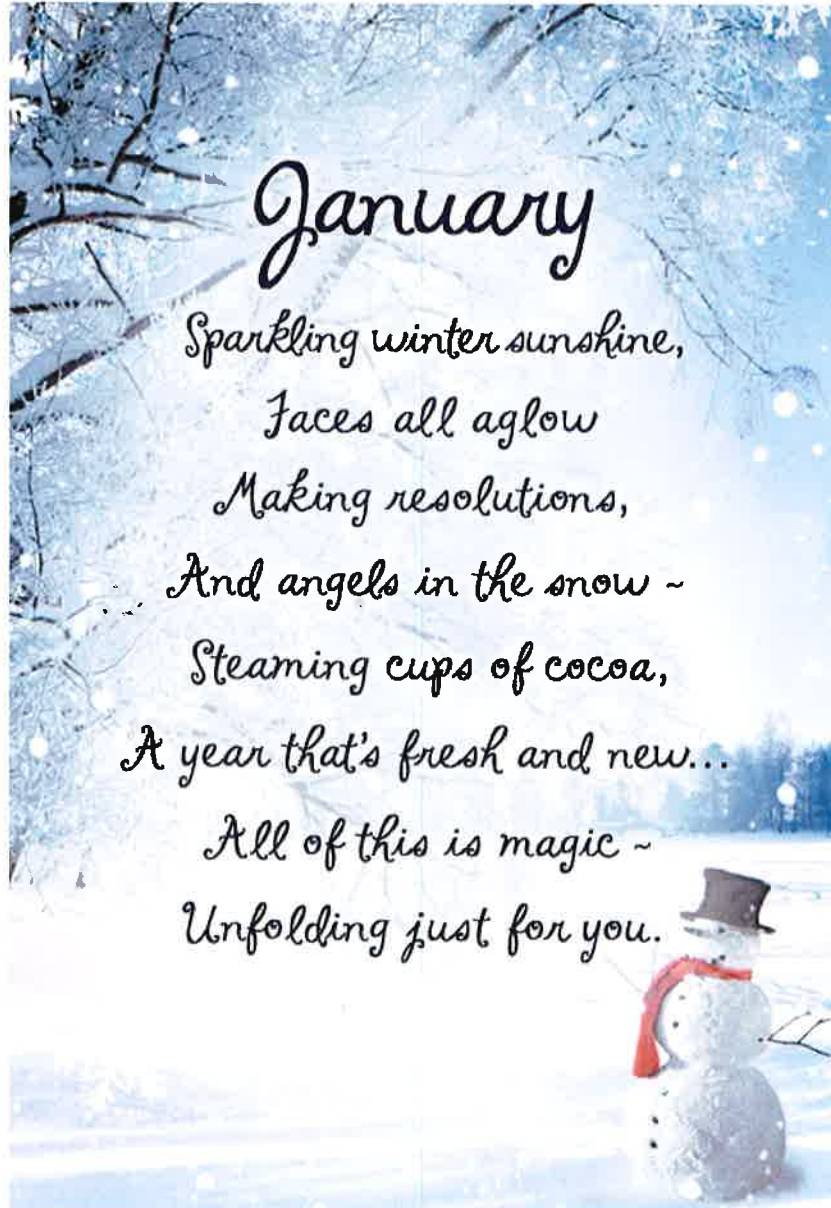




NEWSLETTER



January 2023



See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up, do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness, and streams in the wasteland. (Is. 43:19)

JANUARY

NAME



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 - Friday 9 am – 2:00 pm

Admin. Assistant

Kimberly Whelan
fpcbridgeton@gmail.com

For regular updates and
photos, like us on
Facebook



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

Please check the website www.fpcbridgeton.org

Many thanks to our members and friends for your continued financial support. Offerings can still be made by sending a check to the church or visit FPCbridgeton.org to give online.

*For your information, the per capita per person for 2023 is \$38.75 (same as last year). If you have not done so, we would appreciate your donation.



If you would like our team of prayer volunteers to pray for you or a loved one, please contact **Caroline O** at (856)451-8348, **Sandy Z** at (856) 451-6863, or the church office at 856-455-0809 who will contact the prayer volunteers. *(Your concern will not go beyond the prayer team unless you request it be shared with others)*





“The beginning is the most important part of the work.”- Plato



“Let January open with joy in the Lord, and December close with gladness in Jesus.”- Charles H. Spurgeon

NEWSLETTER

Our new, newsletter, needs a new name. Please submit suggestions to the church office by January 18, 2023. The new name will be announced at our Annual Meeting. Thanks for your help!



*Please join us for a welcome reception for Rev. Norlita Kaul
on Sunday, January 1st, following worship.*

News You Can Use

Sunday, January 8: Communion Sunday

Sunday, January 15: Ordination/Installation of Elders, Deacons, and Trustees

UPCOMING JANUARY MEETINGS

Monday, Jan. 9: Deacons Meeting in Laura Fithian Room 7:00 PM

Thursday, Jan. 12: Joint Session/Trustee Meeting in Bonham Hall at 6:30 PM

Sunday, Jan. 22: Annual Congregational Meeting following worship

USHERS SERVING IN JANUARY

Jan. 1: Kahlil W., captain

Jan. 8: John A., captain, Bruce C.

Jan. 15: Ron S., captain, Beth S.

Jan. 22: Ken F., captain, Heather N.

Jan. 29: Franz P., captain, William F., Frank P.

JANUARY WORSHIP FLOWERS

Jan. 1: Broad Street Cemetery Association

Jan. 8:

Jan. 15: Bebe D.

Jan. 22:

Jan. 29:



FELLOWSHIP IN JANUARY

Jan. 1: Howard T. & Friends

Jan. 8: Amy B. & Debbi B-G

Jan. 15:

Jan. 22:

Jan. 29:

Help us fill open Sunday Morning slots above!

O Star-Flinging God: An Epiphany Prayer

O Star-flinging God,
whose light dances across eternity,
dazzle us into your presence
this new year.
Open our hearts to the mystery of your love.

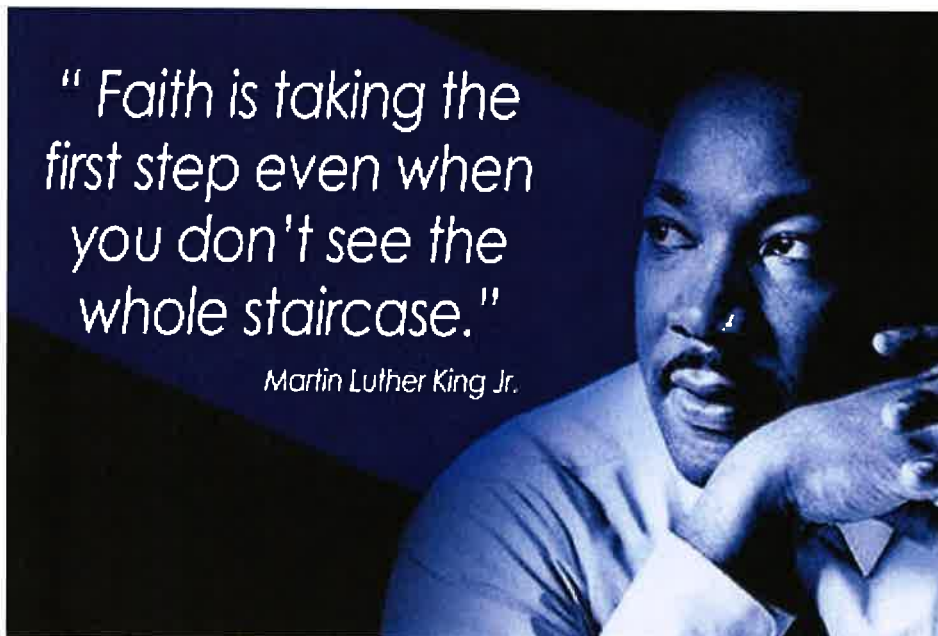
Awaken us to your presence,
knit to the ordinary.
Reveal to us what is possible, but not yet present.
Heal us, that we might be healers.

Reconcile us to you and to ourselves,
that our living might be reconciling.

Stop us often, we pray
with news that is good
with hope that holds
with truth that transforms with a Word
tailored to this trail we're on.

May the word of your grace guide our steps
like the sun by day
and the north star by night,
as we travel into the gift of a new year. Amen.

(written by Glenn Mitchell, posted on [MINemergent's Daily Communique/https://re-worship.blogspot.com/](https://re-worship.blogspot.com/))



Time Out Tuesday at the Green Olive in Hopewell

When: Tuesday, January 17, 2023

Time: Noon



(Dutch Treat/ an outing, meal, or other special occasion at which each participant pays for their share of the expenses.)

Please rsvp to the church office (856) 455-0809 by Monday, January 16.
(so we can let the restaurant know a head count)

Revelings (The First Edition)



Happy New Year! Welcome 2023!

We welcome and open the door to this New Year in our Lord. We welcome the promise that it holds for us, the changes on the horizons as each day, week and month unfolds. Let's face it, we're ready for it. Let's name it and claim it as part of our spiritual work.

I'm so grateful, thankful and excited to begin our work together as Pastor and God's People here at First Presbyterian Church Bridgeton. There's much for us to do together, but we'll do it, one step at a time. I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve with you, and for all the hard work that our church has done already during these last four years prior to my coming. Thank you to those who stepped up, kept things going, especially during the early days into a year(s) of Covid. It reminds us that we are the church together.

One of my favorite scriptures comes from the prophet Isaiah, (49:13) "See I am doing a new thing, can you not perceive it?" It bids the reader to stop, look around, imagine, create, take notice of the beauty that surrounds us each day. It's really appropriate for us as we begin our work together.

Doing new things can make us uncomfortable, uneasy, unsure, winsome and longing for something familiar. I get it. Transitions can be sticky and tricky to work through. I want to assure everyone that as we move forward together, I promise to try to help us navigate the transition and this next year with care. I promise to listen, love and care for our church family, whom I'm looking forward to getting to know.

In our daily lives, especially our spiritual lives, I've come to realize at a personal level, that God wants us to get and be real in and with our lives, with all that happens within it. So, we must ask ourselves are we ready and willing to do this? I believe we're ready for the new things of God to not be just promise, but promise coming to fruition and fullness for us.

We are a people of much hope and vision. Community as God has created it to be, is for each of us individually and collectively as the body of Christ. Matthew's Gospel "encourages us to do unto others, as you would have them do to you," (7:12) this calls us to love. It calls us to serve, to practice righteousness living in all its forms, all the while, we follow the star in our lives, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Epiphany's light burns brightly for to show us the way forward. To do this we then recall, the Golden Rule found in Matt. 7:12.

"Jesus points out in the gospel of Mathew that even a good earthly father gives his children what they need. We are called to share God's love with everyone we meet. We are called to invite others into community with us and with God...Christian community is never fell and is never closed. It is always open and expanding to share God's love with others...Ask God to have someone show up in your life to offer all of these things to you, in Jesus' name." (Brett Lasma)

Continue to ask God to show up in our lives, in new, challenging, hopeful and exciting ways each day. Let us open this door to new possibilities with intentionality, seeking the Holy Spirit's guidance as our community of faith moving forward, full of and with much hope. Shine brightly for all the world to see! Prayer- Move us O God to seek community in all its positive forms and gather around each one of us, a community to belong to, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Soli Deo Gloria! (To God Be The Glory)

Faithfully,

Rev. Norlita