

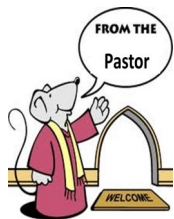
DECEMBER 2019—JANUARY 2020

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF MINERAL RIDGE



VOL. 47 NO. 9

WWW.FPCMR.ORG AND FACEBOOK



Beloved Partners in Ministry,

Welcome to Advent! The season of Advent marks the beginning of a new liturgical year. This Advent our church is also kicking off a new denominational initiative as we attempt to answer the call to become a Matthew 25 church. Matthew 25:31-46 may be a familiar passage to many. It calls all of us to be actively engaged in the world around us, displaying our faith through our actions and how we treat our neighbors. Briefly, it tells of Jesus receiving into the kingdom those who in life had shown him compassion by feeding him, giving him water, welcoming him, clothing him, caring for him when he was sick, and visiting him in prison. Shocked, the righteous do not remember doing any of these things for Jesus, to which he replies, "I assure you that when you have done it for one of the least of these siblings of mine, you have done it for me."

These words from Matthew 25 will serve as our focal point for 2020: serving others IS serving Christ. The PC(USA)'s initiative invites churches to be involved in one of three areas: 1- Building congregational vitality, 2- Dismantling structural racism, or 3- Eradicating systemic poverty. Our Session has chosen to focus on systemic poverty. We are already at work meeting the needs of some of our neighbors who are experiencing poverty or food insecurity. We support our own food pantry and Niles Community Services (NCS) which does a lot of work in this area. One question that we don't often think about when we donate food, or pack grocery bags to hand out to those in need is, "Why?" Why is there such a great need? Why do hundreds of people walk through the doors of NCS every month to get help with groceries? Once we start to learn about the reasons behind systemic and generational poverty, we can then begin to ask another important question, "What am I going to do about it?"

Throughout the year we will have many opportunities to engage with our neighbors and learn about our community. Two such opportunities are coming up in the next six weeks. First, we are hosting a free community breakfast on December 14th for anyone who wishes to come and eat. I invite you to come and sit with someone that you do not know, to introduce yourself, and engage in conversation with your neighbor. This may feel scary (especially if you are an introvert like me!), but I promise that your time spent in conversation will prove rewarding.

Your second opportunity to get to know your neighbor and how we can better serve our community comes on January 11, 2020. We will be hosting a panel discussion with community leaders who will help us better understand the people who live around us. You can find more information about this event inside this newsletter. Please plan to join us...there will be food!

Living a life of service to others is one of the main reasons that I feel called to ministry and I am excited about the possibilities of walking this path with all of you! May we all fully embrace our calling to be a Matthew 25 congregation, a people ready to serve the image of God found in every person we meet.

*In Christ's peace,
Pastor Jamie*

**December / January
Responsibilities**

Elder: Dec. Scott Rentz
Jan. Ken Kaschak

Deacon:
12/8 Darren Garriss
12/15 David Rummell
12/22 Lori Brendlinger
12/29 Marty O'Neill
January - Marty O'Neill

Liturgists:
12/8 Cindy Kaschak
12/15 Patty Postlethwait
12/22 Matt Glidewell
12/24 Early Scott Rentz
Late Ginny Gilmore

Greeters:
12/1 Paul & Debby
Wasilewski
12/8 Joe & Diane Koch
12/15 Billie Moore &
Gayle Hollowell
12/22 Scott & Yvonne
Rentz
12/24 Early Mary Alice
Seaborn & Sherri Craver
Late Sandy Larmey &
Marty O'Neill



NEWS AROUND THE CHURCH



Congratulations to **Mark & January Rendes** who were married on November 2 at First Presbyterian Church!

Congratulations to **Debbie Rendes** on the birth of her granddaughter Elise Madison Cates, who arrived November 18 weighing 6lbs 7oz and 19.5in. Her proud parents are Trisha & Grant Cates.

Congratulations to **Bret Warrick and Hannah Heintz** on the birth of their son Brock Douglas Warrick on October 19, weighing 7lbs 5oz and 19.5in. The proud grandmother is Robin Warrick and great-grandmother is Ginny Gilmore.

We welcome **Tom & Shirley Brodie** to our church family. They were received by the church Session on December 3 and will be welcomed into membership on Sunday, December 8. They come by Letter of Transfer from the Niles First Presbyterian Church. Welcome!



Mark your calendars for 2 upcoming **Drive Thru Chicken & Biscuit Dinners:**
February 9 and March 29

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

**FACEBOOK
LIVE**

We have begun streaming our services online via FaceBook Live. If you are ever unable to join us on a Sunday or wish to share our worship experience with your friends or family, you will be able to find us at <https://www.facebook.com/FirstPresMineralRidge/>. You DO NOT need to have a Facebook account to view the live stream.

Please bear with us as we work out some of the kinks and figure out the right placement, setup, and equipment that we will be using. Depending on the circumstances, some services may not be streamed, but we hope to make our worship services available as often as possible!

SOUPER BOWL IS COMING! FEBRUARY 2, 2020



The first Sunday in February is **OUR Souper Bowl** as well as the big Super Bowl game on TV. This day is where we will ask our worshippers, as they leave worship, to put at least one dollar \$\$ in the soup pots at the door held by our youngsters. We have a history of giving to this offering. The offering will help those in need. Often, we have someone who offers to match the congregations giving or sometimes they offer to match a portion of the offering. Think about how much is spent on snacks consumed as folks watch the Super Bowl game and let's see how much we can raise for our Souper Bowl game.



We are still collecting Recyclables:

Clean plastic bags (basket outside office)

Box Tops for Education (marked box on coat rack shelf outside office)

Ink & toner cartridges (office)

The following can be placed in the bin in Fellowship Hall by elevator: hair care packaging, skin care packaging, cosmetics packaging, tooth brushes, toothpaste tubes, drink pouches, laptops, net-books, notebooks, E-readers, tablets, I-Pads, I-Pods, cell phones.

Members to Remember

Jim Sewell June Keeley

Health Concerns

Andria Crawford Abel Rios Joe Shoemaker
 Colby Simmons (Cravers' friend)
 Bob Hibler (Chelsea's father)
 Bob Hollowell (Gayle's cousin)
 Karen (Sue McCabe's friend)
 James Tincher (Marlene's son)
 Rick Redmond (Tom's brother)
 Amos Rodgers and Cody Tittle (Marlene's friends)
 Patricia McMahan (Sandy Larmey's friend)
 Laura & Brad Haines (Cravers' friends)
 Zac Weber (Kathy Graham's son-in-law)
 Craig Colantone (Nicole Pugh's father)
 Grady Oprean (Ron & Andria Crawford's friend)
 David Giudici (Emily Pugh's friend)
 Michael Scholl (Ted & Darlene Smith's brother-in-law)
 Gayle Rossi (Marty O'Neill's friend)
 Debra Miller (Debbie Rendes' friend)
 Justin Glaum (Mineral Ridge firefighter)
 Clayton and Eileen (Bev Myers' family friends)
 Eric Gelsomino (Niles Community Services board member)
 Kareen Craver-Angeloff (Rodney Craver's mother)

Karen Perko and Larry Schmidt (Meyers' friends)
 Steve Krall (Helen Redmond's brother)
 Karlene Adams (friend of Pugh and Postlethwait families)
 Mary Jean Garriss (Darren Garriss' mother)
 Aynsley Zmarelli (Kathy Graham's granddaughter)
 Mike Yaksic (Val Meyers' friend)

Sympathy, Concern, Nurture, & Support

Rev. Jamie Milton, Minister Eastminster Presbytery and staff
 Someplace Safe Needle's Eye
 Niles Community Services
 Warren & Youngstown Rescue Missions
 World Leaders Refugees
 Casa de Buen Trato
 Jed and Jenny Koball (Peru)
 Rev. Kade Mastra (Indonesian Partner)
 Our PC(USA) coworkers Revs. Scott & Elmarie Parker
 Dennis Galbraith (Darlene Smith's brother)

PRAYER LIST

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

**HIGH FIVE**

The secret to preventing dry, flaky hands in knowing what causes the issue in the first place. Try our expert's tips for healthier, prettier skin.

Your hands have five top enemies during the winter months.



First up are alcohol-based hand sanitizers, which pull natural oils from your skin. Use an alcohol-free version instead.

Next, make sure you don't over-wash your hands. Use a gentle soap or cleanser to avoid dried out skin.

Be picky about moisturizers, too. Skip oil-free varieties; natural oils such as coconut help maintain a healthy skin barrier.

Don a pair of gloves if you do dishes by hand, and pull on a pair of insulated gloves when venturing outside to shield your hands from the drying frigid air.

OUR DEACONS

Marnie Bonsall
 Lori Brendlinger
 Rusty Garland
 Darren Garriss
 Diane Koch
 Valerie Meyers
 Marty O'Neill
 Sue Rentz
 David Rummell
 Ken Wilson



From our Parish Nurse

INTERPRETATION & STEWARDSHIP

Update on Financial Status through September 2019



Per Capita for

2020

will remain the
same as last year

\$32.00

Just a reminder as the year comes to a close, December is the last month to ensure pledge contributions to the church are up to date. Through November, we are operating at a \$3985.17 deficit for the year. The church leadership has taken action this year to support the general fund in other ways than the contributions from its members. We have hosted 4 separate fundraisers that have supplemented the general fund by approximately \$5000.

Please remember that in order for our church to continue to do all the great things it does for mission and the community that we need our members to support it financially. We understand that this year has brought financial setbacks to our community with the closing of General Motors and other area businesses and pray that 2020 will bring new beginnings and opportunities to our community.

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.



This special
offering will be
dedicated in
worship Dec. 22.

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.

GENERAL FUND ACTIVITY

	Beginning Balance	Add Receipts	Less Spent	Additions Adjustments	Under/(Over) Spent	Ending Balance
January	15,534.60	8,238.50	9,242.20	0.17*	(1,003.53)	14,531.07
February	14,531.07	8,668.82	11,469.28	0.17*	(2,800.29)	11,730.78
March	11,730.78	11,944.00	8,929.58	0.19*	3,014.61	14,745.39
April	14,745.39	10,934.00	11,249.82	0.18*	(315.64)	14,429.75
May	14,429.75	8,219.84	8,970.56	0.19*	(750.53)	13,679.22
June	13,679.22	10,329.00	10,501.00	0.19*	(171.81)	13,507.41
July	13,507.41	10,194.02	11,881.99	0.19*	(1,687.78)	11,819.63
August	11,819.63	7,237.34	7,831.66	0.17*	(594.15)	11,225.48
September	11,225.48	11,156.00	10,905.39	0.19*	250.80	11,476.28
October	11,476.28	9,903.51	9,885.62	0.40*	18.29	11,494.57
November	11,494.57	10,420.96	10,366.11	0.01*	54.86	11,549.43
Year to Date	15,534.60	107,245.99	111,233.21	2.05*	(3,985.17)	11,549.43
				*interest earned		

In Memoriam

Eileen "Suzie" Merz

United with First Presbyterian Church

September 17, 1995

Joined the Church Triumphant

October 6, 2019



*"Blessed are the dead who die in the lord henceforth . . .
That they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them."
- Revelation 14:13*



Memorial Gifts to the Glory of God and in Memory of

Eileen "Suzie" Merz

have been given by:

Sue McCabe & Family
Patricia Phillips
Tom & Helen Redmond
Stuart Rosenberg
Amy Larsh
Steven & Pamela Zimmer
Daryl & Lisa Dickson
John & Savilla McCabe
Bev Myers
Marsha Brozier
Marlene Tincher
Ken & Jan Rambo

Allen McCabe
Cathy Brown
Carole Rummell
Joe & Diane Koch
Sandy Larmey
Darryl & Jane Meyers
Nicholas & Debra Flesor
Norman & Cynthia Anderson
SE:DTA (Southeast Local School
District Teachers Association
Judy DiGiacomo
Friends of Bill Merz

UPCOMING WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



We hope that you will join us for these wonderful worship opportunities over the coming weeks:

Second Sunday of Advent, December 8: Special music provided by Anita Miller and Brendon Considine. We will also receive new members and welcome them with a reception following worship.

Third Sunday of Advent, December 15: We have the privilege of baptizing Brock Douglas Warrick and welcoming him to our church family!

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 22: Our children will lead us in worship on this Sunday as they share the good news of Jesus birth.

At 5:00 pm, you are invited to join us for a Contemplative Christmas Prayer Service. This service of scripture, song, and prayer offers worshipers a quiet space to reflect on the season. We remember that the holidays are a time of mixed emotions for many and this service offers all a place to worship in whatever ways they need. A reception will follow.

Christmas Eve, December 24: Candle-lighting services at 5:30 pm and 10:00 pm.



First Sunday of Christmas, December 29: A Service of Lessons and Carols will be presented as we once again share in the good news of Jesus birth in story and in song.

Epiphany of the Lord, January 5: We celebrate the coming of the Magi to greet the newborn king. We will receive our 2020 Star Words during worship in this Sunday and celebrate Communion to welcome in the new year.

Baptism of the Lord, January 12: We remember our own baptisms as we celebrate Jesus' baptism.

Installation of New Officers, January 19: Celebrate with our incoming officers as they dedicate themselves to the work of God through our congregation.

Annual Congregational Meeting, January 26: During worship we will lift up some of the highlights from 2019, receive the Annual Report, and vote on the Pastoral Call. Join us as we worship and celebrate another year of ministry together.

WE ARE A COMMUNITY

Getting to Know Our Community: Breakfast and Panel Discussion (January 11, 2020)

The Christian Education Committee is excited to offer this educational event to the whole church. We will be joined by four members of our community who will each offer a different perspective of who is in our community and what our community's needs may be. Joining us will be: Dave Rouan, Weathersfield Township; Jean Williams, Niles Community Services; TJ Koniowski, Seaborn Elementary School; and Tom Lambert, Weathersfield Fire Chief and Lanes LifeTrans Chief of Operations.

This event is open to all and will be a valuable opportunity for us to learn about the community in which we minister. It promises to be an eye opening event.

We will gather for **breakfast at 8:30 am**. The panel discussion is scheduled to begin at **9:00 am** and end around **10:45 am**. What better way to spend a cold January morning than learning about your neighbors and how we can care for them?

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

CHILDREN'S CHURCH SCHOOL MISSION PROJECT

Our Multi-age class will be choosing a mission project beginning at the first of 2020. They will choose an animal from the Presbyterian Mission Catalog. What kind of mission project you ask? The catalog has opportunities for folks to purchase animals that will be sent to those in need either in this country or abroad. Just think if they buy a pair of rabbits....The family that gets them will have lots of rabbits to pass on to other families. If they purchase a goat or two the family that receives them will have milk for their children as well, if they have babies, they can pass the babies on to their neighbors. If they choose chickens, the family will have eggs and chicken dinners and little peeps. Wow. The students will be bringing their \$\$ to Church School and they will watch their offerings grow. It may take some time for them to get enough \$\$ to purchase an animal but we are convinced they can do it.



YOU ARE INVITED....TO ATTEND AFTER WORSHIP ON JANUARY 12, 2020...

The session has had a Sexual Misconduct Policy for many years. We have also had a Child Protection Policy. A task force has reviewed and updated both of those policies which the session has approved.

All adults that work with our children and youth are required to attend the policy orientation on Sunday, January 12, at 11:45 in the lounge. Others are encouraged to attend so they may understand the policies. If you just want to read the policies you can find a copy in the Operating Manual in the Church Office.

**WE WILL
PROTECT
OUR
CHILDREN!**

BOOK GROUP RECONVENES WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8 AT 4:00

We will be reading No Ordinary Time, Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt: The Home Front in World War II. This book was a winner of the Pulitzer Prize. A quote from People Magazine says, "An exhilarating combination of rigorous history-biography and high-class soap opera." We usually read about 50 pages a week (yes we do meet weekly). The book is 636 pages so we will take our time with it. For the January 8 meeting we will discuss Chapters 1 and 2. You may want to join our small group to make discoveries about this period of our history. The libraries in the area do have e-books that you can check out or of course you could purchase a copy. We convene at 4:00 and conclude by 5:30 promptly. Questions?? Talk to Carole Rummell.



There will not be a Church School classes on December 29. We will start the new year out with one more intergenerational class on January 5, 2020, and then we will be back to our regular classrooms on January 12.

Beginning on January 12, 2020 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!

**PLEASE
TAKE
NOTE!**

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

MINERAL RIDGE COMMUNITY FOOD CUPBOARD

We are busy preparing for our Christmas food distribution! Here are some ways YOU can help:

Donating food: We are especially in need of cereal, pasta sauce, jelly, mashed potatoes and paper products.

Purchasing a ham voucher: We give each family a voucher to Macali's Giant Eagle in Niles to buy a ham or other items we do not supply.

Packing food bags: At 6:00pm on December 9 we need help packing the food bags for distribution the following day. While a lot of work, with many hands, this event is usually completed in 30-45 minutes!



SEABORN ELEMENTARY BACKPACK PROGRAM

We are now two months into our backpack program at the elementary school. Each week we are sending home a few items to 11 families who have need. So far, the response to this program has been great and we hope to continue sending food home every Friday! Please keep your donations of food and money coming so that we can continue to feed the children of our community!

We like to send the following items: Fruit cups and pudding cups, packs of crackers, cereal, jelly. If you would prefer to donate money, please mark your cash donation or write your check to the Mineral Ridge Community Parish Fund and place it in the offering plate. With these donations the Deacons are able to buy fresh apples and oranges to send home along with any canned goods and non-perishable items!



INTERGENERATIONAL CHURCH SCHOOL

GenOn LIFT Advent

In the spring, our children and adult Church School classes met together for a few weeks. We had so much fun together that we are offering another opportunity for God's children from 1 to 100 to worship, pray, play, and eat together! GenOn LIFT's (Living In Faith Together) curriculum "Here comes Jesus!" will provide our entire church with an opportunity to learn more about some of our favorite characters from the Christmas story. Everyone is invited to join us in the Fellowship Hall beginning on December 8 at 9:15am.

The topics include:

Here come Mary and Joseph! (Dec 8)

Here come the shepherds! (Dec 15)

Here come the Magi! (Dec 22)

Here come Anna and Simeon! (Jan 5, 2020)



Join us for one week or for them all! We will be singing CHRISTMAS CAROLS, reading the Christmas story, playing and praying together and of course...EATING! Parents and grandparents will have the opportunity to learn and worship alongside of their children. Those without children will be able to share their wisdom while witnessing our youngest generation engage in the joy that God's word gives to us all. Everyone has something to offer and something to learn. Join us this Advent!

PLANNING FOR 2020

Please pray for all of our incoming officers as they to attend **Officer Training** on Wednesday, January 8th at 6:30. During this time, officers will be reminded of the duties of their office and go over the important vows that they will take upon their installation into office. Please pray for these officers as they prepare to begin their service to the church: Ruling Elders Michael Craver, Ginny Gilmore, and Lisa Strange; Deacons Sherry Gleason, Melissa Keeley, and Marty O’Neill.



Elder and Deacon Organizational Meeting (January 11, 2020)

All officers serving in 2020 are asked to attend our annual organizational meeting. Following the community panel discussion (at approximately 11:00 am), 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 and conduct any other needed business.



Session has issued a call for our annual Congregational Meeting for Sunday, January 26, 10:30am. During worship we will life up some of the highlights from 2019, receive the Annual Report, and vote on the Pastor's Terms of Call for 2020, and any other business appropriate to come before the body.



SESSION NOTES FROM DECEMBER 3, 2019

Approved the minutes of the October 29, 2019 Session meeting and the November 3, 2019 Congregational Meeting.

Received the Treasurers Report for October and November and approved them for Audit.

Heard that membership as of November 30, 2019 was 144.

Called an annual Congregational Meeting on January 26, 2020 to receive the 2019 Annual Report, approve the 2020 Terms of Call for Rev. Jamie Milton, and hear any other business.

Received John "Tom" and Shirley Brodie for membership by Letter of Transfer from the First Presbyterian Church of Niles, OH and to receive them as new members.

Approve the 2020 budget and moved to present the 2020 Pastoral Terms of Call the congregation.

Approved to elect Treasurer, Financial Secretary, and Clerk for 2020.

Heard that we have invited four community leaders to the Officer Training in January to discuss the needs of the community from the perspective of our local leaders.

Approve the use of the building for the wedding of Taylor Donnelly on 6/6/20 (Pastor Jamie to officiate).

Approved to have the Baptism of Brock Douglas Warrick on 12/15/19.

Heard that the Officer Dinner and Volunteer recognition will be on January 24, at Rachelle's.

Heard that next Committee Night will be January 21st and the Session meeting will be January 11th.

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



**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 2019—JANUARY 2020

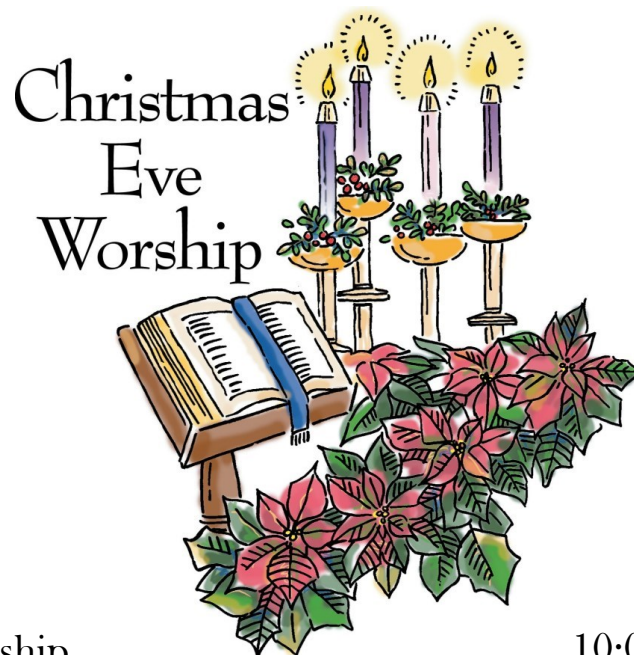
Non Profit Org.
US Postage Paid
Permit #11
Niles OH

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.



5:30pm Early Worship

Special Children's Message
Special Music

10:00pm Late Worship

Special Music by
Larry Harris

Candlelight Worship