



Message from Pastor Bill Vincent

At some time or another, we all want a second chance ... because of opportunities blown, foolish things we have done, decisions we wish we would have made differently. We'd like to start over, have a second chance, start with a clean slate.

Unfortunately, we cannot go back and re-live our history. Often many of the consequences of our actions are beyond the reach of our influence, though possibly we can temper their effects.

Still, we hope to have a second chance.

So we say "Good-bye" to the 'old' 2023 and "Hello" to the 'newborn' 2024. We resolve to change and do things differently – or at least some things. And we hope that some of the wisdom of 'Old Man' '23 will be transplanted into 'Infant' '24.

The woman had been caught in the act, so the story goes: caught doing a despicable thing according to the law of the people. So they brought her to Jesus to ask him what they should do. And after they had all begrudgingly left the scene – admitting in a way that they, too, were not without fault – Jesus said to her, *“Neither do I condemn you. Go, and sin no more.”* (John 8:11)

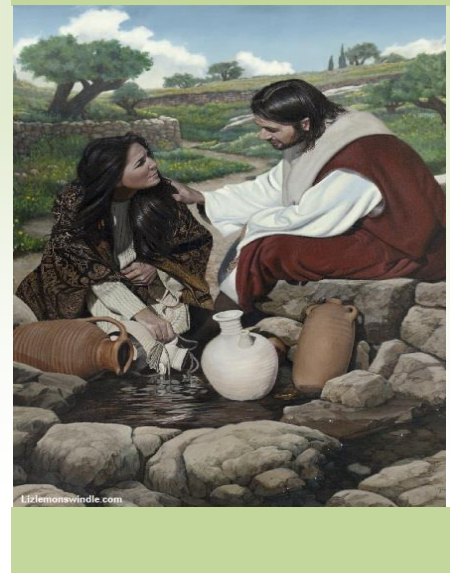
A second chance. A clean slate. Forgiveness.

Go, and do your best, not your second best. Resolve to live faithfully, lovingly, respectfully, peacefully. Go, and start anew: a fresh start, a new beginning. Carry with you the wisdom of past mistakes and lessons learned from painful, embarrassing experience, and resolve to do better ... and better ... and better.

“Neither do I condemn you,” he said, “Go, and sin no more.”

Go, in peace, into the new year...and beyond.

*Peace in Christ,
Bill Vincent*



Happy New Year
2024

SAVE THE DATE:

We will be removing the tree and other decorations from the Sanctuary on **January 7** following the Worship Service. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

The Annual Congregational Meeting has been called for **Sunday, January 28th**, (February 4th in case of inclement weather) immediately following worship, for the purpose of hearing and receiving the Annual Reports.

Presbyterian Women:

The Presbyterian Women will meet on Friday, January 26, 2024, at Church. The Hostesses will be determined.

The yearly Dues of \$36.00 will be collected.

If anyone has Thank Offering contributions, this will also be dedicated.

The Bible Study will be Lesson 2.

Thank You!

Dear Church Family:
Thank you for our Christmas gift...and the kind words! We'll use the money for something special and think of you when we do. We are blessed to be among you!

Pastor Bill



Worshiping and serving God, loving, and accepting all

**A reminder:**

Prayer concerns can be shared with me via email or phone before worship (preferably by Saturday evening); or you can write them down (legibly, please) on a piece of paper and place them in the basket that will be located near the entrance to the sanctuary.

Pastor Bill

Sunday Worship service will be Streaming live on Facebook on Sunday at 9:00 am. The bulletin will also be available on Facebook and the church website (www.unionfirstpresby.org), posted by 8 am Sunday morning.

Link to Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/firstPresbyterianChurchUnion/>

Bulletin can be found here: <http://www.unionfirstpresby.org/church-bulletins/>