

FROM THE PASTOR

THANK GOD FOR 2023, NOW TO 2024

My dear Siblings in Christ,

As we step into the threshold of a new year, it's only fitting to take a moment to reflect on the blessings of 2023 and the boundless opportunities awaiting us in 2024.

Without a doubt, 2023 has been a year filled with challenges, triumphs, and countless blessings. In the midst of hardships, we've discovered an unyielding resilience within ourselves and the profound strength of community and togetherness. We've encountered moments of joy and triumph, and we've weathered storms that have tested our resolve. Through it all, we've emerged stronger, wiser, and more empathetic, reminding ourselves of the enduring power of hope and perseverance.

As we look ahead to 2024, let's carry the blessings and lessons of the past year with us as we step into a future brimming with promise. This new year holds within it the potential for growth, transformation, and the fulfillment of our dreams. It's an opportunity to embrace new beginnings, to set ambitious goals, and to chase after our aspirations with unwavering tenacity.

In 2024, we have the chance to craft our own narrative, to seize the opportunities that come our way, and to create the kind of life we've always envisioned. Let's view this year as a blank canvas, waiting for us to paint it with the vibrant hues of our passions, ambitions, and the sheer determination to make each day count.

As we embark on this new chapter, let's carry within us the wisdom garnered from the past and the hopeful anticipation of what lies ahead. Let's cultivate a spirit of gratitude for the blessings that have graced our lives and a fervent optimism for the gifts that are yet to come.

My dear friend, I encourage you to approach 2024 with an open heart and a courageous mindset. Believe in your ability to overcome obstacles, to chase after your dreams, and to make a positive impact in the world around you. Embrace the challenges as opportunities for growth, the setbacks as lessons in resilience, and the victories as affirmations of your unwavering spirit.

Let's take the time to envision the remarkable possibilities that await us in 2024. Picture the milestones you aspire to reach, the adventures you long to embark upon, and the relationships you hope to nurture and cherish. See yourself standing at the precipice of greatness, ready to leap into the unknown with a steadfast belief in your potential to create a life of purpose, joy, and fulfillment.

In the coming year, let's remember to cherish every moment, to savor the simple pleasures, and to cultivate a spirit of mindfulness and gratitude. Let's seek opportunities to spread kindness, to uplift those in need, and to be the change we wish to see in the world. Let's embrace the diversity of experiences that 2024 has in store for us, knowing that each encounter, whether joyful or challenging, has the power to shape us into the best version of ourselves.

In the pursuit of our dreams, let's also remember to prioritize self-care, to nurture our well-being, and to foster moments of rest and rejuvenation. Let's listen to our inner voice, trust our instincts, and remain unwavering in our commitment to living a life that is authentic, purposeful, and imbued with love and compassion.

As we prepare to begin 2024, let's do so with hearts full of hope, minds brimming with possibility, and spirits fortified by the precious lessons of the past. Together, let's embark on this new journey with unyielding courage, unwavering determination, and an unshakable belief in our ability to make 2024 a year of extraordinary accomplishment and boundless joy.

May the blessings of 2023 pave the way for the remarkable opportunities of 2024, and may this new year unfold as a tapestry woven with the threads of our dreams, our resilience, and our unrelenting pursuit of a life well-lived.

With boundless optimism and unwavering faith in the future and our God,

Dr. Kerry



UP-COMING EVENTS

****Please be sure to turn in all Newsletter information NO LATER than 5 business days before the 1st of the month**

JANUARY EVENTS AT A GLANCE

December 31st - New Year's Eve Service, 10:15am

January 1st - New Year's Day.

January 7th - De-Greening of the Church, after church services

January 15th - Martin Luther King's Day.

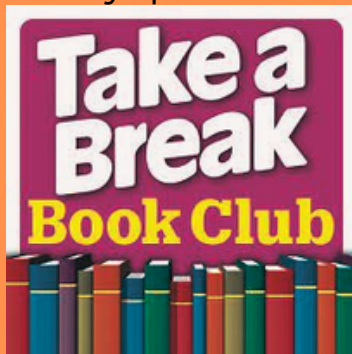
January 28th - Friends and Family Day, 10:15am



Book Club will return on March

5th

Contact Karen Schriefer at 314-522-6842 if you have any questions



Holly, our administrative assistant, will start her vacation starts Jan 1st and return Jan 9th

**Address Update:
Bernice Mohesky
68 Decorah Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63146**

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE



Recycling Your Lights



When putting Christmas lights away this year, you may find some broken! **Bring those problem light strings to church to be recycled.** A box has been placed by the food donations table for any non-working Christmas lights. Thanks for doing your part to keep recyclable items out of landfills!

—Jan Foster

NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE

First Church Of Ferguson

First Presbyterian Church

Happy

2024

**NEW YEAR'S EVE
Worship**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31 | 10:15 am CT

For More Information Please Call

314-522-8542

401 Darst Road Ferguson, MO 63135

faithinferguson.org

MLK DAY

First Presbyterian Church

15
JAN

First
Church of Ferguson

We Celebrate
MLK DAY

A DAY OF SERVICE
Serving Those In Need | Helping Our Neighbors
"Everyone Can Be Great, Because Everyone Can Serve."
FAITHINFERGUSON.ORG

Ways to Serve:

1. Volunteer at a local nonprofit
2. Mentor or tutor youth
3. Engage in dialogue and education
4. Perform random acts of kindness
5. Volunteer virtually

PER CAPITA

WHAT IS PER CAPITA AND WHY IT'S IMPORTANT

PER CAPITA IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL MEMBERS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH TO PARTICIPATE EQUALLY, RESPONSIBLY AND INTERDEPENDENTLY BY SHARING THE COST OF CO-ORDINATION AND EVALUATION OF MISSION AND OF PERFORMING ECCLESIASTICAL, LEGISLATIVE, AND JUDICIAL FUNCTIONS THAT IDENTIFY A REFORMED CHURCH, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME STRENGTHENING THE SENSE OF COMMUNITY AMONG ALL PRESBYTERIANS. EACH MEMBER IS ASKED TO SHARE IN PAYING THEIR PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT **\$36.00 PER MEMBER IN 2024**. YOU MAY PAY YOUR PER CAPITA BY CLEARLY EARMARKING YOUR PAYMENT OF CASH OR CHECK FOR 'PER CAPITA' AND LEAVING IT IN THE OFFERING PLATE OR MAILING IT TO THE CHURCH. THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE BENEFITS OF BEING A CONNECTIONAL CHURCH.

OUR PER CAPITA GIVING SUPPORTS OUR LOCAL PRESBYTERY, SYNOD AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME IMPORTANT WAYS PER CAPITA PROVIDES THE OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WITH THE MEANS TO STRENGTHEN THE CONNECTIONS OF OUR WORK AND BUILD LASTING RELATIONSHIPS TO HELP ALL PRESBYTERIANS SHARE GOD'S LOVE THROUGH MISSION AND MINISTRY.

PER CAPITA FUNDS ALLOW THE OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO SUPPORT THE MINISTRY AND WITNESS OF CONGREGATIONS AND MID COUNCILS THROUGH:

- BRINGING TOGETHER COMMISSIONERS AND ADVISORY DELEGATES AS THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
- PUBLISHING (IN MULTIPLE LANGUAGES) AND DISTRIBUTION (IN MULTIPLE FORMAT) OF THE BOOK OF ORDER, THE BOOK OF CONFESSIONS, AND OTHER GENERAL ASSEMBLY PUBLICATIONS
- UNDERWRITING THE EXPENSES OF THE CO-MODERATORS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AS THEY TRAVEL ACROSS THE CHURCH AND AROUND THE WORLD TO INTERPRET THE WORK OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND ATTEND CHURCH ANNIVERSARIES, PRESBYTERY MEETINGS, RETREATS, AND ECUMENICAL GATHERINGS
- GATHERING CHURCH LEADERS FROM PRESBYTERIES AND SYNODS FOR TRAINING EVENTS
- SUPPORTING WORK IN THE AREA OF ORDERED MINISTRY, HELPING ALL PRESBYTERIANS RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL IN THEIR LIVES AS TEACHING ELDERS, RULING ELDERS, AND DEACONS
- PROVIDING NECESSARY TOOLS TO DEVELOP AND ADMINISTER ORDINATION EXAMS TO SEMINARIANS PREPARING TO BECOME FUTURE PASTORS
- MAINTAINING CHURCH LEADERSHIP CONNECTION, THE ONLINE SYSTEM THAT SUPPORTS THE CALL PROCESS FOR PASTORS AND CONGREGATIONS
- SUPPORTING THOSE ELECTED TO SERVE ON PERMANENT GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES, SUCH AS THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON ECUMENICAL AND INTERRELIGIOUS RELATIONS, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY NOMINATING COMMITTEE, AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION
- PROVIDING INFORMATION, ADVICE, AND COUNSEL TO PRESBYTERIES AND PASTORS WHOSE MEMBERS HAVE IMMIGRATION ISSUES
- SUPPORTING THE PRESBYTERIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ENSURING THAT OUR WITNESS TO THE GOSPEL TODAY WILL BE PRESERVED FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS, JUST AS WE HAVE LEARNED ABOUT THE HISTORY OF PAST GENERATIONS
- PROVIDING A PRESBYTERIAN PRESENCE AT ECUMENICAL GROUPS AND GATHERINGS IN THIS COUNTRY AND WORLDWIDE-- EXTENDING OUR MISSION EFFORTS AND OUR WORK FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE FAR BEYOND WHAT WE CAN DO BY OURSELVES TO PROMOTE CHRISTIAN UNITY

FRIENDS AND FAMILY DAY

First Presbyterian Church Of Ferguson

153
YEARS

CELEBRATING THE GRACE OF GOD




Family & Friends Day
January 28, 2024

Fellowship
9:45 am & 11:30 am

MORNING SERVICE
JAN 28 AT 10:15 AM

Featuring:
Artist Cottrell Turner

Speaker:
Dr. Kerry Allison

 401 Darst Rd. Ferguson, MO 63135 | FAITHINFERGUSON.ORG

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Prayers and Concerns for:

Prayers:

- **The Harrold Family**
- **Those effected by the war in Palestine and Israel**
- **Becky Henderson's daughter, Jane**
- **Deja Allison (Kerry's Daughter)**
- **Ukraine**
- **Becky Combs - Surgery on 12th**
- **Kristin Miller - Cancer**



Kristin's Address:

729 W 38th Street
Houston, TX 77018

<https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/kristinmillerkc> **-TO DONATE**



Is it real?
Or a scam?

Is it a Cloned or Scam Email?
It may be!

Please note that First Presbyterian Church of Ferguson nor the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy will ever text or email you requesting gift cards, cash, or any private account information. If you receive any email or text like that, please contact the church office at 314.522.8542

OTHER INFORMATION

FACILITY USE REQUESTS REMINDER

If you wish to use space in the church building, you are required to fill out a Facility Use Request form. Your request will need approval so that there are no scheduling conflicts. Please contact the church office for the form. Thank you.

Holly Turner
Administrative Assistant
(314) 522-8542

Prayer Requests

Don't forget to submit your prayer requests before services on Sunday mornings. The Prayer Request Forms will be located in the offering plate as you enter through the sanctuary door. Please complete your prayer request and place it on the communion table before the service begins. Dr. Kerry will read the requests from the pulpit so all can hear.

JANUARY BIRTHDAY'S

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

If someone's birthday is missing or incorrect,
please let the office know

OUR STAFF



**First Presbyterian
Church of Ferguson**

401 Darst Rd, Ferguson, MO 63135

(314) 522-8542

fergpres@gmail.com

www.faithinferguson.org

Rev. Dr. Kerry Allison

Pastor

Holly Turner

Administrative Assistant

Rebecca Combs

Music Director

Lee Weltmer

Treasurer

Jodie Schlobohm & Karen Schriefer

Financial Recorders

Albert Harrold

Youth Ministry Coordinator

Laura Koser

Nursery Supervisor

**Visit our website, Facebook,
Twitter, Instagram, and
YouTube accounts for all of
the latest updates!**

