



The Good News Letter

We have moved into a new year, and this past season of Advent and Christmas has certainly flown by. Technically, Christmas begins on December 25th and ends on January 6th, the Day of Epiphany. We've probably already celebrated the visit of the magi to the baby Jesus, but through the ages the Church has celebrated this on January 6th. As is typical of our culture and most of us, we are impatient and rush through the season, so that January 6th has lost its meaning for most. The wise men have made their visit and are long gone—at least in some of our hearts. There is certainly a lesson here in how we view time.

Dr. Paul Kalanithi has written a memoir, **When Breath Becomes Air**. He was a neurosurgeon who had just completed a decade of training when he was diagnosed with lung cancer. One day he was treating the dying, and the next he was a patient, fighting for his own life. He had worked so hard to save others, and now he had to learn how to die. Unfortunately, he died 22 months after his diagnosis. Kalanithi wrote his book as a gift to share what he went through. In it he talks about the nature of time.

He writes, "Time for me is now double-edged: every day brings me further from the low of my last relapse, but closer to the next reoccurrence—and eventually death. Perhaps later than I think, but sooner than I desire. There are, I imagine, two responses to that realization. The most obvious might be an impulse to frantic activity: to 'live life to the full,' to travel, to dine, to achieve a host of neglected ambitions. Part of the cruelty of cancer, though, is not only that it limits your time; it also limits your energy, vastly reducing the amount you can squeeze into a day...I plod, I ponder. Some days, I simply persist...."

"As a surgeon, focused on a patient in the OR, I might have found the position of the clock's hands arbitrary, but I never thought them meaningless. Now the time of day means nothing, the day of the week scarcely more. Medical training is relentlessly future-oriented, all about delayed gratification: you're always thinking about what you'll be doing five years down the line. But now I don't know what I'll be doing five years down the line. I may be dead. I may not be. I may be healthy. I may be writing. I don't know. And so it's not all that useful to spend time thinking about the future—that is, beyond lunch."

Perhaps there are two lessons we can draw from Dr. Kalanithi's perspective. One is that death is not far away from any of us. Because of the good news in Jesus Christ, death has lost its sting. We need not fear death. Rather, its nearness can help us to value our moments, to see how precious our time is. Second, we may see that there is a difference between time determined by our clocks and the meaning of time. Someone in our congregation told me they lose track of what time it is in our worship service and how long the service is taking. Instead, they said they become immersed in the meaning of what is going on. This is akin to living in the moment, being aware of what is going on now—not worrying about the future and past—but being aware of the meaning of the present. This is where God speaks most clearly to us.

These would be worthy goals for our New Year—to value our time and look for its meaning in the now—to be in the moment especially when we are with one another.

God's peace be with you in the New Year,

Paul

Pastor Paul





Church & Community



Our Sunday Worship Schedule and Live Streaming Services

9:15-10:00 (adults) -10:20 (children)

10:30 a.m. ~ Worship Service

11:30 to 12:00 ~ Fellowship

January 1st ~ Worship ~ 1st Sunday of Christmas

January 8th ~ Worship ~ Baptism of the Lord

Ordination & Installation of New Officers

January 15th ~ Worship ~ 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

January 22nd ~ Worship ~ 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

January 29th ~ Worship ~ 4th Sunday after Epiphany



The Lord's Supper in December

We will be celebrating the Lord's Supper on January 8th. If you are an ordained Elder or Deacon, you can serve communion. If you are interested in serving, please sign up. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex, or call the church office at 605-347-2395.

Office Hours

Church office hours are Monday—Friday, 8:00 a.m. to Noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Pastor Paul will usually be in the office Monday through Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Please feel free to give the church office a call with any questions or concerns at 605-347-2395. If you need to reach us after hours you can call either Pastor Paul at 701-535-0610 or Carla at 605-423-6034.

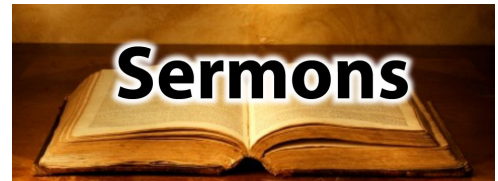


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You may also join us on Facebook Live Sunday mornings by going to <https://www.facebook.com/FirstPresbyterianSturgis>. The service will also be viewed on our website, www.fpcsturgissd.com, a short time after 11:30 a.m.



If you would like to receive a written copy of the sermon, please let the church know at 605-347-2395 and you will be added to the mailing list.



Church Meeting



- Jan. 2nd ~ 5:00pm ~ Worship
- Jan. 2nd ~ 6:00 p.m. ~ Mission
- Jan. 5th ~ 12:00 p.m. ~ Alliance of Churches
- Jan. 5th ~ 1:30pm ~ PW Circle
- Jan. 9th ~ 5:00 p.m. ~ Welcoming
- Jan. 9th ~ 6:00pm ~ Finance, Personnel & Stewardship
- Jan. 16th ~ 6:00pm ~ Building & Grounds
- Jan. 16th ~ 7:00pm ~ Session/Deacons Joint Meeting



Church & Community

A Reminder about Annual Reports!

Every committee and organization under the umbrella of the church needs to provide the church office with an annual report. Those that are typed, and especially those sent to the church office as email attachments, or even those within the body of the email are greatly appreciated.

Each report should be concise. Usually, it needs to be no longer than a page in length. If what you need to say can be said in a paragraph, that is fine. Please list those who served on your committee. Make sure that your heading gives the name of your committee or organization and that this is the Annual Report for 2022. It is appropriate to get them in as soon as possible after January 1, and the deadline for annual reports is **January 20th**. And THANKS!



Celebrating Epiphany

Epiphany, from the Greek word *epiphaneia*, means an appearance or manifestation. Christians celebrate this festival each year on January 6, the 12th day after Christmas. Epiphany ends on Ash Wednesday, when Lent begins.

Epiphany marks the coming of the Magi, or wise men, to worship the baby Jesus. Because the Magi were Gentiles, Epiphany symbolizes the first recognition of Christ by non-Jews. It's a reminder that Christ came as the light--and Savior--of the whole world.

The traditional color for Epiphany is green, indicating life, growth, hope and eternity. Symbols for the season include a light, candle, star, crown, gifts and a globe. Epiphany has become a time for reaching out and "showing" Jesus as the Savior of all people. It's also a reminder to engage in Christian community and to heal divisions.



Church & Community



Happy New Year! We are blessed and excited to continue monthly meetings for fun, fellowship, and Bible Study.

December 2, 2022 the members of PW assembled and delivered Christmas Cookie Trays to Cookie trays were assembled for 16 individuals and 4 Senior Care Facilities. Thank you to all who donated cookies.

Monument Health: Massa and Berry Units
Aspen Grove
Key City
Mountain View

Unwrapped toys were also donated to the Toys for Tots program. We are fortunate to continue support of organizations in our community.

[The next meeting will be held Thursday, January 5, 2023 at 130PM. Study will be Chapter 2, "The Great Gratitude Fade Out" Deuteronomy 8:6-18. Hostess: Dedi LaRue. All are welcome to attend.](#)



Beth Bauer, Betty Nettleton, & Brenda Schaffer preparing gifts for the CISS in Sturgis from the PW.



Thank You

Presbyterian Women,

We Sincerely thank you for your generous donation to United Way of the Black Hills. We are facing unprecedented times, and your donation will provide hope to those who need it most in your community.

Thanks to your donation, we are able to help member in our community through; access to quality food, affordable transportation for senior citizens to get to their medical appointments, affordable mental health and counseling services, and more!

Thank you for your continued support...

With gratitude,
Jamie Toennies
Executive Director
United Way of the Black Hills

Dear First Presbyterian Church of Sturgis Members:

On behalf of the Fort Meade-VA Black Hills HCS (568) patients and staff, we would like to extend our appreciation to you for your donation of clothing and comfort items for the Veterans at the TR House in Sturgis.

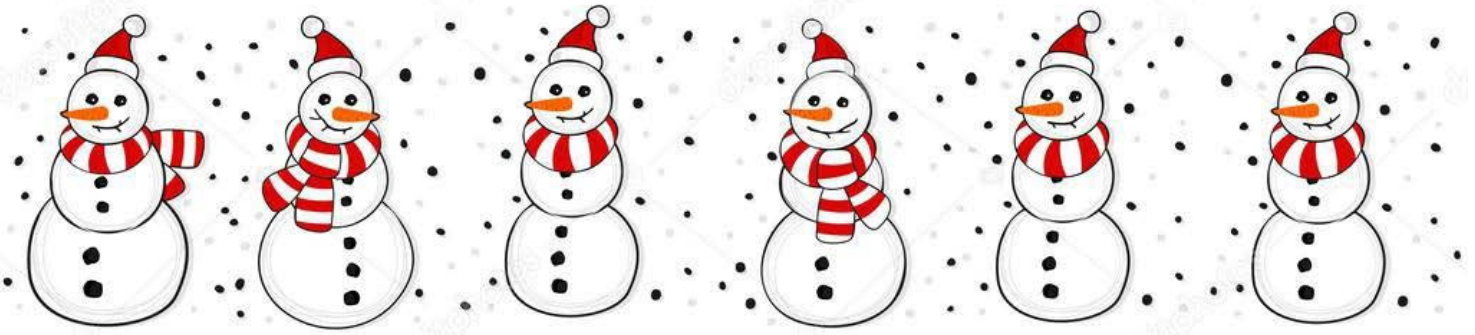
It is through the efforts of community partners like you that allow us to continue the quality care and services that we seek to provide for our deserving Veterans. We look forward to the opportunity to work with you again for future events.

Thank you for your continued support and advocacy.

Sincerely,
Melody Wouden
Voluntary Services Specialist

Thank you so much. The tray of goodies was so special—of course they were good. They were made by Presbyterians!!!

Mimi



Happy New Year!

A New Year- an opportunity for resolutions, a new beginning. This year let us strive to have courage and be kind. This project has been an avenue to express kindness to others; what will 2023 bring?

Total 2018	3164 pounds
Total 2019	2371 pounds
Total 2020	818 pounds
Total 2021	1227 pounds
January – March 2022	226 pounds
April 2022-June 2022	218 pounds
July 2022 – September 2022	217 pounds
October 2022	65 pounds

January's suggested items:

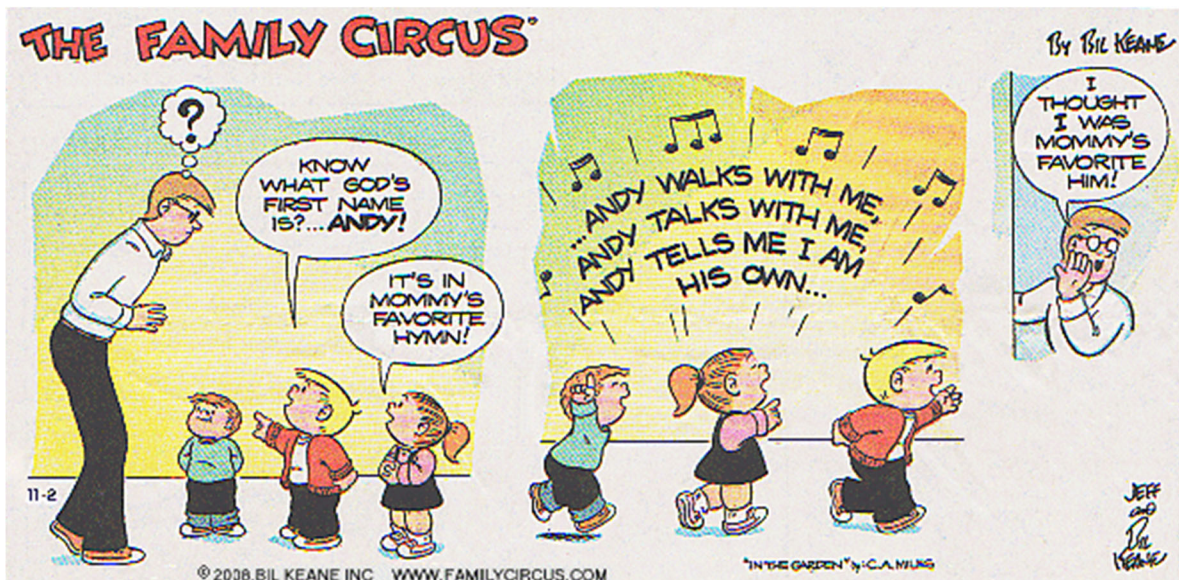
January 1	Peanut Butter
January 8	Jelly
January 15	Casserole Ingredients
January 22	Cake/Brownie Mixes
January 29	Saltine Crackers

Approximately 220 families continue utilize the Food Pantry on a monthly basis. The appreciation of the visitors to the Food Pantry, both customers and volunteers, is priceless. If you wish to make a monetary donation please designate "Food Pantry" on the memo line of your check or offering envelope.

Please also continue to save Lynn's Dakota Mart receipts; the money received through this program is utilized for purchase of regularly stocked products at the Food Pantry. For each \$10,000 in receipts the Food Bank receives \$100.

Please feel free to contact me at 605-490-3078 or betty.nettleton@gmail.com if you have any questions or suggestions. Thank you for your continued support!

Betty Nettleton



Devotion

January 2023 Daily Bible Reading – Heaven

Just as Mary Joseph, and the baby Jesus were exiled sojourners in Egypt when Herod sought to kill Jesus, the Bible states that we too are sojourners. We are travelers through this world; this world is not our home. Through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, we Christians are joint heirs with Him in eternity. While we're not given a complete picture of heaven, the Bible gives us some information. We learn it is God's house, His dwelling place, a city designed and built by Him, a better country. We learn that Christ is there and Christians will join Him there. Please join me this month in learning more about heaven. Love, Trish

Day 1 John 11:25-27
Day 2 I Peter 1:3-7
Day 3 Philippians 3:12-21
Day 4 John 3:16-17
Day 5 Matthew 18:1-5
Day 6 Psalm 33:11-15
Day 7 Hebrews 11:8-16
Day 8 John 10:24-30
Day 9 Philippians 1:20-24
Day 10 2 Corinthians 5:1-10
Day 11 Colossians 1:15-22
Day 12 Matthew 5:14-16
Day 13 John 17:1-5
Day 14 John 14:1-4
Day 15 Psalm 103:19-22
Day 16 I Corinthians 15:50-56

Day 17 Revelation 21:1-4
Day 18 Luke 10:16-20
Day 19 I John 2:15-17
Day 20 Romans 6:19-23
Day 21 John 3:31-36
Day 22 Acts 1:1-3
Day 23 Matthew 6:19-21
Day 24 Revelation 7:9-17
Day 25 I John 5:9-12
Day 26 Ephesians 2:4-10
Day 27 Acts 2:22-28
Day 28 Revelation 20:11-15
Day 29 Romans 8:35-39
Day 30 John 18:28-36
Day 31 Luke 23:32-43



January 1

Rowan Komes

Chris Looby

January 3

Trish Henderson

Leanne Sheely

January 4

Crosby Kaitfors

Carole Skalsky

January 6

Hondi Dunn

January 7

Tyler Woods

January 10

Kim Matz

January 11

Katie Ness

January 12

Guyla Ness

January 15

Tatum Hicks

January 17

Dorothy Quaal

January 18

Dee Ann Roth

Freda Wilson

January 23

Tillie Kaitfors

January 26

Linda Namminga

January 27

Lenya Holder

January 19

Hillary Hill



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1st Sunday of Christmas 1 10:30 a.m. Worship-Don Nettleton preaching 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Parish 2 New Year's Day	Church Office closed 5:00 p.m. Worship 6:00 p.m. Missions	3	4 11:30 a.m. Men's Lunch 4:00 p.m. Confirmation	5 12:00 p.m. AOC @Sturgis Christian 1:30 p.m. PW Circle	6 Epiphany of the Lord	7 10 a.m. Remove Christmas Decorations
Baptism of the Lord 8 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship/Comm/ Ordination & Installation of New Officers 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Parish 3	9 5:00 p.m. Welcoming 6:00 p.m. Finance & Personnel	10 9:00 a.m. Home Communion	11 11:30 a.m. Men's Lunch 4:00 p.m. Confirmation 4:45 p.m. Bells 5:30 p.m. Youth Group 7:00 p.m. Choir	12 5:30 pm Christian Education	13	14
2nd Sunday after Epiphany 15 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Parish 4	16 6:00 p.m. Bldg & Grds 7:00 p.m. Joint Ses- sion/Deacon M.L. King, Jr. Birthday	17	18 11:30 a.m. Men's Lunch 4:00 p.m. Confirmation 4:45 p.m. Bells 5:30 p.m. Youth Group 7:00 p.m. Choir	19	20 Annual Reports Due	21
3rd Sunday after Epiphany 22 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Parish 1	23 Newsletter Deadline	24	25 11:30 a.m. Men's Lunch 4:00 p.m. Confirmation 4:45 p.m. Bells 5:30 p.m. Youth Group 7:00 p.m. Choir	26	27 9:30 am Read to Mrs. Pankratz' class	28
4th Sunday after Epiphany 29 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Parish 2	30	31				