

First Presbyterian Church
 775 E. Boswell
 Batesville, AR 72501
 Phone: 870-793-3272
 E-mail: firstpresbatesville@gmail.com



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A Prayer for Christmas

The internet reveals little about Wilda English — only that she lived from 1916 to 1997 and once resided in California. No details exist about her family, work or interests. Just this prayer, widely shared online. And it is no small thing. Indeed, the prayer tells much about her faith.

God bless Wilda English for sharing these words with the world. May they continue to inspire many!

God grant you the light in Christmas, which is faith;
 the warmth of Christmas, which is love;
 the radiance of Christmas, which is purity;
 the righteousness of Christmas, which is justice;
 the belief in Christmas, which is truth;
 the all of Christmas, which is Christ.



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First Presbyterian Church, Batesville AR



"Haul out the holly/Put up the tree before my spirit falls again/ Fill up the stocking/I may be rushing things/ but deck the halls again now./ For we need a little Christmas/ right this very minute/ candles in the window/ carols at the spinet... We need a little Christmas now!" [Mame](#)

What is your favorite part of the Christmas season? Clearly mine is the music – the carols, the anthems, the organ music, the secular music. Some of it fills our souls and lifts our spirits; some of it calms and quiets us; some of it takes us straight to Bethlehem on that wondrous night. There is a message in so much of the music. (Sometimes it is misunderstood. One of our children, whom I shall not name, but it's not Kathy, sang the second verse of "Away in a Manger" like this: *The catalog lowing...*)

Listen and take to heart the words of the carols and anthems. There is a world of inspiration as well as questions to lead us into the manger and beyond.

♪ Oh, Holy Child, what gift of grace from the Father freely willed. In your infant form we trace all God's promises fulfilled. ("Holy Child")

What a gift!

♪ Breath of Heaven hold me together. Be forever near me, Breath of Heaven. ("Mary's Song")

Sometimes this applies even when we are not giving birth on a bed of hay.

♪ Into one song compress the love that rules above. Sing love, sing love, sing love. Sing love, sing God is love. ("Before the Marvel of This Night")

This season is packed with the promise of love. Let us feel it and share it abundantly!

♪ People look East and sing today/ Love the Lord is on the way. ("Carol of the Advent")

Anticipate! Hope! Rejoice!

It's been 180 years since this church was established and we are as ready as ever to proclaim "Joy to the World the Lord is Come!". Let's remember the giddy joy we felt as children as Christmas drew near. Listen to your favorite carols. Join the choir! SERIOUSLY! JOIN THE CHOIR. WE NEED YOU! Enter into this season with joy and calm and with certainty that God has a plan for this church and our future is bright.

Around 1870 Aaron Lyon, a founding elder, wrote a history of this church. It is from that history the title of the history written in 1991 found its title:

"...we feel that only the Master's presence is needed to guide this people in their work, and to bestow grace on the labors of the sanctuary to make this church, what all churches should be, a rich and lasting blessing."

Merry Christmas!

Lucy Yeager

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- 12/2 ERIN RICHARDS
- 12/3 MIRIAM MOORE
- 12/3 LEANN HOLMES
- 12/5 MEGAN BOUCHAREB
- 12/7 JEFF MOORE
- 12/9 CRAIG OGILVIE
- 12/10 TONIA GRACE
- 12/11 EMILY CAMBIAS
- 12/12 LYNN WALTON
- 12/12 JEREMY WEAVER
- 12/13 RUFUS BELL
- 12/14 MCKINLEY WALDEN
- 12/15 JOHN BELL
- 12/15 CHASITY MANRY
- 12/15 LESLIE ROPER
- 12/15 STEVE LANGE
- 12/16 RON KARG
- 12/18 KATIE CUMMINS
- 12/18 COURTNEY BEAL
- 12/22 SANDY QUALLS
- 12/25 LAURA GEARY
- 12/27 JUSTIN CLARK
- 12/29 ERICA BAKER

Christmas Worship Schedule

Lessons and Carols. Tradition tells us that the first ever “Lessons and Carols” service took place on Christmas Eve in 1880. It’s a tradition that has been adapted and used by churches all across the earth. This year, on December 11th we will continue that tradition by holding our Lessons and Carols service. Come join us as we hear the Christmas Story told both in word and song.

On **Christmas Eve** at 5:00 p.m. we will celebrate with our annual Christmas Eve candle light service. Make plans to bring your whole family to the Christmas Eve service. The nursery will be open for this service.

Poinsettias

If you are interested in providing a poinsettia for the worship services on December 18th and Christmas Eve, please contact the church office either by phone or email to reserve your plant(s). Plants will be \$12.50 this year. Orders are due no later than December 4th. Your poinsettia can be placed in honor or in memory of someone special.



Angel Tree & Santas for Seniors

Have you selected your Angel off the Angel tree, or picked out your Senior to be a Santa to yet? If not, you still have time! There are plenty who still need someone to show them they care.

If you choose an **Angel**, please do not wrap your gifts, mark through the barcode and put them in plastic bags with the child’s name and number clearly marked. Drop off your gifts in the Narthex no later than Sunday, December 11th. On Monday, December 12th at 10:00 a.m. we will sort the gifts and deliver them to the United Way that afternoon. All volunteers are appreciated.

Santas for Senior gifts are due back to the church by December 11th. Please make sure these gifts are wrapped and clearly labeled. We will deliver these gifts to the White River Area Agency on Aging that week.



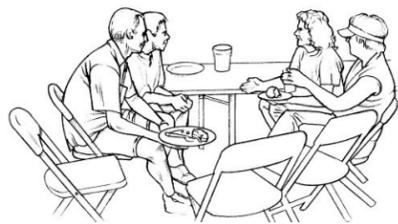
Presbyterian Day School



Would you like to help PDS? The Day school would welcome any donations in the form of snacks, supplies and scholarship donations. Please check with Ms. Stephanie or Ms. Laura if you would like to donate snacks or supplies. Any scholarship donations may be brought to the church office.



Make plans now to attend this month's lunch, in the Fellowship Hall after worship on Sunday, December 11th. Come share some great conversation with your church family and enjoy a tasty lunch.



BIBLE TRIVIA QUESTION

Here's something to get you thinking! If you don't know the answer, try phoning a church friend! Let this be a way to start a conversation and check up on each other!

In the Apostles Creed, Jesus descended into Hell, but without sin. Why?

The monthly trivia question is brought to you by your FPC Deacons!



Dear Friends of First Presbyterian Church, Thank you for all the cards of celebration for my 90th birthday in October! The door leading into my room here was covered, top to bottom, with beautiful cards, much to my delight!

Thanks and Love, Jo Cudd

First Presbyterian Family, Thank you for the gorgeous flowers! They were a bright surprise, I appreciate you all thinking of me during my recovery!

Love,
Kathy Lanier

Breakfast With Santa!

Once again, Presbyterian Day School will be hosting its annual fundraiser – Breakfast With Santa! Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 10th, from 8:00—11:00 a.m.! Tickets can be purchased for \$8 each from any current day school family, the teachers, or the church office.



Your ticket includes breakfast and a photo with Santa! You also get access to the bake sale and silent auction, which always has some amazing gifts available! Buy your tickets ahead of time, or you can purchase them at the door to Fellowship Hall!

Christmas Eve Kindness Baskets

Once again we will collect snacks and goodies to bless those who serve our community throughout the year, and on holidays when we are enjoying time with our family and friends. If you would like to donate snacks, small games, or notes of thanks to our police/sheriffs officers, fire fighters, EMS and hospital workers, we will have baskets in the Narthex for you to drop off your donations. Families who delivered the baskets last year were truly blessed to be a blessing to these hard working individuals. If you would like to deliver a basket, please contact Gerri Coleman at 870-612-2333.



TO FULFILL WHAT THE LORD HAD SPOKEN BY THE PROPHET.

Matthew 1:22, ESV

CURRENT ELDERS:

Class of 2022
Clark Baker
Laura Geary
Chuck Jones
Carlene Lewis

Class of 2023
J.R. Baker
Jesse Friert
Kathy Lanier
Bob Stroud

Class of 2024
Debra Bell
Wil Moore
Shelly Moser
Mollie Smith

CURRENT DEACONS:

Class of 2022
Courtney Beal
Price Holmes III
Sarah Jones
Jeremy Weaver

Class of 2023
Fonzie Geary
Nate Pyle
Carolyn Reed
Larry Whipple

Class of 2024
Betty Adams
James Anderson
Justin Clark
LeAnn Holmes

Preaching and Worship Schedule

Worship with us on ZOOM

Zoom number 865 142 3135 and password 72501

December 4, 2nd Sunday of Advent

Preaching: Rev. Maggie Alsup

Liturgist: Betty Adams

December 11, 3rd Sunday of Advent

Preaching: Rev. Maggie Alsup

Liturgist: Chuck Jones

December 18, 4th Sunday of Advent

Preaching: Rev. Marci Ward

Liturgist: Laura Geary

December 24, Christmas Eve

Preaching: Dr. Fonzie Geary

Liturgist: Janet Thomas

December 25th—No Service



The church will be closed
 from December 26-
 December 30th. It will
 reopen on January 2nd.

Pastoral Care



PLEASE REMEMBER these members and friends of First Presbyterian Church in your prayers.

MEMBERS: Kate Cooke; Gerri Coleman; George Lankford; Jo Cudd; Farris and Dick Nelms; Ron Karg; Nat Zumwalt; Trish Boylan.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS: Mark Register (*friend of Larry & Celeste Whipple*); Charlie Robuck (*grandson of Jo Cudd*); Debbie Mason (*niece of Carlene Lewis*); Byron Difani, (*principal at Eagle Mountain*); Paul & Susan (Critz) Guthrie (*friend of the congregation*); Marjorie Seasholtz (*friend of Kathy Whittenton*); Elbert & Stacy Lindsey (*friends of Scott & Melissa Qualls family*); Don Weatherman (*friend of the congregation*); Helen Enderland (*friend of Kathy Altom*); Kathy Duke (*niece of Kathy Altom*); Captain Christian Cummings, USAF (*nephew of Price & LeAnn Holmes*); Amanda Lawrence (*sister of Leslie Roper*); Gerald Bass (*friend of Carlene Lewis*); Roger Blackmore (*friend of James & Camille Anderson*); Paul Cox (*friend of Price & LeAnn Holmes*); Todd & Nancy Phillips (*sister & nephew of Camille Anderson*); Eloise Kikkert (*granddaughter of Don & Lynn Weatherman*); Jim & Diane Campbell (*brother & sister-in-law of Lenora Baldwin*); Betty Howard (*friend of Kathy Whittenton*); Nick Slagle (*nephew of Ceil Smith*); Susan Anselm (*sister of Jo Gehm*).

IN THE PRESBYTERY OF ARKANSAS, we remember to pray for these ministries:

Please Pray for...		Dec. 4	Mountainburg Church, Mountainburg	Active and Retired Ministers
		Dec. 11	Laotian Ministry, Fort Smith	Office of General Assembly of PC(USA)
		Dec. 18	Memorial Church, Atkins	First, Walnut Ridge
		Dec. 25	Kirk of the Hills, Fairfield Bay	Church Pre-Schools

Dear Presbyterian Church Members,

Thank you for all the prayers and support during the last few months. Our church is still strong, kind, and caring. It's wonderful knowing you have a church family you can rely on for support and kindness and always, food! Thank you so much.

Peace and Love, Gerri Coleman

Dear Friends of First Presbyterian Church,

Thank you so much to all of you for the beautiful floral arrangement and the nice note and the birthday card with a wonderful message for my 99th birthday. All of this warmed my heart and made me happy. Thank you. I miss you all so much. I love you and wish you many blessings.

Ura Fae Kramer