

# First Presbyterian Church



## December 2024

December 1 marked the beginning of a new Christian year. We end the liturgical year on Christ the King Sunday then start anew with Advent. This is a reminder of the arc of history. We start out waiting for a savior, recognize Jesus of Nazareth as the promised Messiah, mourn his death and celebrate his resurrection, welcome the Holy Spirit, then anticipate Christ's coming at the end of the age.

But for now, we are waiting. Waiting for a savior. Waiting to encounter God. Yet, Jesus told us that we do not need to wait.

**34** Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, **35** for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, **36** I was naked, and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison, and you visited me.' **37** Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you...?' **40** And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.'

We look for Christ in all the wrong places. We wait for the Son of Man to come on a cloud in power and glory, when he is already here among us. We just need to see as God sees, to recognize Christ in the least, the lost, and the last.

This Advent season, as we wait for the beauty of Christmas, let us also have eyes to see and ears to hear Christ in each person we meet. Let us seek opportunities to enter God's kingdom by sharing God's love with those who need to know God as we do. Amen.



# **Worship and Music**

**Worship and Music is eager to have a large attendance at our Cantata December 15 titled "God is Alive at Bethlehem". It will take the whole service and includes various contrasting Advent and Christmas anthems.**

**Also be sure to join us for our  
Candlelight Service Christmas Eve at 6pm.  
The service will be traditional Lessons and Carols.**

**Invite your friends and family and share this joyous experience.**





# Mission and Outreach



The Mission and Outreach Committee would like to thank you for your generosity supporting our activities during 2024.

First Presbyterian has made a difference in local and PCUSA missions.

## Christmas Joy Offering

The Christmas Joy Offering is one of the PCUSA Special Offerings. It is collected during Advent. When we give to the Christmas Joy Offering, we prepare the way for leaders of our church – past, present and future. 50% of our gifts smooth the path for current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need. The other 50% of our gifts prepare students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Through this offering we reflect God's perfect gift to us.

There are special envelopes on the table as you come into the church.





# Administrative Committee



Just a reminder Katie will be working on year-end statements, if you would like any contributions to be recorded in 2024 those will need to be in by December 20th.

This has been an interesting and challenging year in the life of the First Presbyterian Church of Rolla.

The challenges of our church budget remain real and ongoing.

We are blessed that we are meeting our 2024 budget goals.

We are blessed that we are able to meet our 2024 mission goals.

The church's hope is that your support for our ministries comes from a profound sense of gratitude and joy for all you receive through your relationship with God and as a member of our church.

2025 budget planning is wrapping up and in preparation for that we are asking for all pledge cards to be turned in by December 20th.

## Remembering Our Staff

Christmas time is the time to not only celebrate the birth of our Savior, but a time of gratitude for the gift of the Christ child. It is a wonderful time, when in the spirit of generosity, we can show our appreciation for others who daily share their talents with us. If you would like to show your gratitude for any or all our staff, please feel free to present them with a card/or monetary gift, individually. This is a timely opportunity to show appreciation to our

*Office Administrator -Katie Sands,  
Custodians- Tina Sands and Michelle Bobbitt,  
Accompanist -Lorie Francis,  
Music Director Jeff Sandquist.*

Wishing for you a joyous Christmas, Your Administrative Committee

# Presby Preschool News



December 2024



## Happy holidays from our family to yours!

After celebrating friendship and sharing during November, preschool is looking forward to a festive December. Special songs, treats and activities add to the cheer of the season.

The Preschool will present their holiday program Thursday, Dec. 19 at 6:30 in the sanctuary. All are invited to share their infectious joy.

Presbyterian Women are providing a soup and salad lunch to the staff on December 19. This is a lovely way to support and show appreciation for the work of the preschool. It is very meaningful to the teachers and helps them get through those busy days before the holiday break.

## Special events

- Christmas Program Dec. 19
- Staff soup and salad lunch from PW Dec.19
- Holiday Break Dec.23-Jan.2



**May your days  
be merry and  
bright!**



# Prayer Request

*Connie & Bob Dewitt* - Continuing health care

*Ruby & Lee Malone* - Residents of Silverstone.

*Bob Yenzer* - Continuing health challenges.

*Illa Bell* - Recovering from fall, surgery on leg.

*Bill Neely*- Headaches, Back & Hip pain.

*Bill Cottingham & family*-Loss of Pam

*Alex Schneider & family*- loss of spouse.

Please pray for those named and their families as well as their caregivers. The prayer request will start over every two months. If you have someone that needs put on or taken off the list, Please contact Katie in the office.





*December Birthday wishes  
go out to:*



*6th Bill Morgan  
8th Dace Murray  
9th Michael Bennett  
26th Caitlin Bennett  
27th Barbara Ford*

*Office will be closed  
December 24th, -26th for Christmas  
December 31st-January 1st  
for New Years!  
We will see you on January 2nd, 2025*

