



# The Banner

First Presbyterian Church  
Oak Ridge, Tennessee

January & February 2024

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## The stars are out at FPCOR in January

We launch the new year here at First Presbyterian Church with Epiphany Sunday on Jan. 7. Epiphany shines a spotlight on the revelation of God to the world in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. The season begins with the magi arriving in Bethlehem to worship the Christ child. Because they were guided by a star in the East, the importance of the symbol of light is prominent

throughout Epiphany as it illumines glimpses of God's appearance among us.

During worship on Jan. 7, we will mark the arrival of the magi to the Bethlehem stable to worship the newborn King. We will also celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper and continue our tradition of offering star words to all who would like to have one. Drawn randomly, the star

word is a way to focus one's spiritual journey in the new year: How might God be speaking to you through the word you select?

The following Sunday, Jan. 14, we will delve into the story of the baptism of Jesus and reaffirm our own baptismal covenant. It is a meaningful ritual for the beginning of a new year.

## Annual meeting of the congregation set for Jan. 28

The annual meeting of the congregation will take place following worship on Sunday, Jan. 28. The event is an opportunity for the congregation to hear reports from Session committees and take action on the pastor's terms of call (salary) for 2024.

The annual report will be distributed electronically one week prior to the meeting. Printed copies will be available upon request to Madison, FPCOR's office manager.

The meeting will be preceded by our traditional lasagna lunch in the

fellowship hall.

For those who cannot join us in person, the meeting portion (following lunch) will be available via Zoom. The link will be provided closer to Jan. 28.



## Scout Sunday is Feb. 11

This year, Scout Sunday will be observed on Feb. 11, which is near Scouting Anniversary Day on Feb. 8. Boys and girls of FPC-chartered Troop 42 will help with worship leadership at the 10:30 a.m. service. Afterward, the Scouts will provide lunch to raise funds for scholarships for Scouts that need financial assistance to participate in camping and other events throughout the year.

## Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14, marks the beginning of Lent

Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of Lent, will share Feb. 14 this year. We will begin the season with a soup dinner at 5:30 p.m., followed by a worship service at 6:15 p.m., which will include Communion and the imposition of ashes.

## Blanket Sunday

During the month of February, you are invited to donate, online or by mail, to the Blanket Offering, which supports the work of Church World Service. CWS, an ecumenical organization, has worked for seven decades with one goal: building a world where there is enough for all. The organization works to meet the presenting needs of individuals and families, helping them create solutions they can maintain and build on. The name of the offering describes one aspect of CWS's work with those who have experienced disasters, both natural and the result of conflicts.

# The Banner

## From your pastor



Sharon Youngs, pastor

Author Roger Rosenblatt recently shared his thoughts about New Year’s resolutions—“penny-ante prayers,” he calls them. “You are this way, but you hope to be that way.”

Because I resonated deeply with what he wrote, I want to share excerpts (the full article is at <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/12/26/opinion/new-years-resolutions.html>):

“Part of the nature of resolutions, particularly for those of us north of 60, has to do not only with the new year before us, but also with time already spent, or misspent. You are running out of time, and time is what we value most.

“Will this new year, in fact, be any better than the last? We resolve that it will. We resolve to be fitter, healthier, cleverer, richer, more successful, more popular, more productive, better dressed, happier. And so restarts the whole vain, foolish, inevitably disappointing cycle.

“The trouble with all such self-oriented promises is that they deal in chicken feed. What does the great wide world care if you lose weight, or work out, or work harder, or quit drinking or smoking?

“What if, instead of planning our exercise regimens, we focused our intentions on all that is undesirable in human activity — wars, bigotry, brutality, the despoiling of the earth—and sought to address it? What if instead of making a milquetoast resolution, we made airtight commitments?

“The task of improving the world may seem impossible, but it isn’t. All it takes is the proper sequence of correct discrete decisions. Decisions are just resolutions with teeth.

“What will you do—right now, this week, this month—to make a better world? Stage a protest. Send a letter to right a wrong, or to proffer friendship. (A thoughtful, sympathetic letter to a friend in sorrow or distress is a powerful thing.) Lend a hand. Offer a word of comfort or inspiration or support or love. Donate money or, most valuable of all, time. There are so many ways to move this world, right within reach.

“The great irony of all this is that selflessness is not the opposite of self-improvement. Selflessness is self-improvement—the most meaningful and lasting kind. Practice it, and you may just find that the new year is, in fact, a step up from the last. You may find that you look and feel better than you would have after any amount of dieting or exercise. Unburdened of ego. Lighter on your feet.

“At an event a couple of months ago, someone asked me why I wrote something the way I did, and I found myself blurting out, ‘To save the world.’ It was laughable, preposterous, and true.”

With a grateful heart,  
Sharon



Sharon and the kiddos help Mary and Joseph arrive at the stable.



John Purifoy and Steve Boyce prepare for Dec. 31 worship.



The Christmas Eve candlelight service



The Ruisard Hine family lights the Advent candles.



Darlene Sanders and Linda Lipinski prepare to deliver angel tree gifts to Early Head Start children.

### Members of Session

#### Class of 2024

Patty Barlow  
Sherrie Fairchild-Keyes  
Don Spong

#### Class of 2025

Sue Byrne  
Barbara Reeve  
Roger Ryburn

#### Class of 2026

Cathy Goodman  
Jack Graham  
Peggy Terpstra

## FPCOR Spotlight: David and Mary Mullins

David and Mary Mullins have long been active volunteers at our church since they became members on Nov. 23, 1986. Dave, our church treasurer, has served FPCOR in many ways, such as mowing the lawn, helping run the audio-visual system during church services, washing dishes for our monthly Welcome Table community meal ministry, serving on Session, helping with renovation projects, and delivering occasional sermons. Mary has served on Session, has been clerk of Session several times, and has volunteered to serve again as clerk this year. She has sung in the church choir for many years. She is the choir librarian. She taught elementary-age Sunday school.

Mary and Dave met each other early in their freshman year at the College of William and Mary in 1974 and were married a week after graduation four years later in Gloucester, Va. They have two children, Angela and Sara. Angela is working for the Environmental Protection Agency in Chicago, while Sara has stayed closer to home working as an estimator for the Phillips and Jordan infrastructure contractors in Knoxville.

Dave was born and raised in northeast New Jersey, just outside of New York City. He received his B.S. degree in chemistry from the College of William and Mary and a Ph.D. in physical chemistry from the University of Texas at Austin (the other Orange and White UT). He came to Oak Ridge National Laboratory as a postdoctoral researcher in 1986 and joined the staff in the Surface Science and Catalysis group in 1988. He retired from the lab in 2018.

He has been treasurer of our church since 1996 and treasurer of Aid to Distressed Families of Appalachian Counties (ADFAC), which is headquartered in our church's Activities building, since 2006. Along with Sue Byrne, he is co-director of FPCOR's Brainfood Food Pantry at Roane State Community College. He's also made numerous trips with Dan Terpstra and others to Belize to install Living Waters for the World water treatment systems.

Mary was born in northern Virginia, where her father was a civilian engineer for the Naval Department. Following his retirement, she spent her high school years in the tidewater Virginia area before attending William and Mary College, where she received a B.A. degree in anthropology. She also attended the University of Texas, where she received a master's degree in library and information science. She started work at ORNL doing database programming in 1987 and subsequently worked for a series of contractors in Oak Ridge doing database management for the Department of Energy. She retired in 2016.

In the past five years they've traveled to several national parks in the U.S. and Canada and made foreign trips to the Galapagos Islands and Iceland.

One of Dave's co-workers once described him as "introverted but not shy." You will usually find him being a wall flower during fellowship time and church dinners, but he will also be one of the first to volunteer as a liturgist, master of ceremony, skit participant, or occasional preacher.



Mary and Dave Mullins

### FPCOR's Welcome Table

**Thursday, Jan. 11 and Feb. 8, 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.**

Begin a new habit for 2024 by joining in one of FPCOR's most vibrant ministries! The next two dinners of the Welcome Table, our monthly community meal ministry, will be served in the fellowship hall on Thursday, Jan. 11 and Feb. 8, beginning at 5:00 p.m. To-go dinners will be available between 5:45 and 6:00 p.m., when the meal concludes. All are invited to come, eat, and enjoy the fellowship. Groceries will also be available through FPCOR's food pantry.

If you would like to help, tasks include setting up, cooking, serving meals, and cleaning up. Please let Sharon know if you're interested: [fpcpastor@live.com](mailto:fpcpastor@live.com) or (865) 771-7178.



## Why we should be kind to animals

On Nov. 19, before the congregation feasted on a Thanksgiving turkey dinner, John Nolt, philosophy professor emeritus at the University of Tennessee and author of the 2014 textbook *Environmental Ethics for the Long Term*, spoke to FPC's "Let's Talk about It" (LTAI) class on animal ethics. At the end of the class, John was asked, "Out of moral consideration of animals, what should we do about our church's turkey dinner today?" John's reply: "Today, I assume your turkeys have already even killed, so I don't think there's a moral question. But we ought to reduce animal suffering." The food industry is known to use practices that are harmful to animals.

John had previously addressed the LTAI class on environmental ethics, which he had defined "as an attempt to expand our moral thinking in two distinct directions—toward future generations and toward thinking beyond the human species because we share this planet with innumerable other creatures that are our distant relatives." This time he talked about emerging moral considerations of animals.

Until the mid-1800s, when Charles Darwin proposed the theory of evolution, the philosophical conception of animals that dominated western culture was called the "great chain of being." This traditional idea of arranging living species in a hierarchy was reflected in the writings of the Greek philosopher Aristotle and Christian scholars.

At the top of "the great chain of being" hierarchy, Nolt said, was God. Below in order were archangels, angels, men, and, he added apologetically, women. Further below were the gradations of animal life—higher animals (mammals) and the lower animals (fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, insects). At the bottom were the plants (microbes were not discovered until the 19th century).

"Because animals were below human beings in the hierarchy," Nolt said, "people believed animals were created on earth to serve the purposes of human beings." Of course, he pointed out later, the many generations of animals that lived millions of years before human species emerged some 200,000 years ago obviously did not exist for human use.

John mentioned scientific discoveries about animals since Darwin published *On the Origin of Species* in 1859; this book presented evidence that the diversity of life arose by common descent through a branching pattern of evolution. It is now known that all forms of life ultimately have common ancestors because they have virtually the same genetic code with minor variations in the DNA. Based on evidence, it is very probable that consciousness—the state of being aware of one's surroundings and emotional responses—exists at least in all vertebrate animals based on their behavior. We can tell whether our pets are feeling good, experiencing pain, or responding with anger or fear.

How we ought to act toward animals, John said, is the goal of ethics, not science. Assuming we see animals as our relatives, based on what science tells us, it's appropriate to apply ethical principles such as respect for all vertebrates, promotion of goodness, the utilitarian belief that "the best world has the least suffering and the greatest amount of pleasure," and the biblical Golden Rule from Matthew 7:12: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

—Carolyn Krause

### SUNDAY EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES THIS MONTH

#### Let's Talk About It

For adults and older youth, 8:45 a.m., in person (room 102, Activities building) and via Zoom

Jan. 7: Discussion of the movie *Rustin* (available on Netflix)

Jan. 14: Discussion of Bill McKibben's webinar on the history of civil disobedience

Jan. 21: TBA

Jan. 28: TBA

#### Early Birds

For adults and older youth, 9:00 a.m., in person (parlor) and via Zoom  
Studying 1, 2, and 3 John and the letter of James.

Leaders: Anne Backus, Gene and Rosalyn McKeown-Ice

#### Rise 'n' Shine

For adults, 9:00 a.m., in room 6 (with the comfy chairs just inside the main church entrance)

Studying I Corinthians. Refreshments provided.

Leaders: Sue Byrne, Cheryl Barr, Hannah Tippett



John Nolt speaks on animal science and ethics to the "Let's Talk about It" class via Zoom

## Class speaker: PC(USA) should take “bold stand” on fossil fuels and Indigenous rights

At the United Nations climate crisis conference in 2023 called COP28, a line in the sand was drawn in the desert petrostate of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). While “fossil fuels” were included for the first time in the final report, the Conference of Parties decided against the language “phasing out fossil fuels” in favor of “transitioning from fossil fuels.”

The stronger term “phase-out” had been backed by 130 of the 198 countries negotiating in Dubai, UAE’s most populous city, but was blocked by petrostate leaders, including Sultan Al Jaber, the COP28 president and head of the UAE national oil company. That decision suggested the world could likely fail to keep Earth’s rising surface temperature below a tipping point for climate.

One of the 16 attendees representing the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) was Jed Koball, who spoke from Lima, Peru, by Zoom to FPCOR’s “Let’s Talk about It” class for the second time in 2023.

“The COP was a marvelous experience if you didn’t go there with huge expectations,” Jed said. “As a father of a six-year-old son, it’s terrifying to think about what this world will look like 50 years from now.” He wants the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to go beyond divesting from fossil fuel companies and “take a

bold stand in relation to the need to phase out fossil fuels” to prevent hundreds of billion-dollar, weather-related disasters every year.

He suggests that the PC (USA) should consider supporting COP28’s “loss and damage” fund for poor, developing countries set up to receive contributions from rich, developed nations that have been emitting the most climate-altering greenhouse gases by extracting and burning fossil fuels. “The developing countries suffering the most from climate change are those that have the least responsibility in causing it,” he said, adding that a trillion dollars (not the proposed \$100 billion) will be needed. So far, the United States has pledged only \$17 million, which Congress has not yet approved.

Jed agreed that the COP28 goal of tripling the deployment of solar and wind power and other renewable energy technologies in the next 10 years is significant and that a “just transition” is required because of future job losses in the fossil fuel industry. He added that a just transition is also needed in countries like Peru where mining for cobalt, lithium, and other critical minerals required for batteries and other renewable technologies will soar. Many of these mines could be on Indigenous land where they could economically benefit

workers but also lead to unwanted air and water pollution, respiratory illnesses, deforestation, and human rights violations.

Indigenous peoples assert that they have the UN-recognized international right to “free prior and informed consent,” meaning they should be given complete information about proposed mines and final authority to decide whether to allow mining on their land. In 2024, Jed said, PC(USA)’s General Assembly will consider a recommendation to promote this right.

Jed suggested that churches should not only focus on making their buildings energy-efficient and less reliant on fossil fuels for electricity, but also should “engage local municipal authorities in urban planning.” He hopes churches will encourage city leaders to find ways to lower emissions, install renewable energy technologies, and redesign the city so more people can get what they want by walking instead of driving. —Carolyn Krause

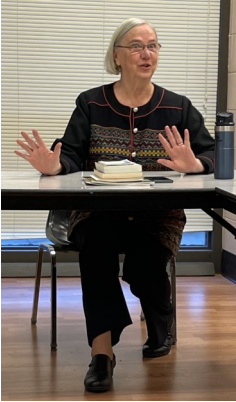


*Jed Koball spoke virtually to the FPCOR class from Peru where climate change concerns include floods, droughts, health issues, and the risks of mining on Indigenous land for critical minerals needed for electric vehicle batteries and renewable energy technologies. At COP28 he heard Tennessee’s Al Gore say that the most exciting actions in response to climate change are happening at the local level.*

### Choir rehearsals resume Jan. 10

It’s a new year and a great time to come sing with choir! If you’ve been thinking about it, please give it a try in January. All voices are welcome! We meet on Wednesdays at 6:30 in the choir room, beginning Jan. 10. I’ll be looking for you! —Anna Thomas

## History behind Arab-Israeli conflicts and PC(USA)'s responses



Ann Brunger speaks to the "Let's Talk about It" class on Dec. 10.

*"My fervent wish is that the whole world would be committed to the hard work of diplomacy, negotiation, disarmament, and reconciliation in the Holy Land where God chose to be revealed to humanity."*

Members of FPCOR's "Let's Talk about It" (LTAI) class wanted to know more about the history behind the armed conflict between Israel and Hamas-led Arab Palestinian militant groups that was triggered by the brutal surprise attack on Israeli citizens in the Be'eri kibbutz by Hamas terrorists on Oct. 7, 2023. Some 1200 Israelis were killed, some 240 hostages were taken, and the Israel Defense Forces retaliated with missiles and military ground attacks on hospitals, schools, and housing in the Gaza Strip. As a result, over 21,000 Palestinians have been killed to date, over 60% of the city buildings have been demolished, and 1.9 million people (out of an estimated total of 2 million) have been displaced, causing them to suffer from illnesses, untreated injuries, and famine. In addition, clashes between the two sides are intensifying in the West Bank and on the Israel-Lebanon border.

Dan Terpstra, the class host, invited Ann Owens Brunger of Blount County to provide a brief history and speak on the responses of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to Israeli occupation of what the Palestinians consider their territory. A retired minister member of the Presbytery of East Tennessee, she is a member of PET's Peacemaking Committee and moderator of our denomination's Syria Lebanon Partnership Network.

Between 1960 and 1967, when her parents were mission co-workers in an Arabic-speaking Presbyterian church in

Beirut, Lebanon, Ann met educated, professional Palestinians and even more Palestinian refugees during her high school years. She spoke with many Jews when she attended college in New York City. "I really straddled the cultural and religious divide," she said.

Before speaking to the Dec. 10 LTAI class, she sent this message: "I am on the side of peace and justice for all of God's children, in this case, the children of our common ancestor Abraham. I believe that the Hamas-Israel war is not about religion (Muslims vs. Jews), but rather about the claim to the land of Palestine/Israel by two peoples who have both suffered oppression, racism, and injustice. I do not believe there is any military solution to this crisis. My fervent wish is that the whole world would be committed to the hard work of diplomacy, negotiation, disarmament and reconciliation in the Holy Land where God chose to be revealed to humanity."

Here are some of the points she made. The Jews were one ethnicity in the ancient Near East and were the first people to whom God was revealed. They settled in the land of Israel, which became part of the Roman Empire before Christ was born. In 70 C.E., the Romans destroyed the Jerusalem temple. Some Jews and Palestinian Christians remained in the land, but because of wars and economic hardship, thousands of Jews migrated throughout the empire (Jewish diaspora) and

settled in what became European countries. Over the centuries, they endured discrimination, persecution, and expulsion. Their enemies included Catholic and Protestant churches.

"The hatred of Jews came from an interpretation of biblical scripture that the Jews had killed Jesus," said Ann, saying that she thinks this interpretation "is wrong." She noted that in Persia (now Iran), the Jews, Christians, and Muslims all lived together as neighbors while Jews in Europe were being oppressed.

Fast forward to the end of the 19th century when Theodor Herzl started Zionism, a secular nationalist movement to re-establish the Jewish nation in its ancestral homeland, then called Palestine. "What really fueled the Jewish Zionist program and the rapid creation of the State of Israel in 1948 was sadly the Holocaust—the Nazis' murder of six million Jews in concentration camps during World War II," Ann said. Surviving Jews and others wanted their own country where they could live in safety.

In 1947, the United Nations passed a resolution to divide the territory held by Great Britain into an Arab state and a Jewish state. After the modern state of Israel was established in May 1948, Arab attacks on Jewish cities sparked the Arab-Israeli War in which Israelis took control of 60% of the proposed Palestinian state area, as well as West Jerusalem. Since then, six more wars have been fought.



## History behind Arab-Israeli conflicts and PC(USA)'s responses (continued)

In the 1967 Six Day War, “the militarily stronger Israel took over the West Bank and Gaza,” Ann said. “The Presbyterian position on this is that this occupation of the Palestinian territory is wrong and needs to end. A lot of Jews, such as members of the Jewish Voice for Peace, also believe the occupation should end. Not all Jews are Zionists.”

In the past few decades, Israelis have occupied most of what was Palestinian territory with expanded settlements. Five million Palestinians have been forced to live behind a wall with restrictions on their movements (e.g., checkpoints and roads they are forbidden to drive on).

“There’s always been the false narrative that the militarized Israelis are just defending themselves against Palestinian terrorists, when their actions have actually been very offensive,” Ann said. “The Jewish tactic used to ensure a Jewish state has been since 1948 to kill the Palestinians or force them to become refugees to neighboring Arab countries.”

She added that “ Hamas is a terrible, militarized, cruel, extremist Muslim organization that wants to destroy Israel and replace it with an Islamic state. It’s clear where this grievance and sense of injustice to their people come from. It doesn’t justify what they’ve done, but I think it explains some of the reasons for the violent

attacks against the Jews in Israel.

“The people who paid the price for the 1948 creation of the state of Israel have been the Palestinians who had nothing to do with the discrimination against Jews in Europe and who had lived with Jews in Palestine peaceably as neighbors before the 1948 war. So that’s the root of the injustice.”

Responding to this injustice, the 2014 General Assembly (GA) of the PC (USA) voted to sell the denomination’s stock in three companies— Caterpillar, Motorola Solutions, and Hewlett-Packard—because they supply Israel with bulldozers, surveillance technology, and other equipment used in the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory.

“The strong military response in Israel,” Ann said, “is enabled by the United States whose big arms, bomber aircraft, and ammunition manufacturers have been profiting from wars in the Middle East,” benefiting the U.S. economy.

In 2022, the GA passed a resolution stating that “Israel’s laws, policies, and practices constitute apartheid against the Palestinian people.” Apartheid is an inflammatory term once applied to South Africa. It means a policy or system of segregation or discrimination on grounds of race. Use of the term, Ann said, has led to

accusations that the PC(USA) is anti-semitic.

The class also discussed the Tent of Nations, a 100-acre farm in the West Bank near Bethlehem that has been owned for 107 years by the Nassars, a Palestinian Protestant family engaged in nonviolent resistance to the Zionist settlers seeking to displace them in various ways. The family motto is “We refuse to be enemies.”—Carolyn Krause



As the maps show, the Palestinians have lost most of their land to Israeli occupants in the decades since 1946.



The Piece for Peace Sisters gifted Madison Green with a table runner as a wedding gift.

Last but not least...



### Weekly gatherings

**Sundays:**

8:45 a.m. Let's Talk About It  
 9:00 a.m. Early Birds;  
 Rise 'n' Shine;  
 10:30 a.m. Worship  
 11:30 a.m. Refreshments

**Mondays:**

Noon Men's Zoom lunch

**Wednesdays:**

6:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal



### Monthly gatherings

- **Piece for Peace Sisters**, first Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m., room 102, Activities building
- **Brewing Questions**, first Thursdays, 7:00 p.m., via Zoom
- **Conversation on Loss**, fourth Sundays, 11:50 a.m., parlor, Sanctuary building
- **Coffee Chat**, last Mondays, 9:30 a.m., room 6 and via Zoom
- **Young Adult Breakfast Club**, last Saturdays, 9:00 a.m., room 102 kitchen, Activities building

*(See weekly emails or call the church office for Zoom links and details.)*

### Session news

At its stated meeting on Dec. 21, the Session, upon learning that the new FPCOR Carbon Zero Fund has sufficient funds to do so, as well as the approval of a grant of \$23,570 from Appalachian Voices (contingent on FPCOR's fulfillment of specific conditions), authorized:

—entering a memorandum of understanding with Appalachian Voices re: the \$23,570 grant for the completion of a solar project;

—a bridge loan from the church's cash reserves of up to 30%, or ~\$31,000 of the estimated solar project costs of ~\$101,000 to be reimbursed by a Federal Tax Credit in the tax year following placement of the solar project into service.

—the Solar Subcommittee and the Property and Maintenance Committee to negotiate contract details with Solar Alliance, LLC, for the installation of solar panels on the Education and Sanctuary buildings; to be approved and signed at a subsequent Session meeting.

—P&M to negotiate a contract with SRS Renovations for re-roofing the Education building.

The Session also:

—received an update on the project to install a permanent labyrinth near the Memorial Garden. Wadescapes Landscaping of Clinton submitted a design and plan that will cost just over \$14,000 (compared to other landscaping companies that submitted \$50,000 and \$30,000 bids). Gifts received in memory of Kay Youngs, which are designated for the labyrinth, total \$14,000. The Session approved moving forward with Wadescapes.

—approved the 2024 covenant with Rosalyn McKeown-Ice as FPCOR's Commissioned Lay Pastor to our ministry at Morgan County Residential Recovery Court.

—expressed appreciation to those who are concluding their terms on Session: Joe Concepcion, Jason Goodman, Camille Graves, Chris Iversen, Kiersten Ruisard, Dan Terpstra, and Elaine Wilson; and welcomed those who are beginning their service: Sue Byrne, Cathy Goodman, Jack Graham, Barbara Reeve, and Peggy Terpstra.

### January & February birthdays

- 1/4 Catherine Backus
- 1/4 Emily Backus
- 1/5 Ginny Eyman
- 1/5 Syd Murray
- 1/10 Roger Ryburn
- 1/12 Mary Ann Davidson
- 1/13 Ashley Layendecker
- 1/13 Austin Washington
- 1/15 Bart Hadden
- 1/15 Taylor Hensley
- 1/16 Kate Porter
- 1/16 Maddie Stone
- 1/18 Scott Trowbridge
- 1/19 Sue Byrne
- 1/20 Debra Stone
- 1/22 John A. Drake
- 1/23 Rick Shipp
- 1/25 Phillip King
- 1/26 Bob Fulcher
- 1/26 Janet Swift
- 1/29 John Drake
- 1/31 Brian Drane
- 2/1 Alexandra Campbell
- 2/2 Flo Plemmons
- 2/7 Chris Iversen
- 2/8 Leann Trowbridge
- 2/13 Jim Tonne
- 2/14 Gene Ice
- 2/15 Bob Edwards
- 2/22 Desmond Darko
- 2/28 Anna Thomas

### Happy birthday!

### January Anniversaries

- 1/9 Tommy & Gielda Reese
- 1/24 Lee & Gerry Morris

### Congratulations!



# January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1 Office Closed</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 11:30 a.m. Al Anon	<b>4</b> 7:00 p.m. Brewing Questions	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 9:00 a.m. Sun. school 9:45 a.m. Choir 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Fellowship 11:45 a.m. Church Life & Witness Team	<b>8</b> 12:00 p.m. Men's Zoom lunch	<b>9</b> 9:30 a.m. Piece for Peace Sisters 2:00 p.m. Staff meeting	<b>10</b> 11:30 a.m. Al Anon 6:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal	<b>11</b> 5:00 p.m. Welcome Table	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 9:30 a.m. Session Retreat
<b>14</b> 9:00 a.m. Sun. school 9:45 a.m. Choir 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Fellowship	<b>15 Office Closed</b> 12:00 p.m. Men's Zoom lunch	<b>16</b> 10:00 a.m. Anna's Book Group	<b>17</b> 9:30 a.m. Staff planning day 11:30 a.m. Al Anon 6:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal	<b>18</b> 6:30 p.m. Session Meeting	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 9:00 a.m. Sun. school 9:45 a.m. Choir 10:30 a.m. Worships 11:30 a.m. Fellowship	<b>22</b> 12:00 p.m. Men's Zoom lunch	<b>23</b> 2:00 p.m. Staff meeting	<b>24</b> 11:30 a.m. Al Anon 6:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:00 a.m. Sun. school 9:45 a.m. Choir 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Fellowship 11:50 a.m. Conversation on loss	<b>29</b> 9:30 a.m. Coffee Chat	<b>30</b> 2:00 p.m. Staff meeting	<b>31</b> 11:30 a.m. Al Anon 6:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal			

## Looking ahead:

**Feb. 8:** Welcome Table

**Feb. 12:** Scout Sunday

**Feb. 14:** Ash Wednesday

**Feb. 15:** Session Meeting

**Feb. 19:** Office Closed

First Presbyterian Church  
P.O. Box 6106  
Oak Ridge, TN 37831



# *The Banner*

First Presbyterian Church  
Oak Ridge, Tennessee

**January & February 2024**

Located at 1051 Oak Ridge Turnpike  
Mailing address: P.O. Box 6106  
Oak Ridge, TN 37831  
Phone: (865) 483-1318  
Fax: (865) 483-1319  
Email: [fpcadmin@comcast.net](mailto:fpcadmin@comcast.net)  
Website: [fpcor.org](http://fpcor.org)  
Facebook: First Presbyterian  
Church, Oak Ridge TN  
Instagram: [firstpresbyterianchurchor](https://www.instagram.com/firstpresbyterianchurchor)

*The Banner* team: Carolyn Krause,  
Madison Green & Sharon Youngs



**FIRST  
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CHURCH**  
Oak Ridge, Tennessee

***Embodying Christ's inclusive love through heart, mind, and service***



give  
today