



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Mineral Ridge, Ohio

February 2022



VOL. 50 NO. 2

WWW.FPCMR.ORG AND



Well, the first month of 2022 was something, wasn't it? One Sunday, the sanctuary was a deep-freeze because the boiler needed to be repaired; two weeks later, we canceled worship because of snow that fell too suddenly and too quickly to handle before 10:30 a.m. The second month of the year can be difficult, too – but let's hope we're able to gather more often and more easily.

I will be taking some time off, as previously planned, the first part of this month. The Rev. Carolyn Griffeth, who has been such a good friend of this congregation, will be both preaching and moderating a special Session meeting on February 6. The only purpose of this meeting is to meet with your Pastor Nominating Committee and look at the progress they've made in writing a Church Information Form. The "CIF" is the first picture of the First Presbyterian Church of Mineral Ridge that any potential pastor will see, so it's a very important document. Please continue to keep the Pastor Nominating Committee in your prayers as they diligently do their work.

I will begin leading adult Sunday School on Sunday, February 13 at 9:30 a.m. We will explore ways that can help us be more aware of God's presence in our lives and God's work in the world. A wonderful Gospel story about seeing things differently is the story of Jesus' Transfiguration, which we'll hear on February 27. That will be an especially appropriate time for us to share the Lord's Supper before Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2. Stay tuned for details of our Ash Wednesday worship.

On March 6, the First Sunday in Lent, I'm sure you'll enjoy the preaching of the Rev. Dr. Frank Lewis. Frank is a retired pastor who recently moved to Salem from Chester, West Virginia. He is a good friend of Steve's and mine, and we were all part of a group of pastors who traveled together to Malawi and Scotland in 2008. (On March 6, I'll be helping to celebrate our daughter Rachel's milestone birthday!)

Again, I commend you for the care for one another you have shown during the recent upsurge in illness caused by the Omicron variant. Several households in this congregation were affected by this highly transmissible virus. You have continued to show love for your neighbors by following the recommendations of our Health Ministries Task Force. Thank you!

February can be a tough month, but the warmth of this church's fellowship will carry us through! Remember that even as the cold of winter remains, the light continues to come into the world!

*Blessings,
Meta Cramer, Transitional Pastor*

RESPONSIBILITIES FOR FEBRUARY

ELDER: MICHAEL CRAVER

DEACON: PATTY POSTLETHWAIT

LITURGISTS:

FEB 6—DEBBIE RENDES

FEB 13—JILL FABIAN

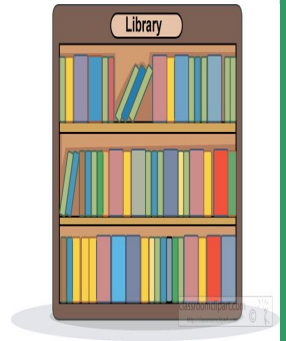
FEB 20—TIM GLEASON

FEB 27—MARTY O'NEILL



ATTENTION ALL THOSE WHO LIKE TO READ!!

Did you know that we have a "Little Library" located in the lounge? It is the bookcase against the east wall. The books that you will find there are for taking – no check out and no need to return them. The books are multiplying so some folks are bringing them so others can read. Take a stop in the lounge and see that there are all kinds of books on those shelves.



Church News

Keep us up to date. E-mail your news to the church office: fpc.ridge@gmail.com or call 330-652-5712



We need your help to restock the Food Pantry! The following items are needed: Canned chicken & tuna, cans or jars of fruit, spaghetti sauce and boxes of cereal. For the Backpack Program we are in need of individual fruit cups and jello cups. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



Congratulations are being sent to those who have just announced their engagements. Michael Craver and Adrionna Campbell became engaged on Christmas Day and have set their wedding date for October 2023. Rosie Gleason and Tom Rebraca became engaged last fall. We are happy to join them in their celebration.

Deacon's Corner



Your Deacons for 2022 are:

**Marnie Bonsall
Sherry Gleason
Melissa Keeley
Marty O'Neill
Patty Postlethwait
January Rendes
Darlene Smith**

Serving as Elders on Session are:

**Michael Craver
Lisa Sorg
Sue McCabe
Brian Williams
Nicole McMullen
Jane Meyers
Carole Rummell**

The ministry of Deacon is one of compassion, witness and service, sharing in the love of Jesus Christ.

Please reach out to one of us if we can be helpful to you in any way.

Fellowship Time after worship will resume Sunday, March 6, 2022.



SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY FEBRUARY 13

Once again we will be participating in the Souper Bowl of Caring. Since 2015 we have donated \$11,952 to local charities that serve those who are in need. This year we will donate all we receive to the Mineral Ridge Parish Fund. Let's hope we can beat the \$521 that we received last year. If you feel moved to match or partially match the congregations giving, please let Carole Rummell (bcrummell@aol.com) know. You will find in the bulletin an easy way to donate. You can click on the QR code on the attached insert, send a donation to the church or place in the offering plate that is located at the back of the sanctuary. Be sure to mark them for the Souper Bowl Offering. Let's join together to help those in need. BTW the Mineral Ridge Parish Fund includes food for the Backpack program at Seaborn Elementary school that sends food home with some children every Friday.

Interpretation and Stewardship



Greetings church family and Happy New Year! The I & S committee would like to keep the church members up to date with the financial status of the church in 2022. The church ended 2021 with the receipts exceeding our expenditures by \$29,011.06. While this number appears promising, here is the actual breakdown of our general fund receipts for 2021. A better comparison of our financial stability would be to compare our offering receipts of 2021 to the previous years. The offering receipts from 2020 were \$118,981.03 compared to this year's receipts of \$106,902.15. This difference of \$12,078.32 from 2020 to 2021. While this information may be surprising, we ask that our church family continue to pray for the financial health of the church during this time of transition.

At the beginning of each year, we also ask that church members pay Per Capita. Per capita is an amount of money per member (this year, \$ 32.00) that our congregation pays to our larger Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). This money is part of the glue that holds Presbyterians together. It is the money that enables us to work with other Presbyterian churches in our presbytery and across the country. It is also money that allows us to work with other churches to further the mission of Jesus Christ around the world. We have a total of 143 members of the church resulting in \$4,567 that will be paid from the General Fund to cover this cost. Historically our church receives approximately 1/3 of the total amount required. Last year in 2021, a total of \$1777.00 was collected compared to \$2446.00 in 2020. If you receive offering envelopes, designated to Per Capita in box of envelopes that members receive each year. For those who do not receive envelopes, the I & S committee has created envelopes that have been placed in the pews at church, or if you write a check, include a note that indicates \$32.00 of your total is dedicated to Per Capita. Please prayerfully consider paying Per Capita and helping to reach our goal.

The I & S Committee is pleased to announce that there will be another Chicken and Biscuit Fundraiser following church on March 6th. The price of the meal will be \$9.50 for an adult and \$4.00 for a child. If you have not had the pleasure of getting a chicken and biscuit dinner, you need to get one on March 6th. The meal is amazing! A big thank you to Jill Fabian and Debbie Rendes who helps organize this fundraiser each year!!!

PRAYER LIST

MEMBERS TO REMEMBER

Mary Alice Seaborn
Marlyne & Robert Young

Dora Painter
Dorothy Jones

Health Concerns

Dianne Stoddard
Mary Alice Seaborn
Betty Garland
Joan Williams
Karen (Sue McCabe's friend)
James Tincher (Marlene's son)
Gayle Hollowell
Barb Wilkins (Tuci Pug's sister)
David Giudici (Emily Pugh's friend)
Clayton & Eileen (Bev Myers' friends)
Kareen Craver-Angeloff (Rodney Craver's mother)
Bill Reddersen (Ted & Darlene Smith's friend)
Gene McElhandy (Rambo's friend)
Amos Rodgers & Cody Tittle (Marlene Tincher's friends)
Craig Colantone (Nicole Pugh's father)
Nicole (Rentz's friend)
Helen Harwood (January Rendes' frandmother)
Dennis Eggert (January Rendes' father)
Bill Kenneally (Meyers' friend)
Helen Redmond
Dillan Keeley

Sympathy, Concern, Nurture, & Support

Eastminster Presbytery and staff
Needles's Eye
Our Mineral Ridge Church Family
Niles Community Services
Warren & Youngstown Rescue Missions
Coronavirus caregivers and patients
World Leaders
Refugees
Rev. Kade Mastra (Indonesian Partner)
Peace and healing for our country
Casa de Buen Trato
Jed and Jenny Koball (Peru)
Someplace Safe
Our PC(USA) coworkers Revs. Scott & Elmarie Parker



Please call the church office to add or delete names to our prayer list. Names will be kept on the list for approximately six weeks unless the office hears otherwise.



Snacking

Most of us snack, and actually snacking isn't "bad" for us if we do it in moderation and make healthy choices. Here are some ideas for healthy snacks.

Munchies that crunch: apples, pears, carrot sticks, celery sticks, bell pepper slices, cucumber slices, broccoli or cauliflower florets, plain popped popcorn and nuts.

Snacks that satisfy: whole-grain toast with peanut or almond butter, cherry tomatoes with hummus, low-fat or fat-free yogurt, fruit and veggie smoothies.

Snacks to curb your sweet tooth: canned fruit in natural juice, baked apple, frozen banana, frozen grapes, fresh fruit salad.





GET READY!! Our Sunday School classes will resume on Sunday, February 13. Yes, that is Super Bowl Sunday. The game doesn't start until 6:30 so start out the year right by coming to Sunday School.

The Adult Class will be taught by our Temporary Pastor, Rev. Cramer. If you have listened to her sermons, you can guess that the class will be informative and enjoyable. The class start at **9:30**. Hope to see you there.

The Tiny Tots class will also begin at **9:30**. We hope the children this age will be able to keep well (no sickness) as spring will be arriving soon. This class is for little ones.

Our Multi-age class is for children Kindergarten through Grade 8. There is a different starting time for class. They will begin at **9:15**. It would be wonderful if more of our children would take advantage of this class. These foundation years are so important in their developing faith.

LENT BEGINS ON MARCH 2. Everyone will be receiving a Lenten calendar this year which is a way to mark the days of Lent. Easter is on April 19. We hope you will be anticipating using the calendars we have purchased for you. In the March Church Mouse we will include how you can find daily devotions on line.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SPECIAL MEETING OF SESSION
MINERAL RIDGE, OHIO
January 16, 2022



The Session of the First Presbyterian Church met on January 16, 2022 at 9:53 am in the lounge of the church.

The meeting was opened with a prayer by Pastor Rev. Meta Cramer.

There was a quorum in attendance with Elders Michael Craver, Lisa Sorg, Jane Meyers, Sue McCabe and Carole Rummell in attendance. Excuses were received from: Brian Williams, Nicole McMullen, Scott Rentz and Clerk Matthew Glidewell. Absent was Ginny Gilmore.

Carole Rummell was appointed Clerk Pro Tem.

Purpose of the meeting was to exam incoming officers. Incoming Deacons Patty Postlethwait and Darlene Smith will be examined at a later date.

Incoming Elders Jane Meyers and Carole Rummell were examined. A motion prevailed to sustain the examination and proceed to their installation which will take place this morning in worship.

A motion prevailed to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was closed with prayer offered by Pastor Cramer.

Committees were asked to meet on January 18 either by Zoom or in person. Pastor

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

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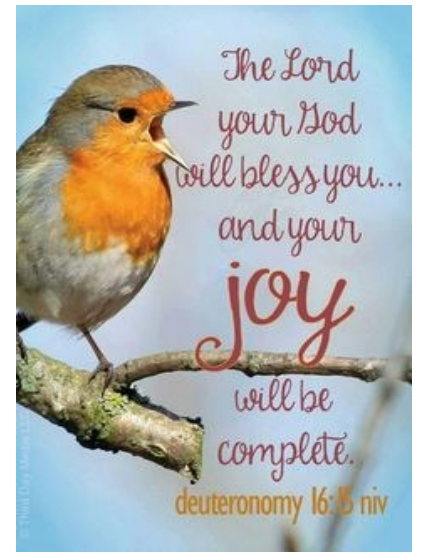
The *Church Mouse* is the monthly (except in July & August) newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church. All visitors are welcome to worship with us online each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. on Facebook. (except Memorial Day through Labor Day when worship is at 10:00 a.m.)

CHECK US OUT
ON FACEBOOK &
WWW.FPCMR.ORG

**THIS IS GOD'S HOUSE
ALL ARE WELCOME!**

MISSION STATEMENT

Guided by the teachings of Jesus Christ, we joyfully strive to create a community of faith that welcomes and nurtures all who seek to experience God's love and grace. With this as our mission, we willingly choose to develop a fellowship through which we will no longer be strangers, but friends in Christ.



LET'S STAY CONNECTED!

HERE ARE WAYS FOR YOU TO WORSHIP WITH US:

Our weekly worship service will be available In-person, via Zoom, Facebook, and YouTube at 10:30am and can be accessed in the following ways:

by joining a "Zoom" meeting at <https://zoom.us/j/8613610300?pwd=QnN2TUErMUVVQlRGalJ1c3A5QTRSQT09> (you may want to test this link ahead of time to make sure you have the necessary file downloaded to join the feed). If you already have the Zoom app, you can just enter the meeting ID# 861 361 0300 and the password 6525712.

calling 929-436-2866 and entering the meeting ID 861 361 0300 # and the password 6525712.

through Facebook at www.facebook.com/FirstPresMineralRidge (you do not have to have a Facebook account to watch, but you would need one to share comments)

through YouTube by searching for "First Presbyterian Church of Mineral Ridge" or at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQyB2URdu5Kxxkk62GXWipQ/>

**We are also worshipping together in our sanctuary!
If you feel comfortable doing so, please bring a mask and join us in person!**