

January 7 & 14, 2024

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

New Year's blessings to all as we enter into 2024! As I've mentioned from the pulpit a couple of times now, we are going to be spending much of this year focusing on Jesus... but not in a reading Bible stories in Sunday School sort of way.

We're going to be focusing on ALL of Jesus. As a teacher, as a healer, as God, as man, his gentle and loving side, and the side of him that was unafraid to speak truth to power, to stand up to injustice, to call out wrongdoing when he saw it, and above all, we're going to focus on the whole Jesus, the Son of God, the long-prophesied Messiah who was sent to earth to bring us back into right relationship with God.

We're going to focus on OUR Jesus, the one who means so much to so many around the world – and has for generations – and the Jesus who has a personal relationship with each of us.

There is a lot we don't know about Jesus, and a lot we will never know about Jesus. All that has been written about him that has been discovered so far has been in the four Gospels of the Bible: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. No other written evidence has yet been uncovered that reveals anything about him.

Even the Bible leaves large gaps in his life story – from the time Mary and Joseph found him in the temple (Luke 2: 41-52), when he would have been about 12 years old, we read nothing about Jesus' life until he is baptized by John the baptizer and begins his public ministry, when he would have been about 30.

And naturally, we're incredibly curious about those years. What was he like growing up? What was it like for Mary and Joseph's other kids, having Jesus as a brother? ("Oh sure, the MESSIAH doesn't have to take the garbage out. NO FAIR!") What was he like as a teenager? Did he have zits? Did the other kids in Galilee try to get him to bring their dead pets back to life? What was he like in his 20s?

But maybe the reason we aren't told these things is that they don't matter. Maybe it's because in those years, Jesus was truly just like the rest of us, living a regular, mundane life, just being human, until God was ready for him to step into his role as teacher, rabbi, healer... as the Messiah. And after that, we have plenty to learn about him.

I hope you'll enjoy the coming year as we delve into the life and ministry of Jesus. And may your 2024 be filled with all the blessings your heart can hold.

Much love,
Pastor Christy



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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.**

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.

We are the Church!

BIRTHDAYS

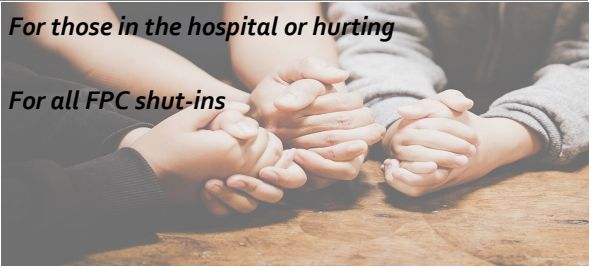
7	Guy Kass	16	Todd Wilson
7	Kyle Keast	16	Israel Vasquez
8	Roberta Price	20	Claire Barnes
9	Reita Krebaum		
10	Stan Barker		
12	Carolie Ediger		
15	Keith Neill		
15	Taryn Horbotowicz		



KEEP IN PRAYER

For those in the hospital or hurting

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. Go to the east entrance, come up the steps and it's the second door on the left. The class will be from 9:30 - 10:20, and be facilitated by fellow students, Dave Weidensaul and Judy Ontjes. All are welcome.

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





Hi everyone! Can you believe that we are now in 2024? Another year is gone and we wonder what this new year will look like. This is a great time for us to perhaps step back and ask ourselves if there are changes, we need to make in our walk with the Lord. I think it was A.W. Tozer who said, “We are as close to God right now, as we want to be,” which is so true. We make the decisions that either bring us closer to God or make Him more distant. Like a Facebook friend you don’t really know or spend any quality time with. It’s a good thing to stop every once in a while, and take a personal inventory. “Am I where I want to be with God?” “Have I reached my potential in Him?” Personally, I want to be closer to Him this time next year than I am right now. A lot of people kick off the New Year with gusto and are determined to be different. But soon that gusto evaporates and very thing returns to way it always has bee. Many Christians fall into that same pattern. A new year and a new desire to grow closer to God can fade over time. So how do we make sure we follow through with our hope and desire to know God better in 2024?

I think that we need to commit to some daily disciplines to help us through the year. Prayer, reading our bibles, serving others as got to be a few of the important things that happen in our daily lives. We often feel overwhelmed when we think of prayer. But I remember hearing someone say that; “A man is no greater than his personal prayer life.” That is such a true statement. Our prayer life needs to begin with us. Our entire spiritual walk flows from our personal prayer life. Look, it makes sense that if I’m not spending time talking to God about me, I won’t be talking to God about others. Prayer is hard for so many of us and I have to challenge myself to give an amount of time in prayer every day. By spending time talking to God, you will find your life changed. That’s why it is so important, and I know that I still struggle at times to remain consistent in my prayer life.

Spending time in the scriptures is so important and we all know that, but we don’t all do it. Spending regular time in the Word of God is a must for every believer. Jesus said it best, “Man does not live by bread alone, but every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.” (Matt 4:4) We have talked about this before but we will keep on repeating ourselves because reading, studying, and mediating on the Word of God feeds and satisfy your soul. Again, the challenge we all face is doing it daily. I also want to encourage you to keep serving as it is vital to your spiritual growth. Jesus told us to give and it will be given to us; Luke 6:38. When we give of our time, money, and energy, you will experience the flood gates of heaven opening up and filling our lives. It makes sense that we have to give and serve to make room for more. Otherwise, we will just become spiritually fat and lazy! Ask the Lord, “How can I serve You more?” He’ll show you. He is waiting to hear from you. We all have been given the same 24 hours in each day – now it’s up to us to use them. My prayer is that you will experience the Gods blessings in 2024, as you live and serve the Lord.

PARISH PERSONALS

- Hi dear friends,
We think of you often and remember with joy our time with you. We keep up with you through the Chimes and Facebook. We are proud of the work you are doing. If you are up our way come by and see us.
- All our love, Tim & Debbie
- First Presbyterian,
Thank you! We greatly appreciate your recent giftings of cards for the staff. What a huge blessing your church has been for our staff. It takes a village to be present for these kids—you all are a part of our village—encouraging us to keep fighting for them and with them! The Lord loves them!
- Lincoln McCandless

SOUP KITCHEN

- Happy New Year!
On Thursday, December 21, 2023, FPC Deacons and friends helped at the Soup Kitchen. Volunteers were; Angel Hanlicek, Harry Smith, Jane Harrison, Bob Callahan, Shari and Kevin Schuessler, Laura and Martin Miller, and Sam Ontjes. Dillon's donated sandwiches, chips and fruit to go with the pizza and goodies sacked by FPC volunteers. Another church helped with the deliveries on the south route. A total of eighty meals were packaged in preparation of serving at the Soup Kitchen and home delivery. As 2023 comes to a close and 2024 begins we look forward to new Deacons and friends helping with this ministry. Thank you to all who helped in 2023!

Serving with you,
FPC Deacons



CHURCH OFFICE NOTES

Chimes Note

Deadline for next issue of *Chimes* will be **10:00 a.m. Monday, January 15**, for the issue covering January 21—February 3.

Chancel Flower Calendar

January 14 & 28 and February 4, 11, 18, & 25 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 or 620-665-5549, ext. 1, by the preceding Monday.

SALTHAWK COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Salthawk Community Support

presents

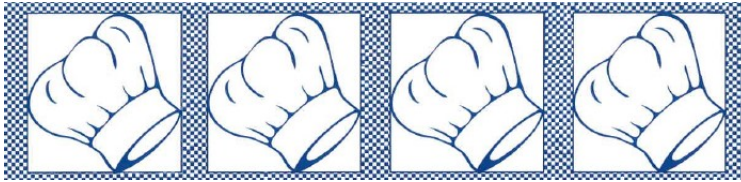
"A Taste of Hutchinson - The Men Cook"!!!!

Saturday, January 20, 7:00 - 8:30

Hutchinson Art Center - 5th and Washington

Come experience delicious tastes of appetizers and entrees prepared and served by some of Hutchinson's finest gentlemen – in fact, FPC is well represented by Sam Buttram, Dan Fee, Kirk Johnson, Guy Kass, Scott Meggers and Joe Ontjes. Tickets are \$45 per person and can be purchased at Apron Strings, The Wool Market, online at trinityhutch.org or at the door the night of the event. Funds raised help to assure the financial future of the program at Hutchinson High School, and Hutchinson Middle School 8. SCS encourages students to be engaged in school by providing supportive counseling, mentors, programs that encourage a positive atmosphere, meeting basic needs and more.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A FABULOUS EVENING!!!!



MESSY CHURCH

Reminder!

Messy Church is on the third Thursday of each month. We hope to see you on January 18 from 5:45—7:00 pm.





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