



Presbyterian Times
January 1st, 2019

First Presbyterian Church
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A Message from Our Pastor
Rev. Lou Ellen Hartley

Much awaits us during January. While Advent and Christmastide may be finished, church celebrations continue. January 6 is Epiphany of the Lord Sunday when we welcome the Wise Men once more and hear how these foreigners came to bring gifts to the newborn king. On this Sunday we will also celebrate the gifts of our congregation as we elect our new officers following the worship service.

Epiphany Sunday is not the only holy day in January. We also mark Baptism of the Lord Sunday on January 13. We will all have an opportunity to reflect on our baptism, renew our vows and reflect on our own calling as we ordain and install new officers.

After these first two Sundays we move into ordinary time. This may come as a relief to many of us – we need something ordinary after those hectic weeks between Thanksgiving and New Years. We get back to ordinary eating, ordinary spending, and ordinary schedules. However, on the church calendar Ordinary Time does not mean uneventful or meaningless. Ordinary time is a time for growth between the holy seasons, a time for us to reflect on the special days behind and ahead. It's a time for us to live planted in place to grow in the faith.

I wish you all a very happy new year with all the new season brings.

Peace,

Pastor Lou Ellen

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Please mark your calendars for a Special Called Congregational Meeting for the purpose of electing new officers immediately following the worship service on January 6, 2019. The nominees for elder are Maudanne Pursely (filling an unexpired term of 1 year), Britt Whitaker, Susan Murray, and Jan Roberts. Nominees for deacon are Amy Whitaker and Dixie Finley. The Nominees for Trustee are Ray Evans and Bill Cottingham



MISSION COMMITTEE NEWS

As we end the year of 2018, the mission committee would like to thank you for your generosity in giving to missions this past year. The Basket of Hope during Lent, crayons for Back to School and Disaster Buckets in the fall, Thanksgiving baskets, Christmas gift and food boxes, plus the special offerings of One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peace and Global Witness, and Christmas Joy, all were used to benefit our community and beyond. May you have a safe, healthy and happy New Year.

FROM THE OFFICE

Katie Sands, Office Manager

I would like to extend a sincere thank you to everyone for their holiday wishes and gifts to the staff. It is very much appreciated to be thought of and recognized.



2019 Per Capita remains at \$35.00

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 1st – Office closed for New Year's Day

January 4th – First Friday Night Out at Los Arcos

January 6th – Special Called Congregational Mtg immediately following worship

January 13th – Installation of Officers immediately following worship

January 21st – Office closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 27th – Annual Congregation Meeting immediately following worship

January 27th- 5 p.m. Game Night with pizza



January 29th – Newsletter article deadline.

February 17th. Chili Cook-Off. Watch for announcement.



Our [Birthday](#) wishes go out to:

9th [Melba Read](#), [Pat Look](#), [Mary Williams](#)
11th [Katherine Cook- Russell](#), [Dixie Finley](#), [Jan Roberts](#)
12th [Angela Isaac](#), [Jim Jackson](#)
16th [Tricia Lewis](#), [Carlene May](#), [Morgan Romine](#)
18th [Bob May](#)
20th [Carol Bennett](#)
28th [Eban Fox](#)



Our [Anniversary](#) wishes go out to:

17th *Leslie & Steve Skelton*

21st *Bill & Sharlene Morgan*

27th *Cheryl & Lenn Koederitz*



In Loving Memory



Geraldine "Gerre" Zeller McKay, 97, passed away peacefully December 11, 2018. She was a resident of the Overland Park Place retirement community for the past 11 years. She was born on March 17, 1921, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She married Marvin Mickler in 1942 who died serving in WWII. She married John McKay in 1946. He worked with GMC Truck Division and during their 52-year marriage they lived in Pontiac, Michigan; Brentwood, Missouri; Vincennes, Indiana; and Rolla, Missouri. The early years of marriage were busy raising 5 children with her husband, John who traveled a lot with his job.

During the years in Vincennes, Gerre worked part-time at the Vincennes University, and headed the United Way Fund for two years. She served as president of Beta Sigma Phi sorority and was voted Indiana State Girl of the Year.

Gerre was a resident of Rolla, Missouri, for 38 years before moving to Overland Park, KS, in 2007. While living in Rolla, she was an administrative secretary at UMR for 16 years. Gerre was very active in her church, sorority and civic organizations, and had many special friends there. She served as president for the Phelps County Regional Medical Center Auxiliary and was awarded the Missouri State Auxilian of the Year. She also was president of the GFWC Saturday Club, Who's New in Rolla, the AARP Rolla chapter, and Presbyterian Church Women United.

Gerre was devoted to her family, and she had amazing energy. She was strong, independent, fun-loving and thoughtful. She cared deeply for other people and their needs and was so generous with her time and money. When her husband, John, had Parkinsons, she made two trips daily to the St. James Veterans Home to lovingly care for him. Her faith in Christ always guided her through her years.

Gerre loved playing bridge, Scrabble and any type of card game, especially with the grandkids! When not traveling to visit her grandchildren, she made time for travel to Alaska, Europe, the Holy Land, Russia, and Canada and took several cruises. After moving to Overland Park Place, a perfect place for her, she stayed active by serving as an ambassador to new residents. She never missed a bingo game or activity, and sang in the choir. She even sang a solo, "I'll Be Home for Christmas," in a holiday concert a week before she passed away.

Gerre was preceded in death by her two husbands, and her son, Christopher McKay. Her surviving family includes sons Marvin McKay of Riverview, FL; Steven McKay and his wife, Suzanne, of Lee's Summit, MO; Tim McKay and his wife, Valerie, of Leawood, KS; her daughter-in-law, Nancy McKay, of Overland Park, KS; and daughter Joan Melvin and husband, John, of Overland Park, KS.

She was a loving and generous grandma to 12 grandchildren: Eric McKay (Amanda), Andy (Amy) McKay, Emily McKay, Graham (Susie) McKay, Drew (Alicia) McKay, Ian McKay, Evan McKay (Eric Garcia), Lauren McKay, Lindsey (Mike) Garcia, Jessica Melvin, Chris Melvin, and Jack Melvin, and two great-grandchildren, Emerson and Kinsley McKay.

Gerre was a devoted member of the First Presbyterian Church in Rolla and helped establish its Memorial Garden. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the First Presbyterian Church Memorial Garden Fund. A celebration of Gerre's life will be held at the Overland Park Place in January.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the Kansas City Down Syndrome Guild (kcdsg.org) in honor of Gerre's grandson, Jack Melvin, or the Rolla First Presbyterian Church Memorial Garden Fund. Arr: Signature Funerals, 816-214-5174.