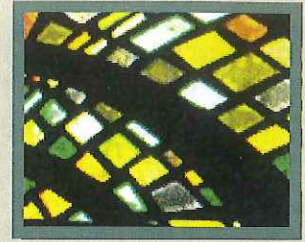


2018

JANUARY



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	New Year's Day Office Closed		Bulletin 1/7 Newsletter 1/8	7:00 Mills/Smith Rehearsal	7:00 Mills/Smith Wedding	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:30 Sunday School 10:15 COTJ 11:00 Worship & The Lord's Supper 12:00 Un-hanging of the Greens	6:00 COTJ Prayer Time	12:00 Hilary Cosby - Food Prep 5:30 Resource Team Meeting 5:30 C. E. Meeting 6:30 COTJ board meeting 7:00 Celebration!! Bell Choir	10:00 Newsletter Ladies 7:00 Sanctuary Choir Bulletin 1/14	12:00 Hilary Cosby - Food Prep 7:00 Mission Meeting with Dennis Smith	10:00 Tall City Crafters 12:00 Hilary Cosby - Food Prep	10:00 Tall City Crafters
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:30 Sunday School 10:15 COTJ 11:00 Worship, Dennis Smith 12:00 Potluck	Office Closed 6:00 COTJ Prayer Time 7:00 Waking up White	12:00 Hilary Cosby - Food Prep 6:30 COTJ Bible Study 7:00 Celebration!! Bell Choir	12:00 Worship Team Meeting 7:00 Sanctuary Choir Bulletin 1/21		12:00 Hilary Cosby - Food Prep 5:15 Breaking Bread 6-midnight Scrap- book Ladies	9-5 Scrapbook Ladies 9-2 Officers Train- ing, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Odessa
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:30 Sunday School 10:15 COTJ 11:00 Worship 12:15 Session Meeting	6:00 COTJ Prayer Time 7:00 Waking up White	6:30 COTJ Bible Study 7:00 Celebration!! Bell Choir	7:00 Sanctuary Choir Bulletin 1/28 Newsletter 1/29	12:00 Midday Service		
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
9:30 Sunday School 10:15 COTJ 11:00 Worship	6:00 COTJ Prayer Time 7:00 Waking up White	6:30 COTJ Bible Study 7:00 Celebration!! Bell Choir	10:00 Newsletter Ladies 7:00 Sanctuary Choir Bulletin 2/4		6-midnight Scrap- book Ladies	10:00 Tall City Crafters

COTJ-Church on the Journey

"Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you."

(Isaiah 60:1)

PRAYING FOR IRAQ

In response to an invitation from the pastor of the Presbyterian church in Baghdad, the Rev. Dr. Joanne Sizoo, coordinator of the Iraqi Partnership Network (IPN), is requesting that every city in Iraq be covered in prayer by congregations in the U.S. – as of now, that includes Grace Presbyterian Church of Midland, Texas.

The IPN is a collaborative of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Reformed Church in America and the United Church of Christ. In November, the Mission Committee at Grace Presbyterian-Midland voted unanimously to become a part of the IPN effort.

We have been assigned the Iraqi city of Samawah (or As-Samawah), 174 miles southeast of Baghdad and the capital of the Al Muthanna Governorate. Situated on both sides of the Euphrates River, Samawah overlooks the ruins of the ancient Sumerian city of Uruk which dates to 4000 B.C.

Historically, Samawah was a mixed Jewish and Shia Muslim city. Both groups have suffered terribly through history, with most of the Jewish minority driven into exile by Arab nationalists. Later, an ethnic cleansing campaign saw Shia Iraqis deemed deported by the Baathist regime of Saddam Hussein. Today, there is still a small population of Assyrian Christians in the city.

Beginning in January, 2018, weekly prayer request emails will include one for some facet of Samawah community – and not just for the Christians there. Once a month, Jeff McDonald will offer a request for Samawah during the prayer portion of the Sunday service. Prayer requests will cover many aspects of the community, it's people and the challenges and the joys they experience in these turbulent times.

Iraq Prayer Partner / Prayer Points for January 2018

January 7, 2018

It has now been 10 years since the last coalition occupation forces departed and Samawah's entire province was the first to be responsible for its own security, dubbed in Iraqi parlance the first "green province", meaning that it is fully independent. While that time has been mostly peaceful, there have been troubles – including last year's bombing by Islamic State that killed 32 and wounded 85. Watch over and lift up the entire community – and their local leaders - as they seek to maintain order and peace in this troubled part of the world.

January 14, 2018

In the years following the Iraq War, and the Islamic State insurgency, Samawah has sought to rebuild its economic base, with traditional industries such as agriculture, salt harvesting and carpet-making, and newer industries such as cement making, railroad maintenance and petroleum refining. Open the minds and the hearts of the community's business leaders to provide a stable, healthy work environment with fair/adequate compensation for all workers.

January 21, 2018

Repression by totalitarian regimes and insurgents decimated Samawah's artistic community and other areas where thoughts and beliefs did not always conform as required by those in charge. Encourage and inspire artists and community leaders seeking to restore what was lost through wall paintings and other venues put up for depicting/celebrating the new life this community achieved since the liberation.

January 28, 2018

The Assembly of Presbyterian Churches in Iraq is an association of five Evangelical (Protestant) congregations in Iraq which have had historic connections with the Presbyterian Church (USA), the United Church of Christ, and the Reformed Church of America. The five congregations are independent and self-supporting, and though they have lost many members in recent years, they faithfully continue their worship and witness at this difficult time in Iraq's history. God bless them and keep them as their efforts begin to bear fruit in the liberated nation.