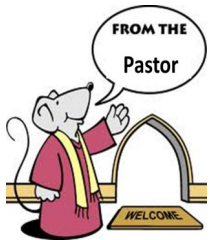


FEBRUARY 2017

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF MINERAL RIDGE

VOL. 45 NO. 1

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK



Beloved Partners in Ministry,

One of the most well-known sections of the Gospel of Matthew is undoubtedly the Sermon on the Mount. These three chapters (Matthew 5-7) contain a number of Jesus' teachings on a wide range of subjects that are as important for us to study today as they were for Jesus' disciples so many years ago.

Chapter 5 begins: "Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up a mountain. He sat down and his disciples came to him. He taught them..." The disciples of Jesus follow him up a mountain to sit at his feet and hear him teach. They set aside the time necessary to learn from him in preparation of the work that awaited them back down the mountain.

Isn't this what we too are called to do as Christ's modern day disciples? Jesus has called us to be a part of a community. Each and every week, we are given the opportunity to gather with friends, family, and other faithful disciples to hear God's Word, to pray, and to sing. Within our sanctuary walls we are offered rest in Christ's presence and a way to reconnect with the Spirit of God which empowers us to go out into the world to fulfill the work God sets before us.

As a community of disciples, we are the body of Christ. "If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it (1 Corinthians 12:26)." Dear friends, when you are not with us, we are not whole. We need your voice, your prayers, and your presence as we try our best to be faithful to God's call to us as a church.

Throughout February, we will be spending time studying the Sermon on the Mount. There is nothing about these important teachings of Jesus that are easy for us to understand or to live out, but together, we can study them and work to become better disciples and a more faithful community. Let us meet Jesus on the mountain and join together in worship and prayer, so that we can go out into the world to serve others and share God's love.

*In Christ's peace,
Pastor Jamie*

February Responsibilities

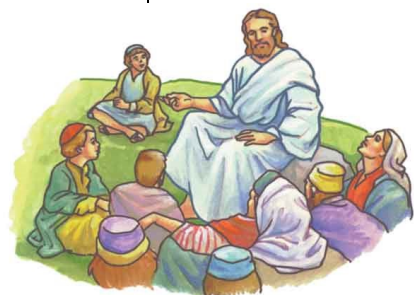
Elder:
Sue McCabe

Deacon:
Melissa Keeley

Liturgists:
2/5 Debbie Rendes
2/12 Jill Fabian
2/19 Ken Wilson
2/26 Patty Postlethwait

Greeters:
2/5 Mary Alice Seaborn &
Gayle Hollowell
2/12 Ken & Jan Rambo
2/19 Matt & Bethany
Glidewell
2/26 Ken & Cindy Kaschak

Story Circle:
2/5 Matt Glidewell &
Caleb Reese
2/12 Lori & Bryce Brendlinger
2/19 Sue McCabe &
Jaclyn Craver
2/26 Sherry Gleason &
Abbie Postlethwait



NEWS ABOUT OUR FOLKS



Share your news
with your church
family.

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

Congratulations to Brian Hudzik, MSW, LISW-S, LICDC, son of Don & Mary Ann, who is the new Region 4 Director of the National Association of Social Workers, Ohio Chapter.

Olivia Meyers (3rd grade) participated in the Howland School 3rd, 4th & 5th grade Spelling B. She also earned all A's on her report card.

Mason Meyers (kindergarten) earned mostly M's (mastered) and a few P's (progressing) on his report card.

Bret Warrick was recently hired as a police officer in Akron. Congratulations! Stay safe.

Our sympathy to Raelyn Crump on the passing of her grandfather.

Betty Garland now has 17 great-grandchildren!! Congratulations to Ashlee & Matt Cline on the birth of Leighton Faith on January 18. The proud grandparents are Kathy & Dale Graham!

Marty O'Neill spoke to Veronica Caruso at **Small World Animal Rescue** in Girard to see how Margie DiRienzo's cat **Gimli** is doing. She is finally making up to them and seems to be over her fear and depression. We are thankful that there are people & places such as this who lovingly care for our furry friends.

A big thank you goes out to **Drew Zajack**, a third grader at Austintown Schools, for collecting food for the Community Food Cupboard. He got the idea and followed through on it! He and his family and friends delivered it to the church on February 1. What a great kid!

WE COULD USE YOUR HELP

PRESBYTERY MEETING



Our church has been asked to host the Eastminster Presbytery meeting on Tuesday, March 7, 2017.

This will be Pastor Jamie's first presbytery meeting as Moderator and will be the first meeting with our presbytery's new General Presbyter/ Stated Clerk Rev. Cathy Ulrich.

This is an exciting day for our church and we need lots of help! We will need parking assistants and greeters who are available from 2pm until 3:30pm. We will be serving dinner around 5pm and will need help in the kitchen with preparation, serving, and clean-up.

If you are available to help in any way, please let Pastor Jamie or the office know.

ATTENTION SINGERS

Our choir needs you! You don't have to be classically trained to be a part of our choir, in fact many of us have no training at all! If you enjoy singing, you are welcome to join our merry band of singers.

Throughout the season of Lent, we will be sitting up front to help lead the congregation in song. We will hold four (4) Thursday night practices at 7pm in the sanctuary (February 23, March 2, 9, 16) and meet in the sanctuary each Sunday morning beginning March 5 at 10am to go over the music for the day.

We hope you can join us!



PRAYER LIST**Members to Remember**

Jim Sewell Dorothy Hood Katie Postlethwait
Bob Bowskill June Keeley

Health Concerns

Joan Williams Andria Crawford
Samara Fabian Katie Postlethwait
Joe Shoemaker Helen Lang
Terrie Rios Abel Rios
Jan Rambo Chloe Crago
John Myers (Bev's husband)
Jason Fick (Emily (Pugh) Fick's husband)
Paul Rider (Marty O'Neill's friend)
Alan Jones (Dorothy's son)
Kathy Jones (Dorothy's daughter-in-law)
Paula Griffiths (Glenn's sister)
Colby Simmons (Cravers' friend)
Gordon Coombs (Suzie Merz's friend)
Bruce Garland (Betty's nephew)
Jerry Bianco (Shoemakers' friend)
Sean Reilly (Cindy Garris' nephew)
Herb Gillespie (Postlethwaits' friend)
Andy Skelley (Brooke Kaschak & McKenzie
Shaffer's uncle)
Laura & Brad Haines (Cravers' friends)
Maria Andrade (Billie Moore's friend)

Baby girl Enslee (Postlethwaits' friend)
Fabian Rinaldo (friend of Garlands)
Cheyenne Urbach & Jessica Fox (Rummells'
friends)
Ransell Miller (Patty O'Malia's brother-in-law)
Tom Hoffman (Paul Rentz' cousin)
Bruce Hawkins (Muffin Rummell & Kelli's
Wieser's father)
Greg Dominic, Jr. (Gayle Hollowell's relative)
Frank Bordinaro (a St. Mary's friend)
Sean Brenner (Darryl & Jane Meyers' nephew)
Drew Brenner (Darryl & Jane Meyers' great-
nephew)
Kira Rendes (Debbie's daughter-in-law)
Anna Booth (8th grade student in McDonald)
Sympathy, Concern, Nurture, & Support
Rev. Jamie Milton, Minister
Eastminster Presbytery and staff
Someplace Safe Needle's Eye
Niles Community Services
Warren & Youngstown Rescue Missions
Refugees World Leaders
Our PC(USA) coworkers Revs. Scott & Elmarie
Parker



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

**BUILDING & PROPERTY—LOOKING GOOD!**

Have you looked around the church lately? All the hallways in the education wing have been painted. What a little paint can do! It all looks fresh and clean. Lights have been replaced which helps also. Work was done in the restroom off Fellowship Hall. Darren Garris oversaw this work and we thank him for this.

Our lounge was painted and new vertical blinds were installed by Brooke & Jeff Kaschak, Matt Glidewell and Pastor Jamie.

Jeff Kaschak is building new bookcases for the lounge. Peek in—it is going to be beautiful!

Ken Kaschak is doing some drywall repairs in Fellowship Hall and the bathroom and giving Jeff a hand in the lounge also.

We all love this church and are glad there are so many people so willing to take care of it.

Look around next Sunday to see what has been done and don't forget to say thank you to our Building & Property Committee for their hard work.



MISSION CENTRAL—PIANO IN FELLOWSHIP HALL



MISSION PROJECTS

Mission:
Around the
world
—
Across the
street

We will be collecting food items for the pantry for Easter. Each week in February we will have a theme of what to bring in. However you can bring in any item during the month of February.

February 5 - **Super Bowl of Cereal** - bring in a box of cereal our goal is 50 boxes! Help make this happen.

February 12 - **In The Garden** - bring in can of vegetables— goal is 100 cans.

February 19 - **Meat The Needs** - bring in a can of Tuna— goal is 100 cans.

February 26 - **Peanut Butter Jelly Time!** - bring in peanut butter and jelly—goal is 50 of each.

We would like to thank everyone who was generous in giving this past holiday season to our collections.



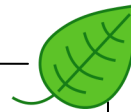
HAVE YOU SEEN OUR TREE?

If you haven't seen it yet, please stop in our fellowship hall and check it out! The Church Growth Committee is asking for your help. During the month of February we are campaigning for your ideas to help our church grow. We are calling it "GOOD IDEAS FOR GROWTH."

Every year the Church Growth Committee plans many activities for our church family and many of our events are well attended, while some are not. We want to know what you would like to do with your church friends. In Fellowship Hall under our tree there is a basket of leaves for you to fill out with your ideas then place them on our tree. We will be collecting your ideas the whole month of February, so please think of things you would like to do all year long. Anything goes (well almost anything) but we want to plan some activities in 2017 that can take place at our church and within the community to help expand our church.

Your ideas don't have to be all inclusive, they can be for any age group or combination of age groups. We would love suggestions where we could invite other friends and families from our community to our church and fun activities.

Help our church grow!



- We are still collecting:**
- Greeting cards
 - Clean plastic bags
 - Box Tops for Education
 - JoAnne Fabric coupons
 - Ink & toner cartridges
 - 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



SESSION NOTES FROM THE JANUARY 24, 2017 MEETING

Examined incoming officers and noted date of ordination and installation of Jan. 15

Set date for officers dinner out

Heard that we will host Eastminster Presbytery meeting on March 7 at 3pm

Heard that membership is now 150 active members

Approved use of building

Heard that the end of year financial reports are in the Annual Report and approved all

Approved special offerings for 2017 and the 2018 Souper Bowl Offering

Set goal of \$1,200 for the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

Heard that Building and Property will be prioritizing many projects needing attention

Heard that the 2017 Souper Bowl of Caring will be asking for food and dollars

Heard that a First Presbyterian Church and Me Class will be offered for February 12

Heard that we are seeking someone to build our web site

Heard that the Church Pictorial Directory should be here in a few weeks

Heard that Church Growth and Fellowship Committee is planning on a way to ask the congregation what events they might like

Heard that Mission Committee in February will be asking folks to bring certain food items each week and are planning to mark the 40 days of Lent with a special project for the congregation

Approved dates to celebrate Communion and home Communions

Received information on Pastor's activities since our last meeting

Discussed needing to have fund raisers since we no longer will have the fish dinners. Seeking ideas for raising funds

Approved gifts for those volunteering as Treasurer, Financial Treasurer and Parish Nurse

Heard that a fire extinguisher will be placed near the chancel



Interested in finding out more about our church?

Visitors are invited to attend our **"FPC and Me"** class. Following worship on **Sunday, February 12** we will meet in the lounge from **noon until about 2pm** to talk about what it means to be an active member of the First Presbyterian Church. Lunch will be provided by the Church Growth Committee. There is no obligation to join the church after taking the class. Please let Pastor Jamie or the church office know if you are interested in attending or know of someone who might be.

FPC & ME CLASS

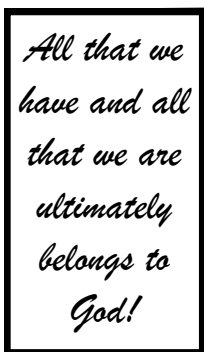




INTERPRETATION & STEWARDSHIP



I hope you have all picked up your annual giving statements for 2016. Did you know that your charitable contributions to the First Presbyterian Church can be deducted from your income taxes? You should consult with a tax agent if you have any questions. Again, you will notice that your giving statements look a little different than you are use to seeing. Please feel free to contact Marsha or Sherri if you have any questions about the new statements.



The Interpretation and Stewardship Committee met in January. There are many pressing matters that have our attention this year. Foremost is the lost general fund revenue from the Lenten fish dinners. The dinners contributed to the general fund to support all the church expenditures. While we reduced our 2017 general fund budget by \$1,200, we will still have a shortfall in 2017.



I & S has been discussing ways to replace the lost revenue. Those discussions brought us to the interpretation of the FPCMR Per Capita obligation. Presbyterians have a form of government built upon shared power and mutual accountability as we seek together to find and represent the Will of Christ. Our per capita obligation is shared among the General Assembly, the Synod, and the Eastminster Presbytery. FPCMR will again send \$32.00 for each 166 active members as of December 31, 2015. Our 2017 Obligation is \$5,312. In 2016, our obligation was \$5,273. If you are willing and able, please consider making a per capita offering to help offset our obligation and fill the void of lost revenue.

The Interpretation and Stewardship Committee is looking forward to a challenging, yet rewarding year in 2017. May God continue to bless you!

LENT — MARCH 1 THRU APRIL 16



Ash Wednesday and Lent are right around the corner! Please plan to join us each Wednesday of Lent for dinner and a time of worship and discussion. Dinner will be served from 6-6:45 each week starting on Ash Wednesday, March 1. Following dinner, our time of worship and study will be centered around the book **"A World Worth Saving: Lenten Spiritual Practices for Action"** by George Donigian. Each week will focus on one chapter of the book and give us some ideas of how we can be more engaged in Christ's ministry in our area.

You do not have to buy or even read the book to take part in the discussion, but should you wish to purchase the book, it is available on Amazon.com for \$9.09, or you may purchase the e-book for your Kindle or other e-reader through Cokesbury.com for only \$7.19. The Christian Education Committee is also purchasing a few copies of the book for those who may not be able to purchase their own. Please let Carole Rummell or Pastor Jamie know if you would like one of these copies.

Look for more details and the weekly menu in your Lenten flyer which will be coming towards the end of February.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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Mineral Ridge, Ohio 44440
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

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

FEBRUARY 2017

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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.



FEBRUARY 5, 2017

The Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday is February 5. This is the day that our youth will hold the soup pots at the doors and ask you to give at least \$1 as you leave the sanctuary.

Notice the Souper Bowl of Caring is on the same day as the NFL Super Bowl Game. (Sorry about those Steelers losing). The money we collect will be given to Niles Community Services that serve Niles, McDonald and Mineral Ridge.

We are asking for *someone* -- *anyone* to step up and offer to match the congregational giving or partly match it. (That is usually between \$300-\$400) We have one person that has offered. Think about it, can you be the second one to volunteer? Let Carole Rummell know if you are that volunteer. Last year we were able to give \$1108.24. Our congregation is very generous.

We will be joining with other churches across U.S. and Canada as we all collect funds and designate them for a local mission. We have been participating in this offering for at least 25 years. Millions are raised every year.