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## *From the Pastor's Keyboard*



Dear friends in this wonderful family of faith,

Can you believe that 2024 now begins? What does the year hold for you and me? What opportunities await us? What can we make of it? How can we maximize its promise?

Eternal issues are at stake, you realize. That is why I like the way that the St. John's Blymire's cemetery abuts the driveway between the old red brick church and our lovely and functional church building. The cemetery is a constant reminder to "number our days" in the profound words of Psalm 90:12, and to remember that eternal issues are at stake!

Every moment of time is a gift from God. Every breath we take is a gift from God. It is not a right; it is a gift. What will we make of each and every gift? Will we seize the opportunity and make the most of it, or will we get so caught up in the busyness of life that we miss the chance to make life count eternally?

What will we at St. John's Blymire's UCC church make of the gift of this new year? Is the church everything we all would like it to be? Not always. Are we striving to make it all that it can be? Absolutely! We are a healthy church! Just coming off of the Christmas season, we realize that the birth of Jesus changed the world forever! God touched Earth, and continues to touch each of our lives, by putting in our hearts the desire for faith and the knowledge that we need salvation. And it is an act of our free will that we respond to that faith that God puts into each of us by actively being God's hands and feet and mouth in our world. We, like the shepherds at that first Christmas, receive God's message through the angels: "Fear not....Peace on earth, good will to all!"

How do we respond to all of that? By remembering and living out the mission of St. John's Blymire's UCC: "Know and Love Christ, Serve and Share Christ." By remembering and living out the vision of our church: "Joyfully receive direction from Christ that enables creativity and innovation, believing everyone has the responsibility to lovingly share their unique spiritual gifts within the church family, the community, and beyond."

We here at St. John's Blymire's UCC know that we have an age-old mission that needs to be lived out in our ever-changing world and ever-changing lives. That's why we are both continuing and moving in some new directions for 2024. Cindy Innerst-Axe and I have been embarking on a joint ordained/lay ministry here, on a trial basis for a few months, to see how that works and if that is the direction we want our church to go as we resume later this year our search for our new part-time settled pastor. Emmanuel's Closet resumes, on a more limited basis (two Saturday mornings a month), out of our own church building.



# JANUARY

The FUN Team is expanding its offerings by having one major activity each month. Our Chicken Barbecues, Messy Church, Livestreaming, Sunday School, Bible Study, Circle of Grace, Choir, Card and Game Club, Book Group, Prayer Vine, Men's Group (now open to women) all continue. Moreover, we plan on having more Sunday evening hymn sings. In January, we have a "staff retreat" and seven folks will become church members. We plan on expanding our hands-on local missions, as well. We are continuing our outreach and mission, yet we are shifting how we do those things, as the times change and new needs arise, to meet the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of our neighbors, near and far.

On Christmas Day 1939, King George of England spoke by radio to the people of Great Britain. World War II had just begun; difficult days lay ahead. The people anxiously awaited the words of their monarch. The king took this occasion to quote lines of a retired teacher, Minnie Louise Haskins. This is what she wrote:

I said to the Man at the Gate of the Year:

"Give me a light that I may walk safely into the unknown!"

He replied: "Go forth into the darkness,  
and put your hand in the hand of God.  
That shall be for you better than light,  
and safer than a known way."

So I went forth, and finding the hand of God  
trod gladly into the night.

Then God led me safely towards the hills,  
and the breaking of day in the lone East.

Is there a better way, really? Can you think of a better way to begin the New Year or live the New Year? Will you "put your hand in the hand of God" and walk – with us – in worship, in study, in personal growth and in service to humanity and the Kingdom of God? "Teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."

Yours in joyful anticipation of the New Year. See you around in January,  
Pastor Rick

### **WORDS TO A HYMN OFFERED TO YOU FROM PASTOR RICK:**

As we finish the Advent / Christmas / Epiphany season and start the New Year, let me commend to your reading the words of the hymn "I Am the Light of the World". The words and music were written in 1969 by Jim Strathdee in response to a Christmas poem by Howard Thurman:

"I am the light of the world! You people come and follow me!" If you  
follow and love you'll learn the mystery of what you were meant to do and be.  
When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in sky is gone,  
When the magi and the shepherds have found their way home,  
The work of Christmas is begun.  
To find the lost and lonely one, to heal the broken soul with love,  
To feed the hungry children with warmth and good food,  
To feel the earth below, the sky above!  
To free the pris-'ner from all chains, to make the powerful care,  
To rebuild the nations with strength of good will,  
To see God's children ev-'ry-where!  
To bring hope to ev-'ry task you do, to dance at a baby's new birth,  
To make music in an old person's heart,  
And to sing to the colors of the earth!  
"I am the light of the world! You people come and follow me!" If you  
follow and love you'll learn the mystery of what you were meant to do and be.

## **MONTH OF SUNDAYS WORSHIP SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2024**

### **JANUARY 7, 2024 – FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY / BAPTISM OF JESUS CHRIST**

Message Scripture: Mark 1:4-11

Centering Scripture: Acts 19:4-5

Message: “What would Jesus say about our church?”

Theme: If Jesus spent one day in our church, would He not say, “Make the main Man the main thing?”!

Sunday School: Bob Goff and Dave Birchett materials

Progressive Dinner – afternoon and evening

### **JANUARY 14, 2024 – SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY / RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS / ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

Message Scripture: John 1:43-51 Centering Scripture: 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Message: “Is it Mission Impossible, or Mission Possible?”

Theme: We have been given the power of the Holy Spirit to transform the world for Jesus. We have the same power that Christians have always had. But we need to do something with that power!

Sunday School: Bob Goff and Dave Birchett materials

### **JANUARY 21, 2024 – THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY / ECUMENICAL SUNDAY**

Message Scripture: Mark 1:14-20

Centering Scripture: Psalms 62:5-6

Message: “Jesus calls us! Will we pick up?”

Theme: Jesus calls us. Will we answer and follow Him in trust and action?

Sunday School: Our one and only earth science guy-Jeri Jones

### **JANUARY 28, 2024 – FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY /UCC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICE SUNDAY**

Message Scripture: TBA

Centering Scripture: TBA

Message: Cindy Innerst-Axe, preaching

Theme: TBA

Sunday School: Our one and only earth science guy-Jeri Jones

### **January Humor:**

The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot’s wife looked back and suddenly turned into a pillar of salt. “My mother looked back once while she was driving,” contributed little Johnny, “and she turned into a telephone pole.”

A big burly man called at the pastor’s home and asked to see the minister’s wife, a woman well-known for her charitable impulses.

“Madam”, he said in a broken voice, “I wish to draw your attention to the terrible plight of a poor family in this district. The father is dead, the mother is too ill to work, and the nine children are starving. They are about to be turned into the cold, cold streets unless someone pays their rent, which amounts to \$500.

“How terrible!” exclaimed the pastor’s wife. “May I ask who you are?”

The sympathetic visitor applied his handkerchief to his eyes. “I am the landlord,” he sobbed.

*All of the humor above is from The World’s Greatest Collection of Heavenly Humor, compiled by Bob Phillips, Harvest House Publishers, 1982*

## WORDS FROM A RECENT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST DEVOTION:

### As Pie & Peace for Breakfast November 24, 2023

by Rev. Molly Baskette who is the lead pastor of First Church Berkeley UCC and the author of books about church renewal, parenting, spiritual growth and more. Sign up for her author newsletter or get information about her newest book at [mollybaskette.com](http://mollybaskette.com)

*If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.* - Romans 12:18 (NIV)

A lot of ink has been spilled about the difficulty of talking to family members at holiday times since our politics have become so polarized. How did your meal go on Thanksgiving? Christmas? New Year's? How was the conversation?

Good news: there's a morning after that conversation. There's leftover pie sitting on the counter, and a fresh pot of coffee brewing. Nobody else is up, and it's a perfect opportunity to start a conversation with your intractable father, avoidant mother, estranged sibling, or the uncle who has gone off the deep end. Or if your family has taken refuge in avoiding difficult subjects altogether, this is an opportunity to break that silence.

So-called "doorknob conversations"—the important conversations that people finally find the courage to have when they are parting from one another—can open the door to a new chapter in a stuck relationship.

Don't know where to start? Here are a few possible prompts:

- One thing I appreciate about you is...
- Remember when we used to \_\_\_\_?
- I'd love to tell you how things really are for me, and hear how things really are for you. Are you willing?
- I really cherish our relationship, and I want us to be able to talk openly so we can be closer.
- I know your faith is important to you, and mine is important to me. One thing I've learned from the Bible is \_\_\_\_\_. How do you understand that scripture?

Paul said that we should live at peace with all people, if it is possible. That means it's not always possible. But sweetened by pie and a brave start, what you say next could change the future.

Prayer: God, emboldened by day-old pumpkin pie, a cup of Joe and You, let me begin. Amen.

## **REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS and those in need of PRAYER**

### **Terry & Fran Doll**

Room 346  
Residence @ Fitz Farm  
2200 Springwood Rd.  
York, PA 17403  
Terry's cell (717) 968-2454  
Fran's cell (717) 968-8754

### **Peggy Luckenbaugh**

Room 704B  
Colonial Manor Nursing Home  
970 Colonial Avenue  
York, PA 17403



### **Linda Trone**

Room 604  
Colonial Manor Nursing Home  
970 Colonial Avenue  
York, PA 17403

Keeping in our prayers

### **Cindie McKinsey**

**Friends battling cancer  
Covid 19 patients**

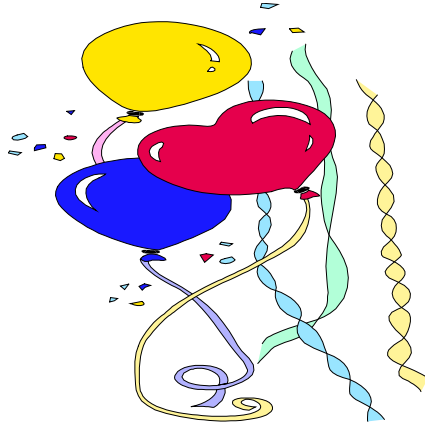


\*\*\*\*\*  
**Remember**  
and pray for  
**Our Members**  
in the  
**Military**

### **A1C Ness, Brandon**

6907 S. Camino de la Humanidad  
Tucson, AZ 85756  
\*\*\*\*\*

**JANUARY**  
**BIRTHDAYS**



*May God  
Bless You on  
Your  
Birthday!*

1. Jared Miller  
Todd Miller  
Derek Troop
2. Chet Wise
3. Keith Markey  
Delores Noll
4. Tracey Dilling  
John Sterling
7. Nicholas Innerst  
Morgan Keller
8. Nancy Myers
9. Paige Barley
11. Damion Albright  
Steven Knickel
12. Tina Leader
13. Hannah Leader
14. Benjamin Barley  
John Herbst
16. Brooks Barley
18. Silvia Knickel
20. Rick Sipe
21. Ed Adams  
Gwen Wise
26. Cindie McKinsey  
Renne Myers
31. Terry Stein

# FINANCIAL REPORT

## Undesignated General Fund

## Red Brick Chapel

## Cemetery

Month-2023	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
January	\$10,823.00	\$9,149.59	\$0.30	\$612.18	\$738.24	\$200.00
February	\$7,242.25	\$9,309.43	\$0.22	\$338.98	\$0.12	\$375.34
March	\$8,179.00	\$13,350.64	\$0.29	\$702.79	\$900.10	\$328.10
April	\$9,009.22	\$7,960.45	\$625.31	\$351.05	\$101.05	\$1,293.75
May	\$10,849.03	\$9,661.89	\$0.34	\$199.00	\$1,501.74	\$2,848.62
June	\$8,587.00	\$12,552.97	\$0.29	\$471.88	\$1.50	\$2,643.54
July	\$11,008.44	\$7,653.83	\$100.22	\$231.66	\$11.00	\$2,607.15
August	\$8,409.25	\$8,988.85	\$0.21	\$207.87	\$200.70	\$2,703.63
September	\$8,472.44	\$11,433.76	\$0.15	\$345.01	\$200.34	\$2,633.98
October	\$12,061.00	\$10,615.65	\$150.41	\$503.30	\$1,801.67	\$2,851.03
November	\$16,673.25	\$11,626.41	\$0.78	\$145.50	\$101.35	\$226.83
December						
<b>Total</b>	\$111,313.88	\$112,303.47	\$878.52	\$4,109.22	\$5,557.81	\$18,711.97

Balance of Undesignated General Fund @ December 1, 2023

\$13,971.42

Balance of Red Brick Chapel Fund @ December 1, 2023  
(Includes \$53,365.86 Endowment)

\$58,100.98

Balance of Cemetery Fund @ December 1, 2023  
(Includes \$810,666.72 CD's, Trusts, UCC Foundation)

\$818,544.38

## Financial Assistance Given through Hand of Hope Fund - 2023

	#	Total	Monthly	Available
	Families	\$\$\$	Donations	Balance
Beginning				\$ 806.82
January	3	\$576.00	\$ 151.00	\$ 381.82
February	1	\$150.00	\$ 80.00	\$ 311.82
March	1	\$25.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 316.82
April	2	\$50.00	\$ 28.00	\$ 294.82
May	3	\$100.00	\$ 27.25	\$ 222.07
June	3	\$125.00	\$ 22.00	\$ 119.07
July	1	\$50.00	\$ 61.25	\$ 130.32
August			\$ 18.00	\$ 148.32
September	2	\$50.00	\$ 98.30	\$ 196.62
October	2	\$50.00	\$ 171.55	\$ 318.17
November	1	\$25.00	\$ 205.00	\$ 498.17
December				
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>\$1, 201.00</b>	<b>\$ 892.35</b>	



## 2023 Church Improvements

Many thanks go out to all our members who contributed either by completing the task or making a financial contribution to aid in the upgrade of our facilities. Below are the tasks we completed in 2023. Thanks to all.

### Sunday Services

1. Launched our Sunday morning service for online viewing.

### Indoors

1. Painting sanctuary.
2. Removed outdated ceiling fans from sanctuary.

### Outdoors

1. Continuing to enhance our outdoors with flower planting and trimming of shrubbery.

### Red Brick Church

1. Masonry work to south side of kitchen. Reinforced foundation and repaired deteriorated mortar at window.
2. Removed stump and landscaped with red stone to right front of entrance.

### Cemetery

1. Improved Cemetery lawn care by applying lime and fertilizing.
2. Removed deteriorating maple trees along Blymire Road.

Your Trustees, *Joan, Charlie, and Joel*



## The FUN Team is . . .

The Fellowship Uniting Neighbors Team of St. John's Blymire's U.C.C. The team's purpose is to provide a variety of opportunities to invite our community into our fellowship. In order to do this, the FUN Team hosts/facilitates the summer concerts, the Women's luncheons, the Book Room, the Valentine Dance, Guided Meditation and Drum Circle, etc. This year we will be adding some new events like Potluck Movie Nights, Fall Picnic, etc.

To fund our events we hold fundraisers like our brand new cookbook, the Cookie Walk, BBQ Bake Sales, etc. The team largely funds all of our own events. Our fundraising also allows us to keep the price of the women's events quite low and to offer the summer concerts with only a free will offering.

In addition, we contribute to various causes. In November 2023 alone, we gave \$500 to Wellspan Cancer Patient Care Fund, going directly to services for individual patients in need. We also sponsored buckets for the OCWM relief project, paid for the congregation's membership at Homewood Auxiliary, and gave \$300 toward updating the church's Christmas decorations (a work in progress). Again, that was only November 2023!

In 2024 the FUN Team will provide the paper goods for Coffee Social, Hymn Sings and several other church activities.

The hope is that this information will answer the questions that have been asked and the doubts expressed about the team's activity and function.

As always, you are welcome to join the team and see firsthand how committed to our work



## MEN'S GROUP

You are invited to join us on Tuesday, January 9, at 7:00 PM to hear our



special guest speaker, Krista Olewiler-Miller. Her topic will be "Adopting God's Will." Learn about adoption and how this family succeeded. This program is open to everyone, just not the men. Come on out and yes there is a Mystery Guest aspect included in this program.



Secret Pals

It's Secret Pal time again. Every month from January-December (12 times a year), you buy a gift for your Secret Pal. You must spend at least \$15.00, but you may spend more. The idea is that you don't let the person know who has their name. It really is fun every month when you get a gift. It's also a way to get to know a member of the church better. Everyone is invited to participate, whether you have done it before or not. There are forms you can fill out listing your favorite restaurants, food, anniversaries, etc. This helps the person who has your name to know what to get for you. Papers are on the table in the Gathering Room for you to fill out if you are interested. We will be picking Secret Pals on Sunday, January 7, 2024. Any questions, please contact Diana Myers.



Church Cookbooks

Would you like to try out some new dishes during these long winter days that are ahead? Buy one of our new church cookbooks containing mouth-watering recipes from current and past members of our congregation. Check them out on the table in the Gathering Room. The cost is only \$18.00.



FROM THE CHURCH MOUSE

To all our friends here at Blymire's, After many years of worshipping together, praying together, sharing stories and eating snacks after church, my wife and I are retiring. We plan to travel and visit the children. As you know, there are many!

We'll still be here for worship on occasion. Watch for us.

Thank you for years of food, fun, fellowship and especially the worship and growth experiences.

Blessings, Bly and Family

## TOWN MEETING

On Sunday, January 14, there will be a Town Meeting immediately after the worship service to discuss and approve the budget and the members of the Coordinating Ministry Team for 2024. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend!

## WHAT IS MESSY CHURCH?

It's church, but not as you know it! Messy Church is a form of family church for children and adults. It involves creativity, celebration and hospitality! It's church for people of any age and at all stages of their faith journey. If traditional church is no longer a part of your life, come try out Messy Church!



Our next Messy Church gatherings will be held from 5:00-8:00 PM on the following Fridays: January 19, February 16, and March 15. Meals will be provided each month. PLEASE INVITE YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS.



## CARD and GAME CLUB

We have started a group to play card and board games here



at the church. Everyone is welcome, and if you don't know how to play certain games, there will be someone who can teach you. You can bring lunch or order in.

We meet the second Wednesday of each month starting at 11:00 AM and playing until people are ready to stop. January's meeting will be on the 10th.

## B - I - N - G - O

No, it's not the farmer's dog!!! Homewood Auxiliary is playing Bingo year-round with the skilled care and assisted-living patients. Bingo is played 5 times per week, according to the Director of volunteer services. Homewood is seeking your help: They are looking for Bingo prizes to give to the skilled-care patients and assisted-living residents who have outlived their resources. The auxiliary supplements those residents.

There is a box in the Social Hall for those Bingo prizes- you might have seen it—"BINGO" is on it, along with ideas for those Bingo prizes. The idea list is also in the hallway outside the Social hall, alongside the soaker pad dimensions and laundry bag dimensions. Any questions, please don't hesitate to ask!!!! Thank you very much!!!! Steph Frey, Homewood Auxiliary rep- 717-244-5012



If you go to church looking to become offended, you'll succeed.  
 If you go to church looking for places where people fall short, you'll find them.  
 If you go to church looking for imperfection, you'll see it.  
 But if you go to church looking for an opportunity to worship alongside  
 broken people (just like you), you'll find it.  
 If you go to church looking for a place to serve, you'll find one.  
 If you go to church to love people like Jesus did, you can.  
 10/10 times... you find what you're looking for.

Look for Jesus!

Craig Groeschel



**1 %**

Once there was a man who had everything money could buy: an opulent seaside mansion with an infinity pool, servants, a ten-car garage, helicopter, you name it.

Outside his gate sat a diseased and starving man named Lazarus. Whenever the rich man rolled out of his driveway, there was Lazarus begging for scraps from the rich man's garbage. Each day Lazarus received nothing but licks from the household dogs. Eventually, both men died. Lazarus went to heaven, and the rich man... well, let's just say he never has to worry about being too cold.

Now, before we smugly condemn "the rich," consider this: According to the World Bank, those who earn more than \$10,000 a year are in the top 14% of the world's richest people. Those who earn \$34,000 a year are in the top 1% globally. *We* are the rich man and there are millions of Lazaruses languishing at our gates. This story has a lot to say about economic injustice and the spiritually corrosive dangers of wealth and privilege.

From his place of post-mortem agony, the rich man in the story asks Abraham to send Lazarus back from the dead to warn his brothers. Abraham replies *"If your brothers do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone rises from the dead."*

The mention of someone rising from the dead at the end of the story is not a throwaway line. The storyteller himself was a man of infinite wealth who became poor and was put to death for attending to the marginalized, proclaiming justice, and announcing God's mercy for all. He *was* raised from the dead and is still speaking today.

**Prayer:** God, grant me the courage and joy of lowering my standard of living by at least 1% to lift someone else up.

Matt Laney

Faith is like a small lamp in a dark forest. It does not show everything at once but gives enough light for the next step to be safe.

In an increasingly uncertain and uncomfortable world, it helps to know that there are still soft blankets and warm mugs and kind friends and good people—so many really good-hearted people who want the future to be better. If nothing else, take hope in that.  
 Nanea Hoffman

**I RESOLVE**

"As a new year begins many people engage in the old habit of making new resolutions for the new year, make this habit a tool to pledge more than good intentions, but to set goals and life-guidelines that will make you a better human being, not merely somebody thinner or richer. Make goals to increase your tolerance, your compassion and openness towards your fellow human beings. Use this opportunity to renew your vows, your commitments, even your whole life. Make good use of your resolutions by making them count. This special date can become a starting point for a wonderful new attitude to life – improvement from the inside-out – and, as a result make a difference in the lives of those around you.

Unknown



Several years ago I invited a Buddhist monk to speak to my senior elective class, and quite interestingly, as he entered the room, he didn't say a word. He just walked to the board and wrote this "EVERYONE WANTS TO SAVE THE WORLD, BUT NOT ONE WANTS TO HELP MOM DO THE DISHES." We all laughed. But then he went on to say this to my students:

"Statistically, it's highly unlikely that any of you will ever have the opportunity to run into a burning orphanage to rescue an infant. But, in the smallest gesture of kindness—a warm smile, holding the door for the person behind you, shoveling the driveway of the elderly person next door— you have committed an act of immeasurable profundity, because to each of us, our life is our universe."

This is my hope for you for the New Year that by your smallest act of kindness, you will save another's world.  
**John Perricone**

My older sister, Tara and I were both diagnosed with hearing loss when we were children. Surgery helped me get some of my hearing back, but Tara lost all of hers. I became my sister's ears.

I learned sign language and everywhere we went, I was her interpreter.

During the summer after my freshman year in high school, Tara and I attended our church's youth camp. We had to rough it. A four-mile hike in the middle of the night was one of the activities. It was a challenge to relay the guide's instructions to Tara by sign in the darkness. But it was all worth it, because we both looked forward to the popular inspirational speaker who was going to address us at the end of the week.

At sunset on our last day hundreds of us campers rushed toward the arena, jockeying for good seats. Tara and I ended up in the last row, where the sound from the PA system kept fading. I could barely hear the speaker. I glanced at Tara. Tears started to well up in my eyes. My sister will never know what this inspiring man has to say.

I bowed my head. God, we need you, I prayed. I was at the edge of my seat, trying to catch even one word. Then suddenly, incredibly, I could hear the speaker's voice loud and clear. I tapped Tara on the shoulder and began to sign furiously. But she stilled my hands and looked at me in amazement.

"Shh, Carly," she whispered, "I can hear him too."

**Carly Rogers**



What do you call a snowman in the summer?

*Puddle*

What do you call a snowman without a carrot?

*Nobody Nose*

What do snowmen call their offspring?

*Children*

Which side of a polar bear has the most fur?

*The outside*

What do you call a penguin with no eye?

*A penguin*

Be grateful for all the little things that make your life special, all those remarkable events that made a huge difference in your life and all those ordinary people who made you extraordinary in some way.

Be grateful.

**Sangeeta Rana**

### WINTER MORNING

Winter is the king of showmen,  
Turning tree stumps into snow men  
And houses into birthday cakes  
And spreading sugar over lakes.  
Smooth and clean and frosty white,  
The world looks good enough to bite.  
That's the season to be young,  
Catching snow flakes on your tongue.  
Snow is snowy when it's snowing,  
I'm sorry it's slushy when it's going.

**Ogden Nash**

I can completely mess up and still know I'm enough.  
I trust that life going forward can be the best of my life by allowing the past to be.  
Today is a new beginning, filled with hope and possibilities! I can choose to think differently, adopt new behaviors, be the best version of me.  
No looking back. I'm not going that way.

**Reverend Jane Beach**



# New INSIDE



Geodes look plain on the outside but contain beautiful crystals. Create these "rocks" to show how God makes us new on the inside.

## What you need:

- Clean cardboard egg carton
- Scissors (and adult help)
- Epsom salt
- Plastic zippered bags (one per color of dye)
- Food coloring
- Glue
- Paintbrush



## What you do:

1. Cut out the tops and bottoms of all the egg compartments so you can make 6 ball shapes.
2. In each bag, put 3 tablespoons of Epsom salt and a drop or two of food coloring. Seal and shake to mix.
3. With the paintbrush, spread glue inside two egg-carton halves. Sprinkle a spoonful of Epsom salt into those halves. Then close and shake.
4. Open your homemade geode and shake out excess salt.
5. Optional: Preserve the crystals with a coat of clear-drying glue.



# PUZZLE



# HAPPY NEW YOU!

Changing the calendar each January is a reminder that God makes all things new.

*Directions: Use the clues and the calendar code to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, ESV.*

## JANUARY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
	God	night	word	in	love	Jesus
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
glory	therefore	speak	give	light	Christ	a
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
saw	beginning	anyone	waters	help	is	many
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
he	again	through	earth	made	while	back
28	29	30	31			
new	if	and	creation			



The second Monday \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
 The last Monday \_ \_  
 The 16th \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
 One day before the 20th \_ \_  
 The day before the first Friday \_ \_  
 The last weekday of the second week \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
 The day after the 20th \_ \_  
 The day after 18th \_ \_  
 The first day of the second weekend \_ \_  
 The last Sunday \_ \_ \_  
 The last day of the month \_ \_ \_ \_ \_