

# January

2025



*Ellettsville First United Methodist Church*

## *Giving Your Best*

# *Come Join Us*



Like the Magi, we can respond with our best gifts — our industry, our devotion, our very lives. We disciples are Christ’s tangible presence in the world. That same Child whose light brought such joy to the Magi now, through us, offers his mercy to every person.

Through us, every day, Christ feeds multitudes; he heals, teaches and guides countless people. Through individual volunteers and major institutions, through simple acts of kindness or worldwide coordinated efforts, the world can encounter, through the Christian community, the enduring, tangible presence of Christ.

—Michael Simone

## **All About Attitude**

“The way you say ‘representative’ to an automated system reflects the real you,” a friend told me. After we laughed at that truth, I realized *everything* I say matters. Someone is always listening, whether the words and tone are positive or negative.

Ephesians 4:29 (NLT) says our language shouldn’t be “foul or abusive” but good, helpful and encouraging. Whether I’m peaceful, hurried, joyful, empathetic, frustrated, celebrating or hurting, I can carefully choose my words (and the attitude behind them). When I’m not ready to speak wholesomely, may God shut my mouth. When a friend needs encouragement, may I listen to God’s prompting. When I need to confront, may I do so lovingly.

Changing how we think — that is, how we speak to ourselves — can be tough. But God wants to transform our reactions and motives, dispelling pride, a lack of confidence and anxiety. In this new year:

- *I’m alone* can become *God is with me*.
- *I can’t do this* can become *Anything is possible with God*.
- *I’m failing* can become *Just because I’m struggling, it doesn’t mean I’m failing*.
- *I’m not enough* can become *I’m God’s beloved child*.
- *I’m tired* can become *God will give me rest*.

Don’t stop there. Consider the concerns in your heart and let God give you new words and attitudes.

—Janna Firestone

# FEBRUARY GUEST PREACHER

Rev. PT Wilson will be substituting in the pulpit for the Sundays of February in Ned and Bob's absence.

It is an honor to welcome PT to the pulpit! He retired in July after a fantastic career in Indiana United Methodist Churches. His years of service here at Ellettsville First United Methodist Church mark one of the high points of our congregation.

It is with joy that we will welcome PT and offer our congregation the chance to be inspired by his presence and to share conversation and fellowship with him.

## STUDY OPPORTUNITY RESUMES IN JANUARY

Bob will be leading a study during these next six months of 2025.

**TUESDAYS, 3:00-4:15, ROOM 102 in the Church Basement.**

The Study Theme is a review of the Doctrine of Hell through the history of Church thought.

Some of the Questions/Issues/Ideas/Controversies to be considered are:

Origins of the Idea of Hell

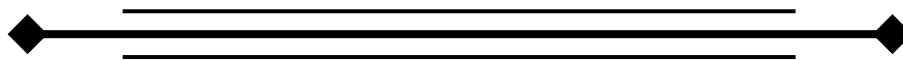
Major Theological Definitions of Hell

Geography of Hell

Outlandish Speculations about Hell

Challenges to the Idea of Hell

January Schedule      Tuesday, Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28.      3:00-4:15pm in Room 102



## Sermon Titles and Scripture Readings for Sundays in January

January 5                      “Star-Struck and Travel-Ready”  
Matthew 2: 1-12

January 12                     “A Lost Child”  
Luke 2: 41-52

January 19                    “For What Do You Live?”  
Mark 1: 14-20, 34-38

January 26                    “Angels Before Me”  
Psalm 23: 1-6





# January 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																																																																																																	
<table border="1"> <tr> <th colspan="7">December 2024</th> <th colspan="7">February 2025</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td> <td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td> <td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td> <td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> <td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td></td> </tr> </table>		December 2024							February 2025							S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7							1	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	29	30	31					23	24	25	26	27	28		<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Rogers Hall Reserved All Day (8a-5p)</p>
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# JANUARY

## Birthdays

- |                      |                                      |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 4 Linda Ostermeier   | 14 Glenn Hargitt                     |
| 5 David Willibey     | 17 Cindy Spah                        |
| 8 Kathleen Dillinger | 17 Arlie Taylor                      |
| 8 Rachel McCarty     | 19 Andrew Pennington                 |
| 11 Christina Owens   | 19 Nicole Connaughton<br>(Samuelson) |
| 12 Zach Nichols      | 21 Eva Rambo                         |
| 13 Vickie Butcher    | 25 Jimmy Qualters                    |
| 13 Marla Fry         | 30 Evan Wright                       |
| 14 Valerie DeWar     |                                      |

## Anniversaries

- 1 Russell & Cyndi Harris



## Special Dates

- New Year's Day, *January 1, 2025*
- Epiphany, *January 6, 2025*
- Baptism of the Lord, *January 12, 2025*
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day, *January 20, 2025*
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, *January 18-25, 2025*

## Secretary Needed

The church is in need of an Administrative Council Secretary. Please consider taking this position to help out the council and the church. The next meeting is January 12th.

They only meet 4 times a year, but it is imperative that this position be filled asap.

Thank you.

“Cease to inquire what the future has in store and take as a gift whatever the day brings forth.”  
—Horace (1st century B.C.)

## Christian Symbol

**NOAH'S ARK** — The image of an ark, or boat — often shown with pairs of animals — recalls the story of Noah and the “Great Flood” in Genesis. The floodwaters represent God’s judgment on sin, while the ark reminds us of his gracious power to save and redeem. In this account, Christians see a foreshadowing of our baptism into Christ: “And baptism, which [God’s rescue of Noah and his family] prefigured, now saves you ...” (1 Peter 3:21, NRSV).



## Bible Quiz

When 12-year-old Jesus stayed at the Jerusalem temple as Joseph and Mary started traveling home, after how many days did his parents find him?



- A. 1 day
- B. 2 days
- C. 3 days
- D. 7 days

Answer: C (See Luke 2:46.)



# Church Members Invited

Pack 129 would like to invite church members to bring in their old Pinewood Derby Cars to race in an Adult Open Class division. Racing would be on Sat, Jan 11 at 11 am in Rogers Hall. We would love to have them share car designs from past races with our parents!

## Missions News

The Missions Committee has chosen the Lucille Raines Residence as their Gold Can Offering for the month of January. The Lucille Raines Residence (LRR) is a 49-room residence in downtown Indianapolis offering persons in recovery their next step towards independent living. It is located in the 98-year-old former Nottingham Court Hotel.

You may remember that last year the boiler started leaking and was beyond repair. Although they had it replaced, they still need about \$1,700 to pay off the bill in full.

And as we all know, 98-year-old buildings always need something to repair. LRR already has begun to prioritize their list of improvements for 2025.

The Gold Can offering will go towards Lucille Raines' old and new improvements—all for the benefit of their residents. With these improvements, LRR can go back to what they do best—helping residents recover and work towards living independently.

Jo Anne Bowen

Missions Committee

## Chili Cook-Off Information

The Missions Committee is tentatively planning to have our annual Chili Cook-Off on Friday, February 28. I know we usually have it in January, but it is just not working out this year. So, be on the lookout for more information in the February Newsletter. It is definitely an event you don't want to miss!



Missions Committee

## Angel Tree Wrap-up



"Santa's Little Helper"

A special thanks to everyone who provided gifts for our church's Angel Tree. We helped bring a smile to the faces of 15 children of our community whose families have been struggling financially. We are all God's hand here on earth and do make a positive difference in the lives we touch.



## MENS' FELLOWSHIP SCHEDULE IN 2025

We announce a schedule for a MENS' GATHERING through the coming year.

**SECOND SATURDAY, ODD-NUMBERED MONTHS, 8:00am, ROGERS HALL**  
**JAN. 18 (Date change)** MAR. 8 MAY 10 JUL. 12 SEP. 13 NOV. 8

Breakfast will be made by a rotating staff of cooks and served at 8:00. A free will donation will cover breakfast expenses. Each gathering will include a conversation/devotion/informational time. The morning time together ends with Clean-Up! All men of the Church are invited!

