

Vol. 51 No. 10

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
of  
Mineral Ridge, Ohio  
Celebrating 160 Years!



December 2023

**Blessings to all during the Advent and Christmas Seasons!**

Here we are in 2023. We are finally headed out of the pandemic and now we welcome the season of Advent. This poem by Mary Oliver struck me this week with her words

**“Dear Lord, I have swept and I have washed but still nothing is as shining as it should be for you.” -Mary Oliver**

As people of faith, despite the world raging around us, we know the Christ Child will still be born anew. We’re bringing back our old traditions, even as we embrace new ones. As we embrace the idea of the world turning to “normal” we also reckon with the fact that things are different. Christmas tends to bring up all sorts of feelings, happiness at the joy on children’s faces and knowing that loved ones come visit. There might be sadness as we recognize the losses of the last few years. We live in some challenging times, emotionally, financially, and spiritually, but the work of Christ continues.

I want to take a moment to thank this community for embracing me over the last year and four months, and I can’t wait to see what the new year brings us all. I invite you to step into this season of Advent as we wait and hope, as we pray for peace and joy and love and prepare for the birth of baby Jesus. I invite you to take the time to step back and reflect, think and pray.

As we continue our journey through Advent and Christmas, there are a number of upcoming worship services that I invite you to attend and participate in as you are interested and able.

December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:30am—1st Sunday in Advent

December 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am—2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent/Communion

December 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am—3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent/Christmas Pageant

December 18<sup>th</sup> — Gingerbread Houses with Kids

December 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am—4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent

December 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm—Christmas Eve Worship

December 31<sup>st</sup> at 10:30 —Lessons & Carols

All are welcome to join in worship and fellowship. If there is anything that I can do or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to give me a call at 406-560-5548. Christ’s blessing to you and yours this festive season.

Blessings,

Pastor Kori



# Church News

Keep us up to date. E-mail your news to the church office: [admin@fpcmr.org](mailto:admin@fpcmr.org) or call 330-652-5712

## RESPONSIBILITIES FOR DECEMBER

**ELDER:** BRIAN WILLIAMS

**DEACON:** MELISSA KEELEY



**LITURGISTS:**

12/03 DARLENE SMITH

12/17 JANUARY RENDES

12/24 VAL COPANIC (CHRISTMAS EVE)

12/10 SAMARA FABIAN

12/24 MATTHEW GLIDEWELL

## Lighting of the Advent Candles

12.03 The Painter Family

12.10 The Fabian Family

12.17 The Rendes Family

12.24 The Glidewell Family

12.24 The Copanic/Meyers Family

(Christmas Eve Service)



On behalf of the Deacons, we would like to thank everyone who helped support our mission to collect for the Youngstown Blue Coats. With the donations we received, we filled 2 SUVs worth of items. We were also able to provide a monetary donation as well. The Youngstown Blue Coat charity was extremely grateful for all of our donations. Again, thank you for helping us make this mission a success!

The Backpack Program has resumed. We now have a total of 22 families and 38 students in our backpack program! We are in need of fruit cups, boxes of macaroni & cheese, canned soup, and snacks (snack bars, packs of crackers or cookies, etc) for this program. The number normally rises during the school year so any help you can provide is greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions please reach out to January or Debbie Rendes.



As we continue to provide free groceries to families in need within our community, our **Community Food Pantry** needs Cereal, Spaghetti Sauce, fruit cups, pancake mix, maple syrup, deserts mixes / muffins mixes, and gravy packets. If you are able to donate, we greatly appreciate it.



Should you have any questions please reach out to January or Debbie Rendes.



Our Christmas Food Distribution will take place at FPCMR on Tuesday, December 12th from 10am-12pm. Thank you to all of those who donate or volunteer their time to support the efforts of the Community Pantry.



**Members to Remember**

Mary Alice Seaborn Shirley Dull  
Marlyne Young Helen Redmond

**Prayer List**

Megan Taylor (Carole’s cousin)  
Amos Rodgers & Cody Tittle (Marlene’s friends)  
James Tincher (Marlene’s son)  
Clayton & Eileen (Bev Myers’ family friends Paul Ste-  
vens (Bev Myers’ son) Dennis  
Copanic (Val Copanic’s father)  
Graig Colantone (Nicole Pugh’s father)  
Dareen Craver-Angeloff (Rodney’s mother)  
Cheryl Fisher (Bev Meyers’ Daughter)  
Ella McBride (friend of Sherri Craver)  
Bonnie Jorza (Linda Frayer’s Sister-in-Law)  
Cheryl Beanblossom (Valerie Copanic’s sister)  
Alan Bray (friend of Keeley Family)  
Family of Melissa Keeley  
Joan Williams  
Rusty Garland  
Kathy Garland  
Cindi Farina (Marty O’Neill’s friend)  
Vince Fazio (Marty O’Neill’s friend)  
Mary Jane Hileman

**Prayers Around the World**

Eastminster Presbytery and staff  
Needles’s Eye  
Our Mineral Ridge Church Family  
Niles Community Services  
Warren & Youngstown Rescue Missions  
Coronavirus caregivers and patients  
World Leaders  
Refugees  
Rev. Kade Mastra (Indonesian Partner)  
Peace and healing for our country  
Casa de Buen Trato  
Jed and Jenny Koball (Peru)  
Someplace Safe  
Our PC(USA) coworkers Revs. Scott & Elmarie Parker  
Ukraine  
Victims of Natural Disasters  
Citizens of Israel/Palestine



*Please call the church office to add or delete names to our prayer list. Names will be kept on the list for approximately six weeks unless the office hears otherwise.*

**WORSHIP COMMITTEE**



The worship committee has been finalizing plans for the Advent Season. It's hard to believe the first Sunday of advent has already taken place. Thank you to Painter family for lighting the first Advent Calendar. We will partake in the Lord's supper on Sunday December 10th. On December 24<sup>th</sup> there will be two services taking place. Our regularly scheduled 10:30am service will take place along with our 5pm Christmas Eve service with special music provided by Larry Harris.

I would also like to thank all members of our congregation who volunteer to be liturgists for our worship service. Your help is very much appreciated. Merry Christmas to all and may the New Year find you in good health with continued blessings in 2024.

**Reminder : We are still collecting the pop top tabs, container on counter in Fellowship Hall.**



## INTERPRETATION AND STEWARDSHIP NEWS

### Thank you for your financial support in 2023!

Thank you all for sharing your **T**ime, **T**alents and **T**reasures in 2023. Your commitment to the work of the church is so very much appreciated.

Thank you also for supporting the Chicken and Biscuit Dinner that was held in November. Our profit for this delicious dinner was \$1,529. A big thank you to Jill Fabian and Debbie Rendes for making this event happen and to the many who volunteered to help with it.

**The deadline for recording your 2023 giving is January 7, 2024.**

#### Your I&S Committee:

Marsha Brozier, Treasurer

Jane Meyers, Chair

Billie Moore, Financial Secretary

Ken Wilson, Congregation

Nance Pugh, Elder

#### Treasurer's Report for October 2023

	Add Receipts	Less Spent	Add. Adjust.	Under/Over Spent	
January	4,918.41	( 9,812.82)		(1,894.41)	<b>The amount we need to meet our monthly budget is \$11,700</b>
February	7,239.99	(11,311.67)	1.44	(4,070.24)	
March	7,766.80	( 9,879.24)	165.12	(1,947.32)	
April	9,735.41	(11,052.05)	1.22	(1,315.42)	
May	6,552.03	( 8,574.17)	1.38	(2,020.76)	
June	9,018.00	(10,504.78)	1.46	(1,485.32)	
July	7,191.00	(10,169.61)	1.52	(2,977.09)	
August	7,052.00	( 9,978.03)	1.34	(2,924.69)	
September	8,644.00	( 8,904.49)	1.57	( 258.92)	
October	8,769.00	(10,022.84)	1.66	(1,252.18)	
Year to Date	79,886.64	(100,209.70)	176.71	(20,146.35)	



**Sunday School** is taking a break over the holidays. There will be no classes on December 24 (Christmas Eve) or on December 31 (New Year's Eve). Classes will resume on January 7. We thank Ted Smith for teaching the Adult Class this past fall. Pastor Kori will begin teaching the class in January. All other classes will meet as usual.

**Children's Program** Be reminded that our Children's program will be presented during worship on December 17. Come and enjoy the Christmas story through our children.



**Our Little Free Library** is still open. We will be encouraging those who come on December 12 for the distribution of food to take advantage of our Little Free Library. Everyone is welcome to take a book or two. They would make a nice Christmas gift for adults and/or children. Many of the books are like new. You can just come and take one, two or more books and put aside for your winter reading. We are always ready to accept used books to keep our shelves stocked with many wonderful novels, etc. You can just bring any you have to donate and leave them on the table in the lounge.



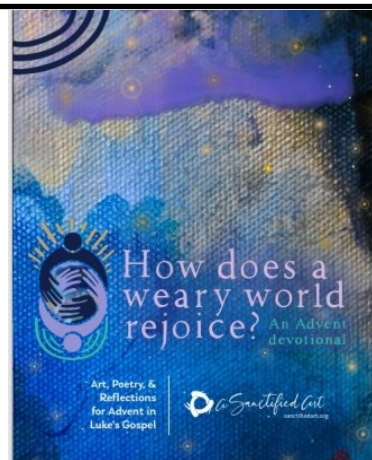
**You are invited** to join all in the congregation to hear Bryce Wiebe (a Presbytery staff member) lead us in a sharing of stories on Saturday January 13th, 2024. You might remember that he preached for us in the early fall and his sermon was well received. We will begin with a breakfast at 8:30 a.m. which will be followed at 9:00 with a short devotional before Bryce will lead us beginning at 9:15. This is for our officers as well as all of the congregation.

- 8:30 breakfast
- 9:00 devotions
- 9:15 Bryce leading us
- 11:00 closing.

Our friends at A Sanctified Art have provided a special e-reader version of this year's Advent devotional, which you can access on your computer and mobile devices: [online.flippingbook.com/view/136123036/](https://online.flippingbook.com/view/136123036/)

We can also print you out a copy if you would like.

In order to protect their work, please refrain from sharing this link or posting it on social media.





## MEMBERS TO REMEMBER

**Mary Alice Seaborn** - 11300 Farrah Lane, Apt. 618  
Austin, Texas. 78748

**Shirley Dull** - Shepherd of the Valley, 1501 Tibbits Wick Rd.  
Apt. 306 Girard, OH 44420

**Marlyne Young** - 410 Washington Ave. Niles, OH 44446

**Tom & Helen Redmond** - 1274 Signature Dr. Austintown, OH 44515

**Rusty Garland**- 210 Prestwick Dr. Youngstown, OH 44512.



*Merry Christmas*



*From your*

*First Presbyterian Church of Mineral Ridge Family*



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

3654 Main Street  
Mineral Ridge, Ohio 44440  
330-652-5712

Admin@FPCMR.org

The *Church Mouse* is the monthly (except in July & August) newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church. All visitors are welcome to worship with us online each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. on Facebook. (except Memorial Day through Labor Day when worship is at 10:00 a.m.)

CHECK US OUT ON



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



Please feel free to take a look at our newly designed website @ [www.fpcmr.org](http://www.fpcmr.org)

**YOUR FEEDBACK IS IMPORTANT TO US. IF YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR THE WEBSITE**

**PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL TO  
ADMIN@FPCMR.ORG**



### 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.*

## LETS STAY CONNECTED!

### HERE ARE WAYS FOR YOU TO WORSHIP WITH US:

Our weekly worship service will be available In-person, via Zoom, Facebook, and YouTube at 10:30am and can be accessed in the following ways:

by joining a "Zoom" meeting at <https://zoom.us/j/8613610300?pwd=QnN2TUErMUVVQlRGalJ1c3A5QTRSQT09> (you may want to test this link ahead of time to make sure you have the necessary file downloaded to join the feed). If you already have the Zoom app, you can just enter the meeting ID# 861 361 0300 and the password 6525712.

calling 929-436-2866 and entering the meeting ID 861 361 0300 # and the password 6525712.

through Facebook at [www.facebook.com/FirstPresMineralRidge](http://www.facebook.com/FirstPresMineralRidge) (you do not have to have a Facebook account to watch, but you would need one to share comments)

through YouTube by searching for "First Presbyterian Church of Mineral Ridge" or at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQyB2URdu5Kxxkk62GXWipQ/>

**We are also worshipping together in our sanctuary!**

**Masks are now optional!**