



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

of

Mineral Ridge, Ohio

February 2023



VOL. 51 NO. 02

How quickly time passes! I can't believe that we're already into February. It seems just a minute ago that we celebrated Christmas, and only a few more minutes since I arrived in Mineral Ridge!

Our deacons and elders are hard at work setting goals for the year. We hope to hold some fun events for our congregation to take part in, things are in the works for updating the livestreaming technology of the church, and our Lent/Easter task force and Anniversary Committees are in the midst of planning some very cool things. If you're interested in helping out with any of these things, please let me know!

Our confirmation class will be starting towards the end of February and continuing until Easter. We have one confirmand this year, Olivia Meyers, and we are looking forward to delving deep into the PC(USA) curriculum, "Big God, Big Questions." As we approach each individual chapter of the book, we'll be asking some church members to share their own stories and journeys of faith, so be on the lookout for that!

Our Adult Sunday School class will begin a series on Prayer and Praying for Lent. Come join us as we explore new ways to pray, and what praying is really all about! Ash Wednesday is the 22nd of February this year. We'll be doing Ashes to Go during the day, with a Taizé service at 7pm. A schedule for Lent will be released shortly with days and times.

February has a lot to look forward to, and we're excited for what's to come!

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Kori



RESPONSIBILITIES FOR FEBRUARY

ELDER: CHUCK REINHART

LITURGISTS:

FEBRUARY 5- CHUCK REINHART

FEBRUARY 12- MELISSA KEELY

FEBRUARY 19- ANDY KONSOL

FEBRUARY 26- DEBBIE RENDES

DEACON OF THE MONTH:

PATTY POSTLETHWAIT



Church News



Keep us up to date. E-mail your news to the church office: fpc.ridge@gmail.com or call 330-652-5712



PLEASE NOTE

Shirley Dull has moved to Shepherd of the Valley, her new address is; 1501 Tibbitts Wick Rd. Apt. 306 Girard, OH 44420.

Mary Alice Seaborn has moved to Texas, her new address is; 11300 Farrah Ln. Apt. 618 Austin, TX 78748

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The worship committee started the year off with our first meeting on Committee Night, January 17th. We decided that we will partake in communion monthly and we will continue using the gluten free bread so those members with dietary restrictions can participate. We discussed plans for the upcoming year which will include a joint Thanksgiving worship service with First Presbyterian church of Warren. We will ask all those attending to bring a canned good for our community food pantry. We are going to be contacting Dana School of Music at Youngstown State University to try to obtain special music for our services. We welcome anyone in our church family to join us for our next meeting February 21st. Anyone interested in being a part of our Sunday service as liturgist please contact Lisa Sorg and she will be glad to find a day to schedule you. See you in worship on Sunday.

Don't forget our Little Free Library. This may be the weather that you may want to snuggle up with a good book. Check our offerings in the lounge. We have large print and many current authors. In addition the Trumbull County Bookmobile will be in Mineral Ridge on Mondays 2/6, 2/27, 3/20 and 4/10 from 9:15 – 11:45.



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

PRAYER LIST

MEMBERS TO REMEMBER

Mary Alice Seaborn Shirley Dull
Marlyne Young

Health Concerns

Betty Garland
Logan Morris (Infant Great-Grandson of Tom Morris)
Megan Taylor (Carole's cousin)
Amos Rodgers & Cody Tittle (Marlene's friends)
James Tincher (Marlene's son)
Bill Reddersen (Ted & Darlene Smith's friend)
David Giudici (Emily Pugh's friend)
Clayton & Eileen (Bev Myers' family friends)
Barb and Alan (friends of Suzie McCabe)
Linda Lukehart (Betty Garland's Daughter)
Paul Stevens (Bev Myers' son)
Jim Flores (Marty O'Neill's boyfriend)
Karen (Sue McCabe's friend)
Matt Smith (Kathy Graham's friend)
Dennis Copanic (Val Copanic's father)
Dennis Eggert (January Rendes' father)
Graig Colantone (Nicole Pugh's father)
Dareen Craver-Angeloff (Rodney's mother)
Cheryl Fisher (Bev Meyers' Daughter)
Ella McBride (friend of Sherri Craver)
Bill Happney
The Keeley family
Shannon Poole (daughter of Sherry and Tim Gleason)
Dale Jaquin (January Rendes' Uncle)

Pam & Sue Clay (Cousins of Debbie Rendes & Diane Reinhart)

Sympathy, Concern, Nurture, & Support

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



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.

Backpack Program/Food Pantry News



The backpack program is still ongoing. We have a total of 23 families and 34 students in our backpack program! We are in need of fruit cups, boxes of macaroni & cheese, ramen noodles, and snacks (snack bars, chips, pudding cups, 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, boxes of Macaroni and cheese, and Ramen Noodles. If you are able to donate, we greatly appreciate it. Our next food distribution will be March 28th, 2023, for our Easter Distribution. Should you have any questions please reach out to January or Debbie Rendes.





HAPPY BIRTHDAY

160 years

1863 - 2023

A History to Celebrate

As our congregation begins its 160th year, we are celebrating our rich history by taking a look back at some memorable moments. Look for photos and tidbits in coming newsletters. This month we trace our early origins.

“About 1858 a few inhabitants of Mineral Ridge formed a Sabbath-school, and held prayer meetings in the district school house.” And that was the beginning of our church! “On January 11, 1863, a church of eleven members was formally organized by the committee of Trumbull Presbytery.” Among those earliest members was Mr. Jonathan Warner and his wife, Eliza. Mr. Warner was elected the first elder as he had previously served as elder in Youngstown. With Mr. and Mrs. Warner’s “liberal giving”, they donated the land and substantial money, the erection of a building was soon begun. When the building was completed, the church was in debt between \$1400 and \$1800; however, by the time the church was dedicated on January 26, 1865 membership totaled over 100. A collection was taken and “new subscriptions made” which wiped out the entire debt. And thus began our tradition of being debt free!!!

In 1883, 20 years after the founding of the church, the store of Mr. C.F. Whitney, located immediately south of the church (across Church St.), burned to the ground. The “bucket brigade” and use of wet blankets draped on the south side of the church saved the building although damage was extensive. Most distressing was that Mr. Whitney was clerk of Session and the church records were lost in the store fire! Records were restored from memory but detailed information from this period is missing.

A large barn once stood in back of the church to accommodate families who traveled by horse and buggy (or sleigh) to church. Stalls were assigned to various families. There appears to be some question as to whether the church actually owned the structure, as a court order in 1926 authorized the church trustees to sell the barn and share the proceeds with another party.

Until the turn of the twentieth century, the church and manse had a fence around them. Horses and mules were in abundance in the mining town as were village saloons. The fence served to protect the property from encroachment by wondering animals and men on their way home on Saturday nights from the saloons.

The steeple of the church has been toppled several times and repaired or replaced. The original spire was much higher than the one we have now. The bell that we ring on Sunday mornings is exceptionally large for a church of our size. The bell was cast in Troy, NY and is believed to have been donated by the Warners.

Look for more tidbits next month as we continue celebrating this milestone in FPCMR history.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NOTES

The Christian Education Committee has adopted several new goals for 2023. At the Organizational meeting where we had eight community leaders speak to us we heard much information that informed the CE Committee as they thought about their goals for 2023.

1. We will explore hosting a Mental Health First Aid course. It is run by the Mahoning County Mental Health and Recovery Board. We will invite the community to attend.
2. We will explore hosting a Children's Health Fair for the community to be held at the Community Park. This may be similar to one we conducted some years back. We will ask others in the community to help us make this happen.
3. We will be scheduling fire drills both for Sunday School classes and also for those worshipping in the sanctuary when the weather gets much better.

Survey: The Presbyterian Women of the PCUSA have published a study called What My Grandmothers Taught Me – Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus. This survey is to ask you to if you would be interested in meeting as we make our way through information about the women mentioned in Jesus' genealogy. If there is any interest, we could meet once a month through the spring and if there is interest we could continue in the fall. If this is something that you think you would be interested in please let Carole Rummell know. You can leave her a message at bcrumell@aol.com, 330-207-2395 or talk to her after worship. The cost of books is \$10.00



REMINDER....Our Souper Bowl Offering date is coming. Our children will be holding the soup pots at the doors as we leave worship on Feb. 12 the date of both our Souper Bowl and the Super Bowl. You are asked to put at least \$1.00 in the pot. Even more would be better. Carole Rummell will be seeking anyone that will step up and offer to match the congregational giving or even a partial match. You can let her know if you wish to do some kind of match or just wait and hear what the congregation has given and then mark an envelope Souper Bowl offering and put in the offering plate. One person has already promised to match the congregational giving. Let's see how much we can get to divide between the Niles Community Services and the Back Pack program that benefits kids in need at Seaborn Elementary School. Last year our congregation along with the matching funds raised \$1112 for the Community Parish Fund. Let's see if we can do that well this year.

What's New at FPCMR

Session Highlights from January Meeting

1. Approved use of Fellowship Hall and Kitchen and waived fee for Mercy College of Ohio on Thursday, Feb 16 for Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser, with Jill Fabian serving as point person.
2. Designated the Souper Bowl offering to be taken February 12 and to be divided between Niles Community Services and the Back Pack Program.
3. Approved communion on the second Sunday of every month in 2023 except for World Communion Sunday on October 1st and 1st Sun in Advent Dec 3.
4. Approved a joint Thanksgiving Service with First Presbyterian Church of Warren in November 2023. Bring canned good to stock our Food Pantry.
5. Approved Study Leave for Pastor's Retreat Feb 8-9 and CREDO March 13-21. Neither has a cost and Pastor Kori will get Pulpit Supply for March 19th.
6. Approved the Updated Procedure for Electronic (E-Polling) Voting.
7. Approved use of up to \$10,000 from the Restricted Fund to update our video streaming and audio system. The quote is for \$13,690 and we received a \$5000 grant from Presbytery last year that we have in reserve.
8. Heard that membership is now 136 after removing Nicole McMullen from rolls.
9. Heard that Nom. Comm. is working to replace Elder vacancy.
10. Heard that Back Pack program is still in need of items for Seaborn School.

We have some exciting news; we will be selling new shirts for the Church! Nicole McMullen has graciously offered to make the shirts and provide the church with a portion of the profits of what we sell. We will have an order form in Fellowship Hall beginning on Sunday, January 29th, 2023. We will have the sign up sheet for the next 3 weeks in Fellowship hall.

We will be selling sweatshirts for \$30, Crewneck (long sleeve) for \$20, and T-shirts for \$15. For sizes 2XL and 3XL there will be an additional \$5 charge.

We will be accepting cash and checks. Checks can be made to First Presbyterian Church of Mineral Ridge.

Below is the design to be used and an example of what the T-shirt will look like.



For any questions regarding the shirts or if you are interested in purchasing a shirt and unable to make it to church to order one please feel free to email January Rendes at January.Rendes@gmail.com.
Thanks!
January

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

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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

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=QnN2TUERMUUVVQIRGalJ1c3A5QTRSQT09> (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 (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!