

**First Presbyterian Church  
1322 19th Street  
Auburn, NE 68305**

**December 2023  
Volume 1, Issue 4**



## THE PRESBY TIMES

*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."-Philippians 4:6-7*

Being the Office Admin for our church was such a blessing for me. It came at a time when I was struggling as a stay at home mom and it offered me the perfect introduction back into the workforce. To be able to serve in the church that I grew up in was very special and I am forever grateful for the opportunity!

I decided to step down from this position because -long story short- I am getting a "promotion" at my Secretary position with the Rock Port Methodist Church. Due to the increased workload and extra hours I will be working over there, I am no longer able to give our church the time and dedication it deserves.

Now I know this is sounding like a goodbye letter, but I will still be around! First Presbyterian is the church I was raised in, the church I got married in, and the place where my son was baptized. It's hard to walk away from history like that, so it looks like y'all are stuck with me. I just won't be hanging out in the office anymore!

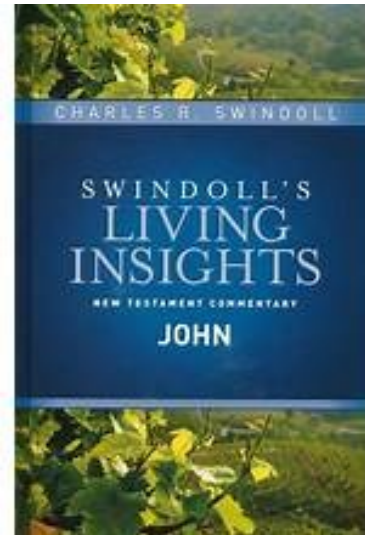
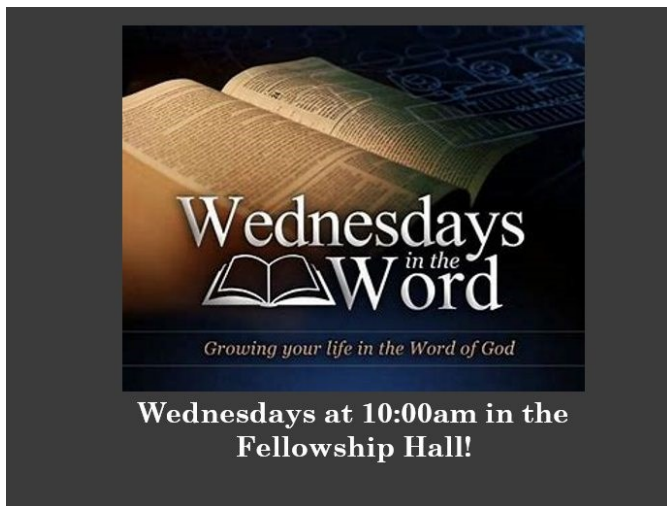
Sincerely,  
Rebecca Liess



What do you call it when a snowman throws a temper tantrum?

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Bible Study .....	2
Devotion.....	3
Christmas Program .....	4
Youth Group.....	5
Christmas Story.....	5
Bdays/Anniv/Prayer List .	6
Activities Page .....	7



Join us on Wednesday morning at 10am in the Fellowship Hall as we continue to study the Gospel of John. We are using the Layman's Commentary by Swindoll as we delve deeper into the Gospel. In January, we are coming to the end of the book of John, a time when things are interesting and make us think even more about the ministry of Jesus and who he is to us today. We would love to see you there! Wednesday morning led by Ruth Leslie.

*(Please note, if weather is bad, we will not meet. Let's be safe.)*

---

*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*  
**John 1:14 (NIV)**

---

**WE'RE  
HIRING**

Starting in January our church will need an office admin!  
This position offers part-time hours on a flexible schedule. It involves editing/creating documents and presentations for Sunday morning as well as managing the church's social media and website.

If you are interested, please let a member of Session know or email the church office at [auburnpreschurch@gmail.com](mailto:auburnpreschurch@gmail.com).



## DECEMBER DEVOTION

*A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.*

*John 13:34 (NIV)*

Many of us have heard this command that Jesus gives his disciples. It is given to them on his final night on earth after he has washed their feet and predicted his death and Peter's denial. In fact, it is in the middle of the speech of Jesus predicting that Peter would deny him when he speaks this command. It is at a very poignant time that Jesus says this to his disciples as it is a great reminder that we are to love. But it is not just any love.

In the Bible there are 4 different kinds of love. They are 1) sensual love (eros), 2) familial love (storge), 3) brotherly/sisterly love that you share with a brother/sister from another mother (philia), and 4) the love God shows us (agape). This is the love that Jesus is commanding his disciples to show to others. This is not a love that is flimsy or one that goes by the way side. This is a love that is deep and contagious. This is the kind of love that when you show it to one person, another person is wanting it too.

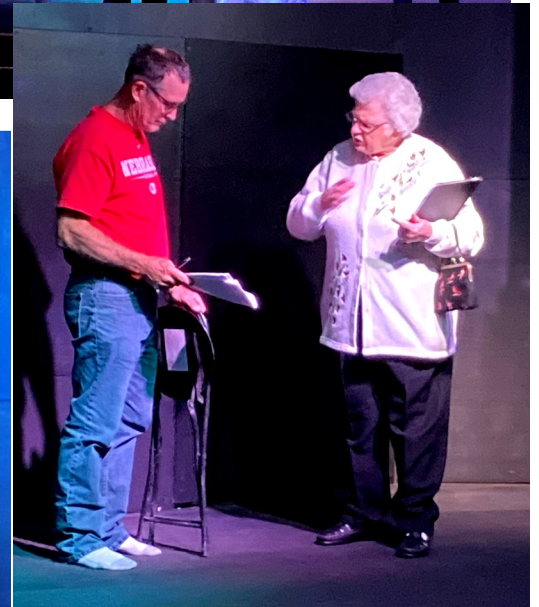
To love one another as God loves us, we are to look past their imperfections and to look at them as God sees them. They are a person who is struggling with their own struggles. They need someone to show them kindness when no one else will. We also have to remember that we too are imperfect and if we want to receive God's love from others, then we must be willing to show it to others.

There is a great song that I am always reminded of with this verse: "They Will Know We Are Christians By Our Love." Actions speak so much louder than words. Show the love of God to all those around you.

In Christ,  
Bonnie Ratcliff

Answer: A meltdown

## *A Lost and Found Christmas*



*We of the Lost and Found Creative Ministry team would like to send out a huge “thank you” to our church family. We understand that we tend to take over the front of the church for an extended amount of time and there is some adjusting to be done for Sunday mornings. Thank you for your patience. We hope that you enjoyed the show this year.*

Christmas Eve this year falls on a Sunday. So, the session has decided that this year we will not have a morning service. Instead, we will only have our **traditional Christmas Eve evening service at 7pm**. It will be a *candlelight service with scripture readings and music*.

CHRISTMAS EVE



We hope that you and your family will join us that night as we all prepare ourselves for the birth of Christ the following morning.





**Time:** 6pm—7:30pm

**Who:** 2nd grade and older are welcome to attend

**Questions:** Contact Bonnie Ratcliff: 706-936-0327 (call or text)

Starting in January 2024, we will be doing things slightly different. We are going to be splitting up kids for better lesson time. Our schedule will look like this:

5:30pm—Children's Lesson (2nd—6th grade)

6:00pm—Games (2nd—12th grade)

6:30pm—Meal (2nd—12th grade)

7:00pm—Youth Lesson (7th—12th grade)

7:30pm—Head Home

Thank you for your understanding.

**Schedule for the rest of the year:**

We will meet November 30, December 7 & 14.

On December 14th, we will meet at Bonnie's home for games and food to end the year. (Bring a snack to share.)

We will then take a break until January 11 and start the revised schedule.



Did you hear? Coming soon...



Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

*John 15:13 (NIV)*

Our children and youth had a great night at Bonnie's home playing in the dark with glow sticks and a bonfire. And a great meal provided by the Gilberts.





### ***December Anniversaries***

Dec. 3rd—Mark and Carla Patterson

Dec. 20th—Steve and Dee Smallfoot

Do you know of someone who is not on the list for birthdays or anniversaries? We would love to make sure that they are included in our church family.

Also, if you have a someone with whom you like to put on the prayer list, please contact Bonnie Ratcliff at 706-936-0327 or [ratcliff0615@gmail.com](mailto:ratcliff0615@gmail.com).

### ***December Birthdays***

Dec. 4th—Dick Moody

Dec. 5th—Carol Wheeler

Dec. 6th—Sheril Petet

Dec. 9th—Scott Mellage

Dec. 10th Betty Filbrandt

Dec. 10th—Bailey Hestermann

Dec. 12th—Marilyn Gilbert

Dec. 12th—Carolyn Gilbert

Dec. 17th—Adam Gilbert

Dec. 22nd—Ashlynn Johnson

Dec. 29th—Ian Mather

Dec. 29th—Vicki Ellner



### ***Prayer List***

Laura Lea Bucher

Al & Yancy Armstrong

Helen Moody

Sandy Kite

Janet Kirkendall

Sheril Petet

Hunter Hestermann

Dorothy & Tom Rivett

John Clark







### Would you like to receive communion?

We know and understand that there are those who cannot attend church on Sundays. On Sundays that we are serving communion, we would like to be able to take communion to those who cannot attend. If you would like to receive communion, please contact Deacon Desaray at 402-414-0352.



**First Presbyterian Church**  
1322 19th Street  
Auburn, NE 68305

Phone: 402-274-3531  
E-mail: auburnpreschurch@gmail.com

