

Pastor Jon Hathorn



The idea of a new year has always had two ideas in my head – one, what am I thankful for

from the previous year, and two, what am I looking forward to most about this coming year. I have a spot in my phone where I put dreams, vacation plans, and a few goals for the year.

As we enter 2024, it is important to look at and fix our life on biblical principles, as they never change. It is my prayer that the theme “In the Word and The Word in Us” would be true.

I ask God for our confidence to be in Him.

- “Do not be afraid” is all through the Christmas story.
- When the angel tells the shepherds about the birth of Jesus, the first thing he said was, “Don’t be afraid!”
- When the angel appeared to Zechariah, the first thing he said was, “Don’t be afraid.”
- To Mary: “Do not be afraid.”

- To Joseph: “Do not be afraid.” Why not? God has heard your prayer. God is with you. God has sent a Savior.

In fact, whenever God brings a message to humans in the Bible, the first words are often: “Don’t be afraid.” Especially when they’re afraid of the future.

- When Daniel sees an angel bearing an apocalyptic vision of the future.
- When the disciples are hiding in a locked room afraid of death.
- When John sees a vision of the end times.
- “Do not be afraid.”

Someone counted 365 occurrences of the phrase “fear not” in the Bible. Hey. That’s one for each day of the new year.

I grew up going to the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk several times. The first time I rode the Giant Dipper I was terrified and didn’t even breathe the entire way once we started down that first incline. After several years, the ride was fun but the fear was gone. I do look forward the clanking trip to the top, because of its sweeping

view of the bay, and then my stomach turns over a bit.

One thing I know for sure about the ride into this new year: There will be hills and drops, ups and downs, good times and bad. You hear the chains rattling ominously ahead of the drop, but no one knows what to expect once the 2024 coaster kicks in. Most of the bad things you fear now won’t happen. Most of both the bad and good will be unexpected. So why worry? Apprehension only robs you of the joy and hope you’ll need to navigate the ups and the downs.

I want us to capture gems from the Bible as we read through the entire Bible this year. Being reminded that God is always there and that He always cares is important.

I hope you are involved in reading through the Scriptures this year.

God is good,

Jon

Important to Note:

- Office Closures
- Men’s Breakfast
- New Adult Sunday School Classes
- Spiritual Growth Opportunities
- Annual Meeting

Justin Linscheid - Assistant Pastor (continued)



As we look forward to a new year, I took a fresh look at Ephesians 4:22-24 which tells us, *"throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life,*

which is corrupted by lust and deception. Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy."

What thoughts, attitudes, and practices in your life reflect your old nature rather than your new nature in Christ? As we enter a new year, I encourage you to make it a priority and commitment to pursue those habits and practices that will help cultivate Christlikeness in your life. You can count on the fact that this is the will of God for you. Perhaps you want to choose a new year's resolution. I encourage you to choose one that will help you to put on your new nature in Christ. Notice

in the verses above that the Spirit of God is with us to renew our thoughts and attitudes. We won't be able to become like God in righteousness and holiness by our own power or strength, but God Himself will enable us as we live lives of surrender to Him.

Here are a couple practices that will help you in this process of putting on your new nature.

The first is to read through the Bible every day this year. We are encouraging the entire church to read through the Bible Recap reading plan. This plan will not only help you be accountable to stay in God's Word, but it will also encourage you to converse with others who are doing the same reading plan. This plan also includes short daily videos to help you understand and apply what you read. We all know the Bible can be challenging to understand at times and it is very helpful to have a capable guide offer

interpretive insights. Contact me to get plugged in.

Secondly, consider the Sunday school offerings available for the winter Sunday school season (January 7 – March 24). The descriptions and locations are available below. These classes will not only help you grow in a knowledge of God's Word, they will get you plugged into a community of people who also desire to walk with God. We need this in our lives!

As we start a new year, may God do new and wonderful things in and through you. The verses above from Ephesians remind us that God is with us and for us in this process, but they also remind us that we have a part to play in the transformation God wants to do in us. How will you work to put off your old nature and to put on your new nature in this new year? *"The Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one."* 2 Thessalonians 3:3.

Winter Sunday School (January 7 - March 24)

Financial Peace University is a class that teaches you how to save for emergencies, pay off debt fast, spend wisely, and invest for your future. Learn how to manage your money God's way and discover financial peace and freedom. Led by: Scott & Jody Graham . . . Meets in the Fireside Room

Psalms 119 is called the most perfect Psalm. It is the longest chapter in the Bible, containing 22 meditations of 8 verses each. Each meditation begins with a letter of

the Hebrew alphabet. It is a chapter of praise for God revealing Himself through His Word. Come study this chapter in depth and grow in your love for God and His Word. In the midst of our fickle and inconsistent living, we find in this chapter fresh medicine to help us walk with God in our journey through life.

Led by: Fred Jantz Meets in Agape Hall

Grace Marriage: When couples intentionally invest time, energy, and creativity into their marriage, their

relationship moves from stagnant to life-giving. Grace Marriage will help you enrich, protect, and grow your marriage in a way that will make a generational impact. This class equips husbands and wives to build marriages that reflect the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and ultimately, the heart of God.

Led by: Bill & Merrilee Chapman and Tyler & Terri Solt
Meets in Activity Center Rm A2

Help Is Here: God has provided heaven-sent help to walk with you,

(Continued next page)

The Bi-Monthly Newsletter of Lincoln Presbyterian Church

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Jenelle Maloy, Director of Children's & Family Ministries

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Harry Ulep, Director of Student Ministries
Tom BetGeorge, Director of Music/Worship Leader
Cheryl Pannabecker, Office Manager

Winter Sunday School (January 7 - March 24) continued

guide you, and shoulder the load. Someone who never gets tired. Someone who is strong and powerful. Someone who is unhindered by what hinders us. Someone who is always nearby. No more walking this path alone. No more carrying weight you were not intended to bear. It's time for you to enjoy the

presence of the Holy Spirit and experience the vigorous life He offers. You can rest easy knowing that Help Is Here. Led by: Char Yurkovic Meets in Activity Center Room A4

The Power of Knowing God: Get to know God as He really is. Your connection with God can be so much more than going to church, reading

the Bible, and attending study groups. Using in-depth scriptural studies alongside stories from his own life, Dr. Tony Evans will equip you with the tools you need for pursuing an authentic and life-transforming relationship with your Savior. Led by: Lise Karnes Meets in Activity Center Room A3

Director of Student Ministries - Harry Ulep



Can you believe it's January already? The start of a new year has begun with the feeling that the past year just flew right by. I want to take this opportunity

to acknowledge our faithful volunteers that have helped make our youth ministry run so smoothly. From the week to week, youth group commitment to being available for events and camps, our volunteers play such an important role in building relationships with the students, creating a fun and safe environment within our program, and seeing that discipleship and growth take place. To anyone who has or is currently serving within the youth ministry, I am grateful for your heart, your faithfulness to the ministry, and desire to pour into each of the students' lives.

We ended our year with a series called "Lights, Camera, Christmas", placing our focus on the real reason for the season instead of the gifts, the busyness, and some of the usual celebrations we can get lost in. We got to celebrate our last youth groups sharing in laughter, excitement, games, food, and fellowship. We also got the chance to have a gift-wrapping fundraiser to support our youth going to winter camp. It was a great way to see students get involved, meet some of our congregation, and raise money for camp. Our hope is to carry the same heart of service and worship into the new year as we seek to have messages of spiritual formation, some apologetics, and doing some book studies along the way. We want to see the students continue to take ownership of their faith, place Christ at the center of their lives, and



continue to grow in their relationship with Him.

Wednesday Night programs will resume on Wednesday, January 10th and Sunday Night Program for High Schoolers will resume on Sunday, January 14th. We are looking forward to all of the great things God has in store for the youth ministry in the coming year. Along with that, Hume Lake Winter Camp registration is still open! We are going from February 2nd-4th and want to see every Jr High-er and High Schooler join us for this incredible weekend of fun and worshipping God in the mountains. Contact me at Harry@lincolnpres.org or 209-373-8883 to sign up or for more information!



Children's & Family Ministries - Jenelle Maloy



What an exciting time to transition into my new role at LPC! Coming into the position during a whirlwind season of

the year allowed me to see Christ's strength in my weakness. God is so good all the time and it's increased my joy seeing Him lead the way during this change.

Like always, Trunk or Treat was a hit! There were smiles everywhere at that event as over a thousand people in the community came together on LPC campus to play trunk games, get candy, and hang out while enjoying food.

LPC, our volunteers, and I were SO proud of the kids Christmas program. Watching over two dozen of our kids worship God with songs warms the heart. Our kids are the future of the church and it's a goal to equip them with biblical knowledge and a firm foundation in Christ.

Church family ice skating was an incredible way to end 2023! Over 100 people came to skate, eat Christmasy treats, and have fun fellowship as we skated together. What a joy to see so many smiles, hear laughter, and watch families come together to just have fun.

This winter and spring, the Children's and Family ministry will partner with the Community commission and the Youth ministry to provide a family dinner on the first Wednesday of each month. Those dates are **January 10th, February 7th, March 6th, April 3rd, and May 1st at 6:00 pm**. The goal is family unity. Not just as a church body, but with individual family units. We will eat together and then have families do a short devotion together, and then everyone will come together and participate in a Bible verse relay. Harry and I look forward to these nights of family fun and bonding!

Children and Families will have



serving opportunities this spring. Collectively we will be collecting household items and toiletries for local families in need. Stay tuned for more details...

Also, we have a family camp at the end of May, VBS is taking place early June, and a kids camp in July. Please visit our website for more information and to check when sign ups take place at lincolnpres.org/kids

Lastly, to join our weekly email list that shares updates about on campus happenings and events, please subscribe to our email list (<https://lincolnpres.org/resources/newsletter/> then scroll down to Subscribe).

Looking forward to a fantastic 2024 with you and your kids!

Blessings,

Jenelle Maloy



Treasurer's Report - Carol Bedell - October/November 2023

October/November Financial Report

Operating Fund:	<u>October</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>% of Annual Budget</u>
Income	\$74,061	\$675,017	81%
Expense	<u>\$58,786</u>	<u>\$624,471</u>	75%
Net	\$15,275	\$50,546	

At the end of October we are 83% through the budget year, have received 81% of expected income and are close to our target for the year. We have only expended 75% of projected expenses, leaving us a positive balance of \$50,546.

We were able to pay off the building loan in October using contributions of \$2,094.42, reserves of \$21,816.03 held by CIF, and reserves of \$25,000 held by LPC. Congratulations to everyone who contributed to this effort as we paid for our building in record time. Praise to God who enabled us to do this. We appreciate your continued faithfulness and dedication to God's work.

At the conclusion of the building loan payment, the Session voted to close out the Building Fund and establish a new Restricted Fund entitled Future Capital Projects. This fund is designed to hold contributions for future projects such as landscaping and fencing around the retention pond and sound reduction in both Agape Hall and the Activity Center. The Session will determine how these funds are to be spent. You may want to contribute to this fund or increase your giving to tithes and offerings for the main church budget.

Operating Fund:	<u>November</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>% of Annual Budget</u>
Income	\$65,265	\$740,312	89%
Expense	<u>\$96,216</u>	<u>\$725,805</u>	87%
Net	\$(30,951)	\$14,507	

We ended November \$30,951 in the deficit primarily because we paid our yearly property tax bills and an unexpected heating and air conditioning bill. After 92% of the budget year we have received 89% of the projected budget and expended 87%.

Again, if you have been contributing to the Building Fund, you may want to redirect those funds to tithes and offerings in 2024 as we have some increased proposed expenditures in 2024, or to Future Capital Projects. Thank you for your continued support of LPC.



Giving Statements

In January, we will be emailing annual giving statements to those for whom we have email addresses on file. If you have changed your email

address this year and have not yet notified us, please contact the office at:

office@lincolnpres.org

with your current information.

All other statements will be snail-mailed.





Dinners for Eight provides a relaxing environment in which to get to know other members and visitors of Lincoln Presbyterian Church. We encourage you to take this opportunity to use this program as an outreach to invite others to join

your group. The more the merrier! Your group may decide to meet for breakfast, lunch, dinner, or just dessert. You can plan a potluck meal in a private home, meet in a restaurant, a backyard Bar-B-Que, picnic in a park, have a pizza night, or maybe stage an ice cream fest.

Dinners For Eight is casual, relaxed, flexible, and fun. If you enjoy good

food and friendly conversation, then this is a perfect opportunity for you to make new friends.

New groups now forming. Sign up forms are available in the Narthex. Should you have any questions, please call:

Jim (471-0473) or

Wethera (471-1405) Duncan

Deacon Message



As we transition into a new year, we want to welcome our new deacons and thank our outgoing deacons for their service. Retiring Deacons: Heidi Fedor, Jon Asis, Rebecca Severin, Judy Borth, Betty Crecelius, Bob Ramirez, and Norma

Yamaguchi.

Incoming Deacons:

Char Yurkovic, Rick Robbins, Pam Dunn, Lorna Crooks, Karen Gantt, Wethera Duncan, Nancy Oberholtzer, Beverly Fertig, and Barbara Hungerford.

Our deacon ministry loves being able to care, encourage, serve, and pray for our cluster members. Please let your deacon know how they can partner in prayer with you.

Directory Updates



Betty MacRae
3318 Brookside Rd #226
95219

Dave Blicharz
micah6_8@myyahoo.com

Mike & Star Heer
Home: 475-8081

Flowers



If you have signed up for flowers, you will need to call the florist on Monday to place your order using a debit or credit card, or you may go to the florist to pay by cash or check. Arrangements are \$55.

Charter Way Florist
5620 N. Pershing Ave
956-9087

January Flowers

7 Jesse Morones &
Debra Shull

February Flowers

14 Jesse Morones &
Debra Shull

January/February Calendar

Sundays:

Sunday Worship - 8:15am & 10:45am
Live-stream service on YouTube @ 8:15am
Sunday School - all ages @ 9:30am
High School @ 6pm

Mondays:

Hula for Health @ 5:30pm

Tuesdays:

Women's Bible Study @ 9:30am (resumes late January)
Quilting @ 12pm
Young Adults @ 6pm
Men's Basketball @ 6:30pm

Wednesdays:

Retired Guys Study @ 9:30am
Kids & Jr High @ 6-7:15pm
Adult Bible Study @ 6-7:15pm

Thursdays:

Pickleball @ 6-8:30pm
Men's Bible Study @ 6:30pm

Dates to Remember:

January 1 Office Closed
January 10 Family dinner
January 15 Office Closed
January 17 ANNUAL REPORT DEADLINE
January 18 Food for You
January 20 Deacon Retreat
January 26 Session Retreat

Feb. 2-4 Youth Winter Camp
February 3 Men's Breakfast
February 7 Family dinner
February 14 Ash Wednesday Service
February 15 Food for You
February 19 Office Closed
February 25 Annual Meeting

Scan here to subscribe to any of our emails:



Annual Meeting

The **Annual Congregational Meeting** and lunch will be on Sunday, February 25, 2022, immediately following 2nd service. The 2023 Annual Report will be available by February 18th.



January Birthdays

1 Barbara Head	11 Marie Cottman	27 Rachel Kudla
5 Barbara George	Amy Bailey	28 Cassie Spalding
7 Craig Barker	15 Margaret Chau	29 Fred Jantz
Robbie Richardson	20 Michael Gotschall	30 John French
8 Kirk Reynolds	John Sharpe	Bill Hill
9 Mary Kaye Moore	24 Julie Colyer	Ingrid Best
10 John Doisy	Bill Costanza	31 Jody Graham
11 Jonathen Bacaylan	26 Jason Hill	



February Birthdays

4 Pam Dunn	10 James Lavender	20 Irene Jackson
5 Mark Gantt	11 Blake Lamie	Dale Hill
6 Beth Doe	Marge Ramirez	25 Gary Vermillion
7 Dave Hey	13 Sherrie Kudla	26 Allison Fedor
8 Jon Hathorn	16 Harry Ulep	Grace Ferguson
9 Prilla McGregor	18 Sharon Olney	
Daniel Bates		

Lincoln Presbyterian Church

900 Douglas Road
Stockton, California 95207

Address Service Requested

We're on the Web at:

www.lincolnpres.org

**January/February
2024**

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 8:30am - 4:30pm, closed 12-1pm
Friday 8:30am-Noon

**LIFE @ LINCOLN DEADLINE
February 15**

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Lincoln Presbyterian Church



@lincolnpresbyterian



LincolnPresbyterianChurch

Lincoln's Mission:

*To know and love God, to know and love people,
and bring the two together through Jesus Christ.*

Sunday Sermons

"IN THE WORD AND THE WORD IN US." That's our 2024 theme as a church. There are more copies of the Bible than any other book in the world, but that doesn't make it the Word of God. It just shows that man has interest in Spiritual Truth. It is our desire for us to be in the Bible and the Bible to be in us. So our January theme falls strongly on Key Elements of the Bible.

Jan 7 - Pastor Fred "The Bible Theme - Redemption"

Jan 14 - Pastor Justin "How the Bible is Helpful and What It Does For Us"

Jan 21 - Dr. David Nystrom - "The Relevance and Reliability of the Scriptures"

Jan 28 - Pastor Justin - "The Power of the Word of God"

February - There are several key institutions that God has established and we will be taking a look at them each week. The Bible is a guidebook for life.

Feb. 4 - "The Institution of Marriage"

Feb. 11 - "The Institution of the Family"

Feb. 18 - "The Institution of the Government"

Feb. 25 - "The Institution of the Church"

****One of our missionaries, Ralph Drollinger of Capitol Ministries, has provided great resources for this series. Thank you Ralph.**