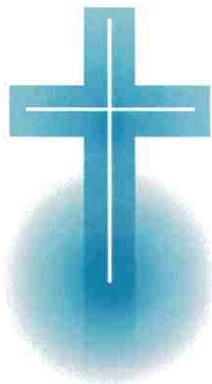


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Lamplighter

January  
2026



HAPPY ★ NEW ★ YEAR

HAPPY  
*New Year*

REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS; AND AGAIN I SAY, REJOICE.

PHIL 4:4

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CALENDAR



## January 2026



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

## SCHEDULES



### January Elder

Calie Stalter

### Elder to be Liturgist & Assist Treasurer

January 4th ..... Calie Stalter  
January 11th ..... Marty Tarter  
January 18th ..... Brandy Stevens  
January 25th ..... Larry Criswell



1st: Troy Roberts  
Erin Bauler  
15th: Linda Lynall  
16th: Tom Meyers  
Bekka Roberts  
28th: Pat McGuire  
29th: Stephanie Colgan  
31st: Pam Paige



### Happy New Year!!

It's never too late to begin a  
fresh start with God.....

## Announcements



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 6th @ 7pm

will meet for 8 weeks on  
January 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th  
February 3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th



Deacons Meeting  
January 11th  
following worship



Words can't express all the gratitude I feel for all the cards, calls, gifts and visits I have received since my surgery. Thank you to Pastor Marla for bringing me cookies and the Peony bush. A special thank you to Judy Groeper and Pat Vaughan for covering for me. I've missed all of you so much. I've also missed being at church and I'm looking forward to getting back to church to see everybody! Due to my health issues I felt it was in my best interest to resign as full time organist after 67 years. I'm so blessed to have had the honor of playing for you for that long.

With Love,  
Pat Althiser



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

January 25th following worship

\_packets will be available on January 18th

## Thank You

Dear Church Family,

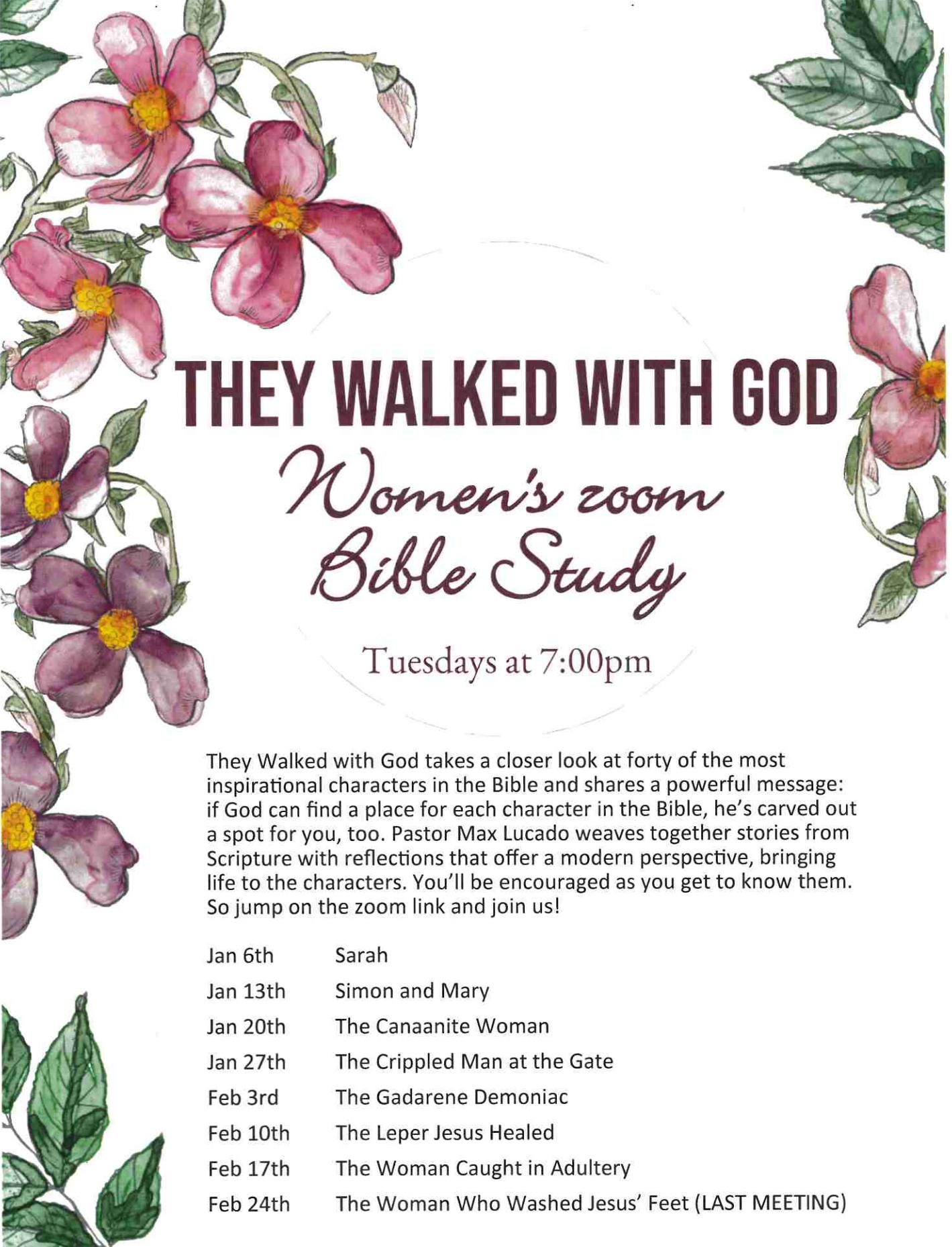
Many thanks to each of you for the expressions of appreciation & gifts at this Christmas time. It is an honor & joy to serve as your pastor. Please know that I continue to lift each of you up in prayer daily.

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



# THEY WALKED WITH GOD

## Women's zoom Bible Study

Tuesdays at 7:00pm

They Walked with God takes a closer look at forty of the most inspirational characters in the Bible and shares a powerful message: if God can find a place for each character in the Bible, he's carved out a spot for you, too. Pastor Max Lucado weaves together stories from Scripture with reflections that offer a modern perspective, bringing life to the characters. You'll be encouraged as you get to know them. So jump on the zoom link and join us!

Jan 6th	Sarah
Jan 13th	Simon and Mary
Jan 20th	The Canaanite Woman
Jan 27th	The Crippled Man at the Gate
Feb 3rd	The Gadarene Demoniac
Feb 10th	The Leper Jesus Healed
Feb 17th	The Woman Caught in Adultery
Feb 24th	The Woman Who Washed Jesus' Feet (LAST MEETING)



# FROM THE PASTOR

January 2026

<sup>9</sup> After they had heard the king, the Magi went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup> On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Matt 2:9-11

Blessings of the Magi to each of you!

January is often when we speak of the visit of the Magi/Wise Men/Kings to the baby Jesus. They have been traveling and following a star that has shined brightly for maybe more than a year. They don't know exactly what they are seeking but the star has so intrigued them that they continue their journey unaware of the endpoint.

The Scripture tells us that they had a meeting with King Herod (Boo! Hiss!) and at that point they discovered what the star was leading them to. They also saw the jealousy, rage and wickedness in Herod's eyes, which will lead them to a different path back to their homes to keep the baby safe.

But the Wise Men arrive at the house where Mary, Joseph and Jesus are staying and they present three gifts (you remember this!) of Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh. We remember that gold is given to kings and represents Jesus as the King of Kings. Frankincense speaks to his divinity and priesthood, and Myrrh was used as an embalming spice so it hints at his humanity, suffering and death.

But what can this mean for us, here and now? There are a few theories out there but I would submit that overall, we can give the Lord Jesus our livelihood (gold), our obedience and trust (frankincense), and our very breath of life (myrrh).

We come into 2026, a new year, a clean calendar so let's look to see how we can fit these three gifts into the days, weeks and months to come. Honoring and worshiping Jesus daily.

Blessings,

Pastor Marla

First United Presbyterian Church, Elmwood, IL  
Session Meeting Minutes      November 13, 2025

A regular meeting of the Session of First United Presbyterian Church of Elmwood was held in the Fellowship Hall on November 13, 2025. The meeting was opened with devotions and prayer by Anita Asbell at 6:30 p.m.

Elders present: 2025 – Anita Asbell and Steve Winslow  
2026 – Ron Cox, Brandy Stevens and Marty Tarter  
2027 – Larry Criswell and Calie Stalter

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 9, 2025 Session Meeting as the presence of 50% of currently serving Elders.

The meeting agenda was reviewed and approved.

The Deacons Report dated November 9, 2025 was reviewed.

**Clerk's Report**

Correspondence from Great Rivers once again thanking us for our per capita payment was discussed. The minutes from the October 9, 2025 Session meeting were reviewed and approved.

**Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's Report for October 2025 was reviewed. Approved.

**Pastor's Report**

Pastor Marla gave a formal report which listed her monthly ministry activities. Communion was served to 34 members of the congregation on November 2, 2025.

**Committee Reports**

**Personnel:** Chair – Ron Cox

No updates given.

**Finance:** Co-Chairs – Larry Criswell & Marty Tarter

A motion from the Committee to agree to a request from PNC Trust Dept. for up to \$5,000 to be withheld from the November 2025 distribution. Seconded and approved.

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

Worship: Committee met October 26, 2025. Will have a Veteran's Day Service on November 9, 2025 with two speakers and treats afterward.

November 23rd Hanging of the Greens was discussed. Will organize the Thursday before. A quick lunch will be served after the decorating.

Calie is working on Advent Readers for this year.

**Membership:** The rolls have been reviewed, no changes.

**Christian Ed:** Adult Sunday School continue their studies.

Adult Sunday School reports the following financial accounting:

\*Beginning Balance as of October 1, 2025 = \$1,070.87

Deposits: \$132; \$48; \$244; \$140

Spent: \$400 (400 movie bucks for Trunk-or-Treat)

Ending Balance as of October 31, 2025 = \$1,234.87

**Marketing and Evangelism:** Chair – Brandy Stevens

No report.

**Missions:** Chair – Marty Tarter

No changes to giving.

Marty brought up the need for additional food boxes.

**Building and Grounds:** Co-Chairs Steve Winslow and Larry Criswell

Clean up day was postponed due to weather and will be done on the 15th of November.

Reviewed bid to fix stained glass light fixture behind the pulpit. The committee made a motion to proceed. Seconded. Approved.

#### **New Business**

Brandy Stevens volunteered to be the Nominating Committee Chairperson.

A meeting will be held by the Finance Committee to approve the Pastor's Terms of Call for 2026.

There being no further business to come before the session, the meeting adjourned with a short prayer offered by Pastor Marla at 7:33 p.m.

The next session meeting is December 11, 2025 with Devotions and Elder Training by Brandy Stevens.

Prayerfully Submitted,

Anita Asbell  
Clerk of Session  
(bdt)

Moderator,

Rev. Marla Bauler