

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WARREN

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Merry Christmas from the staff of First Presbyterian Church!

Betty, Melanie, Kathie, and Dave



MEET 'n' EAT

Forty-two people enjoyed soup and a baked potato bar, followed by a program on the folk tale "Stone Soup".



PRE-ADVENT STUDY



RAY RUBRAKE'S RECEPTION



Ray retired as Clerk of Session after many years. A reception was held to honor and thank Ray for his dedication and service to FPC.



THE SP RE



ISSUE 2022 VOLUME 12 DECEMBER 2022

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WARREN

ALTERNATIVE GIFT-GIVING



STAINED-GLASS WINDOW TOUR





During the Session meeting on November 16, the following actions were taken:

Marjorie Dangaran and Dottie Hope were examined to fulfill unexpired one-year terms on the Board of Deacons and the Endowment Committee respectively. They will be installed during worship on 12.11.22.

Approved a motion from the Safety and Security Working Group to cover the costs associated with training 12 people from the congregation in First Aid, CPR, AED, and Stop the Bleed.

Set the date of the Annual Congregation meeting for 2.12.23. Annual committee reports will be due to Kathie Trowbridge no later than 1.27.23.

Set the date for an Officers' Retreat to take place 2.10-11.23 at the Church. All officers are asked to participate.

Approved a motion from Building, Grounds and Assets for Denna HVAC to provide preventative maintenance by cleaning out all the traps in the Church's heating system.

Approved a motion from Building, Grounds and Assets to have Dickey Electric replace three parking lot pole lights that are currently burned out with LED lights.

Approved a motion from the Finance Committee revising the offering counting policy to include members of the Board of Deacons on the first Sunday of the month, when Two Cents A Meal is collected.

Approved a motion from the Finance Committee to recognize John Taylor as Acting Treasurer for a one-year term.

Approved a motion from the Finance Committee designating that the 2023 parking lot revenue collected from the Amp concerts and other community events be split as follows: 50% to the Deacons Income line item to be used for local mission giving and 50% to general operating expenses.

Recommended to the Finance Committee that donations to line items 93-96 in the proposed 2023 budget are increased as follows: Presbytery Missions Expense from \$1,200 to \$2,000; Synod Mission Expense from \$600 to \$1,000; General Assembly Mission Expense from \$600 to \$1,000 and Theological Education Expense from \$600 to \$1,000.

The next meeting of Session will take place on 12.14.22 at 7:00 pm in Fellowship Hall.

Yours in Christ, Mary L. Chuirazzi



Our sincere sympathy is extended to Becky Lough and Susie Wireman on the death of their father, George Seagreaves.

FPC PURPLE T-SHIRTS

T-SHIRTS: There are still 11 FPC t-shirts remaining for sale. The sizes are as follows: 2 small (long sleeves), 2 small (short sleeves), 1 medium (short sleeve), 2 large (long sleeves), 3 extra-large (short sleeves) and 1 extra-large (long sleeve). The price per shirt is \$16.00. You may make payment to and pick up your t-shirts from Kathie in the Church Office. Shirts will be sold on a first come, first served basis.



SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION Our next celebration of Communion will be Sunday, December 4, 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, December 4, 2022, during our regular worship service. This program helps the crisis of hunger.

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. Join us.

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

LISTEN TO US EVERY SUNDAY MORNING at 10:00 a.m. on 1570 AM or 97.7 FM or watch us on Facebook at First Presbyterian Church of Warren.

2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES You can pick up your 2023 offering envelopes in Fellowship Hall starting Sunday, December 4, 2022, throughout the month. Names and addresses are printed on the boxes. Any questions, please call the Church Office @ 330-393-1524.

THE CRAFTERS will meet December 7, at 10:00 a.m., to work on the shut-in projects.

SPIRE DEADLINE will be Monday, December 26. Please email your photos of the Church Christmas events to kathietrowbridge@fpcwarren.org.

THE CHURCH OFFICE will close at noon on December 23 and 30 and will be closed December 26 and January 2.

LOVE TREE GIFTS are to be returned to the Church by Sunday, December 11.

GIVING: All end-of-year giving must be postmarked by December 31, 2022, for it to be recorded for 2022.

MIRIAM ESTHER CIRCLE will discuss lesson 3 in the book "Celebrating Sabbath" on Thursday, December 1, at 11:00 a.m. Please bring a bag lunch and plan to stay and help decorate the Christmas tree in the Parlor.

VACATION: Pastor Betty will be on vacation December 26 through January 2, 2023. If you are in need of pastoral care during this time, please call the Church Office.

COMMUNICATIONS: In the normal course, items will be run in the E-SPIRE and/or the monthly SPIRE no more than three consecutive publications.

THANK YOU for all the cards, calls, and prayers for Jim and me during this difficult time. Our Church family is truly a blessing to us. Barb and Jim Sherwood.

MEMORIAL LUMINARIES – It is time to order luminaries for this Christmas season. With the beautiful light glowing from many luminaries, the warm feeling of Christmas will permeate the Sanctuary. The cost of the luminaries will be \$10.00 each. Please complete the form below and return it to the Church Office with your payment. All orders must be received and paid for by Friday, December 16, 2022!!

-----tear here-----

In memory/honor of: _____

Given by: _____

_____ # of Luminaries at \$10.00 each

Please check which charity will benefit from your donation.

_____ FPC Endowment Fund _____ Stained-Glass Window Fund

Your Name: _____





As we enter the Holiday Season, the Board of Deacons continues to plan events and projects. We strive to support the needs of our congregation and the community outside of our church walls.

The Annual Founders' Day Dinner was celebrated on November 20. The Saratoga prepared 126 delicious meals. This "drive thru" event allowed the Fellowship Committee to collaborate with the Advent Committee for the distribution of Advent materials and Love Tree Tags.

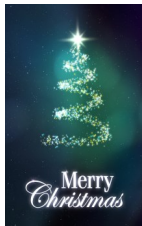
The Mission Committee continues their outreach to the community. Someplace Safe received help with kitchen supplies and food staples to stock the pantries as women and their children transition to safe homes. (This mission truly supports the old adage - " the Kitchen is the Heart of a Home".) The Warren YWCA housing "WINGS" greatly benefited from our donations of cleaning and paper supplies. This housing complex is less than a mile from our Church and provides shelter to women with disabilities and their children who are at risk of homelessness.

The Congregational Care Committee coordinated the 50+ year members recognition on Founders' Day. Fifty-eight members were recognized for their membership in our congregation. The Committee plans to distribute a Christmas gift to our Special Care members during December.

The monthly Grocery Distribution took place on November 15. Thanksgiving was "in the air" with numerous turkey casseroles in the oven and freshly baked pumpkin breads all prepared for the 115 lunches that day. The distribution was busy with 47 families receiving a large grocery order with many items to help them prepare for Thanksgiving. Thank You for all who helped this distribution.

The Deacons are blessed with the support of our congregation, which allows us to pursue our work and missions. May God fill your life with love, joy, and peace this Christmas and throughout the New Year!

Sarah Hirt Buzulencia- Moderator



And the Grinch, with his Grinch-feet ice cold in the snow, stood puzzling and puzzling, how could it be so? It came without ribbons. It came without tags. It came without packages, boxes or bags. And he puzzled and puzzled 'till his puzzler was sore. Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before. What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more.
(Dr. Seuss)

Alternative Gift-Giving will continue through Dec. 18. Be sure to give those special people special gifts this year by donating to one of the participating organizations: Animal Welfare League, FPC Wish List – Stained-Glass Windows Project, Free Indeed Ministries, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Second Harvest Food Bank, and Water for the People (PC-USA). Any and all gifts will be greatly appreciated. Remember, *Happiness doesn't result from what we get, but from what we give.* (Ben Carson)



FPCW would like to thank everyone on the "Lawn Gang" who helped with maintaining our grounds for nine months out of the year! The trimmed lawn and shrubs and lack of weeds makes the property look beautiful. Our deepest gratitude to Greg Herriman, Buck Gillispie, Marty Nadenichek, Rich Polenick, Heidi Holk, John Wright, Sue Jeffers, Donna Latessa, and Wayne Johnson.



Preparing for Christmas during the Advent season can be as joyful as the actual day, if we pause and give the Holy Spirit time and space to work in our heart. Putting out the nativity set is a favorite activity of mine. I loved watching our sons play with the pieces and tell stories, especially *the* story, as they moved the people and animals around. I hope to send our grandson his own Little People© nativity set very soon.

As you set out your own nativity set, ponder these words from Sarah Wall and Carrie Varnell:

"The Nativity is a reminder to us that the Creator of the universe is Emmanuel, God with us. The God who is all-powerful, all-knowing, and everywhere all the time, the God who has the ability to unmake you humbled Himself to become like you.

Mary reminds us to willingly and wholeheartedly accept God's calling on our lives, no matter how impossible it may seem. When God has a will, He will make a way.

Joseph teaches us to trust in God's plan, no matter what others may think of us.

The lowly shepherds teach us that Jesus is for everyone, no matter how rich or how poor.

The angel teaches us to share the good news of Jesus!

The wisemen teach us to always seek Jesus and trust in God's plan, no matter how long it takes."

Jesus in the manger teaches us God is truly love, loving us so very much.

As you arrange your nativity set(s) this year, please pause frequently during Advent and let Jesus be the center and not an add-on the scene to your Christmas preparations.

Merry Christmas to you and all whom you hold dear!

Joyfully, Betty



MEDIA COORDINATOR: Last month, we announced Jim Cibella as our Media Coordinator, hired to coordinate our media needs during Sunday morning worship and at other times as we live into our mission of worship, discipleship, and service. This month, we are saddened to announce Jim's resignation from that position. Please be in prayer for the re-established search candidate as we seek whom God is calling.



OGLEBAY BUS TRIP: Please sign up in Fellowship Hall before December 4 for the FPC bus trip through Oglebay Park's famous Festival of Lights on **Saturday, December 17**, 3-10 p.m. The cost for the bus is \$20 per person. Dinner on the return trip is an additional cost and will be paid individually. Time for fun together! If you have questions, please see Bob Stahl or Mary Kilpatrick.

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS!



FPC BIRTHDAYS

- 12/02 Dan Jamison
- Johnna Wright
- 12/03 Grant Case
- 12/05 Sandra Vine
- 12/06 Stephanie Morrone
- Megan Grayham
- 12/07 Brittany Muccio
- 12/09 Dianne Martin
- 12/10 Jacquelyn Odille
- 12/11 Jillayne Case
- 12/15 Amy Burd
- 12/18 Sarah Ferguson
- 12/19 Amy Heckman
- Wanda Hanlon
- 12/21 Jim Sherwood
- 12/22 David Skipper
- 12/27 Nina Pykare
- 12/28 Sabrina Heckman
- 12/29 Holly Meyer
- Ariana Shannon

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



FPC DECEMBER 2022



	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
						1 9:00 am Prayer Talk, FH 11:00 am Miriam Esther Circle, FH 7:00 pm Church Growth Mtg.	2 Office Closed	3 11:00 am AA, MC 2:00 pm Wright Party, FH
	4 2nd Sun. of Advent Communion/2 Cents-a-Meal 8:30 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Whoville Advent Celebration, Fh 7-8:30 pm Racial Healing	5 10:00 am OA, P 7:00 pm AA, MC	6 9:30 am Al-Anon, MC 5:30 pm Girl Scouts, FH 7:00 pm NA, MC	7 10:00 am Crafters 5:00 pm AA, B 6:30 pm AA, MC	8 9:00 am Prayer Talk, FH 7:00 pm Bell Practice, S 7:00 pm CE meeting	9 Office Closed	10 11:00 am AA, MC	
	11 3rd Sun. of Advent 8:30 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am InSPIREd Groups 11:15 pm How the Grinch Stole Christmas Program	12 10:00 am OA, P 3:00 pm Virtual Follow-up & Fellowship 5:30 pm Girl Scouts, B 6:30 pm BGA Meeting, FH 7:00 pm AA, MC 7:00 pm Voices of Micah	13 9:30 am Al-Anon, MC 5:00 pm Finance Mtg. , P 7:00 pm Blue Christmas, S 7:00 pm NA, MC	14 6:30 pm AA, MC 7:00 pm Bell Practice, S 7:00 pm Session Meeting	15 9:00 am Prayer Talk, FH 12:00 pm Women's Study, P 7:00 pm Worship Meeting	16 Office Closed	17 11:00 am AA, MC 3:00 pm Bus Trip to Oglebay	
	18 4th Sun. of Advent 8:30 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 1:00 pm Endowment Meeting 2:00 pm Caroling	19 10:00 am OA, P 3:00 pm Deacons 7:00 pm AA, MC	20 9:30 am Al-Anon, MC 10:30 am Free Lunch & Grocery Distribution 5:30 pm Girl Scouts, B 7:00 pm NA, MC	21 1:00 pm MVI, P 6:00 pm Relay for Life Mtg. 6:30 pm AA, MC	22 9:00 am Prayer Talk, FH	23 Office Closed	24 Christmas Eve 5:00 pm Christmas Eve S. 9:00 pm Christmas Eve S.	
	25 Christmas Virtual Worship on Facebook 	26 SPIRE DEADLINE Office Closed	27 Pastor Betty's Vacation 9:30 am Al-Anon, MC 7:00 pm NA, MC	28 Pastor Betty's Vacation 6:30 pm AA, MC	29 Pastor Betty's Vacation 9:00 am Prayer Talk, FH	30 Pastor Betty's Vacation Office Closed	31 New Year's Eve	