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# Edgewood Presbyterian Church

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## Newsletter January 1, 2023

### Devotion selection from

#### Jesus Calling

By Sara Young

As you come to the end of 2022, take some time to look back—and also to look ahead. Ask *Me* to help you review the highlights of this year: hard times as well as good times. Try to see *Me* in these memories, for I have been close beside you—every step of the way.

When you were clinging to *Me* for help in the midst of tough times, I comforted you with *My* loving Presence. I was also richly present in circumstances that filled you with great Joy. I was with you on the mountain peaks, in the valleys, and everywhere in between.

Your future stretches out before you all the way into eternity. **I am the Companion who will never leave you**, the Guide who knows every step of the way ahead. The Joy that awaits you in paradise is *inexpressible and full*

*of Glory!* As you prepare to step into a new year, let heaven's Light shine upon you and brighten the path just before you.



*"For I am the Lord, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you."*

*Isiah 41:13*

*You will show me the path of life;  
in Your presence is fullness of joy;  
at Your right hand  
are pleasures forevermore.*

*Psalms 16:11 NKJV*

*For this God is our God for ever and ever;  
he will be our guide even to the end.*

*Psalms 48:14*

## Session Notes

Rev. Beth Olker held our congregational meeting December 11, when we elected two new Elders for the class of 2025: Debra Wall and Connie Wynn. Rev. Laura Lupton will Install and Ordain them Sunday, January 8, during worship.

The Session decided to increase our giving to the Presbytery in our Per Capita and Shared Mission to help with needed support of its programs and ministries.

Thanks for your generous giving to the *Joy Offering December 18*. We received a total of \$563

Thanks to Leslie Hanna and family for providing the Christmas Day Carols, beautiful music and worship!

Terry Pleasants will lead us in worship January 1; Laura Lupton – January 8; Jarrod Lowry – January 22; and Suzanne Colandro – January 29.

The Presbytery will have *Elder Enrichment and training January 21*, at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church at 9:00. All Elders are encouraged to attend and bring your Book of Order and Book of Confessions.

Our next Session meeting will be Sunday, January 29, at **1:30** p.m. moderated by Rev. John Taylor.

Installation and Ordination of Debra Wall and Connie Wynn will be Sunday January 8 during worship.



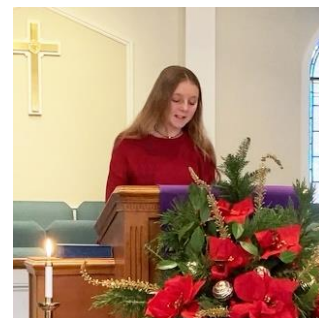
*We thank Leslie for leading us in worship and carols on Christmas Day and sharing her family's talents with us*



Thanks to Joe Hanna for enhancing our Christmas day worship with his beautiful harp music. It was just beautiful!

Emily

Jonathan





Jim and Liesl Owle duet 12-18-22



*To everyone celebrating  
January Birthdays!*



*Lighting of  
Advent Candles*



**January Prayer  
Families of the Week**

- 1 Martha Maddox
- 8 Teresa Mangum
- 15 Ernestine & Darrell Matthews
- 22 Chip & Patsy McBryde
- 29 Eddy & Alyssa McBryde & family

**November Treasurer's Report**

Receipts . . . . . \$14,599.50  
Disbursements . . . . . 4,029.51

Thanks for those participating in the five  
Sundays of Advent (lighting of the  
candles.)





The PW coordinating team will not meet in January.

The PW circle will meet Monday January 9, at 2:00. Mary Holder will lead us in Session 4 of the Rock, the Road, and the Rabbi. Recommended reading chapter 9, 12 & 14. Trish and Sandy will have light refreshments.

Thanks Helen and Dawn for hosting a wonderful Christmas lunch for the women!



She served chicken salad, broccoli salad, and cranberry salad. Then we had a choice of two very delicious deserts! What a great fellowship time.



Ruby was able to join us. Lola found her a friend to sit with.



Cheryl Gilmore had a wonderful program at the PW Christmas gathering. She shared a biblical meaning or story behind each teapot she brought. The refreshment committee served wonderful refreshments!



Cheryl also had some lovely note cards for sale with her teapots on the front and message on the back.

The PW not only had fun with Christmas parties in December, we supported many great causes: Haven, Floyd Knight, Children's Hope Alliance, and bought for Salvation Army Angels. We fixed a box for Drew Morrison in resthome, and sent holiday cards to those in local rest homes. Thanks Jerry Wynn for making these for us.

## 'The Church Year

Poem By Ann Weems

(shortened from lack of space)

*The church is Advent.* The unwrapping of God's greatest gift is near. Advent—coming. God will take away the tinsel and decorate our human hearts in hope so that Christians can sit laughing in the rain, knowing that the Lord is going to shine in upon their being.

For no matter how long the darkness, God will send the Light. In spite of cursing and violence and the massacring of human dignity, we will dance in the streets of Bethlehem, for He will be born!

*The church is Epiphany.* We are the Magi, searching, resplendent in this world's counterments of knowledge and wealth and achievement. But we search for something more. And—of all unlikely places—in a stable the Deity appears. The boring of our Lord bursts in upon our ordinary lives like fireworks in the snow. Only God would send a little baby King, and we are on our knees, where we are within reach of our full personhood.

*The church is Good Friday.* Darkness burnt into blackness, abysmal absence of anything good. We acknowledge that death is real and we tremble for a world that would kill its God. Our feet

stand in quicksand; our voices echo sterile silence. We huddle together to meet the dark and the death, forgetting what was taught us, forgetting that somewhere a seed is sprouting, somewhere a child is growing. All we see is Christ crucified.

*The church is Easter.* Out of Death: Life. Out of darkness: a lush green world, flowers in the ice, sunrays in the storm, mustard seeds galore. Our souls enter a spiritual springtime, our Bodies given over to leaping and dancing, our very beings saturated in hosannas. Our shouting crashes in upon this world: the Lord lives! We live! Resurrection resounds throughout our community.

We are the Lord's church, the church of justice and mercy, the people sent to open prisons, to heal the sick, to clothe the naked, to feed the hungry, to reconcile, to be alleluias when there is no music. Joy is apparent in our living. We have been commissioned to be the church of Jesus Christ.

