

# First Presbyterian Church of Mineral Ridge



## Advent 2019

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***Join with us this Season of Advent  
as we await the coming of the Christ Child.***

***This is God's House—all are welcome!***

### ***Our Sunday Schedule:***

9:15am Church School for all ages

On December 8, 15 and 22 we will meet in Fellowship Hall for Intergenerational Church School class.

There will be no church school classes on December 29.

10:30am Morning Worship

11:30am A time of fellowship in Fellowship Hall



We will decorate the church after worship on  
**Sunday, November 24.**

Come to worship, stay to help decorate,  
then we will have pizza for lunch.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
3654 MAIN ST.  
MINERAL RIDGE, OH 44440

***This is God's House—all are welcome!***

**Online Devotionals for Advent:**  
<http://blog.goshen.edu/devotionals/subscribe>  
[www.d365.org/followingthestar](http://www.d365.org/followingthestar)  
Upper Room—available to at the church in Fellowship Hall under the bulletin board.

**2019**



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Niles, OH 44446

## ***Living Nativity***

***Saturday, November 30  
5:00 to 7:00pm***

We will participate with our Living Nativity as part of the Weathersfield Township's Annual Tree Lighting.

Zoo-2-Go will bring their animals back and we will set up our nativity scene at the township park (across the street from the Butcher Block and Jesy's Dairy Cove).



We will be signing people up for 30 minute shifts to stand in costume and help us all kick off the holiday season.



## ***1st Sunday of Advent—December 1***

We will gather in Fellowship Hall at 10:30am for worship, communion, and lunch.

The meal will include music, liturgy and candle lighting. It focuses on John the Baptist, Mary and Jesus and reflects on what they are saying to us today. It will be a time of reflection. While it is simple in contrast to the excesses of much of the contemporary Christmas customs, celebration and joy are central to our time together.

The main course will be prepared by our Church Growth & Fellowship Committee and will consist of ham, cheese potatoes, green beans and fruit. *The congregation is asked to bring a dessert to share.*

## ***Hats, Gloves & Scarves***

We are collecting new hats, scarves and gloves through December 15 to be given to Community Parish youth during the food distribution. Any remaining after that will be taken to Niles Community Services for distribution. Please bring them to Fellowship Hall and place them on the table under the bulletin board where they will be placed on clothes line hanging in windows.



Dedicated on **December 22**, this denominational offering honors the faithfulness of current and retired ministers and church workers in their hour of greatest need by providing funds to help them. It also promotes the education of racial ethnic men and women by supporting racial ethnic schools and colleges. Offering envelopes will be in the December/January *Church Mouse*.

## ***Make a Joyful Noise!***

***Join the Advent Choir***—The choir will sit up front and help lead singing hymns each week. Pastor Jamie and Aubrey Reese will lead the choir.



## ***Selfies in the Manger***

All during Advent you will be able to take Selfies in the Manger in Fellowship Hall. Costumes will be available for you to dress up in.

Please have toys to the church by 12/9/2019. *Please note: This toy collection will be in place of buying Christmas gifts for specific children as we have done in the past.*

- If you would rather not shop for a toy, you could make a monetary donation. To do this, place an envelope labeled “donation for toys for breakfast” or “donation for food for breakfast” in the offering plate.

Our church is blessed to be a part of the Mineral Ridge community and we are excited for this opportunity to invite our neighbors into fellowship with us during this Advent and Christmas season!

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### **Community Food Distribution**

Remember the community food cupboard when you are shopping. There is a shopping cart outside the church office for you to place your food donations. You can also help by purchasing a ham voucher for \$20. A Deacon will be in Fellowship Hall after worship with the vouchers.




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### **Gifts for Community Youth**

We are also asking for donations of gifts to be given to children attending the breakfast. Beginning Sunday, November 17, you are invited to donate a toy or two, or three valued between \$5 & \$10 for various ages. Or if you want us to do the shopping, you can make a monetary donation (please place in offering plate marked “donation for toys.”) Please have these unwrapped toys back to the church by December 9. Place the gifts in Fellowship Hall on the table nearest the elevator.



### **2nd Sunday of Advent—December 8**

The 2nd Advent candle will be lit during worship. Poinsettias will be added to the sanctuary and the memorials will be included in the bulletin.

We will have a guest violinist with us in worship.




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### **3rd Sunday of Advent—December 15**

The 3rd Advent candle will be lit during worship.




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### **4th Sunday of Advent—December 22**

The fourth Advent candle will be lit during worship at 10:30am.

The Children's Christmas Program will be presented during worship.



### **5:00pm Contemplative Prayer Service**

Sometimes, we simply need a quiet place to sit with our thoughts, to be, and to worship. We need the space and time to acknowledge our feelings and concern; we need to know that we are not alone. We need encouragement to live the days ahead of us. The constant refrain on the radio and television, from shopping malls to churches, about the happiness of the season, about getting together with family and friends, reminds many people of what they have lost or have never had.



The anguish of broken relationships, the insecurity of unemployment, the weariness of ill health, the pain of isolation - all these can make us feel very alone in the midst of the celebrating and spending time with others.

For these reasons, we are offering a special contemplative Christmas service on **December 22 at 5pm.** Join with us as we worship together through prayer, scripture, and music that acknowledge that God's presence is forever with us - and that God's Word comes to shine light into our darkness. Everyone, regardless of church background (or lack of it) is welcome.

If you know of a friend or family member who might want to attend this type of service, please invite them and plan to accompany them. Refreshments will be served following the service

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### ***Christmas Eve at First Presbyterian Church***



### ***Christmas Eve Candlelight Services***

***5:30pm***

***Special music and a story for the children.***

***10:00pm***

***Special music — Larry Harris***

### ***Opportunities for Giving during Advent***



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

### ***Free Community Pancake Christmas Breakfast December 14 from 9 to 11am***

Would you or someone you know enjoy a hot pancake breakfast on a Saturday in December while experiencing fellowship at a festive Christmas celebration? Please invite your friends, neighbors and others in our community to the FREE Community Pancake Christmas Breakfast on December 14, 2019 from 9 to 11 am at our church. **EVERYONE is welcome!** We have been awarded a \$1500 mission grant from Eastminster Presbytery to be used toward this event. The breakfast will be held in conjunction with our community Christmas food distribution.



There will be an activity for children and all children attending will receive a small gift and treat bag.

What you can do to make this event a success:.

- Invite your neighbors and other members of our community.
- Mark the date on your calendar & plan to attend if you are able. Bring your Christian love, Christmas joy, warmth and compassion with you as we share in this celebration of Jesus' birth with others in our community.
- Volunteer to cook, serve breakfast, wash dishes or clean up on Saturday, December 14, 2019. Please talk to Pastor Jamie or Sherry Gleason if you feel excited to help with this local mission project.
- Donate a toy or two or three. Bring unwrapped new toys valued between \$5 & \$10 (for various ages) to our church and place on the designated table in the Fellowship Hall.