



Dear Friends,

As we mark this new year, I wanted to offer this beautiful blessing from Kate Bowler. Often this time of year brings us to consider how we have changed and grown in the past twelve months. I so appreciate this blessing because it includes both compassion for your former self and also appreciation for the place to which you have come. We could probably all think about the ways we have changed or the world around us has forced us to live differently. Our church certainly has changed and grown, as it has every year since. What a blessing that we can learn and make mistakes and forgive and repent and reorient ourselves again and again. What a blessing that God continues to create in us and through us to meet the callings placed on our lives. As we follow Jesus into 2026, may we find grace for each other and ourselves as we keep learning and growing, embracing the new creation that the Holy Spirit is bringing forth in us day by day.

With love,
Pastor Ashley

A Blessing for When You're Different Now

By Kate Bowler

Blessed are you, dear one, when the world around you has changed.

*Everything is different now,
your body, your age, your relationships, your job, your faith.*

*The things that once brought you joy.
The way you existed in the world.
The people you love and trust and rely on.*

*Things have changed and it would be silly to imagine you haven't changed with them.
You are not who you once were.*

*Bless that old self,
they did such a good job with what they knew.
They made you who you were,
all the mistakes and heartbreak and naiveté and courage.*

*And blessed are who you are now,
you who aren't pretending things are the same,
who continue to grow and stretch and show up to your life as it really is:
wholehearted, vulnerable, maybe a little afraid.
So blessed are we, the changed.*



Thank you to everyone who has donated books and Bibles to our Little Free Library. Feel free to borrow a book to enjoy! We are in need for children's books!



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Helen Mar	January 2
Cheryl Hunt	January 9
Marilyn Lloyd	January 18
Gwen Alessio	January 24
Mary Lou Hover	January 25
Patty McKinney	January 25



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

- 01/ 04/ 2026 - Eleanor Lawrence
- 01/ 11/ 2026 - Bill Alessio
- 01/ 18/ 2026 - Carol Dietrich
- 01/ 25/ 2026 - Craig Holmes

If you are interested in serving as a Worship Assistant, please contact Holly Capoy or Pastor Ashley by email or phone (209-465-2653).



Sunday School Volunteers

- January 4 - Tola Eley
- January 11 - Yeji Cha
- January 18 - Cynthia Alison
- January 25 - Sylvia Cavanaugh



Hospitality after Worship

After worship fellowship schedule

- January 4 - Sylvia
- January 11 - Carol
- January 18 - Jane / Gretchen (cleanup)
- January 25 - Sylvia



CHURCH OFFICE SCHEDULE

In observance of Martin Luther King, Jr., Day, the Church Office will be closed on Monday, January 20th.

What is Per Capita?



For those of you who pledge, there is always a Per Capita envelope with your offering envelopes for the year.

This year's Per Capita rate is **\$33.48**



POINSETTIA DONORS

We would like to say "Thank You" for all the people who purchased Poinsettia this year to make our church looked amazing with all the poinsettias displayed above the pulpit. See pictures below



JANUARY POTLUCK

January 11th following worship! The theme will be New Year Noodles.



GOOD TROUBLE

Earl and his group were able to put together 40 plus General Hygiene baggies and 15 Female Hygiene baggies to give back during Food Bags days. General: toothbrush, toothpaste, tissues, hand wipes, deodorant, soap and socks.

Female baggies also included 6 feminine pads. In a separate bag were ladies underwear. Another group hand wrote many postcards. The group had a wonderful time putting this together.





The Midtown Food Pantry will continue to be open on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month from 2-3pm. The pantry has become a very appreciated place in our neighborhood and averages 90-100 shoppers during the hour it's open. Thank you to all the volunteers who make this event so successful. We should all be proud of what we've created!

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**NABC Recycled Rides program  
 Recipient, Jacob Munoz**



Fabian's Collision Center, a family-owned Stockton auto body repair shop, joined in the giving of a restored vehicle, and our very own Jacob Munoz was handpicked to get a renovated 2017 Mazda CX-5. His single, daring parenting life is known for his humility, work ethic, and steadfast love to his son. He is grateful for getting such a gift that will change his life forever. Thanks to his Family Promise Family and First Presbyterian Church for opening the doors for him with second chance in life to help him get back in in his feet. He definitely deserves every blessing.



## FPCS's Policy for Ensuring a Climate of Safety

Did you know that First Presbyterian Church has a comprehensive policy to protect children, youth and vulnerable adults? If you would like to review the policy in its entirety, please let the office know and we will provide you with a copy. Here are some major points from the policy:

-Clergy and clerks of session are mandated reporters according to state law, however the PC(USA) Book of Order adds Elders as mandated reporters (legally required to report incidents of abuse.)

-No employee or volunteer shall engage in any act of child or adult abuse or harassment, or shall touch, interact with, or otherwise communicate with a child, youth, or vulnerable adult in any way that is intended to be sexually stimulating, emotionally demeaning, or exploitative.

-To the maximum extent practicable, employees and volunteers who work with children, youth, or vulnerable adults shall work in unrelated pairs, with two or more adults present at all activities.

-Mutual consent is never possible when one party is in a leadership position and the other party is a participant, an employee, a member, or a child.

-Any person who had reasonable grounds to suspect that a child, youth, or vulnerable adult is being abused or may be in need of protection must report the suspicion to a protective agency or police, and report the suspicion to the Pastor or Clerk of Session.

## ACCESS FPC VIDEO SERVICE

To access our worship services online, go to our website: [fpcstockton.org](http://fpcstockton.org), click on Ministries, then Worship, and click on the YouTube logo. You'll automatically be directed to FPC's YouTube channel.

### Christmas Joy Kid's Party Highlights



### This Month:

- ◆ Tuesday, Jan. 6th - FB&G Meeting at 9:30am
- ◆ Sunday, Jan. 11th - Monthly Potluck Theme New Year Noodles
- ◆ Monday, Jan. 12<sup>th</sup> - Spiritual Growth Meeting - 4:30pm Zoom
- ◆ Monday, Jan. 12<sup>th</sup> - Session Meeting - 9:30am - Geneva Room
- ◆ Tuesday, Jan. 13th - Presbytery Women's Bible Study at 12:30pm.
- ◆ Office Closed for Mather Luther King Jr. Day - Monday, Jan. 19, 2026
- ◆ Pastor Ashley will be on vacation the week of 18th. Our executive presbyter Rev. Karen Sapio will preaching.
- ◆ Food Pantry Distribution - every 2nd & 4th week on Wednesday from 2pm - 3pm.



### Lessons and Carols & Christmas Eve

Thank you to everyone who joined our pop-up choir for Lessons and Carols on Dec 21st. Here is a picture from our Christmas Candlelight Services.

*First Presbyterian Church is committed to loving and serving all people, including those from diverse generations, cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds, gender identities, sexual orientations, and life experiences. Whatever your story, you are welcomed by Jesus Christ And by his church family.*