

# *“The Grapevine - January”*



## *Flower Calendar*

January 1

**The Deacons**

January 8

**Greg & Bonny McCreary**

January 15

**Matt & Sandi Clarke**

January 22

**Nancy Rusch**

January 29

**Colleen Colenso**

## *Event Calendar*

**Church Office Closed**

Monday, January 2 & Tuesday, January 3

**Deacons taking down Christmas decorations**

Friday, January 6 @ 10am

**Communion Sunday & Officer Ordination/  
Installation**

Sunday, January 8

**Annual Reports DUE**

(email: [jill@tracyfirstpres.com](mailto:jill@tracyfirstpres.com))

Friday, January 13

**Congregational Meeting**

Sunday, January 15

**Church Office Closed – MLK, Jr. Birthday**

Monday, January 16

**Men's Breakfast**

Saturday, January 21 @ 8am

**Annual Meeting**

Sunday, January 29 after worship

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

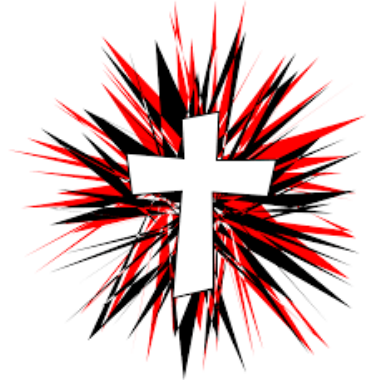
- 2- Kathleen Buffleben
- 5- Jean Shipman
- 10- Matt Clarke
- 11- Joseph Weisenberger
- 13- Cristian Lamas
- 16- Joshua Clarke
- 16- Rich Clinton
- 18- Isabel Vaishampayan
- 20- Allen Brown
- 23- Gladys Smith



## *Pastor's Monthly Message...*

Dear FPC Family,

The new year is coming all too soon! We seem to have just celebrated the birth of our Lord and Savior. This change of dates comes upon many people as a time to reflect on the past year and look to the anticipation of a New Year, with the hope of peace, good health, new challenges, new relationships, and new goals. There may be a list of other newness in each of your lives and families.



This is the time of year when we say goodbye to the past year with its time of joys and celebrations, as well as times of sadness and sorrow. We then begin to think of the newness of God's call upon our lives. Hopefully we can hear our Lord speaking to our hearts and mind as to what God's Spirit is saying to us of what God wants to do in our lives and our families, and our jobs, and God's church. To live as witnesses of Jesus in our relationships, in our place of work, or places where we serve in the Tracy community, hopefully causes us to consider how we can share in the love and peace of our Lord! This can be a time to refocus how we use our time, talents, and treasures. When we open ourselves to the work of God's Holy Spirit, we may be surprised what God has in mind for each of our lives! There is great joy and fulfillment when we are walking in God's Hope, Peace, Joy, and especially God's Love. We may find ourselves as conduits of the life-changing power of God's grace work through your life that may impact another person's life.

What goals does God have for you, your family, your church, your community and the large world that God loved so much that God gave us the Savior of all life!

May our Lord bless you and your loved ones in the New Year of 2023!

Your Friend & Pastor,

*David*

## *Session...*

The Book of Order requires the Session to review the membership rolls each year. The Evangelism Committee has reached out to people who are on the rolls but have not been active for a long period of time. Some people have moved away, others have found different church families. After having made attempts to return members to active participation in the life of the church, the Evangelism Committee recommended that 29 names be removed from the membership roll. Session voted at its December meeting to accept this recommendation, so now the church membership stands at 99 names on the active roll and 1 on the affiliate member roll.

A formal offer to purchase the parcel adjacent to the church that is currently operated as My Curious Monkeys Child Care has been received. The Session has accepted this offer, so the next step in the process is approval by the congregation. The Session has called for a special meeting of the congregation to be held on January 15, 2023 to vote on the offer. In addition to our congregation, the Presbytery must approve the sale of any real estate, so a copy of the offer has been sent to the Presbytery's Board of Trustees, who will vote at their January 24, 2023 meeting.

Previously the Session voted that the Annual Meeting of the Congregation would take place in Grant Hall immediately after the worship service on January 29, 2023. At its December meeting the docket for that meeting was finalized. Nancy Rusch will present a report from the *ad hoc* committee that has been considering several options of how to best use the new site parcels and will invite members of the congregation to share additional ideas. Roy Patterson will review the budget for 2023 as previously approved by the Session, and Harold Reich will discuss the establishment of a mission study committee; the first step towards the calling of a pastor.

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## *New Site Ad Hoc Committee*

Session authorized an Ad Hoc committee to look at possibilities with the new site property. Serving on the Committee: Nancy Rusch, Robert Opie, Roy Patterson, Roger Winkler, Don Burnett, and Alex Pineda, with Pastor David Hill providing spiritual guidance. The group has met a few times and wants to carefully consider all options. The group asks for your ideas and your prayers as we evaluate and explore the possibilities. We will discuss our work during the annual Congregational meeting at the end of January. Please join the discussion.

## Deacons' Doing's

Happy New Year! It's also a new year for the Deacons. Richard Clinton, Tricia Winkler and Sandi Clarke have been voted on by the congregation to be the Deacons Class of 2025. Sandi is returning, Rich and Tricia are new Deacons. Bonny McCreary and Lynda McCormick are rotating off, Colleen Colenso, Marie Patterson, Sandra DeVos, Marietta McLellan, Darline Pineda and Nancy Rusch are the returning members. The Deacons serve the needs of the church and the wider community. The Book of Order of the Presbyterian Church says, "The ministry of Deacon as set forth in scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeem love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structure, or anyone in distress." We look forward to 2023. We can only do our ministry with your help.

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