

FPC Messenger

JAN/FEB 2023 | VOLUME 85 ISSUES 1 & 2



Dear Friends,

A gigantic, gift-wrapped THANK YOU to all of you who helped out with Noon Noels, Blue Christmas, Parents' Night Out, the Angel Tree, the Toy Giveaway with St. John AME, "Breakfast, Bathrobes, and Bethlehem," and any of our other special ministries in December. Our church was bustling with life and love all month long. What a fantastic way to end 2022!

Now that we're well into 2023, guess what? It's time to get ready for our Annual Meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, February 26. This is one of the most special days in the life of our church each year. Here's what will happen: we will start serving breakfast downstairs in Willard Hall at 9:00 a.m. We will enjoy a slideshow of pictures and videos from 2022 and give thanks for all the good things God accomplished in, with, and through us last year. We'll formally begin our meeting at 9:30 a.m., or shortly after that. We will vote on any changes to my terms of call, present the budget for 2023, and most importantly, we will vote to elect new elders, new deacons, and new members of the Representative Nominating Committee.

We're also making February 26 our Per Capita Sunday. Did you know that every year, we are required to pay a certain amount per member to our denomination? Much of it goes to fund the ministries and support our presbytery (the Presbytery of Northern Kansas) provides. A smaller portion goes to the General Assembly (the larger governing body), and a little bit goes to the Synod of Mid-America (intermediate governing body). Per capita for 2023 is \$35.75 per member. If EVERY MEMBER of our church would pay their own per capita (over and above their regular giving), that would save our church more than \$13,000!

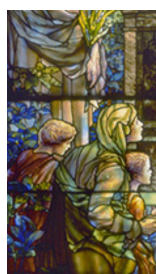
Would you please make it a priority to pay per capita this year? Would you be willing to pay per capita for members who cannot afford to do so? You can do this by writing a check for whatever amount you choose and simply writing "per capita" in the memo line.

Bring your check on February 26—or mail it by then—and we'll have a special time of offering in worship that day. If you prefer to give online, you can simply write "per capita" in the notes section when you are making your donation. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you now and throughout the new year.

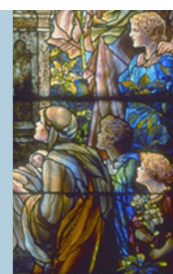
Yours in Christ,



Sandra Stogsdill Brown



**Annual
Congregational
Meeting
Sunday, February 26**



Session Highlights for December 2022 & January 2023

December 2022 Session Highlights

- A letter of resignation was received from organist Cynthia Neufeld Smith. She will remain with us until a new organist is hired.
- A revision of the Employee Handbook and Sexual Misconduct Policy was presented by the Personnel Committee and approved by session.
- The Communion schedule for 2023 was approved.
- Office holidays for 2023 were approved.
- A church van has been purchased and has already been used. Session members are working on a comprehensive policy for its use and maintenance. Generous donations have already been received to help pay for it.
- Stewardship pledges are still being received.
- The Budget Committee will be at work in January, as will the Representative Nominating Committee.
- Approval was given to purchase a new AED (automated external defibrillator) unit.
- Approval was given to serve mimosas at church breakfasts and wine and beer at Silver Wings Suppers in 2023.
- The January session meeting will take place as a Saturday morning retreat on January 21.

January 2023 Session Highlights

- The session met in a Saturday morning retreat on January 21 to brainstorm goals for the year.
- In the session business meeting, Sandra Stogsdill Brown presented her plan for a three-month sabbatical in the summer of 2023. Her proposal had been approved by the Personnel Committee and includes plans for pulpit and pastoral coverage as well as a plan for re-entry. Her sabbatical proposal was approved by the session and will be submitted to the Presbytery Committee on Ministry.
- An agreement for a three-year extension of Patrick Yancey's commission as associate pastor, the maximum allowed by the Presbytery, was approved.
- A policy document regarding use and maintenance of the church van is nearing completion.
- Sandra Stogsdill Brown reported receipt thus far of pledges from 98 pledging units, totaling over \$550,000.
- A budget was approved for 2023. It will be shared with the congregation at the annual meeting on February 26.
- The Representative Nominating Committee is beginning its work and would appreciate knowing of any

Canned Soup Drive for Doorstep

Sunday, February 12 is "Souper Bowl" Sunday and our annual canned soup and crackers drive for Doorstep. Monetary donations are also welcome! Please bring your donations to church on Feb. 12, or to the church any time before the end of the day Feb. 14. Thank you for your generosity and for helping feed our neighbors!



Celebrating 2022 and Launching 2023

FIRST Families had a great year of reconnecting and celebrating in 2022. The first part of the year continued with Zoom Sunday school, and then we returned to in-person Sunday school and families found their rhythm for faith and worship. We finished out the year with a very fun pajama worship service on Christmas Day (photo below on right).

Our team helped organize and support the first downtown Egg Hunt at the Capitol, in collaboration with Grace Episcopal Cathedral and Topeka First United Methodist Church. We hosted more than 500 children and their families, and we're already busy planning for this year's event which will be held on April 1 (no joke!).

We started 2023 off by honoring the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. with a time of mission and fellowship following worship on January 15. We had lunch, then took a walk around the capitol building and completed a service activity.

FIRST Families will be on hand on February 12 for the "Souper Bowl" canned soup and crackers drive for Doorstep. Watch for the kids collecting money, soup, and crackers and be sure to bring your donations to church that day. We will also be assisting with the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner and Lenten Stations on February 21.

Mark Your Calendars for Vacation Bible School—June 12-16

Plan to be part of the fun and faith formation of Vacation Bible School this summer! We will kick-off Vacation Bible School on June 11 in worship, then enjoy a food truck lunch after worship. The VBS theme this year is "Food Truck Party: Rolling with God" and will lend itself to lots of fun outdoor activities and interaction with our neighbors! If you enjoy crafting and decorating and would like to be a part of the preparation team, please contact Allison Brewer. The nights of Vacation Bible School for children will be Monday, June 12 through Friday, June 16. Save the dates, and watch for more information and registration details in April.



Having just finished an amazing year, the youth at FPC are now “ramping up” for a new year filled with fun, fellowship, missions, and faith-building activities. December 2022 proved to be a busy month, with holiday celebrations, Christmas caroling at Presbyterian Manor, an evening enjoying the Topeka Zoo lights (photo below on left) and many other fun, faith-filled activities.

It’s hard to imagine how 2023 could possibly measure up to last year, but we’re already off to a good start, having joined with youth from Topeka First UMC and Grace Cathedral in an all-night lock-in retreat (photo below on right) the night of January 13 (gosh, who knew that going sleepless could be so much fun?). The youth ministry team is now looking forward to making this our best year yet. So, keep an eye out for the many youth happenings coming up. This includes our “Superbowl Subs” fundraiser on February 12. Simply place an order for your favorite sub sandwich anytime between now and February 10 and the youth will pack up a meal for you, including all the condiments, a bag of chips, and cookies for dessert. All of this for only \$9.00, and all proceeds go towards helping cover the costs of youth mission trips. If you missed the order form in your Sunday bulletins or Friday e-newsletters, just call the office by February 10 and we’ll take your order over the phone.

Speaking of mission trips, we have two different opportunities planned this summer to meet the diverse needs of both our middle school and high school youth. Plans are still coming together and more details will be shared soon, but one thing we do know is that the new church van will get plenty of miles in this summer!

On February 26, the group will begin a six-week Lenten study on what it means to be a Disciple of Jesus. We will examine topics such as having courage and risk taking, Bible study and practicing spiritual disciplines, and being part of the church community. In the midst of all of this, we will go bowling (Feb. 19), flipflapjacks for Shrove Tuesday (Feb. 21), help with the congregational breakfast (Feb. 26) and host the third Sunday all-church luncheon after worship in March (March 19).

We’re busy, having fun, serving others, growing in our faith, and enjoying great, great fellowship! And we’re just getting started. We meet every Sunday at noon and any young person in middle school or high school is invited to join us on our journey! Have questions? Contact Patrick Yancey by calling the church, or you can also reach out to any of the other youth ministry team leaders: Beth Johnston, Marty Snyder, Becky Foster, Herman Jones, and Linda Nantz.



Back Home at FPC and Celebrating 125 Years

Several years ago, I read with interest an article in The Topeka Capital-Journal that featured the Menninger Bible Study and the YWCA of Northeast Kansas (formerly known as the Topeka YWCA). The Menninger Bible Study has intrigued me for years. The newspaper article identified Clara Gamache as a current Bible study leader, so I called her and joined her study group.

The Menninger Bible Study has a great history. In 1897, the session at First Presbyterian asked Mrs. Flo Menninger to develop a Bible study for women. She organized a study based on a popular at the time that outlined a journey through the Bible. In 1898, she began with a class of 28 women. In 1903, dissatisfied with the study, Mrs. Menninger sat down and created her own study that examined the Bible chapter by chapter, and book by book. We now know this as the Menninger Bible Study.

Mrs. Menninger designed her course to make the Bible its own interpreter, dealing with facts instead of opinions, finding in the Bible a rule of faith and practice for various demands of life. She wrote, *"My aim in this Bible classwork has always been to make the Bible characters live, to make the book itself understandable and interesting to the reader. I feel that we should view the text historically, symbolically, and spiritually. I am sure it offers the best possible help to those who want to find God in their daily lives."*

By 1919, there were 400 women enrolled in Menninger Bible Study classes, and in 1923 the classes were moved to the Topeka YWCA so that all women could participate in the study. The syllabus and all guides were distributed through the Topeka YWCA.

The course covered four years of study: two years in the Old Testament and two years in the New Testament. The four-year course is divided into 4 sections: Year I—Genesis to Kings; Year II—Kings to Malachi (Prophets); Year III—The Life of Christ (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) and Year IV—The Acts and Epistles (Paul's journeys) and Revelations.

Worshippers at First Presbyterian Church of Topeka are reminded of the Menninger Bible Study every Sunday when they see the spectacular Rose Window above the choir in the chancel. The window was a given to the church in 1935 by the ladies participating in the Menninger Bible Study classes as a living memorial to Mrs. Flo Menninger.

In 2020, the mission of the YWCA of Northeast Kansas had evolved and they could no longer dedicate resources to support the study. Knowing that this amazing Bible Study needed a new home, I approached the FPC Session and explained the situation. The session voted to welcome the study back home to where it all began. The YWCA donated all the study materials and copyrights to First Presbyterian Church. Our church has provided ample storage space for several hundred copies of the four books of the syllabus and Flo Menninger's treasured personal reference materials.

This year marks the 125th anniversary of the Menninger Bible Study. To date, more than 20,000 people worldwide have completed the study. According to some of my theologian friends, few Bible studies, if any, have survived 125 years and are still going strong. (I have been told that Dr. Karl Menninger even used this study in his nondenominational Bible study classes—mothers can be great influencers!).

(continued on next page)

New Church Van

We have a fantastic new resource to help us fulfill our mission of Loving God, loving neighbors, and living with purpose! In December, FPC purchased a van for church activities and events. Thank you to the generous donors who helped make this purchase possible, and to those who continue to donate toward the cost of its purchase. The van is being used to transport youth to church events, and by the Neighborhood Ministries Team to pick up food from Aldi each week for the Wednesday FoodShare Ministry. A vehicle policy is being developed to help ensure safe and appropriate use of the van.

The van was purchased from Laird Noller Ford in Topeka. Special thanks to Mark Hobart, Commercial and Fleet Sales Manager at Laird Noller, and FPC member Griff Swank, New Car Manager at Laird Noller, for their assistance and great customer service.

(Photos: Left—Pat Yancey hands over the check and gets the keys to the van. Right—Pat driving the van off the lot.)



Menninger Bible Study, continued

The class leaders continue to give of their time, and interest and enthusiasm has been spread across the globe by word of mouth from class members, course graduates, and teachers who know firsthand the value of the study.

The pandemic introduced a new online format for classes when folks could no longer gather in person. My class, led by Clara, stayed connected via Zoom and includes people from Topeka, Salina, Lindsborg, Olathe, Lawrence, and Billings, Mont., and represents several different Christian denominations. It is so interesting to have discussions within our group.

There are several Menninger Bible Study classes throughout Topeka. You or someone you know may be interested in doing a study of the Bible. First Presbyterian Church has the instruction materials (which are truly amazing). Course materials are \$25 per year. The 4-year Bible study is truly a commitment, and such a rewarding one. If you have any interest in becoming involved with a study, please contact the church office. I am also available to help with questions. ✝

A message from your Stephen Ministers

Close your eyes and think about these questions: What would relationships be like without affection, amusement, annoyance, anger, or love? What would it be like to never have felt any desire to do well, or a have a sense of accomplishment? What would life be like without feelings?

Feelings are part of being human and made in God's image, and it takes courage to face disturbing feelings in constructive ways. Stephen ministers provide a safe place to express those feelings and come to terms with them. Feelings are not opinions, evaluations, instructions, or commands. God gave us feelings for our benefit, and they are meant to be expressed, not hidden away inside us.

Many times, when asked, "How are you?" the response is, "I'm fine," even if that's not the case. Have you known a person who is outwardly very happy, only to find out later they are really sad? When we understand and express our feelings, it not only benefits us, it also benefits those around us. We are more authentic. We better understand our feelings and that can release us from the pressures they can bring. We give others the opportunity to know and love us and allow others the chance to serve and help us. It encourages others to understand and express their own feelings, and helps build stronger and deeper relationships. We have the opportunity for spiritual growth within ourselves and with those around us.

Stephen Ministers provide a safe space in which to express difficult feelings through grace-based acceptance, empathy, listening, confidentiality, and trust. If you or someone you know struggles with expressing or understanding difficult feelings, please reach out for support. We are here to serve you. You can request a Stephen Minister by contacting John Dorsey (jwdorsey_48@yahoo.com or 785-845-1177) or Jane Owen (janeowen55@icloud.com or 785-224-7082).

Tasty Tuesdays in 2023

If you've never joined a Tasty Tuesday lunch, you don't know what you're missing! Tasty Tuesday lunches are the second Tuesday of the month at 11:30 a.m. at different restaurants around town. It's a different group of people each month, and each person pays for their own meal. The schedule for 2023 is set but subject to change if a restaurant's situation changes. We hope you will join us! You can sign up on the sheet in Disciples Hall, or just show up. Watch the bulletin, e-news, and Messenger for any updates. We hope to see you soon!

Feb. 14: Iron Rail Brewing at 705 S Kansas Ave.
Mar. 14 – Indian Bistro at 2919 SW Wanamaker Rd.
Apr. 11 – Burger Stand at 2833 SW 29th St.
May 9 – The Wheel Barrel at 925 N. Kansas Ave.
June 13 – LaRocca's Pizza at 3100 SW Gage Blvd.
July 11 – Bradley's Corner Café at 844 N. Kansas Ave.
Aug. 8 – Olive Café at 935 S Kansas Ave.
Sept. 12 – Cook's American Grill at 1936 SW Gage Blvd.
Oct. 10 – A Hann Thai at 2222 SW Washburn
Nov. 14 – El Torito at 3000 NW Topeka Blvd.
Dec.— No lunch in December

(Photo: August 2022 Tasty Tuesday at The Pennant.)



Upcoming Events

Needlework Group

The Needlework Group will meet on Thursday, Feb. 16 at 2 p.m. in the library. Anyone who enjoys fiber arts is welcome—bring a friend!

Shrove Tuesday

The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner & Lenten Stations will be hosted by the FPC Youth Group and FIRST Families. Come enjoy yummy pancakes and then participate in the Lenten stations. Imposition of ashes will also be available for anyone who cannot attend Ash Wednesday Worship.

Ash Wednesday


Ash Wednesday Worship will be held at noon in the Sanctuary on February 22. The service will also be livestreamed on Facebook and the church website.

Faith & Flour

Wow! Faith & Flour has gotten so popular that we're now offering two sessions on the fourth Saturday of each month. Sessions are limited to 11 participants and the instructor. You can join the morning session from 9 a.m. to noon, or the afternoon session from 1 to 4 p.m. Sign up on the form in Disciples Hall by Feb. 20, or call the church office.

"Bless This Mess" Lenten Devotion

Are you a woman in a stage of life that seems especially "messy"? If so, join the special 6-week Lenten devotion called "Bless This Mess" that begins Sunday, February 26, and continues each Sunday evening through April 2. Each Sunday, from 5-7 p.m., you will be pampered with a light supper and equipped with simple daily practices to do throughout the week. Childcare available if needed. If you can't make it every week, it's no problem—everyone interested in the study will receive a printed copy of the Bless This Mess devotions to use at home. For more info or to reserve your spot, please call Allison Brewer at the church office or email her at abrewer@fpctopeka.org.



FPC Needlework Group
Thursday, February 16
2 p.m. in the library

Shrove Tuesday



**Pancake Dinner
& Lenten Stations**

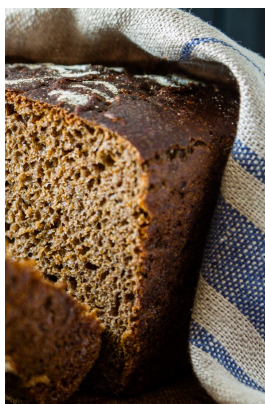
**February 21
5-7 p.m.**



In person and online

**ASH
WEDNESDAY**

February 22 at Noon



Faith & Flour
*Honey Whole Wheat
Bread*

Saturday, February 25
9 a.m. to Noon &
1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

BLESS THIS MESS

A 6-week Lenten Devotion for Women
5 - 7 p.m. Sundays during Lent



Free and open to all women
Dinner and childcare provided
Registration required

Recent Happenings at FPC



Photos: On left, top to bottom: Youth lock-in retreat at Topeka First UMC; Christmas Eve toy giveaway at St. John AME; Christmas Eve Worship. On right, top to bottom: Fellowship after worship on Jan. 22; FoodShare ministry on Jan. 18.



February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
Nursery & Childcare Open Usher Team 1 Communion 8:30am Worship Service 9:30am Children's Sunday School 9:30am Coffee with Pastors 9:30am Donuts & Discussion, Library 10:30am Worship Service, Sanctuary & Online 12:00pm Youth Group 4:00pm Pause for FPC Prayer	Jerry Foster-AM Volunteer Susan Rowell-PM Volunteer 12:00pm Minerva Meeting 4:00pm Kansas Youth Chorale 4:00pm Pause for FPC Prayer 6:15pm Celebrating Sabbath, Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Topeka Festival Singers	Marguerite Underhill-Volunteer 9:00am Presbytery Meeting, Zoom 12:00pm Fellowship Team Meeting 4:00pm Pause for FPC Prayer 6:30pm Family and Children Ministry 7:00pm Stephen Ministry Meeting	Pat Gidewell - AM Volunteer Gideons - PM Volunteers 7:00am Men's Bible Study 4:00pm Pause for FPC Prayer 5:00pm FoodShare Ministry	Melanie McQuere-AM Volunteer Lorraine Hyle - PM Volunteer 9:00am Property Team Meeting 4:00pm Pause for FPC Prayer 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	Marty Snyder - AM Volunteer John Conlee-PM Volunteer Pastors' Day Off 4:00pm Pause for FPC Prayer	4:00pm Pause for FPC Prayer
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Nursery & Childcare Open Usher Team 1 Communion 8:30am Worship Service 9:30am Children's Sunday School 9:30am Coffee with Pastors 9:30am Donuts & Discussion, Library 10:30am Worship Service, Sanctuary & Online 12:00pm Youth Group 4:00pm Pause for FPC Prayer	Jerry Foster-AM Volunteer Susan Rowell-PM Volunteer 12:00pm Minerva Meeting 4:00pm Kansas Youth Chorale 4:00pm Pause for FPC Prayer 6:15pm Celebrating Sabbath, Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Topeka Festival Singers	Marguerite Underhill-Volunteer 9:00am Presbytery Meeting, Zoom 12:00pm Fellowship Team Meeting 4:00pm Pause for FPC Prayer 6:30pm Family and Children Ministry 7:00pm Stephen Ministry Meeting	Pat Gidewell - AM Volunteer Gideons - PM Volunteers 7:00am Men's Bible Study 4:00pm Pause for FPC Prayer 5:00pm FoodShare Ministry	Melanie McQuere-AM Volunteer Lorraine Hyle - PM Volunteer 9:00am Property Team Meeting 4:00pm Pause for FPC Prayer 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	Marty Snyder - AM Volunteer John Conlee-PM Volunteer Pastors' Day Off 4:00pm Pause for FPC Prayer	9:00am Neighborhood Ministries Team Retreat 4:00pm Pause for FPC Prayer
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Nursery & Childcare Open Usher Team 2 Souper Bowl of Caring 8:30am Worship Service 9:30am Children's Sunday School 9:30am Donuts & Discussion, Library 10:30am Worship Service, Sanctuary & Online 12:00pm Youth Group 4:00pm Pause for FPC Prayer	Jerry Foster-AM Volunteer Susan Rowell-PM Volunteer 4:00pm Kansas Youth Chorale 4:00pm Pause for FPC Prayer 5:30pm Finance Committee Mtg 7:00pm Topeka Festival Singers	Marguerite Underhill-Volunteer 10:00am Staff Meeting 11:30am Tasty Tuesday, Iron rail 4:00pm Pause for FPC Prayer	Pat Gidewell - AM Volunteer Gideons - PM Volunteers 7:00am Men's Bible Study 4:00pm Pause for FPC Prayer 5:00pm FoodShare Ministry	Melanie McQuere-AM Volunteer Lorraine Hyle - PM Volunteer 2:00pm Needlework Group - Library 4:00pm Pause for FPC Prayer 6:00pm Youth Ministry Team Meeting - Zoom 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	Marty Snyder - AM Volunteer John Conlee-PM Volunteer Pastors' Day Off 2:00pm Bob McElroy Memorial Service 4:00pm Pause for FPC Prayer	4:00pm Pause for FPC Prayer
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Nursery & Childcare Open Usher Team 3 8:30am Worship Service 9:30am Children's Sunday School 9:30am Donuts & Discussion, Library 10:30am Worship Service, Sanctuary & Online 12:00pm Youth Group 4:00pm Pause for FPC Prayer	Jerry Foster-AM Volunteer Susan Rowell-PM Volunteer 4:00pm Kansas Youth Chorale 4:00pm Pause for FPC Prayer 6:00pm Session Meeting 7:00pm Topeka Festival Singers	Marguerite Underhill-Volunteer 10:00am Staff Meeting 4:00pm Pause for FPC Prayer 5:00pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner and Lent Stations 5:15pm Worship Team Meeting	Pat Gidewell - AM Volunteer Gideons - PM Volunteers 7:00am Men's Bible Study 12:00pm Ash Wednesday Service 4:00pm Pause for FPC Prayer 5:00pm FoodShare Ministry	Melanie McQuere-AM Volunteer Lorraine Hyle - PM Volunteer 4:00pm Pause for FPC Prayer 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	Marty Snyder - AM Volunteer John Conlee-PM Volunteer Pastors' Day Off 4:00pm Pause for FPC Prayer	9:00am Faith & Flour 1:00pm Faith & Flour 4:00pm Pause for FPC Prayer
26	27	28	1	2	3	4
Nursery & Childcare Open Usher Team 4 8:30am Worship Service 9:00am All-Church Breakfast 9:30am Annual Meeting 9:30am Children's Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service, Sanctuary & Online 12:00pm Youth Group 4:00pm Pause for FPC Prayer	Jerry Foster-AM Volunteer Susan Rowell-PM Volunteer 4:00pm Kansas Youth Chorale 4:00pm Pause for FPC Prayer 7:00pm Topeka Festival Singers	Marguerite Underhill-Volunteer 10:00am Staff Meeting 4:00pm Pause for FPC Prayer	Pat Gidewell - AM Volunteer Gideons - PM Volunteers 7:00am Men's Bible Study 4:00pm Pause for FPC Prayer 5:00pm FoodShare Ministry 5:30pm Deacons Meeting	Melanie McQuere-AM Volunteer Lorraine Hyle - PM Volunteer 9:00am Property Team Meeting 4:00pm Pause for FPC Prayer 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	Marty Snyder - AM Volunteer John Conlee-PM Volunteer Pastors' Day Off 4:00pm Pause for FPC Prayer	4:00pm Pause for FPC Prayer

The most recent and up-to-date church calendar can be found on the church website under the News tab.

FPC Daily Prayer — Pause for Prayer each day at 4 p.m.: Gracious God, thank you for the beauty of this day and the gift of being alive in it. Thank you for loving me, guiding me, and protecting me wherever I go. Search my mind and heart, and clear away anything that hinders your Spirit from working in my life. Forgive me when I lose sight of all the blessings you have given me. Bless our church and show me today how you would have me feed the hungry, give a drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, care for the sick, and visit those in prison. Teach me to love as you have loved me, that I might shine your light everywhere I am. I ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

First Presbyterian Church

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF TOPEKA

Loving God, loving neighbors and living with purpose

Ministers

All the Members of the Congregation

Pastors

Sandra Stogsdill Brown, *Pastor*

Pat Yancey, *Commissioned Associate Pastor*

Neil Weatherhogg, *Pastor Emeritus*

Program Staff

Allison Brewer, *Director of Family Ministries*

Carrie Riordan, *Director of Communications*

Music Staff

Dr. Kevin Kellim, *Director of Music*

Dr. Cynthia Neufeld Smith, *Organist*

Norma Pettijohn, *Organist Emeritus*

Administrative Staff

Melissa Ashwill, *Office Manager*

Treven Broxterman, *Videographer*

Will Hartner, *Videographer*

Mark Ingle, *Director of Maintenance*

Steve Johnson, *Sunday Custodian*

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The deadline to submit items for the March 2023 Messenger is February 21, 2023.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Marilyn Halsey—1	Melba Banion—19
Rosemary Menninger—2	Janice Damron—19
Katherine McElroy—3	Carlene Jones—19
Owen McGee—3	Gretchen McFalls—19
Carl Perney—3	Jim Pettygrove—23
Julie Garlinghouse—5	Anne Baker—24
Richard Lady—5	Sarah Walton—24
Owen MacKenzie—5	Kay Wischropp—24
Shirley Harsin—8	Deborah Edwards—26
Brenda Dicus—14	Michael Wilson—27
Craig Underhill—14	Hal Jensen—28
Phil Baker—16	Bill Wolff—28
Jerienne Harper—17	

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Brenda & John Dicus—2
Pam & Bob Carmichael—10
Pam & Andrew Schauer—14
Julie & Webb Garlinghouse—29



(Photo: Youth group ice-skating fun on January 22!)