

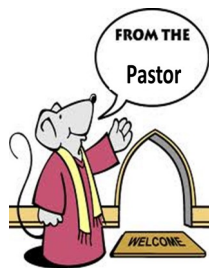
FEBRUARY 2020

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF MINERAL RIDGE



VOL. 48 NO. 1

WWW.FPCMR.ORG AND FACEBOOK



Beloved Partners in Ministry,

Our journey as a Matthew 25 church is well underway. A few weeks ago in worship we committed ourselves to learning about the root causes of poverty and working to eradicate it. I believe we all understand that working toward this goal will not be easy and we know that spending one year with this as our focus will not end hunger in our area, but that doesn't mean that we shouldn't try and it doesn't mean that we cannot make a difference. Our goal, this year and as lifelong disciples of Christ, is to work together in building God's kingdom. Our call as disciples is to make this world as much like God's promised kingdom as we are able.

Throughout this year, the Biblical texts that we will follow will come from the Gospel of Matthew. For us to truly understand the call of Matthew 25, we must understand the context into which it was written, and Matthew's intention for writing it. As we worship and study together, we will begin to notice some overarching themes that will help us to understand it better.

One of these themes is "the kingdom of God." Our focal text of Matthew 25:31-46 includes the idea of God's kingdom as our promised inheritance. "Come, you who will receive good things from my Father. Inherit the kingdom that was prepared for you before the world began (Matthew 25:34)." Before we get all the way to chapter 25, Matthew spends a good deal of the gospel talking about God's kingdom.

In Advent and during January, we heard from John's voice and Jesus echo him "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." In February leading up to Lent, we will begin to explore the well-known Sermon on the Mount where Jesus begins to tell us about how God's kingdom is different from the kingdoms of the world. His preaching, while the words we read have become familiar to us, was revolutionary and upsetting to the status quo.

Matthew's gospel is 28 chapters long. I want to encourage you, for the month of February, to commit to reading a chapter a day, and by the end of the month you will have read the whole story. Jot down your questions and any insights the Spirit may give you. Spending this year with Matthew will challenge us because working for God's kingdom should challenge us, but we will walk this road together, studying, praying, and singing the good news of the kingdom of God.

In Christ's peace,

Pastor Jamie

February Responsibilities

Elder: Michael Craver

Deacon: David Rummell

Liturgists:

2/2 Nicole McMullen

2/9 Marty O'Neill

2/16 Sherry Gleason

2/23 Melissa Keeley

Greeters:

2/2 Gloria Murray &
Ken Wilson

2/9 Ginny Gilmore &
Mary Alice Seaborn

2/16 Gayle Hollowell &
Ginny Gilmore

2/23 Ken & Cindy
Kaschak

We are a



MATTHEW 25

Church!

NEWS AROUND THE CHURCH



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

Brock Douglas Warrick was baptized on Sunday, December 15. Brock is the son of Bret Warrick and Hannah Heintz.

Tom & Shirley Brodie were welcomed into our church family on Sunday, December 8. They come to us by Letter of Transfer from the Niles First Presbyterian Church.

Vaunda Speziale was baptized and joined the congregation as a member on January 12, 2020.

Our sympathy to **Melissa Keeley and family** on the death of her grandmother, Audra Stanford, on December 22.

Congratulations to **Lisa Strange and Will Sorg** on their engagement on January 18.

Congratulations to our students on the honor roll:

Mason Meyers—All A's
Olivia Meyers

Congratulations to Abbie Postlethwait—at the Intercounty Horsemen's Association banquet she received a grand champion award, two 2nd places and a 3rd place.

And **Congratulations to Brooke Kaschak** who received a reserved grand champion award!

Did you know that **Pastor Jamie** is now a basketball coach? He is coaching Harper's team and loving every minute of it.

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.



SAVE THE DATE PHANTOMS HOCKEY GAME SATURDAY, MARCH 14



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
 Ken Rambo Vaunda Speziale Jeff Meyers
 Jan Rambo Betty Garland Terrie Rios
 Colby Simmons (Cravers' friend)
 Bob Hibler (Chelsea's father)
 Bob Hollowell (Gayle's cousin)
 Karen (Sue McCabe's friend)
 James Tinch (Marlene's son)
 Rick Redmond (Tom's brother)
 Amos Rodgers and Cody Tittle (Marlene's friends)
 Patricia McMahan (Sandy Larmey's friend)
 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 (NCS board member)
 Kareen Craver-Angeloff (Rodney Craver's mother)
 Larry Schmidt (Meyers' friend)
 Karlene Adams (friend of Pugh and Postlethwait families)
 Aynsley Zamarelli (Kathy Graham's granddaughter)
 Debbie Weiss (Rambo's friend)
 Don Miller (Anita's husband)

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.

**Get to Know Symptoms of Esophageal Cancer**

The American Cancer Society estimates that about 16,080 people will die from esophageal cancer this year, and that 17,650 new cases will be diagnosed. Men over 55 are the population most likely to develop esophageal cancer. Other risk factors include tobacco and alcohol use, especially when combined; gastroesophageal reflux disease, Barrett's esophagus (a condition that occurs following years of acid reflux); injury of the esophagus; and frequently drinking hot liquids, which can damage the tissue lining the esophagus.

The following are the most commonly reported symptoms of esophageal cancer according to the Esophageal Cancer Awareness Association: difficult or painful swallowing, weight loss, blood in the stool, loss of appetite, feeling very tired, heartburn pain in the throat or back and hoarseness or coughing. Additional symptoms noted by the American Cancer Society are hiccups, bone pain and bleeding into the esophagus. If you're experiencing these symptoms, talk to your doctor. And if you believe you might be at a high risk for developing esophageal cancer, talk to your doctor about screening options.



For more information, please visit www.ecaware.org

OUR DEACONS

Marnie Bonsall
 Rusty Garland
 Darren Garriss
 Sherry Gleason
 Melissa Keeley
 Diane Koch
 Valerie Meyers
 Marty O'Neill
 Sue Rentz
 David Rummell



From our Parish Nurse

INTERPRETATION & 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 2020. The church ended 2019 with the receipts exceeding our expenditures by \$13.00. This is the first time in several years that the church as ended the year in the black. Thank you to all of those who continue to give financially to the church and to those who are active in the church fundraising. Last year in 2019, the church was able to raise \$5,400.00 towards the general fund through fundraisers.

Per Capita for 2020

will remain the
same as last year
\$32.00

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 2019, we set a goal to collect over half of what is owed from our church. I & S is proud to report that we exceeded that goal and received \$2596.00 in special offerings towards Per Capita. In 2020, we would like to at least meet or exceed the \$2596.00 that was collected the previous year. There is a envelope 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.

Please prayerfully consider paying Per Capita and helping to reach our goal.



We have been participating in the Souper Bowl of Caring since the early 1990's when it first began. Our congregation has been very generous.

In 2015 we received \$1165 and 200 items of non-perishable food items. In 2016 we received \$1108, in 2017 we received \$1115 and 30 items of food. In 2018 we received \$5000 and in 2019 we received \$1080. These funds always had someone who matched the congregational giving in the soup pots at the doorways to the sanctuary.

**Sunday,
February
2**

So, on Sunday, February 2 we will ask our worshippers, as they leave worship, to put at **least one dollar \$\$** in the soup pots held by our youngsters at the doors. The offering is designated to benefit children in need at Seaborn Elementary School. We learned that 51% of the children there are under the poverty line and certainly must be in need of some help.

This year we have someone who will match the congregations giving plus another partial gift of \$100. 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.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Welcome to our Church Family

Our three new members have been worshipping with us for several months and we are glad to welcome them into the membership of our congregation.

Shirley and Tom Brodie joined by transfer of membership from the First Presbyterian Church of Niles. Tom is retired and Shirley works part time.

Vaunda Speziale has had a connection with our congregation for many years. Her grandmother Laverne Grubbs was a faithful member many years ago. Vaunda was baptized and joined the congregation as a member on January 12 of this year.



Baptized into the Family of Faith

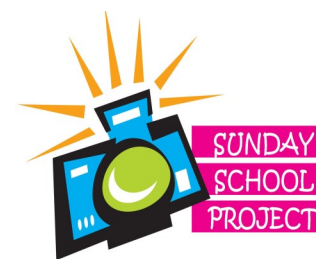
On December 12, 2019, Brock Douglas Warrick was presented for baptism by his parents Hannah Heini and Bret Warrick. His great grandmother Virginia Gilmore participated in the service. Welcome to this little one that we promised to nurture in the faith.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH SCHOOL MISSION PROJECT

Our Multi-age class is choosing a mission project for their class. 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. Can you guess what they are going to choose? A cow? A pair of goats? Family of chickens? A Piglet? We will let you know after they have made their choice.



WE ARE A MATTHEW 25 CHURCH!



As part of our commitment, we pledge to embrace one or more of these 3 areas of focus.

For more info visit:
pcusa.org/
matthew25

Our congregation has accepted the PC(USA)'s invitation to follow Jesus' teachings in Matthew 25:31-46 by becoming active disciples and making a difference in our community and the world.

As part of our Matthew 25 commitment, we pledge to embrace one or more of these three areas of focus:

- ◆ Building congregational vitality by deepening and energizing our faith and growing as joyful leaders and disciples actively engaged with our community as we share the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed.
- ◆ Dismantling structural racism by fearlessly applying our faith to advocate and break down the systems, practices and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudice and oppression of people of color.
- ◆ Eradicating systemic poverty by acting on our beliefs and working to change laws, policies, plans and structures in our society that perpetuate economic exploitation of people who are poor.



SESSION NOTES FROM JANUARY 28, 2020

Approved approve the minutes as corrected of the December 3, 2019 Stated Session meeting.

Approved the minutes of the January 11, 2020 Joint Session/Deacon's meeting.

Approved the minutes of the January 11, 2020 Special Session meeting.

Approved all reports contained in the 2019 Annual Report shared at the Congregational meeting.

Receive Treasurer's Report for December and approved it for audit.

Heard that membership as of January 28, 2020 was 146.

Heard that those who were installed on January 19, as Elders were Michael Craver, Ginny Gilmore, and Lisa Strange, and those installed as Deacons were Sherry Gleason, Melissa Keeley, and Marty O'Neill

Approved special offerings and communion dates for 2020.

Approved a goal of \$1,500 for the One Great Hour of Sharing in 2020.

The worship committee is pleased to report to session that on December 15, 2019, Brock Douglas Warrick was baptized and on January 12, 2020, Vaunda Speziale was baptized.

Approved the request from Pastor for Continuing Ed - Presbytery Boundaries Retreat on 1/29-1/30.

Approved the use of the building and kitchen for the Ohltown United Methodist Church to prepare and serve a community breakfast on March 28, 2020.

Heard that next Committee Night will be February 18th, and the Session meeting will be February 25th.

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

The Gift of Love

"And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love."

- 1 Corinthians 13:3

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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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!**

FEBRUARY 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 e strangers, but friends in Christ.

Drive Thru / Take Out
Chicken & Biscuit Dinner

Sunday, February 9
12—2:00pm

MENU:

Chicken & Biscuits
Mashed Potatoes with Gravy
Green Beans
Dessert



Adults—\$8.50
Child—\$4.00