



THE CHURCH MOUSE

First Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Georgetown, KY 40324

January 2024, Vol. 18 No. 1

Pastor's Corner

A Night of Watching

It was a night of watching by the LORD, to bring them out of the land of Egypt; so this night is a night of watching kept to the LORD by all the people of Israel throughout their generations. Exodus 12:42

2024 is upon us, and most of us have plans for New Year's Eve. It may involve family, or friends, a party, or a fancy ball at some special venue. Toasting the new year, singing "Auld Lang Syne" – which is from the Scots language and means "old long since" or "for old time's sake" (yes, I had to look it up) – and we watch as the New Year rolls in. Young kids want to stay up to see the ball drop in Times Square, us oldsters may kiss our spouses and go to bed early murmuring, "Happy new year, honey." But for the Israelites, the eve of their departure from Egypt, from slavery, was a night of watching **by** the LORD, and a spiritual discipline of watching kept **to** the LORD kept for all generations to come.

The people of Israel are our spiritual ancestors, and Passover is their identity feast. It marks the beginning of a new life of freedom, of a new calendar. They eat lamb, and unleavened bread, and bitter herbs to commemorate their hasty departure from Egypt, all packed, dressed for travel, eating in a posture of readiness. Exodus 11 & 12 not only tell us the story of the escape from Egypt, but institute this feast as a perpetual reminder of God's glorious deliverance, and how the LORD watched over them the whole night.

Christ's Incarnation – Christmas – is celebrated at the turning of the year for 12 days, overlapping New Year's. Our *anno domini* calendar, A.D., means "in the year of our Lord." Our Eucharist – communion – is our identity feast. Instituted by the Lord Jesus at the time of the Passover, His body, His blood, represented in the bread and cup, are our memorial feast of Christ's death and resurrection. **1 Corinthians 5:7,8 says, "For Christ our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed for us, therefore let us keep the festival."** The Lord Jesus also spent a night in watchful prayer for Himself and us before His Passion.

This New Year's Eve, let's make time to keep watch to the LORD, to start 2024 with worship and prayer. Celebrating our great deliverance from sin and death, let's face the new year with a posture of readiness for all that the LORD has for us, our LORD Who still watches over us.

Blessings to you for 2024,

Pastor Elizabeth Stone



Pastor Stone

Session has taken the following actions:

- ruling elders will be installed during morning worship on 01/14/2024
the next stated session meeting will be 01/24/2024 at 5:30 pm

ATTENDANCE

12/03/2023 : in sanctuary, 48

12/10/2023 : in sanctuary, 45

12/17/2023 : in sanctuary, 55

12/24/2023 : in sanctuary, 83 (morning worship service – cantata)

12/24/2023 : in sanctuary, 72 (evening worship service – candlelight)

COMMUNION

Traditional communion will be served during morning worship on 01/07/2024

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UPDATE

Adult Sunday School Classes meet on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m.

We continue to offer two Adult Sunday School Classes on **Adult I** meets in the Church library and uses current books by Christian writers to discuss how modern issues impact our faith journeys. Here's the address to join the class via Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88041635485>.

Adult II meets in the downstairs classroom and is a more Bible focused class taught by **a valued member**. The group is currently studying the book, *We Make the Road by Walking*, by Brian McLaren.

Young children are invited to "Children's Church" during worship service.

The weekly Bible Study meets via Zoom on Thursday mornings at 10:30 AM. You can join through an internet computer connection or by phone. Contact Emily Carroll if you need help with this. We are currently working our way through the Gospel of Luke and are in chapter 10. We will not meet this coming Thursday, the 4th.

Here's the Zoom address: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82346112262>.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The **Morning Circle** will meet Monday, January 8 beginning at 9:30. A member will lead discussion of Lesson 5, "A Person With Leprosy Encounters Jesus" in the current *Horizons* Bible Study titled Sacred Encounters.

The December meeting of the **Nite Circle** was a time of great fun and fellowship. We collected many gifts of toiletries and necessities for the women's shelter at the Gathering Place and were pleased that we were able to meet an immediate need as they told us stocks had begun to run low. Our January meeting will be **Monday, January 8, at 6:30 at the church.**

Thank You

Dear members of First Presbyterian Church,
I wish to thank you for the most generous Christmas gift. It is truly appreciated. Thank you from the Choir Director.

Recipe of the Month

Oatmeal Cranberry-Raisin Cookies

1 cup butter, softened	2 cups all purpose flour
1 cup packed brown sugar	1 tsp. baking soda
1 cup white sugar	1 tsp. baking powder
2 eggs	1 tsp. salt
1 tsp. vanilla extract	1 cup dried cranberries
2 cups quick cooking oats	1 cup raisins

Beat butter, brown sugar, white sugar, eggs and vanilla for 5 minutes. In another bowl, combine oats, flour, baking soda, baking powder and salt. Add to butter mixture 1 cup at a time. Mix in raisins and cranberries. Form into rolls, 1 to 1 1/2 around. Wrap in waxed paper or foil. Chill thoroughly or freeze until ready to bake. With a sharp knife, slice cookies about 1/4 inch thick. Bake on ungreased cookie sheet about 10 minutes or until light brown in 350 degree oven. Keep a roll of cookie dough in your fridge for unexpected guests. Makes about 5 dozen. Enjoy!



GATHERING PLACE MISSIONS CONTINUE TO NEED OUR HELP

The next collection of supplies for the Gathering Place will be Sunday January 14. There will be containers in the Narthex for supplies for the Gathering Place Mission for Homeless Men and The Gathering Place Mission for Homeless Women and Children— both on Bourbon Street **ONGOING NEEDS:** Paper goods - large and small plates, bowls, napkins, toilet paper and paper towels (These items are the main ones that our church has approved to supply.) Also needed are personal care items and clothing.



AMEN House Wish List

-
- **Knorr Pasta sides packets**
- **Cereal**
- **Canned Tomatoes (diced or whole)**
- **Canned Peas**
- **Canned Carrots**
- **Personal Care Items (toothpaste/toothbrushes, shampoo, soap, laundry detergent, paper towels, toilet paper)**
- **Heavy duty grocery bags (Kroger ClickList bags)**

Please place your donations in the AMEN House box in the narthex. Thank you.



January 2024

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1)	2	3	4	5	6
	HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ONE AND ALL		Choir Rehearsal On break	No Bible Study this week		
7) Epiphany 9:30 Adult I and II Sunday School 11:00 Worship Communion	8) 9:30 Morning Circle 6:30 Nite Circle	9	10 Choir Rehearsal On break	11) 10:30 Member-led Bible Study via Zoom 1 pm Worship Committee	12	13
14) 9:30 Adult I and II Sunday School 11:00 Worship Officer Installation	15	16	17 6:50-8 pm Choir Rehearsal resumes	18 10:30 Member-led Bible Study via Zoom	19	20
21) 9:30 Adult I and II Sunday School 11:00 Worship	22	23	24 5:30 Session 6:50-8 pm Choir Rehearsal	25 10:30 Member-led Bible Study via Zoom	26	27
28) 9:30 Adult I and II Sunday School 11:00 Worship	29	30	31 6:50-8 pm Choir Rehearsal			