



# Presbyterian Press

A Publication of the First Presbyterian Church

February 2020

## GREETINGS!



Hello everyone. My name is Cathy Libert and I am your new secretary. I look forward to meeting and assisting you.



Volunteers are needed to help with coffee hour on Sundays. If interested, please call Beth Allen at 304-782-3267 and leave a message.



Thanks so much to everyone for donations or time spent serving the church and community over the holidays. Your help is so appreciated.

### Treasurer's Report

Net Cash Flow-December	2018	2019
Income	192,530	186,311
Expenses	169,232	173,952
Net Income	23,298	12,359

**Sunday Worship**  
Church School 9:30 AM  
Worship 10:45

Live on WPDX Radio, 109.4 FM or 750 AM

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday  
9:00AM to 2:00PM  
Phone: 304-622-6831  
Fax: 304-622-6831  
[www.clarksburfpc.org](http://www.clarksburfpc.org)

### CHURCH STAFF

#### Pastor

Rev. John F. Koerner  
209 Ohio Ave  
Nutter Fort, WV 26301  
Phone: 304-534-2324  
[johnkoerner75@yahoo.com](mailto:johnkoerner75@yahoo.com)

#### Session

Jenna Bennett, Clerk  
Ginger Delawder, Asst. Clerk

#### Parish Associates

Rev. Charla Waters Koerner  
Rev. James A. Harris

#### Church Secretary

Cathy Libert  
[CburgFPCSecretary@yahoo.com](mailto:CburgFPCSecretary@yahoo.com)

#### Office Volunteer

Elsa Davis  
[Elsadavis59@gmail.com](mailto:Elsadavis59@gmail.com)

#### Education Coordinator

Terra M. Burnett  
[angeleyes1177@hotmail.com](mailto:angeleyes1177@hotmail.com)

#### Choir Director

Jeanne Harris  
Phone: 304-669-9191  
[Jagapelove50@gmail.com](mailto:Jagapelove50@gmail.com)

#### Organist

Dr. Mary Kay Devono

#### Church Treasurers

Wayne Northy Jenna Bennett  
Chuck Leuliette Dave Allman

#### Nursery Attendant

Ashleigh Burnett

## Session Highlights January 21, 2020

- Session is working on setting goals for 2020.
- So far we have two workgroups scheduled. Both groups have been here before.
  - May 31 - June 6 Parkview Work Group
  - July 12-18, 2020 Hopewell Presbyterian Work Group
- Approved 2020 communion dates:

Jan. 5	July 5
Feb. 2	Aug. 2
Mar. 1	Sept. 6
April 5	Oct. 4
April 9 Maundy Thursday	Nov. 1
May 10	Dec. 6
June 7	Dec. 24
- We have received monies to be used to purchase something in memory of Richard and Anna Lee Riddle. The session is considering the purchase of new hymnals.
- The worship, Music, and C.E. committee thanks those who are recruiting and coordinating volunteers for worship:
  - Elders to serve communion - Bonnie Coleman
  - Acolytes - Terra Burnett
  - Ushers - Denver Atkinson
  - Liturgists - Dick Ogden
- There will be seven Lenten Lunches this year. The Friends Feeding Friends group will be serving the meal on April 8<sup>th</sup>. The offerings for the services will be as follows: 4 will go to support the work of the Friends Feeding Friends group, 2 will go to support the work of the Clarksburg Mission, and 1 will go to support the work of Health Access. Pastor John will recruit pastors from different church in town to preach at the service and Jeanne Harris will recruit people to provide the special music.
- The feedback on the Christmas Eve Service and the addition of the 3 p.m. service was positive. Special thanks to those who worked on these services.
- Terra is organizing the Presbytery work day that we will host on Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Lenten/Easter Happenings will be on Sunday, March 29.
- We plan on doing the grand procession into the church on Easter Sunday again this year.
- The Easter Cantata will be on Easter Sunday. Jeanne is working on that.
- Annual staff reviews were done by the Personnel Committee on Dec. 3 for Noel, Kay, Lance, and Terra. They will complete the reviews for Jeanne and Ashleigh on January 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Voted to become a member of World Vision so that we can access their store for office supplies, food for Friends Feeding Friends meals, and building supplies for the work groups. Cost of store membership will be \$300 per year.
- Approved signing of gas and oil lease. A big thank you to Jeff Strange for his work on this.
- Approved a yard sale for the benefit of Friends Feeding Friends on June 12-13.
- There will be a church cleaning day on Saturday, Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> so that we can polish up the church

before the Lenten Lunches and Services.

-A separate First Aid Kit has been purchased to hang near the new A.E.D device.

-A new office chair has been purchased for the pastor.

-Jeff, Elsa, and Doris have been appointed to do our yearly review of the financial books.

-Ginger will be our commissioner to Presbytery on Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>. Beth Allen will be our commissioner on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

-Considered a request from an Narcotics Anonymous group to hold weekly meetings here. The session would love to do something positive to address the huge drug problem our city has. However, they do not believe we can take this on at the moment.

-The property committee has been asked to review the fees for building use. It has been some time since they were updated and things have changed.

-The session is working on positive steps to enhance church security.

-The group coaching sessions with Bruce Stevens have been discontinued. However, individual sessions with Pastor John will continue for at least two months.

### **Pastor's Report:**

**hospital visits:** 5 **Other significant Pastoral visits:** 17

**Funerals:** 1-11-20 Richard Dean Riddle 5/25/1931 - 1/6/2020  
burial at Lewis County Memorial Gardens, Weston, WV.

**Sacrament of Communion:** Was celebrated on January 5 and served to 60 people.

**Home communion** was served in January to 6 people with the help of Elder Connie Leuliette.

### **Pastor's Discretionary Fund 2019**

MONTH	REQUESTS	COMPLETED	AMT PLEDGED	AMT DISBURSED
October	4	4	\$ 460.93	\$460.93
November	7	7	\$ 586.98	\$586.98
December	9	9	\$ 844.69	\$844.69
<b>TOTALS</b>	104	103	\$ 9,247.71	\$9,155.60

# John's Jottings

## **Will our children have faith?**

A bearded friend was putting his small children to bed one night. His daughter asked him, “Daddy, did you have a beard when you were five-years-old?”

As adults we find such questions funny. The answer is so obvious to us. We tend to forget that we didn't always know such things. I can remember once asking my dad what my name would be when I grew up. He was talking about the men that he worked with and in my child's head, all of their names sounded so grown up. “John” sounded to me like a child's name. Surely when I grew up, I would get an adult sounding name. Dad said that when I grew up my name would still be John. I was amazed!

Children have to learn all of the things that now seem obvious to us. They have to learn how to use a fork and spoon, how to tie their shoes, how to read and write, and a million other things. Children also need to learn about God and Jesus and the love that he has for us.

One of my fondest memories is of my mother reading Bible stories to us kids when we were little. She had a book of children's Bible stories and she would read us a bedtime story from it each night. After the reading, she would pray with us. It was a simple thing, but it was part of the foundation upon which my Christian faith would grow.

In February we move into the season of Lent. It is a season of six weeks leading up to the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ at Easter. Lent is a time for prayerful reflection on where we are in our own faith life. It is also a good time to think and pray about what we are teaching our children.

In time our children will have to choose for themselves whether they will have faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. We cannot make that choice for them. But what we can do is lay a good foundation for them to build their faith on.

If you have small children, let me encourage you to read Bible stories to them. Our children will only be small for a brief period of time. Build that faith foundation while you can. Your children will long remember and thank you for it!

Hope and Confidence,

John



### Children's Moments

February 2 -Dick Ogden  
February 9 - Kandi Atkinson  
February 16 -Courtney Nuzum  
February 23 -Loria Cavallo

### Worship Leaders

February 2 -Beth Allen  
February 9 -Ginger Delawder  
February 16 -Jennifer Wetzol  
February 23-Kandy Atkinson

### Deacon Greeters

February 2 - Lori Cavallo  
February 9 - Jeanne Lynch  
February 16- Pam Mitchell  
February 23- Sandi&Courtney  
Nuzum

### Acolytes

February 2-Bradley Burnett &  
Anderson Mitchell  
February 9- Hannah Burnett,  
Gia Corsini, Molly Hugus  
February 16- Bradley Burnett &  
Anthony Corsini  
February 23- Amelia & Kierra  
Harris



Dottie Rinehart	Feb.3
Anne Wadsworth	Feb.5
Wilson Leiberling	Feb. 6
Susan McElroy	Feb.6
Susan Hollandsworth	Feb. 8
Harmony Compton	Feb. 10
Sally Gray	Feb. 13
Micah Plants	Feb. 13
Bradley Burnett	Feb. 17
Linda Lonsinger	Feb. 17
Elisabeth Moore	Feb. 22
Karen Tyson	Feb. 22
Carter Morrison	Feb. 24
Victoria Morrison	Feb. 24
Sarah Weese	Feb. 24
Nancy Jarrett	Feb. 26
Genie Koerner	Feb. 26
Brad Nickerson	Feb.26
Abigail Northey	Feb. 27

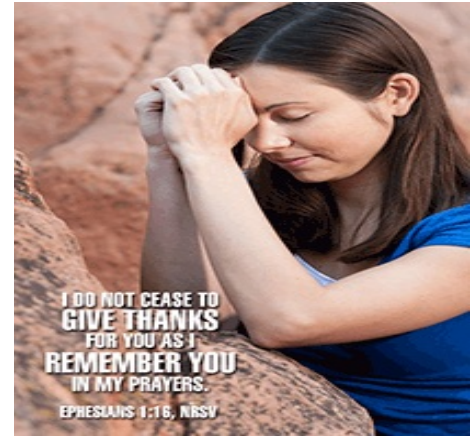
### Reredos



### Flowers

Dates available:

March 1,8,15,22,29



Charles Adkins  
Sara Arnold  
Eddie Cox  
Jeremy F. Cox  
Cunningham, Debbie  
Angie Fowler  
Carol Lee Griffin  
Yvonne Gump  
Derek Hardman  
Bob & Janice Hardman  
Jack Holt  
Robbie Hood  
Eric Kuhens  
Doug Linton  
Nora McClean  
John Michome  
Jillian Mick  
Mary Moore ( aunt of Sandy Nuzum)  
Nickolas Nardone  
Kenneth Oldaker  
Wilma Oldaker  
Susan Orr (Carole's sister)  
Jo Plybon  
Amy Pack  
Joey Rogers  
Susie Saunders  
Everett Shiffra  
Melanie Simmons  
Bonnie Smith  
Chuck Smith  
Donna Smith  
Karen Tyson  
John Wamsley  
JenniferWetzol  
Mary Ann Wright

# February Scriptures and Sermons

“Seeing God More Clearly in 2020”

## **February 2 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (Communion)**

Scriptures: Micah 6:1-8

\*Matthew 5:1-12

Sermon Title: “Are You In the Club”

Theme: There are many exclusive clubs where you have to be rich, or talented, or even a member of the royalty to belong. Many people think of the Kingdom of God that way. But Jesus tells us that those who are most welcome are those who have nothing. Those who come in humility and meekness find an unexpected and undeserved welcome!

## **February 9 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Scriptures: Isaiah 58:1-9a,

\*Matthew 5:13-20

Sermon Title: “The Cobra Effect”

Theme: While the British were in power in India, they tried to get rid of cobra snakes by offering a reward for every dead cobra the locals brought to them. But the reward was so good that the locals started raising cobra's so that they could kill them and get a reward for them. Instead of fewer snakes, there were soon many more. That is the law of unintended consequences. God gave us the law for a good purpose, but the pharisees turned it into a bad thing.

## **February 16 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Scriptures: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

\*Matthew 5:21-37

Sermon Title: “Attitude Matters ”

Theme: Jesus teaches that sin doesn't start with our actions, it starts with our attitude. Sin doesn't end where we think it does either. Jesus says that the healing of relationships needs to come even before worship. Or perhaps we could say, that healing relationships is an important part of worship. Changing our attitudes and our relationships are both dependent on God's work in our hearts.

## **February 23 The Transfiguration of the Lord**

Scriptures: Exodus 24:12-18

\*Matthew 17:1-9

Sermon Title: “A Glimpse of the Ending”

Theme: If you knew then, what you know now about Microsoft, would you have invested in its start up? If you knew then what you know now, would you still marry the same person? Would you take that job? Would you move to another place? In the transfiguration God shows the disciples who Jesus really is. The question then becomes, will they have faith to follow him to the end? Will we have faith to follow Jesus?

## FROM OUR CHOIR DIRECTOR     January 26, 2020

Fostering a good music program is very important for the church. I feel that the congregation at FPC as a whole appreciates this program, the singers, and the children's participation. The Bible says many, many times to "lift our voices in praise with Psalms, songs and instruments." Kay is a delight to work with, and the choir members genuinely love the Lord and it is evidenced in the music they share. I thank you for your patience, love and kindness as my family and I continue to get to know all of you and become a more integral part of the "family" here at FSP. You have made us feel well at home!

I want to commend the members of choir for their hard work over the past year in preparation for our Sunday anthems and the Christmas and Easter cantatas. We may be small in numbers, but we are big in heart. I was pleased to have members from the congregation join us in our Easter cantata, "The Seven Last Words of Christ". The dramatic examples were moving and thoughtful. Our Christmas presentation with the children gave them a platform to showcase their talents in a new way and they did a fantastic job. Also, a special thanks to Brian and Quentin for running the sound system for us.

Despite numerous other commitments (church, jobs, family responsibilities) the choir members sacrifice their time and are faithful to God in making a joyful noise for the church and community. I am also grateful for those folks who join the choir when they can, despite the fact they are unable to join us every week.

Also, thank you to our special music givers...instrumentalists, soloists, duets, trios and outside guests who are willing to stand before the congregation, swallow any nerves and present God's message through their talents. We always have room for more special music slots – if you or anyone you know has the desire to share their talents, please let me know – I'd love to hear from you. I cannot overlook our amazing organist, Kay, who stirs up God's spirit in us each week with her amazing talent. I also appreciate her encouragement and advice. Our substitute keyboard players are also a blessing.

The last thing I want to share is this – never underestimate the power and worth of your own voice through song. I've said it many times – God says, "Make a joyful noise". Please do not think your voice is not good enough. When you are singing from your heart, all music is BEAUTIFUL. Congregational singing is extremely important to the worship service. One voice, one heart. My hope this year is to introduce some contemporary choruses, maybe one new song each month (with the choir's help and Jeff on guitar). Also, with a hymnal full of God breathed music and words, written by people moved by God to share Him with others, let's use more of the songs in there. Please continue to let me know if there's one you want to sing. May God continue to bless us in our musical journey together.

In Christ,  
Jeanne Harris

### **New Hymnals?** "To buy or not to buy, that is the question."

We recently received a very nice contribution to be used in memory of Richard and Anna Lee Riddle. After discussion the Worship, Music, & C.E. committee suggested that we use the money to purchase the new Presbyterian Hymnal, "Glory to God." Anna Lee had been much in favor of us buying this hymnal when it came out a couple of years ago. We did not do so at the time at least partially because we did not want to draw money from the budget to do so. This money we have just received would be enough to buy most of the hymn books and we could still provide the opportunity for congregation members to purchase a few hymn books in memory or honor of their loved ones.

We have an opportunity to purchase new hymnals without drawing from the general budget. However, the session must still consider if this is the best course. The money received is to be used in memory of the Riddles, but it does not have to be used for new hymnals. The session is prayerfully considering the matter

while doing some more research on the hymnal. Our current blue hymnal looks fairly new, but it was published in 1990 - 30 years ago. Many great hymns have been published since then and some of those new hymns will become “old favorites” for our children and grand children.

As we consider this opportunity, it might be helpful to look at the process other churches have gone through in deciding whether to purchase the “Glory to God” hymnal. The following story was written by Presbyterian Pastor, James Renfrew. The “next church” comment refers to the fact that while the Christian message remains the same, the church will and must change to effectively reach the “next” generation. The original article was much longer. It has been edited to fit the space in our newsletter.

*By James Renfrew*

*When the new Glory to God hymnal was first brought up for discussion, elders were drawn to some new features in Glory to God: lectionary-based hymn suggestions, worship rubrics that actually fit with our order of worship, brief historical notes about each hymn at the bottom of each page, chords for string accompaniment, a huge section of Advent hymns (separate from Christmas hymns), and even some hymns appropriate for infant baptism. But, as expected, there were plenty of objections, mostly along the lines of “there’s nothing wrong with our hymnal”, “it’s what I’m used to,” and “we can’t afford a new one.” These, of course, are the kinds of things said at nearly every discussion in a church that involves “change.” The idea of acquiring a new hymnal raised a key question for us: “should we be looking backward or forward in our ministry?” A “next church” negotiates this kind of question by rephrasing the question to ask if our church is just for ourselves and people like ourselves, or is this Christ’s church for the people we haven’t met yet, like children, grand-children, new residents, or immigrants? How can we embrace their stories, vocabularies, and needs in the songs that we sing?*

*Thankfully the decision was made to acquire 120 copies of the new hymnal, after making a special appeal to members and friends of the church to “buy a hymnal” at \$15 each. Glory to God! (Editorial note: currently the hymnals cost \$20 each)*

*A committee was formed to take the lead in the appeal. It was expected that there would be resistance, so each member of the committee addressed the congregation during worship in advance of the appeal letter. Mary Ann, a musician, shared some of her excitement for an opportunity to learn new hymns. Gwen outlined the practical aspects of how the appeal would be conducted. Audrey began by saying, “I looked in the table of contents of the new hymnal and I didn’t see my favorite hymn.” Then she said, “But I’m hoping I’ll find a new favorite hymn in the new hymnbook.” Amen! With that comment, I felt like our church got unstuck and was ready to move forward. Sure enough, most of the funds came in. When we were still about 15 books short, one elder pledged to put us over the top. Isn’t it amazing how one faithful insight can transform an entire congregation? Glory to God*