

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



The Door

Volume 69, Number 1, January, 2024

A Note from the Pastor

Looking ahead into this new year, here are some key dates to keep in mind.

- **Jan. 13, 9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m., New Elder & Deacon Training,**
 - Hybrid, in person and Zoom
- **Jan. 13, 11:00 a.m., Session Meeting to Examine Officers +**
 - Hybrid, in person and Zoom
- **Jan. 14., Ordination & Installation of New Elders & Deacons**

- **Jan. 21, ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION**
 - **8:30 & 10:45 a.m., Worship Services**
 - **11:30 a.m., Annual Meeting of Congregation,** to take place in a hybrid combination of in person and virtually by electronic means via Zoom, with a severe-weather option of Zoom only.
 - The purposes of the meeting are:
 - ◆ To elect officers to fill any vacancies;
 - ◆ to receive the 2023 annual report and the 2024 operating budget;
 - ◆ to act on changes in terms of call for the pastor and the associate pastor for faith formation;
 - ◆ to approve changes in the bylaws, recommended by a majority of session elders,
 - to gradually reduce the size of the session during a 3-year period from 15 to 12 elders,
 - and to stipulate that annual elections will take place as early as a special meeting in the fourth quarter of each calendar year, but no later than the annual meeting held in January;

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- ♦ and to consider any other business that may come before the congregation.

Join via Internet browser, clicking

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83898179612>

Join by telephone, dialing +1 309 205 3325, or +1 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 838 9817 9612; **Passcode:** 3601

If you're reading this note on paper, and would like a clickable link to join via Internet browser, then you will find one the day of our meeting on the home page of our website: <https://fpcedw.org>

In Christ's Service,

John Hembruch, Pastor



From Theological Education Fund -
As the Church begins a new liturgical year this Advent, know that the ways you and yours have and are answering God's call to serve are seen and appreciated.
Thank you especially for the ways you support future ministers seeking to answer God's call through your gifts to the Theological Education Fund.



The Chancel Choir meets each Wednesday evening 7:00-8:30 p.m., and the Handbell Choir meets each Thursday evening 7:00-8:30 p.m. New singers and ringers are always welcome and needed! The only requirements for the Handbell Choir are that you be tall enough to see the music and be willing to commit to ringing regularly through the end of the school year. For more information, contact Dr. Annis Hopkins.



NEW DATE FOR PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN LUNCHEON

Beginning in January, Presbyterian Women will hold its monthly gathering on the **THIRD WEDNESDAY** of each month. The format remains the same: a potluck luncheon with a brief devotional beginning at noon. We enjoy good food, fun, and fellowship.

ALL members of the congregation are invited and encouraged to attend. We hope to see **YOU** on **January 17th at noon**.



Handbell Maintenance

In summer of 2022, our 3-octave set of Schulmerich handbells was shipped to the factory for a “basic checkup,” which was required to maintain the warranty on this beautiful instrument. The cost was paid out of excess monies originally donated for purchase of the bells in 2018. In spring 2023, the session approved setting up a fund to raise money for the next regular refurbishment, which will be due in 2027; the cost at that time will likely be about \$4000, plus \$450 for shipping. While 2027 seems quite far in the future, now is a good time to start laying aside dollars so that when the time comes, the money will be available. The Worship, Music, and Arts Committee invites you to contribute to this fund as you see fit; we will post reminders from time to time, especially during 2026. Thank you for your continuing support for the Handbell Choir.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Valerie Barber, Kay Siegrist
- 2 Carter McCall
- 3 Rick Powell, Sloan Watson
- 4 Glenn Jenne, Leanna Rizzoli
- 6 Nicholas Trueb
- 10 Rita Freese, Douglas Gorsage, Therese Hembruch, Caroline Caton
- 15 Sandy Stuart
- 17 Chris Farrar, Anna Farrar, Margaret Farrar
- 19 Cindy Fraser
- 20 Robert Towell
- 21 Abby Cotter
- 22 Amy Loyet
- 23 Sharon Voss
- 24 John Baisch
- 27 Bonnie Sherman
- 30 Robert Raymond

2023 OPERATING FUND

ACTUAL VS. BUDGET

THROUGH NOVEMBER 30, 2023

	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$282,107.36	\$ 298,833.30
Other Income	<u>40,055.84</u>	<u>14,529.05</u>
Total Income	\$322,163.20	\$ 313,362.35
Total Expenses	<u>352,612.78</u>	<u>377,461.82</u>
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$30,449.58)	(\$64,099.47)

(1) Shortfall/Deficit has been covered by a reduction in the Operating bank account savings in the amount of (\$30,449.58).

Nursery Attendant Search

We have begun our search for a new Nursery Attendant and ask members and friends to help us get the word out about our vacancy. If you know someone who might be interested, please provide the following position information. Thank you!

"Nursery Attendant needed for Sunday mornings 8:00AM to 12:00PM at First Presbyterian Church Edwardsville. We are looking for someone to interact with infants through toddlers 3 years of age. Key responsibilities include playing, singing and nurturing the children in our fully stocked nursery facility. Good communication skills, patience and the ability to manage stress are key qualifications and reliable transportation is highly recommended. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age with the ability to pass a background check. Rate of pay is \$16 an hour with the opportunity to work additional hours during other church functions. Applicants should apply by emailing your information to personnel@fpcedw.org. An application will be provided to you via email or by stopping at the church office at 3601 Ridge View Road, Edwardsville IL."



ATTENTION HOSPITALITY COFFEE HOUR

The Evangelism and Church Promotion committee are seeking volunteers for set-up and clean-up. If you feel led to volunteer, please contact Peggy Hagin at email: phaginplh@gmail.com or phone (618) 541-1174. You may also sign-up using the Sign-Up Genius link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050E4DAFAF23AAFA7-46831312-fpcsunday>

Thank you so much!



Good Earth News.... Did you know

Conservation summer programs are working to keep forests in New Mexico healthy and build crew members' connection to the land. As KUNC explains, the Forest Stewards Youth Corps summer program, which started in 1998, is made up of five crews across northern and central New Mexico. Crew members, ranging in age from 15 to 25, are paid for their work and receive education and training in natural resource careers — all while restoring the land in cooperation with local communities.

John Galvan, the tribal forest manager for Jemez Pueblo, says lots of the pueblo's natural resource projects are critical to the livelihood of the Jemez people, as they live by their traditions and live off the land.

A vacant lot outside Boston has been turned into a quarter-acre "food forest." Unlike community gardens, food forests mimic natural ecosystems, with a focus on native food-bearing plants that provide habitat for insects and birds. And as WBUR explains, anyone in the community can harvest food for free. The group that helped created the Food Forest that hopes to develop 30 of the by 2030.

A Wyoming food forest recently added a medicinal garden consisting of over 100 plants that have spiritual, medicinal or nutritional significance to the Northern Cheyenne Tribe and that help avoid the loss of traditional knowledge and plant varieties. **More than 120,000** acres have just been set aside as a conservation area in Idaho. As Boise State Public Radio reports, the Bennett Hills conservation area covers more than 120,000 acres of rolling grasslands in southwest Idaho, home to upland game bird species and wintering elk and mule deer.

A group of Cape Cod "old ladies" dive into local ponds to surface trash. In just 90 minutes this small team of swimmers — the Old Ladies Against Underwater Garbage — can remove hundreds of pieces of trash. Again and again, they surface with fistfuls of beer cans, golf balls, fishing lures and dog toys. As founding member Susan Baur puts it, "We are heroically adventurous. And I'm not leaving the age of competence, thank you very much. Not for a while."

From: <https://www.npr.org/2023/10/03/1202290614/good-news-climate-change-solutions>

How can you contribute to being better stewards of God's earth for 2024?

Welcome to our newly elected Deacons:

- Debbie Higgins
- Brigit Moseley
- Sally Toussaint
- Sharon Voss

Church Officer Nominating Committee 2024:

- Roger McKnight
- Sarah Kirkpatrick
- Felix Rivera Merced
- Lynn Rogers
- Sharon Wittke

Welcome to our newly elected Elders:

Class 2026

- Ron Brumback (to be elected in January)
- Jay Griffin
- Clyde Holtmann
- Darryl Toussaint
- Carlyn Underwood

Joining.....

Class 2024

John Baisch
Brian Hohlt
Curt Linton
Chris Loyet
Roger McKnight

Class 2025

Jerry Barber
Donna Crider
Tracy Lance
Jonathan Musch
Lucia Weber



Christmas Decoration Tear Down - Sunday, January 7th ~ 11:45 a.m. (after second service)

The Worship, Music & Arts Committee is looking for volunteers to join them in taking down and storing our lovely Christmas trees and decorations. This will occur after the second worship service on Sunday, January 7th. It will be a fun time and will be done quickly with the help of many! Thank you for assisting with this activity.

New Flower Sign up poster for 2024: If you would like to sign up for a Sunday, please email the church at office@fpcedw.org.



Flower Donations

Please share your celebrations with your church family by donating flowers for the Sunday worship services. We want to share in your life events like birthdays, anniversaries, etc. If you sign up for flowers please write a \$45.00 check payable to First Presbyterian Church, noting flowers on it. The flowers can be delivered to a shut-in OR you can take them home.

There is a sign up calendar on posted on the kitchen door.

SAVE THE DATE

First Presbyterian Church
Faith Formation Committee

TRIVIA NIGHT & Silent Auction

Saturday, March 2, 2024

Please contact Brian Hohlt, at hohltfamily@att.net
or 618-402-5813 with any questions.



Remember:

Bring your used batteries to church (.50 lb)
Recycle burned out Christmas lights can be recycled in the front of Walmart; also ink cartridges (in the cartridge area) and plastic bags (though you should be using reusable bags when shopping!)
CJD E-Cycling – recycles anything with a wire - 5257 IL-157.

HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER TRIP

If your student is in high school (completed 9th through completed 12th grades) and would like to join us on the June 11-14, 2024 trip to Ghost Ranch in Abiquiu, New Mexico for a spiritual practices and rest retreat (aka, learning how to grow your faith not just by reading the Bible but also in creative ways while also hiking beautiful scenery and riding horses in the painted desert), please let Pastor Kalyn know as soon as possible! If you have questions or concerns please email her at kds@fpcdw.org or call her in the office M-Th 9:30-3:30 at 618-656-4550.



HELP FILL THE STOCKING!

For the third year in a row, we are pleased to announce that we will be collecting socks and underwear for those individuals and families that have no housing. We will deliver these donations to Churches on the Street, a group of volunteers that go out every Monday night and deliver supplies, a hot meal, and the word of the Gospel to those facing the harsh elements. Let's help these volunteers with our prayers and resources to deliver a much needed hand to those who need it most. Simply put new socks and underwear for men, women and children in the large red stocking in the gathering space anytime in the month of January!
Thank you for your support!

January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 HAPPY NEW YEAR Office Closed	2	3 NO Spiritual Growth 7:00 pm Adult Choir rehearsal	4 6:30 pm Strategic Planning meeting 7:00 pm Handbell Choir rehearsal	5 9:00 am Building & Property Committee meeting	6
7 8:30 am Worship Service 9:30 am Adult Sunday School (HYBRID) 10:25 am Children's Choir rehearsal (classroom across from office) 10:45 am Worship Service 10:45 am Sunday School	8	9	10 10:30 am Spiritual Growth Study (HYBRID) 6:00 pm Worship, Music & Arts Committee meeting 7:00 pm Mission Outreach Ministry meeting (zoom only) 7:00 pm Adult Choir rehearsal	11 7:00 pm Handbell Choir rehearsal	12	13 9:00 am New Elder & Deacon Training 11:00 am Session meeting to Examine Officers + Strategic Planning Team Review
14 Ordination & Installation of Elders & Deacons 8:30 am Worship Service 9:30 am Adult Sunday School (HYBRID) 10:25 am Children's Choir rehearsal (classroom across from office) 10:45 am Worship Service 10:45 am Sunday School	15	16	17 10:30 am Spiritual Growth Study (HYBRID) 12:00 pm PW Luncheon 6:00 pm Fiscal Mgmt Committee meeting 7:00 pm Adult Choir rehearsal	18 2:00 pm Eden Worship Service 7:00 pm Handbell Choir rehearsal	19	20
21 8:30 am Worship Service 9:30 am Adult Sunday School (HYBRID) 10:25 am Children's Choir rehearsal (classroom across from office) 10:45 am Worship Service 10:45 am Sunday School 11:30 am Annual Meeting of the Congregation (Hybrid)	22	23 6:30 pm Deacon Orientation	24 10:30 am Spiritual Growth Study (HYBRID) 7:00 pm Adult Choir rehearsal	25 6:30 pm Nominating Committee meeting 7:00 pm Handbell Choir rehearsal	26	27
28 8:30 am Worship Service 9:30 am Adult Sunday School (HYBRID) 10:25 am Children's Choir rehearsal (classroom across from office) 10:45 am Worship Service 10:45 am Sunday School	29	30	31 10:30 am Spiritual Growth Study (HYBRID) 7:00 pm Adult Choir rehearsal			