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# CROSSROADS NEWSLETTER

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## Church Highlights

- Birthdays
- Tackle Hunger
- Wed. Night Dinners
- Sunday Morning Opportunities
- Lectio Divina
- High Noon Music
- Women's Bible Study
- Christmas Joy Offering

*See you in  
church!*

## Life Together

Happy New Year! I love the verse that is read at Epiphany from Isaiah 60.1: “Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.” It holds so much promise and possibility that it sounds like it could have been written at the beginning of a new year, millennia ago.

The first word – “arise” – calls us to action. In other words, Get up! Look up! Lift up your hearts! As we begin a New Year, we can be consumed with what has (or hasn’t) been, or with anxiety about what is to be. And, yet, the command “arise” helps us change our outlook. It calls for a different posture, and as the famous and late theologian Jimmy Buffet says: “changes in latitudes bring changes in attitudes.” If you look to God’s possibilities, you begin to see in a different way. Anne Lamont frequently quotes a Catholic priest who said: “Sometimes heaven is a new pair of glasses.”

The second imperative is “shine” – which implies that you have the ability to participate in the glory of God. Jesus says that God’s people are the light of the world, and that is true especially in the ministries of FPC Huntsville, as you continue to engage in meaningful service, worship, and fellowship in all the ways in which God calls you in 2025.

More than New Year’s resolutions, a new way is seen, not just of self-improvements for a New Year, but of God-intentions of transformations for a new reality. We see God’s lovingkindness,

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God's faithfulness, that light shining in the darkness which the darkness did not overcome. And guess what? Your radiance is essential to any bright future of God's own imagining. What we sang as children at church camp is true today: "Rise! And shine! And give God the glory, glory!" Thanks be to God.  
My friends, YOU are the light of the world! May it be so this New Year, and all the years to come.

Peace,  
*Craig*

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**February Newsletter**  
**Articles**  
**due no later than**  
**Tuesday, January 21, 2025**

For over 30 years, the Souper Bowl of Caring movement has been inspiring people across the nation to tackle hunger in their local communities.

Over the last three years alone, thousands of groups collected over \$25 million in dollars and food donations for hunger-relief charities across the country.

Please support our youth on Sunday, February 9, as they collect a special offering (monetary or non-perishable food items) to help end hunger in Walker County. The need is REAL!

# Wednesday Nights

Dinner & Fellowship

Resume January 8th @ 5:30 p.m.

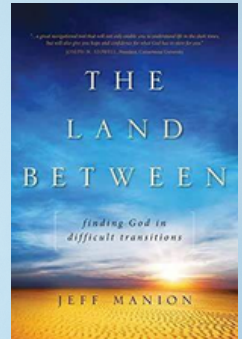
Wednesday, January 15th, Following Dinner

We will begin a five-week study of Exodus

Entitled “The Land Between: Finding God in Transitions.”

Make plans to attend!

The dinners are great, fellowship is wonderful and the study is timely!



## Sunday Morning Class Opportunities

### Church-Wide 5x5x5 Bible Reading Plan:

The Christian Education Ministry Team invites you to join together in a commitment to read your Bible 5 minutes a day, 5 days a week, beginning Monday, January 6th.

We will begin with the Book of Mark, Chapter 1. If you would like to join in a discussion of the previous week's readings, attend the Parlor discussion on Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m. They will be following along with the Navigator's 5x5x5 New Testament readings. Bring your questions, “aha's” and insights!

### Chapel Class:

(moving to the Conference Room) is led by Milton Brock. They are studying the Old Testament. In January, they will begin 2 Kings.

### Godly Play:

Meredith will be leading the children in a Bible discovery adventure starting in January. They will be learning the Books of the Old and New Testament, along with the Lord's Prayer and the Apostle's Creed. They meet in the Godly Play Room.

### Middle School:

Meets in room outside the pastor's office.

### High School:

Meets upstairs.



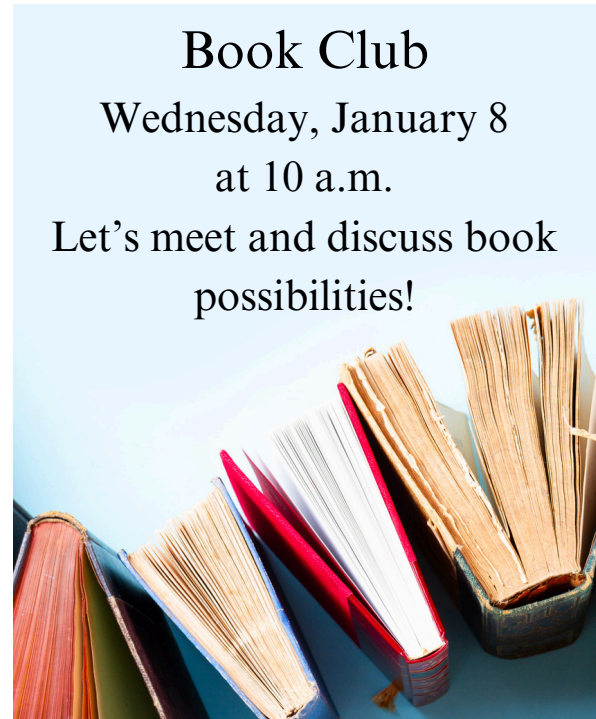
## A Time of Lectio Divina for the Discerning Hearts

Wednesdays at 11 a.m.  
in the Parlor  
Bring your journal and pen.

Praying the Word of God.

"We speak to Him (God) when we pray, but we listen to him when we do divine reading." You want to hear what God has to say? Pick up his Word and listen to it. That's the heart of Lectio Divina. It's a dialogue where you can listen for a while, and listen to his Word.

by Saint Ambrose



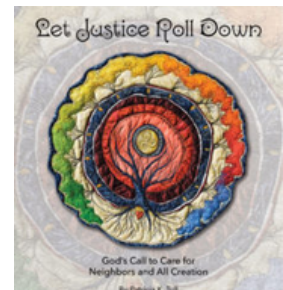
## "Let Justice Roll Down" A Women's Bible Study

Please join us as we continue with our study entitled "Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation" on Wednesday, January 22, at 10 a.m.

The third lesson will be *Food Justice - learning to produce food with justice and peace and feed a starving world.*

For more information from Brenda.

Hope to see you there!



## Christmas Joy Offering Thank You for Supporting the Christmas Joy Offering!

Your offerings will honor God's gift of Jesus Christ by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges

