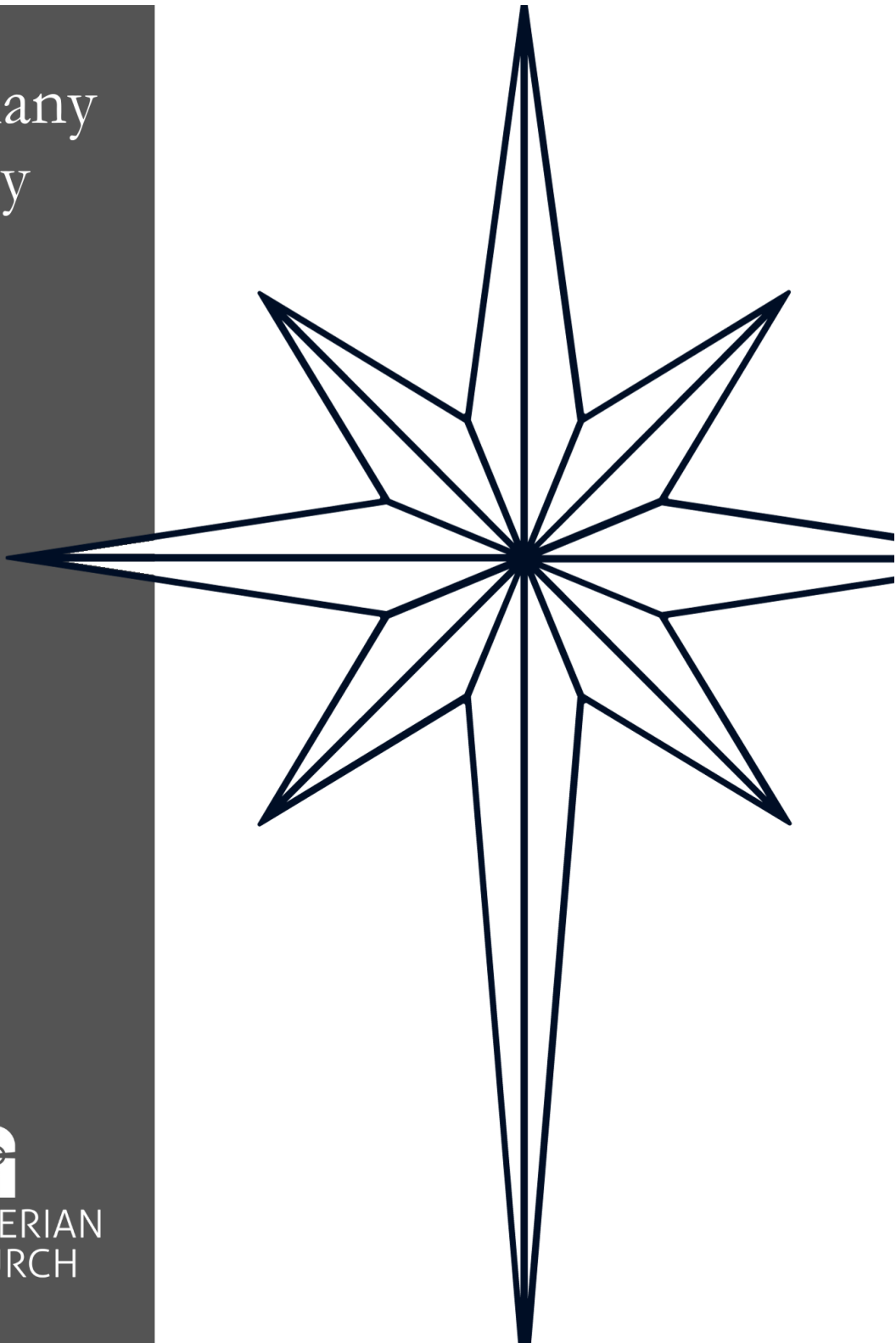


Epiphany Sunday

January 7, 2024
10:30 A.M.



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

*LITANY FOR EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Arise, shine; for your light has come! The glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

Nations will come to his light, and rulers will seek his radiance.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

He will judge the people with righteousness and defend the cause of the poor.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

The mystery of the ages is revealed; the eternal plan of God is known to all.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

Let us kneel down before him to give him honor, glory, and praise.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

Let us offer him all the treasures of our hearts and our lives.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

*OPENING PRAYER

God of endless light, you sent a star—rising from the darkness, guiding seekers and sages, overwhelming us with joy. Let the splendor of your dawning light grow in us and in all the world until the whole creation shines with your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*HYMN 744

Arise, Your Light Has Come!

FESTAL SONG

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Rev. Matt Curry

May God be with you in worship here.

May God be with you in worship there.

Children may depart the sanctuary with their teacher for Worship & Wonder. They will return to the sanctuary before communion.

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Isaiah 9:2

Like a great light in a land of deep darkness, the mercy of the Lord shines upon us. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of wonder, God of night, you are holy light in dark places; you are holy darkness when all is too bright. Forgive us, O God, when we turn away from your light: when we follow our own ambitions instead of your call, when we respond to your presence with fear rather than joy. Forgive us, O God, when we do not comprehend the depth of your Christmas love, the meaning of your powerful story, or the call you place on each of our lives. Forgive us, O God, and by your forgiveness, empower us to follow the star once more.

A brief silence is kept for personal prayer.

POURING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATER

Remember your baptism and be thankful!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Isaiah 62:11-12

Hear the promise of the Lord: See, your salvation has come! You are a holy people, redeemed by God, sought out, not forsaken. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! **Thanks be to God.**

*GLORIA PATRI (Hymn 581)

GREATOREX

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end.

Amen. Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Since we have been reconciled to God, let us also be reconciled to one another.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

**Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom,
to live in the freedom of the city of God.**

Refrain:

**We are called to act with justice; we are called to love tenderly;
We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.**

**Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign, and we'll walk with each other
As sisters and brothers united in love. *Refrain***

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy One, giver of all light, lift up our hearts and minds to Christ, the morning star that never fades. By the light of your Holy Spirit reveal to us your saving Word and lead us to offer our lives to you in service and in love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 60:1-6 The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Matthew 2:1-12 The Gospel of the Lord. **May Jesus Christ be praised.**

SERMON

“Star Search”

Rev. Matt Curry

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Col. 1:15-20

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible. All things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is head of the body,

the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn of the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Congregational Life

Debbie McCoy

THE EUCHARIST

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

MUSIC FOR THE OFFERING

Rise, Shine!

Dale Wood

Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered our human story; God in him is centered.

*THE DOXOLOGY (Hymn 606)

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise...
...who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Sung by all:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest!** *The prayer continues.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD & THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All who seek God are invited to the table, regardless of church affiliation or any other condition or identity. Ushers will guide you forward to partake by taking a piece of bread and dipping it in the cup. Prepackaged gluten-free elements are available in the baskets near the communion stations. Servers will come to those who prefer to remain in their seats.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Loving and gracious God, from east and west, from north and south, you have gathered us at your table, called us your beloved, and fed us from your body. Transform us to be your body in the world, and fortify us by your Spirit, so that we may serve you and our neighbors with great joy. Amen.

THE SENDING

*HYMN 757

Today We All are Called to Be Disciples

KINGSFOLD

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*POSTLUDE

**Rise in body or spirit*

LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher: *Rev. Matt Curry*

Liturgist: *Patti Burns Taylor*

Communion Servers: *Suzanne Guyer & Creda Heffelfinger*

Worship and Wonder: *Marsha Nash*

The Life of the Church

Star Words are a simple Epiphany gift meant to help offer guidance through the coming year. You are invited to use this word in any way you would like – perhaps to help with setting priorities, as a guide for prayer and meditation, or as a lens for seeing God’s presence in your life. You may pick up a star as you come forward for communion today.

An Epiphany Lunch will be held following worship today. We hope you will join us! There will be a \$5 suggested donation per person, \$25 max per family.

Worship & Finance Committee Meetings will be held today following lunch.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day will be observed next weekend. We encourage you to participate in these community events as we live out our Christian calling to dismantle structural racism.

- Sun., Jan. 14 at 3:00 PM - *NAACP MLK Day Celebration of Faith, 4th St. Baptist Church*
- Sun., Jan. 14 at 5:00 PM – *Sign Making Party for MLK Day March at FPC*
- Mon., Jan. 15 at 9:00 AM – *MLK Day March from Owensboro High School to KWC*
- Mon., Jan 15 at 10:00 AM – *MLK Day Program at KWC Wells Activity Center*

Annual Reports from each church committee are due to the church office no later than Thursday, January 11, 2024.

Hearing Assistance Devices are available. Please see an usher if you would like to use one.

Church Financial Update

Week Ending Dec. 31

Income: \$24,853.53
Expense: \$13,475.95
Balance: \$11,377.58

Year 2023 (Preliminary)

Income: \$620,613.02
Expenses: \$657,717.83
Balance: -\$37,104.81

Month of December

Income: \$102,027.44
Expense: \$ 72,429.54
Balance: \$29,597.93

Our church is only able to do its ministry because of the generous giving of its members and friends. Thank you for your gifts.



First Presbyterian Church is an inclusive community of faith called to proclaim the good news of the love of Jesus Christ for all people, and to join God in the building of a just, peaceful, and compassionate world.

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

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FPCOwensboro



fpcobky

CHURCH STAFF

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Pastor

Jeff Moles
Director of Christian
Education & Mission

Stephanie Dube
Director of Children's &
Youth Ministries

Dennis Jewett
Director of Music

Sasha O'Bryan
Office Manager &
Pastoral Assistant

Dylan Schroader
Custodian