



# Presbyterian Press



A Publication of the First Presbyterian Church

January 2021



January 1<sup>st</sup> HAPPY NEW YEAR  
January 3<sup>rd</sup> Second Sunday of Christmas  
January 6<sup>th</sup> Epiphany of the Lord  
January 10<sup>th</sup> Baptism of the Lord  
January 11<sup>th</sup> Human Trafficking Awareness Day  
January 18<sup>th</sup> Week of prayer for Christian Unity  
January 18<sup>th</sup> Martin Luther King Jr. birthday

A “BIG CONGRATULATIONS” to

✨ *Cassie Delawder*

who graduated Summa Cum Laude  
from Fairmont State University  
with a B.S. in Nursing.



Weekly prayer meetings are held on Tuesdays at  
10 A.M. Feel free to join us. If you have prayer concerns, please call  
the office at **304-622-6831**, leave a note in the offering plate or  
email Harriett Northey at **[wayneharriett@frontier.com](mailto:wayneharriett@frontier.com)**

## Sunday Worship

Church School 9:30 AM

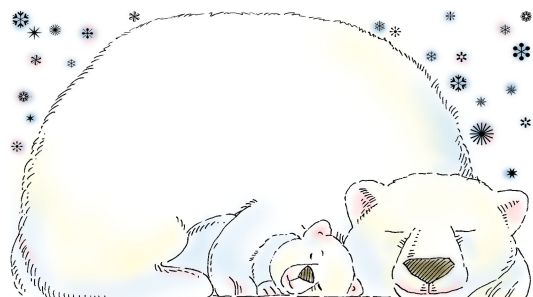
Worship 10:45

Live on WPDH Radio, 109.4 FM or 750 AM

<http://www.facebook.com/fpcclarksburg/>

<http://us02web.zoom.us/j/5517202769>

password: 3046226831



# January Scriptures and Sermons



2020

## **January 3, Epiphany of the Lord Sunday (Holy Communion)**

Scriptures: \*Psalm 147:12-20  
John 1:1-18

Sermon Title: "Message Received?"

Theme: Effective communication means that the message is not only sent, but also received. Jesus is God's word to us. He is God's message to us. So the message has been sent. Has the message been received? Have we heard and believed?

## **January 10, The Baptism of our Lord**

Scripture: Genesis 1:1-5  
\*Acts 19:1-7

Sermon Title: "Remember Your Baptism"

Theme: At Baptism God gives us the gift of the Holy Spirit. Even if we cannot remember our own baptism, God has still given us the gift of the Holy Spirit. Today as we ordain and install new leaders in our church, we remember that God has given to us the gift of God's presence, God's inspiration - the Holy Spirit.

## **January 17 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday After Epiphany**

Scripture: 1 Samuel 3:1-10  
\* John 1:43-51

Sermon Title: "An Important Village with a Questionable Reputation"

Theme: No one thought anything good could ever come out of Nazareth, yet that was the home town of Jesus. People may hold your background against you too. But remember, in God's hands, nothing is impossible.

## **January 24 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

Scripture: \* Isaiah 9:1-4  
Matthew 4:12-23

Sermon Title: "Living in a Changed World"

Theme: Paul talks about the time being short. Some people think he was talking about the end of the world and the second coming of Christ. But maybe what he was saying is that we are living in a whole new world. We need to live in a new way.

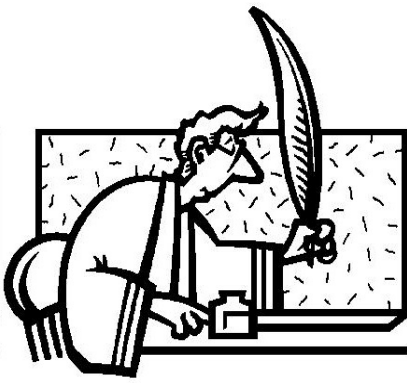
## **January 31 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

Scriptures: \*Jeremiah 31:7-14  
Ephesians 1:3-14

Sermon Title: "Jeremiah"

Theme: The Prophet Jeremiah just wanted to tend his vineyard and live in peace, but God called him to be a prophet in a tense and dangerous time. Again and again Jeremiah proclaimed God's punishment on Judah for her disobedience. Yet, he also proclaimed the love of God for his people and that God would bring his people home again.

\*Indicates main scripture referenced in sermon.



## Pastor John's Jottings

There is a familiar saying, "Hindsight is 20/20." Well, in a few days it will be a new year and then 2020 will be hindsight. (Pun intended!) It has been a rough year for many of us. There have been so many new things with the pandemic-lockdowns, masks, social distancing, and trying to learn new technology. Some have endured sickness, their own and those they love. Some have lost loved ones to the virus or other causes. Others have lost their jobs. Still others seem to have lost their way. Yes, there have still been blessings, but it has been a difficult year.

If we had it to do over again, knowing what we know now, we might well have done some things differently. Our elected leaders might have done some things differently. That has been part of the curse of the Covid-19, there was so much we didn't know about how it spread and what would be effective in stopping it. But we can't see the future.

We hope and we pray that this new year will be better. I am optimistic about that. But again, we can't see the future. Chances are good that we will get a handle on the Covid-19 sometime this new year. Yet, there will be other challenges that arise. Things that we cannot possibly foresee.

So how do we handle the uncertainty? How do we handle the not knowing?

First, it helps to remember that in spite of all the bad things that happen, we are still blessed. We are still the very children of God and covered with his love. God has a way of bringing good out of even the bad things that happen to us. As much as I have struggled to learn new technology like Zoom and how to live-stream a worship service, I am grateful that we have learned how to do those things. We could have benefitted from doing those things even before the pandemic, but now we have new tools in hand that will continue to serve us well into the future.

I am reminded of a song that paints a vivid picture in my mind. The name of the song is "Drinking from My Saucer." It reminds me of the line from Psalm 23, "... you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows."

*Oh, remember times when things went wrong,  
My faith wore somewhat thin?  
But all at once the dark clouds broke,  
And the sun peeped through again.*

*So Lord, help me not to gripe  
About the tough rows that I've hoed  
When I'm drinking from my saucer,  
'Cause my cup has overflowed.*

Second, it helps to remember that though we cannot see the future, God can. God knows what is coming, wants what is best for us, and has the power to bring that good about. My Grandma Koerner had a poem stuck in the corner of a picture in her house. The words of that poem ring as true today as when I first read the poem as a teenager.

### **Better than Light**

*And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year;  
"Give me a light, that I may tread safely into the unknown!"  
And he replied:  
"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.  
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."*

-M. Louise Haskins, contemporary English

Hope and Confidence and Peace,  
Pastor John

Jeanne Harris is looking for people or groups for special music. If you know of anyone in the community who might like to come to our church and sing or play an instrument, please let her know. You can call her at 304-669-9191 (cell) or 304-624-6445 (work). We need to keep lifting up our congregation with songs of praise!



# *Odds and Ends from the Church Treasurer*

Dec-2020

**Pastor's Emergency Fund** For many years First Church-Clarksburg has provided its pastors a separate fund for assisting needy members of the community with food, utility and clothing assistance. This worthy extension of our ministry continues with Pastor John determining how best to disburse available funds. Approved requests are forwarded to the church treasurer and checks are disbursed directly to the utility company, grocery store, etc.

If you wish to contribute to the Pastor's Emergency Fund, you are welcomed to include your check in the offering plate. Please make your check payable to First Presbyterian Church and mark "Pastor's Fund" in the note section.

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**Year-End Contributions** Federal tax regulations specify that "...ordinarily, a contribution is made at the time delivery is effected." This means a check dated December 31, 2020 but dropped in the offering plate during January of 2021 is deductible only on the donor's 2021 federal tax return. Exception: a check mailed and postmarked in 2020 may be deducted in 2020 even though the church may not receive it until 2021.

Following special tax law changes made earlier this year, cash donations of up to \$300 made before December 31, 2020, are now deductible when people file their taxes in 2021, even if you do not itemize.

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**What is Per Capita?** Per capita is a way for each Presbyterian to share in the administrative expenses of the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly. We send WV Presbytery the per capita (\$30.00 for 2020 ; \$30.05 for 2021) for every member on the active role the prior year.

Approximately 65% stays in WV Presbytery to cover such things as office expenses and programming committee expenses. Approximately 10% is forwarded to the Synod of the Trinity and the remainder goes to General Assembly.

Generally roughly one-quarter of our members send the church an extra amount specifically identified for per capita. If you are willing and financially able, it would be welcomed. Thank you.

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**One Check (if you prefer)** Members are reminded that payments to the church may be combined on one check. For instance, you may consolidate your pledge with a gift to the Christmas Joy Offering or the Pastor's Emergency Fund. Or two weekly pledges may be included on one check. Simply indicate how much is to go to each fund.

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**Donor Statements** Donations to the church are recorded continuously and are easy to retrieve. If you wish to have a copy of your end-of-year contributions please contact church treasurer Wayne Northey or the church office. Wayne's email address is [wayneharriett@frontier.com](mailto:wayneharriett@frontier.com).

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**2020 Financial Picture Looking Favorable** COVID-19 has impacted the church in many ways but it is gratifying to report our church family has continued its financial support. And with a reduction in many activities and their related expenses, 2020 will be a "year in the black" for First Church. Thank you for your commitment to God's work.



# First Presbyterian Church

## *Session Highlights*

Wednesday, December 16, 2020 5:30 p.m.

- Approved the ordination/installation of new deacons and elders for January 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Approved the budget as presented by the budget committee.
- Approved minutes of last meeting as distributed.
- Work groups canceled for this year. Possible work group for 2021 on the week of July 4<sup>th</sup>. Looking for a new coordinator
- Scheduled the celebration of communion on January 3rd.
- Pastor John asked for feedback on sermon skits. Most feedback was positive though sound issues were noted. Decision to move to fewer skits and perhaps use the pulpit mic instead of the lapel mic.
- Update on progress on fund for better video broadcasting and sound equipment in Donna Smith's name. We have received about \$2,200.00 to date.
- Approved a laundromat ministry. Details provided below. The congregation is asked for donations of laundry detergent, bleach, etc. We will also need additional volunteers to go with clients to the laundry mat once a month.
- Gave thanks for the life of Jo Eckert and her many years of service in our church. Transferred her to the church triumphant with prayer.
- Received Presbytery report from November 19<sup>th</sup> from Jeep Wilson with thanks for his service as our commissioner.
- Voted to put a password protected directory of our members on the church website. This will allow us to provide a constantly updated directory. More on this below.
- A big thank you to those who have agreed to serve as committee chairs in this new year.
  - Worship and Music/Christian Education - Bonnie Coleman,**
  - Evangelism/Fellowship - Beth Allen**
  - Personnel - Dick Ogden**
  - Mission Interpretation and Stewardship - Jenna Bennett**
  - Property Committee - Jeff Strange**
- A big thank you to those chairing our task forces also.
  - Task Force for Hygiene Kit- Amy Strange**
  - Task Force for Laundromat Ministry - Jeanne Harris**
- Elected elders Jeff Mitchell and Harriett Northey to serve on the 2021 nominating committee.
- Set date for congregational meeting to approve a change in the Pastor's compensation for January 3<sup>rd</sup> after worship. The session is recommending a 3% increase to the pastor's salary. Members will be able to attend this meeting both in person and through Zoom.
- Set date of annual congregational meeting for February 28 after worship. Members will be able to attend this meeting both in person and through Zoom.

- Elected Jenna Bennett as Clerk of Session and Ginger Delawder as Assistant Clerk.  
Elected Wayne Northey as Church Treasurer and Jenna Bennett, David Allman, and Chuck Leuliette as Assistant Treasurers.
- The 2021 nominating committee will make a nomination to the Annual Congregational Meeting for a deacon to serve out the remaining year that Jo Eckert had on the Board of Deacons.

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

**hospital visits: 2 Other significant Pastoral visits:** 27 almost all by phone

**Funerals:** 12-19-20 Josephine Eckert (d.o.d. 12-10-20) burial at Bridgeport Cemetery.

**No Weddings or Baptisms to report**

**Sacrament of Communion:** Was celebrated on November 1 serving 28

**Home communion** was not served because of the pandemic.

### **Pastor's Discretionary Fund 2020 -**

MONTH	REQUESTS	COMPLETED	AMT PLEDGED	AMT DISBURSE D
Sept	17	15	\$1685.00	\$1,485.00
October	12	12	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
November	10	10	\$1,000.00	\$993.94
			Total	\$9,648.89

### **On line directory of addresses and phone numbers:**

The session has voted to place a password protected church directory of members, addresses, and phone numbers on a special website where members can access them. In the past we have handed out paper directories with the same information. The paper directories quickly become outdated and are easily lost or misplaced. Members will be able to opt out of this directory if they wish. If you don't want all or part of your information posted in our on-line directory, please contact the church office. Thank you!

**Two new ministries that we have recently started.** If you can help with either of these ministries, please let us know.

### **HYGIENE KIT MINISTRY**

**Purpose of Ministry:** FPC recognizes that just as many children in Harrison County, WV are food insecure, they are also in need of personal hygiene items and basic

education about adequate self-care. Filling this need not only aids children in their personal health, it also increases the overall health of our community. The purpose of this ministry is to provide personal hygiene kits to children in need at the following schools in Harrison County: Nutter Fort Elementary, Nutter Fort Intermediate, Washington Irving Middle, and Liberty High

**Ministry Plan:** The committee (Beckie Alvaro, Loria Cavallo, Terra Burnett, Maria Morrison, Amy Strange) will coordinate with professionals at partner schools to supply kits (initially 10 per school) for distribution as needed. Supplies for the kits will be kept in a designated area in the pantry behind the stage. Kits will be filled by youth of the church and other volunteers.

**Needs:**

1. Funds for supplies – we will be starting with some money from the yard sale
2. Supplies: toothpaste; tooth brush/cover; shampoo; body wash; deodorant; comb/brush; small pkg tissues; cotton swabs; feminine hygiene products; gallon size baggies

\*\* we can use travel size or regular size items that we can break down into containers

## **LAUNDROMAT PROPOSAL**

**Purpose of Ministry:** To enable those in our community who do not have access to laundry facilities to have somewhere to go for their personal laundry needs.

**Proposed Laundromat:**

Clean Slate Laundromat    Owner: Tom Cohen & Brandon Critchfield

Address: 201 Monticello Avenue, Clarksburg, WV 26301

Email: [slatelaundromat@gmail.com](mailto:slatelaundromat@gmail.com)    Phone: (412) 427-7827    (304) 629-6158

**Ministry Plan:**

The Task Force has spoken with Tom Cohen & Brandon Critchfield who are in agreement with this plan and the use of their facility.

1. Individuals/families will be referred from Community Action, Open Heart Ministry, or Health Access. We may eventually expand to include the homeless, but our starting target is for families, particularly families with young children, who have a home but are temporarily unable to do laundry because of cost or availability of machines. This is not a long term solution but is intended to get families and individuals over a rough patch. Pastor John will keep track of the names and pass the names on to the team for the week. Clients will be limited to one paid visit a month to the laundromat. Each client will be limited to \$10 per visit.
2. There will be four teams of two each that will meet clients each Thursday evening between 4 – 5 p.m. at the laundromat. The teams will have an app on their phone that will be tied to a pre-paid credit card. This app will allow the team members to start the machines for clients.
3. Target start date will be January 7, 2021.  
\$1000.00 from the yard sale proceeds is requested as a starting budget. Other funding options will be explored if necessary.
4. We will ask the congregation for donations of laundry detergent.



### Benefits:

1. We will be a presence in the community as a church who cares for others.
2. We will be following the words of Christ, "What you do to the least of these you do for Me." Matthew 25:40
3. We will be supporting a local business and sharing God's work with someone who is willing to serve the community with us.
4. Team members will have a chance to interact with clients/families and share God's Word and the message of salvation as we minister to people's physical needs.

## We Need Your Input

The church directory is currently housed on the office computer at the church. We have the opportunity to have it moved to the web so that members would have access to the information. This access can be filtered depending on who is looking. We would like to know if anyone has objections or concerns about this move. Only church members would be given the website for access. Please let us know what you think by emailing us so we can make a decision that's most beneficial to everyone. The address is [cburgfpcsecretary@yahoo.com](mailto:cburgfpcsecretary@yahoo.com).



The volunteers of the Mustard Seed again thank you for the blessings of your prayers and donations. Local food insecurity grows every week. Currently we need more pasta, spaghetti sauce, peanut butter, jelly and toilet paper. Blankets, hoodies, and work boots are very needed. Last month 345 families received food & clothing from us.

Your prayers and support keep the Mustard Seed open to the public 4 days each week. Your food, clothing & household item donations may be made any hours we are open. To volunteer or to arrange donations, telephone Dolores Yoke at 304-624-6077.



## WORSHIP LEADERS

January 3<sup>rd</sup>-Suzi Heger

January 10<sup>th</sup>-Hank Lawrence

January 17<sup>th</sup>-Jeanne Harris

January 24<sup>th</sup>-Jeff Strange

January 31<sup>st</sup>-Andrea Myerberg

## Children's Moments



January 3<sup>rd</sup>- Becky Alvaro

January 10<sup>th</sup>-Terra Burnett

January 17<sup>th</sup>-Jeanne Harris

January 24<sup>th</sup>- Amy Strange

January 31<sup>st</sup>- Dawn Woodburn

## Deacon Greeters



January 3<sup>rd</sup>- Rev. James A. Harris

January 10<sup>th</sup>-Jeanne Harris

January 17<sup>th</sup>- Megan Strange

January 24<sup>th</sup>- Amy Strange

January 31<sup>st</sup>- Terra Burnett



## Acolytes

January 3<sup>rd</sup>-Bradley & Hannah Burnett

January 10<sup>th</sup>-Bradley & Hannah Burnett

January 17<sup>th</sup>- Amelia & Kierra Harris

January 24<sup>th</sup>- Hannah Burnett & Gia Corsini

January 31<sup>st</sup>-Bradley Burnett & Anthony Corsini

*We always thank  
GOD for all of you  
and continually  
mention you in  
our prayers.*

1 Thessalonians 1:2, NIV

Charles Adkins  
Sarah Arnold  
Eddie Cox  
Jeremy Cox  
Debbie Cunningham  
Mark Freeman  
Carol Lee Griffin  
Yvonne Gump  
Derek Hardman  
Bob & Janice Hardman  
Robbie Hood  
Doug Linton  
Nora McLean  
John Michome  
Lillian Mick  
Gary Mitchell  
Bob & Mary Moore  
(aunt of Sandi Nuzum)  
Robin Morris  
Nickolas Nardone  
Kenneth Oldaker  
Wilma Oldaker  
Susan Orr (Carole's Sister)  
Amy Pack  
Donna Pitzer  
Jo Plybon  
Joey Rogers  
Susie Saunders  
Everett Schiffra  
Melanie Simmons  
Bonnie Smith  
Chuck Smith  
Donna Swann  
John Wamsley



Chuck Leuliette	January 1
Carrie Plants	January 2
Chad Montgomery	January 5
Emma Moen	January 6
Kaylee Tustin	January 6
Frank Devono	January 7
Cassie Delawder	January 8
Tim Tosh	January 9
Joshua Sabatino	January 13
Madeleine Vessels	January 16
Buddy King	January 21
Rev. Charla Waters Koerner	January 23
Maddison Lafferty	January 24



If you would like to have flowers in the reredos, please  
call the office at 304-622-6831, or email me at:  
[CburgFPCSecretary@yahoo.com](mailto:CburgFPCSecretary@yahoo.com).