



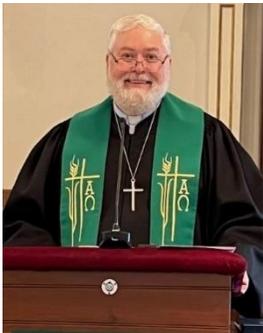
In the First Place!

A publication of First Presbyterian Church, Lancaster

Michael Denney, Pastor

Newsletter for January 2025

Volume 10 Number 1



Mike's Musings—

The Christmas season is past and a new year lies before us. The heavily augmented December calendar now subsides a bit, but not for long. In just a few weeks, our church will join with others for Ash Wednesday followed by the Lenten services each Wednesday night thereafter until the Wednesday of Holy Week. We have joined with our siblings in Christ from Gunns Chapel, Lancaster Christian, Lancaster Methodist, St. William and St. Sylvester for these times of worship and fellowship. The planning committee will meet in mid-January to finalize this year's program. I look forward to these times together as the Body of Christ.

But there is much to do in the interim. And, as we know all too well, Kentucky winter weather can change on a dime. I included on the second page some information regarding cancellations of activities. January gives us an orientation/organizational meeting of the deacons, a delayed Wonderful Wednesday because of the holiday schedule, the first Stated Meeting of Session for the calendar year and a called congregational meeting to consider changes to the Pastor's Terms of Call. So look for the month to be busy!

The sermons in January will focus on Epiphany, the Baptism of our Lord, the first miracle of Jesus at a wedding, and a discussion of the blueprint of his ministry. Having navigated the scant material of the nativity, we now graduate to the stories and descriptions of the adult Jesus and how they relate to us in our world. The sermon on January 26 focuses on Jesus' return to Nazareth and his reading of Isaiah 61 in the local synagogue. In that sermon I am going to explore the themes of Isaiah 61 and how Jesus interprets them in his time.

Speaking of which, I saw an article just the other day that the Garrard County Homeless Shelter is now open. There have been 6-8 individuals who have been utilizing the service. I have longed for the day when there would be a shelter here in our town and finally it has become a reality. Admittedly it has its critics...most of the things Jesus called us to do brings critics out of the woodwork. I also noted that the shelter has received a generous grant from the United Way that serves our area of the state. I commend Lynn Gibson and all the board of the shelter for their commitment to this work.

On a personal note, Cheryl and I join together in asking for your prayers for two families. One of Cheryl's lifelong friends lost her mother recently. I have known Mary almost as long as I have known Cheryl. Please pray for the family of Mary Cook. Also we have a dear friend (like family) in Texas who is in critical condition following recent surgery. We ask for your prayers for Pat Roney and her family. We pray that God will look with tender mercy.

I look forward to seeing you in worship as often as you are able. Your presence means much!

Grace and peace,

Mike

In Our Daily Prayers

- Family of Mary Cook
- Pat Roney
- Inez Dyehouse
- Hilda Saliba
- James Wiggins
- Read Baierlein
- Danielle Arnold

Special Needs

- Musician Search Committee

Walkers Trail—Danville

- Nancy Compton

McDowell Place—Danville

- Jeanette Aldridge
- Mary Lou White
- Mike Swaffar

Our Homebound

- Nancy Childers

Community Ministries We Support Financially

- Cooperative Parish
- Bluegrass Community Action
- CASA of Garrard County
- Garrard County Arts Council's Summer Arts Camp
- Garrard County Food Pantry
- Garrard County Homeless Coalition
- Garrard Ministerial Association
- Gideons International
- Habitat for Humanity
- Haven Care Pregnancy Center
- Manna Ministry
- Presbytery of Transylvania Unified Mission Program
- UP with Youth
- Urban Village

Church Elders, Deacons, Officers and Staff

Elders: Donna Powell, Joyce Bryant, Joy Fathergill, Kitty Barsotti, LeRoy Horn, Nick Marsee

Clerk of Session: LeRoy Horn

Deacons: Amanda Marsee, Cheryl Denney, Jo Marks, Karen Anderson, Karen Marsee

General Fund Treasurer: Joyce Bryant

Memorial Fund Treasurer: Bobby Powell

Custodian/Groundskeeper: Jim Bryant

Interim Organist: Jim Parrish

Pastor: The Reverend Michael Denney

January Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

- January 16—Nancy Childers
- January 20—Joan Slaughter
- January 22—Donna Arnold
- January 25—Karen Powell

Anniversaries

None

**January Sermons
From the Presbyterian Pulpit**

January 5—*“Once Upon a Time”*
Epiphany Sunday
Matthew 2:1-12

January 12—*“What Does this Mean?”*
Baptism of the Lord
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 19—*“Going the Second Mile”*
Second Sunday after Epiphany
John 2:1-11

January 26—*“What Would Jesus Do?”*
Third Sunday after Epiphany
Isaiah 61; Luke 4:14-21



Wonderful Wednesday will be cancelled during January. The winter nights are cold and dreary and any unnecessary outing is more than we need to consider. We will resume in February and hope that the weather is cooperative. Thanks for your patient understanding.

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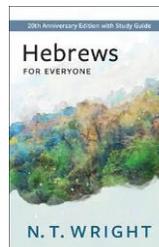
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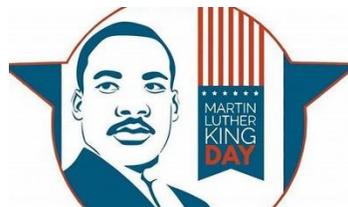


Epiphany, the twelfth day of Christmas, is January 6, 2025. That date is historically celebrated marking the arrival of the Magi. But Epiphany, which means revelation or unveiling,

focuses upon the theme of light. We live in the season of Epiphany until the beginning of Lent in early March. On Sunday, January 5, we will have the opportunity to select our personal ‘star word’ for this year. May God give us blessing as we worship.



The Wednesday Bible Study will resume on January 8. We will be continuing our study in Hebrews and will begin our discussion of chapter 2. The study guide for this section begins at the bottom of page 6. Everyone is invited to attend.



Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is Monday, January 20. This day marks the life and legacy of the late civil rights icon. It has become a day in

which people are asked to give a ‘day of service’ in some way or fashion. As faithful Christians, let us find ways to serve on that day and remember the ‘dream’ of Dr. King which is still in the making.



The Session has called a congregational meeting to consider changes to the

Pastor’s Terms of Call on Sunday, January 12, 2025. This is the only item on the docket for this meeting. Please plan to attend.



A meeting of the deacons has been scheduled following worship on Sunday,

January 12. This will serve as both an orientation and organizational meeting for the 2025 year. All deacons please take note.



It is that time of year when we have to consider the possibility of inclement weather issues on Sunday or Wednesday. In the event of bad weather, the Session has the responsibility to cancel Sunday services. Every effort will be made via text, call, Facebook, and Lexington television station announcement to alert everyone to a cancellation of Sunday services. Wednesday Bible Study will be canceled on the days that Garrard County Schools are closed for inclement weather.