



From Your Resident Friar

"Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"
- Isaiah 43:18-19

With January comes the turn of a new year—a fresh start with resolutions to become or grow into who we long to be. Yet, we continue to find ourselves in the age of pandemic and with it the demands to return to the security of the past. We feel this tug backwards as individuals, a community, and a congregation. Yet, a new year also presents us with the lure of a future that can be carved out with courage and creativity.

In a time marked by uncertainty we can appreciate the call to return to "old ways." Yet, some say what is needed is "futurists"—people who admit that society, family, and education can never be the same again. Not even the realm of religion escapes this complication. Do we return to "the way things were" or do we dare "dream new dreams" and entertain visions of God's future?

Maybe there is a third way—the way of biblical faith. For the Hebrew mind, the present is understood only in light of the memory of the past and a hope for the future. The answer from this perspective is that we are not to treat history as a god, but rather the acts of God are to be seen in our history. In other words, we tend to block God's "new thing" from happening in our lives because we "dwell on days gone by," brooding over what once was.

The Christian life need not mean making a choice between old and new. Rather, it means something like this: our present faith (trust in God) is based on past experience (yours and our family of faith), and we are called forward by a future hope (demonstrated by the Resurrection). Scripture tells us of Abraham, called to father a new people of promise. It speaks of Israel freed from bondage in Egypt. If we listen, the Gospels tell us of Jesus, the Word made flesh, tempted in the desert places of life and yet, finally, faithful unto death. From his faithfulness, a new beginning is possible for all who believe.

As we begin a new year, clouded by the continued uncertainty of the pandemic, I am certain of this: God was present in our past. God is present in the current desert places of life. And God will be present in the newness of our future. May God give us, individually and collectively, the ability to perceive what God is doing and, with courage and creativity, to join in this good work.



Jan 10 Lucas Kelley
Jan 17 Anne Galloway

Worship Schedule

- Jan 2 **Matthew 2:1-12**
"A New Look at an Old Lesson"
- Jan 9 **Acts 8:14-17**
"No Ordinary Power"
- Jan 16 **I Corinthians 12:1-11**
"Spiritual Gifts"
- Jan 23 **I Corinthians 12:12-31**
"The Body of Christ"
- Jan 30 **Luke 4:21-30**
"A Dangerously Familiar Story"

Offering Counters

Bailey Friar, Billy Galloway, Debbie Kelley

Ministry Volunteers Needed



The **Bereavement Ministry**, which provides a meal when a family member dies, is updating their list of volunteers.

If you can assist in providing a meal, please add your name to the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

The **Worship Leaders** list is being updated. Each week a Worship Leader participates in the Order of Worship by reading scripture, and/or praying. Please contact the Church Office if you can be a Worship Leader.



The **Greeters** list is being updated. One of the most important ministries of the church, Greeters welcome people to the church every Sunday morning. Please contact the Church Office if you can be a Greeter. A Greeter Training will take place on Sunday, January 30, at 4:00 p.m.



Church Council Meeting

Sunday, January 9
5:00 p.m.
In the Sanctuary

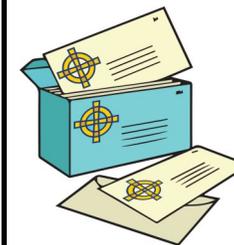


The Ridgeland Express

www.ridgelanddrivebc.org

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TIM FRIAR, PASTOR RHONDA GRANT, SECRETARY
DEBBIE KELLEY, MINISTER OF MUSIC



New Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes are on the hall table. Please note that they are non-dated and there are no assigned numbers. To receive a contribution report you will need to write a date, your name, and amount on each envelope.



January 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<u>REGULAR SCHEDULE</u> 8:45 am, Sunday School 10:00 am, Worship			<u>REGULAR SCHEDULE</u> 2:00 pm, WATT 6:00 pm, Snack Supper 6:30 pm, CC&A 6:30 pm, Youth Group		<u>REGULAR SCHEDULE</u> 11:00 am RDDB Delivers Meals on Wheels	1 
2	3 <i>Office Closed</i>	4	5	6	7	8
9 5:00 pm Church Council	10 6:00 pm Deacons Meeting	11	12	13	14	15
16	17  Martin Luther King Jr. Day	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 4:00 pm Greeter Training	31					

Looking Ahead

March 2 Ash Wednesday Service, 7:00 pm
 April 17 Easter Sunday


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Ridgeland Drive Baptist Church is . . .
*A welcoming family of faith,
 With Jesus our example,
 Discipleship our goal,
 And love our action.*