

GOOD NEWS

LETTER

*Forest Presbyterian Church
Living God's Heart, Hands, & Voice*

Newsletter for Forest Presbyterian Church, Forest, Virginia

January 2024

Resolved!

As the new year approaches, many of us are making resolutions. Resolved! We vow to lose weight, get in shape, or save money.

The Epistle of James implores us to make resolutions, based on the direct instruction of the Lord. In chapter 1, verse 22, James writes, "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says." In other words, we need to do more than just make a list of resolutions. We need to actually take action and follow through on them. And we want to make resolutions that follow God's Word.

But we must be careful also to follow God's will in our resolutions. James also says,

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a town and spend a year there, doing business and making money." Yet you do not even know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wishes, we will live and do this or that."

Resolutions are often our own decisions. In 2024, the challenge is to seek the will of God first. The key question to ask is, "Does the Lord wish this?" If so, do it with great resolve!

Make 2024 a year to resolve to follow God!

Yours in the Hope of Christ,
PASTOR MORGAN

January events

- ⊖ Handbells - Wednesdays 6pm
- ⊖ Adult Choir - Wednesdays 7pm
- ⊖ De-Greening Church - January 4, 4pm
- ⊖ Church School/Communion - January 7, 9:30am
- ⊖ Newsletter Deadline - January 11
- ⊖ Lunch Club - January 11, 11:30am
- ⊖ Souper Bowl of Caring Begins - Sunday, January 14 (ends February 11)
- ⊖ Congregational Meeting - January 21 - Following worship-2024 Budget
- ⊖ FYRE Group - Sunday, 7, 21
- ⊖ FPC Book Club - Tuesday, January 23, 7pm - at Heideman's home
- ⊖ Two-Cents-A-Meal - Sunday, January 28



Congregational Meeting:

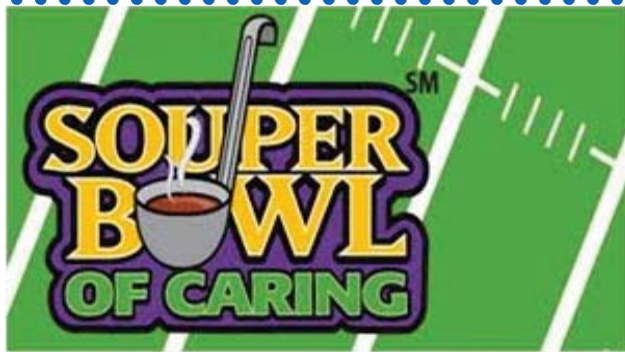
There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday, January 21 following the 10:30 worship service for the purpose of presenting the 2024 budget and modifying the Pastor's Terms of Call.



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Souper Bowl of Caring begins January 2024!

- It's that time of year again when we gear up to tackle hunger through the Souper Bowl of Caring. This year's campaign will start on January 14 and end on February 11.
- We will be collecting for Bedford Christian Ministries again this year and are looking to blast through our record of 1600 items last year. They are asking us to collect CONDENSED soup and saltine crackers (or other soup crackers).
- The need is still great in our community. As a church we can do a lot to tackle hunger! This is a great way for FPC to show we are

Living God's Heart, Hands & Voice

January FYRE Meetings:

Regular Meetings - 4:00 - 5:30 pm

January 7- Souper Bowl of Caring 2024 kick-off

January 21 - Youth Sunday service planning



January Birthdays

- 2 Donald Nugent
- 3 edie Tanner
- 6 Christina Bennett
- 6 Lindsay Bennett
- 6 Jack Smith
- 8 Ann Frances Harrison
- 10 Brian Klingenfus
- 15 Curtis Stephens
- 15 Morgan Whitfield (Pastor)
- 16 Louis Sims
- 22 Kraig Cole
- 22 Linda Theisen
- 25 Trish Hendricks
- 26 Cynthia Hendricks
- 26 Tom Leedy



Deacon notes

As 2023 draws to a close, let us reflect on the many blessings God has bestowed on us this past year. Each year brings us new opportunities to know Him more, to walk in faith, and to grow by his grace. We look forward to the good plans God has for our lives this year. No matter what each day holds, we know all will be well because God is always with us.

The Deacons pray that each of you will be blessed with a renewed faith in God. We all wish you a joyous 2024.



May the New Year fill your home with joy, your heart with love, and your life with laughter. & may God bless you today and every day.

Happy New Year.

Christian Education

A Word From CE



We are Looking forward to our new Church School year together for both children and adults. The K-5 children are still enjoying their time rotating each Sunday between children's music ministry, writing cards for our senior members, and learning more about communion. For January we will be continuing the music ministry, working on cards for homebound members. All are welcome and encouraged to come join us each Sunday morning for Church School 9:30-10:15 am.

Adult Church School

All Adults are encouraged to join us on Sunday morning 9:30 am as Pastor Morgan continues his study **Feasting on the Word**.

Walking Group!

Just before the holidays begins, our state capitol walkers are nearing Salem, Oregon. From there we will head for Harrisonburg, PA, which is a mere 2,228 miles clear across the country (a long way). Then the next goal will be Providence, Rhode Island, which is a much smaller jaunt of only about 305 miles. It looks like we might make it back home sometime this coming spring. You should be able to see our progress as the large map showing our walking trip should be up again soon. Would you like to help us get back to Forest soon? Then begin the New Year with walking with us. We would enjoy having you be a part of this walking group! If so, please contact Ginny Lenz for more information.

Let's go for a
walk



MISSIONS

Food Pantry -

We continue to supply our food pantry for Bedford Christian Ministries. Bring in the following food for BCM food distribution!



Food Needed:

Boxes of cereal, breakfast bars, oatmeal packets, pancake mix, syrup, paper towels, toilet paper, mac-n-cheese, spaghetti noodles and sauce, spaghetti o's bottled juices, kid-friendly snacks.

Shepherds Table

Volunteers are needed to help pass out meals on the 3rd Friday of every month. Desserts are needed as well. Please pray that God would show you how you can help!!

2023 Angel Tree -

A **BIG "THANK YOU"** to everyone who helped make our Angel Tree a success again this year!

We were able to support 40 angels for elderly or disabled adults and any children living in the home. Thank you for all your help, support and prayers!

BIG
Thank You!

Winter Warming Shelter -

Volunteers are needed for the BCM Shelter. Anytime from December 23-March 20, Friday, Saturday or Sunday. Contact Tim Brook (copinbedford@gmail.com) if you can help!









DING-A-LINGS HANDBELL CHOIR

The DingA-Lings Handbell Choir rehearses on Wednesdays from 6pm to 7pm. We are always looking for new ringers. Come on by and give it a try. If you would like more information, contact Laurie Brownson (vacubsfan1@gmail.com or 434-221-8038).

January rehearsals are:
6:00pm
January 10, 17 and 24



JANUARY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 New Year's Day	2 	3	4	5	6
7 Communion 4-5:30p FYRE	8	9	10 6p Handbells 7p Adult Choir 	11 11:30a FPC Lunch Club Newsletter Deadline 	12	13
14 2p FYRE 7p Session	15	16	17 6p Handbells 7p Adult Choir  Choir Rehearsal	18 	19	20
21 4-5:30p FYRE	22	23 7p Book Club (at Heideman's)  BOOK CLUB	24 6p Handbells 7p Adult Choir 	25	26	27
28 2-Cents-A-Meal	29	30	31 7p Adult Choir			

ABBREVIATIONS

a - am
p - pm
MT - Ministry Team
CC - Christ Care
BS - Bible Study

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:30 am - Church School
10:30 am - Worship Service

A Word From...Sound Booth

There are a few needs in the AV Worship Command Center.

There are three stations for running the sound booth - Presentation Computer, Sound Board and Streaming.

The Presentation Computer is old and glitchy. If you have an old computer that you need to dispose of, please let John know so he may evaluate it for use in the worship service.

Also, if you would like to volunteer to learn how to use the computer and work in the sound booth, please see John as he would be glad to train you.

John would like to say "thank you" to the following for helping to run the services (Doug Brownson, Scott Francis, William and Eva Francis, JoAnn Scott and Kurt Heideman).



Stewardship

A new church brochure is under construction. We hope (with members help) that the new brochures will be delivered to the new apartments and condos in anticipation of increasing our membership.

We expect to implement some of the terrific ideas that were received from your suggestions. SO...be on the lookout for ways in which you can help with these new adventures. YOU are the key to the future of our church.

Have you turned in your 2024 pledge card? If not they are still located in the Commons. This is a very important part of the process to complete the 2024 budget. If you have turned in your pledge "thank you" for your dedication to God's work at Forest Presbyterian Church. If you have not yet returned your pledge card, please do so as soon as possible. So we may finalize our budget for 2024. Thank you for your loving contribution and commitment!

You may simply fill out the card on Sunday or you may scan the QR code below.



Circle of Friends Book Club

New Year, New Beginnings! Have you thought about making a resolution to read more books in 2024?

All members and friends of Forest Presbyterian Church are invited to join the "Circle of Friends" Book Club that will be meeting at the home of Sarah Heideman beginning in January, 2024. Meetings are on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm.

This fun group is open to anyone in the Forest/Lynchburg area who enjoys reading and discussing books (and laughing a lot). We LOVE new members, so please consider joining us!

If you have any questions, contact Sarah Heideman (434-238-7794 or skhei5va@gmail.com).

January 23 - The Boys - by Ron and Clint Howard

February 27 - House of Sand and Fog - by Andre Dubus III

March 26 - Pineapple Street by - by Jenny Jackson

April 23 - Our Missing Hearts - by Celest Ng

May 28 - Demon Copperhead - by Barbara Kingsolver



Choir Notes



What Better way to start the new year than by singing?! The FPC Choir invites anyone who loves music and enjoys making a joyful noise to become part of the group! We meet on Wednesday evenings in the sanctuary from 7 until 8 pm. What fun we have singing and the joy of being together. The choir has some lovely music planned for the new year. Join us - all are welcome!



A Word From...Worship

We were blessed with many joyful volunteers to decorate the church for Christmas. In no time at all the wreathes were hung, candles were flickering and the Christmas tree was glistening. A great big Thank You to our **Elf Squad!!** The de-greening of the church will take place on **Thursday, January 4, 2024 at 4:00 pm**. Feel free to join us - the more the merrier!