

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WARREN

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WE'RE ON THE WEB

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January

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DEACONS' FREE LUNCH/GROCERIES



LOVE TREE GIFTS AND GROCERIES



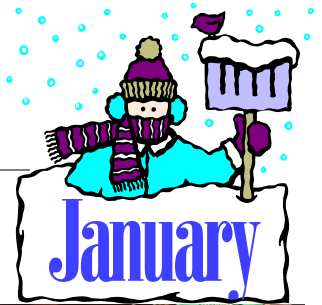
BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE



THE SP RE

ISSUE 2022 VOLUME 1 JANUARY 2022

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WARREN



IMAGINE A JOURNEY PROGRAM



CAROLING



EPIPHANY



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Happy New Year 🍷 Happy New Year 🍷 Happy New Year



CLERK'S CORNER

The rescheduling of the Session meetings for December allows the Clerk's Corner to be in the monthly *Spire*. In January we will return to the Clerk's Corner being in the Thursday email of church activities.

Actions from the Regular Meeting of Session of December 15, 2021.

Church Growth announced that plans continue to have Family Camp January 14-16, 2022, at Big Oak Camp.

Communications announced that wiring for the IT upgrade to improve WiFi will be December 23, 2021.

Finalization of the contract with Whitney Stained Glass of Cleveland continues. The tentative schedule of when repairs will start is still set for this spring. The accounting procedures are being set to receive the grant funds.

Finance and Stewardship presented the budget for 2022. It has projected income of \$406,900.00 and projected expenses of \$430,488.46. It is another deficit budget that does draw on our invested funds. Session accepted the budget.

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and the Corporation is to be February 20, 2022, following worship. All committees and organizations to FPC are to have their reports in by January 28, 2022.

The Session members elected to the 2022 Church Officer Nominating Committee are Lynn Griffith, III, Chairperson and Betty Kay Womer Session Representative.

The current Church Officer Nominating Committee is working to find a replacement for Mary Ann Bromley.

Communion was celebrated in person and virtually on December 5, 2021, with 116 participating. Homebound communion was served on December 6, 2021, with 9 participants in total.

Our membership is remains at 229.

Peace, Ray Rubrake, Clerk

STAR WORDS

Join us for an Epiphany Celebration on Sunday January 9th, we invite you to select a star word at random from the display and carry it with you into the new year. Guided by the stars, together like the wiseman we will journey closer towards Jesus. Be on the lookout for Star Word updates throughout the coming months, but here are some great ways for you to start connecting with your star word as we move through the season of Epiphany.

- Pray that God will enlighten you and point you to what God has to say to you through this word.
- Make a "New Year's Resolution" that includes this word.
- Put your star somewhere you'll see it frequently.
- Start a "star word" journal in which to write down/type up the things you experience and learn with the word. Amy Lynn will have star word workbooks available that you can print out at home or pick up at church if you'd like more structure. Set aside a few minutes a couple times a week to reflect on your word and jot down some notes. Make or buy jewelry, household decor, or other reminders with your word on it.

WINTER RETREAT 2022

Remember to sign up on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall for the Winter Retreat, January 14—16, before January 9. The cost is \$50.00 per adult and \$5.00 per child for the weekend if you stay overnight. If you choose to come spend the day the cost is \$5.00 per meal. All are welcome!



FPC has done it again! All expectations were exceeded in raising money for six deserving charities through the Alternative Gift-Giving Program. The final totals for the 2021 mission were as follows:

Second Harvest - \$365.00

SOPHIA - \$375.00

Trumbull Co, Historical Society Black Voices Program - \$610.00

FPC Wishlist-Scholarship Fund - \$615.00

Water for the People - \$865.00

Animal Welfare League - \$1220.00

Total - \$4050.00

Many people and many animals will be helped by your generosity. THANK YOU and a Happy New Year from the AGG Committee!



FPC PURPLE T-SHIRTS: We have extended the deadline for ordering the FPC T-shirts. Because the demand is so great, we will take orders through January 10. Show you love FPC by purchasing an FPC T-shirt. The Rose Window logo looks great! Contact Lynn Griffith with questions, 330-719-2106. Thank you!


FPC PURPLE T-SHIRT ORDER FORM

NAME: _____ PHONE NUMBER: _____

| SIZE | QUANTITY | SHORT SLEEVE | LONG SLEEVE | TOTAL |
|-------------|----------|--------------|-------------|-------|
| Child S | _____ | \$15.00 | \$19.00 | _____ |
| Child M | _____ | \$15.00 | \$19.00 | _____ |
| Child L | _____ | \$15.00 | \$19.00 | _____ |
| Child XL | _____ | \$15.00 | \$19.00 | _____ |
| Adult S | _____ | \$16.00 | \$21.00 | _____ |
| Adult M | _____ | \$16.00 | \$21.00 | _____ |
| Adult L | _____ | \$16.00 | \$21.00 | _____ |
| Adult XL | _____ | \$16.00 | \$21.00 | _____ |
| Adult 2XL | _____ | \$18.00 | \$23.00 | _____ |
| Adult 3XL | _____ | \$18.00 | \$23.00 | _____ |
| GRAND TOTAL | | | | _____ |

Instructions:

- Make checks payable to **First Presbyterian Church**. Submit check with order form.
- Deliver order forms to the Church Office or to worship offering box.
- Deadline for submitting order forms: **Monday, December 13, 2021.**
- Questions? Call Lynn Griffith at 330-719-2106.



Also available in long sleeve

BETTY'S JOYFUL NOISE

Have you ever finished a journey and wondered, “What’s next?” Typically, I find myself resting for a time after the completed journey and simultaneously remembering, all while I take a breath. After that I begin to plan the next adventure while continuing the daily task of living and being. For example, on Christmas day, Dave and I traveled to Philadelphia, following the GPS and arrived at our son’s home. We visited with his family and I held grandbaby Dominick, a special Christmas gift. As we returned to Slippery Rock, up and over the mountains of central PA in the rain and sleet, we reminisced about our time together and talked about the next visit in the spring.

As you read through this January 2022 edition of the Spire, I think our holiday travel summary describes this newsletter’s contents and our continuing journey together into the new year.

While you rest from the journey of Advent and Christmas, enjoy the pictures of the church’s various December activities. Relive your journey of *Following the Star* during this time of 2021’s Advent waiting. (Thanks to Russell and the Advent Committee for wonderful events.) Please spend a few moments reflecting on what you enjoyed and what you will do differently in 2022. Perhaps as you view the pictures of Christmas caroling, you will make a mental note to join that ministry by singing or being sung to and experience the glee of children “conducting” the music or the tenderness of older friends singing along. Because of the presence of the Holy Spirit, something mysterious and inspiring happened that Sunday afternoon that you will want to be part of in 2022.

After you have had space and time to breathe and reflect about 2021, please consider all the upcoming ministries and events for 2022 that are mentioned in this Spire’s pages. The Session, Deacons, and Staff are working to provide each one of us opportunities to serve and be served:

Changing the Sunday morning time for Children’s education

Celebrating the ministry of Sue Dennis on January 9

Offering a service on MLK day, January 17

Collecting needed items in January and February for the Deacons

Planning a monthly Wednesday night dinner and time of fellowship and praise beginning February 16

We have followed the star and arrived at the manger, which is full of the light of Christ. After admiring and absorbing Christ’s light during the Christmastide, we are called now to continue to be the light of the world, letting that light shine before humanity and not hiding it under a basket. (Matthew 5: 14-16). Let our words and actions in 2022 continue to reflect that light, giving it to all we connect with in our daily living and being.

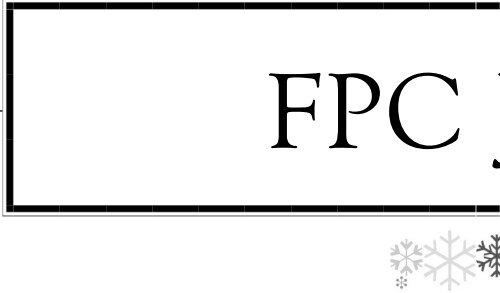
I invite you to be the light for others in your family and your community in 2022. Please join in as the pandemic conditions permit for *you are needed*.

Joyfully, Betty

FPC January Birthdays

01/05 Acea Lipscomb
01/07 Chris Haering
Hannah Buzulencia
01/08 Bill Holk, III
Rachel Burns
01/09 Paige Odille
01/10 Andrea Nadenichek
01/11 Linda Scala
01/12 Jayda Hayes
01/16 Hayley Buzulencia
01/20 Jim Dennis
Marilyn Pogue
01/26 Melanie Box
01/28 Judy Ward
Chris Chuirazzi
01/29 Melanie Vlad
01/31 Linda Brodell
Benton Beerbower

If we have overlooked anyone's birthday, we apologize. Please contact the Church Office so that we may update our records.



Sun

Mon

Tue

2

10:00 am Worship

3

Church Office Closed
5:30 pm Girl Scouts, B
7:00 pm AA, MC

4

9:30 am Al-Anon
5:30 pm Girl Sco
6:00 pm De-Dec
7:00 pm NA, MC

9

Communion/2¢ meal
10:00 am Worship
10:30 am Sunday School
11:30 am Celebration for
Sue Dennis

10

10:00 am OA, P
5:30 pm Girl Scouts, B
6:30 pm B & G Meeting
7:00 pm VoM Meeting
7:00 pm AA, MC

11

9:30 am Al-Anon
4:00 pm Current
Study, P
7 pm NA, MC

16

Winter Family Retreat
10:00 am Worship
10:30 am Sunday School

17

12:00 pm MLK Day
Service
10:00 am OA, P
5:30 pm Girl Scouts, B
6:00 pm Deacons
7:00 pm AA, MC

18

9:30 am Al-Anon
10:30 Free Groc
4:00 pm Finance
5:30 pm Girl Sco
7:00 pm Church
7:00 pm NA, MC

23

10:00 am Worship
10:30 am Sunday School

24

SPiRE Deadline
10:00 am OA, P
5:30 pm Girl Scouts, B
7:00 pm AA, MC

25

9:30 am Al-Anon
4:00 pm Current
Study, P
7 pm NA, MC

30

10:00 am Worship
10:30 am Sunday School

31

10:00 am OA, P
5:30 pm Girl Scouts, B
7:00 pm AA, MC



Sue Dennis Recognition

January 9, 2022

Please join us during worship as we honor Sue Dennis for her many years of service to the families, children, and members of First Presbyterian Church as chairwoman of the Christian Education Committee. The role that Sue is most known for is that of Sunday School teacher to the many, many children and teens she taught and for her wonderful and enlightening children's message each Sunday during Worship service. Her calm and reassuring voice along with her many props let us all know that God is always with us. Her talents are endless; from organizing plays and bake sales and Vacation Bible School to having the annual First Church Kids Thanksgiving each year on Founder's Day. Please join us on January 9 to honor her and stay after church for refreshments and a time to personally tell her your "Mrs. Dennis" story. We at FPC are profoundly grateful to Sue for dedication to our church and to God.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Communications Committee will be resurrecting, in a new form, the old Steeple People column. Our plan is to solicit news stories from the congregation that they can submit to me, and when we have enough news items I'll compose a little column (with editing assistance from Sue Kindelberger and her little red pen). So we would like the following invitation to be placed in the next monthly Spire:

Have news you'd like to share about your high school or college students and/or graduates? Any interesting experiences you've had recently . . . or good books that you've read lately? Drop your news story in my mail box in the Church Office or send me an email. Perhaps one day it will be shared with the congregation in a new column to be added periodically in the Spire. Lynn Griffith, Communications Committee, lbgrif33@yahoo.com.

DEACONS' NEWS



Happy New Year! The Deacons met on December 20th for their final meeting of 2021. Budget items and goals were reviewed for the upcoming year. As we welcome 2022 we will continue to focus on the needs within the congregation and the community. Your support allows us to continue our activities and services.

During the month of December the Mission Committee delivered gifts to the St. Vincent DePaul Organization for their annual Christmas outreach in Trumbull County. The non-profit, **Free Indeed**, received a monetary donation to help cover the cost of a walker, stove and washing machine for a man who was recently released from prison. This group works with prisoners within the system, and when they are released with counseling and services. During the month of February a collection is planned for donations of underwear/ socks to aid this group. The Annual Alternative this year was a great success with over \$3,725.00 with various contributions made to support programs close to home and around the world. The focus of the Mission Committee continues to improve the conditions for people near and far.

The Congregational Care Committee delivered sixteen Christmas Treat bags for our Special Care Members. Some of the bags were delivered during the Annual Caroling Evening on December 14th. The Fellowship Committee provided treats for the "happy singers" when they returned to the church. Both committees are planning projects for the winter months.

The Grocery Distribution took place on December 21st with thirty-eight families receiving a grocery cart filled with a wide variety of food items. A "Grab and Go" hot lunch was provided. The appreciation and gratitude could be heard and seen as their cars were loaded with bags and boxes for food. *"I'm not sure I could have celebrated Christmas without the help of your church"*. As I drove home after the event, my grocery list seemed very trivial and those car trunks filled with food took on a whole new special meaning.

May you and your family have a blessed New Year.

Sarah Hirt Buzulencia, Vice Moderator - Deacons

JANUARY 2022



| Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|---|---|
| | | | 1 New Year's Day |
| 5 10:00 am Crafters 6:30 pm AA, MC | 6 Epiphany of the Lord 9:00 am Prayer Talk, FH 11:00 am Miriam Esther Circle, P 7:00 pm Worship Meeting | 7 Church Office Closed | 8 |
| 12 10:00 am SOPHIA 6:30 pm AA, MC 7:00 pm Communications Meeting | 13 9:00 am Prayer Talk, FH 7:00 pm CE Meeting | 14 Church Office Closed 6:00 pm Winter Family Retreat, Big Oak | 15 Winter Family Retreat, Big Oak Meadows |
| 19 1:00 pm MVI, P 6:30 pm AA, MC | 20 9:00 am Prayer Talk, FH 12:00 pm Women's Study, P | 21 Church Office Closed | 22 |
| 26 6:30 pm AA, MC 7:00 pm Session Meeting | 27 9:00 am Prayer Talk, FH | 28 Church Office Closed | 29 |





NURSERY UPDATES

Lots of exciting things that are good for our babies and preschoolers are happening in the nursery and more will continue in the month of January. Peek in and look the next time you walk by. For many of us it brings back great memories of when our own children used the nursery!

The cribs and changing table have been cleaned and sanitized for use by parents.

There are supplies- wet wipes, changing pads, diapers (In case you forgot one) all in the baby room.

The toys and all furniture have been sanitized and many old items removed.

In mid -January we will be announcing a **“Building Blocks Campaign”** to help us purchase items that are recommended for church nurseries.

We will be seeking a nursery attendant after the first of the year, but members of the CE committee are currently prepared to man or woman the nursery when we have children whose parents want to attend worship service.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Communion and the 2 Cents a Meal offering are January 9.

The January 2nd service will include a segment on Kwanza by Voices of Micah.

Family camp is being planned January 14-16, 2022, Covid permitting. There will be a waiver to sign to attend.

Voices of Micah is planning a celebration of the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. on January 17.

The time has not been set. The Rev. Gena Thornton will participate.

Ray Rubrake.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY

Starting Sunday January 9th, we will be transitioning to a new program from our children in grades K-5th, this program called Children and Worship will take place DURING worship beginning following the children’s sermon each Sunday (10:30-11:15am). This program will REPLACE our current 9-10am Sunday School hour. Children and Worship gives our young people a worship place to call their own, a space designed with them and their imaginations in mind. It invites children and adults to experience the wonder and mystery of God through a unique storytelling format and multi-sensory materials. Colorful felt underlays set the scene for wood figures to play out the stories and allow children to expand their imagination. Textures of the various materials used and the wondering questions, allow even more senses to be stretched and developed. The figures, buildings, mountains and other tangible materials stimulate the visual and imaginative senses of all ages. Following the telling of the bible story children will have the opportunity to pick the medium (clay, paint, crayons, pencils, etc.) they want to use to then share what the story meant to them. The program uses a fourfold order of worship - beginning with a Call to Worship, Proclaiming God’s Word, Giving Thanks to God, and a dismissal where the children are sent out into the world as the body of Christ to do good work.

For those young people in grades 6-12, mark your calendars now as we will be meeting on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of every month following worship until 2pm. This schedule will start on JANUARY 23rd and continue through the end of May. We will gather together for food, FUN, fellowship, and to grow together not only as a group but as individuals.

GOOD STUFF YOU NEED TO KNOW

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION Our next celebration of Communion will be **Sunday, January 9, 2022**, during our regular 10:00 a.m. worship service.

TWO-CENTS-A-MEAL OFFERING The Deacons will be collecting for the 2¢-A-Meal offering on **Sunday, January 9, 2022**, during our regular worship service. This program provides a channel for Presbyterians to respond to the crisis of hunger at home and abroad. Don’t forget to bring your coins to drop in the special offering buckets.

JOIN US THURSDAY MORNINGS for our weekly prayer talk. We meet in Fellowship Hall for guided devotionals with scripture, prayer and fellowship at 9:00 a.m. All are welcome. Please join us.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE If you or someone you know would like a visit or assistance from the Deacons, please call the Church Office.

FPC WEB PAGE ADDRESS is <http://www.fpcwarren.org> - come visit us on the ‘Net! Our **NEW** e-mail address is info@warrenfpc.org

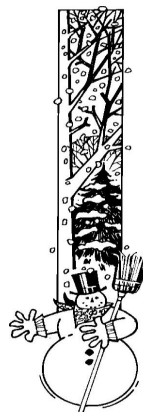
LISTEN TO US EVERY SUNDAY MORNING at 10:00 a.m. on 1570 AM and 97.7 FM.

LOOKING FOR A DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE? The January/February issue of the Upper Room is now available in the hall by the Church Office. These free magazines are compliments of your Board of Deacons. Large print copies are also available.

DE-DECORATE THE CHURCH – Join us on **Tuesday, January 4, at 6:00 p.m.** when we will share our Christmas memories as we pack away the Christmas decorations and look forward to a bright new year. **MIRIAM-ESTHER CIRCLE** will meet Thursday, **January 6, 2022**, at 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall to continue our study of “What My Grandmothers Taught Me.” Please join us! Bring a bag lunch and beverage. Social distancing and masks will be required.

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED on Monday, January 3, for the holiday. May each of you have a safe and blessed New Year.

SANCTUARY FLOWER CHART – As with many things, the flower chart is on backorder. A temporary flower chart has been posted in the Outer Office. You may sign up now, and the dates will be transferred to the new chart when it is delivered.



First Presbyterian Church of Warren, Ohio Mission Statement

First Presbyterian Church is a worshipping, welcoming Community of Faith. We are called by God to be ambassadors of Christ to all people through preaching the gospel, teaching discipleship and serving in the name of Christ Jesus.

First Presbyterian Church of Warren, Ohio Vision Statement

Glorify and enjoy God through worship, education and service.