



**FaceBook Live
Worship-10:00 am**

First Presbyterian Church

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Leader of Family Ministry: Nikki Hogarth

Parish Associate: Rev. Patricia Stout

Interim Director of Music and Organist: Joseph Musser

Adult Bell Director: Maddy Herzog

Youth Bell Director: Jennifer Thacker

Custodian: Amy Maudsley

Financial Secretary: Barbara Ross

Financial Coordinator: Nancy Reynolds

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

**COVID 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,

As I watch the transition of power in Washington DC, I am filled with so much emotion. I know some of you are delighted and some of you are heartbroken. Our country is so divided. Christians are divided. All this breaks my heart.

How are we to be church in this new time of transition? How are we to let go of the anger that might consume us or the apprehension over what will happen next? How are we to build bridges over the canyon that divides our country, our cities and even each other?

We start in prayer, deep, quiet, open, honest prayer. Honest prayer requires each of us to bear our heart to God speaking of our concerns, our fears, our pain. Honest prayer asks God to show us how our behavior and words cause division. Honest prayer asks for God's forgiveness and guidance. Then we sit in quiet and listen for God's direction. We open ourselves so that God's Spirit might wash over us. We become ready to receive God's wisdom and to respond to our God in faithfulness and hope.

Following prayer, the next step is to become better listeners. We must not fear differing opinions, but rather welcome them and seek to understand. We must learn to not interrupt or close our ears and hearts to differing voices. We must let going of "winning" the argument. We must hone our ability to listen to comprehend.

In Jesus Christ there can be no division. We are one body, with one purpose which is to glorify God in all things. We are to share the gospel of Jesus Christ which finds its roots in love, love for God, love for neighbors, love for God's creation. We are to set aside our selfish ways and seek justice for all God's people. We are to stand up for God's truth which we come to understand more fully in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Healing and unity are Christian qualities which when sought and brought can bring light to our darkened world. Unconditional love is the blood that must course through our veins into our relationships. Humility is the framework upon which we must build our faith and life work.

Friends, we pray for peace each Sunday. I pray for it every day. Peace and unity must start with each of us. How we choose to be in relationship with others matters.

To be instruments of God's peace we must first find peace and unity within ourselves. This can be difficult to do. Yet, if we have not found this internal peace and unity, we will have a hard time building bridges and bringing peace into the world. Be willing to do some self-evaluation. Find peace first within yourself.

My invitation to you all is to be in honest prayer with God. Seek peace within yourself and seek respect and honesty in all your relationships. We are not called to like or agree with everyone. We are called though with no exception to love and respect all people.

As I work toward being a better instrument of God's peace and unity, I do so with humility and a sharpened self-awareness of myself and the ways I sow inclusion and unity and the means by which I sow division and disharmony. I invite you to join with me on this journey.

Together as one body we can continue to become stronger and stronger at being God's voice for peace, hope and justice.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Deb



**Virtual Ash Wednesday Service -
February 17th at 7:30 PM**

FPC Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee

In honor of Martin Luther King Day and Black History Month, the FPC Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee is working with the Delaware African American Heritage Council on a hair care kit service project. We need your help!

Community organizations like the Common Ground Free Store are often short of supplies for hair care products for African American women and girls. We are collecting monetary donations. Any amount will help! With your generous donations, we will purchase the products and create the kits to deliver.

*Please send your contribution to the church office by February 28, and be sure to write **HAIR LOVE** in the memo line. Thank you in advance for your support in addressing this important need in our community.*

LECTIONARY

February 7	Isaiah 40:21-31 and Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39
February 14	2 Kings 2:12 and Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9
February 17th	ASH WEDNESDAY Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12 and Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21
February 21	Genesis 9:8-17 and Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 19:9-15
February 28	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 and Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38

REOPENING COMMITTEE

While we are all thankful a vaccine is now being distributed, this is going slower than we hoped. Virtually every county in Ohio remains at Level 3 for COVID, and of the 88 counties, Delaware is in the top 10 per capita - not good news for us right now. It has been almost a year since we were able to worship in the church and we all want to return when it is safe. Pray for all those who continue to fight against the virus, everyone working at public-facing jobs and for the end to this troubled time.

Fellowship Committee

FPC Secret Valentine Gift Exchange

The Concept Behind a Secret Valentine Exchange

Most of you are familiar with the concept of a “Secret Santa” gift exchange during the holidays where people agree to participate in several days of gift-giving. The idea is that the participants don’t know who is giving the gifts each day until the final day when the Secret Santa is revealed.

Since Valentine’s Day is all about expressing love and appreciation for one another, the Fellowship Committee is setting up a Secret Valentine’s gift exchange with any member that wants to participate.

Here is how it will work:

- Each participant will be assigned someone in the exchange to give (mail) two small gifts over week leading up to Valentine’s Day along with a clue as to who the secret valentine is; then a valentine card is sent to arrive on the 13th revealing the secret valentine.
- Ellen Watson is coordinating the names of participants so if you desire to participate, email her at e-mail ellenlwatson1947@gmailcom or call at 740-513-7541. She will notify each participant who they will be gifting throughout the week.
- Suggested dollar limit for any gift is \$5. Dead line to submit your name is January 31st.





ADULT LENTEN STUDY

If you are looking for a meaningful way to journey thru Lent in preparation for Easter, consider joining one of the adult study groups. Two class times will be offered to discuss Derek Maul's book, "Reaching Toward Easter". Discussion will include questions like: what is the point of Lent, how does the imposition of ashes affect you spiritually, and how is a sacred rhythm helpful to spiritual life.

This 8-week study will begin Monday, Feb. 15th from 7-8 p.m. and Wednesday Feb. 17th from 9-10 a.m. The format of Maul's book includes a daily devotional reading and questions for reflection. Those involved in the 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 personal daily devotional.

Participants may order their copy of the book from Amazon.com or Cokesbury.com. Please indicate your interest in one of the two classes by e-mailing Peggy Stringham @ casnpeg@msn.com or calling 740-834-9025.

PRESBEES

Tis the season for scams! How do we protect ourselves and our money? This question will be addressed at our February 17th virtual Presbees Meeting. Community Relations Officer Robert Hatcher of the Delaware Police Department will be our guest speaker at 1 p.m. He will address our concerns and questions with local examples of scams and identity theft and how to avoid them.

Please join us for a Zoom meeting using the following:

Topic: Presbees

Time: Feb 17, 2021 01:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81528751031?pwd=MWxoTis2aEwwR3dBMElET2Y2Y2VTUT09>

Meeting ID: 815 2875 1031

Passcode: 153030

Questions Chuck Stringham, 740-816-0295.

TRUSTEE HIGHLIGHTS

Extensive lightning strike damage almost all resolved.

Majority of church carpet to be cleaned before reopening.

Thanks to Trustee Rex Welker for removing lumber and old theater seats from the 3rd floor.

WHITE SCHOLARSHIP

The Elizabeth and Eugene White Scholarship Committee is accepting applications for the 2021-22 university school year. Consideration will be given to students who show academic promise and have financial need related to their post-secondary education. Applications may be picked up and returned in the church office and must be completed in full for consideration. The deadline is April 15, 2021.

Please note- Like most scholarships, there is a limited amount of award monies to be used and some applicants may not receive awards.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

SESSION VOTED TO APPROVE a funeral videographer for \$50 per funeral from the session discretionary fund. It was seconded.

Delia reported the Music and Worship committee would like to do a drive by Ashing for Ash Wednesday. Possibly two time slots, 1:00 and 5:30 or 6:00. Session liked the idea and some more thought will be put into.

Karen McNeal reported the Nominating Committee is almost complete and will be ready for the Annual Meeting.

Richard Thayer said that the Fellowship Committee is working on possibly having a Valentine event and maybe an Easter breakfast.

Next Communion - February 21, 2021

SADLY MISSED

Bev Buckingham Hinds, 90, passed away December 15, 2020. (Bev Hind's father was Ray Buckingham. Ray was an elder and also authored the 1960 - 1985 FPC History.) Being a Presbyterian all her life helped make the transition in each new town she lived in easier; Beverly joined FPC in 1992. She was an Elder from 2004 to 2007 and served a second term as Elder from 2007- 2010. Please keep Bev's daughter, Barbara (David) Judson and grandsons: Hogan and Palmer in your thoughts and prayers. After the COVID pandemic, the family plans a celebration of life here at FPC.

Nick W. Jones, 75, died peacefully December 18th, 2020. He and his wife Kris raised their family in Delaware and here at FPC, but had moved away in December 2016 to be closer to their children and grandchildren.

Nick's family held an online gathering (January 16, 2021) to celebrate Nick's life. Nick Jones was part of the 1958 confirmation class for FPC and he was also baptized at FPC when he was confirmed,

Nick served 6 years as an elder 1985 to 1991. He will be remembered by many here at the church for his fantastic homemade pizza, which was a staple at family camps.

Please keep his wife, Kris and their children: A.T., Evan, and Hilary and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

Dick Jackson, 90, of Durham, North Carolina passed away December 26, 2020. Although he was born in Chicago, he grew up here in Delaware, Ohio. After a stint in the Army and Air Force; he married a Delaware girl-Janet Wilson-who he'd know since second grade. They raised five sons. After Dick's retirement, they returned home to Delaware where they lived until recently when they moved back to Durham to be closer to family.

He joined FPC in 1991, He was a Trustee from 1992 to 1994; served as an Elder from 1994 to 2000 and again as Elder from 2013 to 2015. He served on the FPC Bicentennial Committee and also with One People.

Wayne Moore, who served on One People with Dick shared Dick's words from the original flier: "One People was founded by Richard L. Jackson in July of 2017, a time when the citizens of our country, states, and cities were excessively divided politically, spiritually, racially and economically. Our vision is to unite all citizens of Delaware, Ohio as one people."

Wayne added: Our mission statement is: *To promote building bridges*

across cultural lines by embracing ethnicity and diversity. To that end One People has worked to plan and carry out the annual Juneteenth celebration, worked on the SWCI Unity festival, participated in DAAHC activities, done neighborhood walks with the Delaware Police Department, and participated in First Friday events. We have monthly meetings at FPC and involve several members of our congregation. All are welcome when we start meeting again.

Pastor Deb officiated at Oak Grove Cemetery for Dick's graveside service on January 5, 2021.

Please keep Janet and all of her sons and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

THANK YOU

I want to express my gratitude to all those that planned and participated in the Christmas Eve Service. It meant a great deal to me.

Joan Cornell

I want to thank you for the wonderful gifts and money from your giving tree. We have struggled financially but because of you generous gifts, we had a wonderful Christmas. Please know we will be forever grateful for your kindness and generosity.

Sincerely,
A Grateful Family

Dear Church,

The past four months have been a bit of a roller coaster ride of emotion concerning my physical well being. However, I can't express how much love, support, and prayers I have felt. I cannot imagine walking this road without you. Your faith reassured me when I was nervous and scared. Your cards lifted my spirits and let me know how much I was loved. Your calls reminded me that I was on your mind. Your meals filled and strengthened my body so I could heal, and provided the opportunity for rest. To those of you who came and decorated the outside of my house with Christmas lights- thank you, that brought so much joy this year in the midst of this journey. The love you showed was also a strong and powerful witness to my children who stood amazed at the outpouring of love and concern. Thank you simply doesn't seem like enough. I am grateful for the gentle and knowing hands of my surgeon, the team of doctors that cared for me, the healing power of

prayer and the wonder of the human body. I am grateful for a God that is so good that you all were sent to be a part of my life. Having the favorable pathology report was most certainly an answered prayer- many many prayers! Without a doubt, regardless of what was found, I will forever be grateful for you. The love of Christ shines bright through the hands and feet of each and every one of you.

In love, peace, and gratitude,
Nikki

I would like to thank Steve Shaw for his research work in the church archives to help this editor recognize the work and connections of FPC members who have passed in the last few months. THANKS, Steve!

Diane Welker, Spire Editor

Thank you so much for your generous gift again this year. Your ongoing support is deeply appreciated and helps make so much more possible as we work to continue to ensure all who in need of our services can experience help, hope, and healing. The pandemic has brought some real challenges for us as for everyone. But we have stepped up and met those challenges.

We are so grateful on behalf of those we serve! Thank you for your dedicated partnership!

Best wishes for the new year!
Sue Hansen, MSW, LISW-S, Executive Director
helplinedelmor.org



DEACON HIGHLIGHTS

Your deacons met via Zoom on January 5. All deacons and Pastor Deb were present. We discussed caring team concerns. It was pointed out that limited visitation is being allowed by Willow Brook at this time. Weekly 30-minute visits are permitted. Eileen and Leslie described the process, with more details to be provided after discussions with Willow Brook staff. The prayer list has been growing recently. Deacons will follow up as necessary.

We discussed college care boxes. We will purchase various items. Packing and shipping/delivery will take place in early March. If members would like to participate, or have any questions, give John McNeal a call.

Leslie reported that the Christmas cards were well received, and that we mailed 26 of the extra cards to non-members. Ray and Barb Morrison have been added to Leslie's caring team. We agreed to distribute remaining poinsettias to folks picking up meals on January 7. The deacons also reconfirmed that the meals we provide should be short term help.

VBS decorating committee strikes again-NO birthday parade but a great birthday surprise to Kay Rietz!





Pop Pop Rex Welker continues to ring our FPC bell (with a little help here by granddaughter, Riley) every night at 7 PM. Just reminding the community we are still here and God is with us; plus one member describes it: “my call to evening prayer!”

Gail Abernathy delivers meals out the back doors to the trunk of a car in the lot.

January is not off to a good start for our community meal ministry. Historically January has always been a slow month for our

meal service. However, in 2021 we have already served 320 meals! We welcome two new volunteers Eileen Wesley and Carol Burns. And we welcome back Steve and Tricia Shaw who have returned to our ministry after a break. We are thrilled to have all of them working in our crew!

We also have other volunteer opportunities that don't include working on meal days. We are in need of volunteers to provide desserts on the days of our meal. If you are interested in helping us in this way please contact Emily Hinton 740 815-6608.



