



# “THE STARTER”

January 2023

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YOU ARE HEARBY NOTIFIED THAT  
 PURSUANT TO RULES AND  
 REGULATIONS TO FIRST  
 CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
 CONSTITUTION, THE ANNUAL  
 MEETING WILL BE HELD  
 IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE  
 MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

JANUARY 29, 2023

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE  
 MEETING WE WILL HAVE OUR  
 ANNUAL POTLUCK DINNER. PLEASE  
 BRING A DISH TO SHARE AND YOUR  
 TABLE SERVICE.



May the New Year Bring Us...

- Enough happiness to keep us sweet;
- Enough trials to keep us strong;
- Enough hope to keep us lively;
- Enough sorrows to keep us dependent on God;
- Enough failure to keep us humble;
- Enough success to keep us eager;
- Enough friends to give us comfort;
- Enough wealth to meet our needs;
- Enough enthusiasm to keep us looking forward;
- Enough faith to overcome despair;
- Enough determination to use every day and situation somehow for good.



New Government

There will be a new form of government here at First Congregational Church for a trial period of one year. The board will consist of 15 people. Those would be Moderator, Vice Moderator, Treasurer, Church Clerk, and Financial Secretary plus 10 from the congregation. We are suspending Article 9, section B and Article 10, section A of the constitution for one year. This change was voted on at the December 11<sup>th</sup> Congregational meeting. Previously 26 people were required to fill all positions, which we haven't reached in a few years and some are serving on 2 boards.



“Light Up” Peru Christmas Parade

Thank you to all participants Dean and Dawn Tieman, Abby Redmon, Evan Hall, Cody Crouch, Jeremiah and Selene Farling, Amy Crouch, Mike Beuster and Ella McCauley. “There is no Christmas without Christ.”



The Annual Report will be available for your review on Sunday, January 22nd. Should you like a copy mailed to you, please contact the office.



## A Prayer for the New Year

Lord,  
Whether I leave behind  
a year of joy or of trials and difficulties,  
I pause to *give thanks*.  
Thank you for being with me  
every day of every year.  
Thank you for making all things **new**  
and for giving me the grace of  
fresh starts  
and *new beginnings*.  
Remind me of your presence in the days to  
come,  
even when I feel pushed and rushed by  
busyness.  
**Be glorified in my life this year.**  
*Amen*

heathercking.org



Pray for the health of Jane McClintock, Char & Pete Belski, Marilyn Cobb, Rita Tieman, Rick and Deb Taylor, Rob and Cyndee Dickson, Nancy Erlenborn, Diana Kurtz.

\*\*Please pray for daily grace for our shut-ins:

Carol Edgcomb                      Don Walker

Jane McClintock                  Lin Stuhr

Lillian Mini

\*\* Pray for Pastor Roy Jacob & Peace Mission in India caring for children and widows

\*\* Pray for Jews for Jesus

\*\* Pray for the Surbers and Supply & Multiply

\*\* Pray for Abigail Women's Clinic

\*\* Pray for Cup of Cold Water Ministries

\*\* Pray for Transport for Christ

\*\* Pray for PADS providing shelter to the Homeless



Adult Sunday School

Beginning in mid January, on Sunday mornings at 9:00AM please join in "Through The Bible in One Year study."



## THE STORY BEHIND THE '12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS'

The song was written by Catholics in England as a catechism song to teach their children about the Christian faith. The song's "gifts" help remember the teachings of the faith. "True Love" refers to God. "Me" refers to every Christian.

The other symbols mean the following:

- 1 Partridge in a Pear Tree = Jesus Christ.
- 2 Turtle Doves = The Old & New Testaments.
- 3 French Hens = Faith, Hope and Charity or the Father, Son and Holy Spirit Trinity.
- 4 Calling Birds = The Four Gospels.
- 5 Golden Rings = First Five Books of the Old Testament.
- 6 Geese-A-Laying = The Six Days of Creation.
- 7 Swans-A-Swimming = The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit (I Corinthians 12:8-10).
- 8 Maids-A-Milking = The Eight Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-10).
- 9 Ladies Dancing = The Nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).
- 10 Lords-A-Leaping = The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20).
- 11 Pipers Piping = Eleven Apostles, not Judas.
- 12 Drummers Drumming = The Twelve Points of Doctrine in the Apostle's Creed.

Epiphany is January 6<sup>th</sup> after the 12 days of Christmas.



## 5 Ways to Mark Three Kings Day

1. Read the Gospel (Matthew 2:1-12) for the Epiphany of the Lord aloud with your family or class. Re-read it and allow the story to speak to you in some new way. Discuss the insights each person gained by reading it a second time.
2. People in Mexico, Spain, France, and Germany celebrate the day by sharing "King's Cake." Download a recipe from the Internet and bake it. Don't forget to place a symbol of the baby Jesus in the batter. This could be a small bean or an almond. The one who gets the slice of cake containing the symbol is considered to be especially blessed.
3. Gather with your family, neighbors, friends, or students, and take turns talking about the gifts you have each been given during this Christmas season. Move the conversation beyond that of material gifts in order to consider the ones that nurture heart and soul.
4. Work with someone at your parish to organize a visit with your family, friends, or students to a nursing home. Bring small gifts to share with the residents. Afterwards, consider the ways you could "step out" in order to share your gifts with others during the coming year.
5. Go from room to room in your home and consider the way each space is blessed. Resolve to make your dwelling a hospitable place in which to receive others. How can you make your home more gracious to friend and stranger alike?

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### Resolutions For A New Year

- Say "I Love You" often
- Give hugs
- Laugh lots
- Don't sweat the small stuff
- Enjoy little moments
- Be patient
- Don't be hard on yourself
- Learn from your mistakes
- Find some fun in every day



### New Years Scripture in the Old Testament

**Deuteronomy 7:13** – He will love you, bless you, and multiply you. He will also bless the fruit of the womb and the fruit of your ground, your grain and your wine and your oil, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock, in the land that he swore to your fathers to give you.

**Joshua 1:9** – Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.

**Psalms 98:1** – Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy are have worked salvation for him.

**Psalms 20:4** – May he grant you your heart's desire and fulfill all your plans!

**Proverbs 16:9** – The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps

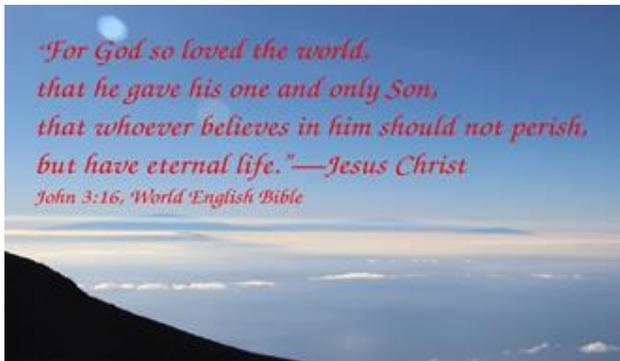
**Proverbs 3:5-6** – Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

**Jeremiah 29:11** – For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.



### New Years Scripture in the New Testament

**Matthew 6:25-26** – Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what



*Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6*



**BEHOLD**  
*I make all things new*  
**Revelations 21:5**  
**May God Bless You This**  
**New Year!!!**

you will drink, nor about your body, what will you put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

**John 13:34-35** - A new commandment I give you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

**Philippians 4:13** - I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

**Romans 8:18** - For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

**Philippians 4:19** - And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.



*The primary purpose of reading the Bible is not to know the Bible but to know God.*

# John 3:16

