

First United Presbyterian Church
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Lamplighter

January

2025



happy new year




FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CALENDAR



January 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1  Office Closed	2	3	4
5 Epiphany Sunday Communion 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service	6	7 Women's Zoom Study #1 @ 7pm	8	9 Prayer Group 9:00 AM Session Meeting 6:30 PM Cub Scouts 6:30 PM	10	11
12 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM Kids Sunday School (during worship) 10:30 AM Worship Service 11:30 AM Deacons Meeting	13 EBW 6:00 PM	14 Women's Zoom Study #2 @ 7pm	15 Quilt Club 9AM-3 PM	16 Quilt Club 9AM-3 PM Prayer Group 9:00 AM	17 Quilt Club 9AM-3 PM	18
19 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service Annual Cong Mtg Packets available at back of sanctuary	20	21 Women's Zoom Study #3 @ 7pm	22	23 Prayer Group 9:00 AM Cub Scouts 6:30 PM	24	25
26 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service 11:30 AM Worship Cmmtt Mtg Annual Congregational Mtg following worship Deacons Coffee Hour Following worship	27 PEO 6:00 PM	28 Women's Zoom Study #4 @ 7pm	29	30 Prayer Group 9:00 AM	31	

SCHEDULES



Announcements

January Elder

Calie Stalter

Elder to be Liturgist & Assist Treasurer

January 5th Calie Stalter
 January 12th Marty Tarter
 January 19th Brandy Stevens
 January 26th Larry Criswell



1st: Troy Roberts	16th: Tom Meyers
Erin Bauler	Bekka Roberts
4th: Holly Notto	23rd: Nathan Cox
10th: Justin Hotz	24th: Jesse Lueschow
12th: Sam Halverson	28th: Pat McGuire
13th: Rob Bobell	29th: Stephanie Colgan
15th: Linda Lynall	31st: Pam Paige



Thursday morning Bible Study & Prayer Group
Thursday's @ 9am in the Fellowship Hall.



Adult Sunday School

Adult Sunday School meets
Sunday Mornings @ 9:00am

Everyone is Welcome!



Children's Sunday School

for ages 4 - 7 will meet on
the 2nd Sunday of every month
@ 10:30am during worship



They Walked with God

Begins Tuesday, January 7th @ 7pm

will meet for 8 weeks on
January 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th
February 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th


Session Meeting
January 9th @ 6:30pm


Deacons Meeting
January 12th
following worship



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
January 26th following worship
Packets will be available on January 19th

**Fun
Children's
Message!**



We had a great group of people volunteer their time at the Midwest Food Pantry on November 26th. Thank you to everyone!



Thank You

Dear Church Family,

Many thanks to each of you for the expressions of appreciation & gifts at this Christmas time. It is an honor & joy to serve as your pastor. Please know that I continue to lift each of you up in prayer daily.

Blessings,
Pastor Marla



I would like to thank everyone for all of the beautiful cards, gifts, and goodies that I received for Christmas! I am truly blessed to be working with such an amazing & caring congregation. You are all greatly appreciated!

God Bless,
Brandi Teel



Thank you to Pastor Marla & Mary Beth Hitchcock for greeting everyone and passing out goodies at the Elmwood Ministerium table during the Christmas Walk



FROM THE PASTOR

January 2025

11-12 It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for. Long before we first heard of Christ and got our hopes up, he had his eye on us, had designs on us for glorious living, part of the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone. Ephesians 1:11-12

May the Blessings of the New Year be with you!

January of 2025...can you believe we are done with 2024!? However, for some families it was a difficult year, one filled with sorrow, illness, broken relationships and uncertain futures. They look at last year and say *Whew! So glad that year is over! Let's move on to a new one with new hopes and promises!*

And we understand that attitude and pray for our church families (and our own families and friends) who have had a tough go of last year. In 2025 I want us to begin with this Scripture passage from Ephesians 1.

It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for... As believers of Jesus Christ, we exist to give glory to God and to live our lives in such a way that is pleasing to him.

Long before we first heard of Christ and got our hopes up, he had his eye on us... God chose us from the beginning. Yes, God knew about YOU and choose YOU to be a believer, one who would receive forgiveness and grace from his hand. One who would be called an heir of Christ and a Child of God.

Had designs on us for glorious living... And just a question: What is "glorious living?" Does it mean that nothing will ever go wrong in our lives? That we (and our loved ones) will always be healthy and never have mishaps? No, glorious living is putting our full and complete faith in Jesus Christ no matter our earthly circumstances.

Part of the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone here's the key to the verse "the overall purpose" which means that day by day there may be rough patches, slips and trips, and even heart-breaks in our lives, but the overarching purpose of our Lord is to help us grow in our faith, grow as disciples, grow as students and to take this into the new year. In this year let us remember that God chose us, he's walking beside us in this journey of life and he does what is best for us (although at the time it may seem painful) because he loves us.

Embrace this new year—be open to what the Lord is wanting to teach you. Make the effort to grow your faith by reading Scripture, studying your Bible, attending Prayer Groups and Worship.

Blessings,

Pastor Marla

First United Presbyterian Church, Elmwood, IL
Session Meeting Minutes November 14, 2024

A regular meeting of the Session of First United Presbyterian Church of Elmwood was held in the Fellowship Hall on November 14, 2024. The meeting was opened with devotions and prayer by Calie Stalter at 6:31 p.m.

Elders present: 2024 – Julie Barrett and Calie Stalter
2025 – Anita Asbell and Steve Winslow
2026 – Marty Tarter

constituting a quorum. Absent were Ron Cox and Brandy Stevens. Rev. Marla Bauler moderated the meeting. The guidelines for a quorum were established at the January 11, 2024 Session Meeting as the presence of 50% of currently serving Elders.

The meeting agenda was reviewed and approved.

Elder Training: Calie Stalter: What is Advent and how do we celebrate in our church.

The September and November Deacons Reports were reviewed.

Clerk's Report

The minutes from the October 10, 2024 Session meeting were reviewed as well as the October 27, 2024 Special Session Meeting to examine our new members Louise Boyer and Judy Groeper. Motion made, seconded and approved.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report for October 2024 was reviewed. Approved.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Marla gave a formal report which listed her monthly ministry activities. Communion was served to 31 members of the congregation on November 3, 2024. We discussed the offer from Yates City session to increase their monthly contribution to our church in the amount of \$225.00. This offer was accepted.

Committee Reports

Personnel: Chair – Ron Cox - No report.

Finance: Chair - Marty Tarter

Meeting scheduled for November 16, 2024 to review the Terms of Call and the annual budget.

Worship/Membership/Christian Ed: Co-Chairs – Calie Stalter & Anita Asbell

Worship: Committee met on October 27, 2024 to make plans for the annual Hanging of the Greens. Organizing of the decorations will be November 22, 2024. Calie will be asking 5 families to participate in the Advent wreath readings.

Membership: The Rolls will be reviewed for the December meeting.

Christian Ed: Adult Sunday School continue their studies.

Adult Sunday School reports the following financial accounting:

Beginning Balance as of 10/01/2024 = \$2,767.08.

Deposits: \$51; \$255; \$131; \$78

Spent: \$400 (Palace Theater, Movie Bucks for Trunk-or-Treat); \$500 (Sugar Plum Project)
\$500 (Samaritan's Purse – Hurricane Relief)

Ending Balance = \$1,882.08 as of 10/31/24.

Marketing and Evangelism: Chair – Brandy Stevens - No report.

Missions: Chair – Marty Tarter

Will be donating time on November 26, 2024 at the Midwest Food Bank.

Jennifer Sparks was at church talking about her mission work in Thailand.

We have received \$500 from New 2 U for the annual use of helping our local families in need.

Building and Grounds: Chair – Steve Winslow; Asst. – Julie Barrett

The Work Day on November 9th, 2024 was a huge success. Thank you to all who were able to come help.

Old Business

Ratify Electronic Vote: A vote by text was done on November 10, 2024 to approve the request from the Prairie Quilters to show and sell their goods after church on November 10, 2024. Motion made, seconded and approved.

New Business

Great Rivers Presbytery would like to hold their Assembly Meeting at our church April 29, 2025. Motion made, seconded and approved.

There being no further business to come before the session, the meeting adjourned with a short prayer offered by Pastor Marla at 7:45 p.m.

The next session meeting is December 12, 2024 with Devotions and Elder Training by Brandy Stevens.

Prayerfully Submitted,

Anita Asbell
Clerk of Session
(bdt)

Moderator,

Rev. Marla Bauler