**First Presbyterian Newsletter January 2024**

**Happy New Year! – by Kimby Young**

We turn the page to a new calendar year and hope the best for the future. January is an interesting month. You never know what the weather might bring - sunny or snowy or some mysterious mix. Sometimes our plans change with the drop of a flake. Sometimes I secretly wish for a snow day or two. In January we don’t feel the rush of the holiday festivities. Sometimes there’s a “let down”, as we may not see family for a while, and we may not have exciting plans. On the other hand, there is something miraculous about 12 months stretching out before us. All the possibilities of the year ahead are intriguing. What will life bring? How will God bless us and challenge us in the coming days?

In the church year, January brings a reset. New elders and deacons take office and begin their duties. Session holds an organizing retreat to try to look ahead. The congregation holds our annual meeting to report on the year past and to approve plans for the future. This year our Annual meeting is on January 28 at 9:45a.m. (see the article below). New programs begin. Old traditions continue. Life goes on.

As we begin our new year together, our invitation is to listen for Christ’s call and to continue to serve God together. Know that God is with you, that Jesus loves you, and that this community of faith is here for you. May you be blessed with many wonders of God’s love. Share that love as you are able, to the glory of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Scripture for Upcoming Worship**

January 7, 2024 – Epiphany – John 1:1-5; John 8:12; Matthew 2:1-12.

January 14 – Baptism of Jesus – Mark 1:4-11.

January 21 – First Miracle – John 2:1-11.

January 28 – Healing Miracles – John 5:1-15; John 9:1-7.

**Sunday January 28 at 9:45 a.m.**

**Annual Congregational Meeting**

The session has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, January 28 at 9:45 a.m. The purpose of the meeting is to receive our annual reports from staff, committees, groups and pillars, and to approve the terms of call for pastor Kimby Young.

The report papers will be available to pick up in the office the week prior and will be available at the meeting. They also will be sent out by email.

**Monthly Financial Report**

At the end of November our records indicate:
total income this month is $ 22,064.66

total expenses this month is $ 25,423.37

Eight of the last 11 months our expenses have exceeded our income. This month the excess spending was $3358. If you are able to give additional offerings, your contributions will help to balance the expenses. The session and finance/operations pillar thank each of you for your contributions to the church – financial or any other contribution. A complete line by line expense report is available upon request. We will close finances for December and for the year after January 4.

**New Membership Class**

We have a few people interested in joining the church, so pastor Kimby is scheduling a class. We will set the dates based on those who are interested. Usually the group meets two times, and the second of those is with session for approval. Even those who have attended for a long time are welcome in this class to answer any questions and move forward with a church commitment. If you are interested in information about joining the church contact Pastor Kimby Young or the church office.

**Good Time to start. New Year. New focus.**

**Pastor Kimby's Bible Study – Gospel of John**

**Each Thursday, 10-11:30 a.m. Resumes January 11.**

This is a good time to join us. The study of John started in September, but on January 11, we will start again after the holiday break with a review of major themes, including the “I Am” statements of Jesus in the gospel of John. Then the second half of the gospel covers the last two weeks of Jesus’ life in 10 chapters. This study will lead us thru Lent and Easter as we examine the story of Jesus’ passion and resurrection. Join us each week, or any week you are able. The only book is the Bible in any version. There is no outside reading unless you want to do more using a commentary or your own study Bible. Everyone may join us. All are welcome.

**Per Capita – Donations welcome**

In the Presbyterian Church USA, each local church makes a payment to the denomination based on the number of members on record in a previous year. This per capita payment emphasizes our connectional nature and our oneness in Christ. These funds go to support costs and ministries of the denomination on the local, regional and national level. Some of these funds pay salaries and operating expenses. Some of these funds pay for maintaining programs and offices, including vocational ministries, committee support, evangelism, new church development, educational ministry, communications, support networks and advocacy programs.

If you would like to contribute to the church the amount, we pay for membership for you or your family, that gift can be designated on your check to First Presbyterian Church as “per capita.” You may also pay an extra per capita membership contribution for someone who cannot afford to pay their own.

Per Capita for 2024 is $43.94 per person (GA $9.85, Synod $2.90, and Presbytery $31.19). For First Presbyterian Church of Gardner the total for 2024 is $7777.38.

**Weather Cancellation Policy**

Usually, we try to worship if possible. We may modify worship or cancel Sunday school. Even if we don’t cancel. Be smart. Be cautious. Don't take any chances. Even if a church event is not cancelled, if you do not feel comfortable getting out, you are excused. If you have a duty, we will find someone to cover for you.

Generally, midweek if school is cancelled, events are cancelled. But as weather changes during the day, an evening event may not be consistent with school closing. Discretion is given to event leaders to cancel if needed. Check with the event leader to be sure.

Check emails, Facebook or the website (www.fpcgardner.church) for announcements about cancellation. Also check KMBC-TV notices.

Call Rev. Kimby 913-481-7076, or Connie 913-244-8185.

**Please pray for** Debbie Pickell, Bea Judah, Poppy Zurcher, Zoe Elliott, Mike Fraser, Karen Elliott, Jon Deiley, Robin Larry Atwater’s sister, Susan Wilson – Dierksen, Karl Morrison, Jim Applegarth, Sarah Ritter, Holly Simms, Dennis Patton, Mary Dean, Anton’s Stepfather Ulf, Nancy Bob Zurcher’s sister, Dustin Toman, Jerry Seim, Abe Portenier, Amanda Allen, LeMoyne Zimmerman, Mike Judah, Dozer Reed, Trinity D’Autorio, Skyla D’Autorio, Jackson Tijerina, Reagan Barnadt, Steve and Laurie Holben.

**Ushers for 8:45 a.m. Sunday, January 7, 2024**

Kelly Johnson, Lynn Moldrup, Devon and Judy Mason

 **January 2024**

**Worship Assistants for 8:45 a.m. Worship Assistants for 11:00 a.m.**

 January 7 – Teri Winegar January 7- Nalleli Rollf

 January 14 – Lynn Moldrup January 14 – Aiden Schramm

 January 21 – Shana Devlin January 21 – Dave Dunbar

 January 28 – Kim Allen January 28 –

**Men’s Breakfast** on Tuesday, January 9 Perkin’s at 7:00 a.m.

**Presbyterian Women News**

**Attention, Ladies!**  The Proverbs 31 Woman:  Wonder Woman--Is she real or a myth?  Please join us for rolls and coffee on Saturday, January 13, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall for an overview of our upcoming winter Bible study, Worth More Than Rubies by Christina Patterson.  The first session will begin on Thursday, February 1, at 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall, and  we  will end the study  on Thursday, March 14.  In this study we will look deeper into the life of the Proverbs 31 woman to discover the seven virtues of a woman after God's own heart and how you can live out each virtue in your own life.  We look forward to having you join us on Saturday, January 13,10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

**Ladies, please join us for our first PW meeting** of 2024 to be held January 15th at 6:30 in Fellowship Hall. Come and join us as we plan for fellowship and Bible study in the coming year.  Enjoy participating with like-minded women who enjoy supporting each other.  Your ideas and talents can be used in new ways to help all of us. All are welcome!

Thanks Shana and Susan

**The Women’s Fellowship Group** meets March –November in Fellowship Hall. Next meeting will meet on Wednesday, March 6, 2024.This group is open to all women of the church. Our purpose is to provide support for the mission and service projects of the church. Please plan to attend.

**Updating our Directory of Members and Friends** – Please notify Connie in the church office if you have a change of address or phone number.

Wishing everyone a Happy New Year!



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| A colorful logo with black text  Description automatically generated**tore Hours****MONDAY 10 – 7****TUESDAY` 10 – 7****WEDNESDAY 10 – 4** **THURSDAY 10 – 7****SATURDAY 10 - 2** |
| National Volunteer Month: Have You Thanked A Volunteer Lately - Givily**JOY Closet is an amazing mission.** Our donations have been plentiful and everyone pitched in to bring in excess donations, sort, price, organize, cashier and assist during this intense, very busy Christmas season. There were angels all around!**Our deepest thanks to our amazing volunteers.** You get things done and, best of all, *you make a difference*! |
| **We are still looking for more volunteers!**If you have a friend, neighbor, family member, or anyone that is interested, please have them fill out a volunteer card or talk to Cathy Cochran. If any of you volunteers would like a different area, let us know.* We are in need of a Cashier Asistant every other Thursday 10:00-1:00 and Monday 4:00-7:00.
* Special areas of help: Bedding, Shoes, and Books.
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**God gave you many gifts! Come and share with JOY Closet!**

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| **Closing thoughts on 2023:**As we begin reflecting on the past year, we will be looking at the number of vouchers honored and people helped in numerous other ways. We already know that we have achieved much and the rewards have been considerable in grateful words, people warmly clothed, and happy hearts.As always, we consider it a privilege to serve the community and have been blessed with so many talented people volunteering their time and talents. **We can do so much more TOGETHER!** |
| Greatest Christmas Gift of All |
| **For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me.** **Matthew 25:35-36 NIV** ***JOY Closet is a ministry of First Presbyterian Church of Gardner, KS******Serving our community since 201*** |