



Worship-10:00 am
FaceBook Live

First Presbyterian Church

73 West Winter Street, Delaware, OH 43015-1934

Phone: (740) 363-1205

Fax: (740) 369-1249

Website: www.DelFPC.org

E-mail: delfirstpres@midohio.twcbc.com

Pastor: Rev. Deb Patterson

Office Manager: Wenda Smith

Leader of Family Ministry: Nikki Hogarth

Parish Associate: Rev. Patricia Stout

Interim Director of Music and Organist: Joseph Musser

Adult Handbell Director: Maddy Herzog

Youth Handbell Director: Jennifer Thacker

Financial Secretary: Barbara Ross

Financial Coordinator: Nancy Reynolds

Interim Custodian: Amy Maudsley

Outreach Coordinator: Ellen Watson

Nursery Attendants: Melissa Curtis, Kendra Hart

Newsletter Editor: Diane Welker

Media Coordinator and IT: Taylor Smith

Corp. Investment Team: Jack Flury, Bob Douds

OFFICE HOURS: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9:00 AM-12:00

CLOSED ON WEDNESDAY

Bulletin Deadline Wednesday at Noon

Newsletter Deadline NOON on the 20th of each month

spire@midohio.twcbc.com

From our Pastor's Heart ...



Dear Friends,

We are almost finished with the year of our Lord, 2020!! I think I hear the choir singing the Halleluiah chorus! 2020 has been a year filled with events we never expected, nor wanted. However, it proved to be a year that has taught us a lot about ourselves as people, neighbors and Christians.

For years, we have talked about slowing down, taking more time for our family and faith. It took a pandemic and a quarantine to force us to reflect on our lives and relationships.

It took the jolt of not being able to worship in person, to force us to step into the 21st century and begin to live stream our Sunday Service. Our service now reaches way beyond our city into other states.

One of my takeaways from this year is that being Christian isn't about playing it safe. Being a Christian is daring. It requires creativity and the courage to take risks. Our single focus is to share our faith, our understanding of the Good News of Jesus Christ. We are to do that with our words, our study, our prayers, our worship and most importantly our service to others.

Another of my takeaways is that FPC has moved from an active congregation, to an engaged hands-on group of Christians who find their joy and satisfaction in service to others.

Church is not the building, the bricks and steeple. Church is found in its' people and their faith in Jesus Christ. This year has pushed FPC to be church beyond the walls of 73 W. Winter St. We have touched so many lives and brought hope and love to a lot of people.

I want to say thank you to all of you. You participated in this groundbreaking year with your prayers, your financial support and your hard work. You've donned your mask, put on an apron, dropped to your knees in prayer, sent a check all in support of the mission and ministry of FPC. I'm so proud and grateful to be your pastor.

As we begin a new year, we do so with this new foundation in place. We will continue to follow Covid guidelines and will not worship in the sanctuary together until it is safe. We will build on and improve the online worship service. Your officers and staff will continue to find ways to keep us connected. We will continue to support the laundry ministry, our growing food ministry and the many other organizations we help fund annually.

With the Covid vaccine beginning to be administered nationally and globally, I feel hopeful that we will be together in person soon, maybe by Spring/Summer. I'm crossing my fingers that all will move smoothly in that direction.

As we start this new year, let us do so with Hope. Christian hope is found in our God through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Christian hope believes that God is faithful in all things and that God has started a good thing and will see it to completion. God will not abandon creatures or creation. In Christian hope we trust that through all that life throws our way God will seek to bring divine goodness to fruition.

Paul writes in his letter to the Church in Rome words that I offer to you for the coming year, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Stay well. Grow in your faith. Love passionately.

Blessings,

Pastor Deb



Don't worry, Dear, I've got your back!

Music Notes



The masked Organist, Joe Musser, plays the prelude for our virtual Worship service.

Marie and Greg DeJaynes share the readings for the lighting of the second candle of Advent on December 13th with their sons: Liam and Preston.



LECTIONARY

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| JANUARY 3 | Jeremiah 31:7-14 and Psalm 147:12-20; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1 (1-9) 10-18 |
| JANUARY 6 | EPIPHANY Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Luke 2: 1-12 |
| JANUARY 10 | Genesis 1:1-5 and Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11 |
| JANUARY 17 | 1 Samuel 3:1-10(11-20) and Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51 |
| JANUARY 24 | Jonah 3:1-5, 10 and Psalm 62:5-12; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20 |
| JANUARY 31 | Deuteronomy 18:15-20, 10 and Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28 |

YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY

Nikki Hogarth, Leader

familylife@midohio.twcbc.com



ADULT STUDY

Lenten Study Begins in Mid-February What is the Point of Lent? How does the imposition of ashes affect you spiritually? How is a sacred rhythm helpful to spiritual life? These questions will help us begin our study of Derek Maul's book "Reaching Toward Easter". This 8-week Lenten Adult Study will begin in mid-February with classes offered via Zoom on Monday evenings and Wednesday mornings. The format of Maul's book includes a daily devotional reading and questions for reflection. Those involved in the study classes will discuss the week's readings together. If you are not able to participate in a class, the book can be read as a daily devotional. Participants may order their copy of the book from Amazon.com or Cokesbury.com. Please indicate your interest in the class by emailing Peggy Stringham @ casnpeg@msn.com or calling 740-834-9025.



Picking up Advent boxes on November 29th...treats from Fellowship too!



Reach Out Opportunity

Sages & Seekers Volunteers Sought

Volunteers 55 and older are being sought for casual conversations between Senior Citizens and high school students as part of the Sages and Seekers program, hosted by Connections Volunteer Center. The program will run 8 weeks from Feb. 4 through March 25. Each Senior will be paired with a high school student for one-on-one conversations, with the student being asked to write a "tribute" about the Senior at the end of the program. The goal of Sages & Seekers is to reduce ageism and increase empathy between generations.

For more information, contact Chuck Stringham at 740-816-0295 or casnpeg@msn.com. Connections is a program of Helpline of Delaware and Morrow Counties. All meetings will be held via Zoom.



George Doland and his family would like to thank the church volunteer who delivered a poinsettia and much cheer.

Candace Hughes (daughter)

We are all very grateful for the cards and calls of comfort after mom's passing. Bless you all!

T.K. Cellar and Family

Thanks for the cards, prayers, phone calls and meals.

I'm sorry I haven't done this sooner. I ask for your continued prayers.

Hope, love, and peace,

Rhonda Shaw

CHURCH FINANCES

To reduce paper and overall expenses, Barb Ross and Nancy Reynolds will be emailing 2020 year-end donation statements to all church members, visitors and friends for whom the office has an email address on file. If we do not have an email address for you, a printed copy will be mailed to you. If you would prefer a paper copy, please email Nancy at finance@midohio.twcbc.com or call the church office. Statements will be emailed or mailed by the end of January.

NEW AV EQUIPMENT



Taylor, Matt and Wenda continue to work on Sundays with our new equipment. It is still a work in Progress. We are still tweaking...Thanks for your patience.

Thanks!

Our December 20th Community meal was another huge success! With the



generous donations from our church family and friends we were able to fill 141 grocery bags of food. All of those bags were passed out on Sunday December 20th along with 183 meals!

What a year it has been! We were able to reinvent the way we feed people in our

community and do our part to combat the current hunger crisis in our country. A

heartfelt thanks to all of the volunteers and people who have supported the kitchen ministry throughout the year. We are looking forward to continuing our mission next year!



If you would like to be part of our team, we can always use the help!

Nancy Marks Baileys passed away



unexpectedly Sunday November 22, 2020. Her parents, Dale and Virginia Marks raised Nancy and her two younger brothers, Jeff and Tom here

at FPC. She was baptized by Rev. Louis Campbell here on October 23, 1955.

Since becoming a confirmed member June 2, 1968, many of you are aware of how dedicated to



FPC Nancy became.

Nancy sang in the choir, was a devoted handbell ringer and served on many committees. She achieved the Trifecta of church work as she served on Session, Trustees and Deacons (some more than one term). Besides serving- Nancy was a devoted church member and was a frequent attendee

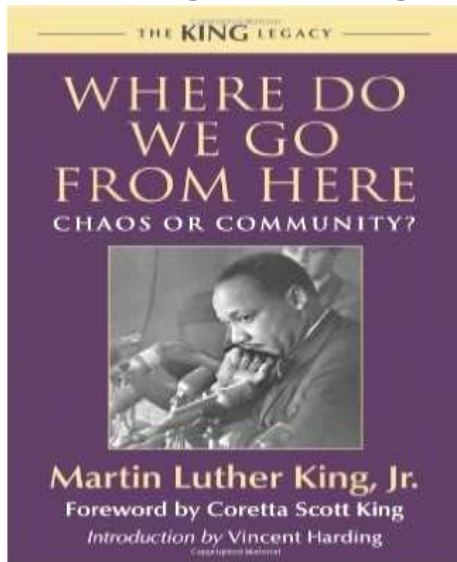
to fundraising meals, church events, Usher Corp, one of our representatives to the Namdaemoon church trip, women's retreats, VBS volunteer, softball statistician... she was a shining example of what it means to BE the church.



Please keep Jeff and Nikki Marks and their extended family and Tom and Diana Marks and their extended family in your thoughts and prayers. Her many nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews will miss her greatly as will FPC!

Matthew 25 Church

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)



This January marks the 26th celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. While there are usually many activities on MLK day, this year COVID-19 has led us to learn how to celebrate in different ways. During this year's MLK celebration, we can take time to **read**. Part of the mission of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee is to "strive to bridge the divides in our community with Love, Compassion and Understanding". Members of the committee are starting this with readings and discussions. We encourage the congregation to join us. Look for news about reading groups on topics of

diversity in the New Year.

As a Matthew 25 church, we seek to recognize Christ's urgent call to be a church of action, where God's love, justice and mercy shine forth and are contagious.

Our committee is discussing a study guide from PCUSA titled "Facing Racism". In first activity, "Biblical Imperative to Antiracism", we discussed diversity from the heavenly creation point of view where God "said let us make man in our image" (Genesis 1:31). We were reminded that while human beings have many differences; race, ethnicity, religion, sex or gender, we are all made in the image of God's unconditional love.

While they will at times take us out of our comfort zones, the DEI Committee recommends the following books as good places to start the conversation. We are starting a small 'Diversity' section in the Church Library where you will be able to find these books and more.

Stamped - Racism, Antiracism and You; by Jason Renolds and Ibram X Kendi.

When they call you a Terrorist - A Black Lives Matter Memoir; by Patrisse Kahn.

Good White Racist Confronting Your Role in Racial Injustice; by Kerry Connelly (PUSA).

White Fragility – Why it’s so hard for White People to talk about Racism; by Robin DiAngelo.

How to be an Antiracist- by Ibram X. Kendi. This book was the text for the LLI class at Ohio Wesleyan this fall.

This winter, the Columbus Public Library is hosting virtual book discussions about Stamped. Information can be found at www.columbuslibrary.org/one-book.

Each Martin Luther King Day we are encouraged to volunteer and develop projects that amplify community resources recommended by AmeriCorps. We are grateful that FPC’s Session is donating money to the Delaware African American Heritage Council to further their mission.

By Wayne Moore and Gail Abernathy on behalf of the DEI committee

2020 ANNUAL REPORTS ARE NOW PAST DUE

Please make this a priority and send your report in finished copy to Wenda in the office!

Thank you for helping her meet the mid-January deadline!

WORKING ON ANNUAL REPORT



Do NOT disturb!!!!

JOE BURSON AWARD



Pastor Deb also presented Matt Walls with the Joe Burson Service recognition for his work with the electrical strike and all of our replaced equipment.


On the first Sunday of December Pastor Deb presented the Joe Burson Service Award to Emily Hinton for all of her hard work on the Community Meals this year as the COVID Pandemic raged on.



?? ? **Bible Quiz** ? ?

In the story of the Magi, what word is used to give a sense of Jesus' age when the wise men visited? What does it tell us?

- A. "baby"; Jesus was still a newborn in a manger
- B. "child"; when the wise men visited, Jesus had grown past infancy
- C. "youth"; Jesus was probably between 10 and 14
- D. No word is used to suggest Jesus' age at the time of the wise men's visit.



Answer: B (See Matthew 2:1-12.)

DEACONS HIGHLIGHTS

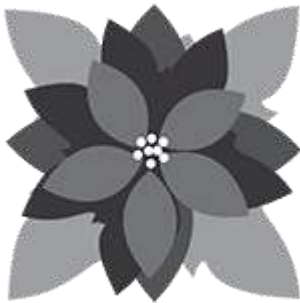
A nice kickoff to the December meeting was a reading by Teri York of this version of the Legend of the Poinsettia: There is an old Mexican legend about how Poinsettias and Christmas came together, it goes like this:

There was once a poor Mexican girl named Pepita who had no present to give the baby Jesus at the Christmas Eve Services. As Pepita walked to the chapel, sadly, her cousin Pedro tried to cheer her up.

"Pepita", he said "I am sure that even the smallest gift, given by someone who loves him will make Jesus happy."

Pepita didn't know what she could give, so she picked a small handful of weeds from the roadside and made them into a small bouquet. She felt embarrassed because she could only give this small present to Jesus. As she walked through the chapel to the altar, she remembered what Pedro had said. She began to feel better, knelt down and put the bouquet at the bottom of the nativity scene. Suddenly, the bouquet of weeds burst into bright red flowers, and everyone who saw them were sure they had seen a miracle.

From that day on, the bright red flowers were known as the 'Flores de Noche Buena' or 'Flowers of the Holy Night.'



We continue to try to meet the needs and concerns of our congregation. Your needs/concerns may be reported to Wenda in the office or as a reminder, the following people are on the Board of Deacons. Gail Abernathy, Kathy Duis, Judy England, Jack Flury, Leslie Flury, Kit Gordon, Vicky Grubbs, John McNeal, Jane Sprague,

Jeanne Wasil, Eileen Wesley and Teri York.

We give thanks to all of you who have been looking out for each other during this unprecedented time apart.

A list has been compiled of those who have offered to help, while Nikki is recovering.

Due to lack of Zoom meeting time, an email discussion of student care boxes was had following the meeting. We are considering whether the usual Care Boxes are appropriate at this time.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

* Approved the 2021 budget

*Hired Maddy Herzog as Adult Handbell Director

*Hired Jennifer Thacker as Youth Handbell Director

Approved communion dates for 2021

Next Communion December 24, 2020

Next meeting January 12, 2021

This year has been a challenge for us all. Some of our community have been hit extremely hard and can use some Christmas Blessings.

The Session decided to make a Christmas Donation to those deserving organizations that have so many people in need this season. Below are the organizations we will be giving some extra help:

- Community Action Organization - **\$1,000**
- Salvation Army - **\$1,000**
- Delaware African American Heritage Council - **\$750**
- Common Ground Free Store - **\$750**
- Del-Mor Dwelling Corp., (Courage Court Housing) - **\$750**
- Women's City Club - **\$750**

From the Session to you: Merry Christmas and may God's Blessings be with you and those that you Love! We miss seeing you!

NEW ADDRESS

Ben Shaw
2911 Minto Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45208

Dalton Burke
2020 W 3rd Ave
Columbus, OH 43201

CONGRATULATIONS

Ben Shaw is the new pastor at Montgomery Presbyterian Church in Cincinnati, Ohio. He began his new pastoral duties on December 1st. Like FPC they are having virtual worship and meetings. Perhaps you would like to see Ben conduct a worship service on their FaceBook page or just check out their Website.

Borrowed and edited From a FaceBook post.



A small Atlanta church was honoring one of their senior pastors who had retired many years before (he was 92). He received a warm welcome and with no notes he shared the greatest lesson he ever learned in his 50 some years of preaching.

The one thing that made the most difference and sustained me though all my trials...the one thing that I could always rely on when tears and heartbreak and

pain and fear and sorrow paralyzed me. The only thing that would comfort was this verse...

“Jesus love me this I know.
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong,
We are weak but He is strong...
Yes, Jesus loves me...
The Bible tells me so.”

During Hymn sings, I noticed it was always adults who chose this children's hymn (for the children of course!) but it was always the adults who sang the loudest because they knew it best.

Let me share with you a senior version of Jesus loves me.

“Jesus loves me this I know
Though my hair is white as snow
Though my sight is growing dim
Still He bids me trust in Him.

CHORUS

Though my steps are oh, so slow
In my heart He puts a song.
Telling me in words so clear
have no fear, for I am near.

CHORUS

When my work on earth is done
And life's victories have been won.
He will take me home above
THEN I'll understand His love.

CHORUS

I love Jesus, does He know?
Have I ever told Him so?
Jesus loves to hear me say,
That I love Him every day.”

CHORUS

God bless us all!! AMEN!



