

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Sunday, January 26th**

**Sunday Live Worship, 10 am, Sanctuary**

<https://www.youtube.com/user/PiratesoftheColumbia>

*(Click the "LIVE" link in the tool bar to see recent worship services, as well)*

**Wednesday, January 29th**

**LIFT Bible Study, 6 pm, Youth Chapel**

**Saturday, February 1st**

**Holly Daze Workshop, 9 am, SWR**

**Saturday, February 1st**

**Prayer Shawl Group, 9 am, SWR**

**Sunday, February 2nd**

**All-Church Bingo, 4-6 pm, Ida Payne**

**(See Details Below)**

**Sunday, February 9th**

**Souper Bowl of Caring, 11 am, Sanctuary**

**Saturday, March 8th**

**Eddie Kenoyer's Memorial Service, 11 am,**

**Sanctuary**

**(Reception to follow in Ida Payne)**

## Friday News 1/24/25

These past two months our country has been preparing for and now transitioning our government leadership. As with most big changes, the amount of excitement and anxiety involved has been high. Tidal surges of rumors, both accurate and false, create cries of glee and moans of pain. Many are finding they need to be cautious about what they say and to whom. Few are finding the current situation altogether comfortable.

Interestingly, some people do not take the positions I thought they would take. Based on what I know about them I would have thought they would take a different position! How can they support “X” when they live with “Y”? How can they be against “Q” when they have “R” in their life? Don’t all Christians think the way I do?

Truthfully, most things are more complex than we realize, certainly more complex than we want them to be. Most of us make decisions and take positions using complicated formulas of teachings from beloved mentors, our own experiences & needs, latent dreams, and limited understandings of things. Add the needs of our loved ones and our choice-making becomes ever more complicated.

American author of thrillers, Brad Meltzer, writes, “Everyone you meet is fighting a battle you know nothing about. Be kind. Always.” That is compassion like Jesus had. Matthew 9:36 CEB tells us, “When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were troubled and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.”

As these next months and years of the American democratic experience unfold, some of us will be woeful and others exuberant. But let us all be full participants in this government of, by, and for the people. Let us always hold our elected leaders accountable to right behavior and let us support them as they press toward the well-being of the whole country in all its complexities. Let us do our very best to learn all the good information we can and acknowledge that we don’t know everything. Then let us be compassionate with each other, and love even those with whom we disagree. Jesus taught us:

“If you love those who love you, why should you be commended? Even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, why should you be commended? Even sinners do that. Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend expecting nothing in return. If you do, you will have a great reward. You will be acting

the way children of the Most High act, for he is kind to ungrateful and wicked people. Be compassionate just as your Father is compassionate. (Luke 6:32-33, 35-36 CEB)

In Christ's Love, Pastor Shirley

**1/26**  
**"As Was His Custom"**  
**Pastor Shirley DeLarme**  
**Scripture:**  
**Luke 4: 14-21 (NRSVUE)**

**All-Church Bingo**

All are invited to the All-Church Bingo in Ida Payne on **Sunday, February 2nd, 4-6 pm.** Invite family and friends!  
Win prizes. Popcorn and lemonade will be served.

**Pep's Bean Soup for Sale**

Pep's Bean Soup is for sale in the church office for \$9.00/bag.  
You can also buy a bag with corn bread mix for \$12.00/each.

**We are running low!**

**Church Office Staff Meetings**

The Church Office meets for a Staff Meeting the first and third Tuesdays of every month from 10 am - Noon. The office is closed 10 am - 1:00 pm on those days.

**Deadlines**

**The Monday before the following Sunday is the deadline for any announcement posted in the Sunday Bulletin.**  
**The Thursday before the following Friday is the deadline for any announcement posted in the Friday Email Letter.**  
**Thank you.**