

Celtic Cross

The *Celtic Cross* is published once a month. News items intended for a specific issue should be submitted by noon on the Sunday prior to the last Wednesday of each month.

Vol. 60, No. 1

January 2023

Editor: Cathy Taylor

Dear FPC Denton Church Family,

Time to begin a new year! The liturgical church year started at the end of November by switching from the Gospel of Luke readings back to the Gospel of Matthew. You might want to consider reading Matthew this month or engaging in a "Read the Bible in One Year" program. I started last year on my "Read the Bible in Three Years" program---my Bible is opened every day, including devotionals and other Christian writings. I'm not bragging—it is just a part of my personal spiritual walk.

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, who writes lyrics using Scripture to lift up the different themes and readings from the Bible, has an interesting, thought-provoking one: "If We Talk of Thoughts and Prayers" Tune: O Waly Waly ("Though I May Speak")

If we just talk of thoughts and prayers and don't live out a faith that dares, and don't take on the ways of death, our thoughts and prayers are fleeting breath. If we just dream of what could be and do not build community, and do not seek to change our ways, our dreams of change are false displays.

If we just sing of doing good and don't walk through our neighborhood to learn its hope, to ease its pain, our talk of good is simply vain.

God, may our prayers and dreams and songs lead to a faith that takes on wrongs—that works for peace and justice too, then will our prayers bring joy to you.

Biblical references: Isaiah 58; Matthew 7: 21, 24-27; 1 Corinthians 13: 1, James 2: 14-26; 1 John 3: 18-24.

Blessings!

Debbie

Celtic Cross Index

ITEM	Page
Cover Article by Pastor Debbie	1
Love Notes by Pastor Debbie	3
Mission News	4
Women of the Church meeting –January 3rd	5
Un-decorate January 1st following Worship	5
January Calendar	6-7
Disciples' Class	8
Thank you	8
<i>Celtic Cross</i> for February deadline is January 22	9
Session and Diaconate	9
In the Kitchen	9
Households for Prayer	10
Meetings	10
FPC Social Networks	10
Prayer Concerns	11
January Birthday and Anniversary	11
Communion January 1st	11
<i>Save the date</i>	11
Bible Readings	12

Love Notes from Pastor Debbie

I'm writing this on Christmas Day! We've had a wonderful month of worship: 4 Sundays of Advent, Lessons and Carols (and the choir and the music was stellar!), Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion (and the Tamales Dinner was delicious!), and Christmas Day service. And we will begin 2023 with a New Year's Day service---and what a great way to begin this new year---and with Communion too! Come, take every opportunity to worship this year! Peace and goodwill begin with glorifying God!



Here are the readings for January:

January 1: 1st Sunday after Christmas/New Year's Day/Communion. Readings: Psalm 148; Isaiah 63: 7-9; Matthew 2: 13-23; Hebrews 2: 10-18. Sermon Title: "Trust" Theme: Trust in God. Texts: Matthew 2 and Hebrews 2.

January 8, 2023: Baptism of the Lord Sunday. Psalm 29, Isaiah 42: 1-9, Matthew 3: 13-17, Acts 10: 34-43. Sermon Title: "The Chosen One" Theme: Baptism, Calling. Texts: Isaiah 42, Acts 10, Matthew 3.

January 15, 2023: 2nd Sunday after Epiphany. Psalm 40: 1-11, Isaiah 49: 1-7, John 1: 29-42, 1 Corinthians 1: 1-9. Sermon Title: "Examples of Prayer" Theme: Prayer. Text: 1 Corinthians 1.

January 22, 2023: 3rd Sunday after Epiphany. Psalm 27: 1, 4-9, Isaiah 9: 1-4, Matthew 4: 12-23, 1 Corinthians 1: 10-18. Sermon Title: "Power of God" Theme: Power of God. Texts: Psalm 27, Isaiah 9, Matthew 4, 1 Corinthians 1.

January 29, 2023: 4th Sunday after Epiphany. Psalm 15, Micah 6: 1-8, Matthew 5: 1-12, 1 Corinthians 1: 18-31. Sermon Title: "Doing What is Right" Theme: Right Living. Texts: Psalm 15, Micah 6, Matthew 5, 1 Corinthians 1.

Mission News

Food Pantry- We were filling the pantry one day and someone stopped by asking if we were filling or taking from the pantry. This person stated that she had been homeless in the past, but is now helping fill the pantry, "to give back" from when she was in need.

We are aware of a need for diapers and wipes, so remember this when shopping for the food pantry.

During some hard rains this fall the ground in front of the pantry was very muddy. Someone has since donated and installed pieces of flagstone in front of the pantry. That has been very helpful, thank you.

Direction 61:3 (formerly Zoie's Place) is up and running with a house for teenage girls who are aging out of Foster Care. Cumberland Children's Home is doing the same much needed service, assisting kids aging out of foster care to have shelter while they get jobs and get established in the community.

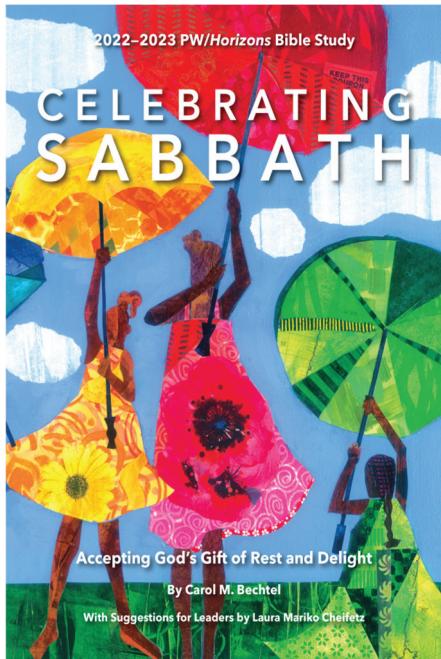
A scripture given me by Marlene Nobles says it all.

He who despises his neighbor sins, but blessed is he who is kind to the needy. Proverbs 14:21

A stylized, blue, cursive font banner that reads "Happy 2023!!!". The "H" in "Happy" is a large, decorative swirl, and the "2023" is in a bold, blocky font with three exclamation marks at the end.

Talk happiness; talk faith; talk health. Say you are well, and all is well with you, and God shall hear your words and make them true.

Ella Wheeler-Wilcox



Women of the Church

On **Tuesday, January 3, 2023**

Celebrating the Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight, at 10:00 AM in the Conference Room at the church. Study books are available contact. Carol Nance

Lesson Five

Sabbath and Servitude

Genesis 2:15 and 3:17-19

Exodus 31:12-18, 35:1-29 and 36:1-7

Please keep in mind the end of January Cookie Packing. Don't put away those out of area addresses just yet.



Removal of the greens.

Please plan on staying after worship on Sunday January 1st for Un-decoration.

Come one come all!

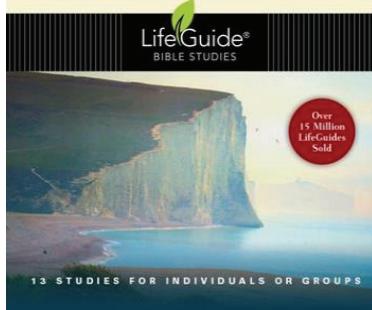
Everyone did a fantastic job of helping at the beginning of Advent! It will take us just minutes to take decorations down and box them to be put away.

Many hands make light work and we thank you in advance for yours!

January 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Worship 11 AM Un-decoration day 	2	3 Women of the Church 10:00 AM	4 Bible Study and Prayer 10:00 AM	5	6 Epiphany	7
8 Disciples Class 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM Mission 12:15 PM	9 Birthday: Victory Igbudu	10	11 Bible Study and Prayer 10:00 AM	12 Birthday: Pat Harberson	13	14
15 Disciples Class 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	16	17 Session 7 PM	18 Bible Study and Prayer 10:00 AM	19 Birthday: Henry Briggs	20 Birthday: Beverly Westlake	21 Anniversary: Felix & Esther Igbudu
22 Disciples Class 9:30 AM Deacons 10:30 AM Worship 11 AM Celtic Cross Deadline	23 Birthday: Carolyn Smith	24 Birthday: Kelly Brings	25 Bible Study and Prayer 10:00 AM	26 Birthday: Brenda Howard	27	28 Birthday: Diana Shenberger
29 Birthday: Eunice Curry Disciples Class 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	30	31				

MEETING JESUS



The Disciple's Class

Once you've met Jesus, you are never the same again. His teaching challenges your thinking. His compassion softens your heart. His love turns your life around.

In this thirteen session LifeGuide Bible Study, evangelist Leighton Ford leads you through thirteen studies from the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) that will open your eyes anew--or for the first time--to Jesus Christ.

This LifeGuide Bible Study in IVP Connect's revised format features questions for starting group discussions and for meeting God in personal reflection, as well as a "Now or Later" section following each session to help you act on what you learn.

Thank
you!

We all love the *Carol of the birds* performed by Beverly Hoch. Thank you! Christmas Eve service was a great delight!



Celtic Cross deadline is January 22 for February publication. Please send your news and articles to "Newsletter@fpcdenton.org"

Class of 2022
Beverly Hoch
Carol Nance (T)

T=Trustee

Session

Class of 23
Larry Harberson (T)
Jim Welborn

Carolyn Smith—Clerk of Session

Class of 2024
Terry Nobles (T)
Vacant

Diaconate

Carolyn Smith
Marlane Nobles

Linn Welborn
Diana Shenberg

In the Kitchen

In 2002, Presbyterian Women at First Presbyterian Church published the revised edition of "In the Kitchen," their favorite recipes. The first edition was published in 1993. The ladies of the church, and some men, provided their favorite recipes.

I hope you enjoy looking back at these glimpses of times past.

Jim Welborn

Pistachio Salad

(page 67)

- 1 can crushed pineapple
- 1 box pistachio instant pudding mix
- 1 9 oz. carton Cool Whip
- 1 c. small marshmallows
- 1 can fruit cocktail, drained

Mix all ingredients well. Put in freezer until firm.

Sally Callahan



Households for Prayer

Let us continue to uphold our households in prayer with these members for

January 2023

Nadine Hoch
Brenda Howard
Felix, Esther, and Victoria Igbudu
Jim and Glenna Kirkpatrick
Louise Kraft
Lynelle McConnell
Martha Meeks
Insook Melton

Committee Meetings

Mission Meeting
January 8th
12:15 PM

Session Meeting
January 17th
7:00 PM

Deacons Meeting
January 22
10:30 AM

Friend us on Facebook

FPC: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/FPCDentonTX/>

facebook

FPC Presbyterian Women: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/PWDentonFPC/>

Find us on the web: <http://www.fpcdenton.org>





Prayer Concerns

Health Concerns: Betty, Gerald B, Helen B, Mike C, Eunice C, Pat E, Lynda E, Gene F, Bob H, Nadine H, Pat H, Louise K, Dave M, Don R, Pat R, Joanna, Tami, Irene R, Diana S, Michael S; Price and Margaret B, Brenda C, Sam C, Sherman C, Kathy K, Judy R, Rev. Tim Keller, Robin and Alana, Linda and Laura L, Annemarie V, Lydia W., Sandy L., Craig W.

Sympathy Family of Jim Adams

Family of Pam Asher

Safety DCP Children, military personnel and first responders

January Birthdays

- 9 Victory Igbudu
- 12 Pat Harberson
- 19 Henry Briggs
- 20 Beverly Westlake
- 23 Carolyn Smith
- 24 Kelly Briggs
- 26 Brenda Howard
- 27 Gerald Briggs
- 28 Diana Shenberger
- 29 Eunice Curry



Anniversaries

- 21 Felix and Esther Igbudu



Communion
January 1st 2023



February 11, Saturday

Bible Readings

January 2023

- 1 Matt. 1:18–25
- 2 John 6:35–42, 48–51
- 3 John 10:7–17
- 4 John 14:6–14
- 5 John 15:1–16
- 6 Matt. 12:14–21
- 7 John 2:1–11
- 8 John 1:1–7, 19–20, 29–34
- 9 Mark 1:1–13
- 10 Mark 1:14–28
- 11 Mark 1:29–45
- 12 Mark 2:1–12
- 13 Mark 2:13–22
- 14 Mark 2:23–3:6
- 15 John 4:27–42
- 16 Mark 3:7–19a
- 17 Mark 3:19b–35
- 18 Mark 4:1–20
- 19 Mark 4:21–34
- 20 Mark 4:35–41
- 21 Mark 5:1–20
- 22 John 5:2–18
- 23 Mark 5:21–43
- 24 Mark 6:1–13
- 25 Mark 6:13–29
- 26 Mark 6:30–46
- 27 Mark 6:47–56
- 28 Mark 7:1–23
- 29 John 7:14–31
- 30 Mark 7:24–37
- 31 Mark 8:1–10

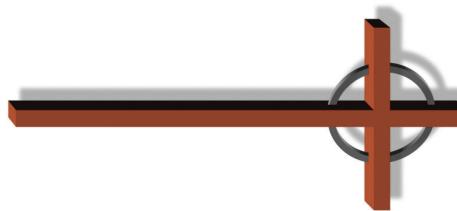
Source: PC(USA) Common
Lectionary

Aerobics

Monday, Wednesday, Friday
Erwin Hall - 8:30 am

Office Hours

Secretary M/W/F - 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
Pastor T/Th 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
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