

The Presbyterian

A Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church

December 2022

Exalting Christ. Denying Ourselves. Loving our Neighbors.

Where Does True Thankfulness Lead?

By the time you read this, Thanksgiving celebrations will have passed by. Ironically, Thanksgiving is usually just a time where people gather with their families to put on their best front and stuff themselves with delicious food. Almost immediately following the celebration of Thanksgiving begins the most consumeristic season in America as people begin their preparations for the celebration of Christ's incarnation by spending exorbitant amounts of money.

As Christians, thankfulness and gratitude are meant to be a core part of who we are. But gratitude is not just a feeling we have in our hearts. In the Christian life, it *leads* somewhere. We as believers are to take into special account the fact that everything we have is from God. As James tells us, "Every good and perfect gift comes down from the Father of Lights, in whom there is no variation or shadow due to change." As Jan beautifully pointed out in her Stewardship Update, it is a recognition that we are stewards, not owners, because everything we have has been entrusted to us by God for His glory. In Scripture, there are countless times when thankfulness is linked to worship, especially in the Psalms:

"Enter into His gates with **thanksgiving**,
And into His courts with **praise**.
Be **thankful** to Him, and **bless** His name.
For the LORD is good..." (*Psalms 100*)

One of the key ways to know whether you are truly thankful is your desire to worship the LORD for his goodness and mercy towards you. Thankfulness is not focused on the gift; it is focused on the giver. If we are more thankful for the stuff we have instead of the One who blessed us with those things, we have missed the point.

Thankfulness and gratitude also leads us to be the reason others give thanks to God. In other words, true thankfulness and gratitude makes us *generous*. In 2 Corinthians 9:11 the Apostle Paul tells us, "You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God." Here, Paul is encouraging the church to recognize the abundance of what God has given them, and to use that to help the Jewish Christians in Jerusalem who were suffering under a famine. In this way, he says, their generosity will be the catalyst for others to be thankful to God.

Have you thought about your role in helping *others* have a reason to be thankful? The way we do that is when we are thankful for what God has entrusted to us, knowing that He has entrusted it to us not for our own comfort but for His glory and the good of others. C.S. Lewis argues that the only way you can truly own something is when you are able to give it away—otherwise, it owns you. Consider, then, how God has enriched you, and be thankful to the One who has so blessed you. And in that state of your heart, worship him sincerely. Then, let that thankfulness and worship overflow into generosity, so that in giving you might be the reason another person gives glory and thanks to God, and worships Him, and becomes generous to others as well.

For His Kingdom, Jeremy W McNeill, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Bucyrus, OH



Group and Committee Dates
Please check with the
Committee Chairperson for information.

Deacon's Meeting

The Deacons will meet on **Wednesday, December 14, @ 6:15 PM** in The Welcome Center.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee will now meet quarterly, the next meeting will be on **Monday, January 16,** in the Welcome Center.

Gamma Delta

The Gamma Delta group has adopted a small family for Christmas. They will meet on **Thursday, December 15, at 12:30 PM** at the **Church for a Potluck, followed by wrapping gifts for this family.**

Mission Team

The Mission Team will deliver the Christmas tree tag gifts to the **Salvation Army after Wassail on December 18th.** Please see Mission Team article below.

Discipleship Group

The **Men's** Discipleship group meeting is on **Tuesday, December 13 & 27 @ 7 PM.**
The **Ladies'** Discipleship group meeting is on **Tuesday, December 6 & 20, at 6:15 PM.**

Table Toppers

The Table Toppers meet **Wednesday afternoons at 2:30 until 5:00.** All ages are welcome to join in for an afternoon of board games and card games. Bring your snacks and beverage.

Presbyterian Men

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

PLEASE JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE, DECEMBER 24TH AT 7:00 PM





Happy Birthday

- 3 Tim Mutchler
- 15 Tami Robinson
- 19 Victoria Lohr
- 25 Chet Johnston, Janet Kohls
- 30 Jeremy McNeill
- 31 Kevin Kohls,

Anniversaries

- 28 Alan & Michelle Bacon

Liturgist

- 04 – Marcia Stout
- 11 – Carrie Diebler
- 18 – Tom Britton
- 25 – Tammi Robinson

Flowers

- 04 – Carrie Diebler
- 11 – Tami Robinson
- 18 – Poinsettias
- 25 - Christmas

Flower charts are no longer available through our company. We will have printed sign-up sheets at the back of the sanctuary on a wooden clip board from now on. Thank you all for providing flowers each Sunday. The cost will still be \$40.00

There will also be a sign-up sheet to sponsor monthly bulletins which is \$25 for the month. This helps will the cost of printing and we appreciate the donations.

Deacon of the Month: Jan Fulton
Elder of the Month: Carrie Diebler

Special Prayers

Abigail Sutherland, Stephen & Jacqueline (Dishon) Sutherland's baby, Alan Basinger, Jay Owen, Anya Schell

Shut-Ins:

Mary Lou Hastings, Sue Headley, Grace Kearns, Marcia Dobbins

Cancer

Patti Howell, cousin of Al Fulton
Vinny Reed, Jeri Hargis nephew
Avery, relative of Judy Eichhorn
Crosby Hieber
Linda Hess, friend of Kelli Patterson
Jennifer Barnes, friend of Connie Watts
Annette Cheney, a friend of Kathy Bardon
Ellen Andrews, Kathy Bardon's cousin
Bruce Price, Dan's brother
Ruthie Robinson, friend of Gennie Rios

Members, Family and Friends of Members:

Dan Price
Ricky Cray
Mary Dunham, Kathy Byrne's friend
Chet Johnston
Marv Hauenstein
Gary Hess, Friend of Kelli Patterson
Sylvia Lane, Kelli Patterson's grandmother
Donna Watts
Jo Anne Johns
Sandy Will, Carrie Diebler's mother
Connie Watts is asking for prayers for her son's wife's family, her step-mom and sister have cancer and prayers for all the caregivers giving their support.

Military:

Keagan Rios, Gennie Rios grandson
Levi Diebler, member and Carrie Diebler's son
Grayson Robinson, Tami Robinson's grandnephew

First Presbyterian News



Kudos and Updates from Jan

Many thanks to everyone who helped with the **funeral luncheon** for Judy Rhode's family. I hardly made any phone calls....**you called** me asking what you could donate or how you could help! We are family...for sure...in good times and sad times!!

Hopefully, everyone received a **stewardship letter with a pledge card included**. Let me know if you did not. Please return your pledge card to the church by **Pledge Sunday, November 27th**, so that the 2023 budget can be set.

Michelle and I are wrapping up the 2022 financial year. Please **complete your 2022 pledges** as soon as you can. Also, if you ordered Sunday morning **flowers** or sponsored **bulletins** for a month and haven't paid for them yet, try to complete those payments before the end of the year. If you need balances on your pledge or any other balances, don't hesitate to let me know.



Look for the **poinsettia order form** in this newsletter and upcoming bulletins. Please pay for your flowers when ordering.

We will not be having our normal Wassail receptions after church during Advent. Your Deacons are concerned about the number of viruses going around, and they want to help keep you safe during the holiday season. We will monitor the situation and may have a small reception after church on Sunday, December 18th.



As many of you know, the **Finance Team recently purchased** the house behind us at **126 South Spring Street**. It has been successfully demolished. The lot needs more top soil and grass seed will be planted in early spring. We have also purchased the house at **116 South Spring Street**, which actually consists of two city lots. There was an interior fire with smoke and water damage totaling \$98,000 in estimated repairs. The owners decided to accept the insurance money and sold us the house and two lots for \$32,500. We will be looking into grants for future demo on this last house and development of a community park/garden on the total five lots...something to benefit our neighborhood and provide a fun, family oriented space for our congregation. If you have any ideas or thoughts on this exciting project or have grant seeking experience, please let me know. I welcome your input.

Jan Fulton, 419/561-0263

B.O.R.N.

Jan Fulton recently met with B.O.R.N. and we will be getting a monthly report from them which we will share in the newsletters this coming year.

Blankets Needed - B.O.R.N. is asking for donations of **New, and Gently Used Blankets, or bedspreads, any size**, for those in need. There is a box in the Welcome Center beside the Coffee Bar for your much needed and appreciated donations.





A Big Thank you
From the Mission Team

Thank you to everyone that brought in filled shoeboxes for Operation Shoebox. The donations are so appreciated by children all over the world.

The Mission Team **will be putting gift tags on the tree this year for Salvation Army families.** The Salvation Army has asked that we do not wrap the gifts for the kids but, it is ok to wrap the gifts for adults. Please have all of your gifts delivered to the church on or before Sunday, December 18th, this gifts will be delivered to Salvation Army by 12:30 PM that day!

Thank you, Debbie Hablitzel

Women's Discipleship Schedule

Tuesday, Dec. 6—Ch. 8 “To the Utmost”
Tuesday, Dec. 20—Ch. 9 “An Advocate”

Men's Discipleship Schedule
Meet at 7:00 PM on the following dates

December 13 & 27



Poinsettia Order Form

This year we will be purchasing poinsettias from Norton's. Colors available are red, white, and pink. **Orders must be in by Sunday, Dec. 18th.** Checks should be made out to the church and payment of **\$14.00 per poinsettia** is appreciated with your order. Poinsettias may be taken home after the Christmas Eve service.

They are ordering a different type of pink poinsettia this year.

Thank you! Jan Fulton

Name _____

Phone _____

Qty ____ Red _____ \$ _____

Qty ____ Pink _____ \$ _____

Qty ____ White _____ \$ _____

Total \$ _____

In Memory of

In Honor of:

I will take my poinsettia home _____

Please give to a shut-in _____



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