



First Presbyterian Church of Mineral Ridge

**3rd Sunday after Epiphany
January 21, 2024**

Welcome to our church! It is a joy to worship with you on this morning. Please join us after worship in Fellowship Hall for coffee and conversation.

**Please stand in body or in spirit.*

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

We Gather as God's People

OPENING PRAYER – *Let us pray.*

Loving, living God, be among us now. Show us your ways. Guide our steps. Live in us, that we may be people of steadfast hope and powerful giving. Help us hear your words, challenging us to give you all the things that are yours. Help us remember that all we are and all we have are gifts from you, gifts to be shared in service and love. Holy One among us, help

us be a holy people who receive your word with joy and live your message with love. Amen.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** – *Please stand and join me in the call to worship.*

The earth has its kings, but God is ruler of all.

Praise God above all, the giver of life!

The mountains may tremble, the oceans may roar, but God's presence is more powerful than the earth itself.

Come into God's presence, for God is among us now.

O God, show us your glory; we seek your ways.

Come to the Rock, the God of life, for God is present now.

Come, let us worship our present and living God.

***HYMN #456 (GtG)** *Listen, God is Calling!*

Refrain

*Listen, listen, God is calling
through the Word inviting,
offering forgiveness,
comfort and joy. (repeat)*

*Jesus gave his mandate;
share the good news
that he came to save us
and set us free. (Refrain)*

*Let none be forgotten
throughout the world.
In the triune name of God
go and baptize. (Refrain)*

*Help us to be faithful,
standing steadfast,
walking in your precepts,
led by your Word. (Refrain)*

CALL TO CONFESSION – *Please be seated.*

To open our hearts to God is to risk vulnerability, judgment, and condemnation. But throughout the scriptures, we learn that God is merciful and just, slow to anger, and eager to forgive. Let us then risk our confession, first in silent prayer.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION - *Please join me in the unison prayer of confession.*

Gracious God, source of all life, Lord of mercy and grace, hear our prayer. We come before you in need of healing: the healing of our bodies and souls, the healing of our relationships, the healing of our pride and fear and apathy. We know that with you, nothing is impossible, not even our healing, not even the restoration of the whole world. We pray that you will heal us, that you will heal our world, so that we will be freed to serve and love and dream and be, as Christ calls us. Amen.

KYRIE #572

“Lord have mercy upon us, Christ have mercy upon us, Lord have mercy upon us.”

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, let us go out into the world as people made new by God. Let us proclaim the Good News!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

SUNG RESPONSE #582 (GtG)

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
And to the Son, who grace has pardoned me,
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.
Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE – *at this time, all children are invited up to hear a short message! After, kindergarten and younger can be dismissed to Story Circle with Olivia Meyers. Those older than kindergarten may return to their pews. We have activity bags available for their use in the back.*

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION– *Let us pray.*

Saving God, source of our calling, your Word is full of power and glory. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us so that we may receive your grace and live as your beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING

Psalm 57: 1-3

Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me,
for in you my soul takes refuge;
in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge,
until the destroying storms pass by.
I cry to God Most High,
to God who fulfils his purpose for me.

He will send from heaven and save me,
he will put to shame those who trample on me.
God will send forth his steadfast love and his
faithfulness.

*The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.***

SECOND READING *Mark 5:1-20*

They came to the other side of the lake, to the country of the Gerasenes .And when he had stepped out of the boat, immediately a man out of the tombs with an unclean spirit met him. He lived among the tombs; and no one could restrain him anymore, even with a chain; for he had often been restrained with shackles and chains, but the chains he wrenched apart, and the shackles he broke in pieces; and no one had the strength to subdue him. Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains, he was always howling and bruising himself with stones. When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and bowed down before him; and he shouted at the top of his voice, ‘What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me.’ For he had said to him, ‘Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!’ Then Jesus asked him, ‘What is your name?’ He replied, ‘My name is Legion; for we are many. ’He begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country. Now there on the hillside a great herd of swine was feeding; and the unclean spirits begged him, ‘Send us into the swine; let us enter them.’ So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the swine; and the herd, numbering

about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the lake, and were drowned in the lake.

The swineherds ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came to see what it was that had happened. They came to Jesus and saw the demoniac sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, the very man who had had the legion; and they were afraid. Those who had seen what had happened to the demoniac and to the swine reported it. Then they began to beg Jesus to leave their neighborhood. As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed by demons begged him that he might be with him. But Jesus refused, and said to him, 'Go home to your friends, and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and what mercy he has shown you.' And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed.

*The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.***

SERMON

Rev. Kori Robbins

We Respond to God's Love

***HYMN #356**

Come Thou Fount

*Come Thou fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise,
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above;*

*Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of God's unchanging love!*

*Here I raise my Ebenezer,
Hither by Thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God;
He to rescue me from danger,
Interposed His precious blood.*

*Oh, to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, oh take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.*

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Lord of life, we do not know the face of the future, any more than your disciples did. Like them, we have many questions: how to live, how to bear witness. Like them, we thirst for the spring waters of the Spirit to inspire us in our living to give us a heart language in our testimony. You have been raised in glory that we might rise with dignity. You live in power that we might live in peace. You are present everywhere that we might be fully present in our own lives. This we believe. This we step out on. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE – *You may be seated.*

Trusting indeed that you are always there, we pray to you now as your Son taught us, saying together,
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

CALL FOR OFFERING

In the kingdom of God, we find that generosity of spirit, generosity of possessions & the radical sharing of skills are practiced openly. All gifts are important to God, so as the offering plate comes around, place your hand over it, committing to God that you will use your time, talent and treasures for furthering the work of God's kingdom.

OFFERTORY

(If you prefer to give online you may scan this code to be directed to the Giving Page)



***RESPONSE OF PRAISE #694 (GtG)**

Great God of every blessing,
of faithful, loving care

You are the fount of goodness,
the daily bread we share.
How can we hope to thank you?
The praise is but a start.
Sincerely and completely, I offer you my heart.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** – *Please join me in saying the prayer of dedication.*

God of the wilderness, we give these offerings in gratitude, rejoicing in the abundance of your gifts to us. We give these offerings in faith, trusting that you will provide for our needs. We give these offerings in hope, knowing you can use them to spread your love in this world. And with these offerings, we give ourselves; May we live with generous hearts, with open hands. Amen

We Go Out to Serve God

***HYMN** *We are the Church!*

(see song sheet)

***BENEDICTION**

***CLOSING RESPONSE** *Step by Step*

O God, You are my God and I will ever praise You
O God, You are my God and I will ever praise You
I will seek You in the morning
And I will learn to walk in Your ways
And step by step You'll lead me
And I will follow You all of my days

Prayer List

MEMBERS TO REMEMBER

Mary Alice Seaborn

Marlyne Young

Helen Redmond

Shirley Dull

PRAYERS FOR HEALTH, SUPPORT AND CONCERN

Amos Rodgers & Cody Tittle (Marlene's friends)

James Tincher (Marlene's son)

Clayton & Eileen (Bev Myers' family friends)

Paul Stevens (Bev Myers' son)

Dennis Copanic (Val Copanic's father)

Graig Colantone (Nicole Pugh's father)

Dareen Craver-Angeloff (Rodney's mother)

Cheryl Fisher (Bev Meyers' daughter)

Ella McBride (friend of Sherri Craver)

Bonnie Jorza (Linda Frayer's sister-in-law)

Cheryl Beanblossom (Valerie Copanic's sister)

Joan Williams

Rusty Garland

Kathy Garland

Vince Fazio (Marty O'Neill's friend)

Rich Pilla (Lisa Sorg's step-dad)

Jodi Jorgensen (Lisa Sorg's friend)

Shirley Brodie

Mary Jane Hileman

Mason Blackburn (Mary J. Shaffer's friend)

Jim Meyers (Darryl's brother)

Terry Keeley Sr

Alan Bray (friend of Terry Keeley Sr.)

Joe Scafuri (Terry Godman's father-in-law)

Logan (Friend of Abbie Postlethwait)

PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD

Eastminster Presbytery and staff
Our Mineral Ridge Church Family
Niles Community Services
Warren & Youngstown Rescue Missions
Refugees
Rev. Kade Mastra (Indonesian Partner)
Peace and healing for our country
Casa de Buen Trato
Needles's Eye
Ukraine
World Leaders
Jed and Jenny Koball (Peru)
Our PC(USA) coworkers
Revs. Scott & Elmarie Parker
Ukraine
Victims of Natural Disasters
Citizens of Israel/Palestine

Announcements

Community Pantry: We are in need of snacks! Please keep that in mind with your parish communications. By snacks we mean a wide variety of items such as little bags of chips and animal crackers, packets of cheese crackers, granola bars, fruit snacks, etc. Any help you can generate would be much appreciated.

Monthly meetings resume: Deacon's will meet Monday January 22nd and Session meets Tuesday January 23rd. Both meeting times are 6:30pm.

The Souper Bowl Offering is coming soon. The children will be holding the kitchen pots at the doors of the sanctuary at the end of the service on the same day at the NFL play their Super Bowl football game, February 11th. This is your opportunity to give an offering of a dollar or more to aid those that are less fortunate than you. Watch for more information in the next Church Mouse.

Our Annual Congregational meeting will be held next Sunday, January 28th, immediately following worship.

Birthday Wishes



Jim Postlethwait 01/23

Lori Brendlinger 01/27



Responsibilities

Pastor- Rev. Kori Robbins

Liturgist- Melissa Keeley

Elder- Sue McCabe

Deacon- January Rendes

Music- Anita Miller

Story Circle- Olivia Meyers

Media- Alyssa Strange

Thank you for your generosity

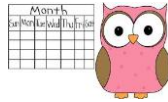


We need \$3,000 weekly to make our budget!

January 14th \$738.25

January 07th \$2,982

December 31st \$427



THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, January 21 9:15am Church School
 9:30am Tiny Tots
 10:30am Worship/Fellowship

Monday, January 22 6:30pm Deacon's Meeting
 7:00pm Al-Anon & Al-Ateen

Tuesday, January 23 6:30pm Session Meeting

Sunday, January 28 9:15am Church School
 9:30am Tiny Tots
 10:30am Worship/Annual
 Meeting/Fellowship

Staff

Pastor

Reverend Kori Robbins
(406)-560-5548
Pastor@FPCMR.org

Christian Education

Carole Rummell

Administrative Assistant

April Dahl
330-652-5712

Custodian

Patty Postlethwait

Story Circle Attendant

Olivia Meyers

Media

Alyssa Strange

Hours

Pastor's Office Hours

Monday-Thursday
9am-3pm

General Office Hours

Tuesday/Thursday
9am-1pm

Church Info

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