

The Heavenly Herald

“We will share the love of our Lord, building on our past, reaching in faith toward our future.”

A letter from the Pastor...

JANUARY, 2024

“But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people.”

– Luke 2:10

Dear Friends of FUPC Houston,

In preparation for Christmas the Adult Sunday School class has been working its way through Timothy Keller’s book, *Hidden Christmas: The Surprising Truth Behind the Birth of Christ*. One of the things that we have been talking about is how often the people are told not to be afraid. Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, and the Shepherds are all told not to be afraid. But, whether the angel says “Do not be afraid” or “Fear not!” what’s important is what comes next.

Each time the Angel of the Lord tells someone not to be afraid the Angel also says something along the lines of “Behold!” or “I bring you good news.” The recurring message from God to his chosen people is not to be afraid, not because there are no problems in life, but BECAUSE even in the midst of their trouble God has a plan.

Each time someone is told not to be afraid God speaks to them and reminds them that God has a plan of redemption, renewal, and rebirth.

My prayer for all of you is that the amazing good news of Christmas would be with you throughout the coming year and when you are feeling afraid or scared you would turn to God and hear his good news spoken for you.

Throughout 2024, when you go through trying times, when you are feeling scared or uncertain, when you’re not sure about what comes next, trust and know that God still speaks and is speaking to you and proclaiming to you the good news of the unending love of Jesus Christ.

May the Christmas blessings of God’s love sustain you throughout the New Year,

Merry Christmas!
Pastor Ben

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Born in January

Jan. 1st	John Zanaglio	Jan. 2nd	Josh Michtak
Jan. 2nd	Tamra Stevens	Jan. 3rd	Virginia Rockwell
Jan. 3rd	Denise Spinnenweber	Jan. 3rd	Jalyn Shober
Jan. 4th	Bill Kelley	Jan. 5th	Jessica Young
Jan. 6th	Ron Marcase	Jan. 6th	Michael Bayne
Jan. 7th	Sam Washabaugh	Jan. 8th	Brian Rubbo
Jan. 9th	Nancy Youmans	Jan. 9th	Mako Morgan
Jan. 11th	Dave Fee	Jan. 11th	Amy Wiszczaor
Jan. 12th	Debbie Askew	Jan. 12th	Jami Craig
Jan. 12th	Joy Bell	Jan. 13th	Dottie Dotyk
Jan. 14th	Emily Johnson	Jan. 16th	Michael Amos
Jan. 20th	Nancy Lewis	Jan. 23rd	Pam Rose
Jan. 23rd	Cathy Cushey	Jan. 24th	Karen Jones
Jan. 27th	Bob Arnold	Jan. 27th	Robert Culp III
Jan. 29th	Jim Hanna	Jan. 30th	Ashley Layton
Jan. 30th	Mackenzi Marshall	Jan. 30th	Scott McFarland
Jan. 31st	Bayleigh Comer		



Mike & Joan Susko - Jan. 3rd

John & Karen Jones - Jan. 26th

PRAYER LIST

ONGOING PRAYER REQUESTS:

Joey Dadum, Baby Emilia Lemon, Mindy Kelley, Brandon Craig, Darren Spiker, Cat Morgan, Rev. Don Austin, Tim Lynch, Melanie Donahoo, William Young, Patti Nagy, Ronnie Casper, JoAnn Pitcock, Amanda, Matthew Scears, Brad Pitcock, Brian Baumgardner, Bill Brown, Sophia Desmond, and Bill Ensley.



JANUARY PRAYER REQUEST:

Charity, Cathy Lynch, Patty Goldbach, Nancy Magera, Joey Dadum, Baby Emilia Lemon, Mary Lou Patsch, Bell Family, Evelyn, Bob Washabaugh, Marion Marcase, MaryAnn Clark, Curtis Marcase, and John Orlando.



PLEASE ALSO PRAY FOR:

Pastor Ben and our Houston Church Leaders,
Our Nation and our Nation's Leaders, and
all unspoken requests of our church family.

January Newsletter Articles
due by Monday, December 18, 2023

SERVING THE CHURCH IN JANUARY, 2024

Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, January 7, 2024.

GREETERS

Deacon Greeters:

January - 7th

(MV) Dodie Hanna
(GV) Virginia Bayne
(GH) Janice BLosel

January - 14th

(MV) Emmy Homitz
(GV) Haley Steere
(GH) Volunteer

January - 21st

(MV) Lala Patsch
(GV) Inez Patsch
(GH) Virginia Bayne

January - 28th

(MV) Nancy Isiminger
(GV) Haley Steere
(GH) Janice Blosel

Elder Greeters:

January - 7th

(MV) Pastor Ben
(GV) Gloria Schmalz
(GH) Jonnie Swarow

January - 14th

(MV) Bob Blough
(GV) Pastor Ben
(GH) Karen Jones

January - 21st

(MV) Linda Young
(GV) Bo Lesjak
(GH) Pastor Ben

January - 28th

(MV) Pastor Ben
(GV) Jonnie Swarow
(GH) Bo Lesjak

Music: Karen Jones **Audiovisual:** Leon Young

Liturgist: Harlan Shober

Trustees: Stacey Simpson
& Harlan Shober

January Acolytes:

January 7th - Gary Swarow
January 14th - Mako Morgan
January 21st - Baker Libert
January 28th - Eden Jeffers

NURSERY SCHEDULE:

January 7th - Haley Steere January 14th - Gloria Schmalz
January 21st - Kaleigh Valley January 28th - Jami Craig

CHRISTMAS TEA - DEC. 3, 2023

"LOOK AT SOME OF OUR TABLES"



**OUR 11
SERVERS!**



BAPTISM OF BRIELLE ELIZABETH SMITH

DECEMBER 10, 2023



LIL' CHIMERS



THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR CHIMERS!



LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH





9TH ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF
Houston Presbyterian Church Hall
Sunday, February 4, 2024 1:30pm



Come and taste test a variety of delicious chilis and help choose a winner. It's so much fun and tasting is such a delicious job - don't miss it!

There are 3 ways to win - judges' vote, popular vote and most money collected in their jar. Prizes will be awarded.

Proceeds benefit the purchase of rice and beans for the Deacons' Haiti Mission Project.

**Great prizes, great fun, great fellowship,
- AND - GREAT FOOD!**

Open to everyone and anyone.

Free Admission.

Come vote for your favorite Chili.

Look for more info at a later date.





SAVE THE DATES:

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February 11, 2024
Annual Meeting of the Congregation & Corporation of First
United Presbyterian Church.
- following Worship -

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Ordination and Installation Service
Join us for a special worship service on Sunday February 18 as
we Ordain and Install our new Elders and Deacons for the Class
of 2026.

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Week of June 17, 2024
Mission Trip to Point Pleasant, WV
Look for details in upcoming Bulletins.

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August 24, 2024
Rise Against Hunger
Meal packaging event at West Alexander Fair Grounds
Look for details in upcoming Bulletins.



PASTOR BEN'S JANUARY READINGS



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

JANUARY 7, 2024

Baptism of the Lord

COMMUNION SUNDAY

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

Revelation 21:1-61

"A Very Good Place to Start"

JANUARY 14, 2024

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Psalm 139:1-6,13-18

John 1:43-51

"Under the Fig Tree"

JANUARY 21, 2024

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Jonah 3:1-10

Mark 1:14-20

"Go Fish!"

JANUARY 28, 2022

4th Sunday after Epiphany

Psalm 111

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

"Love and Knowledge"





JANUARY, 2024



Regular Events
Sunday School - 9:45am
Worship - 11:00am

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Dec. 31 Happy New Year	1 - Office Closed	2-Angie Away	3-	4-	5-	6-
7-Communion Sunday	8-Ministry Mtg. 6:30pm	9-Deacons Mtg. 6:00pm	10-	11-	12-	13-
14-	15-Mission & Nurturing Mtg. 6:30pm	16-	17-	18-	19-	20-
21-	22-Admin. Mtg. 6:30pm	23-	24-	25-	26-	27-Presbytery Mtg. 9am Zoom
28-	29-Session Mtg. 6:30pm	30-	31-			





First United Presbyterian Church
 102 North Main Street
 Houston, PA 15342

Address Service Requested

Nonprofit organization
 U.S. Postage
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 Houston, PA 15342

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 724-746-3040

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 secretary@houstonpresbyterian.org

Meals on Wheels Ext: 314
Open Door Nursery Ext: 311

Website
 houstonpresbyterian.org

Sunday School
 Sunday School Begins
 Sept. 18th at 10:00am

Sunday Worship Service
September — May at 11:00 a.m.
 Nursery Available
 June-July-August at 10:00 a.m.

Bible Study
 Tuesdays
 10:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

Gifts and Offerings

First United Presbyterian Church
 102 North Main Street
 Houston, PA 15342



Member Visitor

Name _____ No. _____

Please apply my offering as follows:

Regular Offering	\$ _____
Deacons Fund	\$ _____
Building Fund	\$ _____
Special Project	\$ _____

Memorial Fund \$ _____

In Memory of _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Thank you for your generous gift.