



Presbyterian Press

A Publication of the First Presbyterian Church

November 2019



Please join us on Sunday, November 3rd, as we show our appreciation for Pastors John, Charla, and James. We will celebrate with a special reception after the regular service. Please join us in thanking our pastors for their love and service.

THANK YOU FROM THE MUSTARD SEED

Thanks to all who brought baby gifts for the annual Mustard Seed baby shower. Your generosity never fails to amaze me! The gift table was full of onesies, sleep and plays, diapers, blankets, lotion, baby wash and teething toys. I have already assembled several layettes and included some of these lovely items. Thank you for enabling the Mustard Seed to give such nice items to our moms to get their new little ones started.

Yours in Christ,
Harriett Northey



We are looking for volunteers to help with coffee hour on the following Sundays:
November 10, 17, 24
December 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

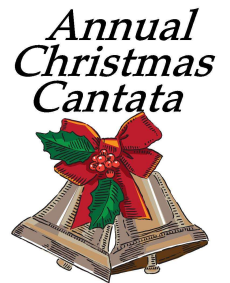


If you are able to help out, please let Kandy Atkinson know. You can leave a message for her at 304-622-0174. Thank you!



Susie Saunders would like to thank everyone for their lovely cards, calls, and prayers for her continued recovery. She said she loves and appreciates you all!

Our Annual Christmas Cantata will take place on Sunday, December 22. Please contact Jeanne Harris if you are interested in participating in this wonderful event.



Monday, November 11
Veteran's Day
Thursday, November 28
Thanksgiving
Friday, November 29
Day after Thanksgiving

FINALS CARE PACKAGES



We are sending finals care packages to our college students. Please provide Terra Burnett with addresses and the date of their finals week by December 1st.

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Sunday Worship

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

Live on WPDX Radio,
109.4 FM

There will be a table set up in Westminster Hall on November 24th and December 1st with cards for the congregation to sign that will be sent with the care packages. If you would like to add your own note/card, those are welcome, as well.

Donations for the boxes are welcome, too. If you would like to donate hot chocolate packets, tea bags, candy, cookies, chips, crackers, etc. those can be brought in anytime before December 1st.

Christmas

Dinner



Amy Strange is heading up the ministry for the annual Christmas Dinner. She is requesting the following donations throughout the month of November:

- November 3rd – Hot Chocolate Packets
Large Cans of Hot Chocolate
Marshmallows
Christmas Cards
- November 10th – Green Beans
Cranberry Sauce
- November 17th – Mashed Potatoes
Stuffing
- November 24th – Napkins
Baggies
Containers



Check out our church Facebook page at:

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

You are invited to LIKE and FOLLOW our page. Let your friends know how much you love being a part of the FPC family, and show them what's happening at our church. Please LIKE and SHARE our posts – the more you do, the more people will see what First Presbyterian has to offer.



Please join us in congratulating those elected at our Congregational Meeting October 27th:

Ruling Elders, Class of 2022

Beth Allen
Bonnie Coleman
Ginger Delawder

Deacons, Class of 2022

Pam Mitchell
Sandi & Courtney Nuzum
Loria Parsons

Youth Delegates, Class of 2020

To Deacons: Kierra Harris
To C.E.: Hannah Burnett & Gia Corsini

Congregational Nominating Committee Class of 2020

Bryon Delawder
Denver Atkinson
Amy Strange
Carole Wilburn
Dick Ogden

A BRIEF HISTORY OF FIRST CHURCH'S "GREEN SPACE"

The recent closing of the Chase Bank (formerly Union National Bank) forced withdrawal of all items in thousands of safety deposit boxes; one of those boxes belonged to First Presbyterian Church. While most of the contents were inconsequential, several deeds and papers relating to church property were found. Here is a brief history:

July 12, 1834... Prudence Coplin transferred ownership of a 49.5 foot lot fronting W. Main Street to the Trustees of Presbyterian Church of Clarksburg. Although the deed appears to be a quit-claim deed, a church was built on the site of the old jail house by the Presbyterian Church actually prior to the date of the deed and that church stood until about the year 1892.

July 25, 1929... First Church acquired a lot fronting 43 feet on W. Main Street formerly owned by Eva Siers and Myrtle Siers and owned by E. M. Wilson at the time of purchase. This was the site of the church manse that eventually was torn down to make way for Westminster Hall in 1952.

October 24, 1962... An offer was made by First Church to purchase the property fronting 29 feet on W. Main Street and extending 134.3 feet to Modoc Alley and owner by Mrs. Eva Siers Harrington for \$25,000; she accepted. This is our "green space."

April 17, 1967... An agreement was reached between First Church and North Central Development Company whereby the recently purchased property would be used by the Development Company for storage of materials, installation of a house trailer office and any other lawful purpose during the construction of a new motel on adjoining property. The Development Company would be responsible for the razing of the house located on the church property.

The church's "green space" has become a source of pride as more members of the Clarksburg community avail themselves of its beauty. We owe much thanks to deceased member David Keller for choosing the green space as his Eagle Scout project and to several current members, especially Andrea Myerberg, for regular attention to the space.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER

November 3 - 21st Sunday After Pentecost - All Saints Sunday - Sacrament of Holy Communion

SCRIPTURES: Psalm 119:137-144
*Matthew 5:1-12

SERMON TITLE: "Happiness Is..."

THEME: Our scripture for today is a part of Jesus' "Sermon on the Mount." This part is generally known as "The Beatitudes." Jesus says, "Happy are the poor in spirit... Happy are those who mourn... Happy are the meek..." These seem to be the very opposite of what we normally think of as sources of happiness. What are we missing?

November 10 - 22nd Sunday After Pentecost - Stewardship Dedication Sunday

SCRIPTURES: Isaiah 12:1-6
*Mark 12:38-44

SERMON TITLE: "When Is Enough, Enough?"

THEME: Most of us say that we don't need to be wealthy, we just want to have "enough." The problem is that no matter how much money we make or how much leisure time we have, it is never "enough." Jesus calls us to be generous givers, to find joy in giving and helping. How can we do that if we are enslaved by never having "enough?"

November 17 - 23th Sunday after Pentecost - Sacrament of Holy Baptism

SCRIPTURES: *Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21
Luke 21:5-19

SERMON TITLE: "Passing On the Faith"

THEME: Christianity is always just one generation from dying out. Older generations have a responsibility to pass on the faith to the next generation. No one is born a Christian. Children do not come to a saving faith in Jesus Christ in any kind of automatic way. We have a part to play in their coming to faith.

November 24 - Christ the King Sunday - Sunday before Thanksgiving

SCRIPTURES: Jeremiah 23:1-6
*Luke 17:11-19

SERMON TITLE: "Why We Say Thank You"

THEME: Most people do not give gifts or bestow acts of kindness in order to receive a thank you note. Yet, saying thanks is important. It is important for building our own character. It is important to keep the relationship alive and open. This Thanksgiving, let's remember to thank the One who has given us so much!

TREASURERS REPORT



Net Cash Flow-October	2018	2019
Income	\$138,244	\$134,045
Expenses	\$120,143	\$125,556
Net Income	\$ 10,516	\$ 8,489

Office Hours

Monday-Friday
9:00am to 2:00 pm
Phone: 304-622-6831
Fax: 304-622-6831
www.clarksburgfpc.org

Church Staff

PASTOR

Rev. John F. Koerner
209 Ohio Avenue
Nutter Fort, WV 26301
Phone: 304-534-2324
johnkoerner75@yahoo.com

SESSION

Rebecca Alvaro, Clerk
Connie Leuliette, Asst. Clerk

PARISH ASSOCIATES

Rev. Charla Waters
Koerner
Rev. James A. Harris

CHURCH SECRETARY

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EDUCATION

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Jagapelove50@gmail.com

ORGANIST

Dr. Mary Kay Devono

CHURCH TREASURERS

Wayne Northey
Jenna Bennett
Chuck Leuliette
Dave Allman

NURSERY ATTENDANT

Ashleigh Burnett

PASTOR JOHN'S JOTTINGS

The God of Broken Things

I have just finished reading a science fiction book entitled, "The God of Broken Things," by Cameron Johnson. In this book, some of the people can do magic, but the gods have a far more powerful magic. The gods in this book are much like the gods of the Greek and Roman myths. Some of them are evil and cruel, others are not quite as bad. Still all of them are emotionally distant from people and tend to see human beings as their playthings.

I read these stories in part because none of it is real. All day long I deal with real people with very real hurts and problems. So when I relax, I like to read made up stories where the problems may be terrible, but don't really matter because they aren't real.

In Johnson's book the heroine of the story is a warrior named Eve. Eve survives a terrible war. But at the end, she is so burned, scarred and injured that her every waking moment is filled with pain. The war is over, and Eve is considering suicide, but then she hears an old legend about a hidden valley deep in the mountains where dwells the God of Broken Things. According to the legend, only people and animals that are broken are allowed to find this valley. But when they do, the God of Broken Things takes them in, relieves their pain, and gives them a place to live out the rest of their days in peace.

The story ends with Eve finding the valley and being welcomed in by this god.

I could not help but think of the one true God that we serve. In a very real sense, God is a God of broken things- people, that is. Unlike the god in Johnson's story, our God loves all people. Yet, our God does choose to come most often to those who know they are broken. Christianity is the only religion in the world in which you must admit that you are broken (a sinner) in order to be welcomed in.

Not only does God welcome broken people, God chooses to do some of his most powerful work through weak and broken people. Moses stuttered, Jacob was a rascal, King David committed adultery, Jonah was stubborn, Paul was a poor preacher, and the Apostle Peter only opened his mouth to change feet. Yet God did powerful work through each of these people.

I am told that the A.A. group has a saying, "God can move mountains, but you had better bring a shovel." It took me awhile to wrap my head around that saying. It is not that God needs human help to move mountains. God created the whole universe without any human help at all. Nor does the saying imply that we must first prove ourselves worthy of God's help by taking the first step by ourselves. None of us is ever worthy of God's help, yet God comes to us anyway because of the depth of his love for us.

The reason for the shovel is a simple observation that this is the way God most often works with his broken people. Sometimes God chooses to instantly remove all cravings from an addict. But those are rare exceptions. Most of the time God chooses to show us the way and help us to accomplish what needs to be done. The full reasons for this "bring your shovel," thing are known only to God's own self. But I suspect that it has something to do with building our character. Character building is very important to God.

In the Biblical account of David and Goliath, God knew all along that he was going to kill the giant. But God chose to do this mighty work through a weak, little shepherd boy named David. The giant was already defeated, but David still had to bring the sling, gather the stones, and let fly a shot at Goliath.

Many of us know ourselves to be broken people. Many of us are facing giants such as illness or relationship problems that threaten to crush us. Remember that we serve a God of broken people who does his most powerful work through these same broken people. When God shows you the way, be ready to grab your shovel, or your slingshot, or whatever is needed - and allow God to work miracles through you! We serve a mighty God!

Hope and Confidence,

John

First Presbyterian Church

Session Highlights

Tuesday, October 15, 2019 5:30 p.m.

- Session had a conference call with John Fong about a communication tool using Facebook. The tool is free for one month, afterwards the church can continue or go on its own with the learning from the free period. The communication tool would hopefully help us communicate with people outside our immediate congregation and provide opportunities to draw visitors to the church. Session postponed a decision on this matter until next month.
- November 3rd has been set for appreciating our pastors: John, Charla, and James.
- We have been asked to be a cold weather shelter for overflow from the mission. This program is run by the Clarksburg Change Initiative. Churches volunteer for a week at a time to provide an evening meal and a place to sleep for 20 to 30 people. Session is unsure that we have enough volunteers to do this. It has taken the matter under consideration while more research is done on the details.
- We officially approved Dick Ogden's all church theme party for the evening of October 26th
- Stewardship Dedication Sunday will be November 10th this year.
- The property committee has a number of small projects in the works.
- Beckie Alvaro was elected to be our commissioner to the Presbytery meeting November 21, 2019 at Teays Valley Presbyterian Church.
- Beckie and Buddy approved the request of The Christ Episcopal Church to have a board member retreat in our parlor from 2-7 p.m. on Friday, October 25th. Session approved of their action and entered it into the minutes.
- The session has been discussing purchasing a A.E.D (Automatic Emergency Defibrillator) for our building. The availability of the A.E.D. could be the difference between life or death for a heart attack victim. This last month we have received a memorial gift in memory of Walter Bomhoff to pay for this purchase. The gift, given in his memory by Walt's loving wife Paula, should cover the entire cost of this purchase. The session expresses its appreciation for the gift and voted to purchase and install this device as soon as practical.
- Session has gladly approved the mission of the Christmas dinner again this year. The meal will be delivered to those who might otherwise not have a Christmas dinner. The session thanks Amy Strange who has graciously volunteered to head up this ministry.
- The session has set December 29th as the Sunday to ordain and install new church officers.
- The session will be setting a date in January for a session retreat and planning day.

Pastor's Report: Hospital visits: 5 Other significant Pastoral visits: 18

Sacrament of Communion: Was celebrated on October 6 and served to 56 people.

Home communion was served to six people this month.

Pastor's Discretionary Fund 2019

MONTH	REQUESTS	COMPLETED	AMT PLEDGED	AMT DISBURSED
January	6	6	\$ 395.53	\$ 395.53
February	5	5	\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00
March	3	3	\$ 220.00	\$ 220.00
April	4	4	\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00
May	10	10	\$ 788.74	\$ 788.74
June	9	9	\$ 1,109.27	\$ 1,109.27
July	18	16	\$ 1,449.29	\$ 1,349.29
August	8	7	\$ 738.24	\$ 646.13
September	9	9	\$ 835.77	\$ 835.77
TOTALS	84	83	\$ 7,355.11	\$ 7,263.00



Children's Moments

November 3rd – Beckie Alvaro

November 10th – Janet Wilson

November 17th – Jeanne Harris

November 24th – Amy Strange

Worship Leaders

November 3rd – Rev. James Harris

November 10th – Jenna Bennett

November 17th – Andrea Myerburg

November 24th – Bryon Delawder

Deacon Greeters

November 3rd – Bonnie Coleman

November 10th – Dottie Rinehart

November 17th – Judy McQuaid

November 24th – Karen Tyson

Acolytes

November 3rd – Hannah Burnett
and Gia Corsini

November 10th – Bradley Burnett
and Anderson Mitchell

November 17th – Hannah Burnett
and Gia Corsini

November 24th – Amelia Harris and
Kierra Harris



- 1 - Spencer Linville
- 2 - Mike Lonsinger
- 2 - Cole Delawder
- 4 - Rev. John Koerner
- 4 - Gary Nickerson
- 5 - Wilma Oldaker
- 6 - Mark Garrett
- 7 - Theresa Koerner
- 8 - Isabella Keller
- 8 - Kevin Corsini
- 11 - Judy McQuaid
- 11 - Jeff Strange
- 11 - Linda Wyckoff
- 18 - Ian Glaser
- 20 - Frank Simmerman
- 22 - Marjorie Faris
- 22 - Gia Corsini
- 29 - Alex Weaver



Charles Adkins
Sarah Arnold
David Corsini
Eddie Cox
Jeremy F Cox
Angie Fowler
Sallie Gray
Derek Hardman
Bob & Janice Hardman
Jack Holt
Robbie Hood
Eric Kuhens
Doug Linton
Doug Maatman
Nora McClean
Jim McQuaid
Radetta McQuaid
John Michome
Jillian Mick
Gary Mitchell
Nickolas Nardone
Kenneth Oldaker
Wilma Oldaker
Susan Orr (Carole's Sister)
Amy Pack
Delores Preston
Joey Rogers
Susie Saunders
Everett Shiffra
Melanie Simmons
Bonnie Smith
Chuck Smith
Donna Smith
John Wamsley
Jennifer Wetzel



Reredos Flowers



Dates Available:
November 3, 10, 17

December 1, 8, 15, 22

