

Community Presbyterian Church

1100 College Avenue

February 2024

ANXIOUS FOR NOTHING

Today, I will live today.

Yesterday has passed. Tomorrow is not yet.
I'm left with today.

So, today, I will live today.

Relive yesterday? No. I will learn from it.

I will seek mercy for it.

I will take joy in it. But I won't live in it.

The sun has set on yesterday.

The sun has yet to rise on tomorrow.

Worry about the future? To what gain?

It deserves a glance, nothing more.

I can't change tomorrow until tomorrow.

Today, I will live today.

I will face today's challenges with today's strength.

I will dance today's waltz with today's music.

I will celebrate today's opportunities with today's hope.

Today.

February birthdays

MaryAnne Wheeler	2/10
Dennis Humphrey	2/13
Ellen Hinton	2/18
Pamela Anderson	2/20
John Shepherd	2/23
Jett Barbour	2/27
Sandy Treloar	2/28



February 2nd

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR A
MONEY TREE
SHOWER
honoring
Pete and Brenda**

❖ **Sunday** ❖ **February 25th** ❖
❖ **During Coffee Hour** ❖



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Did you know there's a prayer called the "I don't know" prayer? It's very spiritual. You just go off somewhere quiet and hidden and you walk right up to the heart of God and you say, "I don't know."

I don't know where to go from here. I don't know what is happening. I don't know how to process this. I don't know what to do with these emotions. I don't know how to handle this situation.

It covers a lot of I don't knows.

And then with whatever dusty little sand grain of faith you have, you say, 'But You know.'

And you leave it there.

God most certainly hears that prayer.

Jack Diane Kellerman - a Facebook post

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## The Deacons

Acts 6:1-6

Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. Therefore, friends, select among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word." What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch, They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

Meaning of Deacon: "...the church chose the title "diakonos\*\*" that, in its most literal sense, means a person who serves food to other people in a home or a restaurant, perhaps even "slave." Since their duties required them to meet the needs of others, even washing the feet of travelers, it was not always the most enviable of jobs.

Why did the early church choose such a humble title for their new officers? Obviously they took it from the ministry and example of Jesus Christ who taught His disciples that if anyone wants to be first in the Kingdom of God he or she has to be the servant of all (Mark 9:35; see Is. 53 and the concept of the Suffering Servant).

\*\* diakonos: *The most popular Greek word for minister which means, 'a servant,' or 'one who executes the command of another.'*

The office of Deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness and service after the example of Jesus Christ (Book of Order).

The Deacons of Community Presbyterian Church are organized as a board of which the pastor is an advisory member. Currently, our Board of Deacons is made up of the eight members who are elected by the members of our church at our Annual Meeting.

Deacons are normally elected for a 3-year term and they are on rotating terms, with 3 new members elected each year.

Our Deacons take responsibility for the following committees:

Bulletins, Shepherding, Coffee Hour, Communion Set-up and Clean-up, Funeral Dinners, Home Communion, The Kitchen, Meal Coordinator, Potluck, The Prayer Chain and a representative to serve on the Nominating Committee.

### Classes

|                  |               |
|------------------|---------------|
| Lexie Barbour    | Class of 2024 |
| Sandy Treloar    | Class of 2024 |
| Kathy Martin     | Class of 2024 |
| Kay Cowin        | Class of 2024 |
| Gwen Edwards     | Class of 2025 |
| Pete Nemeth      | Class of 2026 |
| Ginny Oakes      | Class of 2026 |
| Marge Gannon     | Class of 2026 |
| Sharon Armstrong | Class of 2026 |

|                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Financial Secretary | Liz Hughes     |
| Treasurer           | Boni Schueller |

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The Session

From the Book of Order

The session governs a particular congregation. It is made up of elders elected by the congregation, plus all the installed pastors on the staff, including pastors, co-pastors, and associate pastors. (G-10.0101)

The session is responsible for all decisions regarding the program and policies of its congregation, except for the two powers reserved for the congregation: the election of officers, including the pastoral staff, and the buying, selling, and/or mortgaging of church property. The constitution spells out 19 specific duties for the session. (G-10.0102, G-7.0304)

The session is composed of elders elected for specific terms of service as well as the installed pastor(s) and associate pastor(s). It is presided over by the moderator, who is the pastor or a minister member of the Presbytery when the pastor is not available. (G-10.0101, G-10.0103, G-14.0201)

The session elects its own clerk, who is called "Clerk of the Session." The clerk of the session must be an elder, but not necessarily one serving currently on the session. The session elects the clerk for such term as it shall determine. The clerk of the session has many duties regarding the records of the church, and also serves as secretary of meetings of the congregation. (G-9.0203, G-10.0300)

2024 Elders

Bill Cowin	Class of 2024
Leon Armstrong	Class of 2024
Jenifer Miller	Class of 2024
Jane Thornes	Class of 2025
Penny Carpenter	Class of 2025
Marianne Besaw	Class of 2025
Pinky Humphrey	Class of 2026
Eric Besaw	Class of 2026

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**U.S. Pastors Struggle With Post- pandemic Burnout**

(condensed from article in The Press, 1-13-2024)

According to a survey from November of 2023, done by the Hartford Institute for Religion Research, more than four in 10 clergy had seriously considered leaving their congregations and some even considered leaving the ministry. The survey was part of the Institute’s research project, “Exploring the Pandemic Impact on Congregations”.

Many clergy members cited dwindling attendance, declining rates of volunteering, and members’ resistance to further change. Some of these struggles are trends that long predated the pandemic. Median in-person attendance has steadily declined since the start of the century, and with fewer younger participants, the typical age of congregants in rising. After a pandemic-era spike in innovation, congregants are less willing to more change, the survey said.

Those thinking of quitting the ministry entirely were more likely to be pastors of smaller churches and those who work solo, compared with those on larger staffs and at larger churches. Most reported conflict in their congregations, but those considering leaving reported it at even higher levels.

The results are based on about 1,700 Christian clergy members from more than 40 denominations, including Protestant, Catholic and Orthodox bodies. Decreased monthly in-person worship attendance was also reported in another post- pandemic research of 2023, done by Pew Research Center.

**Mission Committee News**

**Little Pantry:** We appreciate the items donated. Please keep in mind that we need boxed or packaged foods during the winter. We cannot put out glass, plastic or metal containers when it’s so cold. Also, please check the expiration dates before donating items.

**Operation Christmas Child:** All 176 of our shoes boxes were sent to Mexico this year.

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Youth Group...and Goats

We had our first youth group gathering on January 14th with six amazing kids in attendance. We talked, played some games, and with the help of Jenny Preston, everyone got to make their own personal sized pizza. Everything was focused around getting to know each other. I shared an abbreviated version of my story and how God has changed my life in big ways. I shared with the kids that at least in my personal experience, we may be legal adults at 18 but the lights aren’t fully on until at least age 30.

I must say my favorite game with the kids was “This or That” because they all had some pretty strong opinions on which thing was better...This or That. It was fun to listen to their reasoning on each one and I am happy to report that we all agree that dark chocolate is way better than milk chocolate. I am also happy to report that there were no injuries on our first day. We saved that for the next week. Sorry about your finger Wade!

As some of you have seen, we have a pretty large screen up in the youth room, thanks to the generous contribution of a recently moved neighbor who simply asked that it be used for community activities. Thank you McGann family! It has been fun to utilize the technology to put on a presentation as a part of our weekly message, to play worship music, and even some of the games are assisted by the visuals. In fact, this last week we tested out using a QR code on the screen so the kids can send in their votes via phone or tablet. That should be a lot of fun on our trivia day that will be coming up in a few weeks.

On our second youth group gathering, we again had 6 amazing kids, not all the same as the week before, but equally as awesome. We started a three week series called G.O.A.T. (Greatest Of All Time.) Each week is focused on a message taught by Jesus that supports Him as being the true G.O.A.T.

This last week's message, The Greatest Commandment, was based on Matthew 22: 18-40 where Jesus' challengers often tried to trap Him by asking difficult questions that if not answered well would threaten His G.O.A.T. status. Of course, Jesus answered with amazing wisdom, letting them know that the greatest commandment is to love God with your whole self and to love your neighbor as yourself. He pointed out that all the law is summed up in these two commandments

This Sunday, the 28th we will be on our second week of this series, The Path to Greatness. We will be discussing what true greatness looks like, how this is very different from our culture's version of greatness. Jesus taught that to be great we must serve, not expect to be served. And he modeled this for us by healing people, feeding people, washing the feet of His disciples, and most importantly by sacrificing Himself on our behalf.

I am so grateful for this opportunity to spend time with these kids. They are a blessing and a whole lot of fun. Please keep each one of them in your prayers, that God will open their hearts to see how deeply they are loved by their Creator...and that He truly is the Greatest Of All Time. I am also incredibly thankful to all of you in this church who have been so supportive of our youth in getting this started.

And if you happen to be lingering around late after church and you hear screaming goats, don't worry. No goats were harmed in the process of this youth group. And hopefully no Wades will be harmed either.

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Valentine's Day occurs every February 14. Across the United States and in other places around the world, candy, flowers and gifts are exchanged between loved ones, all in the name of St. Valentine. But who is this mysterious saint and

where did these traditions come from? Find out about the meaning and history of Valentine's Day, from the ancient Roman ritual of Lupercalia that welcomed spring to the card-giving customs of Victorian England.

Where did Valentine's Day originate from? The

history of the holiday—and the story of its patron saint—is shrouded in mystery. We do know that February has long been celebrated as a month of romance, and that St. Valentine's Day, as we know it today, contains vestiges of both Christian and ancient Roman tradition. But who was Saint Valentine, and how did he become associated with this ancient rite?

The Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom were martyred. One legend contends that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death. Still others insist that it was Saint Valentine of Terni, a bishop, who was the true namesake of the holiday. He, too, was beheaded by Claudius II outside Rome.

Other stories suggest that Valentine may have been killed for attempting to help Christians escape harsh Roman prisons, where they were often beaten and tortured. According to one legend, an imprisoned Valentine actually sent the first "valentine" greeting himself after he fell in love with a young girl—possibly his jailor's daughter—who visited him during his confinement. Before his death, it is alleged that he wrote her a letter signed "From your Valentine," an expression that is still in use today. Although the truth behind the Valentine legends is murky, the stories all emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic and—most importantly—romantic figure. By the Middle Ages, perhaps thanks to this reputation, Valentine would become one of the most popular saints in England and France.

Origins of Valentine's Day: A Pagan Festival in February

While some believe that Valentine's Day is celebrated in the middle of February to commemorate the anniversary of Valentine's death or burial—which probably occurred around A.D. 270—others claim that the Christian church may have decided to place St. Valentine's feast day in the middle of February in an effort to "Christianize" the pagan celebration of Lupercalia. Celebrated at the ides of February, or February 15, Lupercalia was a fertility festival dedicated to Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture, as well as to the Roman founders Romulus and Remus.

To begin the festival, members of the Luperci, an order of Roman priests, would gather at a sacred cave where the infants Romulus and Remus, the founders of Rome, were believed to have been cared for by a she-wolf or lupa. The priests would sacrifice a goat, for fertility, and a dog, for purification. They would then strip the goat's hide into strips, dip them into the sacrificial blood and take to the streets, gently slapping both women and crop fields with the goat hide. Far from being fearful, Roman women welcomed the touch of the hides because it was believed to make them more fertile in the coming year. Later in the day, according to legend, all the young women in the city would place their names in a big urn. The city's bachelors would each choose a name and become paired for the year with his chosen woman. These matches often ended in marriage.

Lupercalia survived the initial rise of Christianity but was outlawed—as it was deemed “un-Christian”—at the end of the 5th century, when Pope Gelasius declared February 14 St. Valentine’s Day. It was not until much later, however, that the day became definitively associated with love. During the Middle Ages, it was commonly believed in France and England that February 14 was the beginning of birds’ mating season, which added to the idea that the middle of Valentine’s Day should be a day for romance. The English poet Geoffrey Chaucer was the first to record St. Valentine’s Day as a day of romantic celebration in his 1375 poem “Parliament of Foules,” writing, ““For this was sent on Seynt Valentyne’s day / Whan every foul cometh ther to choose his mate.”

Valentine greetings were popular as far back as the Middle Ages, though written Valentine’s didn’t begin to appear until after 1400. The oldest known valentine still in existence today was a poem written in 1415 by Charles, Duke of Orleans, to his wife while he was imprisoned in the Tower of London following his capture at the Battle of Agincourt. (The greeting is now part of the manuscript collection of the British Library in London, England.) Several years later, it is believed that King Henry V hired a writer named John Lydgate to compose a valentine note to Catherine of Valois.

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**I Saw Jesus**

I saw Jesus last week.  
 He was wearing blue jeans and an old shirt.  
 He was up at the church building;

He was alone and working hard.  
 For just a minute, He looked like one of our members.  
 But it was Jesus, I could tell by His smile.

I saw Jesus last Sunday.  
 He was teaching a Bible class.  
 He didn’t talk real loud or use long words.  
 But, you tell He believed what He said.  
 For just a minute, He looked like my Sunday School teacher.  
 But it was Jesus, I could tell by His loving voice.

I saw Jesus yesterday.  
 He was at the hospital visiting a friend who was sick.  
 They prayed quietly together,  
 For just a minute He looked like my pastor.



But it was Jesus, I could tell by the tears in His eyes.

I saw Jesus the other day,  
 He was bringing a covered dish over to me because I had been sick.

Just for a minute, I thought it was Him, with His gentle hands stroking my shoulder.  
 I thought it was Him but it looked like my sweet neighbor.  
 But it was Jesus because I could feel Him in my soul.

I saw Jesus this morning.  
 He was in my kitchen making my breakfast and fixing me a special lunch.  
 For just a minute He looked like my Mom.  
 But it was Jesus, I could feel the love from His heart.

I see Jesus everywhere,  
 Taking food to the sick,  
 Welcoming others to His home,  
 Being friendly to a newcomer and for just a minute I think He’s someone I know.  
 But it’s always Jesus, I can tell by the way He serves.

May someone see Jesus in you today.

– contributed by Kathy Martin

*Faith is not believing that God can- it is knowing that he will.*

# WORD SEARCH - Positions in the Church

P M L K N O M T E H O O R P C  
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ARCHIVIST  
 CHAPLAIN  
 FELLOWSHIP  
 MODERATOR  
 PREACHER  
 STEWARDSHIP  
 WORSHIP

BOARD MEMBER  
 COORDINATOR  
 FINANCE  
 MONK  
 PRIEST  
 TREASURER  
 YOUTH GROUP

BOOKKEEPER  
 COUNCIL  
 HOLY WOMAN  
 ORGANIST  
 PROPHET  
 USHER

CELEBRANT  
 ELDER  
 MINISTER  
 PASTOR  
 REVEREND  
 VICAR

CHAIRPERSON  
 FATHER  
 MISSIONS  
 PREACHER  
 SECRETARY  
 VOLUNTEER

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