

The Presbyterian

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

January 2021

Exalting Christ. Denying Ourselves. Loving our Neighbors.

Resolutions

It's that time of year again where people will begin thinking about their New Year's resolutions. However, 2020 has left many of us feeling jaded. Many of the plans we made for ourselves never came to fruition because of the many upheavals in our society over the past year. So, we feel compelled to simply go-with-the-flow and see what happens in 2021. While it is true that we should assume we know what tomorrow will bring, we should always view our steps through the will of God. In James 4:13-15 we read, "*Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit'— yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.'*"

I think perhaps 2020 has taught us that we trust and rely on the wrong things, and that we pursue things that have no lasting value. So, here's a quick list of resolutions I pray we will all take to heart in 2021:

- 1) **RESOLVED:** To give thanks daily for all God has provided for us. It is easy to overlook the ordinary blessings that come directly from the hand of our Creator.
- 2) **RESOLVED:** To speak kindly. You never know what will happen that will prevent you from seeing someone for an extended period of time. May we only speak those things which are for building others up (Ephesians 4:29).
- 3) **RESOLVED:** To serve willingly. You never know the change a simple act of service can make for someone who is struggling. There are many people hurting right now, so how can we be the hands and feet of Christ?
- 4) **RESOLVED:** To invite boldly. I pray that we will have an increased desire to share the gospel with our friends and neighbors and invite them to worship God with us. How will they hear unless someone tells them? (Romans 10:14)
- 5) **RESOLVED:** To be consistent and committed to the life of the church. Too often today people have millions of reasons to not attend church. My prayer is that church becomes our reason to miss other things.
- 6) **RESOLVED:** To seek God more fervently in Scripture reading and prayer. When things get hard, these are generally the first thing to get put to the side. However, it should be the first place we go when things seem uncertain. May we commit afresh to God's word and prayer in the coming year.

While all of your other resolutions may fade out under some uncertain future, these are things we can and should commit to regardless of the situation of the world around us. As the church, we are called to be light in the midst of darkness, a lamp shining out on a hill. I look forward to God's continued faithfulness to us in the coming year!

For His Kingdom,
Rev. Jeremy McNeill
First Presbyterian Church
Bucyrus, OH

Group and Committee Dates

Please check with the Host or Committee
Chairperson for information.

Deacons Meeting

The Deacons will meet **Wednesday, January 13, @ 5:00 PM in Fellowship Hall.**

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee will meet remotely until further notice.

Session Meeting

The Session meeting will be on **Thursday, January 21, @ 6:00 PM in Fellowship Hall.**

Presbyterian Men

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

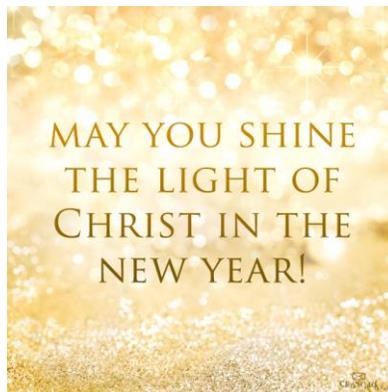
Discipleship Groups

Discipleship Groups will resume meetings in January.

Ladies, January 12 – second half of Chapter 5

Men, January 19 – second half of Chapter 5

Ladies, January 26 – Chapter 6 pages 119-134



JANUARY



Happy Birthday

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

Happy Anniversary

3 Joe and Angela Collene

Flowers

03 –
10 – Dan & Barb Price
17 –
24 –
31 –

Liturgist

03 – Tami Robinson
10 – Debbie Hablitzel
17 – Marcia Stout
24 – Tom Britton
31 – Tami Robinson

Deacon of the month: Connie Watts

Elder of the month: Duane Watts

Surgery, Injury, and/or Recuperating:

Crosby Hieber, 5 years old, great grandson of Mary Kiess, Jennie Biller, Sue Irwin's Niece, Steve Hoover, Dorothy Watts son, Vickie Ahlefeld, Kaori Holmes, Chet Johnston & his daughter Kathy Thompson, Norm Campbell, Duane Watts, Joyce Hahn, Marv Hauenstein, Judy Eichhorn, Jay Owen, Barb Price's Son,

Shut-Ins:

Mary Lou Hastings, Sue Headley, Glenn Gibson, Grace Kearns, Marcia Dobbins
Rodger and Jenni Murphy

Cancer

Nancy Crum
Annette Cheney, a friend of Kathy Bardon
Ann Pokopac, Kathy Bardon's sister
Ellen Andrews, Kathy Bardon's cousin
Bruce Price, Dan's brother
Ruthie Robinson, friend of Gennie Rios

Members, Family and Friends of Members:

Gary Hess, Friend of Kelli Patterson
Joe Kilgore's Grandmother, Sue
Bill Irwin, Gary Irwin's brother
Sylvia Lane, Kelli Patterson's grandmother
Jo Anne Johns, Donna Watts's mom
Florence Cooper, Vickie Ahlefeld's mother
Sandy Will, Carrie Diebler's mother
Bob Downing

Military:

John T. Ballinger III, Cody Gibson, Keagan Rios,
Levi Diebler, Daron Watts, Zach Wilson, Brydan Lohr



First Presbyterian News

Guest Speakers for January

Pastor Jeremy is going to be taking a couple of Sundays off in January. We are very grateful to have Marcia Stout doing the service on January 3rd and Rev. David Brown from Presbytery on January 10th.



Revelation Series

If you are enjoying the series on Revelation, here is an estimate on the sermon text we will be following if you would like to read ahead:

- 01/17 Revelation 14:1-5
- 01/24 Revelation 14:6-13
- 01/31 Revelation 14:14-20

Services are still available on-line and on Facebook.

Mission Team

Blanket Sunday promotion will be **January 3, 10, & 17**. There are envelopes available in the back of the pews for your convenience.

Our Mission Committee would like to thank the congregation for sharing their generosity with our community. In November, we sent 47 shoeboxes to Samaritans Purse, and collected baskets of dry goods for our local food pantry.

Normally, we send the food baskets to Salvation Army. Due to Covid complications, the food was gratefully received by the United Methodist church's food pantry.

Our Christmas gift tags covered two local families. On Dec. 20th, both families had bright smiles when the gifts were delivered.

Annual Congregational Meeting

The Annual Congregation meeting will be held on **February 7, 2020**, following worship service.

All reports for the 2020 Annual Report need to be turned into the office no later than **January 22**. The EPC has changed requirements for year-end reports and all are due in February.

Flower Chart and Worship Folder Sign-up

The 2021 Flower Chart and Worship folder sign-up sheet are located at the back of the church. Flowers usually run \$40.00 and the Worship folders are \$25.00 for one month.



What is a Chrismon Tree

Over the years, the Christmas tree has become a symbol of Christ as the "tree of life." Through the birth of Jesus, believers have been given God's gifts of life, light and wisdom. The use of Chrismons to decorate Christmas trees is popular in many churches today. Chrismons were first developed in 1957 by Frances Kipps Spencer of Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Va. In an effort to create appropriate decorations for her church Christmas tree, Spencer fashioned centuries-old symbols into white and gold tree decorations. "Chrismon" is a combination of the words "Christ" and "monogram," and means "symbols of Christ." Chrismons are gold and white, representing majesty and purity. Ideas for fashioning them are developed from early Christian symbols, the Bible and church histories.

First Presbyterian Community Prayer Box



COMMUNITY PRAYER BOX

We are always looking for ways to reach out to our community, and with the COVID-19 pandemic, we have really been limited in projects we can participate in. Until we can be around other people and share the GOOD NEWS of Jesus' love in person, we need to get creative. Alan Bacon, mighty wayfarer and keen observer, discovered just such a creative opportunity....a Community Prayer Box. He and Al Fulton have been working on this project and it is ready to go. Soon you will see signs on our church property directing the community to the prayer box situated at our north driveway entrance. It is a beautiful white cross with a bright blue box attached. The directions tell you to open the box, fill out a card with your prayer request, drop it in the slot and close the door. Michelle and Jeremy will collect the cards and decide where the prayer will be directed to. It might be something for Jeremy to handle personally or it may be passed to the prayer chain, deacons or the congregation. We hope to have Crawford County Now include us in their news page, and we will, of course, be talking about it on our website and Facebook page.

What can we do for this Community Prayer Box? PRAY, of course!! Pray that the people who need it most will find their way to the bright blue box. AND if you are asked to

pray for one of these prayer requests, do so mightily and sincerely. How thankful we should be that one of our own was open to his surroundings, saw an opportunity and acted on it. We all need to keep our eyes, ears, minds and hearts open to God's opportunities for reaching out to each other. His examples are all around us...even in the form of a bright blue box on a beautiful white cross.

Jan Fulton

Young Adults 2021 Scholarship Applications

The 2021 Scholarship Applications are available on the home page of the First Presbyterian web page or you can pick a copy up in the office.



Joy to the World

S	H	R	R	Y	M	G	Z	S	B	Z	S	D
L	H	T	R	I	B	H	T	B	Z	E	G	T
E	H	S	C	M	G	A	J	A	J	S	N	H
M	Z	Y	A	L	R	A	J	D	M	N	I	R
A	O	R	T	L	U	E	M	V	I	E	S	E
C	Y	H	W	I	S	E	M	E	N	C	S	E
E	J	Y	P	U	V	T	K	N	F	N	E	K
L	P	E	S	E	R	I	K	T	A	I	L	I
C	W	D	M	E	S	B	T	P	N	K	B	N
A	L	E	G	N	A	O	L	A	T	N	A	G
R	H	N	N	S	T	X	J	Z	N	A	T	S
I	A	R	E	J	O	I	C	E	M	R	S	J
M	B	E	T	H	L	E	H	E	M	F	X	S

ADVENT
ANGEL
BETHLEHEM
BIRTH
BLESSINGS
CAMELS
FRANKINCENSE

INFANT
JESUS
JOSEPH
MAGI
MANGER
MARY
MIRACLE

MYRRH
NATIVITY
REJOICE
STABLE
STAR
THREE KINGS
WISE MEN



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