

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF QUINCY
THE STEEPLE**

2024



HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

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A Message from Pastor Becca Niemeyer

What do surprises do to you?

I'm currently writing from a hospital room, as our family gatherings and experiences over the holidays inevitably turn into sharing germs, and Micah caught RSV somewhere along the line. I was able to take him in when I noticed his shortness of breath and lethargy (pay attention to your body, please!) and he is receiving the best care. But this is certainly a surprise! And not a fun one! Thank you for your prayers, I am certain he is already turning the corner. But I'm aware not all hospital visits take a positive turn.

More positive examples might be a surprise birthday party, engagement, job announcement, birth announcement, all invitations to recognize newness in life's journey. I recently was able to meet up with some friends who were passing through the area, only to get to meet their 9 mo old baby - what a joyful surprise!! One of those best kept secrets.

Life is filled with surprises, some good, some bad, some in the middle that still need time to determine whether positive or negative. I appreciate this life we walk with God because God is ready with us in the midst of surprises. I don't think he ever really gets surprised or caught off guard like so many of us do. Having a God who is WITH us in the midst of it all is a comfort and allows us to feel what we feel, seek companionship for the journey, trust in His provision and care, and take the next step forward. We don't have to have the right answers or response to the surprises that find us, we can instead hold what we are given before God and say, 'what's next'? Following God's guidance one step at a time.

Someone once pointed out that the popular verse "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path" (Psalm 119:105) doesn't say - 'Your word is a lighthouse showing me everything ahead of me for a mile around'. God is lighting the path before us one step at a time. Many of the passages we'll be exploring as we start this new year engage this reality of surprises - challenging our expectations of what should or will happen, and welcoming God's way in our lives. It is the path of our Christian lives to expect God to be present with us no matter the ups and downs that come to us in life. We turn to God for guidance, help, encouragement, and wisdom.

I don't know if you have any traditions for saying goodbye to the previous year, and welcoming the new one, but here's a practice I find helpful for paying attention to God amidst the surprises in life, and I feel is a helpful exercise to start a new year. It actually comes with celebrating Epiphany - the holiday traditionally celebrated Jan 6th marking the arrival of the Magi honoring the birth of Christ with their gifts. They followed a star which guided them to find the new king. The practice for Epiphany for us to try out is choosing a 'Star Word' - a word that God might give to us to guide us this year. Below is an activity page to help you choose a word if you'd like to try this out! Pray for God's guidance in a word, feel free to cut out the star and keep it nearby - as a bookmark, on your bathroom mirror, wherever you might stumble upon it time and again.

(continued on page 2)

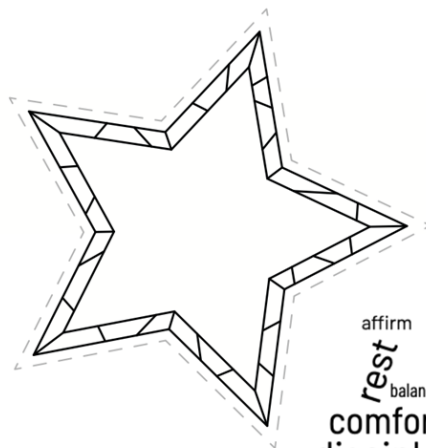
(Pastor Becca's message continued from page 1)

And may God guide you closer to Him this year as you discover His presence in it all!

The below content comes from Illustrated Ministry, purchased for use with our church. Feel free to use as much or as little as you like - it's all meant to be tools for the journey.

Some questions to aid your reflections and star word choice:

- What is one lesson from this past year that you will carry with you in the new year?
- What is something from the past year you wish to leave behind?
- What is one thing you hope for this new year?
- What is something you are diligently searching for?
- What was your initial reaction/emotion when you chose your star word?
- What might God be trying to reveal to you through your star word?



Word Star

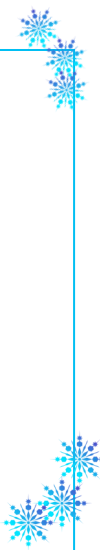
Review the Word Star below and select one word that stands out to you. Do this without judgment or hesitation. Simply breathe and choose the word your eye keeps coming back to. This will be your **star word**.

Once you've chosen your star word, write it in the center of this star, cut it out, take it home, and place it somewhere you will see each day.





Happy Birthday to
 Cindi Lasley 1/3
 Carol Smith 1/8
 Diane Calloway 1/13
 Sharon Petrak 1/29
 Judy Bryant 1/31
 Denise McMartin 1/31



Coming Soon!

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2024
 Sunday, 1/6 Epiphany
 Sunday, 1/7 Baptism of the Lord
 Monday, 1/15 MLK Jr. Birthday

2024 Per Capita is \$55.05

We have a website! This is a simple effort to make it easier to find us online, as many say the web is the new 'front door' for folks who are looking to connect to somewhere new.
 Check out the church at <https://www.qfpc.org/>.

Transforming Communities Quincy Team:

We are not the church we once were, and something needs to change. We have a grant funded opportunity where a consultant from the Seattle School of Theology and Psychology will come alongside a small team from our Church to dream about our congregational future within the context of Quincy. This is a year long endeavor beginning in early 2024, involving team meetings with the consultant for coaching and conversation, emboldening team members to explore within the congregation and out in the community how God might be inviting us to partner with the work of the Spirit in the healing of our world. If this sounds interesting to you, ask Pastor Becca for more information, and what it takes to get involved!



From the Office

To this wonderful Church Family,
Thank you for the Christmas bonus!

And it is once again time for....



Have a great month!

Denise

Financial information for Nov & Dec
 \$4303 Revenue \$3678 Expenses for November
 \$6127 Revenue \$5165 Expenses for December

Jan LECTIONARY

<p>Jan 7th</p> <p>Psalm 29</p> <p>Genesis 1:1-5</p> <p>Acts 19:1-7</p> <p>Mark 1:4-11</p>	<p>Jan 14th</p> <p>Psalm 139</p> <p>1 Corinthians 6:12-20</p> <p>John 1:43-51</p> <p>1 Samuel 3:1-10</p>
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<p>Jan 21st</p> <p>Psalm 62</p> <p>1 Corinthians 7:29-31</p> <p>Mark 1:14-20</p> <p>Jonah 3:1-10</p>	<p>Jan 28th</p> <p>Psalm 111</p> <p>Deuteronomy 18:15-20</p> <p>1 Corinthians 8:1-13</p> <p>Mark 1:21-28</p>
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SESSION

The next regular stated business meeting has been rescheduled for January 7, 2024.





January



2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Growing Your Faith 9:15am Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour Session	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Growing Your Faith 9:15am Worship 10:30 Communion Coffee Hour	15 MLK Day	16	17	18	19	20
21 Growing Your Faith 9:15am Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Growing Your Faith 9:15am Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour	29	30	31			

**COFFEE HOUR
BACK-UP**
Christian Ed

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Pastor Email: qpcpastr@nwi.net

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



2024

Our Church:

Pastor: Becca Niemeyer
Clerk of Session: Judy Bryant
Secretary: Denise McMartin
and office helpers
Treasurer: Jean Lindberg
Organist: Nancy Street
Technician: Jean Lindberg
Faithful Members

Session:

Judy Bryant
Jean Lindberg
Rhonda Rosenberger
Carol Smith
Dave Street
Nancy Street
Donna Sunseri
Bill Wurl