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Prairie Breeze
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Making Room at Advent.

By Rev. Dr. Kathy Pickett

" And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn

(Luke 2:7)

What are we making room for? And, do we make room for the right things? Leading up to advent, I heard various friends and family express the need from more room. Room to breathe, room to rest, room for time, room for all their stuff, and making more room before Christmas adds to our already busy and cluttered lives. One friend shared she would be using a Scandinavian approach such as, "Lagom: Just enough!" This room making method focuses on moderation, minimalism, and only keeping useful items.

Another friend is processing her 70th birthday and closing in on retirement. As she shared how tired she was and that she really couldn't continue in her position, she also talked about how hard it was to let go. She loved so many things about her work and relationships. She was struggling to make room for shifts and changes needing to be made.



I listened to a podcast about making room for voices to be heard. A young privileged woman was expressing how she was using her voice and position in life to speak out on behalf of women who have no room to share their voices. Her past experiences made her aware of the very little space women have to seek justice when they have been abused. She said, 'they do not have the funds available to defend themselves when they have been exploited.'

Sometimes we need to make room for others. To create enough space that we are more aware of the challenges people face. Most important, in order to create healthy room for whatever is needed, is to make room for God. To actively be making space for 'God with us', to enter in.

Bette Dickinson, in her advent devotional book, Making Room in Advent, say on the back of her book, "The Christmas season can feel frantic, but it doesn't have to be. What if we stopped and listened to the unfolding of God's plan around us" What if we let Advent move us from the "chaos and into the space where God is at work. To reflect, and to make room for God's work in our lives, the community, and the world."

Join me this season in exploring ways to make room for God to enter in. - Kathy

PBC ANNUAL MEETING

JANUARY 31, 2027

Be sure to mark your calendars for the upcoming Annual Meeting!

We will vote on the 2027 budget and review the year ahead.

Jeremiah 29: 11, "For I know the plans I have for you…"

If you are the head of a group or team, please submit your annual report to the Office by email on or before January 8th!





Christmas Eve at Prairie

A worship service for Friends and Families. All wiggly children and babies welcomed in worship too! Join us for a worship service filled with music, the reading of the word, the lighting of candles, and the celebration of Jesus' birth. Children will receive their annual Christmas ornament and we will sing in the round, Silent Night.
Everyone is welcome.

Music Ministry Opportunities

Advent Choir and Handbell dates will begin Wednesday rehearsals on December 2.

Handbells will meet at 6:30pm.

The Choir will meet in the Sanctuary at 7:30 p.m.

Each Wednesday rehearsal corresponds with the following Sunday to perform

We hope you join us!

January 2027 Choir Dates have also been scheduled →

And a Hymn Sing with Asbury UMC is tentatively scheduled for February 28, 2027.



Volunteer Opportunities at PBC

January is Epiphany Season

Epiphany launches the new year with spiritual renewal, deeper faith, and God's surprising direction. Like the wise men following the star, we are invited to listen, discern, and offer our gifts in service to our church and community.

Annual Meeting & Ministry Fair: Sunday, January 3. Join us around the table for lunch, our annual meeting, and a chance to explore how you can plug into the life of our church. Whether you want to launch something new or support an ongoing ministry, your gifts are needed!

Have a skill or passion you'd like to share? You can lead a short-term class, group, or event - from art, knitting, sewing, or cooking, to yoga, finances, music, Bible study, or Saturday morning coffee and playtime.

- **How it works:** You organize and lead the offering while Prairie staff helps you plan and launch. Participant fees cover supplies, building use, and any instructor costs.

Support Ongoing Ministries We also have immediate volunteer needs across the church:

- **Worship & Music:** Children's Time messages, scripture reading, prayer, testimonies, Choir, Communion, Tech Booth.
- **Discipleship:** Adult and Children's Sunday School teachers (including summer help) and small group leaders.
- **Missions:** Missionary communication, ABCUSA/International Ministries, or volunteering with Bethel Neighborhood, MORE2, Asbury Food Pantry, and PECC.
- **Building & Grounds:** Handy work, assembling equipment, grounds beautification, and deep cleaning (windows, carpets, dusting).

Ready to explore an idea or get involved? Contact Pastor Kathy Pickett to get started!

Prayer Concerns:

Alto: Vera Aurand;

Avenue 81: Kay Lopez;

Delmar Gardens Lenexa: Bob and Marilyn Shaw;

Rosewood Place: Nadine Clawson;

Tallgrass Assisted Living: Jim and Dottie McCrossen, Dianne Shumaker;

The Village at Mission: Ken Cook;

Westchester Village of Lenexa: Maxine Cook.

Our College Students, Youth, and Teachers.

The next Breeze deadline is Wednesday, February 17, 2027, Noon.
Please send your information to office@prairiebaptist.org.

2027 Worship Help

Would you like to take a more active role in Sunday worship in the new year, reading scripture or sharing with our children?

Sign up on this spreadsheet:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1_fFr_Aoh9NYNviAielH75bbeSjnAjtMviGJ_OjlvhJI/edit?usp=sharing

If you sign up for scripture reading, please also let us know if you'd be willing to share announcements at the beginning of the service using the Yes/No drop-down menu.

If you have any trouble with the spreadsheet, please email Kathy (kathy@prairiebaptist.org) with the dates you'd like to participate.



December Birthdays:

December 3	Joe Herman
December 13	Colleen Templer
December 18	Abby Grummon
December 23	Sara Gardner
December 24	Sky Stannard
December 25	Paul Grizzle
December 28	Jon Dedon
	Rebecca Wilson

January Birthdays:

January 1	Bruce Morgan
	Lisa Templer
January 6	Phoenix Williams
January 8	Charlotte Chuning
January 11	Hazel Nash
	Amy Hallin
January 16	Luca Lloyd-Rosell
January 21	Ron Stagner
January 24	Glory Obi
January 25	Linda Sunquist
January 26	Miranda Grummon

February Birthdays:

February 1	Chimsom Obi
February 2	Jeanne Grizzle
	Orady Thomson
February 3	Ken Heitland
February 4	Zach Greer
February 11	Tochukwu Obi
February 15	Elizabeth O'Rourke
February 18	Dottie McCrossen
February 23	Kay Lopez
February 27	Sherry Webb

Youth Update

PBY has had a busy Fall semester! Our students have had the chance to have some fun Go Karting, built their skills for climbing at camp this summer at RoKC, competed in our Chili Cook Off, and shopped for the Bethel Christmas Shop.

They are looking forward to going Caroling at the start of December, their annual Christmas party at the end of the month, and are already starting to plot out themes for the Annual Cake Auction – coming March 7, 2027!







Winter Weather Reminder

As winter arrives, church events may be canceled due to inclement weather. If it's best for everyone to stay home, we'll decide by 6:30 a.m. and inform all staff. Cancellations are communicated via email, Facebook, Sunday school teachers, choir, and other group leaders, as well as TV channels 4, 5, 9, and 41. Do NOT check the website as it takes too long to update. If there's more than 3 inches of snow or ice, assume we will be closed—but always make the safest choice for you.

During the week, the Office and PECC will close if Shawnee Mission School District (USD 512) is closed; however, staff will be available remotely via email.



Stewardship Pledging | Budget Season Update

Thank you for the ways you have remained faithful throughout 2026 with your financial gifts. We are currently in the black with all missions and ministry needs paid. On behalf of the finance team and our staff, thank you for all the many generous ways you support PBC and PECC. If you need to catch up on promises made, or have a special gift to offer for 2026, the deadline is December 31 to get it in.

We are diligently working to prepare the 2027 budget. The results of the stewardship season and focus are great. We know there are a few of you who still want to turn a pledge card in, but have been challenged to do so. It would be helpful if you would call Jill Pruett or Gary Hamilton and let them know what you plan to give.

I am grateful for your faithfulness, generosity, and ministry of serving. I look forward with hope to a new year of being the body of Christ with you. Kathy & The Finance Team

Church Thank Yous!

Thank you so much for your kindness and support throughout this year. We, your Prairie Baptist Staff, are grateful for your ongoing support and love throughout the year. It is wonderful to serve in ministry and missional partnership with you. Here's to another hope filled year in 2027!

- Amy, Becky, Kathy, Melody, Rachel, Regan, and Sara

We are so grateful for the love and care you have shown us through meals and meal gift cards while Jessica recovers from hip surgery. The surgery was more extensive than the doctors anticipated and so recovery is tougher and longer but we have been nourished and sustained by your meals which have helped us tremendously.

- Gratefully: Jessica, Justin, Phoenix, and Xander Williams

As we approach the end of the year, I want to thank you for your *continued* generosity and partnership with International Ministries. Your support helps make a lasting difference in the lives of people and communities around the world.

Your generosity allows us to share the hope of Christ, build relationships, and support the ministries and global partners, who are creating meaningful change.

Thank you for being part of the International Ministries family. We are grateful for your continued support and the difference that you make!

- Blessings, Terry Tolbert
  Mission Stewardship Manager (IM)

Thank you all for the love and support as we get ready to welcome Baby Henry into the world! We are so fortunate to have such a supportive church family around us. We will miss you all for Advent but will be ready to come back by Lent! Thank you again,

- Regan, Michael, and Jasper Jones



Upcoming Office Dates

12/22-23 – Office working remotely*

12/25 – Office Closed - Christmas

12/29-30 – Office working remotely*

1/1 – Office Closed – New Years

1/18 – Office Closed – MLK Day

2/15 – Office Closed – Presidents Day

*When the office is working remotely, please reach out via email at office@prairiebaptist.org or to Pastor Kathy via her cell line.



RETIRED MINISTERS & MISSIONARIES OFFERING

Be the Light for Those Who've Served

Following God's call often comes with sacrifice. Many retired ministers, missionaries, and widowed spouses have served faithfully for decades, yet they may face life's later seasons without the resources they need whether it's coping with health challenges, the loss of a spouse, or the loneliness that can come with isolation.

These are the people who have been a light in moments of joy, grief, uncertainty, and hope, praying with us, guiding us through Scripture, walking beside our families, and reminding us of God's presence; missionaries who served where we could not; and faithful leaders whose dedication helped shape American Baptist Churches USA into the vibrant community it is today.

Your offering is more than a donation; it is a heartfelt expression of love and gratitude. It helps provide emergency assistance and a "Thank You" check to those who have devoted 15 or more years of their lives to God's service. Each time a check is received, it's more than financial support, it's a reminder that they are still part of a loving church family that sees them, remembers them, and honors their service.

During the month of December, we are focusing on our Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering. **YOU MAY MAKE YOUR GIFT TO THIS OFFERING BY WRITING YOUR CHECK TO: "PRAIRIE BAPTIST CHURCH", MARKED "RMMO" IN THE MEMO LINE.**

Lent 2027

February 2027, seems far away, but as we say in the office, it will be here in a minute. This is one of those years when Ash Wednesday, Lent, Death and Resurrection all come early.

We will begin the season with a Taize' Ash Wednesday service on February 10, 2027, in the evening (time and location will be published as we get closer). Together we will pray, sing, and receive the imposition of ashes as a mark of our faith and solidarity with Jesus.

As we journey through the 40 days and 6 Sundays of Lent we will follow, "Tell Me Something Good: Grounding Ourselves in the Good News This Lent" by Sanctified Art.

From the creators at Sanctified Art:

> "Lent was originally a season for new converts to learn and prepare for their baptism on Easter. During that time, they would study what was central to Christianity. As we crafted this series, we studied what was central to Jesus' life and ministry: radical welcome, love for neighbor, care for the vulnerable, nourishment for the hungry, nonviolence in the face of injustice. At the heart of Jesus' teachings, we find liberation, love, mercy, and grace—all of which are meant to be very good news for us all.
>
> Jesus' ministry can be described as "radical" which comes from the Latin word "radicalis," meaning "root" or "ground." Therefore, the good news should bring us back to our roots. Emulating Jesus and embodying his teachings should ground us in who God created us to be. Can we be "good news" people in a world too often burdened by bad news?
>
> This Lent, let us remember that the good news really is *good news*."

Devotional guides will be made available as we approach the season.

Look for Holy Week services, Palm Sunday, and Easter (March 28) special events in Spring Breeze at the end of February.



Upcoming Calendar Dates

For a Full List of Calendar Dates, see the Google Calendar Link in the Get Connected Weekly Email or reach out to office@prairiebaptist.org to request a copy.

December:

- 12/4 – Ruth Noren Celebration of Life
- 12/4 – Handbell Concert at Prairie
- 12/4 – Med Arts Symphony and Chorus Concert
- 12/5 – Gloria Nixon Celebration of Life
- 12/6 – Cookie Fellowship after Worship
- 12/6 – Homebound Caroling
- 12/12- PECC Breakfast with Santa
- 12/12 – Ad Astra Duo Concert at Prairie
- 12/13 – KCKCC Choir Concert at Prairie
- 12/18 – PBYF&F Christmas Party
- 12/20 – PBY Christmas Party
- 12/22-23 – PBC Office Remote
- 12/24 – Christmas Eve Worship @5pm in Sanctuary
- 12/25 – PBC Office Closed for Christmas
- 12/29-30 – PBC Office Remote
- 12/31 – Noon Years Eve Party PBYF&F and PECC Families

January:

- 1/1 – PBC Office Closed
- 1/4 – PECC Spring Semester Starts
- 1/8 – Annual Reports Due to Office
- 1/10 – PBY and PBYF&F Bowling Event
- 1/18 – PBC and PECC Closed for MLK Day
- 1/31 – Annual Meeting after Worship

February:

- 2/10 – Ash Wednesday
- 2/15 – PBC and PECC Closed for Presidents Day
- 2/17 – Spring Breeze Information Due
- 2/28 – Hymn Sing with Asbury UMC

Honorary Mention: 3/7 – Cake Auction!

Prairie Breeze

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7416 Roe Avenue
Prairie Village, KS 66208-2848
913.722.6176
www.prairiebaptist.org

STAFF
Becky Humphrey, PECC Director,
beckyhumphrey@prairiebaptist.org
Regan Jones, Ministry Associate,
office@prairiebaptist.org
Dr. Sara McClure, Music Director,
prairiesara@gmail.com
Kathy Pickett, Senior Pastor,
kathy@prairiebaptist.org
Amy Short, PECC and PBC Bookkeeper,
pecc@prairiebaptist.org
Rachel Pruett, Nursery Care Coordinator
Melody Stroth, Pianist/Organist