

THE VISITOR

FAIRVIEW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH WEST COUNTY PARISH

JANUARY 2024

A Prayer For the New Year

BY BILLY GRAHAM

Our Father and our God, as we stand at the beginning of this new year we confess our need of Your presence and Your guidance as we face the future.

We each have our hopes and expectations for the year that is ahead of us—but You alone know what it holds for us, and only You can give us the strength and the wisdom we will need to meet its challenges. So help us to humbly put our hands into Your hand, and to trust You and to seek Your will for our lives during this coming year.

In the midst of life's uncertainties in the days ahead, assure us of the certainty of Your unchanging love.

In the midst of life's inevitable disappointments and heartaches, help us to turn to You for the stability and comfort we will need.

In the midst of life's temptations and the pull of our stubborn self-will, help us not to lose our way but to have the courage to do what is right in Your sight, regardless of the cost.

And in the midst of our daily preoccupations and pursuits, open our eyes to the sorrows and injustices of our hurting world, and help us to respond with compassion and sacrifice to those who are friendless and in need. May our constant prayer be that of the ancient Psalmist: "Teach me, O Lord, to follow your decrees; then I will keep them to the end" (Psalm 119:33).

We pray for our nation and its leaders during these difficult times, and for all those who are seeking to bring peace and justice to our dangerous and troubled world. We pray especially for Your protection on all those who serve in our armed forces, and we thank You for their commitment to defend our freedoms, even at the cost of their own lives. Be with their families also, and assure them of Your love and concern for them.

Bring our divided nation together, and give us a greater vision of what You would have us to be. Your Word reminds us that "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 33:12).

As we look back over this past year we thank You for Your goodness to us—far beyond what we have deserved. May we never presume on Your past goodness or forget all Your mercies to us, but may they instead lead us to repentance, and to a new commitment to make You the foundation and center of our lives this year.

And so, our Father, we thank You for the promise and hope of this new year, and we look forward to it with expectancy and faith. This I ask in the name of our Lord and Savior, who by His death and resurrection has given us hope both for this world and the world to come.

Amen.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

INSPIRE, INFLUENCE, IMPACT.

2024 United Women in Faith Reading Program

It is time to select the new books we want to add to our collection for the 2024 reading year.

If you would like to help select these books or purchase a book for our collection, please contact Dottie Super. Remember books from the 2019 thru 2024 Reading Program lists are all eligible for Reading Program reporting credit.

OPERATION RUMMAGE ROOM

Thurs., Jan. 18, 2024 – 6:00 to 8:00 pm

In case of inclement weather, we will meet Jan. 25.

We will again start to meet to sort items for the rummage sale. Come join in the fellowship and lend a helping hand. Feel free to bring your rummage sale items during the hours we are working on Thurs. evenings or on Sunday mornings. Remember no electronics or exercise equipment. See you in the rummage room.

Part of the Family Celebrating Birthdays in January

Harriet Grace	January 6th
Ronald Hinkle	January 9th
Abbey Robson	January 9th
Greg Gebhardt	January 13th
Stanley Junkin	January 13th
Robert Hetz	January 20th
Theresa Gebhardt	January 22nd

Prayer Requests

Theresa Gebhardt
Wilma Portzer
Kathy Pytlarz
People of Gaza
Peace for Israel
Russians
Ukrainians

Worship

January 7th: Baptism of our Lord Sunday

Sermon Series

Beginning January 21: Radical Hospitality!

January 21: What Does the Bible Say?

January 28th: What is Radical Hospitality?

Communion Sunday

In January we will be sharing in communion on both January 7th and 21st.

Liturgist List for January

Date	Name	Reading
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7th	Mel Sundin	Old Testament: Genesis 1:1-5 New Testament: Acts 19:1-7
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14th	Cindy Carr	Old Testament: 1 Samuel 3:1-20 New Testament: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20
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21st	Howard Miller	Gospel: Matthew 25:35
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28th	Greg Gebhardt	New Testament: Romans 15:7
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Prayer cards are at the Welcome Center and in the pews. Please use these for prayer and praise requests.

Upcoming

Education Meeting

There will be an Education meeting on January 10th at 6:30 pm. Please join us as you are able.

Easter Egg Hunt Meeting

Please join us for a planning meeting on January 15th at 6 pm. The Egg Hunt is planned for March 23rd, and we need as many volunteers as possible.

Preschool Board Meeting

Just a reminder to those on the board. The Preschool board meeting will be on January 17th at 6 pm.

Church Council

January 22nd at 6:30, everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend the Church council meeting.

De-Hanging of the Greens

Following the service, Sunday, January 7th. Everyone is welcome as we tidy the Church from the Christmas season.

Fellowship Hour

Fellowship Hour will follow our Communion Service next Sunday, January, 7th. Please join us!

JANUARY PARISH CALENDAR

JAN 1ST – HAPPY NEW YEAR

JAN 2ND – FAIRVIEW COMMUNITY COUNCIL – 11:45AM – FAIRVIEW UMC

LAKE CITY COUNCIL 5:30PM- LAKE CITY

JAN 3RD –PB READING 2:30-4:30PM- PB

DEVOTIONS – 11AM – FB LIVE

JAN 7TH – COMMUNION – ALL CHURCHES

JAN 8TH – MESSY CHURCH – 5PM – GIRARD

JAN 9TH – COUNCIL/TRUSTEES – 6:30PM – WEIS LIBRARY

JAN 10TH – DEVOTIONS – 11AM – FB LIVE

PB READING ENRICHMENT – 2:30-4:30PM – PB

EDUCATION MTG. 6PM – FAIRVIEW

JAN 15TH- EASTER EGG HUNT MTG. FAIRVIEW

JAN 16TH – PASTA NIGHT – 4:30-6:30PM – GIRARD

JAN 17TH – DEVOTIONS – 11AM – FB LIVE

PB READING ENRICHMENT – 2:30-4:30PM – PB

PRESCHOOL BOARD MTG. - 6PM – FAIRVIEW

JAN 18TH – SPAGHETTI DINNER – 4-6:30PM – WEIS LIBRARY

JAN 21ST – RADICAL HOSPITALITY SMALL GROUP – IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING

FAIRVIEW AND GIRARD SERVICES

JAN 22ND – COMMUNITY CAFE – 11:30-1PM – GIRARD

COUNCIL- 6:30PM- FAIRVIEW

JAN 23RD – COUNCIL – 6:30PM – GIRARD

JAN 24TH – DEVOTIONS – 11AM – FB LIVE

JAN 28TH – RADICAL HOSPITALITY SMALL GROUP – IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING

FAIRVIEW AND GIRARD SERVICES

FEB 4TH – RADICAL HOSPITALITY SMALL GROUP – IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING

FAIRVIEW AND GIRARD SERVICES