

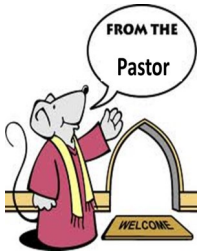
DECEMBER 2018—JANUARY 2019

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF MINERAL RIDGE



VOL. 46 NO. 9

WWW.FPCMR.ORG AND FACEBOOK



Beloved Partners in Ministry,

The prophet Isaiah writes to a community living in exile who had begun to think God had left them. Isaiah 63:11-13 asks the question on everyone's mind, "Where is God?" "Where is the one who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherds of his flock? Where is the one who put within them his holy spirit, ¹² who caused his glorious arm to march at the right hand of Moses, who divided the waters before them to make for himself an everlasting name, ¹³ who led them through the depths?" It seems that God has forgotten all about them and left them to fend for themselves...and things are not going well. They just want to go back to the way it used to be. "10 that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence...³ When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence."

As we begin Advent, we talk about watching and waiting for the arrival of the Christ child. With the Israelites in Isaiah, we may feel nostalgic for the days of yesteryear when God's presence may have seemed so much more active, when the building was full every Sunday and we didn't struggle to meet our budget. But God's presence and activity is no less today than it was yesterday, last year, or 100 years ago. If it seems like God is less active it's not God's fault but ours.

As we wait for Jesus' birth, we are reminded of what that birth means for us: God's presence with us. In the coming of Christ we are given the greatest gift, God in the flesh, a teacher, a mentor, someone whose life and example we have to follow. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 1: "5in every way you have been enriched in [Christ], in speech and knowledge of every kind...⁷ so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸ He will also strengthen you to the end... ⁹ God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."

We know God is with us, in our human experience. God came down to earth and walked among us. God is with us and always will be. God is at work in this world and in our lives. If we do not see God at work it is because WE are not working hard enough. We are God's people, Jesus' disciples, tasked with doing God's work, spreading God's kingdom and message of hope, peace, love, and joy.

In Advent we are invited to watch and to wait, but we are also called to prepare, to prepare ourselves and this world for the coming of Christ. This Advent and as we move into 2019, let us be open to the ways that God is calling us to be at work in the world. May God continue to shape us into more faithful disciples, active in our faith and our love for all of humankind.

*In Christ's peace,
Pastor Jamie*

**December
Responsibilities**

Elder:

12/9 Nicole McMullen
12/16 Brooke Kaschak
12/23 Jill Fabian
12/30 Matt Glidewell

Deacon:

12/9 Val Meyers
12/16 Lori Brendlinger
12/23 Marty O'Neill
12/30 Diane Koch

Liturgists:

12/2 Olivia Meyers
12/9 Darlene Smith
12/16 Muffin Rummell
12/23 Youth
12/24
5:30 Scott Rentz
10:00
12/30

Advent Wreath

12/2 Mary Alice Seaborn,
Ginny Gilmore &
Sandy Larmey
12/9 Yvonne & Scott Rentz
12/16 Bethany Glidewell,
Jill Fabian, Katie Lindahl
& Nicole McMullen
12/23 Bryce Brendlinger,
Jaclyn Craver &
Abbie Postlethwait
12/24
5:30
10:00 Mackenzie & Zane
Rummell

Greeters:

12/9 Ken & Cindy Kaschak
12/16 Marlene Tinchler &
Beverly Myers
12/23 Jim & Dianne Stoddard

Responsibilities continued
On Page 2

NEWS ABOUT AND FOR OUR FOLKS



Keep us up to date
E-mail your news to the
church office:
Jane.fpc@sbcglobal.net
or call: 330-652-5712

Sympathy to **January Johnson and Mark Rendes** on the passing of January's mother Mary Harwood on November 14.

Congratulations to **Harper Lindahl Milton!** She was Kindergarten Student of the Month at Seaborn Elementary.

Our Honor Roll Students:

Seaborn Grade 4—**Tyler Pugh**, All A's

MR High Grade 7—**Ian Erb**

Grade 10—**Evan Erb**

Grade 11—**Abbie Postlethwait**

Grade 12—**Kaitlyn Pugh**

Howland Grade 5—**Olivia Meyers**, All A's

Thank you to Jeff Kaschak for the education he provided to our congregation regarding fire safety. Sunday October 28th

Jeff spent time with our Sunday school classes and discussed fire safety and performed a fire drill. He evaluated our fire detectors and extinguishers and made recommendations as necessary. During worship he also provided fire safety information as well as conducted a fire drill. We are thankful Jeff for your time and talents. Your presentation was very informative and your time is greatly appreciated.

Suzie Merz has a new address. She is now living at Antonine Village:

Eileen "Suzie" Merz

2675 N. Lipkey Rd.

North Jackson, OH 44451

January 12

Vital Congregations Workshop and Organizational Meeting

Rev. Cathy Ulrich, Eastminster Presbytery's General Presbyter, will join us for this annual Saturday workshop on Vital Congregations. Rev. Ulrich will speak to us about this new initiative of the Presbyterian Church and help us to begin thinking about what makes a congregation vital and what the church needs to do to continue sharing the good news of Christ to the changing culture that surrounds us.

This workshop is open to all! We will gather at 8:30 for breakfast. The workshop is scheduled to begin at 9 and end around 11:45. Following the workshop our officers will choose their committee assignments for the year and Session will examine the incoming officers in preparation for their Ordination and/or Installation.

Responsibilities continued

12/24

5:30 Mary Alice Seaborn
& Dianne Stoddard

10:00 Ken & Jan Rambo

12/30 Ken & Jan Rambo

Story Circle:

12/2 Jill Fabian

12/9 Patty Postlethwait

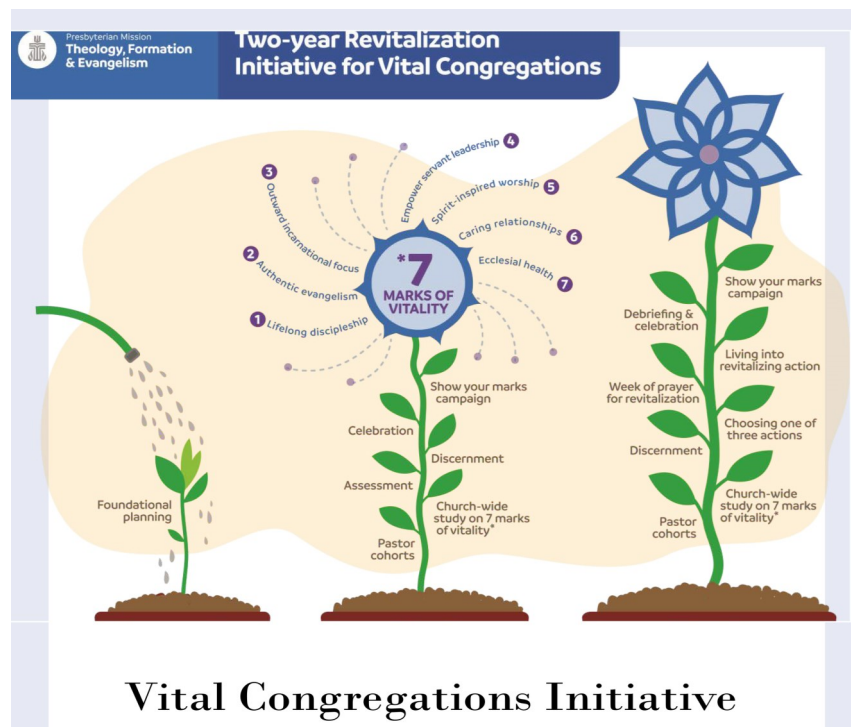
12/16 Brooke Kaschak

12/23 No Story Circle -

Children's Program

12/24 No Story Circle

12/30 No Story Circle



Members to Remember

Jim Sewell June Keeley Suzie Merz

Health Concerns

Joan Williams Andria Crawford Abel Rios
 Betty Garland Joe Shoemaker Kim Shuttleworth
 Robin Warrick
 Colby Simmons (Cravers' friend)
 Bob Hibler (Chelsea's father)
 Bob Hollowell (Gayle's cousin)
 Karen (Sue McCabe's friend)
 Joanne Teets (former member)
 Wanda Burns & Patricia McMahan (Sandy
 Larmey's friends)
 Laura & Brad Haines (Cravers' friends)
 Sean Brenner (Darryl & Jane Meyers' nephew)
 Zac Weber (Kathy Graham's future son-in-law)
 Audra Stanford (Melissa Keeley's grandmother)
 Craig Colantone (Nicole Pugh's father)
 Grady Oprean (Ron & Andria Crawford's friend)
 David Giudici (Emily Fick's friend)
 Jessica & baby Easton Gillespie and family
 (Postlethwait's nephew)

James Martini (Mary Jane Shaffer's friend)
 Cindy Renner (Michelle Meyers' neighbor)
 Michael Scholl (Ted & Darlene Smith's brother
 -in-law)
 Rick Redmond (Tom's brother)
 Andrew (relative of Patty Postlethwait)
 Fran Mortellaro & Kathy Rozzo (Meyers'
 friends)

Sympathy, Concern, Nurture, & Support

Rev. Jamie Milton, Minister
 Eastminster Presbytery and staff
 Someplace Safe Needle's Eye
 Niles Community Services Refugees
 Warren & Youngstown Rescue Missions
 Disaster victims World Leaders
 Casa de Buen Trato
 Jed and Jenny Koball (Peru)
 Rev. Kade Mastra (Indonesian Partner)
 Our PC(USA) coworkers Revs. Scott & Elmarie
 Parker
 Brandon Groves and family (Marnie Bonsall's
 nephew)

PRAYER LIST

Names will be kept on the prayer list for approximately six weeks unless the office hears otherwise.



Deacons
 Called
 To Serve

Heart Health Starts in the Kitchen

Weight-loss initiatives and dieting often go hand-in-hand, but healthy diets can do more than help women shed pounds. Heart disease is the primary killer of females, but embracing heart-healthy diets can help women reduce their risk of developing cardiovascular disease.

The right diet can help reduce women's risk for heart disease. Here are a few easy ways to modify eating habits to be more heart-healthy.

- Avoid consuming too many calories. Control portion sizes so that you are not overloading on extra calories. Eat larger portions of nutrient-rich foods and go sparingly on high-calorie, high-sodium and / or refined foods. Being overweight can contribute to heart problems.
- Increase produce consumption. A variety of low-calorie fruits and vegetables can provide ample nutrition and plenty of healthy antioxidants. Choose a variety of fruits and vegetables so that you get as many vitamins and minerals as possible. Make fruits and vegetables your largest portions when eating.
- Reduce sodium intake. Too much sodium consumption can increase blood pressure and cause the body to hold onto fluid. Hypertension is a major risk factor for heart attack, stroke and other cardiovascular problems.
- Add more whole grains to your diet. Dietary fiber from whole grains may improve blood cholesterol levels, thereby lowering your risk for heart disease. Dietary fiber also can lower risk of stroke, obesity and type 2 diabetes.
- Load up on berries. When choosing fruits, go heavy on berries. More than three servings of blueberries and strawberries a week had a 32 percent lower risk of heart attack compared with those who ate less.
- Indulge in smart ways. When eating sweets, choose dark chocolate. It contains flavonoids called polyphenols, which may help lower blood pressure and reduce clotting and inflammation.

OUR DEACONS

Marnie Bonsall
 Lori Brendlinger
 Rusty Garland
 Bethany Glidewell
 Melissa Keeley
 Diane Koch
 Valerie Meyers
 Marty O'Neill
 Debbie Rendes
 Ken Wilson



**From our
 Parish
 Nurse**

Beginning in 2019 the Board of Deacons will absorb the mission work of the church. We will be asking for your help as we work on mission projects.

MISSION — AROUND THE CORNER & AROUND THE WORLD

OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

1. We will have names of kids again from our Community Cupboard with gift suggestions. We still have several names. You can get one on Sunday. Remember to please keep a \$20 to \$25 gift amount. If you would like to spend more we ask that you take another name or an entire family of kids.

2. We will be selling \$20 ham vouchers again for the Christmas distribution for the Community Cupboard.



*These are opportunities for giving.
You are not expected to give to all,
but to those that touch your heart.*

3. We will be collecting hats, gloves, and scarves for Niles Community Service. Clothes lines will be hung up by November 18 for you to hang your donations on.

4. We will be serving a free community lunch on December 18 (the day of Christmas Distribution). We need people to help serve. Let Brooke Kaschak know if you can help.

5. Donations of 75 candy canes, 75 Christmas napkins and plates, and 3 bags of mini marshmallows are needed for the 1st grade class that our committee has adopted.

2019 Offering Envelopes

*will be available for you to pick up in
Fellowship Hall on December 16.
Thank you for helping us save on postage.
Our Financial Secretary will deposit 2018
giving through December 31.*

INTERPRETATION & STEWARDSHIP



Greetings Church Family,

As the end of the year approaches, I & S committee would like to update the congregation on the financial health of the church. The financials through the end of October are disappointing. Since February, the church has overspent by approximately \$6,000. We had hoped that over the months this gap would close as we received contributions from our church members. Unfortunately, this is not the case. We are currently overspent by \$5,651. At the beginning of 2018, the general fund balance was \$16,693. Currently it is \$11,042.52. As advent is upon us and as it is the season of giving, please consider giving back to our church. We acknowledge and sympathize that this is not possible for everyone considering the financial setbacks our community is experiencing. However, we appreciate any financial contribution that is made to the church.

Stewardship Campaign



*"One generation
shall laud your
works to another,
and shall declare
your mighty acts."
Psalm 145:4*

November 4th was dedicated as commitment Sunday at our church. Members were asked to pledge their gifts to the church, whether it was financial, time, or talent. Thank you to all of those members who made a financial pledge to the church for the 2019 year. We received 31 pledges for a total of \$71,750. The pledges are utilized to help determine the budget for the coming year. We have estimated our operating budget to be around \$131,000. We still have a gap of \$59,250 to make up for in order to keep the church running in 2019. It is not too late to make a pledge to the church. It can be dropped in the offering plate on Sunday mornings or e-mailed to the financial secretary @ fpcfinsec@zoominternet.net.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS



BOOK GROUP BEGINS NEW BOOK ON JANUARY 9

Once again you are invited to join the Book Group in reading and discussing the book An American Princess by Annejet van der Zijl. It can be purchased for your Kindle or borrowed from the library or you can purchase the hardback book. The group meets on Wednesdays 4:00 to 5:30pm. We read about 50 pages a week which makes it more doable for those who are busy and those who are employed. This book will be discussed through the month of January beginning January 9. If you would like to join to read this book, it does not obligate you to stay with the group for the next book. If you have questions, call Carole Rummell, 330-652-4603.



CHURCH SCHOOL NOTES

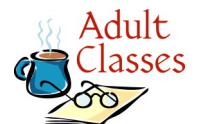
Parents may want to borrow some DVDs and books that tell the story of Jesus' birth. They can be found on the narrow table inside the Fellowship Hall. All you need to do is sign them out to borrow them. You are encouraged to borrow them to reinforce the real meaning of Christmas.

We will not have Church School classes on December 30. We will resume with classes for all on January 6, the first Sunday of the new year. This would be a great way to begin 2019.

If anyone would like to have some of the elementary size chairs that are not in use, they can be had for the asking. They are blue and are very sturdy chairs. We have 12 that we will be giving away. Our congregational members can have first choice then we will offer them to other churches if we have any left. Just speak to Debbie Rendes, Lori Brendlinger or Carole Rummell to make arrangements to view them.

ADULT CHURCH SCHOOL CLASS

Beginning on January 6, 2019 our two adult Church School classes will be meeting together in the lounge while Ted Smith is away for the winter months. We hope you can join us for a time of Bible study, discussion, and fellowship each week at 9:15am!



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN MISSION?

The Christian Education Committee is gauging interest in an all ages Lenten mission trip to visit with the Hot Metal Bridge Faith Community in Pittsburgh. This short term mission experience would begin on a Friday evening, extend through the day on Saturday, and we would return home after worship on Sunday. This trip will offer anyone who is interested a chance to learn about poverty and homelessness in Pittsburgh and serve alongside God's people in need. A brief informational meeting will be held after worship on December 16th in the lounge. We will attempt to find a date that works for the majority of people at this meeting, probably sometime in March or April 2019. If you are interested but unable to attend that meeting, please contact Pastor Jamie.



Christian Education has planned a mission project for after the New Year. Our youth will be raising money to purchase mini/travel pillows. Diane Stoddard will use donated material to make fun pillow cases for the pillows. Our youth will also make blankets to go with the pillows/cases. These supplies will be delivered to children's hospital, where our youth will pass them out early next Spring. We want to provide mission/service opportunities for our little ones. We would love for them to learn, grow, and appreciate the importance of donating their time and talents.





SESSION NOTES FROM DECEMBER 4, 2018

Session Minutes of October 23, 2018 were approved.

Received the Treasurer's report for October and heard that giving exceeded spending in October by \$211. Additionally, we heard that the year-to-date spending exceeds giving by \$5,651.11.

Ratified an e-poll to allow the use of the building for the Weathersfield Local School District on 11/29, 12/7, 12/10, 12/12, 12/14 from 8am until 3pm.

Approved congregational meeting minutes from November 4, 2018

Approved the Call for the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 27, 2019, for the purpose of receiving the annual report and approve the Pastor's Terms of Call for 2019 and any other business appropriate to come before the body.

Approved building usage for a member on 2/17/2019.

Heard that the budget and the Pastors term of call will be approved at the January 12, session meeting.

Approved a \$0.50 raise for Jane and Nancy and approved a bonus for Jamie in the amount of \$200; Jane in the amount of \$100; Nancy in the amount of \$50; and Anita in the amount of \$50.

Heard an update from the Presbytery meeting held on December 4, 2018.

Heard that next Committee Night will be January 22, and the Session meeting will be January 29.

Prayers were offered up for those we know to be in need of prayer.



Session has issued a call for our annual Congregational Meeting for Sunday, January 27, 10:30am.

During worship we will lift up some of the highlights from 2018, receive the Annual Report, and vote on the Pastor's Terms of Call for 2019, and any other business appropriate to come before the body.



December 23, 2018

The Christmas Joy Offering of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) assists leaders and their families—past, present, and future. The offering supports church workers and their families who have retired, those who continue their ministry, and those who will be our future leaders. Each of us gives thanks to someone who points us to God and the gift of Jesus in our lives.

Your gift to the Christmas Joy Offering will also be used to support education at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color and leadership development efforts of the Racial Equity Office of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

Offering envelopes are included in this newsletter. Please give generously.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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330-652-5712 Fax 330-652-8145

PastorJMilton@gmail.com
Jane.FPC@sbcglobal.net

The *Church Mouse* is the monthly (except in July & August) newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church. All visitors are welcome to worship with us each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. (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!**

DECEMBER 2018—JANUARY 2019

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Return Service Requested

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.

*Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
at
First Presbyterian Church
December 24, 2018*

*5:30pm
Special
Children's Message
Special Music*



*10:00pm
Special Music
by Larry Harris*