

The Beacon

Sunrise Presbyterian Church

January 2024 Newsletter



NEW SUNDAY WORSHIP TIME

- | | |
|------------|------------------------------|
| 9:00 a.m. | Choir Rehearsal |
| 9:00 a.m. | Adult Sunday School |
| 10:00 a.m. | Family Service |
| 10:00 a.m. | Worship Service in Sanctuary |

. . . *they shall name him Emmanuel,*” which means, “*God is with us.*” (Matthew 1:23)

The deep meaning of the birth of Christ is contained in the name, *Emmanuel (God is with us)*. It is a celebration of *presence*, of sharing our lives with God and one another. The Christmas season that actually concludes on January 6th (Epiphany) is all about getting together with friends and family.

I have taken to reviewing past **Beacon** articles in order to glean themes from previous years and to see how they might have affected our lives together. Last year's January **Beacon** article lifted up a theme that has become an emphasis for us. Peter Wehner, in an essay titled *Why Jesus Loved Friendship*, wrote about the significance of friendship for our wellbeing, which actually became part of a sermon series this fall.

In a recently published book, Arthur Brooks and Oprah Winfrey offered us practical guidance for **Building the Life You Want**. It's a book about being *happy* that takes a different approach to experiencing happiness. They chose to use the word, *happier*, advocating that happiness is not a goal or destination, but a journey. They identify four pillars that support a *happier* life: family, friends, faith, and purpose.

Peter Wehner reminded us that the friendship Jesus developed with his disciples was a deep connection on both a human and spiritual level. Over the centuries, the church has described this reality in theological terms, such as the Incarnation. Our creeds affirm the Great Mystery of the Incarnation as Jesus being *fully human, fully divine*. Wehner applies this mystery to the relationships Jesus embraced.

The Gospel According to John makes it clear that Jesus does not consider his disciples to be in a servant/master relationship with him, but rather as his friends.

³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

(John 13:34, 35)

¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer; because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.

(John 15:15)

Friendship is based on a mutuality of love. On sharing life's joys and sorrows. Jesus leads all of us (his present-day disciples) into this rich experience of friendship.

Friendships are the life of the church. They connect us to one another and provide care and support. Not only do they support us, they ensure that our lives are more joyful and happier.

As I think of these deep connections, the hymn, *Blest Be The Tie That Binds* comes to mind. Two of its verses describe beautifully the love and friendship Jesus showed his disciples and has encouraged all of us to share with one another.

*Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the fellowship of kindred minds
is like to that above.
We share each others woes,
our mutual burdens bear;
and often for each other flows
the sympathizing tear.
Amen!*

In God's grace,



December in Photos:

Last month was packed with joy and fellowship with our church family and the community! Photos are from the Christmas Joy Luncheon, the Live Nativity & Bethlehem Village, and Meals on Wheels Angel Tree gifts drop off.





The children from the family service lighting the advent wreath

Flower Dedications

The 2024 Flower Dedication Calendar is posted in the Sanctuary. If you would like, please take this opportunity to volunteer to provide flowers in the Sanctuary dedicated in honor of or in memory of loved ones. You may also contact the church office at 843.883.3888 or hello@oursunrise.org with your dedictaions.



Bob Ingram, who has been Sunrise's finance administrator, will be moving on in early 2024. He has been a valued partner for many years with us and we thank him from the bottom of our hearts for his dedication to the church. Hannah, who many of you know as the church administrator, will be taking over his role. We wish Bob all the best in the years to come!



**JOIN THE SOUPER BOWL
OF CARING SO NO ONE
GOES WITHOUT SOUP IN
THEIR BOWL**

Save the Date: February 11th



January at Sunrise

Growing FAITH

Growing Faith will meet January 21st at 9am in the upstairs classroom. Please feel free to share this message with any older elementary & middle school students (4th - 8th grade) you know who might be interested in joining. ~ Reece

The Adult Sunday School will conclude their study with *Forgive: Why Should I and How Can I?* by Timothy Keller Sundays at 9:00 am in the Library. Forgiveness is an essential skill, a moral imperative, and a religious belief that cuts right to the core of what it means to be human.

The Miriam-Naomi Circle will meet January 9th at 10 am in the Library using the book *Romans Learner Session Guide: Books of Faith* by Matthew J. Marohl. The church has the books available for purchase. Please see Pastor Vance to get your copy. We welcome new participants in the Circle. After we meet, those of us who are able to do so usually regroup for lunch at a nearby restaurant. If you have any questions or if you would like to be added to our mailing list, please call Patsy Hindman at (843) 906-8653.



The Women's Evening Bible Study will meet at 5:30 pm January 16th using *Journalling the Psalms: A Guide for Reflection and Prayer* by Paula Gooder. The church office has books available for purchase at \$17 each. Please contact the office at 843.883.3888 or hello@oursunrise.org to pickup your copy. New participants are welcome. I can't wait to begin this study with you! ~ Reece

Cents-Ability is collected the 2nd Sunday of each month. Thanks to you, donations have been made to Neighbors Together, East Cooper Meals on Wheels, and East Cooper Community Outreach. Please continue to give at least two cents per person per meal in the bowl in the Narthex. This simple act is an expression of thanksgiving for what we have received.



Start off your Tuesdays with the Jerry Dillon Men's Prayer Breakfast at 7:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. Start the day off right with great food, fellowship, and a devotion.

Sunrise Columbarium and Memorial Garden

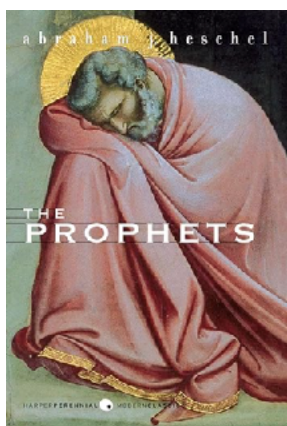
The Columbarium Committee is in the process of selecting the company to build the columbarium. Lamar Graves, Elder for Building and Grounds, is the Chair of the Construction and Maintenance Committee. Tommy Bullwinkle and Dan Hancock have joined the committee and are working with Lamar. The goal is to have the columbarium and garden funded and completed in 2024. We look forward to sharing updates about the project.

Do you have skills in construction, structural engineering, architecture, drafting, surveying, landscape architecture/design, graphic design? If so, and you would like to help, please contact Lamar at ltkdg@bellsouth.net or at 843-855-7824.

Contact Ida Havelka, Columbarium Committee Chair, at ihavelka@comcast.net or at 843-412-1884 for more information.



The Sanctuary was overflowing with beautiful poinsettias for the Christmas Eve services. Thank you for all of the dedications in honor of or in memory of your loved ones.



After concluding our study of *Forgive: Why Should I and How Can I?* this January, the Adult Sunday School will begin a new study using the book *The Prophets* by Abraham Heschel. *The Prophets* is widely recognized as a masterpiece of biblical scholarship. Heschel attempts to understand the thoughts, feelings, and impressions of each of the prophets, presenting the reader with a sense of their very being. He effectively achieves a balance between the objective supernatural and the subjective human situation, and presents a unique discussion of Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, Micah, Jeremiah, and Habakkuk and their particular challenges and journeys. Books will be available for purchase at the church.

HELLO *January*

Birthdays

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Danielle Feerst | 18 John Wertz |
| 1 Jeff Panitt | 18 Leslie Belicka |
| 1 Lucy Williams | 18 Hallie Tinker |
| 1 Lia McKee | 19 Madge Walther |
| 2 Adlai Allard | 19 Ross Wilson |
| 3 John Clarke | 19 Dolores Russell |
| 3 Victoria Kern | 20 Betty Milner |
| 4 Carolyn Rhyne | 22 Diane Schmidt |
| 5 Dave Shrader | 24 Gene McClary |
| 6 Lauren Nelson | 25 Reid Jeffers |
| 7 Lamar Graves | 26 Pat Fields |
| 9 Carlin Timmons | 27 Vance Polley |
| 10 Ralph Byers | 28 Georgia Stewart |
| 11 Bill McClary | 28 Amy Major |
| 11 Charles Guss | 29 Rusty Reaser |
| 11 Brian Fehon | 29 Ray Dickinson |
| 13 Brendan Jeffers | 30 Julie Milly |
| 17 Dan Floyd | 30 John Hardwick |

January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 9am - Choir Practice 10am - Single Worship	1 New Year's Day	2	3 10am - AA Meeting	4 11am - SIPD Blood Drive 5:30pm - Agape Do 6pm - Choir Practice	5 12:30pm - Bridge -	6
7 Communion 9am - Adult Sunday 9am - Choir Practice 9am - Fellowship 10am - Family Service 10am - Worship Service 3pm - Girls Scouts -	8 9am - Veritas Class 1:30pm - Music Lessons 5:30pm - Agape Do	9 7:30am - Men's Breakfast 10am - Miriam-Naomi	10 10am - AA Meeting	11 9am - Veritas 5:30pm - Agape Do 6pm - Choir Practice	12 Outer Banks 12:30pm - Bridge -	13
14 Cents-Ability 9am - Adult Sunday 9am - Choir Practice 9am - Fellowship 10am - Family Service 10am - Worship Service 3pm - Girl Scouts -	15 Martin Luther King Jr. 9am - Veritas Class 1:30pm - Music Lessons 5:30pm - Agape Do	16 7:30am - Men's Breakfast 5:30pm - Women's	17 10am - AA Meeting	18 9am - Veritas 5:30pm - Agape Do 6pm - Choir Practice	19 12:30pm - Bridge -	20
21 9am - Adult Sunday 9am - Choir Practice 9am - Fellowship 9am - Growing Faith - 10am - Family Service 10am - Worship Service 3pm - Girl Scouts	22 9am - Veritas Class 1:30pm - Music Lessons 5:30pm - Agape Do	23 7:30am - Men's Breakfast	24 10am - AA Meeting	25 9am - Veritas 5:30pm - Agape Do 6pm - Choir Practice	26 12:30pm - Bridge -	27
28 9am - Adult Sunday 9am - Choir Practice 9am - Fellowship 10am - Family Service 10am - Worship Service 4:30pm - Boy Scouts -	29 9am - Veritas Class 1:30pm - Music Lessons 5:30pm - Agape Do	30 6am - Polling Station 7:30am - Men's Breakfast	31 10am - AA Meeting	1 9am - Veritas 5:30pm - Agape Do 6pm - Choir Practice	2 12:30pm - Bridge -	3 6am - Primary Election

Church Office Hours:
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday

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Sunrise Staff

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