

# FPC NEWS

## JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2020

### Adult Sunday School

9:00 am

### Choir

9:00 am

### Cornerstone Cafe (Youth)

9:15 am

### Sunday Worship

10:15 am

Phone 479.273.5450

### Email

[info@fpcbentonville.org](mailto:info@fpcbentonville.org)

### Website

[www.fpcbentonville.org](http://www.fpcbentonville.org)

### Office Hours

Monday - Friday  
8:00 am - 4:00 pm

For more information about upcoming events, please contact us, visit our website, or find us on Facebook.



## *Here's What's Happening*

### January 20

My Friends and Me & Church office closed in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

### January 23

J.O.Y Group (Just Older Youth) 11am

### January 23

Newcomer Gathering 6:30pm

### January 25

Moderator's training 9:30am

### January 26

Annual Meeting and Lunch 11:30am

### January 27

Session Meeting 6:15pm

### February 2

"Souper Bowl of Caring"  
Last day to sign up for Dinner with Friends

### February 9

Mission Fair

### February 13

Rachel Circle 9:30  
Mary and Martha Circle 6:30pm

### February 23

Youth Sunday and Fundraiser Lunch

### February 24

Session Meeting 6:15pm

### February 26

Ash Wednesday Service 7:00pm

### February 27

J.O.Y Group (Just Older Youth) 11am



**“Your word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.” - Psalm 119:105**

Dear church family,

**Psalm 119:105** was the very first Bible verse I learned by heart. It was 1977, and I was in the 5th grade. I had been invited by a good friend from school to go to with her and one other friend to an afternoon group at their church for kids, called Pioneer Girls. It was kind of like our Club 456 on Sunday afternoons, but just girls. This was a big deal for me, as at that time, my family did not go to church. I loved Pioneer Girls – we did crafts, played games, we talked about school and friends and what was going on, and we learned about the Bible and the God who loves us and speaks to us through it.

Each week at Pioneer Girls, we would begin our time by standing in a circle and saying **Psalm 119:105** out loud: “Your word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path, Psalm one-nineteen, one-o-five” we ten or so girls plus our adult leaders would say together. I did not stick with Pioneer girls after that year; but that verse stuck with me. It still sticks with me.

There are times when the path we are on is rocky, or lonely, or dim. There are times when the loads we carry as we walk are heavy, complicated, soul-wearying. We peer ahead, and the next steps forward are not clear. Shadows fall across the path, and we can lose heart. In days of personal struggle, national divisiveness, international tensions, and the ongoing concerns of suffering and justice for all of God’s children and all of God’s good creation, we need a lamp for our feet. We need a light for our path. And God, revealed in God’s word, promises to be that lamp and light for us, every step of the way.

As the new year begins, I pray that we would take up God’s word each day, so that God may light our path and lift our hearts in love, wisdom, and courage. Here are just a few to light our way:

**Psalm 23**, The Lord is my shepherd

**Psalm 46**, God is our refuge and strength

**Isaiah 40:10-13**, Do not fear, for I am with you

**Matthew 11:28-30**, Come, all who are weary

**Matthew 25:31-46**, Lord, when did we see you?

**Matthew 28:16-20**, Make disciples, baptize and teach; and I am with you always

**John 3:16**, For God so loved the world

**John 14:1-6, 25-27**, Do not let your hearts be troubled

**Romans 8**, Life in the Spirit

**Philippians 4:3**, I can do all things through Christ

**Revelation 21:1-7, 22-25**, A new heaven and a new earth

What scriptures would you add?

If you are looking for a resource to help light your path with God's word, here are a few from the Presbyterian Church (USA) that you can find online at <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/devotions/>. 1/ Daily Lectionary scripture readings, at <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/devotion/daily/>, 2/ the Daily Prayer PC(USA) app, available on iTunes app store, Google Play, or Amazon app store, or 3/ These Days, a daily devotional booklet with prayer and scripture also available in our Welcome Hall at church.

May our faithful God be a lamp to each of our days, and light our path together as we walk in the way of Jesus Christ.

In Christ's love,

*Pastor Katie*



## *Music Minute with Brian Breeding, Director of Music Ministry*



We all live by our calendar. Paper or digital, loss would be catastrophic. From the daily mundane, to the complex planned event, we mark time by minutes, days, weeks, months, seasons, and years. Twenty-first century post-modern society creates ever smaller clusters of time. Meetings, emails response, shopping...the list fades into the distance.

Our ancestors marked time in slower, larger increments. The time for a crop to yield. A pregnancy. Winter or summer. Days no doubt were busy, but not managed down to the second. Better? Perhaps. Thomas Wolfe is correct though. We can't really go back.

While returning to a mythical, rose-colored past isn't possible, remembering, and seeing similar patterns still in use can be beneficial. The church calendar, for example, invites us to structure the year in seasons not observed in contemporary culture. Advent. Christmas. Ordinary Time. Lent. Easter. Pentecost. Ordinary Time. (Yes, it returns). Structured to essentially offer a sweeping view of God's story, the Christian Year asks us to see our time just a bit differently. But I want to suggest another time, one not found in the Christian, or Common, calendar. Liminal time.

We all experience it daily in sunrise and sunset. Liminal time is that point of transition, a threshold from one point to another. Liminal time is the period between teenager years and full adulthood. It is the time from engagement to marriage. These liminal, or threshold moments, are points of decision, action, and change. As a conductor, I was taught that the most important moment in music is that transition point, when one section is finishing and another begins. It can be the quick progression of movements in Handel's Messiah. Or just one note to the next.

We are all offered liminal moments. (One can easily argue that even the space between breaths is liminal time!) This January we transition from the season of Christmastide through Epiphany, into Ordinary time, until Ash Wednesday, itself another Liminal time. So what would life be like, in this new year, if we all embraced these liminal time gifts? To stop and reflect, to embrace the opportunity to change and grow? The music ministry lives into these moments weekly. Maybe you could from the choir loft, or, if only for a liminal minute, from the pew.

# "Song of the Stars" Children's Epiphany Program

January 5, 2020



# Congratulations

to our newly serving church officers, who were ordained/or installed during worship on January 12!



## Elders, Class of 2022

Krystle Foster  
Linda Freeman  
Harry James  
Sarah Semrow  
Cheryl Wright

## Elders, Class of 2020

Jenna Solomon  
Susan Fraser

## Deacons, Class of 2022

Andy Martin  
Susannah Neville  
Gail Rogers  
Rebecca Schneringer  
John Whiting

## Deacon, Class of 2020

Carson de la Rosa

# Fellowship

Join us for our Annual Meeting and Lunch on Sunday, January 26 at 11:30am, where we will celebrate 2019 and look ahead to 2020. The Fellowship team will provide soup; the congregation is asked to bring salads, sandwiches, or desserts.

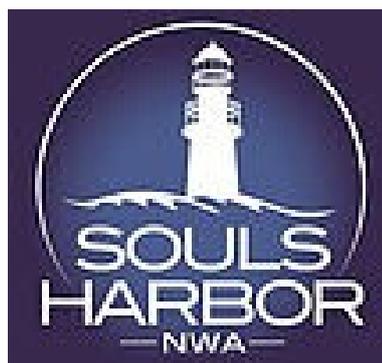


Photo by Ilya Mirny

## JOY Group

"Just Older Youth" - a fellowship group for people of any age!

Will meet on Thursday, January 23, at 11 am in the library. All are welcome! Bring a dish to share and even invite a friend for fun, food, and fellowship. Souls Harbor of NWA, a caring community for homeless men, will be giving a presentation. You won't want to miss it.

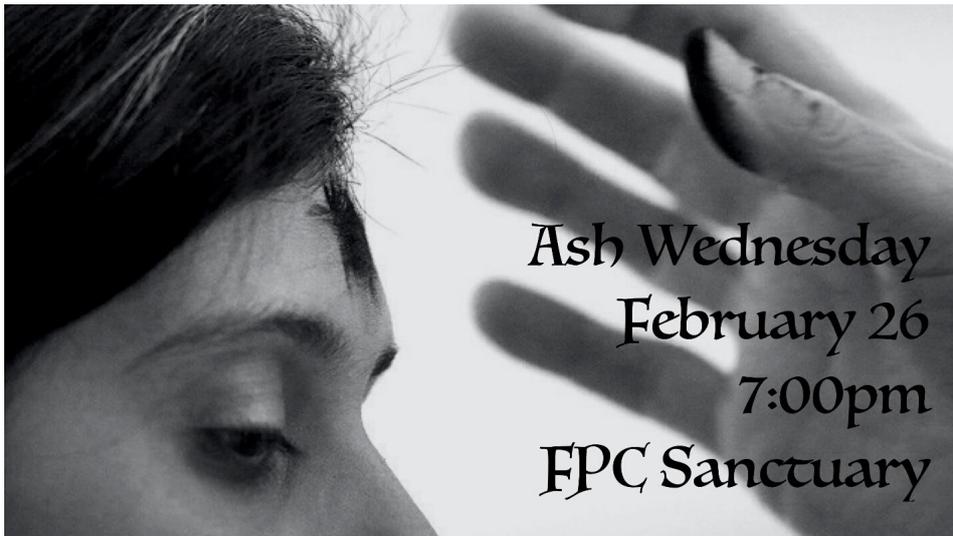


# Dinner with Friends

Dinner with Friends is starting up in February: Sign up is open now!

This is a wonderful way to enjoy great food and fellowship while getting to know your First Presbyterian family! We form groups of 8 people including singles and couples. Each month, you plan a potluck dinner at a group member's home or go "Dutch" at a local restaurant. Have fun getting to know fellow church members while enjoying great food and fellowship. Sign up in the Welcome Hall or respond by email. Deadline to sign up is Sunday, February 2. For more information or if you would like to sign up by email, contact Ashley Clark, [poptartacar@yahoo.com](mailto:poptartacar@yahoo.com), 479-531-1158.

## Ash Wednesday



For millennia, Christians have entered into a time of preparation for the celebration of Easter during the season of Lent. Lent spans forty days, plus Sundays, leading to Easter. This time of preparation begins on Ash Wednesday. Deriving its name from the application of ashes in the sign of the cross on the forehead, Ash Wednesday marks a time of penitence, spiritual disciplines, and prayer. In the Bible, ashes are used as a sign of grief and repentance. Through the ashes we are reminded that "you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Through the shape of the cross, we are reminded that we are held in God's redeeming love.

Join us on Wednesday, February 26 at 7:00pm in the FPC Sanctuary. We will observe Ash Wednesday through Word, music, prayer, and the sign of the cross in ashes.

# Faith Building for Children

**Sunday mornings:** Children's Church (for age 4 – 1st grade) Meets after the children's message, during morning worship. Children will sing, learn a Bible lesson, and creatively explore scripture together led by a team of church volunteers. Pick-up is directly after worship.

**Sunday evenings:** J St. Kids (K-3rd grade) and Club 456 (4th-6th grade), 5-7pm meet in the education (Amazeum side) hallway.

Led by teams of church volunteers, children will enjoy a meal together, explore scripture PC(USA) curriculum, make crafts, serve others, go on field trips, and have music education with Brian!

# Faith Building for Youth

**Sunday mornings:** Cornerstone Café (7th – 12th grade)

Meets at 9:15am in the youth rooms (off the Fellowship Hall)

Youth will have something to munch on, delve into scripture and discuss what it means to be faithful people in community together. Adult leaders guide the discussion with PC(USA) resources.

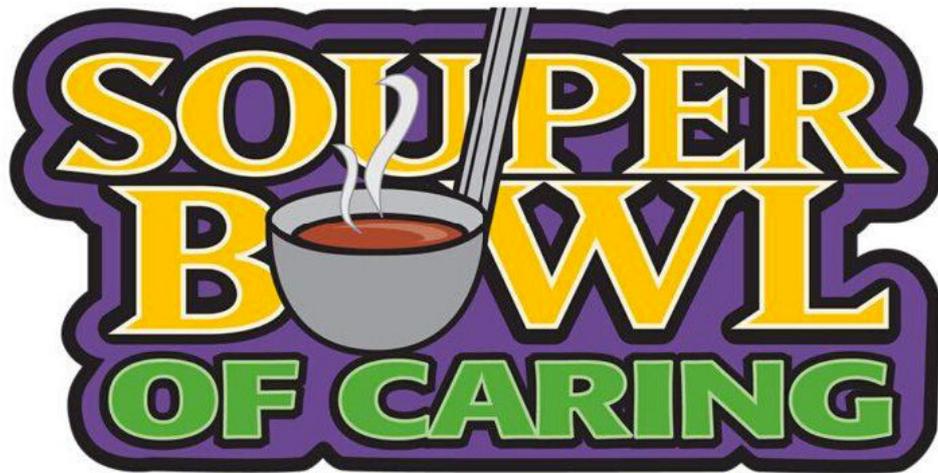
**Sunday evenings** Youth Group (7th - 12th grade) 5-7pm meets in the Youth Rooms.

Each week is different; youth will go on field trips, discuss the intersection of faith and our world, study scripture, play games, serve others, and enjoy a meal together.

# Youth Group

Our Youth Group enjoyed getting together during December in member's homes for small group meals on December 1, as well as for progressive dinner in three different homes on December 15.





## Sunday, February 2

How did the Souper Bowl of Caring get started?

A simple prayer: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat" is inspiring a youth-led movement to help hungry and hurting people around the world. This prayer, delivered by Brad Smith, then a seminary intern serving at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC, gave birth to an idea. Why not use Super Bowl weekend, a time when people come together for football and fun, to also unify the nation for a higher good: collecting dollars and canned food for the needy? Youth could collect donations at their schools and churches in soup pots, and then send every dollar DIRECTLY to a local charity of THEIR choice.

The senior high youth of Spring Valley Presbyterian liked the idea so much they decided to invite other area churches to join the team. Twenty-two Columbia churches participated that first year, reporting their results so a total could be determined, and then sending all \$5,700 they had raised to area non-profits.

That was 1990 – 30 years ago! Since then, ordinary young people have generated an extraordinary more than \$100 million for soup kitchens, food banks and other charities in communities across the country. In addition, hundreds of thousands of youth have experienced for themselves the joy and satisfaction of giving and serving, inspiring people of all ages to follow their generous example.

This year, the youth of FPC Bentonville will be collecting donations after worship on Sunday, February 2. Donations will be sent to the NWA Food Bank.

# Youth Sunday and Fundraiser

## Lunch is February 23

Join us as our youth lead us in worship on Sunday, February 23 at 10:15am. It is Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday, and our youth have been reflecting on the scriptures and themes for the day. As the youth work together on the music, prayers, liturgy and message, we look forward to a meaningful service of worship.

After worship, please come for a Pancake Fundraiser Lunch in the Fellowship Hall to benefit youth mission trips and programs. In the spirit of Shrove Tuesday (on February 25), the menu includes pancakes and breakfast sides.

Shrove Tuesday is the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday that begins the season of Lent. Traditionally, Shrove Tuesday is a day of penitence, and to celebrate as the last chance to feast before Lent begins, when many people used to forgo eating rich and fatty foods. To use up the fats in the house before Lent, pancakes became a popular dish to use up the eggs, fat and milk. "Fat Tuesday" (or Mardi Gras, from the French name) comes from this tradition.



# FPC Food Pantry

## 2019 NUMBERS:

- 2172 families served
- 8765 individuals served
- more than 193,857 pounds of food (almost 97 tons ) distributed,

Our expenses for 2019 were **\$20,500**, income was **\$21,000**.

In 2019 we received **108,893** pounds of food from the USDA TEFAP program (commodity) at no cost to us. We received 84,964 pounds of food from the NWA Foodbank.

In the new year, we are asking our families for more information as required by the NWA Foodbank and Feeding America. We will be using laptops to enter this information. We have changed the room arrangement to allow for more interaction with families, more privacy at registration and less noise.

We work on Fridays from 9-10:30 and Saturdays from 8:30-11:15. The pantry is open every Saturday from 9-11. Please join us to show God's love to our community.

## 2020 Mission Committee Fair

Sunday February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020



**Please join your Mission Committee immediately following the church service on February 9<sup>th</sup> in the Welcome Hall. Take this opportunity to learn about and explore opportunities for your involvement.**

# Adult Faith Building

**"Exploring the Book of Confessions" January 5 - February 23**  
meets Sunday morning in the Library, 9am

Learn more about how the church expresses and lives what it believes in this 8-week class led by Pastor Katie, Pastor Georgia, Rev. Laura Fleetwood and Elder Roy Horan.

**"Faith and Science in Conversation" January 12 - March 8**  
**(no class February 16)**  
meets Sunday evenings in the Library, 5-6pm

Open to all, no charge. Childcare available upon request (through the church office).

How do we navigate the intersection of faith and science in our lives and in society? Differing perspectives regarding these two arenas has led to major conflicts in Western society from ancient times to the present day. We will explore several ways of understanding the relationship between science and faith, and see how different approaches touch on contemporary issues. Led by Bill Rice and guests.

In this 8 week series of discussions, we will explore the many ways we can understand the relationship between science and faith, and how those perspectives touch on contemporary issues. Led by Bill Rice and guests. Sponsored by the Adult Christian Education Committee.

## Reflections on the Journey: Aging, Death, and Final Preparations

Sunday Afternoons, 3:30 – 5:30 pm    March 15- April 26, 2020

Aging is part of our human experience. We all have concerns for ourselves and our loved ones regarding the later years of life and the final journey home. This six-session seminar will be held at the church on *Sunday afternoons* in the Library, and is open to the congregation and community. People of all ages are invited to take advantage of the discussions, guest speakers, and resources.



**Registration fee: \$15** per household (covers all sessions, notebook, refreshments)

Register with the church office by **Sunday, March 8**; checks payable to First Presbyterian Church.

### **March 15 Spiritual and Emotional Realities of Death and Dying**

The Rev. Georgia Senor, Associate Pastor, First Presbyterian Church

*This session focuses on spiritual and emotional needs as we contemplate leaving this world. We will talk about issues of fear, assurance, reconciliation, and how Jesus prepared for his own death.*

### **March 22 Service, Burial, Funeral Home and Columbarium Arrangements**

Lisa Bacon, Director of Stockdale-Moody Funeral Services

*We will briefly cover the decisions that one must make – from the type of farewell desired to cemetery choices and current laws. This will give families the knowledge to carefully consider their options without the pressure that occurs following a death when no prior arrangements have been made.*

Denny Rogers, Chair, FPC Columbarium/Cemetery Committee

*We will visit the Chapel and learn all about the Columbarium and church cemetery.*

### **March 29 1. Aging and the Human Body    2. What is Hospice?**

Dr. Stephen Carter    Medical Director, Circle of Life Hospice

*Dr. Carter will review the medical aspects of aging and its effect on the human body. He will also discuss the benefits of hospice care, both for the patient and for the family. Hospice care offers not only medical assistance to bring physical comfort, but also emotional and spiritual support for loved ones.*

### **April 5 Spirituality of Aging**

The Rev. Laura Fleetwood, Honorably Retired

*Aging is a spiritual journey, and as we become older adults, each of us becomes more unique. Christian faith can transform the winter season of life. We will explore together how life experiences and passages have challenged and shaped our faith that promises hope for the future.*

### **April 12 No Class (Easter Sunday)**

### **April 19 Legal Issues in the Senior Years**

Chris Rogers, Attorney (and church member)

*We will learn a summary of current estate planning techniques for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, as well as the importance of having a plan for ourselves and our surviving loved ones.*

### **April 26 Service of Witness to the Resurrection**

The Rev. Katie Cummings, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church

*A Presbyterian memorial service is grounded in hope; it speaks to our union with Jesus Christ in life, in death, and in resurrection. We will discuss the content and flow of a memorial service, helping participants plan for their own service.*

For questions, contact Pastor Georgia ([gseonor@fpcbentonville.org](mailto:gseonor@fpcbentonville.org), 479-273-5450) or Rev. Laura Fleetwood ([fleetwoodlaura1@gmail.com](mailto:fleetwoodlaura1@gmail.com), 479-855-7566)

# Presbyterian Women

**December 18** - Presbyterian Women joined the Innisfree Bible study group and sang Christmas carols. Those participating were Cindy Walters, Beth Hall, Sarah Cook, Sue Ann Overstreet, Helen Davis, Laura Fleetwood and Linda Murphy. This photo was in the Northwest Arkansas Gazette.



**January 7** - The PW service circle met to cut and tie 4 fleece blankets for the Linus Project. These blankets will be distributed to local shelters, schools and hospitals. Helping with this project were: Dana Downing, Pat Hagemeyer, Susan Drummond, Laura Fleetwood, Sue Ann Overstreet, Cie Cochran, Linda Freeman, Beth Hall and Linda Murphy. We will meet again February 4 at 10am.



# A Word from the Library

Winter brings opportunity to visit the church library. We have several new books to note. Also check out the Books to Go Cart for books following church lectionary, children's books for family reading, and the magazine rack with contemporary thought on Christian life.

## **Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stevenson.**

A powerful true story about the potential for mercy to redeem us, and a clarion call to fix our broken system of justice—from one of the most brilliant and influential lawyers of our time. Bryan Stevenson is the executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Alabama, and a professor of law at New York University Law School. He has won relief for dozens of condemned prisoners, argued five times before the Supreme Court, and won national acclaim for his work challenging bias against the poor and people of color.

## **When Kids Ask Hard Questions: Faith-Filled Responses for Tough Topics.**

The world is a confusing and painful place for children (and adults). How do you respond faithfully to your kids big questions? Learn to craft faithful conversations and be better prepared to talk about the tough stuff with your kids. More than 30 essays from a diverse group of young Christian parents/pastors...one of whom is Sarah Leer, our recent youth leader.

## **Needs of Dying by David Kessler and Maggie Callanan's Final Gifts and Final Journeys.**

These three new books focus on end of life concerns. Here are guides to understanding the special needs of the dying and those who care for them. Designed to be a companion, comprehensive resource, and advocate from diagnosis through the final hours.

See what's **NEW** at the

# **SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR**

## **Dates, Times, and Place**

**March 1- March 6**

**Come out to the Jungle Scholastic Book Fair  
in the Birds Eye Classroom.**

**Kick off is Sunday March 1, 2020 at 11:15**

**All proceeds benefit My Friends and Me and the FPC  
Children's Library.**

**Goal is to sell 285 Books!**



**All purchases benefit our school!**



We thank you and appreciate the collaborative effort that goes into publishing our bimonthly newsletter. We could not do it without your contribution. If you have an article, announcement, or image you would like included in our next monthly newsletter, please send your submission to Amanda Hayes via email to: [administrative.assistant@fpcbentonville.org](mailto:administrative.assistant@fpcbentonville.org). by February 20, 2020. Again, we appreciate the support of all members of our congregation in every ministry.

Thank you,  
FPC Staff

#### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

901 NE J Street – Bentonville, Arkansas 72712

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Website: [www.fpcbentonville.org](http://www.fpcbentonville.org)

E-mail: [administrative.assistant@fpcbentonville.org](mailto:administrative.assistant@fpcbentonville.org)

Pastor, Head of Staff: Rev. Katie Cummings; [kcummings@fpcbentonville.org](mailto:kcummings@fpcbentonville.org),

Associate Pastor: Rev. Georgia Senor; [gsenor@fpcbentonville.org](mailto:gsenor@fpcbentonville.org),

Director of Music Ministry: Brian Breeding; [brian@fpcbentonville.org](mailto:brian@fpcbentonville.org)

Organist/accompanist: Kristy Olefsky

Director of Children and Youth Ministry: open

Financial Manager: Catherine Lazo; [financial.manager@fpcbentonville.org](mailto:financial.manager@fpcbentonville.org)

Facility Maintenance Manager : Larry Hall; [facilities@fpcbentonville.org](mailto:facilities@fpcbentonville.org)

Administrative Assistant: Amanda Hayes;

[administrative.assistant@fpcbentonville.org](mailto:administrative.assistant@fpcbentonville.org)

Nursery Coordinator: Zinnuh Cooper; [zcooper@fpcbentonville.org](mailto:zcooper@fpcbentonville.org)

Custodians: Jorge Esparza and Chuck Hargus

Clerk of Session: Virginia Breshears

#### OUR MISSION

Trusting, Growing, Caring and Serving Together In the Name of Jesus Christ

The mission of First Presbyterian Church is to help people

- 1) Come to trust in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord of their lives;
- 2) Grow and mature in their understanding and experience of that faith;
- 3) Care for one another, allowing Christ's love to live in them as we journey through the "mountains" and "valleys" of life; and
- 4) Serve the needs of "the least of these", our brothers and sisters, in the name of Jesus Christ.