

The PRESbyterian

"Learning, Loving, Giving--Christ Alive in the Believer"

January 2025

Volume LIV, Issue 1

Prayer Concerns

Mary Ellen Beans, 2844 Tabor Ridge Rd, NE, Mineral City 44656

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Reaffirmation of Baptism

Join us in service on **January 12** as we come together as a congregation to remember and reaffirm our baptisms like Jesus. A special time to remember where the LORD is leading us and where he has brought us from for his great work!

Christmas Decorations

Starting on **January 5** we will start the process of taking down the church Christmas decorations. Any help would be much appreciated!



Tables of Eight

Tables of Eight meal will resume on Saturday, January 18th at 6pm in the church fellowship hall. The menu has yet to be decided, but the cost is \$10 per person. All are welcome! Bring a friend! We do ask that you RSVP to Carolyn Berry or the church office.

Jack's House of Hope Construction to Begin Soon

Construction for the new homeless shelter is slated to begin after the new year. Parking will be a little different. We will still have parking in the lot directly behind the church, but there is also the additional gravel lot that goes to the alley as well as street parking in front of the church.

Jack's House of Hope Capital Campaign Project

Our church will be accepting donations toward the "Jack's House of Hope Capital Campaign"- the county homeless shelter renovation. We have already raised \$2070 toward their effort! Any who wish to contribute may mail their donations to the church office, give them during the Sunday offering, or visit the Friends of the Homeless website to donate online (<https://fohtusc.org/hoh/>).



Pastor's Corner

We have prepared, and accepted preparation from the LORD, to witness his light coming into the world. The arrival of Jesus Christ marks the season of Christmas and is such a triumph to celebrate which is why ancient Christians celebrated it for twelve days straight. These "Twelve Days of Christmas" are something we of the modern era could benefit by reacquainting ourselves with to truly settle into and appreciate the divine gift among us. Most people think Christmas is over the moment the presents are opened, the roast dinner is devoured, and the tree and decorations come down. But it makes the season more anti-climactic than it should be. Now is when we should be contemplating, seeing, and testifying to the Word of the LORD, the light of the divine, present in our world. Seeing the weight that Jesus Christ is to bring all things close to him and prepare us for the LORD's plans in the coming year.

And these are works that are not impossible, for nothing is impossible with Christ! Yet they help us understand what is better, longer lasting, and truly impactful for our time in this world. Outlined by St. Paul in Colossians 3:1-17:

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory. Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. But now you must get rid of all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all! As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

All that is virtuous, all that is beneficial, all that we need to succeed in our Christian commitments is available not because of any specific teaching, ritual, or action. All is made available because we already decided to seek after Christ, knowing that he has something that nothing else can provide. That he can make us into individuals, as a people, who can serve and represent all that the Kingdom of God promises in our community. Knowing that Jesus is the visible image of the invisible LORD makes us see everything so differently. Jesus is a king, prophet, priest, teacher, and guide but is also none of those things. He is more than those things, the ultimate version of what those positions are for proper order to enter the lives of the faithful. On our own we can do nothing good, but Jesus ensures we have access to the divine toolbox so we might live with a better and healthier purpose.

In this season of Christmas, within this opportunity to focus on what is in our lives, is a chance to see through the chaos of the world, and of others, and witness what divine order is. What it brings, what it nurtures, and pulls into our lives by our mere proximity and relationship to this anchor of the LORD. Allow Jesus to anchor your lives and wants, to bring to your minds and homes the things that are virtuous, so you might recognize for the year ahead what will be for your good and what will only lead to ill. **-Rev. Joe**

Sunday Study Group

Join us **Sunday Mornings at 9:15am** for our study group! We are changing up the format from a book study to a current events discussion group, understanding what is happening in our world through a faith perspective. Anyone, and everyone, is welcome to join!



Friends of the Homeless Meal

Our monthly Friends of the Homeless dinner will be on **January 12** at 6pm. We are in need of volunteers to help, and a sign-up sheet is available in the church office. We are fully funded for the monthly meals, but if you would like to give consider donating toward FOTH General Operations of the Jack's House of Hope Project.

ONLINE MINISTRY

All online worship content (including pastor's messages, bulletins, and newsletters) are available on the church website (www.newphilapc.org). Mailings of weekly services are available upon request to the church office.

Church Brunch

We will be having our monthly church brunch on **January 5th** during our fellowship time after service. Invite a friend to enjoy the hospitality and fellowship our church offers!

Cookies for Sundays!

What's your favorite cookie? Do you have a recipe you just love to make? Every Sunday (except for the first Sunday of the month) we have cookies and coffee in the fellowship hall following the service. Would you like to bring cookies to share? They can be home baked, purchased from a bakery, store bought—it doesn't matter! Sign up in the church office!



Greeters and Ushers

We need volunteers for liturgists, worship stewards, greeters/ushers, and cookies each Sunday. A sign-up sheet is available in the office to volunteer, or you may call the church office to sign up.

Session Members:

Class of 2025: Renee Miskimmin (clerk), Craig Stewart

Class of 2026: Ethelyn Ann Eichel, Gail Hedges

Class of 2027: Doug McIntire, Sally Walker

Deacon Members:

Class of 2025: Carolyn Berry

Class of 2026: Jackie Stutz

Class of 2027: Bonnie Majewski

Office Hours:

8:00am-3:00pm Monday - Thursday
Closed: Friday

Church Email and Phone:

office@newphilapc.org
330-343-7114

Our Church:

Sunday School: 9:15am

Worship Service: 10:30am

Bible Study: Wednesdays at 10:00am in the pastor's office

Do you have something to add to the newsletter? Please call or email the church office by the 20th of the month for placement in the following newsletter.

January 2025

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

EVERY SUNDAY 9:15am- Sunday Study Group 10:30am- Worship Service followed by coffee and cookies in the fellowship hall			1 Happy New Year! Offices Closed 8pm- AA Meeting	2	3 Office Closed	4
5 Communion Brunch following the service--ALL Welcome!	6	7	8 10am- Bible Study 8pm- AA Meeting	9	10 Office Closed	11
12 6pm- FoH Meal	13	14	15 10am- Bible Study 8pm- AA Meeting	16	17 Office Closed	18 6pm Tables of Eight Dinner
19	20 MLK, Jr. Day Offices Closed	21 7pm- Session Meeting	22 10am- Bible Study 8pm- AA Meeting	23	24 Office Closed	25
26	27 6pm FoH Board Meeting	27 7pm Finance Meeting	29 10am- Bible Study 8pm- AA Meeting	30	31 Office Closed	

January Birthdays: 11th- Angele Chamberlain; 20th- Hannah Miles; 30th- Michele Davis

No January Anniversaries.