

## The Cornerstone News

### First Presbyterian Church, Paulding Ohio

Volume 2 Issue 12



### OUT OF THE SALTSHAKER . . .

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests. (Luke 2:14)

As long as a man is alive and out of hell, he cannot have any cause to complain. (Charles Spurgeon)

Esther 4-5 gives the account of Queen Esther risking her life on behalf of her people. The king had been talked into issuing an edict authorizing the annihilation of the Jews, and Esther's uncle Mordecai had urged her to go to the king and plead with him to spare them (he did not know she was a Jew). The dilemma she faced was that no one was allowed to approach the king without an invitation. Anyone who did so would be put to death. There was only one exception to this law: if the king extended his gold scepter to the one approaching him, that person's life would be spared.

Esther decided to approach the king. She asked her uncle to gather all the Jews in the royal city to fast on her behalf for three days, while she herself fasted. She said, **When this is done I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish.** (Esther 4:16) On the third day she went to the king and he extended his scepter toward her and her life was spared.

This remarkable incident, recorded almost 500 years before the birth of Jesus, is a powerful illustration of what the choir of angels sang out on the night he was born: **Peace to those on whom his favor rests.** According to the law, Esther should have been put to death, but her life was spared when

the king extended his scepter, because the scepter was the sign of his favor resting on her at that moment. In other words, the extending of the king's scepter toward Esther indicated that there was peace between them.

The peace that Jesus made possible by his birth, death and resurrection is the freedom of anyone who trusts in him to approach the King of the universe without being put to death. It is the peace of God's favor, which is the difference between living and dying.

Charles H. Brent wrote, *Peace comes when there is no cloud between us and God. Peace is the consequence of forgiveness, God's removal of that which obscures His face and so breaks union with Him.*

Union with God is the essence of peace—to be face to face with Him is the fundamental desire of all people. This is possible because, through His Son, the King has extended his scepter of grace and by doing so has offered his favor. And that favor rests on those who have put their trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Shalom (peace)!

*Pastor Dave*








HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS & A WONDERFUL NEW YEAR!

"Glory to God and peace on earth . . ."

Pastor Dave & Patty

# December 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> Prayer, <b>IGNITE!</b> Latty at Stoller's at 7:00 pm	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> Communion 	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Special organ mini- concert for Seniors 1:30 Circle 7:00	<b>7</b> Prayer for the Church at 8:00 1st Wed. Meal and Ser- vice Choir 7:00	<b>8</b> Ecumenical Christmas dinner and program First Christian	<b>9</b> 5th Quarter party at the school follow- ing BB game	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  Circle 7:00	<b>14</b> Prayer at 8:00 am Choir 7:00 pm	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> McDougle Christmas here in fellow- ship hall
<b>18</b> 	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  Session 7:00	<b>21</b> Prayer at 8:00 am Choir 7:00 pm	<b>22</b> Bloodmobile here	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Prayer at 8:00 am Choir 7:00 pm	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 

## December Birthdays

4<sup>th</sup> - Matt Reineck

7<sup>th</sup> - Julia Fife

13<sup>th</sup> - Cara Lou Strahley

14<sup>th</sup> - Todd Searing

17<sup>th</sup> - Art Zellner

17<sup>th</sup> - Cindy Koenig

17<sup>th</sup> - Madison Verfaillie

20<sup>th</sup> - Ed Cline

20<sup>th</sup> - Ryan St. John

21<sup>st</sup> - Christine Fife

23<sup>rd</sup> - Terra Via

23<sup>rd</sup> - Alex Weibe

24<sup>th</sup> - Paul Searing

## Anniversaries

13<sup>th</sup> - Jeremy & Christine Fife

17<sup>th</sup> - Jim and Doris Smith

28<sup>th</sup> - Barb and Stan Searing

## Session Highlights

At the November 15th Session meeting, elders:

\*received and approved Pastor Dave's part-time schedule from Nov. 15 - Dec. 31st. Pastor Dave will be conducting all worship services through that period. Elders also learned that Sue Paulus is willing to take on more office hours during this time of transition, and approved her working 6 additional hours per week.

\*added several worship opportunities to the calendar recommended by the Worship committee (watch for more details in the bulletin and newsletter):

-Tues., Dec. 6, 1:30, an organ concert for the residents of The Gardens and others, as they wished to hear the renovated organ. -the Advent candle-lighting ceremony each Sunday will be taken from the newly published Advent booklet -Sun., Dec. 25, there will be no Sunday School, and worship will begin at 10:15, with casual dress. At the end of the service, a birthday cake for Jesus will be brought in, and coffee and cake in the Fellowship Hall will follow.

-a showing of "The Jesus Film" for the community will be offered in January or February.

-Lenten Wednesday evening worship will offer Time for Testimony, an opportunity for people to share their faith stories -Tues., April 4, 7 pm, Jews for Jesus will again visit our church for a community presentation

\*asked the Worship committee to go forward with filling the pulpit for the Sundays of February, as Pastor Dave's last Sunday is Jan. 29th. Clerk Barb Searing was asked to contact Steve Brown from the Midwest Presbytery Ministerial committee to inform him that our Pastor Search committee has been elected and that we are ready for a liaison from his committee to be appointed to work with the PSC and Session during this time of transition.

\*approved an "angel tree" to help those in the Drug Court program to give gifts to their children, with the blessing of Judge Tiffany Beckman. These parents have very little, and often are not the custodial parent, so this is another way for our church to bless the drug court program.



December 7,  
2016

1st Wednesday meal and worship on the 2nd.

Supper at 5:30, Worship at 6:15

Hosted by Ken and Janet Wagner.

(Signup sheet available in the sanctuary if you want to assist or organize a meal for the upcoming season).



## More of our Beautiful Babies!

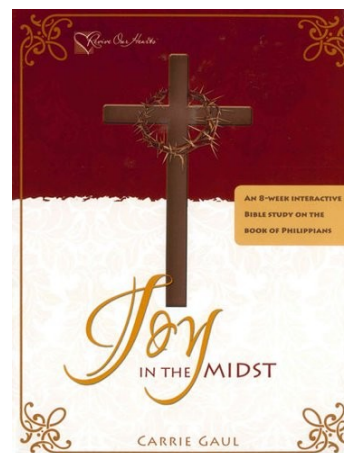
Baby Judah was born  
October 14, 2016. Photo  
is Grandma Becky Craft  
holding Judah, standing

beside mom Lauren Lanz. Judah is the son of  
Philip and Lauren Lanz of Mt. Vernon OH

LADIES,

Mark your calendars and plan to JOIN US for this exciting opportunity sponsored by the PW Retreat Team of First Presbyterian Church on the corner of Caroline & Cherry Sts., in Paulding Ohio

JOY IN THE MIDST—  
an 8-week interactive  
BIBLE STUDY on the book  
of Philippians



Every Tuesday beginning February 7, 2017 at 1:30  
P.M. through March 28 at 1:30 P.M.,  
in the fellowship hall at First Presbyterian Church

IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY PREREGISTERED at the Revive Our Hearts Women's Retreat in October 2016, you may 1) REGISTER by calling 419-399-4891 or e-mailing fishk@windstream.net before January 10, 2017 and 2) PREPAYING \$10.00 for the study book *Joy in the Midst* by our retreat speaker, Carrie Gaul. (Mail check made out to Becky Fishbaugh or cash to 10950 Rd 95, Paulding OH 45879) For everyone to receive their own copy before the class the DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS JANUARY 10, 2017 so that we pre-order and receive them in a timely manner.

Need more information about the *Joy in the Midst* study?

As we gather together around Paul's letter to the Philippians. We will learn the connection between joy and the gospel. We will gain practical help in applying the gospel to our daily lives as we observe the life of the Apostle Paul, a man who not only understood the gospel but experienced its joy in the midst of hardship and adversity. **Becky Fishbaugh**





***Cherry Street: from house to “what house?”***



Nick Dangler







## CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Our Christmas Eve candlelight worship begins at **11:00 pm** and is always a beautiful service, filled with the singing of carols, the reading of the Christmas story and the lighting of candles. We also celebrate communion by intinction.

Once every seven years we celebrate Christmas on Sunday, and we're looking forward to doing it this year. There will be no Sunday school that morning and everyone is encouraged to dress casually, so that more time may be spent with family. We will enjoy a birthday cake for Jesus and light refreshments in the fellowship hall following worship.



## A Christmas Celebration of organ music and Christmas carols

Presented for our Seniors and guests from the Gardens as well as other assisted living facilities.

**Tuesday December 6 at 1:30**

Come hear the renovated organ.

## Senior Citizens Breakfast

At the High School

Wednesday December 7th at 8:30 am

Breakfast served by the National Honor Society, musical programs brought by students of all ages.

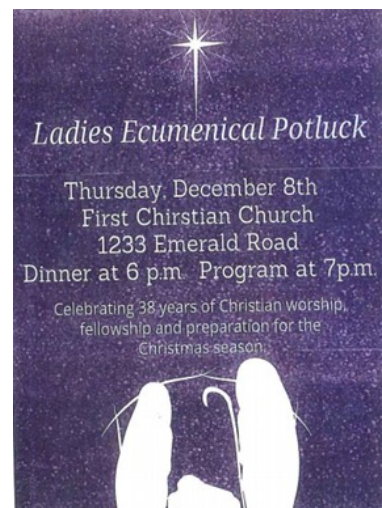


Come join other Christian Women for dinner, fellowship and a time of celebration of the birth of Jesus.

To the best of our knowledge, this is the 38th year of this wonderful local Christmas tradition.

There is always too much food, therefore this is a chance to invited a friend and tell them to come as your guest, they don't need to bring a thing but themselves.

Merry Christmas!



## CARING & SHARING FOOD PANTRY

Right now we are over loaded with plastic grocery bags, so please recycle yours until further notice

**BAKING SUPPLIES NEEDED:** flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda, salt, vanilla

**BAKING MIXES:** cookies, cakes, breads, brownies, muffins, frosting

Cans of evaporated milk

**FRUIT:** pears, peaches, mandarin oranges, apricots, pineapple

**CLEANING SUPPLIES:** dish soap, laundry soap, bathroom cleaners.

**HYGIENE ITEMS** for men, women, teens and children: Shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste, tooth brushes, mouth wash, lotions

Thanks, *Becky Fishbaugh*



The 5th Quarter parties are moving from outside following football games to in the Auditoria and Middle School gym following two basketball games: Friday December 12th and Friday February 2, 2017.

Last year, the 5th Quarter following the game was a big success, so watch for more information and detail to follow.



The devotional booklets are still at the top of the stairs in the sanctuary. Thank you to all who contributed, and to all of you reading them, using them to prepare hearts for the coming of the Christ Child.



**Uniting in prayer for revival!**

Prayer continues on the first Thursday in December (the 1st) at the home of Dwight and Lori Stoller in Latty at 7:00 pm. A second IGNITE! Is being scheduled for

January. Keep watching for more information.



## Historical Society Festival of the Trees

The Presbyterian Church tree decorated by Rhonda Smalley. Note the Advent Devotional Booklets in the basket. These were added to the display by Rhonda. There were over 100 booklets handed out at the festival.





Becky Fishbaugh interacting with the women at the retreat and (right) speaking. Below she is with Carrie Gaul and Mindy Sherwood.



The recipient of the prayer shawl this year was Mary Ellen. Pictured above are the ladies praying for her as she received her prayer shawl. A huge thank you to Martha Punches for her leadership in this ministry.



Betty St. John, Ann Furrow and Ruth Eschbach



## 35th Annual Women's Retreat Saturday October 29, 2016

What a wonderful day!



The women that served our meal through Grant's Catering. The meal they serve is always a highlight of the day.



Phyllis Crossland listening with her heart to daughter, Susan, playing an organ piece at the retreat.







## THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

A huge thanks to all who gave cards and gifts to me for pastor appreciation. I was deeply moved by some of the words you wrote and very blessed by the gifts you gave. A big thanks also to our church family as a whole, for your extravagantly generous gift. It has been my deep pleasure and joy to serve you as your pastor and I love you all!

Shalom,

Pastor Dave



Christmas blessings from your church staff:

Sue Crossland, Sue Paulus and Carol Razo

## The Super Moon

Photo submitted by a congregation member who was brave enough to be out all night getting photos.

Great work, and thank you.



## Drug Court Angel Tree

Our church's involvement with the Paulding County Drug Court program began after the Vision Team reached out to community leaders about the needs in our area. Judge Tiffany Beckman had just started this program and was thrilled with our willingness to help. We supply rewards like gum, shampoo, and beef jerky which the participants can choose from a basket if they are 100 percent compliant with the program for that time period. Drug Court meets twice monthly.

Most of the participants in Drug Court have nothing.

They are struggling to stay sober while finding jobs, getting drivers' licenses, and paying court costs. Many of them have children, but few have custody. A big part of their on-going recovery is rebuilding relationships with their children and their children's guardians.

Our church would like to help them provide 1-2 Christmas gifts for their children FROM THEM. If you would like to shop for a child, take an angel from the tree by the bulletin board in the hallway, buy the gift(s), and return them under the tree in a bag with the angel attached.

Do not wrap the gifts.

Thank you so much for your willingness to help these people in need!





## Financial Tidbits:

- Paid our 2nd half per capita amount of \$954.50 to the EPC and \$539.50 to Midwest Presbytery for Jul - Dec 2016.
- Paid Dilly Door a down payment of \$777.50 toward repairs on the alley door.
- Paid \$420 to Buckeye Exterminating for termite stations at Cornerstone Cottage and the church building.
- Allocated \$275 from missions to the following organizations:
  - Wycliffe Bible Translators - where needed
  - ABWE - where needed
  - ABWE - for Don and Karen Taber
  - Village Missions - for Chris Cleland
  - Wycliffe Bible Translators - for Ron and Donna Schumacher
  - EPC - for Benjamin and Monica Bailey
  - World Outreach EPC - for Tim and Karen Mindling
  - Project Mercy
  - Hands of Hope Pregnancy Center
  - House of Love Ministries
  - Community Pregnancy Center
  - The City School
  - God's Share Program
  - Youth for Christ
  - Campus Crusade for Christ
  - Jesus Film Project

Carol Razo, Treasurer

\$

**Thank  
You**

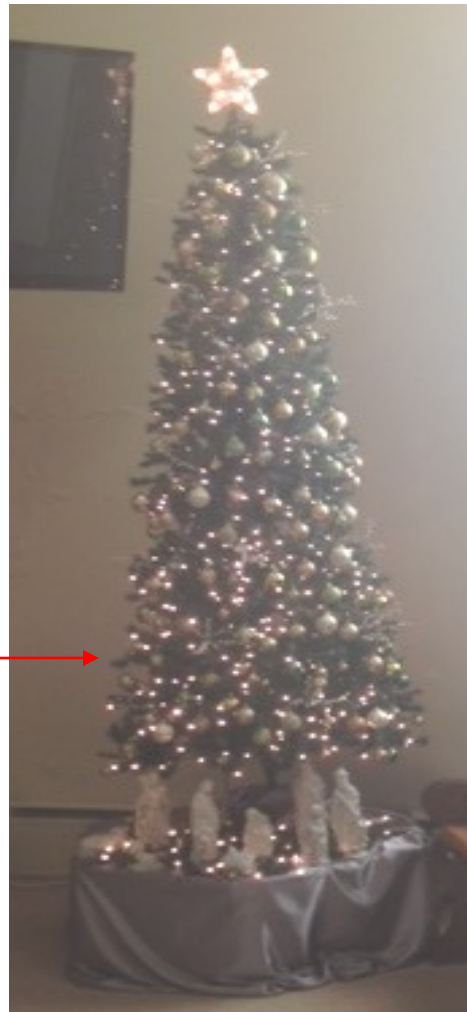
to **Jill Straley** for the hours she put in decorating the sanctuary. Her planning and organizational skills got the job done. She had several hours of help from family and church members, but the largest percentage of the burden fell on her this year.

Thank you, Jill, we appreciate your work!

*Here come da Judge*



Charles Clapsaddle and Joe Reineck in the Laugh In play at the high school. The play was well received, a big round of applause to the cast for a job well done.





## Students donating time for Community Projects



On Tuesday November 22, we had a dozen 6th grade students come for almost three hours to rack, bag leaves, decorate trees, dust pews and doors and have a good time while doing all that work. They then enjoyed cookies and hot chocolate, taking home with them an Advent booklet, a Presbyterian pen and an invitation for Mom or Grandma to the Ladies Ecumenical Christmas Celebration. Thank you to Paulding Schools for this outreach program in which the students participate. The future looks good when we see these students.

*"What a terrific group of 6th grade students."*



Again we are asking for donations of hats, scarves and mittens as well as underwear, socks and long pants for students at the local schools. We changes our focus some years ago when on of the schools asked for dry clothing to help keeps kids warm after falling in puddles or spilling food trays. Thank you, again, for your help.

The tree format has changed this year, but the need is still there. Just put your items in the cute little wagon by the small tree in the hall.

*School*  
**SOCKS & UNDERWEAR**







# A Voice in the Midst of Silence

Now it was our first day, a debrief in Granada and some of my team and I decided to go and explore what the market had to offer in the town square. We spent a couple hours just shopping around at the different stands and tables. The girls

I was with stopped at a table for a while and I continued to look around. Now at this time I was wearing my Detroit Tigers Baseball hat, and if you don't already know, Baseball is actually the national sport of Nicaragua, which is pretty dang cool. And at the table next to where the girls were, one of the locals who I quickly realized was mute, (Referred to as Nicas) motioned me over and pointed to my hat and started motioning that he played baseball. And so in what I would call very broken sign language, we had a conversation for 10 minutes about baseball. We then left and did some more looking around, and in my mind, I figured I would never see the man again.

Well I was wrong and have never been more joyful in being wrong. Later on as we were walking back to our hostel, he recognized me and came up and gave me a hug. I was honestly surprised, but so ecstatic that he felt we made a good enough connection to call me out and give me a hug. He then started to explain that he not only was mute, but also deaf and the pointed to heaven and then to his heart and then praying hands and wanted us to pray over him right there. And so we prayed for healing for restoration of his hearing and speech. He somehow knew we were Christians and would pray for him, and there is so much joy in that.

Over the next couple days of our time in Granada we got to know our new friend who is named Juan and got to know his story and about how when he was little and living on the streets, an American missionary took him in and taught him American Sign Language and poured into him and his faith journey. He then began to take us around town and tell us stories about each of the homeless people lying on the side of the streets and asking us to go and pray for them right then and there.

I was absolutely blown away by this man. He is a deaf and mute guy who is filled with so much joy, taking us, a group of missionaries around his community telling us the stories of his people and taking us to pray over them. That's not normal, but so amazing! We also then asked him to join us for all squad worship one evening. I wasn't sure what that experience would be like for him being that he could not hear. But as we were all singing praises to the



most high God, I look over at Juan and he just has his hands raised and crying. I then had tears in my eyes as I was overcome by the joy and the presence of the Holy Spirit in that place and in Juan's life.

*"An excerpt from the blog  
of Andrew Trausch"*

Now while we prayed multiple times over Juan that God would restore his hearing and voice, we never saw that actually happen. But I do believe that God has given Juan a much larger voice than any one of us could have. God gave him a voice in the midst of his silence through the amount of love and care he has for the disabled in his

city. God gave him a voice for the people that can't speak up for themselves. God has given him a heart to tell their stories to us and take us to pray for them. It is in that, that he indeed has a voice and a beautiful voice at that.

## Prayer Requests:

1. This month is all squad month which means all 40 plus people all living together and in that, sickness has been going around a lot. So please pray for health amongst us all.
2. Please also pray for my squad mates who have yet to meet their next financial deadline that is coming up in like a day or two. Please pray that the Lord provides for them so that they are able to continue to stay on the mission field.

Taken from Andrew Trausch's blog while he is on his "World Race" mission trip. 11-21-16

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



Sunday School 9:00  
Praise Music: 10:15  
Worship Service 10:30

## First Presbyterian Church

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[www.firstpresbyterianpaulding.com](http://www.firstpresbyterianpaulding.com) (new website)

**[firstpresbyterianpaulding.com](http://firstpresbyterianpaulding.com)**

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

