



# First Presbyterian Church

January 2026

## Epiphany is Here!

We know all about Christmas and Easter. We even know a bit about Advent and Lent. But how about Epiphany? This liturgical season in the church is celebrated on the Sunday closest to the Day of Epiphany, which is January 6. The church continues to celebrate this season of Epiphany right up until the Transfiguration of the Lord and then Lent begins.

So what is this Epiphany season? What are we supposed to be focusing on or doing?

Epiphany is the celebration of God's manifestation or self-revelation to the world in Jesus Christ. In particular, we celebrate the revelation of God's promise and purpose to the nations of the world, as the magi came from the East to worship to the Christ child, and God's covenant of grace is extended to all who believe the good news of Christ Jesus. The symbolism of light is important: not only because of the star that guided the magi, but as it relates to the bright dawning of God's self-revelation in Christ. [An excerpt from the Companion to the Book of Common Worship (Geneva Press, 2003, p. 94-95)]

The word "epiphany" (from the Greek *epiphaneia* or *theophaneia*) means "appearance" or "manifestation" of God, and has roots in the word for sunrise or dawn. In ancient times, an epiphany meant either a visible manifestation of a god or the solemn visit of a ruler venerated as a god. For Christians, Christmas marks the coming of God to us; Epiphany celebrates the appearance of the Lord in the midst of humanity. The Christmas stories of the birth of Immanuel declare the divine entry; Epiphany extols the revelation of God to the world in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. In our celebrations of Christmas and Epiphany we rejoice in the dawning and the arising of Light in darkness. ... Epiphany not only discloses the Savior to the world but also calls the world to show forth Christ, to be witnesses to God's true Light. The timeless mystery of the incarnation, God in flesh, leads us forth to show and tell of Christ as God's gift of grace and salvation for all persons. Some call this ongoing epiphany the work of Christmas.

Our tradition to celebrate Epiphany Sunday is to distribute "star words." This is simply a star cutout with one word written on it that the recipient is supposed to meditate on throughout the coming year. My word for 2025 was "listen." I have my star hanging on my bulletin board beside my desk. Throughout 2025, this star word helped me remember to listen to God, to church leaders and members, to those who are suffering, and to those who have a story to tell. You will have an opportunity to receive your star word at church on January 4. If you worship at home, please let us know if you would like to receive a star word and we will send you one.

## An Epiphany Prayer

God of endless light, you sent a star— rising from darkness,  
guiding seekers and sages, overwhelming us with joy.  
Let the splendor of your dawning light  
grow in us and in all the world  
until the whole creation shines with your glory; through Jesus Christ our light.  
Matthew 2:1-12

Peace ~

Rev. Annie Melick



# JANUARY 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 Messy Church 6:00pm meet at the Preble Arts Center	8	9	10 Piano Recital Church Reserved
11 Session Meeting	12	13	14 Miriam Circle 10:00am  Moms Group 10:00am	15 Elizabeth Circle 6:30pm	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 Elizabeth Circle 6:30pm	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 Elizabeth Circle 6:30pm	30	31



1st		17th	Mel Grice
2nd		18th	Callie Fogle
3rd		19th	
4th		20th	
5th	Kevin Schaeffer	21st	
6th		22nd	
7th	Makenzi Cooper	23rd	Pam Weaver Dave Tintzman
8th	Matthew Wright	24th	Amanda Bowers
9th		25th	
10th		26th	Tad Stewart Trey Smith
11th	Anne Grim Brian Pool	27th	Lyle Melick
12th		28th	
13th	Rusty Cooper	29th	Jenny Kline
14th	Alyssa Ribbler	30th	
15th	Stephanie Cooper		
16th			

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Session  
First Presbyterian Church  
November 9, 2025**

The regular meeting of session was held in person on November 9th after Sunday worship in the church Gathering Place. A quorum was present. Pastor Annie opened the meeting with prayer at 12:00 P.M.

**Members present:** Molly Hurd, Carmel Mann, Teresa Schmidt, Susan Schaurer, Bill Brower, Taylor Clabaugh, Kathy McCreary, Mary Neavin, Randy Wright, Carson Cooper and Jake Schaurer. Also present were Doug Moore, Treasurer, Beth Pool, Youth Director and Marie Hayes, Clerk of Session.

**Members Excused:** Bill Clayton

**Members Absent:** David Sikora

**Treasurer's Report:** The October treasurer's report was emailed to session members prior to the meeting. **On motion** by Kathy McCreary and seconded by Mary Neavin to approve the treasurer's report as written. **Motion carried.** Doug went over the ACH- direct deposit for church giving and will report on the 2026 budget next month.

**Approval of the minutes:** October meeting minutes were emailed to session members on November 7th. **On motion** by Mary Neavin and seconded by Kathy McCreary to approve the minutes as presented. **Motion carried.**

**Communications:** Pastor Annie and Kathy McCreary attended the November 8th Presbytery meeting. There was discussion on the closure of the mission agency funding. The retirement of Lynn Bova as Stated Clerk of Presbytery was celebrated.

**Report of the Moderator:** Pastor Annie is pleased with our Changemakers series, there is a nice group of youth and adults that are participating. Pastor Karen Johnson will fill the pulpit on November 23rd. Advent begins November 30th, the theme will be "What Child Is This".

**Report of the Clerk:** A reminder to watch the boundary training videos you may have missed at our regular session meetings. I will be sending out emails to those who have missed a video, please let me know when you have watched it as I need to include this information in my session minutes.

**Reports of the Permanent Committees:**

**Stewardship, Finance and Congregational Care:** The committee continues work on the "pony express" pledges to plan next years budget.

Minutes continued

**Christian Education and Missions:** Discussed youth ministry goals and strategy; member's involvement with different youth and Christian education objectives; discussed how to best utilize contributions made by the congregation to the local mission fund. Messy church planning committee will meet to plan November and December Messy church. Child protection policy is still in the works. Discussed committee budget for 2025 and budget plans for 2026. Plans for the "new" free meal "Sandwich" ministry is beginning. The goal is to launch this ministry at the start of 2026. More information and volunteer opportunities to come. The committee is focusing on youth ministry goals moving forward.

**Worship and Fellowship:** Head ushers for the remainder of the year were reviewed and acknowledged. Advent receptions will begin following worship service on December 7th with Worship and Fellowship providing refreshments. Christian Education will provide refreshments on Dec 14th and Stewardship and Finance on Dec 21st. Advent and Christmas decorations were discussed with contacts needing to be made with Tonna Ditmer and Linda DeLuca. The advent series, "What Child Is This", will be using nativities as decorations, with nativities provided by our church members. Teresa Schmidt will have a craft available on Dec 3rd at Messy church. The committee will be asking our church families to assist with the Christmas Eve luminaries. The committee accepted the proposal to return to "pinched" bread to replace the wafers for communion services. Paraments will be changed to purple for the Nov 30th worship service. Choir director Claudia Anderson met with our committee to discuss various concerns about the choir and music. There was discussion on removing benches in the choir loft for safety and comfort reasons. The committee agreed to form a sub-committee to explore and discuss improvements within the sanctuary related to technology. There needs to be a vast improvement in the sound quality both in the sanctuary and the simultaneous broadcast on YouTube. Brunch church will be December 28th.

**Other Committees:** The Nominating Committee has been working hard to secure church members willing to serve on session. They will be meeting again on Tuesday, November 11th to finalize their roster.

**New Business and Action Items:** Building use request from Tesha Smith for a piano recital to be held on Saturday, January 10, 2026 from 12:00 to 5:00 P.M. **On motion** by Marie Hayes and seconded by Mary Neavin to approve the building use request. **Motion carried.**

**Adjournment and Closing prayer:** Session business having been concluded, the meeting was adjourned with prayer by Pastor Annie at 12:35 P.M.

**Next Meeting:** Sunday, December 14th after worship.

Session members in attendance watched the fifth video, "Protecting Children, Youth and Vulnerable Adults" in the boundary training series provided by Practical Resources for Churches followed by discussion.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marie Hayes  
Clerk of Session



MESSY CHURCH GOES ON THE ROAD – JANUARY 7, 6-8PM  
MEET AT PREBLE ARTS, 207 East Main St.

Messy Church will be working on a fun mission fundraiser at our January event. We will meet at Preble Arts at 6pm. Dinner will be pizza. The project will be for each of us to paint a ceramic bowl with our own design. It will be fired and brought to the church later. Then, on Super Bowl Sunday, we will have our own church SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY on February 8 after worship. We will eat soup and have a raffle of the bowls we created. The funds will be donated to the youth group to support their mission trip. This is for all ages! Come and have a good time for a good cause!

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### **Elizabeth Circle begins a new study of Isaiah**

We will begin meeting again on Thursday, January 15 at 6:30pm. This is a ten-week Bible study. We meet every week on Thursday evening. Check with the church office if you would like to pick your book up before that night. New members are welcome.

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*thank you*

Dear Joyful Noise Members, I want to express my sincere gratitude for your unexpected thoughtful gift. Your kindness is deeply appreciated and humbling. I am so grateful to serve alongside you in our church community. The time and effort you put into your ministry does not go unnoticed. Your voices and attitudes are a true blessing to the entire congregation. I am continually blessed by the beautiful music you provide during our worship service each time you sing. It is a joy to experience God's presence through your "Joyful noise!" Love, Claudia

Messy Church  
December 2025











**A few pictures from the Choir  
Pageant on December 21, 2025**











## **Prayers of First Presbyterian Church Family and Friends**

*"Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you"*

*~Jeremiah 29:12*

### **In our continuing prayers:**

Countries of War

Sarah Gregg –Continuing cancer treatment, Cy Acheson's granddaughter

Cy Acheson - pray for strength and healing

Logan Eifort - stable but still needs prayers, Keith & Chris Jones grandson

Stacy Creech - prayers for breast cancer treatment, Margie's friend

Heather Cooper - receiving chemo treatments, Wanda Cooper's daughter-in-law

Nancy Turner - recovering at home

Jack Turner - recovering at home

Deb Tintsman - lymphoma, Molly Hurd's aunt

Ron Mickelson - prayers for cancer treatment

### **Remember and Uphold:**

Diane Kline - Vancrest

Dale Robertson - Vancrest

Alice Lindley

### **Our Shut-Ins at Home:**

Marge Jordan, Julia Withrow, Zoe Barnes

For our Nation and those who serve

### ***Church Members & Friends In The Service***

*Lt. Mac Altom/U.S. Army*

*Jeremy Barnes/ Navy*

*Cameron Rife / U.S. Navy*

*Nicholas Rife / U.S. Navy*

*Laura Soper/ Air Force Reserve*

*Cliff Garey / Navy*

*Ryan Kiracofe / Air Force*

*Michael Richwald, Air Force National Guard*

*Zack Pool/ Air Force*

*Tanner Crabtree/ Army*

*Ryan Hall / Army*

*Grant Davis / Army Reserve*

*Richard (Alex )Trogdon/ Navy*

*Grace Wagner / Basic Training*

*Miguel Martinez/Army Reserve- Active*

*Justin McIntosh - Army National Guard*

*Addam Moore/ U.S. Marines*

*Brett Barnes / Navy*

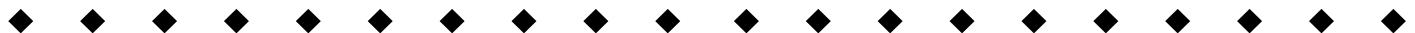
*Drew Roach / Navy*

### **Soldier's Prayer**

*Dear Lord, please bless our soldiers, protectors of our land. Servants called to battle when our country takes a stand. Our country's prayers are with them no matter where they roam. Please listen when they are lonely and return them safely home.*

Please contact our prayer chain coordinator, Ann Murray, 937-336-0116, email: [annmurray916@yahoo.com](mailto:annmurray916@yahoo.com), [call the church office](http://call the church office), 937-456-3754, [office@eatonfpc.org](mailto:office@eatonfpc.org), or drop a note in the offering plate with updates.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
P.O. BOX 125  
123 W. DECATUR STREET  
EATON, OHIO 45320



**Our Mission: *Listening to God's call, following in the way of Jesus and serving neighbors through the Spirit.***

#### Church Contact Information

123 West Decatur Street / P.O. Box 125   Website [www.eatonfpc.org](http://www.eatonfpc.org)  
Phone (937) 456-3754   Email [office@eatonfpc.org](mailto:office@eatonfpc.org)   Office Hours 10-2, Mon.-Thurs.  
Worship - Sunday's at 10:30am                      Adult Sunday School starts at 9:30am

#### Church Staff

**Pastor:** Rev. Annie Melick [pastorannie@eatonfpc.org](mailto:pastorannie@eatonfpc.org) (440)-308-7664  
**Director of Youth Ministries:** Beth Pool [eatonfpcyouth@gmail.com](mailto:eatonfpcyouth@gmail.com) (937) 248-1671  
**Office Administrator:** Ann Murray [office@eatonfpc.org](mailto:office@eatonfpc.org) (937) 336-0116

#### Session Contacts

**Moderator of Session:** Pastor Annie Melick

**Clerk of Session:** Marie Hayes [clerk@eatonfpc.org](mailto:clerk@eatonfpc.org)

**Elders and Members of Session by Committee:**

**Finance & Congregational Care:** \*Bill Clayton, Bill Brower, Mary Neavin, David Sikora

**Worship & Fellowship Committee:** \*Carmel Mann, Susan Schaurer, Marie Hayes, Teresa Schmidt, Jake Schaurer

**Christian Education & Mission Committee:** \*Molly Hurd, Taylor Clabaugh, Kathy McCreary, Randy Wright, Carson Cooper

**Personnel Committee:** \*Susan Schaurer, David Sikora, Randy Wright

**Memorial Committee:** \*Guy Benge, Brian Pool, Keith Jones

**Treasurer:** Doug Moore, [treasurer@eatonfpc.org](mailto:treasurer@eatonfpc.org)

**Financial Agent:** Anne Grim

\* Chairperson

#### Social Media Accounts

**Website:** [www.eatonfpc.org](http://www.eatonfpc.org)

**To Give On Line:** [www.eatonfpc.org](http://www.eatonfpc.org), click Giving Tab

**YouTube Channel:** Eaton First Presbyterian Services

**Facebook Page:** Eaton First Presbyterian Church

**Facebook Group:** First Presbyterian Youth