



# Spirit of Faith

*Pastor Jim Deal*  
*Faith Presbyterian Church*  
*Of East Wenatchee*  
*January 2024, News Letter*

...to inspire and challenge believers to seek deeper ways of serving Our Lord, to motivate all people to follow Jesus Christ, and to nurture one another.

## **A Time to Celebrate the God Who Makes All Things New**

We are changing our calendars, as we begin the year 2024. Yet it is fascinating to me how our world looks at this change of date as an opportunity to hope for positive changes in many different areas of our lives. I have no doubt that the gyms will be full, as people who made New Year's Resolutions to get in shape join the regulars at such establishments. Others aim for a "dry January", where they abstain from alcohol for a month's time. New Year's Resolutions come in many different forms...

### ***Have you made any New Year's resolutions?***

Part of this longing for the new is a desire to put the negative parts of the past behind us. This desire is reflected in the Revelation to John, where he writes,  
*"He will wipe every tear from their eyes.*

*There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain,  
for the old order of things has passed away."*

*He who was seated on the throne said,  
"I am making everything new!"* (Revelation 21: 4-5).

### ***What do you long to put behind you, as we enter 2024?***

Yet I believe there is also a desire for a better future than what we experienced in the past. The prophet Ezekiel writes,

*"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you;  
I will remove from you your heart of stone,  
and give you a heart of flesh."*

The metaphor of a cold heart, a heart of stone, and a hardened heart are engrained in our consciousness as synonymous with being uncaring, unfeeling, and possessing a total lack of empathy for others.

For instance, the scriptures describe Pharaoh as "hardening his heart" against the Israelites. Perhaps we are longing for more love, and greater compassion as we begin this new year.

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***What do you hope for in your heart this coming year?***

Finally, there is a desire for us to not let our past determine our destiny. In other words, we long for God’s forgiveness, as He wipes clean the record of our sins. This desire is so strong within us that we purposely have a prayer of confession, accompanied by the “Words of Forgiveness” in each and every Sunday morning worship service. The prophet Isaiah writes,

*“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.  
See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?  
I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”*

***How do you want God to make a way for you in the future?***

May God who makes all things new bless you abundantly this year, and always!

Faithfully yours,

Pastor Jim

PS. God makes all things new, and we are celebrating what God is doing among us, in our church. One new blessing we celebrate is our new worship projection system, which includes a new laser projector, new fixed screen, and new worship projection computer. We used it for the first time on Christmas Eve, and it made a substantial difference for many worshippers. Special thanks to all on our Worship Projection Team for their hard work. Members of the team include Elder Scott Kruse, Elder Shannon Weldy, Ron and Jeanne Lodge, and myself. We also thank the generous donors who gave the special gifts to make the new worship projection system a reality. Thank you so much!

**December Birthdays**

<i>Sally Killaby</i>	<i>12/3</i>
<i>Susan Copner.</i>	<i>12/5</i>
<i>Robert Lewis</i>	<i>12/8</i>
<i>Mike Reed</i>	<i>12/ 7</i>
<i>Jeana Deal</i>	<i>12/9</i>
<i>Betsy Arlt</i>	<i>12/15</i>
<i>Sue Kane</i>	<i>12/15</i>
<i>Tara Abbott</i>	<i>12/16</i>
<i>Nicole O'Brien</i>	<i>12/17</i>
<i>Conrad Stone</i>	<i>12/17</i>
<i>Lori Reed</i>	<i>12/22</i>
<i>Randy Callihan</i>	<i>12/23</i>
<i>Judy Paris.</i>	<i>12/24</i>
<i>Christina Weldy</i>	<i>12/28</i>



**Birthdays & Anniversaries**

**January Birthdays**

<i>Barb Arlt</i>	<i>1/07</i>
<i>David Stanfield</i>	<i>1/09</i>
<i>Ron Lodge</i>	<i>1/10</i>
<i>Connor Weldy</i>	<i>1/12</i>
<i>Star Christman</i>	<i>1/19</i>
<i>Myra Larama</i>	<i>1/14</i>
<i>Joann Sears.</i>	<i>1/14</i>
<i>Jonathan Deal</i>	<i>1/28</i>
<i>Walker Kane</i>	<i>1/28</i>
<i>Pastor Jim Deal</i>	<i>1/29</i>
<i>Emily Oakes</i>	<i>1/29</i>

**December Anniversary**

*Paul and Mary Ann Ford 12/20*

## **Pastor Jim goes to the 2024 ECO National Gathering**

By Pastor Jim

At the end of this month, I will be traveling to the 2024 ECO National Gathering. This year's Gathering is held at First Presbyterian Church in Greenville, South Carolina.

Due to the distance I will travel, and a need to attend some meetings for Presbytery leaders ahead of the Gathering, I leave for the gathering on the 6:00am flight on Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>. While I hate to miss worship, Rev. Doug Waltar with the Ingalls Creek Enrichment Center will do a fine job preaching for me that day.

The Gathering is a wonderful opportunity for see and hear about the exciting things happening in our ECO Denomination. While pastors and elders are encouraged to come to the Gathering, it is open to anyone, and even some of my non-ECO denomination pastor friends have come to the Gathering in past years, and been inspired. There is wonderful music, inspirational talks, great networking, and thoughtful workshops at each and every gathering.

The theme of this year's gathering is "Metanoia". Here is what ECO says about this year's theme:

"Many leaders agree that the church is currently in crisis. We are desperate for transformation but most of us don't know where or how to begin. Yet, we know we can no longer do things the way we have always done them. Metanoia is a powerful Greek word that is often translated as repentance. However, the meaning of metanoia goes so much deeper. It doesn't just mean repentance, but a true change of mind and heart.

Metanoia is a complete transformation that calls us back to the heart of God and inspires us to live lives that are aligned with the life and teachings of Jesus. We are excited to seek out practical ways each of us in our churches can authentically live out God's call on our lives and ministries. Let's embrace metanoia together. **It's time for change.**"

I return from the ECO National Gathering on Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, and will be in worship with you on Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup>. I look forward to sharing with you more about my experiences at the Gathering then. In the meantime, I would appreciate your prayers as I travel to and participate in the ECO National Gathering 2024.

Faithfully yours,

Pastor Jim



2024

<p><b>31st New Years Eve</b> 10am Worship w/ Rev, Bob Shepard 11:15 Fellowship Time  Midnight Happy New Year 2024</p>	<p><i>1 Happy New Year</i>  <i>Pastor Jim returns from vacation</i></p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>3</b> 9:30am Women's Bible Study 7-9 Hispanic Church</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>5</b> 10:30a Office is open</p>	<p><b>6</b> 10am-5pm Hispanic Church</p>
<p><b>7 Epiphany Sunday</b> 10am Worship w/ Communion  11:15 Fellowship time 11:45 Christmas un-decorating party</p>	<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>9</b> 1:30pm Board of Deacons  7:00pm Snowmobile Club</p>	<p><b>10</b> 9:30am Women's Bible Study 7-9 Hispanic Church</p>	<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>12</b> 10:30a Office is open 11:00 Memorial Service For Jim O'Brien Reception following in the fellowship hall</p>	<p><b>13</b> 10am Memorial Service for Joe Herron Reception Following in the fellowship hall</p>
<p><b>14</b> 10am Worship 11:15 Fellowship Time</p>	<p><b>15</b> <i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</i></p>	<p><b>16</b> 1:30 Personnel Ministry Team</p>	<p><b>17</b> 9:30am Women's Bible Study 7-9 Hispanic Church</p>	<p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>19</b> 10:30a Office is open 6:00 pm Ginko Mineral Society</p>	<p><b>20</b> 10am-5pm Hispanic Church</p>
<p><b>21</b> 10am Worship 11:15 Fellowship Time</p>	<p><b>22</b></p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b> 9:30am Women's Bible Study 7-9 Hispanic Church</p>	<p><b>25</b> 6:00pm Session</p>	<p><b>26</b> 10:30a Office is open</p>	<p><b>27</b> 10am-5pm Hispanic Church</p>
<p><b>28</b> Pastor Jim Leaves for ECO National Gathering in Greenville, South Carolina 10am Worship w/guest Preacher Rev. Doug Walter 11:15 Fellowship Time</p>	<p><b>29</b> Pastor Jim @ ECO National Gathering</p>	<p><b>30</b> Pastor Jim @ ECO National Gathering</p>	<p><b>31</b> 9:30am Women's Bible Study 7-9 Hispanic Church</p>	<p></p>	<p></p>	<p></p>