

January 21 & 28, 2024

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

As you might have noticed by now, I love love love Lent. I actually love Easter – it's my favorite holiday – so it stands to reason that I love Lent, the time between Ash Wednesday and Easter.

Lent is often overlooked in Protestant churches, which have historically considered it a Catholic holiday. I think that's a huge mistake. Lent is a time in which we remember the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness being tempted by Satan, the time between his baptism by John the Baptizer and the beginning of his public ministry.

We tend to think of Lent as a time when we give something up. "I gave that up for Lent" is a common refrain, and something we kind of like to say because, if we're being honest, it makes us sound and feel virtuous. The idea is that we give up something we really like for those 40 days as a sign of sacrifice and to test our self-discipline, reminiscent of Jesus' sacrifice in the wilderness.

I used to give something up for Lent every year. I'd give up chocolate, or Dr. Pepper, or gossiping with my friends. One particularly harrowing Lent when I was 15, I gave up Tiger Beat magazine. But I was always eager for Lent to be over so I could jump right back to whatever it was I'd given up. I never thought about whether I could actually do without whatever it was for longer than the 40 days, or maybe forever. Instead, I counted down the days like I was waiting for the end of a prison term.

The day I realized that's what I was doing is the day I stopped giving things up for Lent. Instead, I now treat Lent as a time to get even closer to Jesus. To read the scriptures about his journey to the cross again, to try to see them in a new way, to try to find even more ways to shine his light in an ever-darkening world. And while I sure don't judge anyone who still practices giving something up for Lent, I've brought my enthusiasm for new Lent practices to FPC Hutchinson, and for the past two years, we've explored these 40 sacred days together, starting with Ash Wednesday and continuing through the joyous celebration of Easter.

We have some new plans for Lent this year, and some familiar rituals as well. You'll be getting more information about all of it in the next couple of weeks. I hope you're as excited about it as I am.

Blessings and hope,  
Pastor Christy



## INDEX

PAGE 2

CONNECT  
BIRTHDAYS  
PRAYER  
SUNDAY  
SCHOOL  
ANNUAL  
MEETING

PAGE 3

A THOUGHT  
FROM KEITH

PAGE 4

PARISH  
PERSONALS  
CHRISTMAS  
OUTREACH  
OFFICE NOTES

PAGE 5

HALLELUJAH  
CORNER  
BLOOD DRIVE  
KID ZONE

## CONNECT WITH US

We want to encourage you to make church a priority and join us in person on Sundays at 8:15, W@9 or 10:30 a.m. If you are unable to attend, we have our:

**RADIO MINISTRY Sundays at 10:30 a.m. on KHUT 102.9, and  
W@9 ONLINE at [fpchutch.org](http://fpchutch.org).**

Your prayers and financial support are vital to our work and ministry. God is still at work! Offering boxes are positioned in the sanctuary, or you can mail in your offering or sign up to give online at [fpchutch.org](http://fpchutch.org).

**We are the Church!**

## BIRTHDAYS

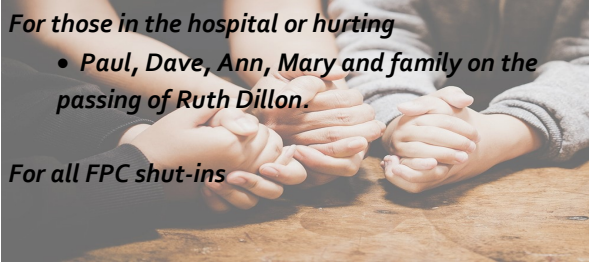
21 Karen Hitchcock	28 Marjorie Blakeslee
21 Greg Munds	30 Michael Woods
22 Cheryl Hindman	31 Dan Forker
23 Sherry Nevius	31 Cheryl Robertson
23 Alex Iseman	31 AJ Hop
24 Don Graves	1 Olivia DeMeyer
25 Chris Armstrong	2 Mel Dower
25 Julie Kimmel	

## KEEP IN PRAYER

*For those in the hospital or hurting*

- *Paul, Dave, Ann, Mary and family on the passing of Ruth Dillon.*

*For all FPC shut-ins*



## SUNDAY SCHOOL

On February 11, we will begin a new Sunday School class. We will explore the Holy Spirit and hopefully learn about the ways He wants to be active in our lives. The class will meet in the large conference room. The class will be from 9:30 - 10:20, and be facilitated by fellow students, Dave Weidensaul and Judy Ontjes. All are welcome.

## ANNUAL MEETING



**Annual Congregational Meeting  
Sunday, January 28, 2024**

Immediately following 10:30 worship

Annual report booklets will be available to pick up at the church on January 21 and during the week.



# FOLLOWING

GOD'S PLAN

The longer that I have Christ the more I realize that no matter how all over the place you are in your life, your purpose that God created you for, is still your purpose. I have been there and got the t-shirt when it comes to being all over the place but the wonderful thing is that as Christians, God's handywork is perfect and the things God has prepared for us to do is still the same. So even if you have been totally missing the mark, just know, God hits a moving target! That always gave me such hope! Often, God will step in and disrupt our best laid plans. Look at Paul and his Damascus Road experience. His plans changed in an instance after his encounter with God. Suddenly he was being told to get up and go to Damascus and there you will be told everything that you have been assigned to do. What you have to realize is that it wasn't until Paul obeyed God's first set of instructions that he got to the next point of his transformational story. The question that we need to ask sometimes is, do we stay stuck longer in a place because we haven't followed God's instructions when He says, get up and go?

I believe that Paul's whole encounter with Jesus can be summed up with "GET UP AND GO." I came to realize that like Paul, there was only one question to ask: "What should I do Lord?" The Lord repeated the message of "GO" and that's what he did. He knew the danger he would face but he trusted God and he went. As he spoke to the crowd a mob got mad and wanted to kill him. I think if I was in Paul's shoes I would have taken off as fast as I could but he stood his ground. I find it interesting that Paul let them know he was a Roman citizen and it wasn't legal for them to be attacking him. Paul was like, look nah, I was born a Roman citizen and y'all are out of line trying to do this.

Now I have to say that Paul wasn't afraid to be beaten for Christ, but he also wasn't afraid to exercise his legal rights to escape illegitimate punishment and take his case and message to a higher authority. Paul didn't know what was going to happen next, he just knew that he had to be obedient. Paul had to follow the first set of instructions before he could get the next set of instructions. A lot of us want to know God's purpose for our lives, but we missing it because we haven't done what He first told us to do. My friends, I want to encourage you to follow God in faith throughout 2024. Hear from Him and go do what He is asking you to do. Then get ready to hear the next part of the journey.

When we show God how serious we are about pursuing Him, then He can begin to guide us, direct us, and order our steps. But we must do the two-step first. When Paul asked, "What should I do Lord?" The Lord answered him with specific instructions. So, we know that the instructions God gave you to do are specific. Do them in faith. Be serious about your faith walk. Stop letting the world make you think you can dip in and out of obedience to God. We can be like Paul, someone who had a pretty rough past, who was moving all around persecuting Jesus and anyone who believed in Jesus. But God hit that moving target on a road to Damascus. And God used Paul in a mighty way to save people. The question is; "Are you being Saul or Paul in your life right now?" Follow the two steps so that you can be used by God in a powerful way.

## PARISH PERSONALS

- Our deepest sympathy goes out to Paul Dillon, Dave & Dee, Ann & Rob, Mary & Jon, and all family and friends on the January 6 passing of Ruth Dillon.
- Dear Presbyterian Church,  
I wanted to send a small note, but a huge thank you for the lovely card and wonderful gift cards. Your support has meant so much to us at Lincoln-McCandless. We appreciate your continued prayers.  
- Kathy Taylor, School Counselor
- Brothers and Sisters of First Presbyterian Church,  
I've been at HMS-7 for seven years now, and your sustained kindness and generosity to us is like BRIGHT light. Indeed, His light shines into the darkness. Thank you for making it lighter for us.  
- Brian
- Thank you for participating in the Leave the Lights On this year. The total food collected from 16 different churches in Reno County was 9,565 pounds with First Presbyterian Church collecting the MOST food at 1,579 pounds. So Way to Go FPC!!!  
- Reno County Food Bank

## CHRISTMAS OUTREACH

Thank you to the entire church for all the support of the Christmas Outreach Project 2023. It was another successful year of helping over 39 families from all over Reno County and many students from our neighboring school, HMS 7, in filling their supply closet up with basic essentials. Our generous congregation raised \$21,711.00 to help support this amazing project which allowed these families to have a Christmas. Forty-two members of our church volunteered to shop for our families and helped deliver the gifts. We are hoping that the FPC Outreach Project Funds can continue to be used to help others when needs come up throughout the entire year. Thank you to the entire congregation for your support!

## CHURCH OFFICE NOTES

### *Chimes* Note

Deadline for next issue of *Chimes* will be **10:00 a.m. Monday, January 29**, for the issue covering February 4–17.

### Chancel Flower Calendar

**February 4, 11, 18, & 25 and March 3, 24, & 31** are open dates on the 2024 chancel flower calendar. If you would like to provide flowers for worship one of these days, please contact Brittany in the church office: [brittany@fpchutch.org](mailto:brittany@fpchutch.org) or 620-665-5549, ext. 1, by the preceding Monday.

## HALLELUJAH CORNER

- Congratulations to parents, Tyler & Katie Fee, as well as grandparents, Allen & Kriss Fee and family on the birth of baby Emma Jane Fee, born on January 10. She joins the family with Kennedy and Grace.

*Hallelujah*  
CORNER

## BLOOD DRIVE



**American  
Red Cross**

**Hutchinson Community  
Battle of the Badges Blood Drive**

**Sat., Jan. 27**

New Covenant Presbyterian Church

**Mon., Jan.29 to Wed., Jan 31**

First Presbyterian Church

**Schedule your appointment today!**

RedCrossBlood.org | Blood Donor App

Sponsor Code: **Hutchinson**

**BATTLE  
OF THE  
BADGES**

## KID ZONE

**WHEN?** Sundays at W@9 and 10:30 worship ..... **WHO?** K thru 6th grades

Our aim is to provide a fun, exciting and great learning experience for children. Enjoy our rotational style

KidZone where they will learn the story through different experiences over the month. Children start off in worship and then leave for their activities.



- Art • Bible Skills Games • Cooking • Cinema • Science Lab



# A New Year, To Put Jesus First

by Margaret Cagle

We welcome the entrance  
Of another new year.  
A time to take inventory  
Is once again here.

We count our successes.  
We remember failures too.  
We desire to improve  
In everything that we do.

Let's strive to be better  
Servants for our Lord God  
And be a blessing to others  
As on life's road we trod.

A new year to serve Jesus,  
For that we should rejoice.  
May He top our priority list.  
May serving Him be first choice.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
201 EAST SHERMAN  
HUTCHINSON, KANSAS 67501

phone: 620-665-5549  
e-mail: [fpchutch.org](mailto:fpchutch.org)  
web site: [www.fpchutch.org](http://www.fpchutch.org)

