

the CONNECTION

First Baptist Church of Stilwell Newsletter



REFLECTIONS...

Welcome to 2022! I am always astounded by the movement of time. I can remember being a young child and wondering what it would be like to be a teenager. In my twenties, I tried to imagine my thirties. Now, at the end of my thirties, I wonder about my forties. Each time I look back on what I imagined and what the march of time unfolded...I am amazed. Nothing is ever as easy or romantic as my imagination paints...and yet, I can see the fingerprints of God all over the days that have passed. I see God moving and shaping, preparing and equipping, providing and withholding. Knowing that God weaves the trials and experiences of our lives forward for His good purposes, there have been moments in my life that I have said, "I don't want to know this moment in life is preparing me for..." And yet, I am constantly amazed by what God does with the growth that comes from those places.

I don't know what 2022 holds for me, and I don't know what it holds for First Baptist Stilwell...but here is what I do know. The challenges and struggles that we have faced over the last couple of years (and the years before that) have been shaping our congregation and community...the question is, are we allowing God to weave those things forward for HIS good purposes? Are we being intentional about looking for the fingerprints of God and asking God what He is pruning and what He is tending to bring about the best fruit in the days ahead?

Though the situation around us continues in chaos, though our world lingers in a state of COVID uncertainty, God is at work in and through us, and God has greater plans for us. In what ways will we work together to discern and seek those plans and ways so that we can walk in obedience to God's will? As we enter into

this new year, I continue to call our church community into a space of prayer and discernment. There will be opportunities for honest sharing, for soul-seeking, and for great big dreaming. We, *ALL of us who belong to Jesus*, are the Body of Christ, and have a role to play in the ministry of the local church. What role is God calling you to in this season of life together? What passion is God placing on your heart? If you don't know...if you don't know how to process or ask those questions...if you don't know where to begin...reach out to myself and Pastor Franklin...join us in prayer and conversation...and let's seek God together with our whole hearts!

Blessings and joy for this new year!

Pastor Jessica

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ~Romans 12:1



Links to worship with us LIVE:

- fbcastilwell.online.church
- fbcastilwell.org/worship

Worshipping with us later?

- [@FirstBaptistChurchStilwellKansas](https://facebook.com)
- fbcastilwell.org/worship
(click on the worship banner)

Would you be interested in helping host our online platform? Contact Pastor Jessica!



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1/1 Helen Angermayer
- 1/2 Linda Clark
- 1/4 Gail Dunker
- 1/5 Joyce Cranmer
- 1/6 Reed Parker
- 1/13 Carolyn Jennings
- 1/25 Angela Forster
- 1/26 Jerry Harshaw
- 1/28 Shirley Campbell
- 1/30 Ashley Richardson



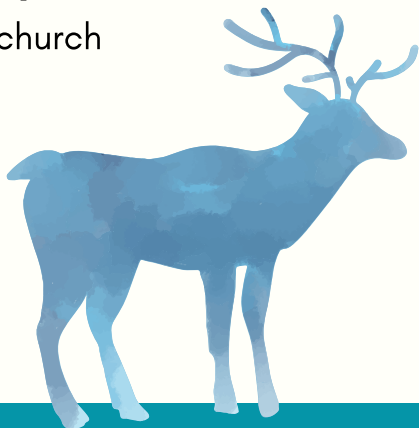
If you were missed on the birthday list, we are so sorry!
Would you let the church office know so that we can get
you added to the list!



UPCOMING EVENTS



- **Sunday, Jan. 16th** – PATH Bible Study begins after church
- **Tuesdays @ 2-4pm** – Caring Ministry Food Distribution
- **Wednesdays @ 6:30pm** – REFUGE Youth Group
- **Thursday @ 6-7pm** – Caring Ministry Food Distribution



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