

# The Presbyterian



A Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church  
125 South Poplar Street, Bucyrus, OH 44820

January 2019

*Exalting Christ. Denying Ourselves. Loving our Neighbors.*

## Batteries Not Included

It happens to everyone. You have a great idea for a gift for your child or grandchild, and you wrap it up and wait in anticipation for them to get to open it. They open it and are thrilled! They want to play with it immediately. As you open it up and get it ready to go, you read the fine print on the box: BATTERIES NOT INCLUDED. As amazing as the gift is, it doesn't work without the batteries.

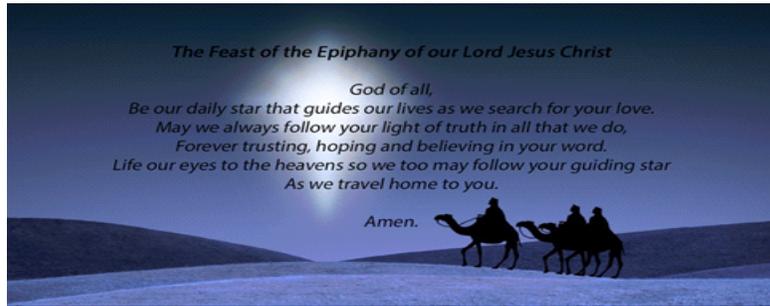
As we begin this new year together, there are probably many things you are looking forward to changing, or improving in your life. Hopefully you are considering things like being more committed to worship, or fellowship, or service. Maybe you want to have a more intentional prayer life (like coming to Sunday Night prayer services) or a more in-depth Bible reading plan. We should all want and desire to continue to grow and mature in our faith. But, there is some fine print written on you that you need to know about. It says: BATTERIES NOT INCLUDED.

As with everything in our Christian life, we are not able on our own strength to grow spiritually. We are not able to muster up enough will-power, or desire, or motivation, or good intentions to grow and bear fruit the way God has intended for us. What we need is the power of God through the Holy Spirit. If we go about these things in our own strength, we are like a great gift with the batteries missing. Everything seems great, but then it doesn't work.

This year, both individually and as a church, I pray that we are not a "BATTERIES NOT INCLUDED" kind of people. We shouldn't be a nice gift with pretty wrapping and good intentions that sits on a shelf and looks pretty. Instead, we need to be a people who do what we were created to do, and we can only do that through the power of God working in us. So my prayer, and I hope your prayer, for this new year is this: ***"for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure."*** May God work in you mightily this new year!

For His Kingdom,

Jeremy McNeill  
Pastor, First Presbyterian Church  
Bucyrus, OH  
(256)-652-7823



### Author of Life Book Club

The Author of Life Book Club not meet in **January** but will resume **February 7<sup>th</sup>**.

### Presbyterian Women

The Presbyterian Women will meet on **Tuesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, @ 12:00 PM.**

### Deacons Meeting

The Deacon's will meet **Wednesday, January 9<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00 PM** in Fellowship Hall.

### Finance Committee

The Finance Committee will meet **Monday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, @ 9:30 AM** at the church.

### Session Meeting

The Session meeting will be on **Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, @ 7:00 PM** in Fellowship Hall.

### Gamma Delta

Gamma Delta will resume their meetings in March.

### Presbyterian Men

The Presbyterian Men's group meets each **Friday @ 7:00 AM, at the Pelican** . All men of FPC are invited to attend.

### Book Study/Discipleship Group

The **Women's Discipleship Group** will meet **January 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>** at Marcia Stout's home .  
The **Men's Discipleship Group** will meet **January 15<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>** at the church. These meetings will be at 6:00 PM.

[Check the Church Website Calendar for any changes.](http://www.firstpresbucyrus.org)

[www.firstpresbucyrus.org](http://www.firstpresbucyrus.org)

## † In Our Prayers

### **Surgery, Injury, and/or Recuperating:**

Tami Robinson, Mary Lou Hastings, Sue Headley,  
Kathy Randall, Norm Campbell, Jennifer Roshon,  
Marcia Dobbins, Pastor Jeremy's niece Cali

### **Shut-Ins:**

Margaret Price, Grace Kearns, Glenn & Jeannie  
Gibson, Mary Kiess

### **Cancer**

Nancy Crum  
Steve Hoover  
Brooke Lane (Kelli Patterson's cousin)  
Susan Murphey (Jan Fulton's cousin)  
Wendy Owen (friend of Barb Price)  
Ann Pokopac (Kathy Bardon's sister)  
Bruce Price, in remission (Dan's brother)  
Ruthie Robinson (friend of Gennie Rios)

### **Members, Family and Friends of Members:**

John Cole  
Rancy Titley (Kathy Bardon's sister-in-law)  
Brett Erwin (Anya Schell's son)  
John Scott (Kathy Bardon's relative)  
Michael Cole (son of John & Phyllis Cole)  
Connie Watts grandson Kade  
Sharon Roth (friend of Kathy Bardon)  
Cody Howard (friend of Ashleigh Helbert)  
Florence Cooper (Vickie Ahlefeld's mother)  
Sandy Will (Carrie Diebler's mother)

### **Military:**

John T. Ballinger III, Cody Gibson, Keagan Rios, Levi  
Diebler, Jason Hahn, Daron Watts, Zach Wilson,  
John Bacon, Todd Loy, Brydan Lohr

## Prayer Requests

Add to Prayer Requests \_\_\_\_\_ Remove from  
Prayer Request \_\_\_\_\_  
Prayers are needed for:

Member \_\_\_\_ Member's family \_\_\_\_ Friend  
of member \_\_\_\_

Requested by:  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Deacon of the Month:** Connie Watts

**Elder of the Month:** Duane Watts



## Happy Birthday

- 9 Brenda Mutchler
- 11 Austin Griffith
- 13 Connie Watts
- 16 Randy Inscho
- 17 John Cole, Gennie Rios,  
Michelle Bacon
- 18 Angela Collene
- 19 Jeri Hargis
- 20 Scott Hastings
- 21 David Tyler Byrne,  
Donna Watts
- 22 Vickie Ahlefeld  
Gabriella Seibert  
David E. Dlubak
- 23 Tricia Butterfield
- 25 Julie Guss
- 27 Caroline Campbell,  
Cooper Young
- 31 Al Basinger

## Happy Anniversary

- 2 Don and Phyllis Reed
- 3 Joe and Angela Collene

## Ushers/Greeters

- 06 – Duane & Connie Watts  
Kathy Byrne, Carol Griffith
- 13 - Duane Watts, Danny Nickler  
Joyce Hahn, Carrie Diebler
- 20 - Duane & Connie Watts  
Kathy Bryne, Joyce Hahn
- 27 - Duane & Connie Watts  
Danny Nickler, Carrie Diebler



## First Presbyterian News

### Mission Committee Report

**Blanket Sunday:** Blanket Sunday donation drive will be in January 2019. Donation collection's will be **Jan. 13, 20, & 27th.**

### Author of Life Book Club

The Author of Life Book Club meets the first Thursday of each month beginning in February 2019. They will begin reading "A Prayer for Owen Meany" by John Irving. All ladies are welcome, contact Dorothy Watts, Judy Diederich, or Nancy Crum if you are interested.

### Christmas Decorations

Many, many thanks to everyone who helped me put up decorations at the church for the Christmas season. Another thank you to everyone who purchased poinsettias for the Christmas display. Bless all your hearts!! **NOW...don't forget...the decorations need to be taken down and packed away. We will take decorations down on Saturday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 am.** This goes very quickly -- especially when many of us show up to help!

*Thanks to all!  
Jan Fulton*

## Thank You

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your many kind expressions of sympathy on my mother's recent passing. I am grateful to all of you for your care and concern and feel blessed to have had a Godly, loving mom.

Love in Christ,  
Marcia Stout



## Community News

Mayor Matt Miller, Mayor of the City of Ashland, will be the guest speaker for the **Men's Community Breakfast.** The breakfast will take place at the Bucyrus Community Hospital Cafeteria on **January 9, 2019 at 7:00 a.m.** Ladies are more than welcome to attend.

In 2017, Matt Miller was elected to serve as the 54th Mayor of the City of Ashland, Ohio. Prior to joining the city government, Matt served two terms as an Ashland County Commissioner (2000-2008) before being named the Business Administrator at the Salvation Army Ray & Joan Kroc Corps Community Center.

### Greetings from Pickwick Place

When the calendar turns to January, winter can seem so long; the glow of Christmas is gone and signs of springs haven't yet appeared. With these thoughts in mind, The Pickwick Place is pleased to announce a choice of two upcoming Christian Women's Retreats for the greater Bucyrus area, "Running on Empty on February 8, from 6-8:00 PM and "The Way of the Wilderness" on February 9 from 9-1:00. Both events will be filled with a celebration of grace-filled women of all ages and stages while enjoying speaker Carla Gasser, Worshiping together, and sharing food with friends. It is an event that women of our community will not want to miss! There are sign-up sheets at the back of the church.

Pickwick is also going to be offering Sunday Brunch the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in January, February, and March, from 11:00 till 2:00 in the Loft. RSVP's are not required but appreciated by emailing [www.tinyurl.com/PickwickBrunch](http://www.tinyurl.com/PickwickBrunch). Tickets are available at the door.

# Youth News

## Healthy New Year's Resolutions for Children

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) provides the following list of ideas for you to talk to your children about trying, depending on their age.

### Preschoolers

- I will try hard to **clean up** my toys by putting them where they belong.
- I will let my parents help me **brush my teeth** twice a day.
- I will **wash my hands** after going to the bathroom and before eating.
- I will learn how to help clear the table when I am done eating.
- I will be friendly to all animals. I will learn how to ask the owners if I can pet their animal first.
- I will do my best to **be nice to other kids** who need a friend or look sad or lonely.
- I will talk with my parent or a trusted adult when I need help or am scared.

### Kids, 5 to 12 years old

- I will drink **reduced-fat milk** and water most days. Soda and fruit drinks are only for special times.
- I will take care of my skin by putting on **sunscreen** before I go outdoors on bright, sunny days. I will try to remember to stay in the shade whenever possible and wear a hat and sunglasses, especially when I'm playing sports.
- I will try to find a **sport** (like basketball or soccer) or an **activity** (like playing tag, jumping rope, dancing or riding my bike) that I like and do it at least three times a week!
- I will always wear a **helmet** when riding a bike, scooter or skateboard.
- I will wear my **seat belt** every time I get in a car. I'll sit in the back seat and use a booster seat until I am tall enough to use a lap/shoulder seat belt.

- I'll try to be friendly to kids who may have a hard time making friends by asking them to join activities such as sports or games.
- I will tell an adult about bullying that I see or hear about to do what I can to help keep school safe for everyone.
- I will keep my personal info safe and not share my name, home address, school name or telephone number on the Internet. Also, I'll never send a picture of myself to someone I chat with on the computer without asking my parent if it is okay.
- I will try to talk with my parent or a trusted adult when I have a problem or feel stressed.
- I promise that I'll do my best to follow our household rules for videogames and internet use.

Most important of all, make plans with your family to set aside a time every day to read and study your bible together.

### Winter Word Search



COAT  
COLD  
FROST  
ICE

IGLOO  
SCARF  
SNOW  
WINTER



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