

February Witness
2025
Volume 37, Issue 2

FEBRUARY WITNESS

First
Presbyterian
Church
Wickenburg, AZ



Sunday Service:

9:30 Worship Service

10:00 Children's Church

Inside this issue:

Happy Valentines Day 1

Hebrews Bible Study 2

Events 3-4

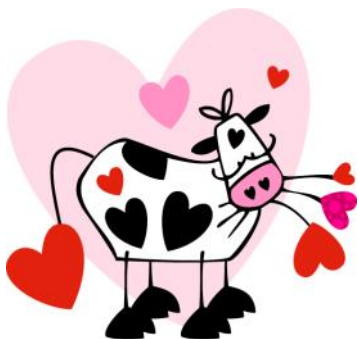
*A Word from your Vi-
sion Team* 5

Presbyterian Women 6

But Did You Die article 7

Volunteer & Stats 8

Recipe 9



Join Dr. Chris Smith and Pastor Jonathan in a new Bible Study starting February 23rd...

Are you ready to dive deep into one of the most powerful and intriguing books of the Bible? And yet this gem goes unappreciated all too often.

Hebrews is unique in significant ways. Just one example: Hebrews remains the oldest and **only** complete early Christian sermon ever found! We will share in what late first-generation Christians experienced: an impassioned sermon **before** the New Testament was readily available!

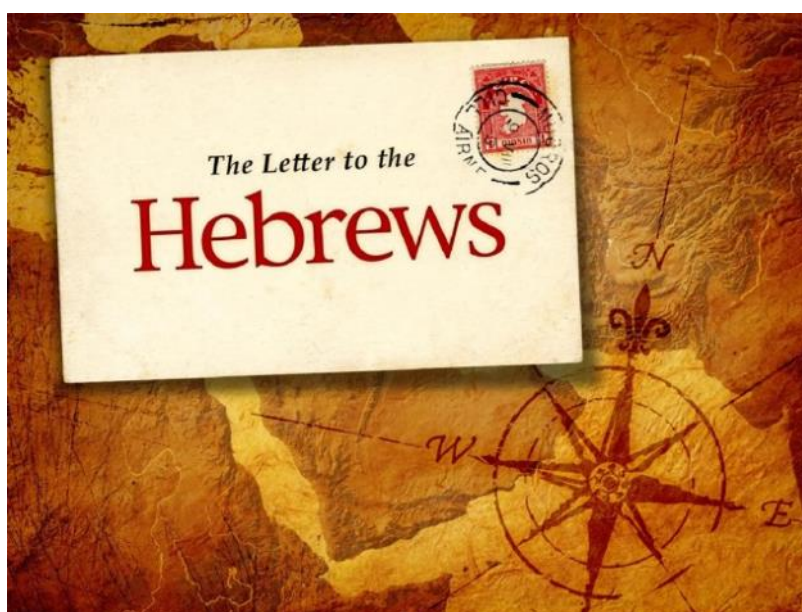
It will evoke contemporary questions. To what pressures were these early Christians exposed? How long had they been Christians? How rich had their experience been when they encountered a crisis of faith? Hebrews is written to a group of Christians wrestling with the cost of discipleship in uncertain and difficult times, not unlike our own.

Hebrews is the key that unlocks deep connections between the sacrificial system, the priesthood, and the covenants - bringing the Old and New Testaments together in ways that will transform your understanding of God's redemptive plan.

This study is designed to ignite your passion for the Word of God.

You will uncover hidden treasures, strengthen your faith, and see the Bible with fresh eyes as you explore its mysteries. Whether you're new to Bible study or a seasoned believer, this course will deepen your love for Scripture and equip you to share its truths with confidence.

Join us and experience the *Letter to the Hebrews* like never before!



A COVENANT PARTNERSHIP?

Ready to put down roots in this community of faith? We would like to get to know you better and hear your spiritual journey as you consider membership. Please see Gail Graham to better explain.

An ECO polity and discipline handbook (what we believe) is available in the front office and if you have any questions in the meantime; please see Pastor or Gail Graham!



WICKENBURG NEIGHBORHOOD GREEN BAG FOOD PROGRAM 2025 DROP-OFF DATES

Bring your Green Bags to the Fellowship Hall stage by **February 7th** to be taken to the C.A.P. office on the morning of February 8th.

Of course, you can bring your bags to the stage any time!

February 8
April 12
June 14
August 9
October 11
December 13



DON'T MISS
THE DEADLINE!

The Witness deadline for the March issue will be Wednesday, February 19. Please double check your calendar and have all articles, changes, important events, appreciations, etc. into the office by the deadline!

Thank you and God Bless

AED TRAINING AVAILABLE!



> An AED is used to help someone experiencing sudden cardiac arrest.

- > An AED is a medical device that can analyze the heart's rhythm and deliver an electric shock if needed.
- > The shock can help the heart re-establish an effective heart rhythm.
- > Anyone can use this device, just follow the verbal commands.
- > The only way to restore a regular heart rhythm during a cardiac arrest is by using an AED.
- > The faster a person receives help from bystander CPR and AED, the more likely they are to survive.

Sign up today with any Deacon or notify the Front Office

January 21, 2025 Session Highlights

There was discussion of the ECO Annual Questions for Sessions.

Pastor Jonathan and Bill Pimm will be attending the ECO National Gathering in Dallas, Texas, on January 27, 28, and 29.

The annual congregational meeting was held January 19, 2025. New elders Debbie Wright and John Thomas and new Deacons Dennis Gatke, Shirley Oney, and Diane Kelm were elected.

Cheryl Longshore
Clerk of Session
First Presbyterian Church of Wickenburg

Hey Church Family, we're looking to add to the pool of Liturgists.

Are you not afraid of public speaking? Then we're looking for you!

Liturgists are a very important part of our weekly service and we're looking to add to our list. This will make it possible for those who are serving to serve less often.

If this speaks to your heart, please leave your name with the front office or contact Arleen Younkman.

Thank you and God Bless!



OPPORTUNITY FOR SERVICE...

The Fellowship Committee is looking for a few, new faces to join us as we explore fun, clever ideas for the new year ahead!

We organize and plan events such as our "Amen Corner" for Gold Rush Days, various potlucks, game & movie nights, and we'd love some fresh, creative ideas!

Aaaand, any ideas, even if you don't join the committee, are welcomed and appreciated!

Visit with Deb Berner for details.

FPC is in need of a new Deacon...

As well as a replacement for our current **Treasurer**.

Deacons nurture fellowship and caregiving within and beyond the congregation.



The Treasurer reports the financial condition of the church to the Administration Committee and the Session, including the monthly balance sheet and income statements. Both positions are vital to the health and growth of our fellowship.

Have you asked yourself lately, "What am I doing to be a contributing member of my church?" or "How can I utilize my God-given gifts to serve others?"

Here are two opportunities to be an active part of the growing family of God here in Wickenburg.

For more information, contact, Arleen Younkman (Moderator of Deacons) or Sharon Horn (Chair of Administration). They're in your directory!

Don't have a new directory yet? Stop by the front office and pick one up!
Tue - Thursday 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Our new Facebook page is operational.

Wickenburg First Presbyterian Church
That's its name. Fourteen people have joined thus far, looking forward to seeing more of you there.



The Vision Team Focuses on PW (Presbyterian Women)

Each month the Vision Team will be highlighting a different committee/group in our church and reporting on them. Acting on our goal to improve communication and interaction, we will ask the chairs/moderators four predetermined questions regarding their purpose, support of the church's mission, most active period and anything they would like the congregation to know about them.

This month we talked with Sharen Mourn to look closer at the Presbyterian Women organization of our church. She has been involved with PW since 2005 and has been acting as moderator for many years. Currently, the other officers include Co-Moderator Marsha North; Secretary Judy Taylor; Treasurer Sharon Horn; and Public Relations Arleen Younkman. For years now the PW has been intricately linked to the Nifty Needlers that work diligently to support their projects. In particular, the planning and preparation for the Holiday Bazaar is a continued pursuit. The Nifty Needlers meet each Tuesday at 10 and PW meets at this same time only on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

As stated in the recent annual report they intend to nurture each other's faith and contribute to spreading the gospel of Christ. This purpose is behind their "helping hands" approach. They consistently raise funds and offer fellowship opportunities with Christmas being their most active outreach. Their support of the church's mission is reflected in their consistent invitations to other churches and the community. When asked what she would want the congregation to know about the group she felt communication was sometimes lacking. She desires to better promote the group's activities and function.

The devotion and commitment of these Presbyterian Women is truly a unique and meaningful asset. The Vision Team shares their desire for improved communication and is working to address this prevalent concern. We created a bulletin board as a tool to foster awareness and interactively provide information. We encourage PW and all the groups to post and monitor their space. Together we can flourish and grow new lives in Jesus.



NEWS FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



The planning committee would like to thank all the Presbyterian Women (and you know who you are) who volunteered their time, talent, baking skills, homemade soups and cookies, precious treasures, and Rada. And Allyson Searway for the beautiful hand-beaded Mexican jewelry.

And thanks to all those who came to shop! The Bazaar was a success, and we couldn't have done it without you.



FRIENDLY REMINDER FOR PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Hey lovely ladies! Just a little reminder... All women who attend First Presbyterian Church are part of our cherished PW Women family. We would absolutely love to have any Presbyterian women join the PW Co-Team committee. We're on the lookout for fresh and fun ideas! We gather every first Tuesday of the month at 10:00 am. Can't wait to see you there!

QUILT JOKE OF THE DAY

Why did the quilt get a job?

Because it wanted to patch up its finances! 🧺 😊



Nifty Needlers and Cool Crafters are back in action!

❁ Our inventory for the

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 18TH

VALENTINE'S POTLUCK

with our sisters from St. Albans Episcopal Church, Yarnell Presbyterian Church, and Redeemer Lutheran Church

Join us for fellowship with our sisters from other churches.
Delicious food, games, and fun!

♥ *Happy Valentines Day* ♥

**2025 Presbyterian Women
Co-Team Mtgs.
TUESDAY'S**

**February 4, March 4, April 1
May 6, September 2,
October 7, November 4
December 2**

But Did You Die?

By Kelly Balarie

Bible Reading:

“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” – [1 Thessalonians 5:16-18](#) NIV

On the way to the grocery store, I instructed the Lord that I really needed Him to speak to me. I needed Him to speak to me about why things have been so hard and what to do...

Frankly, it’s been a beyond-hard season. I wasn’t trying to be demanding of the Lord, but I’d gone through such a deep “stripping back,” and now I was calling out. Asking Him to speak to me was one way I was doing this. The other ways tended to be griping and complaining, so I figured this was a better avenue than those. Truth is, I am still working my faith out, with fear on some days and trembling on others. It’s not always easy.

Anyway, I asked this small request of God, and hoped He would come through. In the meantime, I went into the grocery store, got my goods, and headed back to my car. As I carted my goods towards the vehicle, though, I spotted a bumper sticker.

It said, “But did you die?”

Frankly, the sticker felt a little unempathetic, in-your-face, and kind of rude, but still, it tugged at my heart.

Everything has gone wrong. But did you die?

People are not agreeing with me. But did you die?

Everything is not going my way. But did you die?

I’m not catching a break. But did you die?

I have done so much wrong. But did you die?

Those people aren’t acting how I want them to. But did you die?



The question, “But did you die” highlighted the fact that I am alive and that there is still room for thanks.

“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” ([1 Thess. 5:16-18](#))

Wow. I didn’t die. I am not dying. God kept me alive. I am at a grocery store buying food. I have food. Thank you, God. There is good in all this. Thank you, God. I rejoice in your safekeeping. I am thankful for the groceries going into my cart. I am alive! I rejoice because I may not have all the answers or all that I think I need, but you have all that, and you are keeping my life. Thank you, God.

It is not as much about me knowing everything as much as it is about me trusting God in everything, giving thanks, and doing His will. Eve, in the garden, thought she needed to know everything, and learned the knowledge of good and evil, and how did that work out for her?

We don’t always have to know – to rejoice. We don’t have to have it be the best day – to pray. We don’t have to see everything go our way – to praise. God’s will is not dependent on our circumstances, but if we do God’s will, I believe, it will work right into our circumstances.

God’s will is simple, and it works. God’s will is that we rejoice always, pray continually, and give thanks in all circumstances. We can do this! This is solid direction for the searching.

What is getting us down today? But did we die? For that, we can give thanks. There is always good reason to thank the Lord. He gives us our beating hearts and sustains our lives. All of this is a reminder that God is constantly faithful.

Intersecting Faith & Life:

How might your praise change the face of the prison you find yourself in? What might it do to you emotionally to start thanking God for the small grain of goodness you see in your life? What can you give thanks for today? What might you need to pray about? What praise can you offer to the One who loves you and who has good plans for you?



Tithes & Offerings

Month of:	General Fund	Deacons Fund	Total
January	\$16,887	\$298	\$17,185



Attendance

Month of:	In Person	Virtually
January	196	115

CONTACT THE WITNESS

Deb Berner, Editor
fpcfrontoffice@gmail.com

CONTRIBUTORS:

Deb Berner, Arleen Younkman, Pastor Jonathan, Cheryl Longshore, The Deacons, & Gail Graham

Birthdays

Tom Jacobson Feb 6
 Liz Jacobson Feb 8
 Kerri Crawford Feb 17
 Deb Berner Feb 18
 Mary Copus Feb 20
 Cheryl Longshore Feb 27



Bill Pimm Mar 4
 Jeanine Brown Mar 7
 Susie Wirsing Mar 14
 Marsha North Mar 16
 Ron Pinnell Mar 18
 Nancy Rae Mar 18
 Bill Schlecht Mar 19
 Linda Crissman Mar 20
 Vance Miller Mar 29



If we inadvertently omitted your birthday (or that of a family member) or got the wrong date, please call the Church office, or send an email to the Witness editor at fpcfrontoffice@gmail.com so that we can add your special day to our list.

Volunteers

COMMUNION SERVERS

February 2

Nancy Craig, Gail Graham, Shirley Oney, Susie Wirsing

March 2

Verne Crissman, Harriet Haggett, Wendy Quine, Debbie Wright

LITURGISTS

Feb 2: Gail Evans Feb 9: Carol Arnett

Feb 16: Susie Wirsing Feb 23: Doug Quine

Mar 2: Deborah Pinnell March 9: Dawn Gatke

Mar 16: Guy DeChellis Mar 23: Arleen Younkman

Mar 30: Wendy Quine

USHERS

Month of February thru April:

Marsha North

The Men of Faith breakfast is at 8:00 a.m., Tuesday mornings at Denny's. As the new year begins, and if you haven't already, how bout joining this fun group of guys for breakfast! They'd love to have you.

And, Ladies, this goes for you too! How bout joining this lovely group of women, if you haven't already, for breakfast? The CLEO's (Christian Ladies Eating Out) meet on the first Thursday of every month at 8:30 a.m. at Copper State Café. The company is great and their food is DELISH! They'd love to see you!

IT'S BETTER WHEN YOU'RE THERE!!



Strawberry or Apricot Bread

- 1 c. Butter
- ½ c. Sugar
- 1 tsp. Vanilla
- ¼ tsp Lemon Extract
- 4 Eggs
- 3 c. Flour
- 1 tsp. Salt
- 1 tsp. Cream of Tartar
- ½ tsp baking soda
- 1 c. Strawberry or Apricot Jam
- 1 c. Sour Cream
- 1 c. Nuts of choice (optional)

Use 2 reg bread loaf pans or 5 small ones.

Bake at 350 for 50 minutes.

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Mix together butter, applesauce, vanilla and eggs.
3. In a separate bowl, mix together flour, baking soda, cream of tartar, and salt.
4. Slowly pour dry ingredients into wet ingredients, be careful not to over stir.
5. Fold in sour cream by hand with a spatula.
6. Then mix in strawberry preserves/jam until just combined.
7. Pour into four mini greased loaf pans or 2 regular loaf pans, filling about $\frac{3}{4}$ way full.
8. Bake for 45-50 minutes (up to 60 minutes for full loaf) until a knife or toothpick is inserted and comes out clean.
9. Allow to cool, enjoy warm with a spread of preserve or butter!

February 2025

First Presbyterian Church
180 North Adams Street
Wickenburg, AZ 85390

Phone: 928-684-2836

Email: fpc.wickenburg@gmail.com

Editor Email: fpcfrontoffice@gmail.com

Prayer

God's Blessings for the Rest of the Year

christianstt.com

*Open new doors, new
opportunities for me, Lord.*

*Open my eyes that I may use
these opportunities to bring glory
to your name.*

*I trust in you Lord with all your
heart. I will not depend on my
own understanding but rather on
your mighty word.*