

The Cornerstone News

First Presbyterian Church, Paulding Ohio

Volume 3 Issue 12



Merry Christmas from Pastor Ian...

Advent has begun! With the beginning of the Christmas season, I hope you have started to enjoy some Christmas music, parades, treats, and shopping deals. If you need any new ideas, try melting a candy cane in your coffee for a holiday treat (Sue Paulus just taught me this one). Alissa, Samuel, and I took some time this week to drive around and see Samuel's favorite part of the Christmas season- the lights! Since his birth, all of the toys in the world pale in comparison to your average lamp or light fixture. All of the lights on the trees and houses are mesmerizing to him. If you know of any good places to go see Christmas lights, let us know!

Christmas is the season of lights for a good reason. In Isaiah 9, we read Isaiah's prophecy which was fulfilled with the coming of Jesus Christ. *"The people walking in darkness, have seen a great*

light; on those living in the land of deep darkness, a light has dawned...

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." For the Christian, Jesus is the light in this dark world. Jesus Christ is a light in many ways, but as I see this world through the eyes of my son I am reminded of the wonder light can bring. Nothing is more wonderful than God humbling himself by taking on the very na-



The Ferguson Family's first Merry and Bright Christmas Parade.

ture of a servant, being born fully human (Philippians 2:7). This Christmas, may you be filled with wonder as you are mesmerized by the light of the world, Jesus Christ.

Merry Christmas to you all,
Pastor Ian

December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Pastor Dan Communion	4	5	6 1st Wednesday meal (5:30)and service (6:15) Choir Practice 7:00	7 Ecumenical Potluck and program at 6:00 N.A. meeting at 7:00 in the basement	8	9
10 Ordination/ installation of Elders and Deacons Pastor Ian	11	12	13 Choir Practice 7:00	14 Organ Concert for Seniors At 1:00 pm N.A. meeting at 7:00 in the basement	15	16
17 Pastor Dan	18	19 Session 7:00	20 Choir Practice 7:00	21 N.A. meeting at 7:00 in the basement	22	23
24 Pastor Ian	25	26	27 Choir Practice 7:00	28 N.A. meeting at 7:00 in the basement	29	30
	31					

December Birthdays

4th - Matt Reineck
7th - Julia Fife
13th - Cara Lou Strahley
14th - Todd Searing
17th - Cindy Koenig
17th - Madison Verfaillie

20th - Ryan St. John
21st - Christine Fife
23rd - Terra Via
23rd - Alex Weibe
24th - Paul Searing

Anniversaries

13th - Jeremy & Christine Fife
17th - Jim and Doris Smith
28th - Barb and Stan Searing

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed, or is listed incorrectly, please get the correct information to the office ASAP. Thanks!

Session Highlights

At the November Session meeting,
Report

Coming next month!

State Championship Cross Country Team

Luke Futey's cross country team, the Cleveland Storm (Rio Rancho NM) recently won the New Mexico State Championship. Luke is fourth from the left and is the son of Gretchen (Searing) and Chris Futey and the grandson of Stan and Barb Searing.



Once again, members of our church congregation will have the opportunity to buy Christmas presents for the children of the participants in Paulding County Drug Court.

Angel Tree

An "Angel Tree" will be set up in our church. Each angel on the tree will have information about a child and a gift or gifts he or she would like for Christmas.

Members of our congregation can take an angel, shop for that child, and return the gift(s) in a bag, unwrapped, with the angel attached to the bag by Sunday, December 10.

The gifts will be given to the parents at Drug Court on Friday, December 15. If you have ever been curious about what goes on in Drug Court, that would be a great day to attend. It convenes in Judge Tiffany Beckman's courtroom on the second floor of the courthouse at 9:30 a.m.

One of the Drug Court participants is due to have a baby at the end of November, and what she needs is diapers! We would like to surprise her with diapers in a variety of sizes and diaper wipes. No need to label them. We know who they would be for. Just place them under the angel tree to bless this family.



The Drug Court participants are very thankful for the use of our church kitchen on Thursday, November 16 to make bake sale items for the benefit which was held that weekend for Tripp Foor, an Oakwood Elementary student who has cancer.

Bake Sale Preparations

Ways to Serve in December
And January



Volunteer in the nursery:
Call Dianna Karlstadt 419-670-2948

Willing to clean up after the First Wednesday Meals? Drop a note in the collection plate so that we know.

Willing to coordinate the preparation of the meal? Tell the worship committee: January is open.

Invite a friend to the ecumenical dinner and pick her up: Thursday December 7th at 6:00 pm at our church

Suggest a favorite hymn or carol for Advent: call Sue Paulus 419-399-5533 or Sue Crossland 419-399-5943 or put a note in the collection plate.

Like to sing but just been shy? Walk into the sanctuary on Wednesdays at 7:00. Worship the Lord in music, work a little and have a great time.

Caring & Sharing
Food Pantry



Please bring hygiene items and cleaning supplies for the basket in the hallway as you come to worship during the month of December. These items are completely depleted and are not furnished by the West Ohio Food Bank.

Add to your donation list items for Christmas dinner.

Thanksgiving-Chattanooga Area



Rachel Razo, Jacob Marsey and Kristen Razo with the live tree from the Christmas tree farm.



The Tennessee River Blueway was the site of the Cheer on the Pier river parade the day after Thanksgiving. Beautiful part of the celebration for the Razo family.



Murder in the Heir

starring our own Joe Reineck (Rufus the murderer) is shown following the performance with Aunt Betty and Grandma Mary Ellen.



MERRY
CHRISTMAS

“We are so excited to celebrate this Christmas season with all of you. This season may we remember the ‘good news that causes great joy for all people’ (Luke 2:10-11). We celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ!

Ian, Alissa, and Samuel



Merry Christmas

From

Susan Crossland, Sue Paulus and Carol Razo



Look what we found in the cottage when we were cleaning it to prepare for the Fergusons' move!

These church keepsakes will be available throughout the month of December for a free will offering. You can find them on a table in the fellowship hall.

Guess what else we found in the cottage?? A stained glass window that was removed from the church when the fellowship hall was added. The window is in need of repair, and we would like to have it fixed so that it can be displayed somewhere in the church building.

All of the proceeds from the cup, plate and ornament offering will go toward repairing the window, and the historical committee will pay the balance of the repair to the stained glass.



Plumbing Repair

A look at the men's bathroom as the repair in taking place. As this is written the drywall is replaced and painting being completed.

Congregational Meeting Results

There was a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, Nov. 19, 2017 immediately after worship for the purpose of electing officers for 2018.

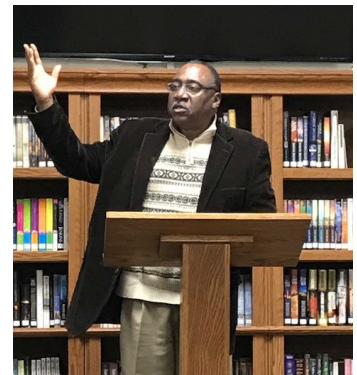
The slate presented by the Nominating committee was:

Elders: Barb Searing (second 3-year term) Class of 2020
 Bud Koenig (first 3-year term) Class of 2020
 Darwin Cline (1-year to complete Ed Cline's term) Class of 2018

Deacons: Jane Nice (second 3-year term) Class of 2020
 Darla Cline (first 3-year term) Class of 2020

All were elected unanimously.

Individuals elected will be ordained/installed during worship on Sunday, December 10.



Book Signing

Pastor Dwayne Richardson spoke at our First Wednesday service on November 1st. He shared the story of writing his book, *Now Listen to This: Building the House of Love*. Then sign books for those who purchased them.



Financial Update

Noteworthy issues from October:

- Because the emergency mission checking account has been dormant for a year, the bank charged a \$5.00 dormant fee this month. This account was previously used by Pastor Dave to provide emergency assistance to folks who walk in off the street. This account is being closed, balance transferred into Solid Rock Youth Fund.
- We renewed our Chamber of Commerce membership, \$135.00
- We received an anonymous donation of \$4,000.00 to help pay for Ian's moving expenses.
- We paid United Van Lines \$4,289.62 for Ian's moving expenses.
- We paid Tony Wobler Electric \$2,450 for a lighting project in the fellowship hall.
- We paid Buckeye Exterminating \$420 for an annual termite service agreement for the church and the Cornerstone Cottage.
- We paid Schlatter's \$525 to service the furnace and boiler.
- We paid Schlatter's \$4,550 for HVAC and plumbing repairs at Cornerstone Cottage.
- The Garage Replacement Fund has a negative balance of \$3,004.76. I've been depositing the Nicelly investment income in the garage fund to help offset the negative balance.
- We paid a total of \$1,375 to Samaritans Purse for Hurricane Relief.
- We received income in the amount of \$1,020, and a previous donation of \$500, and paid out \$1,617.05 in speakers fees, catering etc for the women's retreat.

Carol Razo, Treasurer



Next Presbytery meeting

The next meeting of the Presbytery of the Midwest will be Feb. 16-17, 2018 in Greenville, Ohio. The meeting begins at 1:00 Friday and continues Saturday morning until noon. This should be the meeting at which Ian Ferguson is examined on the floor of Presbytery as part of the process of coming to serve our congregation, and it would be wonderful to have a nice contingent from Paulding there to support him. You are encouraged to look ahead and save the date if you are interested in being there.

First Wednesday Meal

December 6th at 5:30 will be our First Wednesday Meal with the meal prepared and hosted by Ken and Janet Wagner. Thanks to each of you.

First Wednesday Service

This month, David McMaster will speak on the meaning and reason to celebrate Advent



Three Retreat Highlights

Preparation of lunch, special music by Marilyn Young, and the Prayer Shawl presentation. What a blessing!

Speakers for December

Guest speakers scheduled for the month of December are: Pastor Dan Young, the 3rd and 17th, Pastor Ian Ferguson December 10th and 24th for both morning and Christmas Eve services. The two men have coordinated a month long series on the Songs of Advent. Another opportunity to enhance our joy of the season.



Decorating for the Christmas Celebration

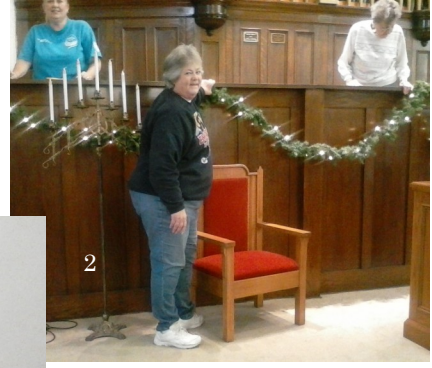


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Decorating prior to the Advent Season were #1: Phyllis Crossland, Jill Straley, Sue Crossland and Ian Ferguson; #2: Jill, Sue and Phyllis put the final touches on the choir loft; #3: Barb Searing and Ian are putting candles in the windows; #4: Samuel supervises the whole thing under the tutelage of Judy Robinson whose assignment for the morning was “fluffing” the greenery; #5 is a small sample of how the tree is decorated. Also decorating but not pictured were Alissa Ferguson, Dick Paulus and Sue Paulus.



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A Red Poinsettia can be yours for a \$10.00 donation. They will be used to decorate the church until Christmas Eve. Your donation may be dropped in the offering plate or brought to the office during the month.



Women's Ecumenical Christmas Banquet and Program



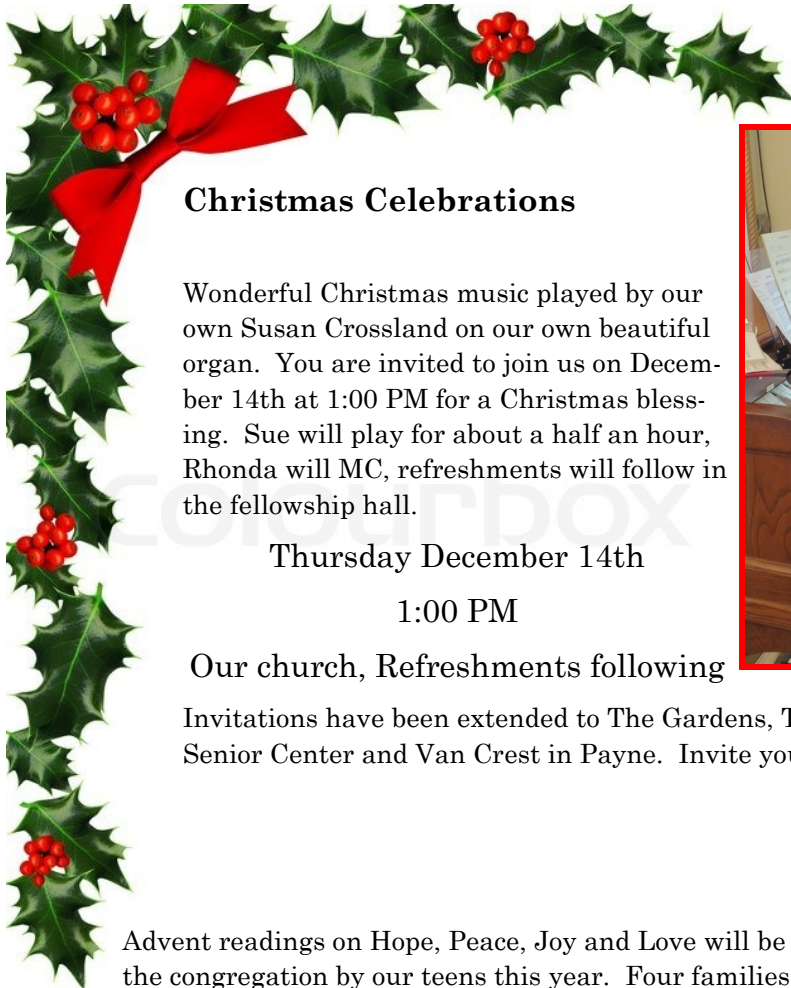
This year our Women's Group will be hosting the annual Christmas Dinner for the women of the community. This is its 39th anniversary so we are gearing up for a large celebration in 2018.

We need help spreading the word, so talk to your friends from other churches. Pray that we have a celebration worthy of our Lord.





Continue in prayer for Andrew



Christmas Celebrations

Wonderful Christmas music played by our own Susan Crossland on our own beautiful organ. You are invited to join us on December 14th at 1:00 PM for a Christmas blessing. Sue will play for about a half an hour, Rhonda will MC, refreshments will follow in the fellowship hall.

Thursday December 14th

1:00 PM

Our church, Refreshments following

Invitations have been extended to The Gardens, The Country Inn, Paulding County Senior Center and Van Crest in Payne. Invite your friends and join the festivities.



Advent readings on Hope, Peace, Joy and Love will be presented to the congregation by our teens this year. Four families with teenagers (Razo, Karlstadt, Fife and Reineck) will do the readings and lighting of the candles. Thank you!



There will be two services on Christmas Eve this year. Sunday the 24th at 10:15 am and our candlelight service at 11:00 pm. This is always a lovely service with lots of candles, music and Scripture.

Paulding OH 45879
Corner of Caroline & Cherry,
First Presbyterian Church

Fall and Winter Schedule
Sunday School 9:00
Praise Music 10:15
Worship Service 10:30



First Presbyterian Church

PO Box 366
Corner of Caroline and Cherry Street
Paulding OH 45879

Phone: 419-399-2438
Secretary's e-mail: fpcpaulding@gmail.com (new)
www.firstpresbyterianpaulding.com (new website)

firstpresbyterianpaulding.com

In Essentials, Unity.
In Non-Essentials, Liberty.
In All Things, Charity.

