



THE STEEPLE

JANUARY 2023

FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WINTERSET, IA

The mission of the First United Presbyterian Church is to make disciples of all people for the glory of God through teaching, caring and worshiping.

God's making-new is already working in us

by Ken Rummel for Presbyterians Today | Special to Presbyterian News Service – Article from January 2021 meaningful for this year as well!



“New Snow” is a 2020 photo by Ken Rummel.

Happy New Year, everybody! Or, as we sing along with José Feliciano in “Feliz Navidad,” his 50-year holiday hit: “Próspero año y Felicidad” (A prosperous and happy new year).

Despite the crises and disasters of the year 2020 and the still-worsening pandemic, I feel hopeful at the turning of the year.

I know it’s old school, but in my mind a new year calls for a new calendar, one that can hang on a nail, maybe with dogs in the pictures.

But why start the year on Jan. 1? Why not on Beethoven’s birthday or the eleventy-first of July? Why not go with March 25 as New Year’s Day, the tradition in England and its American colonies before 1752?

Beginning our calendar with January turns out to be a relic of our cultural roots in ancient Rome. They once had a 10-month calendar that matched the numerical prefixes for September, October, November and December with months 7-10. (Octagon — 8 sides. October — 8th month.)

At the end of December, their calendar inserted a to-be-determined number of month-less days leading up to March and the beginning of a new year. Eventually those winter days were divided into two new months, January and February, with January kicking off the year.

January gets its name, according to my sources, from Janus, the Roman god of doorways and gateways. He is portrayed with two faces, one looking forward and one looking back.

Though Janus looks clean-shaven on some ancient coins, others show him with a beard, a look the pandemic has made popular again. And did I mention the Romans looked to Janus for good beginnings?

Today, few of us count ourselves worshipers of Janus, but we still look to his month for good beginnings. On Jan. 1, we dare to believe we can leave some stuff behind, imagine a better version of ourselves, chart a new course and make a fresh start.

Some of my believing, at the dawning of this year, draws strength from a few words in an ancient letter. “So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!” (2 Corinthians 5:17 NRSV)

Here, the possibilities of a new year do not totally depend on my own choices and willpower. Here, the new arises from what God is already doing to re-create the whole Creation and even people like us. It’s a new that shows in Jesus Christ, a new that can be glimpsed in those united to him.

This speaks hope to me. God’s making-new is already working in us. And God’s making-new goes before us into the year ahead.

So, what now?

The crystal ball has dropped in Times Square. We’ve raised a glass with Robert Burns for “[Auld Lang Syne](#).” Now it’s time to turn the calendar page in faith and with hope.

Now it’s time to make fresh tracks in the new snow.

The Rev. Ken Rummel writes about life and faith from the middle of Iowa by the High Trestle Trail.

If you have any needs during this time of pastoral ministry change,
please contact Dalene in the church office, or any of our Session members.

SESSION

Class of 2022

Class of 2023

Class of 2024

Pam Deichmann
Kay Stanley

Paul Millhollin
Ruth Reed

Kevin de Regnier
Joe Ekdahl
Tish McKee

Church email: churchsecretary3261@gmail.com

Church phone: 515-462-3261

Dalene phone: 319-530-8373 (texts preferred)

Church office hours: Mon – Thurs 9-1; closed Friday



BIRTHDAYS



Kay Stanley	Jan 2
Connie Banks	Jan 13
Larry Silverthorn	Jan 18
Laura Silverthorn	Jan 30
Deb Kneller	Jan 31

ANNIVERSARIES



Steve & Marla Reed Jan 12



MADONNA CIRCLE



January 9 @ 7pm

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

January 8



Following worship all church members and families are invited to attend the annual congregational meeting. Please plan to attend.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

January 1 – 10:15 AM

Paul Millhollin

Worship Leader

First Sunday of Christmas

January 8 – 10:15 AM

Rev. Dr. Judy Winkelpleck

Worship Leader

Communion

Baptism of the Lord

January 15 – 10:15 AM

Kevin de Regnier

Worship Leader

Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 22 – 10:15 AM

Paul Millhollin

Worship Leader

Third Sunday after Epiphany

EVENING GUILD

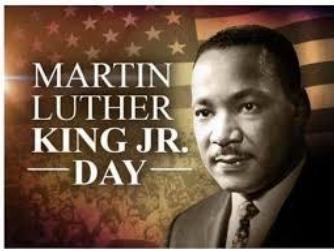


No meeting in January

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN (PW)

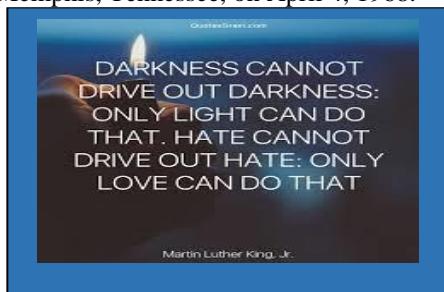
Will meet immediately following the Congregational Meeting on January 8. All women of the church are encouraged to attend!

MONDAY JANUARY 16TH



On January 15, 1929, Martin Luther King, Jr. is born in Atlanta, Georgia, the son of a Baptist minister. King received a doctorate degree in theology and in 1955 helped organize the first major protest of the African-American civil rights movement: the successful Montgomery Bus Boycott. Influenced by Mohandas Gandhi, he advocated civil disobedience and nonviolent resistance to segregation in the South. The peaceful protests he led throughout the American South were often met with violence, but King and his followers persisted, and the movement gained momentum.

King became the youngest person to win the Nobel Peace Prize (in 2014 Malala Yousafzai became the youngest to receive the prize at age 17). In the late 1960s, King openly criticized U.S. involvement in Vietnam and turned his efforts to winning economic rights for poor Americans. He was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, on April 4, 1968.



Read more about Martin Luther King, Jr. at
<https://www.history.com>this-day-in-history/martin-luther-king-jr-born>

We pray for...

Nolan Collins
Michelle Gillespie
Deb Kneller
Amy Nolan
Maize Thompson
Dick Tyer

Those known only to God



Donna Vaughan and family on the December 24th death of Milt Vaughan. Services will be held on January 9 at 2 pm at Caldwell Parrish Funeral Home, Winterset Chapel. Family will greet friends from 1-2 pm.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, With thanksgiving, present your requests to God."
Philippians 4:6



JANUARY 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 1st Sunday of Christmas 9:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship Paul Millhollin 11:15 am Fellowship	2 Office closed	3	4	5 7:00 pm Property & Finance 	6	7
8 Baptism of the Lord 9:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship Communion Judy Winkelpleck ANNUAL MEETING PW MEETING 11:15 am Fellowship	9 7:00 pm Madonna Circle 	10	11	12	13	14
15 2nd Sunday after Epiphany 9:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship Kevin de Regnier 11:15 am Fellowship	16 Martin Luther King birthday 	17	18	19 STEEPLE DEADLINE 	20	21
22 3rd Sunday after Epiphany 9:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship Paul Millhollin 11:15 am Fellowship	23	24 6:30 pm Session Meeting 	25	26	27	28
29 4th Sunday after Epiphany 9:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship 11:15 am Fellowship	30	31				