

The Heavenly Herald

“We will share the love of our Lord, building on our past, reaching in faith toward our future.”

A letter from the Pastor...

“The beginning is always today.” — Mary Shelley

Greetings Friends,

The beginning of February marks the anniversary of when I first began serving as the Pastor at FUPC Houston. Normally I am not a big fan of anniversaries and birthdays (at least for myself). But, I have found that anniversaries can serve a wonderful purpose for a group of people who are living, loving, and serving together. It gives us a chance to look back at where we’ve been and give thanks to God for where we are and where the Holy Spirit is leading us.

Anniversaries are sprinkled throughout the year and each one is a reminder and inspiration. Some anniversaries get more attention than others. Whether it be a significant Wedding Anniversary, a Milestone Birthday, or even the sad and painful date of the passing of a dearly loved one, each anniversary is a reminder of God’s faithfulness and perfect love that has been with us day in and day out throughout the year.

However, one very important anniversary is often overlooked and definitely not celebrated nearly enough as it should be – the anniversary of your Baptism. Do you know the anniversary of your Baptism? It’s hard to celebrate the anniversary of a date you don’t know. But don’t feel bad if you don’t know the date of your Baptism, most people, at least most folks raised in the Presbyterian tradition, are unaware of the date on which they were passed through the waters of God’s grace and redeeming love.

Thankfully, this information should be easy to find out. If you are interested in finding out the date of your Baptism the church in which you were Baptized should have that record on file. If you were baptized at FUPC Houston and would like to know your Baptism date please feel free to give me a call and I would be happy to comb through the records so you can begin to celebrate the anniversary of God’s claim on your life.

Be on the lookout for another Baptism in the near future and consider making a note on your calendar to send out a Happy Baptism Anniversary card as a reminder to the parents of our young people that you will continue to love and pray and care for them throughout their Christian journey.

Remember and celebrate your own Baptism!
Remember and celebrate new life in Jesus Christ!

God Bless, Pastor Ben

FEBRUARY, 2024

**First United
Presbyterian Church**
102 North Main Street
Houston, PA 15342
724-746-3040
houstonpresbyterian.org

**Pastor
Ben Libert**
1379pbl@gmail.com
724-469-1244 (Cell)

Secretary
Angela M. Itzel
secretary@houstonpresbyterian.org

Clerk of Session
Sandy Wallace

Music Director
Karen Jones
jonesykj@verizon.net

Custodian
Robin Spiker

Pastor Ben’s Letter	1
Birthdays & Anniversaries	2
Prayer Lists	3
Schedule of Servers	4
Chili Cook-Off	5
Chili Cook-Off Form	6
Save The Dates	7
February Worship Info	8
February Calendar	9



Feb. 1st	Drew McCarty	Feb. 1st	Melissa Bayne
Feb. 2nd	Jim Japp	Feb. 2nd	Rich Harshman
Feb. 2nd	Dina Williams	Feb. 2nd	Shannon McFarland
Feb. 3rd	Gloria Schmalz	Feb. 5th	Marilyn Lese
Feb. 8th	Anna Mae Myers	Feb. 11th	Jan Taylor
Feb. 12th	Rick Simms	Feb. 13th	Dan Coppola Jr.
Feb. 13th	Claire Fee	Feb. 14th	Al Nagy Jr.
Feb. 15th	Paige Zanaglio	Feb. 15th	Harlan Shober Jr.
Feb. 15th	Annaleigh Brown	Feb. 16th	Diane Puskarich
Feb. 16th	Carly Campbell	Feb. 18th	Kristie Coppola
Feb. 18th	Jenette Wittik	Feb. 20th	Gary Swarow
Feb. 20th	Tim Andy	Feb. 22nd	Ruth Johnston
Feb. 22nd	Marcie Ann Shober	Feb. 23rd	Rowan Smith
Feb. 25th	Janet Conner	Feb. 25th	Dottie Lesnock
Feb. 25th	Walker Rubbo	Feb. 26th	Jacob Anestis
Feb. 28th	Bob Ward Sr.	Feb. 28th	Chad Johnston Sr.
Feb. 28th	Chuck Homitz	Feb. 29th	Sabian Spiker



© wondercliparts.com

Feb. 8th - Bill & Mindy Kelley
 Feb. 14th - Tim & Donna Surich
 Feb. 21st - John & Vicky Lesjak Sr.

Feb. 14th - Dave & Kim Keenan
 Feb. 16th - Dan & Anna Browning

PRAYER LIST

ONGOING PRAYER REQUESTS:

John Orlando, Joey Dadum, Baby Emilia Lemon, Mindy Kelley, Brandon Craig, Darren Spiker, Cat Morgan, Rev. Don Austin, Tim Lynch, Melanie Donahoo, William Young, Patti Nagy, Ronnie Casper, JoAnn Pitcock, Amanda, Matthew Scears, Brad Pitcock, Brian Baumgardner, Bill Brown, Sophia Desmond, and Bill Ensley.



FEBRUARY PRAYER REQUEST:

Tom Setto, Loraine Julius, Joyce Orlando, Charity, Cathy Lynch, Patty Goldbach, Nancy Magera, Joey Dadum, Baby Emilia Lemon, Mary Lou Patsch, Bell Family, Evelyn, Bob Washabaugh, Marion Marcase, MaryAnn Clark, and Curtis Marcase.



PLEASE ALSO PRAY FOR:

Pastor Ben and our Houston Church Leaders,
Our Nation and our Nation's Leaders, and
all unspoken requests of our church family.

March Newsletter Articles
due by Monday, February 18, 2024

SERVING THE CHURCH IN FEBRUARY, 2024

Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, February 4, 2024.

GREETERS

Deacon Greeters:

February - 4th

(MV) Lala Patsch

(GV) Inez Patsch

(GH) Volunteer

February - 11th

(MV) Emmy Homitz

(GV) Nancy Isiminger

(GH) Volunteer

February 14th (Ash Wednesday)

(MV) Janice Blosel

(GV) Virginia Bayne

(GH) Volunteer

February - 18st

(MV) Dodie Hanna

(GV) Haley Steere

(GH) Volunteer

February - 25th

(MV) Janice Blosel

(GV) Virginia Bayne

(GH) Volunteer

Elder Greeters:

February - 4th

(MV) Pastor Ben

(GV) Bo Lesjak

(GH) Karen Jones

February - 11th

(MV) Bob Blough

(GV) Pastor Ben

(GH) Stacy Simpson

February 14th

(MV) Volunteer

(GV) Volunteer

(GH) Volunteer

February - 18st

(MV) Gloria Schmalz

(GV) Harlan Shober

(GH) Pastor Ben

February - 25th

(MV) Pastor Ben

(GV) Linda Young

(GH) Jonnie Swarow

Music: Karen Jones **Audiovisual:** Leon Young

Liturgist: Stacey Simpson

Trustees: Volunteers

February Acolytes:

February 4th - Henry Libert

February 11th - Julia Swarow

February 18th - Bridget Layton

February 25th - Gary Swarow

NURSERY SCHEDULE:

February 4th - Kristie Coppola

February 18th - Vicky Lesjak

February 11th - Sandy Wallace

February 25th - Ashley Layton



9TH ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF

Houston Presbyterian Church Hall

Sunday, February 4, 2024 1:30pm



Wanted all Chili Cooks. Put the finishing touches on your favorite Chili Recipe and enter today!

There are 3 ways to win - judges' vote, popular vote and most money collected in their jar. Prizes will be awarded.

Great prizes, great fun, great fellowship,

- AND - GREAT FOOD!

Open to everyone and anyone.

Free Admission.



2023 Winners: Gary & Jonnie Swarow, Lala Patsch, Nancy Isiminger, Bunny Patsch, Emmy Homitz, & Mike Fendya.

2023 Judges: Bo Lesjak, Ken Paxton & Jacob Sapienza.

2023 Joke Teller: Pastor Ben Libert.





9TH ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF



Houston Presbyterian Church Hall

Sunday, February 4, 2024 1:30pm

No recipe . . .No problem! Just come and taste test a variety of delicious chilis and help choose a winner. It's so much fun entering the cook-off and tasting is such a delicious job - don't miss it!

Come vote for your favorite Chili.

Proceeds benefit the purchase of rice and beans for the Deacons Haiti Mission Project.



Return this completed form by Sunday, January 28th.

Name: _____

No. Attending: _____ **Tasters** _____ **Contestant** _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____



SAVE THE DATES:

* * * * *

February 11, 2024
Annual Meeting of the Congregation & Corporation of First
United Presbyterian Church.
- following Worship -

* * * * *

Ordination and Installation Service
Join us for a special worship service on Sunday February 18 as
we Ordain and Install our new Elders and Deacons for the Class
of 2026.

* * * * *

Week of June 17, 2024
Mission Trip to Point Pleasant, WV
Look for details in upcoming Bulletins.

* * * * *

August 24, 2024
Rise Against Hunger
Meal packaging event at West Alexander Fair Grounds
Look for details in upcoming Bulletins.



PASTOR BEN'S FEBRUARY READINGS



FEBRUARY 4, 2024
5th Sunday after Epiphany
COMMUNION SUNDAY
Isaiah 40:21-31
Mark 1: 29-39
"Time for a Nap"

FEBRUARY 11, 2024
Transfiguration of the Lord
Psalm 103
Mark 9:2-9
"Don't Forget to Remember"
ANNUAL MEETING AFTER WORSHIP

FEBRUARY 14, 2024
Ash Wednesday
7PM WORSHIP
Imposition of Ashes Offered

FEBRUARY 18, 2024
1st Sunday in Lent
Ordination and Installation of Officers
Genesis 9:8-17
1 Peter 3: 18-22
"Never Again"

FEBRUARY 25, 2024
2nd Sunday in Lent
Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Romans 4:13-25
"As Good as Dead"



FEBRUARY - 2024



Regular Events

Sunday School - 9:45am
 Bible Study 10:30am
 Worship - 11:00am

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 4 - Communion Sunday Chili Cook-Off 1:30	 5 - Ministry Mtg. 6:30pm	 6 - Bible Study 10:30am Deacons Mtg. 6:00pm	 7 -	1 -	2 -	3 -
11 - Annual Congregational Meeting	12 - Mission Mtg. 6:30pm	13 - Bible Study 10:30am	14 - Ash Wednesday Worship - 7pm 	15 -	16 -	17 -
18 - Installation of Elders & Deacons	19 - Admin. Mtg. 6:30pm	20 - Bible Study 10:30am	21 -	22 -	23 -	24 -
25 -	26 - Session Mtg. 6:30pm	27 - Bible Study 10:30am	28 -	29 -		



First United Presbyterian Church
 102 North Main Street
 Houston, PA 15342

Address Service Requested

Nonprofit organization
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Houston, PA 15342

Church Office
 724-746-3040

Pastor Ext: 313
 1379pbl@gmail.com

Secretary Ext: 310
 secretary@houstonpresbyterian.org

Meals on Wheels Ext: 314
Open Door Nursery Ext: 311

Website
 houstonpresbyterian.org

Sunday School
 Sunday School Begins
 Sept. 18th at 10:00am

Sunday Worship Service
September — May at 11:00 a.m.
 Nursery Available
 June-July-August at 10:00 a.m.

Bible Study
 Tuesdays
 10:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

Gifts and Offerings

First United Presbyterian Church
 102 North Main Street
 Houston, PA 15342



Member Visitor

Name _____ No. _____

Please apply my offering as follows:

Regular Offering	\$ _____
Deacons Fund	\$ _____
Building Fund	\$ _____
Special Project	\$ _____

Memorial Fund \$ _____

In Memory of _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Thank you for your generous gift.