



# **First Presbyterian Church of Mineral Ridge**

**Epiphany & Baptism of the Lord  
January 7, 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**

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

***We Gather as God's People***

**OPENING PRAYER** – *Let us pray.*

Holy God, you sent your Son to be baptized among sinners, to seek and save the lost. May we, who have been baptized in his name, never turn away from the world, but reach out in love to rescue the wayward; by the mercy of Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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

The voice of the Lord is over the waters,  
**and in the temple God's people say: Glory!**  
The heavens opened, the Spirit descended,  
**and a voice sounded: This is my Beloved Son.**  
Do not fear, for the Lord has spoken:  
**I have called you by name; you are mine.**  
Let us worship God.

**\*HYMN #401 (GtG)**      *Here in This Place*

*Here in this place, the new light is streaming,  
now is the darkness, vanished away,  
see, in this space, our fears and our dreamings,  
brought here to you in the light of this day.*

*Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;  
gather us in, the blind and the lame;  
call to us now, and we shall awaken,  
we shall arise at the sound of our name.*

*We are the young, our lives are a mystery;  
we are the old, who yearn for your face,  
we have been sung throughout all of history,  
called to be light to the whole human race.*

*Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;  
gather us in, the proud and the strong;  
give us a heart so meek and so lowly,  
give us the courage to enter the song.*

*Here we will take the wine and the water,  
here we will take the bread of new birth,  
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,  
call us anew to be salt for the earth.*

*Give us to drink the wine of compassion,  
give us to eat, the bread that is you;  
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion  
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.*

*Not in the dark of buildings confining,  
not in some heaven light years away,  
but here in this space, the new light is shining,  
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.*

*Gather us in, and hold us forever;  
gather us in, and make us your own;  
gather us in, all peoples together,  
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.*

**CALL TO CONFESSION** – *Please be seated.*

*The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the  
way of the Lord! Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come  
near.*

*Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin, first in silent  
prayer.*

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

**Merciful God, in baptism you promise forgiveness  
and new life, making us part of the body of Christ.  
We confess that we remain preoccupied with  
ourselves, separated from one another. We cling to  
destructive habits, hold grudges, and show  
reluctance to welcome one another. We allow the  
past to hold us captive. In your loving-kindness,  
have mercy on us, and free us from sin. Fulfill the  
promises of our baptism so that we may rise to new  
life, and live together in grace.**

## **KYRIE #572**

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

## **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

As a voice from heaven said to Jesus, so, in Christ, God speaks to us: You are my child, my beloved; with you I am well pleased. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

**Thanks be to God.**

## **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.

## **REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM** – *let us pray*

We give you thanks, O God, for the story of your saving love and the grace you pour out upon us through your gift of water—from the water of Eve’s womb, bringing life to all the earth, to the water of Mary’s womb, offering new life through Jesus Christ; from the tears of Hannah, making her a mother, to the tears of the Hebrew people, crying out for deliverance; from the bold action of a woman, washing Jesus’ feet, to Christ’s own humble service, washing the feet of his disciples; from the rock of Moses and Miriam, providing water in the wilderness, to the promise of our Savior, quenching our thirst with living water.

From age to age, O God, your waters give us life and show us your love. We praise you for the baptismal waters that bring us new life in Christ.

By the power of the Holy Spirit unite us as one body, and let the gift of your love flow through us like living water, with blessing and promise, justice and righteousness, grace and peace for all. All glory and honor are yours, O God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Kindergarten and younger children may now leave with  
Olivia Meyers for Story Circle in Fellowship Hall.*

**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**

*Matthew 3:1-10*

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, ‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.” ’ Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'

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

**SECOND READING**      *Matthew 3:11-17*

'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

*The Word of God for the People of God. **Amen.***

## ***We Respond to God's Love***

**\*HYMN #319**      *Spirit of Gentleness*

*Spirit, spirit of gentleness,  
Blow through the wilderness, calling and free.  
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness,  
Wind, wind on the sea.*

*You moved on the waters; you called to the deep;  
Then you coaxed up the mountains  
From the valleys of sleep,  
And over the eons you called to each thing,  
'Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings' **Ref.***

*You swept through the desert; You stung with the sand;  
And you goaded your people with a law and a land.  
When they were confound with idols and lies,  
Then you spoke through your prophets  
To open their eyes. **Ref.***

*You sang in a stable; you cried from a hill;  
Then you whispered in silence  
When the whole world was still.  
And down in the city, you called once again  
When you blew through your people  
On the rush of the wind. **Ref.***

*You call from tomorrow; you break ancient schemes;  
From the bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams  
Our women see visions; our men clear their eyes.  
With bold new decisions your people arise. **Ref.***

## **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**

### **\*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.*

**Gleaming God, with these offerings, may our neighbors experience your love. With these treasures, may the world know your light and continue to pass your brilliant hope to all. Amen.**

**EUCCHARIST** – *see insert*

***We Go Out to Serve God***



**\*HYMN #543 (GtG)**      *God Be the Love*

*God be the love to search and keep me  
God be the prayer to move my voice  
God be the strength to now uphold me  
O Christ, surround me  
O Christ, surround me*

*Bind to myself the name of Holy  
Great cloud of witnesses enfold  
Prophets, apostles, angels witness  
O Christ, surround me  
O Christ, surround me*

*Brightness of sun and glow of moonlight  
Flashing of lightning, strength of wind  
Depth of the sea to soil of planet  
O Christ, surround me  
O Christ, surround me*

*Walking behind to hem my journey  
Going ahead to light my way  
And from beneath, above, and all ways  
O Christ, surround me  
O Christ, surround me*

*Christ in the eyes of all who see me  
Christ in the ears who hear my voice  
Christ in the hearts of all who know me  
O Christ, surround me  
O Christ, surround me*

**\*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**

Megan Taylor (Carole's cousin)

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

Cindi Farina (Marty O'Neill's friend)

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.)

## **PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD**

Eastminster Presbytery and staff  
Our Mineral Ridge Church Family  
Niles Community Services  
Warren & Youngstown Rescue Missions  
Coronavirus caregivers and patients  
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**

You are invited to join all in the congregation to hear Bryce Wiebe (a Presbytery staff member) lead us in a sharing of stories on Saturday January 13th, 2024. You might remember that he preached for us in the early fall and his sermon was well received. We will begin with breakfast at 8:30 a.m. which will be followed at 9:00 a.m. with a short devotional before Bryce will lead us beginning at 9:15. This is for our officers as well as all the congregation.



## **Birthday Wishes**

Will Sorg 01/07

Tom Brodie 1/11

Janice Rambo 1/12

Sue Rentz 1/12

## **Responsibilities**

*Pastor- Rev. Kori Robbins*

*Liturgist- Sherry Gleason*

*Elder- Sue McCabe*

*Deacon- January Rendes*

*Music- Anita Miller*

*Story Circle- Olivia Meyers*

*Media- Alyssa Strange*

## **Thank you for your generosity**

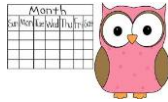
*We need \$3,000 weekly to make our budget!*

December 31<sup>st</sup> \$427

December 24<sup>th</sup> \$181

**(Christmas Eve)**

December 24<sup>th</sup> \$2,050



## **THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Sunday, January 07	9:15am	Church School
	9:30am	Tiny Tots
	10:30am	Worship/Communion/ Congregational Meeting/ Fellowship
Monday, January 08	7:00pm	Al-Anon & Al-Ateen
Saturday, January 13	8:30am	Sharing of Stories
	11:15am	Session Meeting
Sunday, January 14	9:15am	Church School
	9:30am	Tiny Tots
	10:30am	Worship/ 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**

**Address**- 3654 Main Street  
Mineral Ridge, OH 44440

### **Email**

Admin@FPCMR.org

### **Phone**

330-652-5712

### **Website**

www.fpcmr.org

**Clerk of Session**: mrfpcclerk@gmail.com