

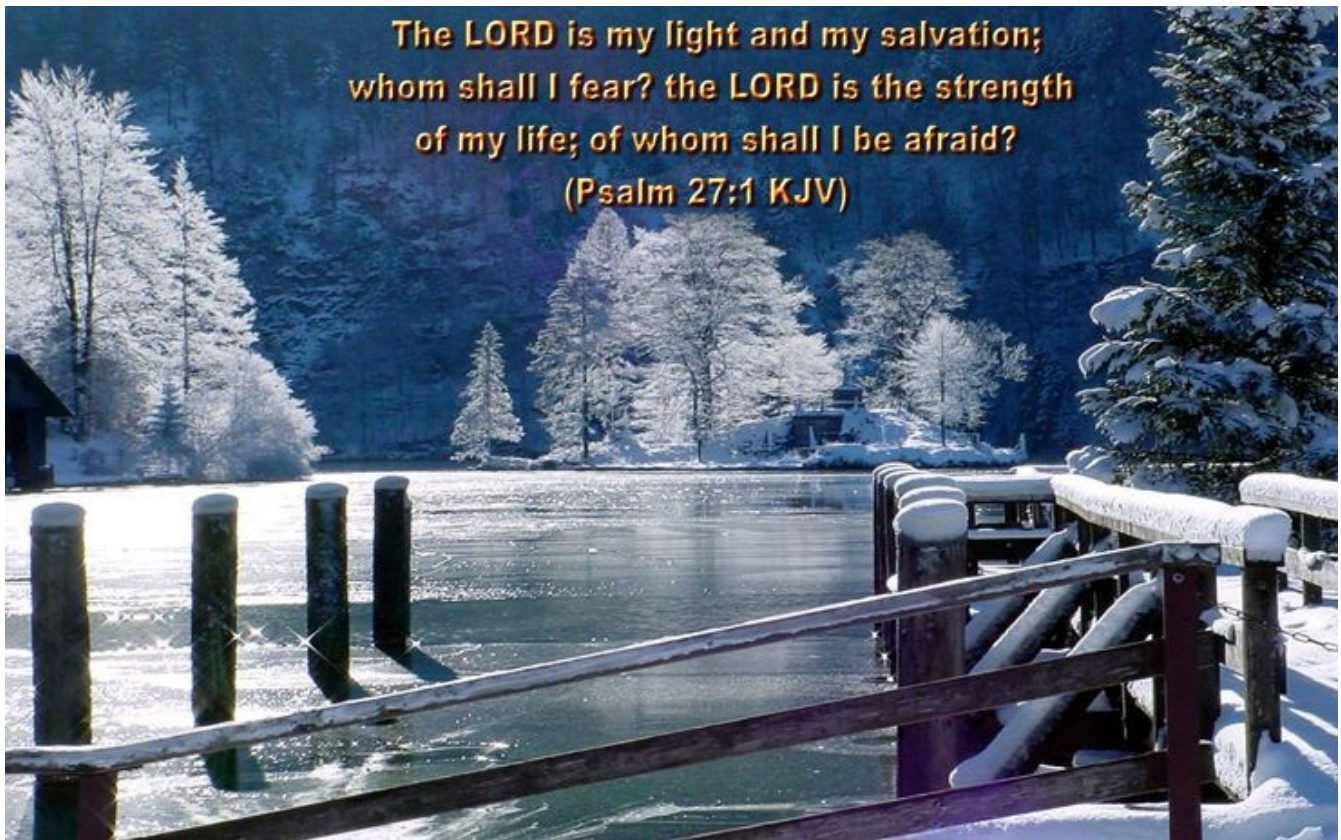
# THE NEW LEAF



First Presbyterian Church of Bridgeton



# JANUARY 2024







**First Presbyterian Church of Bridgeton**

119 West Commerce St.  
Bridgeton, NJ 08302  
(856) 455-0809  
www.fpcbridgeton.org

**Rev. Norlita Kaul**

(248) 342-6190  
bridgetonfpcpastor@gmail.com  
In office at FPC 9:30 am - 12:30 pm  
Monday thru Thursday  
(other times available by appointment)

**Church Office Hours**

Monday - Thursday 8 am - 2 pm

**Christie Sever  
Admin. Assistant**

[firstpresbridgeton@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresbridgeton@gmail.com)



For regular updates and photos,  
like us on facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/FPCbridgeton>

Please go to our website

[www.fpcbridgeton.org](http://www.fpcbridgeton.org)



If you or a family member or a close friend needs prayer, please contact the church office or one of the deacons.

Amy B always has cards available for you to sign for those unable to attend church.



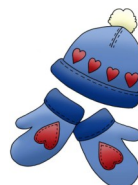
**Fellowship Time Hosts Needed**

Fellowship time following Sunday worship is important in the life of First Pres. Please help the deacons by volunteering to host fellowship time once in a while. There is a calendar on the kitchen counter for sign-ups. Just write your name on the Sunday of your choice.



**Mitten Tree**

Thanks to everyone who brought something warm to hang on this year's mitten tree. The items were combined with coats collected by our girl scout troop and will be donated to children who need them.



**Christmas Decorations**

Thanks to everyone who helped decorate the church and made it look beautiful for Christmas!



Decorations will be taken down after church on Sunday, January 7. Please stay and help. Many hands make the job quick and fun.

## Synopsis of December 2023 Session Meeting

- Session approved the use of Bonham Hall on Thursdays from 1 – 3:30 PM for members to work on crafts.
- Session approved changing the hours and days of work for the Church's Administrative Assistant, effective January 1st . As a result, the Church Office will be open Monday – Thursday only.
- The Worship Committee is in discussion with Greenwich Presbyterian for a joint Ash Wednesday worship service in February 2024.
- Session approved the celebration of Communion on January 14, 2024 when new officers for the church boards will be ordained/installed.
- Session approved the local and regional mission allocations recommended by the Mission Committee for the balance of 2023. These included local allocations for St. Vincent DePaul/St. Teresa's - Parish of the Holy Cross, Trinity First Hope Center (Millville) for their Food Program, Bridgeton Municipal Alliance, Bet-El, and FPC Bridgeton Deacons to assist their local giving. Regional allocations included Habitat for Humanity in Appalachia, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, TN, and PCUSA (Presbyterian Giving Catalog) for Education grants/gifts.



## What's Happening With Worship

Session has decided to hold worship services in the sanctuary:

- We have a new heating system.
- We have a new sound system.
- Live-streaming is difficult from Bonham Hall.

January 7: Baptism of our Lord  
Reaffirmation of Baptism

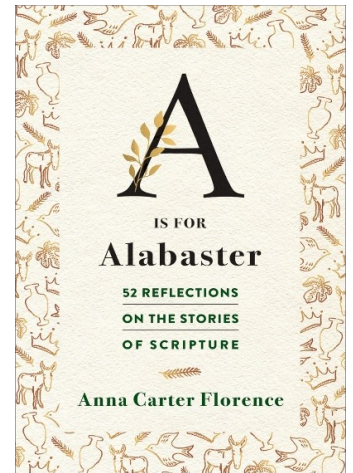


January 14: Ordination and Installation of Officers  
Communion



## Book group – **A is for Alabaster**

In 52 stories Anna Carter Florence, a pastor and writer, brings insight to many familiar characters and stories in the Old and New Testaments. Her stories and reflections run through the alphabet twice, from Abigail to Zelophehad's daughters, and from an alabaster jar of ointment to Zacchaeus. Let Debbi BG, Debbie H, or Pastor Norlita know if you would be interested in joining us on our journey through the book. We'd like to start the book group in February for Lent. We already have copies of the book available. Discussions may be held via Zoom.



## Craft Time

*Having trouble getting around to your favorite craft?*

Why not have a scheduled time for you to enjoy your hobby? Beginning January 11th, Bonham Hall will be available Thursdays 1:30 to 3:30 for Conversation and Crafting. Bring your own materials and plan to accomplish some crafting and have fun and fellowship.





# January 2024 Revelings

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”  
(2 Corinthians 5:17)

“And now we welcome the new year. Full of things that have never been.” *Rainer Maria Rilke*,  
“ Our hope is not in the new year...but in the One who makes all things new.”

As we begin our second year together as pastor and people, serving together to help do the work God calls/reveals us to do, we must begin with words of perspective and encouragement. And yet as we embark on this “New Year” of service in the Kingdom of God, we realize that it contains many chapters yet to be written.

There are two hymns that resonate with me when it comes to the embarking of a new year of serving the Lord as a pastor. One is a newer, more modern hymn, “Shine, Jesus, Shine” and from the African American Christian Faith Traditions, “We've Come This Far By Faith.”

The former reminds me to be guided always by the “light of Christ's presence, that permeates all things,” just as it did for the wise men in Christ's natal star in the eastern skies to lead them. Christ's light and presence fills this land, our church, with God's glory, and still leads us.

The latter hymn reminds me that it is because of my Christian faith on a personal level, just how dependent upon God and God's love, mercy, and grace, that I am a new creation. It reminds me of just how far I've come each step, each day, each month, each year, trusting only in God alone to support, sustain, and show me the way forward. It advises me that I can't look back. It reminds me always of Jesus' insistence in the Gospel stories to always let humility and humbleness be my watchwords for daily living as a human being.

We can only trust in God's Holy Spirit to continue to move among us, in us and through us, as we embark on this year of work, service, prayer, praise, and worship, together as the people of God, as children of God, as Christ's Church called First Presbyterian Church Bridgeton. Our question remains, “How is God calling us to be faithful?” Another now enters into the picture as partner for our journey, “Where are you leading us, O God?” Please pray these questions as part of your devotional time, along with me, in this new year of 2024.

Remember to let your light so shine before all humankind, so that they may see your good works and honor God in heaven this year ahead! (paraphrase of scripture). Blessings to all for a happy and prosperous New Year!

“May you shine the light of Christ in the New Year.”

Faithfully,

Rev. Norlita



# January Joking

Brain cells die,  
Skin cells die,  
Even hair cells die.

**But FAT CELLS . . .**  
must have accepted Jesus Christ  
as their Lord and Savior  
because they seem to have eternal  
life!

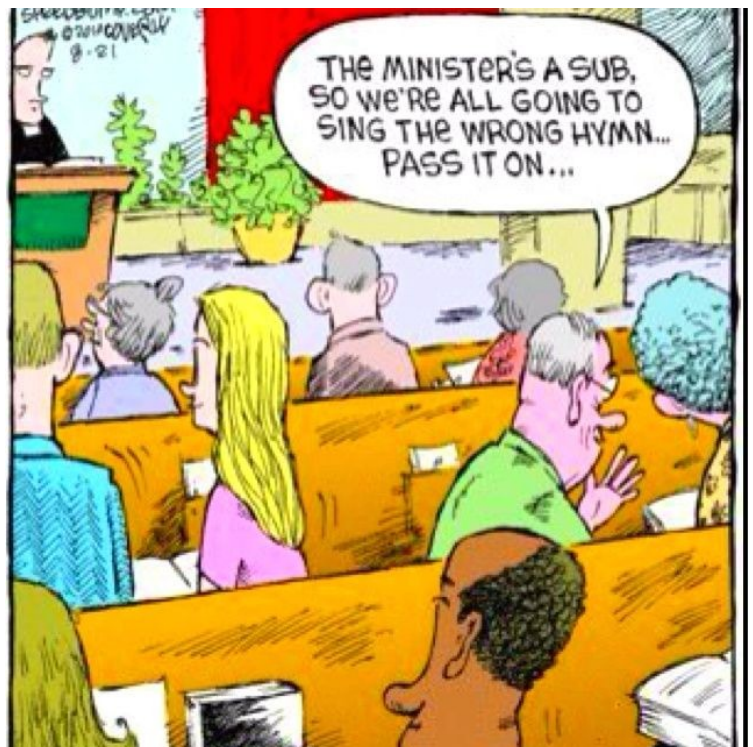
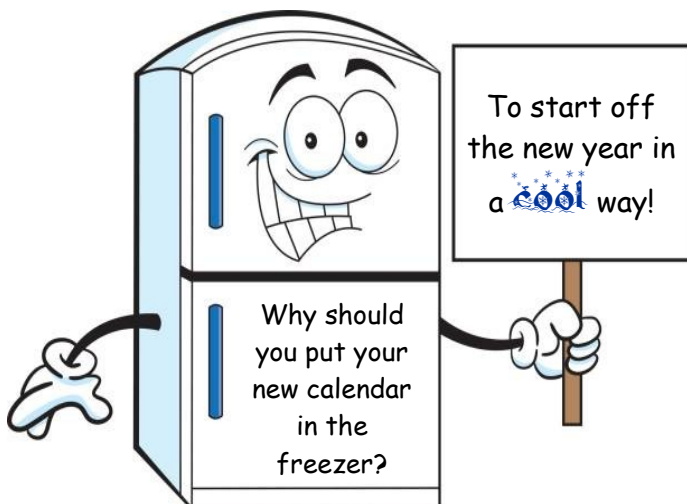


## PRAYER PRIORITIES

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. - EPHESIANS 6:18 NIV



For your daily devotions

# New Beginnings

## January



- Day 1: Genesis 1:1-2
- Day 2: Jeremiah 29:11
- Day 3: Job 8:7
- Day 4: Lamentations 3:22-23
- Day 5: Psalm 30:5
- Day 6: Psalm 40:3
- Day 7: Isaiah 43:18-19
- Day 8: Isaiah 40:31
- Day 9: Isaiah 58:12
- Day 10: Ecclesiastes 3:1
- Day 11: Ecclesiastes 3:11
- Day 12: Isaiah 65:17
- Day 13: Ezekiel 11:19
- Day 14: Jeremiah 31:31
- Day 15: Matthew 26:27-28
- Day 16: Hebrews 12:1-2
- Day 17: 1 Peter 1:3
- Day 18: 2 Corinthians 5:17
- Day 19: Galatians 6:14-15
- Day 20: Colossians 3:8-9
- Day 21: Colossians 3:10-11
- Day 22: Romans 6:4
- Day 23: 2 Peter 3:10-11
- Day 24: 2 Peter 3:12-13
- Day 25: Philippians 3:13-14
- Day 26: Ephesians 4:21-22
- Day 27: Ephesians 4:23-24
- Day 28: Romans 12:2
- Day 29: Revelations 21:1-2
- Day 30: Revelations 21:3-4
- Day 31: Revelations 21:5

Kingdom Bloggers





## Highlights of the Nov 2023 Presbytery for Southern New Jersey Gathering

- Dedicated our offering to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
- Approved the 2024 Mission Budget and are thankful for all who contribute per capita
- Thanked Cheryl Becker for her 9-year ministry as Administrative Associate, wished her well in retirement, and welcomed her successor Michelle Gameron.
- Affirmed new calls in our presbytery
- Celebrated the ministry of Executive Presbyter Debby Brincivalli, honorably retired
- Learned that \$1000 technology grants and Zoom grants will be available in 2024 and were reminded that Hunger Grants are always available
- Heard about the ministry of Presbyterian Historical Society



### The Presbytery *For* Southern New Jersey

1701 Sycamore Street  
Haddon Heights, NJ 08035  
Telephone: 856-547-5100  
Fax: 856-547-3260

The Rev. Dr. Deborah G. Brincivalli, Executive Presbyter  
Rev. Diane Curtis, Interim Stated Clerk

November 26, 2023

Dearest Saints in Southern New Jersey Presbytery,

I am writing to express my humble and deep gratitude for the wonderful retirement celebration last week. This has touched my heart in a profound way, and I am eternally grateful. I could never thank everyone individually for their prayers, calls, gifts, and support and for all who helped to make this celebration so memorable.

In moments of reflection and gratitude, I am reminded of the beauty of our connection. Our time together has been a source of strength and joy for me, reinforcing the power of God's love in our lives. It has been a joy to be in ministry with each of you.

May God be with you all, our congregations, and our presbytery. May the light of Christ fill us in this season of Advent and in the journey ahead.

Again, my heartfelt and profound thanks.

Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace

Rev. Dr. Deborah G. Brincivalli  
Executive Presbyter





# Mark Your Calendars



## January Meetings

**Joint Meeting Session & Trustees** Sunday January 21 following fellowship

**Deacons Meeting** Mon., January 8 @ 7:00

**Annual Meeting** Sunday, January 28 following worship

## SERVING IN JANUARY

### DATE

### USHERS

### COUNTERS

January 7

Team 1: Curtis H., Debbie H., Frank P.

Team 1: Debbie F., Sherry M.

January 14

Team 2: John A., Bruce C., Ken F.

Team 2: Marion C., Heather N.

January 21

Team 3: Marie D., Joyce I., Heather N.

Team 3: Yvonne C., Debbie H.

January 28

Team 4: Bruce H., Howard T., Bill F.

Team 4: Marie D., Joyce I.

## JANUARY WORSHIP FLOWERS

January 7:

January 14:

January 21:

January 28:

## FELLOWSHIP IN JANUARY

January 7: Open House at the Manse

January 14:

January 21:

January 28: Potluck Lunch

Blank spaces for flowers and fellowship? Would you consider helping us to fill them in? It takes a village..... Thank you!

### Lunch Bunch

Date: January 16, 2023

Time: 12 Noon

Place: La Vita in Vineland

Please RSVP to the Church office (856)455-0809 by Thursday, January 11th.



1/1 - Bruce H

1/8 - Rey R

1/11 - Debbie H

1/13 - Ted R

1/21 - Debbi BG

1/26 - Frank P

1/30 - Ashley A & Beth S

1/31 - Abigail F



**MLK**  
MARTIN LUTHER KING  
**DAY**



THE TIME IS ALWAYS  
**RIGHT**  
TO DO WHAT IS  
**RIGHT**



# January 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Worship 10am 31	1 <b>Happy New Year!</b> <b>Church Office Closed</b> Bruce H.	2	3  Choir Party & Practice 5:30 pm	4	5	6
Worship 10am 7 Baptism of the Lord  Pastor's Open House after worship	8 7:00 pm Deacons Meeting Rey R.	9	10 Choir Practice 7:30 pm 	11 Debbie H.	12	13 Ted R.
Worship 10am 14 Ordination/Installation of new Elders, Deacons & Trustees	15	16  Lunch Bunch 12 pm La Vita in Vineland	17 Choir Practice 7:30 pm 	18	19	20
Worship 10am 21 Session & Trustees Joint Meeting after Fellowship Debbi B.G.	22	23	24 Choir Practice 7:30 pm 	25	26 Frank P.	27
Worship 10am 28 Annual Meeting Potluck Lunch	29	30 Ashley A. Beth S.	31 Choir Practice 7:30 pm  Abigail F.	1	2	3