

Presbyterian

January 2024



The turning of the calendar from December to January, from one year to the next, often causes us to pause and reflect. Reflect not only on the past year, but on what this next year might bring. What might end. What might begin. What might change. How we might change. So, as the calendar page turns, I wanted to share with you this blessing from Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie. It can be found in their book *The Lives We Actually Have: 100 Blessings for Imperfect Days*. As one year ends and another begins, may we all remember God is with us, no matter what.

Grace and Peace, *Pastor Jessica*

for beginnings and endings

This life is made up of so many beginnings and so many endings.

We start new jobs and leave old ones.

We move to new cities and leave our childhood hobbies in our parents' basement. (Sorry, Mom.)

We become new people slowly (hopefully kinder and funnier?).

Friends and relationships come and go.

Dreams blossom and then they wither.

And we find ourselves here once again

at the precipice of change.

Afraid to let go,

and afraid of what will happen if we don't.

Might this be a place of blessing too?

Blessed are we standing in the hallway

between closed doors

and ones still to come,

between the old and the new, between the worn-in

and the doesn't-quite-yet-fit, between who we were and who we might become.

God, make it remotely possible to grow and change,

become open to new adventures, and

untethered to routine or to the same-old.

Because the anxiety rising in my shoulders and filling my throat tells me I am unlikely, unwilling, to step forward.

Blessed are we who take a minute

to look over our shoulder

at all we learned from what was, the people we became,

the people who loved us into becoming.

The peace that came with familiarity.

Blessed are we who trust this timing,

and who open our hearts anew to change, to new friends, to hope.

Nervous, maybe heavy-hearted, but brimming with gratitude for a life so beautiful that it hurts to say goodbye.

Blessed are we, turning our eyes ahead toward a new path not yet mapped.

God, give us courage to take this next step, and enough for the one after that, too.

Remind us that you have gone before, and behind, and around, and are with us now.

In our leaving, in our arriving, in our changes, expected or shocking, surprise us with who we might become.



January 7

Usher: Pete and Kim Brantner
Liturgist: Betsy Akin

January 14

Usher: Ann Myers
Liturgist: Megan Boswell

January 21

Usher: Doug Leonard
Liturgist: Randy Olive

January 28

Usher: Kathy and Ken Pangburn
Liturgist: Doug Leonard

February 4

Usher: Cindy Peterson
Liturgist: Ken Pangburn

February 11

Usher: Kurt and Diana Scott
Liturgist: Donna Peckham

February 18

Usher: Nancy and Alec Turner
Liturgist: Sue Selby

February 25

Usher: Sue Selby
Liturgist: Nancy Turner

Kinlee Kester January 2
Marvin Smith January 12
Beverly McMahon January 13
Curan Eddy January 20
Bobby Boswell January 22

*Family of Chad Gritzmaker
Dick and Joyce Stroud
Jen Shires
Illah Brown
Jeanne Kordick
People of the Middle East
Connie Helvie
Doug Goldsmith
John
Elysa
Linda
Steve
Nadine Olive
Ron Walter
People of the Sudan
The Wiese Family
Connie Standley and family
Ashley Neils and family
Kevin and Nicci Tucker
Terry Robison
All dealing with chronic pain
All the caregivers
All who are grieving*

We ask for your help in keeping the birthday and prayer lists current.

If you have any changes or additions, please let us know.

You are encouraged to ask a child to help you with ushering duties, such as handing out bulletins and collecting the offering. They are happy and eager to help.



Newsletter Deadline: For the **February** newsletter, please submit all news and announcements by **Wednesday, January 17**. Thank you so much for your help in making sure we get information communicated to everyone.



On Sunday, December 17th, Kim Brantner and Betsy Akin presented Kay Parrot with checks totaling \$5368.54 as the proceeds from our November 16th Food Pantry Dinner. Thank you to everyone who gave so generously. Below is the text of a letter we received. Thank you again to everyone for the time, energy, and gifts you offer to this wonderful ministry.

Dear Friends of First Presbyterian Church,

I want to thank you so much for this donation and all the time, resources, and lot it took to have the Thanksgiving Meal drive. We are very fortunate to have community partners as wonderful as you.

I would also like to thank you for all of the beautiful vegetables that Ken and Kathy Pangburn faithfully brought to us all season long. Our families were SO grateful for fresh and delicious garden vegetables. The tomatoes were so good, they could have won awards!...and those potatoes were amazing and the biggest ones I've ever seen. :-)

And lastly, I would like to thank you for all the prayers, time, effort, and care that you have poured out on us at MATURA and on this community. Maybe not everybody sees all the things you do, but I know for sure God does!...and I know for sure He's smiling.

May God bless each and every one of you, May His face shine upon you, and May you all know how much you are loved and appreciated!

Merry Christmas!

Love,
Teri O'Grady
MATURA



Mark your calendars for Pastor Jessica's annual Epiphany Open House!
Saturday, January 6
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Great News!

Our Sunday School classes have started back up. Instead of Sunday morning, we plan to meet at the church on the first Wednesday each month. We will start class at 5:30 pm, with snacks and fellowship beginning at 5:00 pm as people arrive. At 5:30 pm we will break into 2 groups, children and adults. We look forward to seeing you and sharing this time with Christ at our **upcoming gathering on Wednesday, January 3rd!**



On Sunday, January 7, 2024, we'll celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany and have the opportunity to pick a Star Word for 2024. Also on that day is the opportunity to hear from people about their 2023 Star Word Journey. If you'd like to share a story, an insight you gained, or something else about your 2023 Star Word, please talk with Pastor Jessica.

Stay after worship on Sunday, January 7th and help Down the Browns. The Christmas season ends with the Celebration of Epiphany and so it will be time to take down and put away all of our Advent and Christmas decorations for another year.





The AC Christmas Angels would like to thank the First Presbyterian church for participating in this year's Christmas Angels program. Over 40 families were provided with gifts, a food card and meat during this holiday season. Without your many kindnesses and donations, this program would not be possible. Thank you for helping with this mission to provide for the less fortunate in our community.

Nancy Mann, Beth Waddle, Sally Shires,
Blake Anderson and Nancy Turner
on behalf of AC Christmas Angels

Thank you so much to everyone for the card and wonderful Christmas gift. I continue to enjoy serving as your pastor and loving each of you. Thank you.
Pastor Jessica

On Sunday, January 7th, we'll be ordaining and installing the new class of officers. Alex Morgan will be ordained and installed to active service on the Session for a one-year term. Michelle Morgan, Ken Pangburn, and Alec Turner will each be installed to active service for a three-year term. Make plans to join worship that day to celebrate the ordination and installation as well as Epiphany.



The second half of our annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, January 21st. We will be receiving annual reports for 2023, looking back over the year, and also looking at the year to come. Remember it is an expectation of your membership that you attend and while the meeting is open to all, only members are able to vote.

November 2023 General Fund Checking Acct	
Beginning Balance 11/01/23	\$2,977.92
Income	\$9,513.95
Expenses	\$9,468.38
Ending Balance 11/30/23	\$3,043.49



First Presbyterian Church
907 Grove Avenue
Corning, Iowa 50841
(Return Service Requested)

Worship: 10:00 AM

Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/1stprescorning

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Kim Brantner
Jackie Butcher
Doug Leonard

Session Members

Avery Morgan
Angie Mullen

Kurt Scott
Nicci Tucker
Nancy Turner

Rev. Jessica Paulsen

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Mission Statement

The First Presbyterian Church of Corning believes in the good news of the Gospel and will grow through and share the love, grace, and compassion of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

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