

JANUARY

PRESBYTERIAN TIMES

Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise. (Isaiah 43:18-21)



In a Peanuts comic strip, Lucy once grumbled to poor Charlie Brown about the awful New Year she was having. She complained that problems abounded, and she felt that difficulties were around every corner. Then she said, “I don’t think this is a New Year at all—I think we’ve been stuck with a USED year!!!”

Lucy needs to stop looking down at her problems, and look up. Some people have a love-hate relationship with New Year’s. Either the new year presents brand new possibilities, or it is a reminder of more of the same. If there is one text that should be the clarion call for the New Year, it should be Isaiah 43:18-21.

First, Isaiah calls the reader to FORGET the former things or thing of old, but to TRUST in God who is about to do a new thing. God wants to do a new thing in our lives in this New Year. What is this new thing that God wants to “spring forth?”



Whenever I use my trusty GPS and it tells me to turn right, but I turn left, the GPS recalculates a new path for me to take based upon the direction I am going. (However, many times the new path often tells me to turn around!) In the same way, God wants to create a new path for us as we travel through the wilderness. This “new way” is to include life giving rivers in the desert of our “sameness.”

The phrase, “*wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches.*” This seems like an odd phrase that wild animals will honor God. But this also speaks to how God will do the seemingly impossible with the situations that seems impossible or improbable. The issue here is TRUST. Do we trust God enough that God can do the impossible with our lives, hearts, and future directions?

Notice the next two driving metaphors. God will give “water” and “drink” for His chosen people. (By the way, God’s chosen people are the ones God had formed for himself to declare His praises.) This tells me that God wants to offer refreshment and life giving water for those of us who are dry, parched, and in desert places.

Bottom line, God loves us. We are his people. In this new year God wants to make everything new. This year is not the same as last year, but a year of creating a new path, quenched by God’s living water, and one where we can declare the praises of our Lord who created to go down these new paths.

I look forward to journeying with you into the places God calls us to go in 2024 as we trust Him all the more.

Blessings, Pastor Eric
502-565-6591, cell

Our Vision: KNOW Christ, GROW in Faith, SOW the love of Christ, GO where God calls.



- 1/05 Bobby Adler
- 1/10 Ginny Sue Floyd
- 1/15 Allison Hoey
- 1/16 Jane Berdine
- 1/19 Lucy Williams
- 1/20 Pete Lambert
- 1/22 Breck Norment
- 1/24 TM Maple
- 1/25 Paisley Dickinson
- 1/25 Leslie Rideout
- 1/31 Dave Williams
- 1/31 Maxwell Thomas

ANNIVERSARIES

1/04 Walt & Evonda Dickinson

Henderson Christian
Community Outreach

The items needed by HCCO for the month of January are soup, stew, chili and crackers.

Thank you for your generous support of this organization throughout the year!



The flowers in the sanctuary during the month of January are provided by Betty Norment



January
Chancel Choir Schedule

Wednesday, January 17th
Handbells 6:15
Chancel Choir 7:15

Wednesday, January 24th
Handbells 6:15
Chancel Choir 7:15

Wednesday, January 31st
Handbells 6:15
Chancel Choir 7:15

If you have any questions, please contact Kristin Jones at 812-205-9687.

Our Zoom study group will resume on January 8th. We meet every Monday at 7 pm.

We are studying about Faith and Courage in the Book of Joshua.

For more information contact Pastor Eric.

Zoom Meeting ID: 984 3627 7403
Passcode: 500727



The church staff would like to express our sincere gratitude to everyone for the kindness and support shown to us throughout the year!

The gifts, kind words, prayers and friendship are greatly appreciated.

We are looking forward to the New Year!

Blessings,

Eric, Kristin, Sandra and Dave



Come bring a dish and join us on January 10th at 6:00 pm as

we feature Rev Chuck Summers who will show us his amazing photographs.

You will marvel at his amazing photography.

The new These Days Devotionals for January, February and March are available now.

Please pick one up in the back of the sanctuary or contact the church office to have one mailed to you.



Children's Church Advent/Christmas

In Children's Church, during the season of Advent the kids learned about what they could open before Christmas — their eyes, ears, mouth, heart, and finally the gift of Jesus!

We finally celebrated with a Birthday Party for Jesus filled with games, treats, and a birthday cake for everyone to enjoy!!



The Presbyterian Women will not be meeting in January, but will resume meetings on Monday, February 5th.



The Women enjoyed a Ladies Night Out together at Rookies on December 5th.



Advent Reading and Candle Lighting

December Advent Reading and candle lighting to help our congregation prepare for Christmas.



A Holy Night on Christmas Eve... filled with Lessons read by various readers, and a message by Pastor Eric titled "The Light in the Darkness".

Beautiful music filled the sanctuary with the congregation singing carols, the chancel choir singing "Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head," and Betty Norment and her grandson Cooper Bartlett singing "Still, the Holiest Night." Amazing! Praise the Lord!





A wonderful evening was planned by the Presbyterian Women starting with a delicious catered meal enjoyed around beautifully decorated tables.



After dinner a special program telling the story of Jesus' birth was filled with scripture and Christmas carols. At the end so much joy filled the room as we sang (and acted out) "The 12 Days of Christmas"

Children's Christmas Nativity

The congregation and the Lord received a special gift from the children as they shared their simple understanding of Jesus' birth through a living nativity.

Beautiful Christmas carols were sung by the congregation, as the story was told.



It was a meaningful experience that helped everyone understand God's special gift of Jesus to the world.



Presbyterian Church of Henderson
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