

St. Charles Presbyterian Church  
The Rev. Ronnie Osborn, Pastor  
131 Gamble Street, St. Charles, MO 63301

January, 2024  
Volume 2, Issue 1



## January Newsletter

*Happy New Year*



○ SING UNTO THE LORD  
*a new song;*  
FOR HE HATH DONE  
*marvelous things.*

PSALM 98:1, KJV



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January 2024						
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"I pray this winter be gentle and kind—a season of rest from the wheel of the mind."

— John Geddes

Jan. 1: Happy New Year! (Church Office closed)

Jan. 2: Book Club, 1:00 pm, Java with Jesus area

Jan. 10: PEO, 12:30 pm, Java with Jesus area

Jan. 15: Martin Luther King Day, church office closed

Jan. 17: Lunch Bunch, 11:30 am, Black Bear Diner

Jan. 18: Session & Deacons Meetings, 7:00 pm

Jan. 28: Annual Meeting, following 10:30 am Worship service



### WEEKLY

Spiritual Formation Classes, 9:30 am

Worship, 10:30 am

Tinkers meet Tuesdays, 8:00 am at church

AA Groups: Tuesdays, 6:00 pm; Saturdays, 10:00 am; meet in the Parlor

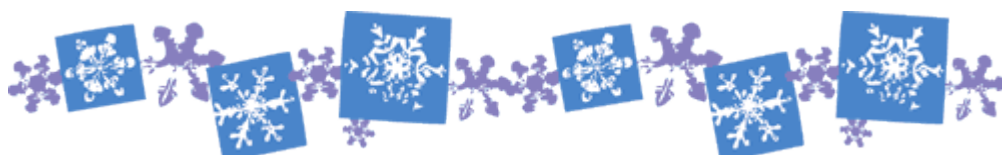


### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Mike Wade
- 3 Clayton Luley
- 3 Seth Buso
- 4 Christine Kalips
- 4 Doug Kelley
- 8 Sally Gribble
- 14 Janet Ferry
- 14 Ruth Smith
- 17 Anne Carroll
- 20 Lara Mersnick
- 21 Tyler Horn
- 22 Ruthie Farrell
- 25 Tom Broyles
- 27 Lisa Morris
- 27 Lee Ferry
- 28 Kaitlyn Henslee



Happy Birthday to all of our beloved members born this month! May the coming year bring you joy and peace knowing the Lord loves you and your church family too!



## NEW & NOTEWORTHY

Starting January 8th, there will be a new opportunity for you during the Adult Spiritual Formation class time. In order to continue our journey in looking for a new pastor, these meeting times will be an additional mission discernment time for anyone who wishes to participate. The format will be simple discussion, led by the Elders. You will be able to join at any time, so no need to worry if you miss a class. Please consider participating to help our church move forward during this time of transition. If you have any questions, please see any member of the Pastor Transition Task Force: Travis McMaken, Dave Brakeman, or Angie Southard.



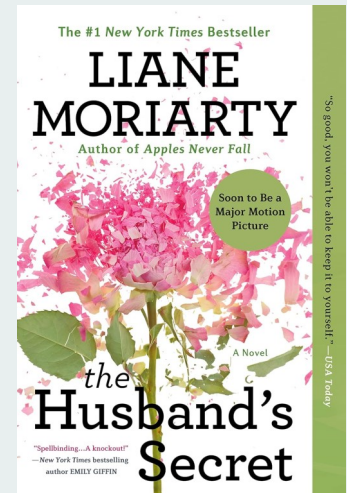
Please remember David Roy and his family as he has been deployed again to the "hot zone". Our prayers matter and mean so much to those in need of them.



Let's start 2024 off with a big round of thanks for all the people in our church who do so much to make it run and work so well.

- For the faithfulness of the Tuesday Tinkers- Dennis Ziesmer, Bob Fletcher, Dave Blinne, and Lew Tidd-and all that they do to keep the church a well-oiled machine!
- For Jerry Lyon who faithfully cares for our grounds to keep them looking beautiful.
- For the Worship & Arts Committee-Angie Southard, Dara York, Dana Luley, Ruthie Farrell-who not only made our sanctuary beautiful for Christmas, but keep it gorgeous with banners and table settings all year long.
- For all of our Acolyte volunteers!
- For the singers who faithfully lead us in worship each week
- For the many Prime Time volunteers so we can have this valuable program for kids, including Lisa Brown and Ginny Andres who prepare delicious dinners for them.
- For the Spiritual Formation teachers who commit to teach faithfully each week.
- For everyone who volunteers their time, support, and ideas by serving on our various boards and committees.
- A final thank you to every one of you who do things that may go unrecognized but contribute to the life of our church and the realness of Jesus in our lives.

Book Club will meet Tuesday, Jan. 2 at 1:00 pm in Java with Jesus to discuss *The Husband's Secret*. Start the New Year with a commitment to read more. Enjoy lively discussions among friends. All are welcome!



Join Lunch Bunch on January 17th at 11:30 at the Black Bear Diner at 2865 Veterans Memorial Parkway in St. Charles. Stay cozy with good conversation and a hot lunch!







"In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" Acts 20:35



After a busy holiday season, the Deacons will breathe a little easier as they close out their year. January is the time to consider serving our church by being a part of the Deacon board. It is a wonderful way to help people within our church and within our community. Please prayerfully consider a commitment of 1-3 years. It is a tangible way to live the words of Jesus: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." You can talk to Ruthie Farrell if you are interested and/or have questions.

#### Deacons Monthly Mission for January: St. Joachim and Ann Care Service



Sts. Joachim and Ann Care Service is the largest social service provider for individuals, families, and children in the Tri-county area of St. Charles, Lincoln, and Warren.

Their motto is... "planting the seed of hope, breaking the chain of despair."

The Care Service works with a purpose to protect families, especially children, the elderly, and disabled, regardless of race, age, gender, or religion from the despair, hopelessness, and social injustice caused by poverty. Their vision: Safe and affordable housing is a fundamental human right, and we envision a community where not one person spends a night without food or shelter.

The Offering for this organization will be collected on January 28th.

*"A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed."*  
Proverbs 11:25



**40** gifts were received for the Angel Tree to support 10 children. Thank you for your generosity in supporting families in our community. Because of you, these families had a greater chance of a joyful Christmas and an opportunity to see how God provides.

"Give generously to them and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to."

Deuteronomy 15:10



## FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR JANUARY

Please give what you can and remember that no donation  
is too small

### FISH FOOD PANTRY\*

Pancake Mix  
Syrup  
Jello-dry  
Pudding  
Instant Coffee  
Tea Bags  
Men's Deodorant  
Women's Deodorant  
Body Wash

Body Lotion  
Shampoo  
Dish Soap



\*You may not be aware that FISH, as a general rule, is always in need of household items, such as blankets, sheets, pillows, underwear, socks, etc. They use much of their monetary donations to purchase these items as a larger family in need can diminish them quickly; however, they always accept these types of used items in good condition. Just something to consider as you plan your donations for 2024.

### FT ZUMWALT EAST SNACK SHACK

Ramen bowls  
Mac 'n' Cheese  
microwaveable bowls  
Individual chip bags  
Granola bars  
Breakfast bars

Pop Tarts  
Peanut Butter crackers  
Cheese crackers  
Popcorn  
Capri Sun  
Kool-Aid Jammers



HEARTS  
AND  
HANDS  
TO OTHERS

...in our Community,  
nation, and world

"Not all of us can do  
great things, but we can  
do small things with  
great love."

Mother Teresa

The word *community* has many connotations, some positive, some negative. Community can make us think of a safe togetherness, shared meals, common goals, and joyful celebrations. It also can call forth images of sectarian exclusivity, in-group language, self-satisfied isolation, and romantic naiveté. However, community is first of all a quality of the heart. It grows from the spiritual knowledge that we are alive not for ourselves but for one another. Community is the fruit of our capacity to make the interests of others more important than our own (see Philippians 2:4). The question, therefore, is not "How can we make community?" but "How can we develop and nurture giving hearts?"

-from the writings of Henri Nouwen

"If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests but also to the interests of others."

- Philippians 2: 1-5

"Truly I tell you, just as  
you did it to one of the  
least of these, you did it  
to me."

Matt. 25:40



Jed and Jenny Koball  
and son, Thiago

“The Earth is the Lord’s,  
and all that is in it, the  
world and those who  
live in it, for he has  
founded it on the seas,  
and established it on  
the rivers.”

Psalms 24:1-2

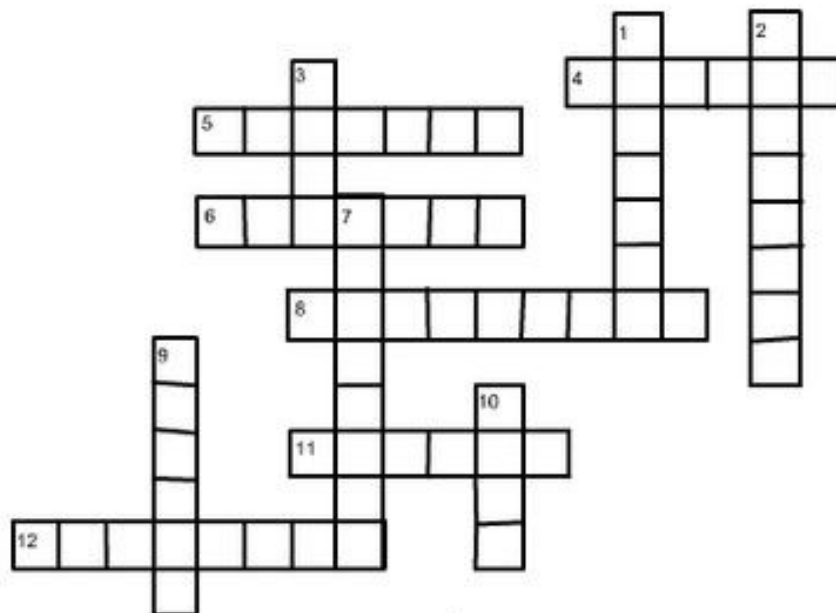


## A Message and Update from Jed and Jenny Koball, Mission Workers in Peru:

When the Koballs arrived in Peru 15 years ago, they were invited to visit a community high up in the central Andes. The people there were alpaca herders and they practiced the belief that the mountains surrounding them were sacred, protecting them and giving them water and therefore, life. But there were also people in those same mountains taking life. Mining companies blow up the land for gold, copper and other metals for the industrialized world. In the jungle below, others deforest the land in search of oil and other resources. All of these practices contribute to climate change that melts snowcaps, the source of water and life. Seeing these practices, the Koballs learned the difference between these two groups of people both searching for clean air, clean water, and clean soil: one believes the earth belongs to them while the other believes that we belong to the earth and that earth belongs to God. Jed says that when we believe the we belong to the earth and the earth belongs to the Creator, then we know that we must live in harmony with all of life in order to sustain what all of life needs. In living all of these years in Peru, the Koballs have learned to listen to indigenous peoples, gleaning from their ancestral wisdom and spirituality. The Church does not have a good record of doing this and the Koballs take that unfortunate history seriously. It is a history of harm that they hope to repair and resist. They are committed to learning how to better do this work. If you want to learn more about their work, please visit [pcusa.org/missionconnections](http://pcusa.org/missionconnections). Please remember to pray for the Koballs and the work they are committed to do.

\*For more information on environmental issues and climate change specifically, and what PCUSA is doing about it, visit [presbyterianmission.org/ministries/environment/environmental-issues/climate-change/](http://presbyterianmission.org/ministries/environment/environmental-issues/climate-change/)

# Winter Crossword Puzzle



## Down:

1. A large piece of woolen or similar material used as a covering on a bed or elsewhere for warmth.
2. The twelfth month of the year in the northern hemisphere usually considered the first month of winter.
3. Burning
7. A severe snowstorm with high winds.
9. Shake slightly and uncontrollably as a result of being cold.
10. Make or become liquefied by heat.

## Across:

4. A covering for the hand-worn for protection against cold or dirt and typically having separate parts for each finger and the thumb.
5. A vertical channel or pipe which conducts smoke and combustion gases up from a fire or furnace and typically through the roof of a building.
6. A large floating mass of ice detached from a glacier or ice sheet and carried out to sea.
8. (of an animal or plant) spend the winter in a dormant state.
11. An outer garment extending either to the waist or the hips typically having sleeves and a fastening down the front.
12. Wood that is burnt as fuel.

\*Key to the crossword puzzle is located on the next page, but no cheating!



You set the boundaries  
of the earth and you  
have made both  
summer and winter.

Psalm 74:17



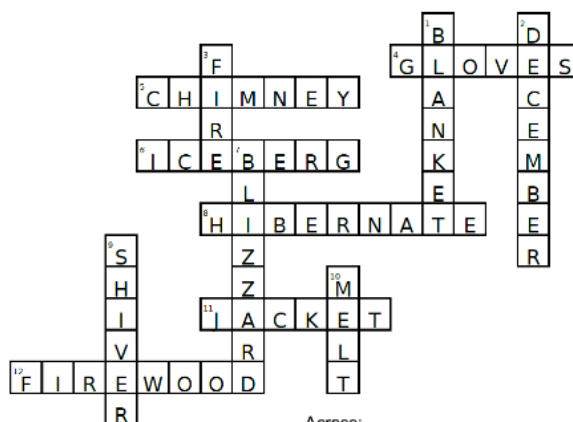
“Plants and animals don’t fight the winter; they don’t pretend it’s not happening and attempt to carry on living the same lives that they lived in the summer. They prepare. They adapt. They perform extraordinary acts of metamorphosis to get them through. Winter is a time of withdrawing from the world, maximizing scant resources, carrying out acts of brutal efficiency and vanishing from sight; but that’s where the transformation occurs. Winter is not the death of the life cycle, but its crucible.”

— Katherine May, from her book, *Wintering: The Power of Rest and Retreat in Difficult Times*



St. Charles Presbyterian  
Church  
Founded 1818

## Winter Crossword Puzzle Solution



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