

First Presbyterian Church

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Grace and Peace!

New Years Day is just a couple of days away, and the next time we worship in the sanctuary, it will be 2021. I don't know that anyone will miss 2020 all that much. There were blessings in the year, however, and I encourage you to count them, (name them one by one!) when you have a minute to reflect.

This Sunday in worship, we will be reading from the first chapter of John's Gospel. I would also encourage you to read that chapter some time this week. It will be hard to read those words and not come away with the idea that there is a God who cares about us. After all, God went to what seems to be a lot of trouble to come to us, as one of us, out of love.

But we will also remember that on January 6 the church will recognize Epiphany—the day that Jesus was revealed to the Gentiles (non-Jews). This is a day we often forget about, because it usually does not fall on a Sunday, so we are not together when it comes. But Christ's first revelation to the Gentiles came in the arrival of the three wise men (or astronomers) who came to visit the young Jesus. And as we know, Herod tried to trick the men into finding Jesus, and telling him where the child was, but they knew better, because of a dream. So, after taking gifts to Jesus, instead of returning to Herod with the information he sought, they went home by another way.

People who have been exposed to Jesus and his word and his love have often found themselves going by another way since then. And may we always have the courage and the faith to continue to do so in the coming year.

Blessings,

Brian Jones