

First Presbyterian Church
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Return Service Requested

The Voice

First Presbyterian Church
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January 2026

To Know Him and To Make Him Known

Happy New Year!

As we soon pack away the Nativity sets and the last of the Christmas lights (but not until Epiphany, folks!), it is tempting to think of the celebrations of Jesus' birth as being behind us. However, it's quite the opposite. As we begin a new year, we are urged to carry the light of God's hope, peace, joy, and love to guide us on the upcoming journey. Because Christ is with us, we face the days of 2026 with a profound sense of comfort.

This year, our congregational theme is **With Confidence**, rooted in 1 Corinthians 16:13-14:

"Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love."

These five commands provide a perfect roadmap for a confident year. To "be on your guard" means protecting our hearts from the distractions and anxieties that so easily pull us away from God's presence. To "stand firm," "be courageous," and "be strong" remind us that our strength doesn't come from our circumstances, but from the solid rock of our salvation. "Do everything in love" reminds us that if we are strong and courageous but lack love, we miss the heart of the Gospel. Love is the ultimate expression of a confident faith – it is the evidence that we believe God guides us in all that we do.

It seems like a tall order, but **With Confidence**, as seen in scripture, isn't a call to self-reliance or pride. It's a call to a deep, unshakable trust in the character of God. As we navigate the challenges and opportunities of this

new year, we ground our hearts with the Lord's fortitude, on which we build our lives.

In the coming weeks, you will see new opportunities to engage with our community and grow in your discipleship. One such day is Sunday, January 11, as we gather for our annual Congregational Meeting. This meeting is more than just a recap from the last year. It is a time to celebrate all that God *is* doing in our community, and to boldly recommit to partaking in God's work. The meeting will be in the sanctuary immediately following worship.

In 2026, let us, **With Confidence**, step across the threshold of what has been, fixing our eyes on what is yet to come. May we be a people marked by a quiet confidence.

Be on your guard, stand firm, and let love lead the way.

Blessings,

Lex

JANUARY WORSHIP

January 4-Our Abundant Immanuel
Ephesians 1:3-14

January 11-*The Fear of the Lord*
Matthew 2:1-12

January 18-*A Fairytale Come True*
Matthew 3:13-17

January 25-*Called by Name*
1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Upcoming Events

- Thursday, January 1-New Year’s Day-Office Closed
- Sunday, January 11-Congregational Meeting following Worship
- Monday, January 12-Bible Study 12pm in Memorial Hall & on Zoom
- Tuesday, January 13-PW Circle at Anne McNeilly’s home 10am
- Monday, January 19-Martin Luther King Jr Day-Office Closed
- Tuesday, January 20-Session 7pm
- Monday, January 26-Bible Study 12pm in Memorial Hall & on Zoom

Treasurer’s Report-Year to Date through 11/30/25

	Actual	Budget	Over/Under
Income	418,297	403,783	14,514
Expenses			
Benevolences	24,981	27,689	(2,708)
Church Staff	182,831	221,746	(38,915)
Administrative	41,785	41,427	358
Worship	4,267	8,067	(3,800)
Christian Life	6,122	7,883	(1,761)
Property	56,222	63,633	(7,411)
Pastoral Care	-	275	(275)
Missional Outreach	575	2,475	(1,900)
Programs	2,163	2,639	(476)
Buddenbaum	4,745	4,583	162
	323,691	380,417	(56,726)
Net Total	94,606	23,366	71,240

The summary financial operating statement for the first eleven months of 2025 is presented above. Income was higher than expenses by \$94,606 as of 11/30/25. This is primarily explained by the fact that we were not fully staffed for much of the year. As we prepare to enter the new year, the finance committee and Session will finalize the 2026 budget in January. Please let me know if you have any questions, and thank you for your ongoing financial support of First Presbyterian.

Karen Durbin, Treasurer

January Birthdays

4~Maggie Igert	21~Maya Smith
5~Katrina Masek	22~Richard Glass
9~Oscar Gamble	23~Elisabeth Kelly
10~Debbie Long	25~Carolyn MacKay
12~Mike Golightly	26~Steve Blue
13~Jessiann McCarthy	30~Sam Marcum
15~Leslie Current	
15~David Peeples	
19~Anne McNeilly	
20~Richard Smith	
21~Finley Courtney	

January Anniversaries

1~Jon & Mary Hoy	
19~Andee & Royce English	

Lifelong Learning Class-January Schedule

The Lifelong Learning Class will continue its study of **Luther: Gospel, Law, and Reformation** into January, February, and March. This Great Courses study is led by Dr. Philip Cary.

The January lectures include the following topics:
January 4 -The Meaning of the Sacraments; **January 11**-The Indulgence Controversy; **January 18**-The Reformation Goes Public; **January 25**-The Captivity of the Sacraments

Please join us in Memorial Hall for an interesting discussion.

Wonderful Wednesdays

Wonderful Wednesdays will resume January 7 at 4:00pm with a new unit of study. Can't wait to share with our children!

Presbyterian Women (ALL women of the church)

The Presbyterian Women will be gathering on Tuesday, January 13, at 10am at the home of Anne McNeilly. Viola Blackwell will be leading us through Lesson Five of the Horizon's Bible study, "Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ." All women of the church are "Presbyterian Women" and are invited to join us for our monthly Bible study and projects.

In November, we collected over \$200 for the Thank Offering, which was submitted to the Presbyterian Women of Western Kentucky.

In December, a special thanks goes to all those who prepared cookies and candies for the Christmas tins which were delivered to out shut-ins. Our Wonderful Wednesday children made a corresponding Christmas card.

Thank you for all the beautiful poinsettias during the Advent season. The sanctuary was stunning.

Upcoming PW Projects:

Each quarter our church is assigned an item to be used by the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program for storm relief victims and also for school kits. In an effort to be fiscally responsible, we order the assigned items from Amazon and ship them directly to the Warehouse in Ferncliff, Arkansas. In January-March, we will be funding nail clippers and new pencils with erasers. Any and all donations made to First Presbyterian Women will allow us to increase our donations churchwide.

Chancel Flowers

If you would like to place flowers in the sanctuary on Sunday, please contact the church office. Flowers are needed for January 4, 18, 25 and February 8. A flower chart will be placed outside the office with available dates soon.

News from the Worship Committee:

- We will be taking down the Chrismon Tree the week of January 5th. If you would like to assist, please contact Chris Krueger for a scheduled time.
- We will be partaking in Communion on Sunday, January 11th.
- If you are interested in being an usher, please contact Sandra Dochniak.

Snow Removal

The property committee is looking for able bodied folks to help with the snow removal at church during the winter of 2025/2026. If we could have 10 people volunteer to help once or twice it would save the church approximately \$1500 to \$2000.

You would need your own snow shovel. We also need someone capable of clearing the parking lot with a tractor.

If you are willing to help please send your name and phone number to the church office at firstprespaducah@gmail.com. Hutch Smith will contact you if help is needed on a snow day.

Recycle your Glass jars & bottles

The Missional Outreach Committee recycles glass. All interested First Presbyterian families are welcome to participate. Former church member Paul Bilak founded this program several years ago by accepting glass to be recycled and periodically hauling it to Carbondale for processing. When Paul moved away, Hutch Smith took over the job.

If you want to participate, bring your clean glass in separate cardboard boxes, one for clear glass and one for colored glass and deliver them between now and January 12, 2026 to 323 Hilldale Road. Put your boxes on the table under the carport.

After January 12, collect and save your glass at your own house until Hutch issues the next “glass call.” There are usually 3 or 4 trips a year.

