



December 2018
NEWSLETTER
Edition 212



**We are a Community,
seeking to be in stride with Christ.**

PASTOR'S CORNER

As I write this on Sunday, November 18, we had received 1107 coats (with some last-minute donations!) and had distributed over 800 coats to individuals and families in our community. Some other ministries will have received whatever coats are left-over.

What a demonstration of kindness and generosity from our church and our community. Many thanks to those of you who donated, washed, set up, cleaned up and helped our customers. A special thank you to Marilyn Smith who organized her weekly work crew and kept things organized. During the day of the Saturday distribution, a heartfelt note appeared on our church Facebook page:

This church is such a blessing to Defiance. It's a giving church and does not judge". Her feelings are the result of your hospitality and generosity. That is Christian witness, folks.

As we give thanks to God for all the blessings of our lives this Thanksgiving, we move to the season of giving at Christmas. We have already completed our "Coats for Christmas" project providing physical warmth and the warm message of Jesus' love to our community.



501 Washington Ave.
Defiance, OH 43512
www.1presby.com

Office & Prayer Chain:
Rev. Ann Wasson
(580) 515-0526 - cell
pastor@1presby.com

Find us on Facebook at
First Presbyterian Church
Of Defiance

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PASTORS CORNER, cont.

We have Staples from the Stable- our giving to others in Jesus' name. Plus, you are planning your giving to family, neighbors and friends. We are all busy, sometimes the fun turns to exhaustion from all the bustling, planning and shopping.

The old cliché is true: "Jesus is the reason for the season." God in Christ became one with us, as Emmanuel, in the babe born in Bethlehem. The profound theological truth of Incarnation is hard to fathom, and perhaps we can only approach understanding its deep meaning as we embody Christ to others through our gifts of time, hospitality, meeting needs and hopes, our prayers and our gifts. That is why we give gifts, because God first gave to us. Remembering that can make our giving season a little more holy even as we deal with crowds and commercials and the busy-ness of the season.

Blessings,

Pastor Ann

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

NEWS FROM MAUMEE VALLEY PRESBYTERY: Enjoying the extraordinary hospitality of First United Church in Tecumseh, MI, Joel Youkers, Nancy Meyer and Pastor Ann attended Presbytery meeting on Nov. 13. The meeting's main feature was getting acquainted with our new General Presbyter, The Rev. Dr. Matt Meinke. Matt was a colleague of Ann's in Indian Nations Presbytery when she served there. He has already been very busy and will be getting around to meet as many folks as possible. If you are a Green Bay Packers, Oklahoma Thunder or Sooner fan, he will want talk to sports with you- and probably also if you have a rival team allegiance, which most of you do. One way to meet Matt online is to subscribe to his daily devotionals at [mattmeike .com](http://mattmeike.com). He offers daily reflection on the daily lectionary readings. This has been a discipline of his for many years.

OTHER NEWS - the high school retreat at Kirkmont Camp was Nov. 16-18 – Chloe and Kara attended. A national College Conference at Montreat meets January 2-5, 2019 with Eboo Patel as keynote speaker. He is a highly sought- after speaker for young adults. A group from Toledo campus ministry is going and has room for more to travel. Kirkmont REJOICE camp for grades 3-12 is scheduled for July 7- 14. If we have any takers for these events, please contact Pastor Ann or the Christian Education Committee.



OUR LIFE TOGETHER

THANK YOU - for participating in the annual Stewardship Pledge season. If you have not yet turned in your Pledge for 2019, please do so as soon as possible.

IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK AT LOT LIKE ... Advent! You may note a feasting theme- Good thing the Church gave up fasting for Advent!

SHOPPING CART MONTHLY SUGGESTIONS - December: Treats such as popcorn, chips, cookies, candy, fruit roll ups, pretzels, etc.

ADVENT— Worship began Dec 2: in the Chapel. Since we turn to Christmas quickly with our children's program and Cantata Sundays- here is your opportunity to step into the Advent Journey with John the Baptizer preparing the way... we will have an advent devotional available for interested people; it is intergenerational with activities for all ages- perfect for family preparation for Christmas.

WED. DECEMBER 5 - regular Wednesday night supper and program.

DECEMBER 9 — is the WeKirk Children's program in the sanctuary, followed by our Christmas Dinner after worship! Turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy are being provided. Please bring a large or 2 smaller desserts or side dishes to share. And look for a special visitor...



MONDAY, DEC. 10 — Presbyterian Women Christmas Potluck, 11:30 am. Bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share. The Tinora Show Choir will be our special program!

IF YOU CRAVE MUSIC OF THE SEASON - the annual Messiah Concert is at St John United Church of Christ, at 7 pm on December 9. Several Presbyterians are singing in the chorus – performed with harpsichord and ensemble from the Toledo Symphony and Defiance College.

WONDERING ABOUT WHAT IT MEANS TO BE PRESBYTERIAN? Join us for “**Doctrine and Donuts**”- Sunday, 9 am Jan 20 and 27 in the 501 Café. We will share a light breakfast with discussion of our faith in Jesus Christ. We hope to continue into February and March with these discussions, 2 or 3 Sundays a month. You're invited if you're curious, thinking about church membership or just want a refresher and a chance to talk about living out our faith in the 21st century. Choir members will be excused in time for practice. Pastor Ann will lead the discussion based on The Presbyterian Handbook, which will be available for purchase.



OUR LIFE TOGETHER

TUESDAY, DEC. 11 - 6 pm JOINT SESSION- DEACONS Meeting in Fellowship Hall. Pastor Ann will prepare a light supper for our meeting- told you we have a feasting theme...

WEDNESDAY, DEC 12 - Our regular Wednesday night supper and programs.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16 — “Darkness into Light” Choir Cantata - we are excited to see our choir swell in size for this musical message! You can continue to sing Sunday evening at Beer and Carols in Toledo at Black Cloister Brewing Company. We will have a carpool for interested folk.



Each year this church has generously supported families in need at Christmas time. Staples for the Stable has been a real successful, much appreciated and filled a need not directly being addressed by other agencies in town during the holiday season. The Deacons again invite the church to shop for staples that will be delivered to families in need in Defiance. You are invited to purchase as much as you are comfortable with to help fill laundry baskets, which will be delivered during the week before Christmas. The shopping list will be available at the worship services and Wednesday dinners. Please deliver all goods to the conference room on or before Sunday December 16th. God Bless!

WEDNESDAY, DEC 19 — No Fellowship Meal- but I understand the youth and anyone else interested can eat and go caroling! Choir members have practice...

SUNDAY, DEC. 23 — begins with BIBLES and BACON with worship at 10:15 am “Christmas Carols and their Stories”- did you know this Christmas is the 200th anniversary of “Silent Night”?

MONDAY, DEC. 24, - 7 pm Christmas Eve Worship.

SUNDAY, DEC. 30 - worship at 10:15 am in the season of Christmas!

THE CHURCH OFFICE — will be closed Dec. 24-25 and Dec. 31 and January 1.

SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR OUR FRIENDS

LoisAnn Zimmerman
Joanne Parker
Alton Myers
Peg Graham
Betty Seibel
Joan Gearing
Sheron Lee
Ruth Fitzenrider



Glenn Park
Glenn Park
Glenn Park
Kingsbury House
The Laurels
Health Concerns
Health Concerns
Health Concerns

Prayer Concerns: Bill Riggs (terminal illness), Bonnie Vinz' husband Glen (colon cancer), Tom Johnson (Joyce's son).

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

16 Meredith Mickey
20 Gary Bishop
20 Nancy Black
22 Doug Brown
22 Natalie Whitacre
25 Patricia Allgire

27 Sandy Dunlap
29 Roger Emerling
29 Beth Sigg
30 Jacob Black
30 Greg Reineke
31 Alton Myers

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

22 Gale & Susan King

Thank you to **Roger & Sigrid Emerling** for sponsoring the December newsletter. This enables us to print the newsletter in color.

The Christmas tree in the East Entrance is being dedicated to Virginia and Jim Perry. Virginia made all of the ornaments on this tree. With no nativity scene in our sanctuary Jim graciously for the church. The of First Presbyterian was an avid supporter Friends and served as made these ornament Virginia's ornaments the Perry daughters; Beth Sigg. Some of you naments at a sale, and this years tree as much as we would. If you choose to loan them to the church, please mark them with your name so that we can return them.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SESSION MEETING ON NOVEMBER. 29, 2018

- * Mary Bielen from the Maumee Valley Presbytery Committee on Ministry talked about the COM visit to the session of each of the churches, which is a way of staying in touch and keeping open communications with Maumee Valley Presbytery. Session was asked about the good things that are happening --31st year of Coats for Christmas, recent youth retreat with MVP, some who have not attended recently are returning to church, the deacons work is moving toward a missional focus with monthly care visits to our home centered members, plans in place for Triennium and visit of our faith partners in Mexico, the addition of a worship time during Wednesday night dinners, the number of people intensely engaged in working for the good of the church. Session responded about challenges we face as a church-- getting people out on Sunday, recognizing that the church is changing and that Sunday may not be a viable day for many, figuring out how to engage young adults, ideas of ways to disseminate property needs and supplies to do things. Mary will take back a suggestion that MVP print the 'good news' items that are shared at Presbytery meetings in the newsletter so they can be read by all those not in attendance.
- * The PW & F led worship on Nov. 18 in the annual Thank Offering service. Michelle Kravinsky from the Ronald McDonald House of NW Ohio spoke. A generous donation by the congregation and some additional funding by the PW & F organization brought in \$839 for the Ronald McDonald House.
- * Pastor Ann was on vacation the week of Nov. 20th. She prepared a worship service dealing with the seasons of the liturgical year for Nov. 25, which was presented by volunteers. Thanks to Pastor Ann for covering this during her vacation and to all who participated on that Sunday morning.
- * Year to date we are \$27000 in the red, which is less than what was anticipated.
- * There are still 12 -15 pledges out. Marsha is following up on those. Nancy Meyer presented the budget figures as they now stand, currently with a \$76000 deficit. Several procedural questions were discussed. As we organize for the new year, there will be more regular meetings of the finance and stewardship group, with an attempt to weave stewardship into our daily lives and to keep it in front of the congregation, not just during a season of focus on stewardship. Pam Reid suggested looking into using some of the WeKirk designated mission funding to support a part of our mission contribution to Maumee Valley Presbytery, as a way of minimizing the deficit and still supporting the work of the presbytery. The 2019 budget was approved and was shared with the congregation at the congregation's meeting on Dec 2 when the pastor's terms of call for 2019 were approved.
- * The Nominating Committee Report was received: The slate of officers was elected at the congregational meeting on Dec. 2:
 - Session class of 2020: Susan King, Foyle Solether, Joel Youkers, Jean Ziegler
 - Deacon class of 2020: Megan Barber, Rich Reid, Marilyn Smith
 - At Large Nominating Committee members: Barbara Florke, John Mitchell, Sandy YoukersSession and deacons will both appoint a nominating committee member at the December meetings.

Thanks to all who are willing to serve God through the work of this church.
- * Session approved serving communion at Curtis Richards and Cara Bolley's wedding.
- * Ann Small has given a gift of *These Days* to the congregation. This daily devotional includes a Bible passage, commentary and a prayer and is published quarterly. Copies will be available for pick up in the East Entrance. Session thanks Ann for this caring gift. Also, Advent devotionals and accompanying coloring pages, in adult and child format, are out in the East Entrance for your use.
- * Creative Concepts is planning Christmas dinner to follow the WeKirk play and worship on Dec. 9.
- * Pastor Ann will lead a special Bibles & Bacon on Dec. 23 in Megan Barber's absence.

HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED

- * Coats for Christmas was a success. 1120 coats were received and dry cleaned by Mercury Cleaners or washed by our congregation. Many children's coats were purchased at the end of the season last year, supported in a large part by funding from the PW&F. Tinora Junior High School contributed hats, scarves and gloves and the Gideons gave out Bibles. The youth group made laundry soap to share. In the two days 813 coats were distributed and the rest were given to the Hope Chest, a local group, and Cherry St. Mission in Toledo. Next year the students at the Independent Educational Center would like to help, too, perhaps by making laundry soap.
- * The Staples from the Stable kickoff is Sunday Nov. 25th. The collection will run through Sunday Dec 16th, the day of the choir cantata. The sorting, shopping and delivery will be on Monday Dec. 17th, starting at 9:30 in the Westminster room. Collected items should be brought to the conference room.
- * WeKirk is meeting on Saturdays to prepare for the play to be presented Dec. 9.
- * Kristal and Ann passed out informational flyers in the neighborhood, asking for contributions for the food drive for Ravens, and the children and youth went door to door on Nov. 7 to collect the food, meeting the neighbors along the way. Katy Katterheinrich from Ravens came to WeKirk on Nov. 14 to talk to the group about the good the food will do in helping families in Defiance. Pastor Ann wrote a letter to the editor of the Crescent News thanking the neighbors for their generosity!
- * Recent youth group activities include helping WeKirk with the food drive, visiting several of our home centered members as a reverse trick or treat event, and making the laundry soap to give away at Coats for Christmas. The Reids thank those who stepped in (Craig and Lora Richards, Cara Bolley, Pastor Ann, Adam Bates, Kristal Alford) to lead the youth group in their absence. Two members of the youth group will attend the Maumee Valley Presbytery's Youth Retreat, to be held at Kirkmont Center on Nov. 16-18. Pam Reid and Pam Retcher will drive them.
- * Pastor Ann suggested that we add a Sunday morning event called Doctrine & Doughnuts to complement Bibles & Bacon. She would lead this and use some materials that are both light and deep to delve into what it means to be Presbyterian and to be a disciple of Christ in this time and place. Planning will continue with a goal of starting in January. This can be a class that will also encourage people to join the church.
- * The Mary's Song devotionals plus coloring pages from Illustrated Children's Ministry are available. The deacons took copies to our home centered members when they visit on Nov. 19. The rest will be available for kids, youth and anyone who wants one when Advent starts. Total cost is \$30.00, plus in house printing.
- * Christmas flowers are ordered. We will advertise for holiday Christmas Eve service in the Crescent News.
- * Mike Winners, Jeff Barber and Rich Reid have installed the video monitors in the sanctuary.
- * The parking lot needs to be sealed and striped. The seal on the brick, especially in the original building should be tested.
- A joint meeting of session and deacons will take place on Tuesday, Dec 11 in the fellowship hall. Ann Will make us dinner, introduce the class of 2020 and review tasks of session/deacons. Elders will examine new officers in preparation for installation, the groups will separate to meet for assignments and meeting dates for the next year.



December 2018

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



		<p>Merry Christmas!</p>				1
2 Worship 10:15 In Chapel Congregational Meeting 11:15 Curtis & Cara Wedding 4:00	3 AA 12pm	4 Group Meetings 9 to noon Taekwondo 6pm	5 Dinner 5:30 Youth, WeKirk Choir 6:30 Bells 8:00 New Wineskins 8:30	6 5:15 pm Deacons Taekwondo 6pm	7 AA 12 noon AA 7:30 pm	8
9 Worship 10:15 In Sanctuary	10 PF&W 11:30 am Christmas Pot- luck AA 12pm	11 Group Meetings 9 to noon Session/ Deacons 6pm Taekwondo 6pm	12 Groups 9-12 Dinner 5:30 Youth, WeKirk, Choir 6:30 Bells 8:00 New Wineskins 8:30	13 Taekwondo 6 pm	14 AA 12 noon AA 7:30 pm	15 Cantata Prac- tice 10 am
16 Worship Cantata 10:15 Beer & Carols 7:00 pm Toledo	17 AA 12pm Staples From the Stable	18 Group Meetings 9 to noon Taekwondo 6pm	19 Groups 9-12 AA noon	20 Taekwondo 6:00 pm	21 AA 12 noon AA 7:30 pm	22
23 Bibles & Bacon 9 am Worship 10:15 In Sanctuary	24 AA 12pm Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm Office closed	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS	26 Groups 9-12 Dinner 5:30 Youth, WeKirk Choir 6:30 Bells 7:00 New Wineskins 8:30	27 Session 6:00 Taekwondo 6:00 pm	28 AA—noon AA—7:30 pm	29
30 Worship in the Chapel 10:15	31 NEW YEARS EVE Office closed	1 NEW YEARS DAY				



1st
Presbyterian Church
501 Washington Ave
Defiance, OH 43512

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE