



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

A Line from Lynn

Peace and Grace to each of you as we enter a new year!

A year that promises to be filled with possibility and change. We have spent the last month or so preparing for Christmas and now you will continue to prepare to welcome your new pastor some-time this year! It will happen!

As we celebrate Epiphany, I have selected a star word for the congregation for 2018. It is **hospitality**. I hope you will spend some time praying about the ways you can offer hospitality to this person and also show him/her how you extend hospitality to others. Hospitality means the friendly reception and treatment of guests or strangers and the quality of disposition of receiving and treating them in a warm, friendly, generous way. It is derived from the Latin word *Hospes* meaning host, guest or stranger. *Hospes* comes from *hostis*, which means stranger, or enemy (where words like hostile come from) It is also the root of hospital meaning a guest-chamber or lodging. Biblically there are specific passages that discuss how to offer hospitality. So this year my prayer is that you will be focusing your spiritual formation as a congregation around the word **HOSPITALITY!**



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Find us on Facebook at
First Presbyterian Church
of Defiance

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A Line from Lynn, continued

Speaking of hospitality—your Christmas gift to me was most generous and a beautiful example of hospitality. I cannot begin to thank you for all the wonderful words of kindness I have received or the willingness to try something different. Thank you.

If you are looking for a way to read scripture more regularly—perhaps even reading the entire Bible, there are some good guides available. One is TheBibleProject.com. They offer a variety of ways to read the Bible as well as some video, study notes, and other related content. Perhaps this will be your New Year's Resolution!

Prayers for a wonderful new year.
Pastor Lynn



We are currently actively searching for an Office Manager. This is a new part-time position (15 hours a week) that will combine the work of managing communications, secretarial and financial duties. If you know of someone who would be interested in applying for this position, please contact Joel Youkers at 419 785 4500 or joelyoukers@gmail.com.

Let it snow? What to do in bad weather....

Level 3 snow emergency— Worship is cancelled and the church is closed.

**Level 2 snow emergency—Church is open, everyone should exercise caution
Attend church based on your personal situation and your comfort level, without obligation.**

**Level 1 snow emergency— Church is open, everyone should exercise caution
Attend church based on your personal situation and your comfort level, without obligation**

Since Lynn drives from Toledo, she may not always be able to get here in bad weather. She will be able to email her sermon and plans for worship for someone else to present. In all cases be alert for a text message or email Blast and local radio.

If school is cancelled because of fog, Wednesday evening activities will proceed as planned. If school is cancelled because of conditions that won't improve during the day, Wednesday evening activities will be cancelled.

Christmas Greetings from our friends in Mexico

Translation of a message received from Pastor Fausto on Christmas Eve. Through the blessings of social media, it is easy for us all to stay connected, to see and know what is happening in each other's churches. We have been sharing the activities of our church with them as well. There is a reference to that in this letter.

Dear friends and brothers and sisters of First Presbyterian Church of Defiance, Please receive our most sincere good wishes for this Christmas season of 2017. Our hearts are widened with the joy, the joy of the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ who came to bring us true joy and peace in our hearts. We would like to share all of our celebrations with all of you. We see so many similarities in our celebrations. Our infant classes presented a Christmas drama that was so beautiful. On Christmas Eve our choir presented a cantata named *The Colors of Christmas*. Later tonight, we will conclude the advent season this evening with our Christmas Eve service. We will then all joyously take the celebration to our homes with our families.

We will include you in our Christmas prayers and in our hearts as we celebrate this most special time in the church. We wish each of you much joy and the peace that Christ came to share with us all. We send you all a cordial hug. We love you with the love of Christ. Merry Christmas.



Our life together

It's time to pay your per capita

Do you know that every year we pay a per capita (a per person charge) for each church member? This money supports our connected ministries in the Presbytery. You can help with this large budget item by paying your share as soon as possible. Thank you for considering this way to support our church and for contributing as you are able. The total per capita charge this year is \$32.00.

Your officers at work

The Session and Deacons will meet together on January 9 at 5:15 pm. They will share a meal and prayerfully consider how to best minister in Christ's name in this new year. New officers will be ordained and installed during worship on January 14.

Our life together

Remove the Christmas greens! This Sunday, January 7, after worship

As beautiful as the Christmas décor is, it also has to come down. It will only take a short time if we have many hands. Even if you can just give 15 minutes, that will be a HUGE help.

Youth Group and AGO invite YOU to the movies, January 10 and 17, 6:30

Starting on **Wednesday, Jan. 10 and continuing through Jan. 17**, come watch the acclaimed film, *Hidden Figures*. From *Think Christian...*No viewer of *Hidden Figures* could fail to see the image of God in its characters. Nominated for three Academy Awards, including Best Picture, *Hidden Figures* employs truth, humor, triumph, and earnestness to tell the story of three African-American women whose work was crucial to NASA's success in the 1960s—a time when gender norms and Jim Crow laws worked doubly against them.

This is our first night back to regular Wednesday activities. Come for dinner and **Friends in Faith at 6:15** and stay for a thought provoking evening.

Bibles and Bacon is back on Sunday, February 4 at 9 am.

Come interact across generations. Do your part in mutually encouraging each other in our faith journeys.

Youth Group Spaghetti Dinner and Shenanigans, February 18, 5:00

Mark your calendars for the annual Youth Group spaghetti dinner and auction. **Feb. 18**, serving **at 5:00 pm**. What will the youth have in store for you this year? And thanks from the heart for your continued support.

Presbyterian Women & Friends invite you to share in a book study, February 19, time to be announced

The PW & F group is reading the book *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio in preparation for discussion at the February meeting, which will be changed to **Feb. 19**, so that the group can view the movie before the meeting. Pick up your book from the Rainbow Choir room, read and return it so it can be passed on. See Mary Ann Schroeder if you have questions.

Maumee Valley Presbytery Meeting , February 20, 10 am to 3 pm in Tiffin

This will be the last meeting for retiring Rev. Susan Meier, Presbyter for Common Life. Plan to come wish her well and celebrate her ministry here .

It's time to think about annual reports. For those who moderated or chaired a board, committee or group in 2017, we'll need your report by January 14. Please email it (as a word document if possible--not a pdf. This will help with formatting and editing) to Pam Reid at reid400@gmail.com or hand it to her or Pastor Lynn. Thanks!

Special Prayers for Our Friends

Betty Hill

LoisAnn Zimmerman

Joanne Parker

Leora Myers

Peg Graham

Betty Seibel

Joan Gearing

Glenn Park

Glenn Park

Glenn Park

Kingsbury House

Kingsbury House

The Laurels

Health Concerns

Happy 90th birthday, **LoisAnn Zimmerman!**

Please send a card to LoisAnn c/o Glenn Park of Defiance Senior Living Community,
Room 140, 2429 William A. Diehl Ct., Defiance

Lynn Peters also celebrates a big birthday on Jan. 25th.
Let's shower him with cards at 110 Jefferson, Defiance, OH 43512

January Birthdays

- 2- Loisann Zimmerman
- 5- Jordyn McBride
- 11- Braden Frederick
- 13- Rich Reid, Linda Wagner
- 14- Mike Peffley
- 18- Megan Schubert
- 19- Bobbie Brown, CJ Stockman
- 20- Maureen Killion, James Sigg



- 21- Melinda Whitacre
- 24- Evan Bates
- 25- Lynn Peters
- 27- Morgan Smith
- 30- Morgan Peffley

January Anniversaries

- 6- Jim & Karen Straley
- 8- Jeff & Jane Barber



The sympathies of the congregation are extended to the family of Mary Reeves, who passed away on December 20. A service of witness to the resurrection and celebration of life was held here at the church on December 26.

Our condolences to Jean Ziegler and the Bishop family. Russ Ziegler, son, brother and uncle, passed away on December 22. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Our sympathies to Sheryl Bigley and family on the death of her stepfather, Fred Hasch, on December 27. He lived in Florida.

Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you: I have called you by your name, you are mine.

Calendar overview

Jan. 7--Stay after church to help Unhang the Greens. Many hands :-)

Jan. 9--Joint meeting of session and deacons, complete with welcome dinner! Starts at 5:15.

Jan. 10--Wednesday night activities resume with food prepared by Sue King's team. Friends in Faith starts at 6:15, followed by the movie, *Hidden Figures* at 6:30 pm. All are invited and encouraged to attend.

Jan. 14--Annual reports are due. Please email to Pam Reid at reid400@gmail.com or to Pastor Lynn. A word doc is preferred over a pdf.

Jan. 17-- Second installment of the *Hidden Figures* film

Feb. 4--Bibles and Bacon at 9 am, Souper Bowl Sunday

Feb. 18--Youth Group Spaghetti dinner and auction, starting at 5 pm

Feb. 19--PW & F film fest and book study. Be reading *Wonder* by R.J Palacio to prepare. Stay tuned for timing details. Notice this is a change from the program booklet schedule.

Wednesday dinner captains

Jan. 17--Jane Barber

Jan. 24 - Jeanne Peffley

Jan. 31-- Mary Ann Schroeder

Feb. 7-- Jennifer Bates

Feb. 14--Deacons, with Ash

Wednesday worship at 6:30

Feb. 21- Mary Ann Schroeder

Coffee Fellowship

Jan. 7-- Megan Barber

Jan. 21--Marg Smith & Jane Barber

Feb. 4--Pam Reid

Feb 18--Megan Barber

Would you like to host coffee hour?

Sign up on the bulletin board for any open Sunday!

Thank you to **Marilyn Smith** for sponsoring the January newsletter.

This enables us to print the newsletter in color.

The list is up for 2018, if you would like to support this ministry. The cost is \$15.00.

Thank you!

A reminder about the HIPAA Privacy Rules

The church is not informed if you are hospitalized or if you move into a care facility. Even though they may ask your religious preference, they do not call the church.

So please ask someone to call to let us know. We care about you!

Sixth Annual **Martin Luther King Jr. Day Pancake and Sausage Breakfast**, sponsored by Citizens in Action, will be held Monday, January 15, at Glenn Park, St. Rt. 66, south of Defiance. All proceeds from the free will offering will go to help fund the group's Martin Luther King Dream Scholarship. This scholarship program, now in its second year, offers two scholarships of \$500 each to two students who will graduate from the 8th grade at Defiance Middle School in 2018.



Whatever you do,
do it all
for the glory of God

1 Corinthians 10:31





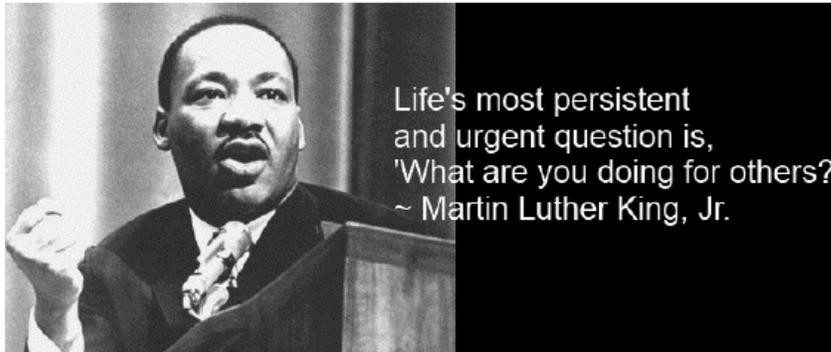
GLORY TO GOD
GLORY TO GOD
GLORY TO GOD
FOREVER



AND NOW.....THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS

BY HOWARD THURMAN

WHEN THE SONG OF THE ANGELS IS STILLED,
WHEN THE STAR IN THE SKY IS GONE,
WHEN THE KINGS AND PRINCES ARE HOME,
WHEN THE SHEPHERDS ARE BACK WITH THEIR FLOCK,
THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS BEGINS:
TO FIND THE LOST,
TO HEAL THE BROKEN,
TO FEED THE HUNGRY,
TO RELEASE THE PRISONER,
TO REBUILD THE NATIONS,
TO BRING PEACE AMONG BROTHERS,
TO MAKE MUSIC IN THE HEART.



Martin Luther King Jr. Day Pancake Breakfast

Sponsored by *Citizens in Action*
Come join us and enjoy a homemade
pancake and sausage breakfast!

Glenn Park Club House

2429 William A. Diehl Ct. Just off State Route 66 South
(North end of building)

Monday, January 15, 2018

8 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

Free Will Donations Accepted

**All Proceeds go to the
*Martin Luther King Jr. Dream Scholarship
Program***

For more information, call
Kathy Walton at 419-438-
4605 or Vicki Steensma
at 419-393-4111.
Donations to the Citizens in
Action Dr. Martin Luther
King Scholarship fund may
be mailed to: Citizens in
Action Scholarship
Fund, 925 S. Clinton Street,
PMB 23, Defiance, OH