

January — March, 2020



# THE MESSENGER

Dear Friends,

It's time for New Year resolutions again, and I have to admit, I'm not a fan. We start out with the best intentions, of course, and then, somewhere along the way, we just give up.

I wonder if part of the problem is that so many of our resolutions have to do with stopping, or quitting, or giving up. "I'm going to stop eating sweets now that the Holidays are over," we say, but then there's a birthday dinner, a covered dish supper, or a visit to a friend's house and you can't say no, and there goes that resolution.

So, here's is something different to think about: What if we made our resolutions deal with positive action to do God's work in the world? What if instead of resolving to lose weight this year, we resolve to take the money we waste on junk food and gave it to charities that feed the hungry. What if instead of resolving to get more exercise this year, we resolve to exercise some spiritual muscles and adopt spiritual practices such as prayer, bible study, or working with a worthy charity. What if instead of resolving to spend less time in front of the TV, we resolve to reach out to those who are lonely, lost and afraid? What if our resolutions were focused on doing God's work in the world, and sharing the love of God in Christ to transform the world?

A fresh New Year lies unblemished before us. What do we resolve to be in that New Year, and for the rest of our lives?

Yours in Christ,

John Pruitt

## CHURCH INFORMATION

First Presbyterian Church  
611 Oakhurst Street  
Kernersville, NC 27284

Office: (336) 993-7358  
Fax: (336) 993-5526  
www.fpckernersville.org

Rev. John Pruitt  
Minister

Ms. Jane Johnson  
Church Secretary

### Services:

The Gathering — 6:00 p.m.  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday each month)

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.



## Birthdays

### January

1 Jean Nitkin  
1 LeRoy (Skip) Smith  
2 Diana Chaplin  
6 Barb Hall  
8 Lucille Dillon  
24 Bradin Routh  
29 Jeanne Murray

### February

1 Chandler Forrest  
2 Jim Ingram  
9 John Pruitt  
19 Anne Waddell  
21 Joan Mandzik  
24 Lorna Foster  
25 George Murray

### March

1 Rita Barger  
5 Bernie Krecklow  
14 Ginger Clark  
28 Faye Hodges  
30 Hamp Langdon

*If your birthday is missing or incorrect, please contact the church office. Thank you.*

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## Anniversaries

### January

19 Floyd & Konnie Conrad  
22 Kerry & Ruth Kerr  
30 Scott & Lynne Forrest

### February

16 George & Jeanne Murray

### March

2 Norman & Lynda Self

*If your anniversary is missing or incorrect, please contact the church office. Thank you.*

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## First Presbyterian Church Session Members

### Class of 2019

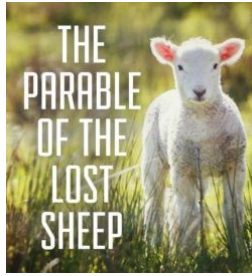
Lorna Foster  
Lynda Self

### Class of 2020

Sam Henderson  
Rich Tincher

### Class of 2021

Kerry Kerr  
Rusty Sudderth



# The Parable of the Lost Sheep

*by Mike Southern*

He was just a young boy, only a child really,  
but his father had finally told him  
he was big enough to tend the sheep.  
He was so excited!

As long as he could remember  
he had wanted to be a shepherd,  
to watch the sheep  
and keep them from harm.  
It was an important job  
and his father wouldn't give it to just anyone!  
He promised to do his job well.

But now the day was nearly over;  
darkness was coming and he needed  
to keep the sheep together  
so the wolves wouldn't get them.  
He counted them all, all one hundred of them—

**WAIT! ONE WAS MISSING!**

What should he do? What should he do?  
He could hear a wolf in the distance...  
and that made his decision for him.  
He gathered the ninety-nine sheep together,  
picked up his shepherd's staff  
and set off to search the countryside.  
The young shepherd circled around,  
wandering the hills, climbing over rocks and fallen trees,  
and checking for dangerous places  
where a lamb might get trapped.

And though the darkness came  
he kept searching until at last  
he heard the faint cry of his lost sheep.  
When he heard the sound he was overjoyed  
and ran to the place where the little sheep was.  
He made calming noises until the little sheep relaxed,  
then he laid it across his shoulders  
and carried it back to the other ninety-nine.  
And when it was safe and sound with the other sheep,  
he cared for that little sheep  
as if it were the most important sheep in the flock.

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The Parable of the Lost Sheep is recorded in both Matthew 18:12-13 and Luke 15:3-6. But the verses around the parable — Matthew 18:10-14 and Luke 15:1-7 — give us a good idea what Jesus was really talking about.

# Worship Service Schedules

## January 2020

### Greeters/Ushers

5 Norman Self  
Lynda Self  
12 *Comm* Priscilla Henderson  
Faye Hodges  
19 Rich Tincher  
Bernie Krecklow  
26 Faye Hodges

### Lay Reader

5 Rusty Sudderth  
12 *Comm* Millie Vernon  
19 Jean Nitkin  
26 Dottie Roudabush

### Element Preparation

12 *Comm* Priscilla Henderson  
Nancy Bolen

### Assisting Elders

12 *Comm* Nancy Sharp  
Kae Mattingly  
Kerry Kerr  
Rusty Sudderth

## February 2020

### Greeters/Ushers

2 Mike Polinsky  
Darcy Polinsky  
9 *Comm* Priscilla Henderson  
Lorna foster  
16 Anne Waddell  
Lynda Self  
23 Bernie Krecklow  
Rusty Sudderth

### Lay Reader

2 John Mills  
9 *Comm* Dottie Roudabush  
16 Kitty Thach  
23 Donna Myers

### Element Preparation

9 *Comm* Priscilla Henderson  
Lynda Self

### Assisting Elders

9 *Comm* Priscilla Henderson  
Lynda Self  
Nancy Sharp  
Rusty Sudderth  
Lorna Foster

## March 2020

### Greeters/Ushers

1 Millie Vernon  
Priscilla Henderson  
8 *Comm* Mike Polinsky  
Darcy Polinsky  
15 Priscilla Henderson  
Lorna Foster  
22 Lynda Self  
Anne Waddell  
29 Bernie Krecklow  
Rusty Sudderth

### Lay Reader

1 Dee Barham  
8 *Comm* Nancy Bolen  
15 Millie Vernon  
22 Rusty Sudderth  
29 Kerry Kerr

### Element Preparation

8 *Comm* Bernie Krecklow  
Nancy Bolen

### Assisting Elders

8 *Comm* Anne Waddell  
Millie Vernon  
Kerry Kerr  
Priscilla Henderson  
Rich Tincher