



Presbyterian Press

A Publication of the First Presbyterian Church

January 2020



Thank you to all those who participated in performing, teaching, setting up and working with Jeanne on the children's musical. It is wonderful to have a congregation that looks forward to these special musical performances.

-Jeanne Harris

COFFEE HOUR

We are still looking for volunteers to help with coffee hour on Sundays.

If you are able to help out, please let Kandy Atkinson know. You can leave a message for her at 304-622-0174. Thank you!



Food Collection

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOOD BACKPACKS

We will be collecting items through January for the food backpack program at Nutter Fort Elementary. Items needed include pudding, juice boxes, microwaveable mac-n-cheese and pasta, crackers, ramen noodles, fruit cups, fruit snack, applesauce, etc.

Children receive a backpack of food for weekends and breaks. There are approximately 200 children receiving these backpacks each weekend.



The ordination / installation of newly elected officers will be January 5th.

A Fond Farewell

As most of you know, December 20th was my last day working as the Church Secretary. I have enjoyed my work with the church, and with all of you. Thank you for your support and fellowship. -Noel

Tuesday, December 31
New Year's Eve
Close at 11:30
Wednesday, January 1
New Year's Day



Congregational Meeting



There will be a short congregational meeting after worship on January 5th to approve changes in the Pastor's compensation.

January 31st all reports for the Annual Report are due in the secretary's office.



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Sunday Worship

Church School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:45 a.m.

Live on WPDX Radio,
109.4 FM or 750 AM



The annual congregational meeting will take place on February 23rd after church.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY

January 5 Epiphany of the Lord Sunday (Holy Communion)

Scriptures: *Jeremiah 31:7-14
John 1:10-18

Sermon Title: "Introducing Jesus"

Theme: At many events, the main speaker is introduced by someone else. Suppose that Jesus were going to speak and it was your job to introduce him. What would you say?

January 12 The Baptism of Our Lord

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 42:1-9
*Matthew 3:13-17

SERMON TITLE: "Baptized!"

THEME: Jesus's baptism by John tells us a lot about who he is. It also tells us a lot of about who we become as baptized followers of the Lord. This is a good Sunday to renew the vows that we took in baptism and to renew our commitment to following where Jesus leads us.

January 19 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 49:1-7
*John 1:29-42

SERMON TITLE: "AHA!"

THEME: Pastor Kyle Idleman describes the "Aha," moments that God gives us. According to him, the first "A" stands for "awakening." The "H" stands for "honesty." The last "A" stands for "action." We have an "Aha!" moment when God shows us a new truth. That truth then leads us to be honest about ourselves and our situation. The completion of the moment comes when we take action to change. God gives us these moments of truth, not just to educate us, but to transform us.

January 26 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

SCRIPTURE: *Isaiah 9:1-4
Matthew 4:12-23

SERMON TITLE: "Loyal, Enthusiastic Volunteers Needed"

THEME: The more clearly we see God, the more we understand that he is calling us to service. The first disciples were busy people, but they're willing to "get up and go" when Jesus called them. They left a lot behind, but they focused not on that, but rather on the opportunity before them. The disciples found God in serving others. Which is exactly where we will find God as well.

*Indicates main scripture referenced in sermon.

TREASURERS REPORT

Net Cash Flow-October	2018	2019
Income	\$ 165,340	\$ 167,065
Expenses	\$ 152,615	\$ 158,319
Net Income	\$ 12,725	\$ 8,746



Office Hours

Monday-Friday
9:00am to 2:00 pm
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www.clarksburgfpc.org

Church Staff

PASTOR

Rev. John F. Koerner
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SESSION

Rebecca Alvaro, Clerk
Connie Leuliette, Asst. Clerk

PARISH ASSOCIATES

Rev. Charla Waters
Koerner
Rev. James A. Harris

CHURCH SECRETARY

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ORGANIST

Dr. Mary Kay Devono

CHURCH TREASURERS

Wayne Northey
Jenna Bennett
Chuck Leuliette
Dave Allman

NURSERY ATTENDANT

Ashleigh Burnett

PASTOR JOHN'S JOTTINGS

How much are you worth? Maybe that seems like a strange question to be asking as we start a new year. Then again, maybe it is a very timely question.

Most people, if they answered the question at all, might reply in terms their financial assets or their earning power. But is that the best way to measure our worth?

Essayist Calvin Trilling talks about a kidnapping case involving a man from the Bronx. The kidnappers called the man's wife and demanded \$100,000 for his safe return. The wife managed to talk the kidnappers down to \$30,000 which she then paid. The man was safely returned home to his wife, but Trilling wonders how the husband felt about becoming a discount special. Did he imagine his wife saying, "A hundred grand for that! The way he's going soft around the edges. I'll give you thirty. No more." Might this man always wonder if thirty thousand were his wife's rock bottom price?

How much are you worth? As we start this new year, it is a good thing to remember that in God's eyes we are of infinite worth - each and every one of us. Not because of how much we own, not because of how much earning power we have, not even because of how useful we are. God simply loves us because he made us, he claims us and we are his!

God sent his only begotten son, Jesus to ransom us back from sin. Jesus didn't agree to do this because he thought that he could buy us back cheaply. Jesus knew that it would cost him his very life. He bought us back anyway. He was willing to give up his life on the cross for us. There is absolutely nothing that God won't do to bring us, his much loved children, back from disaster.

I recently read an excerpt from one of John Steinbeck's works, "Sweet Thursday." The book is about the girls at the Bear Flag brothel. It is a story that contains amazingly tender human sensitivity. In this excerpt, Suzy, a country girl, is preparing for her first real date. Fauna, the madame, is helping her get ready.

"I guess you're about ready now," Fauna says.

Suzy asks, "Is there anything I can do for you, Fauna?"

"Yes, I want you to repeat after me, 'I'm Suzy and nobody else'." She does.

"I'm a good thing." "I'm a good thing."

"There ain't nothing like me in the whole world."

"There ain't nothing - aw, Fauna, now my eyes'll be red!"

"They look pretty that way." (Robert Wallace, "56 Devotions on Short Notice.")

Fauna in her own way is reminding Suzy that we are each a unique creation of God. As I saw somewhere else, "When you are tempted to devalue yourself, remember that when God created the world, he looked at it and decided that the world needed the unique someone that is you." You, my friend, really are of infinite value!

Hope and Confidence,

John

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First Presbyterian Church

Session Highlights

Tuesday, December 10, 2019 5:30 p.m.

- Examined newly elected deacons and elders and approved them for ordination and/or installation.
- Approved budget for 2020. Special thanks to Wayne Northey for his invaluable help with this!
- Approved adding Jeep and Buddy as listed traders for the New Covenant Funds.
- Approved adding Buddy as one of the listed traders for Fidelity funds.
- Approved communion dates for the next two months. They will be January 5 and February 2.
- Annual staff reviews was done on December 3rd for Noel, Kay, Lance, and Terra. We still need to do reviews for Jeanne and Ashleigh. We are so blessed with our hard working and talented church staff!
- Approved request from Presbytery to host one of the 2020 Session Record Reviews which will include Treasurer Talks and Listening Events. This will be on April 19, 2020 from 3 to 5 pm.
- Heard Presbytery report from Beckie Alvaro.
- Appointed Buddy King and Beckie Alvaro to sign the deed and complete the sale of the lot given to the church by Bob and Anne Davis. The sale price will be \$27,500. Special thanks to Buddy for preparing the deed for us.
- Elected Jenna Bennett as clerk of session and Ginger Delawder as assistant clerk.
- Reelected Wayne Northey as church treasurer and Jenna Bennett, Chuck Leuliette, and David Allman as assistant treasurers.
- Appointed committee chairs:
 - Worship, Music, & C.E. - Suzi Heger
 - Fellowship & Evangelism - Beth Allen
 - Property - Buddy King
 - Personnel - Hank Lawrence
 - Mission Interpretation & Stewardship - Jenna Bennett
- New session members were assigned to committees. Beth and Ginger will be on Fellowship & Evangelism. Bonnie will be on the Worship, Music, & C.E. committee.
- Elected Hank and Jeff Strange to serve on 2020 nominating committee.
- Set date for congregational meeting to vote on change in Pastor's compensation for January 5th.
- Set date of annual congregational meeting for Sunday, February 23rd.
- Set aside \$17,000 of Pastor's salary as housing allowance for next year and all future years unless otherwise noted.
- Approved fourth week of vacation for Pastor for December 26th through January 2nd.

Adjournment with closing prayer.

Pastor's Report:

Hospital visits: 4 **Other significant Pastoral visits:** 22

Funerals: 11-30-19 Marian Ruth Harpold (d.o.d. 3-5-2015) and
John W. Harpold, Jr. (d.o.d. 10-2-2019)
burial at Bridgeport Cemetery.

Sacrament of Communion: Was celebrated on December 1 and served to 66 people.

Home communion was served in December to 4 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
TOTALS	88	87	\$ 8,403.02	\$ 8,310.91



JANUARY

Birthdays



Children's Moments

- January 5 – Beckie Alvaro
- January 12 – Terra Burnett
- January 19 – Terra Burnett
- January 26 – Megan Strange

Worship Leaders

- January 5 – Harriett Northey
- January 12 – Suzi Heger
- January 19 – Megan Strange
- January 26 – Connie Leuliette

Deacon Greeters

- January 5 – Sandi & Courtney Nuzum
- January 12 – Jo Eckert
- January 19 – Karen Tyson
- January 26 – Judy McQuaid

Acolytes

- January 5 – Bradley Burnett and Anderson Mitchell
- January 12 – Hannah Burnett, Gia Corsini, Molly Hugus
- January 19 – Bradley Burnett and Anthony Corsini
- January 26 – Amelia Harris and Kierra Harris

- 1 - Charles Leuliette
- 2 - Carie Plants
- 5 - Chad Montgomery
- 6 - Kaylee Tustin
- 6 - Emma Gray Moen
- 7 - Frank Devono
- 8 - Cassie Delawder
- 9 - Tim Tosh
- 9 - Terry Weaver
- 12 - Brandi Glaser
- 13 - Joshua Sabatino
- 16 - Rebecca Cantrall
- 16 - Madeleine Vessels
- 17 - Buzz Alvaro
- 21 - Buddy King
- 23 - Rev Charla Waters Koerner
- 24 - Maddison Lafferty
- 29 - Kathleen Linville
- 29 - Jack Kaull

- Charles Adkins
- Sarah Arnold
- Eddie Cox
- Jeremy F Cox
- Debbie Cunningham
- Angie Fowler
- Carol Lee Griffin
- Yvonne Gump
- Derek Hardman
- Bob & Janice Hardman
- Jack Holt
- Robbie Hood
- Eric Kuhens
- Doug Linton
- Nora McClean
- Jim McQuaid
- John Michome
- Jillian Mick
- Nickolas Nardone
- Kenneth Oldaker
- Wilma Oldaker
- Susan Orr (Carole's Sister)
- Amy Pack
- Joey Rogers
- Susie Saunders
- Everett Shiffra
- Melanie Simmons
- Bonnie Smith
- Chuck Smith
- Donna Smith
- Karen Tyson
- John Wamsley
- Jennifer Wetzal

Reredos Flowers



Dates Available:
January 12, 26

February 2, 9, 23

