

# CHURCH MATTERS-January 2022

## From Pastor Mike

Dear Friends,

December of 2021, will be remembered by me because of several life changing events in my life.

This is my last Advent and Christmas with you--a season, in which, we would playfully go back and forth about when we would sing Christmas hymns and display poinsettias. December is the anniversary of my ordination as a minister. It also is the birth date of Abby Todisman and me. Lastly, it is the month that I write my last article for the newsletter. Hooray! LOL

In some ways, this is my formal goodbye to each one of you. January 16 is party day, which I prefer over saying goodbye. The words fall short in expressing my joy as I look back on the 22 years I have had the privilege to serve you. I have worn the hats of Interim Pastor, Pastor, and Co-Pastor.

Each of them are growth points in our relationship. Looking back on it, 22 years represent a third of my life. Yikes! You have stood by me in the best of times and in the worst of times. We have laughed, cried and intertwined our lives together in a unique and special way. Collectively and individually, you have been my rock and safe place. We have grown in faith and wisdom as we weaved our way through the mazes of our lives. The best of me comes from our relationship and of course I exempt you from those places that I still have room to grow. LOL!

The hardest part in saying goodbye is knowing that my story will be a little less grace-filled because of your absence. However, what I will have are the stories of us wandering through the wilderness together, overcoming the challenges that have made us what we are today. I have been blessed beyond measure because of each one of you, those present and those who have passed into God's grace.

My tears shed are tears of sadness, mixed with a large measure of joy. As Pastor Kerry has reminded us, joy is a choice and I chose joy over sadness.

Thank you, my friends, for the shared journey. No matter where I go, I will carry our story deep in my heart and that gives me comfort. Rejoice friends, let that be our choice, as I look forward to hearing the good news that comes out of Ferguson because of you and Pastor Kerry. This goodbye is only valid until the day when all of us are reunited and sing once again together the songs of God's victory over all endings.

*With great love,*

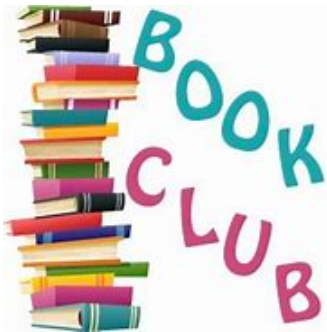
*Michael Trautman, affectionally known as Mike*



## CHURCH AND COMMUNITY EVENTS



As you know, Rev. Trautman's last day with us is January 16, 2022. We previously sent an email and a letter requesting your attendance. This will be our final opportunity to send him out with love and appreciation for his more than 20 years of faithful service to our church! **If you have not yet RSVP'd for Mike's retirement luncheon and celebration following worship that day, please do so as soon as possible by calling the church office or emailing Karen Schriefer at [fergpres@gmail.com](mailto:fergpres@gmail.com)**, so we can get a head count on attendance and order accordingly from the caterer. Thank you.



The book club will resume at 7:00 pm on March 1, 2022. We are meeting in person in the Memorial Lounge. Bring your own snack and drink.

We will be discussing *The Women of Chateau Lafayette* by Stephanie Dray. Contact Karen Schriefer at 314-522-6842 if you have any questions.

The 2022 Flower Chart is now up (between the restrooms) at church. If you are interested in purchasing flowers for church in 2022 please sign up for the date you are interested in. The cost is \$25.00.



# Our Golden Members

As we move one step closer to our long term vision of being a church for the whole community we need to remember some long time Saints that have worked for the success of this church.

The following is a list of people who joined First Presbyterian Church of Ferguson over 50 years ago:

Zoe Bollinger December 5, 1954  
Winston Jones December 5, 1954  
Jane Rauth-Coldewe October 27, 1957  
Becky Henderson December 14, 1958  
Duane Bibko October 18, 1959  
Lovene Hartman May 22, 1960  
Madreen Meyer April 8, 1962  
Shirley Thomas December 9, 1962  
Garry Wade February 16, 1963  
Bernice Mohesky December 5, 1965  
Kenneth Mohesky December 5, 1965  
Debra Koenig May 22, 1966  
Garold Fritchey October 9, 1966  
Linda Fritchey October 9, 1966  
Joy Shackelford December 15, 1968  
Jan Foster March 30, 1969  
Jean Bryant March 22, 1970  
Susan Owens March 22, 1970  
Harold Walters April 4, 1971  
Judith Walters April 4, 1971

The following is a list of people who joined Northminster Presbyterian Church over 50 years ago:

Verla Sullivan March 26, 1955  
John Thomas Clayton March 18, 1957  
Paul Le Francois November 22, 1959  
Laura Squire February 14, 1960  
Russell Watts September 25, 1960  
Maureen Rutherford via Normandy Presbyterian Church March 19, 1961  
Lee Weltmer September 24, 1961  
Eleanor Weltmer September 24, 1961  
George Gilbert September 29, 1963  
Shirley Gilbert September 29, 1963  
Jeannie Dobrich October 1, 1967



## We Now Offer Online Giving!



New to our website, you may now give online with your phone, tablet, laptop or PC! Just go to [faithinferguson.org](http://faithinferguson.org) and click on the "Give" tab near the top of the screen, click the link that is provided and follow the steps.



I'm so grateful that God has given me the opportunity to be at this loving, generous church family. I appreciate the Christmas gift as well as the continued support for me as the Music Director. God Bless!

Becky



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 - Tony Vrabel
- 9 - Devon Tallent
- 12 - Zoe Bollinger
- 13 - Jean Bryant
- 19 - Jamie McDonald
- 20 - Mollie Koser
- 23 - Carole Lowery
- 23 - Kathy Steinmann
- 24 - Paula Vrabel

*(If someone's birthday is missing or incorrect, please let the office know.)*

# Recycling Opportunities



**Recycle your broken Christmas lights!** Just deposit them in the red bin at the church parking lot entry anytime through Sunday, January 23!



## Electronics Recycling Event

Saturday, February 12, 2022

9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Forestwood Park

824 Ferguson Avenue

Ferguson, MO 63135

The event is being hosted in collaboration with the Ferguson Municipal Library.

Go to **[mrcrecycling.net](http://mrcrecycling.net)** and click on recycling events at the top of the page to get more information about this and other recycling events.



**First Presbyterian  
Church of Ferguson**

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faithinfergusonmo.online.church

*Have a safe  
and Joyous  
New Year!*

**Rev. Dr. Kerry Allison**

Pastor

**Rebecca Combs**

Music Director

**Lee Weltmer**

Treasurer

**Jodie Schlobohm & Karen Schriefer**

Financial Recorders

**Albert Harrold**

Youth Ministry Coordinator

**Susan Owens**

Nursery Supervisor

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Twitter, Instagram, and  
YouTube accounts for all of  
the latest updates!**

