

January

2021

HAPPY
New Year

Anchor Links

Anchor Links is a monthly publication of First Presbyterian Church~Shelbyville, TN.

HAPPY NEW YEAR dear friends,

I hope it has begun as well for you as can be hoped for given our circumstances. I am excited about the vaccine that is now being distributed and the vaccinations being given.

I saw on the news this morning where a medical care professional was receiving the second shot of the vaccine. So that means he had his first injection 21 days ago. He said in another 14 days the full effect of the shot should be working by then. That is awesome news.

I know several folks in our congregation have also received their first vaccination of the COVID vaccine. As soon as my number comes up, I'm getting my shot. I will continue to wear a mask even after my second shot. I always say, "An ounce of prevention is better than a trip to the ICU."

Your session and I continue to pray for you and your health. Our in-person restrictions for worship and committee meetings are still in effect. I expect them to last through January and possibly into February. It all depends on what the numbers are telling us.

Our hospitals and health care workers are being overwhelmed and stretched to the breaking point. We need to do what we can to help them and that, as we know, means social distancing, continuing to limit being out in the public, wearing a mask, and keeping your hands clean.

This ends today's public announcement.

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And now for something completely different.

Wednesday, January 6th is Epiphany. It signals the end of the Christmas season. The word “epiphany” means “manifestation” or “showing forth” and celebrates the manifestation of God in the world in the form of a child.

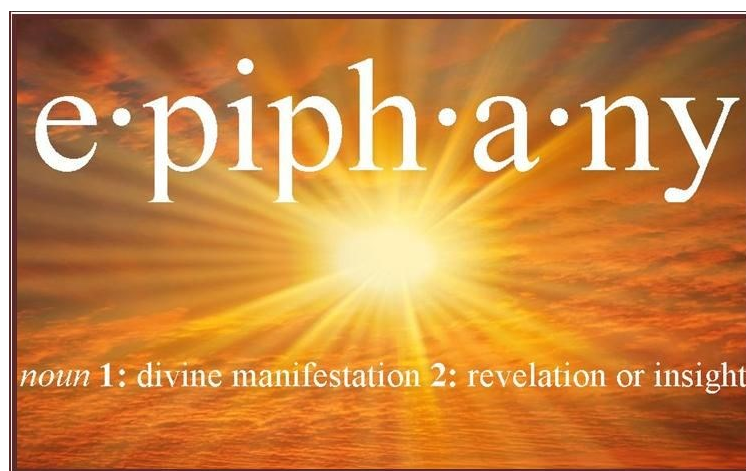
The season of Epiphany gathers up a number of traditional themes: the birth of Jesus as God’s incarnation; the coming of the Magi; Christ’s baptism in the Jordan; and his first miracle at the wedding in Cana. All of these “manifest” Jesus as being the Christ, God-with-us, and the Light of the World.

The Epiphany Season can be anywhere from four to nine weeks long depending on the date of Easter. The Epiphany Season runs from January 6 through the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. This year Ash Wednesday comes on February 17th so the season of Epiphany will be about 6 weeks long this year.

As we celebrate God’s gift of Jesus during this season of Epiphany, I hope during the next six weeks you will be on the lookout for those occasions when God manifests Himself to you. You must be alert because chances are God may manifest Himself to you in a way you might not be expecting.

I’m sure lots of people saw the child Jesus and never saw what the Magi saw. I think the words of the 18th century English poet William Cowper sum this up rather well and I will leave you with them. “Our Lord God works in mysterious ways, His wonders to behold.” So, behold!

Amen and amen.





Honoring Elaine Holcombe



First Presbyterian Church celebrated ***Elaine Holcombe*** recently with a donation of Heifer International in her honor and to recognize her devotion to that organization. A significant donation made possible the gift of bees to a number of families across the world.

Elaine was very active in promoting Heifer during the years our church held the annual Gifts from the Heart event each November. It is a pleasure to recognize her dedication to helping others get “a leg up” in providing a living for themselves and their families.

Thank you, Elaine, for your loyalty to our Lord for taking care of His people.

Thank You Notes

In response to the benevolence checks sent to various organizations in November, we have heard from Shelbyville Community Soup Kitchen and Caregiver Relief program.

Soup Kitchen says they are grateful for our support in helping them provide weekly meals to approximately 175 people. Because of COVID-19 the Methodist church kitchen has been unavailable and meals have been prepared by a caterer which has increased the cost of the meals considerably.

Caregiver Relief also thanked us for our generous donation which is being used to supplement money they get through donations and a grant that provide temporary relief to the caregiver in homes where there is a family member with dementia. A monthly check is sent to such families that can be used to give the patient a few days at a 24 hour care facility or an adult daycare program, or hire a paid caregiver to come to the home. All of these examples give the family caregiver some time each month to “recharge their batteries”.

We will share snippets from letters as we receive them so that you as a congregation can continue to be informed about how FPC mission budget is spent.



Announcements and Upcoming Events



Our Christian Love & Sympathy is extended to Jackie Bane.

Jackie's mother, Carolyn Northcutt, passed away on January 4, 2021.

More information to follow.

Ms. Cindy will Zoom with the children at 9:30am beginning Sunday, January 10th.



Ms. Cindy will meet the Youth on Zoom Sunday, January 10th at 6:00pm.



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

Will Not Meet in January

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Parent's Day Out began on Tuesday, January 5, 2021. For more information, call Teresa Phillips, PDO Director.

You may reach Teresa at 931-619-0749 or by calling the church office at 931-684-6541 or via email: first.pres.church600@gmail.com.

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



We will not be meeting in the month of January.

The book we've chosen in a two-month effort titled,

"The Better Angels of our Nature"

by Steven Pinker.

Meeting place we hope will still be Never Rest Park, but we will decide that closer to mid-Feb since weather may be an issue.



A long time ago
in a galaxy far,
far away....

JANUARY



BRRRRR





Church

family





Mathew Corson
(Nephew of Charlotte Williams)

Bob & Alice Durio
(Members)

Pat Edmiston
(friend of Christy Jensen)

Tommy Franks
(Nephew of Helen Garner)

Carolyn Matusek (Member)

Gail Parsons (Member)

Jim Sepull (Member)



Those serving in our military:
LT Andy Canady
(Member)

Airman Chase Blanton
(Member)

Those serving abroad and at home.

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FPC STAFF

Rev. Dr. Taylor Todd
Interim Minister

Cindy Lamb
Children and Youth Christian Director

Billie Crowell
Music Director

Shirley Luscinski
Church Secretary

Diane Green
Nursery Director

SESSION

Class of 2021

**Rob Marsh, Leo Skelton, Margaret Smith,
LeaAnne Windham**

Class of 2022

**Aaron Crafton, Melanie Hamilton, Ginger
Shofner, Richard Smith**

Class of 2023

**Helen Garner, Christy Jensen, Terry Saylor,
Kristen Wilhelm**

TRUSTEES

Class of 2021 Class 2022 Class of 2023
Kathy Smith Pat Thomas Tommy Anderton

*Session minutes are available in the church office for any
member of the congregation to review*