asking, “What are my goals? How can I better myself, my weight, my work-life balance, my habits?” But Nouwen said of his self-inquiry: “These are the real questions. I must trust that the little bit of love that I sow now will bear many fruits, here in this world and [in] the life to come.” His resolution was to share God’s love with others. With God’s help, it can be ours as well, for each new day and each new year.



# ***Special Dates in DECEMBER***

## Birthdays

12-Patty Gamelin

14-Sherman Fine

17-Loweta Rogers

20-David Buff

23-Sarah Ruegsegger



## Special dates

- First Sunday of Advent, *December 3, 2023*
- Second Sunday of Advent, *December 10, 2023*
- Third Sunday of Advent, *December 17, 2023*
- First day of winter, *December 21, 2023*
- Fourth Sunday of Advent, *December 24, 2023*
- Christmas Eve, *December 24, 2023*
- Christmas Day, *December 25, 2023*
- New Year's Eve/Watch Night, *December 31, 2023*

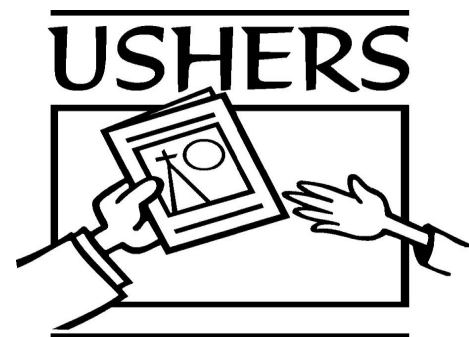
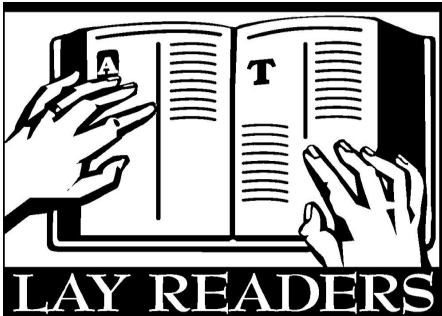
## Anniversary

19-George & Joyce Hove

28-Phil & Ellen Jordan

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## ***Serving in Worship***



### Dec. Lay Readers

03rd-Doug W

10th-Don C

17th-Ellen J

24th-Marty H

31st-Kay K

### December Fellowship

Don't forget to volunteer to host fellowship by signing up on the bulletin board on the way to the fellowship hall. There is a sign up sheet for December and January currently hanging on the board.

### Dec. Ushers

Dec. 03-Kay K

Dec. 10-Cheryl B

Dec. 17-

Dec. 24-Mary S

Dec. 31-Loweta R

# ***Church Leadership Meetings***

## **NOVEMBER SESSION UPDATE**

**The session met on November 19. Stewart Smith Moderated the meeting. No discussions led to a vote. Complete October Session minutes are posted on the Board in the Mail Room.**

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Priest, Clerk of Session

**As a child, Jesus “grew and became strong, filled with wisdom” (Luke 2:40). In the new year may I, too, grow and become stronger in faith, filled with the wisdom that comes from God.**

## **NOVEMBER DEACONS UPDATE**

The Deacons met November 21 at 10 am. All Deacons were in attendance.

The Deacon fund was reported with a balance of \$2,359.16. Each Deacon reported of their concerns and joys for each of their church family. Then each Deacon shared joys and concerns in their own lives.

There was no old or new business to report. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am

The next meeting will be **December 19 at 10 am**

Marty Hasty– Moderator

## **Treasurer's Report as of October 30, 2023:**

Donations/Deposits	\$ 3,839.50
Cleared Checks/Expenses	\$ 7,036.24
Bank Balance	<b>\$ 53,996.24</b>

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Priest, Treasurer





## **Ozark Center of Hope**

**November 15 started our next project to collect Full Size, Queen Size and King Sized Blankets and Sleeping Bags for the Ozark Center of Hope.**

**Blankets and Sleeping bags will be distributed to Ozark Center of Hope clients during the Winter months. Cash donations are also accepted.**

**January brings the collection of soup cans for the “Souper Bowl”!**

**Missions committee will meet on Wednesday, December 6 at 1:00 pm.**

**Mary Smith– Moderator**



**“May God give you peace with yourselves; may he give you good will towards all your friends, your enemies and your neighbors; and may he give you grace to give glory to God in the highest.”**

**—Charles H. Spurgeon**



## **Women of the Church**

### **ATTENTION ALL WOMEN OF THE CHURCH:**

At the November 14 meeting of the WOC, it was decided to go to Colton's, Dutch treat, at 11:30 am Friday, December 8 for our annual Christmas luncheon. All women are invited but you must RSVP to Nancy Priest or Loweta Rogers by December 3. As soon as Nancy gets a head count, she will make the reservations. So come and join us as we celebrate the Christmas season.

We have concluded the very interesting study on what some of the women of the Bible said. At our luncheon, Nancy will tell you about our new study that we will begin in January.



**December 03-Rev. Cindy Saul Preaches (Communion)**

**Doug Wells is Lay Reader**

**December 10-Rev. Cindy Saul Preaches**

**Don Crapnell is Lay Reader**

**December 17-Don Crapnell Preaches**

**Ellen Jordan is Lay Reader**

**December 24-Rev. Mike Clark Preaches**

**Marty Hasty is Lay Reader**

**December 31-Rev. Mike Clark Preaches**

**Kay Kunkel is Lay Reader**

**In Christ,**

**Mary Smith, Worship Committee Moderator**



# ***SCRIPTURES FOR DECEMBER 2023***

## **Sunday December 03**

## **1st Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 64:1-9                  Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
1 Corinthians 1:3-9        Mark 13:24-37

## **Sunday December 10**

## **2nd Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 40:1-11              Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13  
2 Peter 3:8-15a            Mark 1:1-8

## **Sunday December 17**

## **3rd Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11        Psalm 126  
Luke 1:46b-55  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24    John 1:6-8, 19-28

## **Sunday December 24**

## **4th Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 9:2-7                  Psalm 96  
Titus 2:11-14                Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

## **Sunday December 31-**

## **1st Sunday of Christmas**

Isaiah 61:10-62:3            Psalm 148  
Galatians 4:4-7              Luke 2:22-40



All Scriptures are taken from the Presbyterian Planning Calendar

# DECEMBER 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
					1 Office closed	2
3 COMMUNION  1st Sunday of Advent	4	5	6 Missions 1 pm	7	8 WOC Luncheon 11:30 am Office closed	9
10  2nd Sunday of Advent	11	12	13	14	15 Office closed	16
17  3rd Sunday of Advent	18	19 Deacons 10 am	20	21	22 Office closed	23
24 Christmas Eve Worship 	25 Merry Christmas!  Office Closed	26	27	28	29 Office closed	30
31  New Year's Eve  1st Sunday of Christmas					Office	closed

**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**

**8704253799**

**fpcmh@centurytel.net**

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

**Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.**