



# Among Friends

DECEMBER, 2020



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR



### Greetings

The Christmas season is upon us and the number one question that I ask and the number one question that others ask me is this, "What do you want for Christmas?" Some people are hard to buy for while others are easy to buy for. Gwen is easy, she wants everything!!

But what if we asked a different question? What if the answer meant so much more than what we purchase from Amazon? What if the question we asked was this, "What does God want for Christmas?" Wouldn't that make Christmas so much more meaningful? Wouldn't that make how we celebrate this season so much different?

I saw a church sign that posed that very question, "What does God want for Christmas?" The answer, "Look in the mirror!"

***For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.***  
(John 3:16)

So, what does God want?

First, he wants us to love him the way he loves us. ***For God so love the world!*** This Christmas, put God first in your life.

Second, He wants us to accept Jesus as our Savior. He wants us to believe in his Son! ***...that he gave his one and only Son. That whoever believes in him...*** God sent His best to us that first Christmas. Shouldn't we give Him our best this Christmas?

Third, God wants us to have eternal life. ***...shall not perish but have eternal life.*** God wants us to spend forever with him!

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**JANUARY**

**Newsletter  
Deadline**


**December 22**

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## From Our Pastor's Desk (continued)

This is a true story about a nine-year-old boy who lived in a rural town in Tennessee. His house was in a poor section of the community. The local church had a bus ministry that come knocking on his door one Saturday afternoon. The boy came to the door and greeted the pastor. The pastor asked if the boy's parents were home. They were away for the weekend and the boy was home alone. They went into the living room and sat down on an old, worn sofa. The pastor asked him where he went to church. The boy told the pastor that he had never attended church in his entire life. The pastor said, "Well, there is something more important than going to church. Have you ever heard the greatest story ever told?" Then the pastor proceeded to share the Gospel with the boy. The boy's heart began to melt and when the story ended and the pastor asked, "Would you like to receive this free gift from God?" The boy replied, "You bet I would!" The pastor and the boy knelt down on their knees and the boy accepted Christ as his Savior. As they stood up, the pastor asked the boy if he would like to be picked up for worship the next morning. "I sure would," answered the boy.

The next morning, after arriving at the church, the boy just sat there clueless as to what was going on. Soon the ushers walked to the front of the sanctuary and picked up




shiny, metal plates. The men walked up and down the aisles passing the shiny plates. All of a sudden it hit him what was taking place. The people were giving money to Jesus. The boy remembered what Jesus had done for him and he wanted to give to Jesus also. He searched in his pockets, but he couldn't find anything to give Jesus. By this time the offering plate was being passed down his row. With a broken heart he grabbed the plate and held on. Finally, he let go. His eyes remained glued to the plate as it was passed back and forth until it made its way to the back of the sanctuary.


Then the boy had an idea. That little nine-year-old boy, in front of God and everyone, got up out of his seat and walked to the back of the sanctuary. He grabbed the usher and asked if he could hold the plate once more. Then he did the most amazing thing. He took the plate, sat it on the floor and stepped into it. As he stood there, he lifted his head and said these words, "Jesus, I don't have anything to give you today...BUT ME! I give you me!"

This Christmas, shouldn't we give God what he wants? Look in the mirror and give God what he wants. After all, it is his Son's birthday!!

***In His love,  
Diane***



***Frank and I wish all of you a most wonderful  
Christmas season!!***



# MISSIONS

across the street &  
around the world



Our drop-off center had a busy season with 626 boxes received this year. This is just a few less than last year. We understand that many centers were a lot lower in numbers this year but God provides. There were several churches dropping off that had never used our center before and one church that was a first-timer in collecting boxes. Our Kids Club was able to pack 25 boxes using your donations of items over the past year. Thank you to those who worked as volunteers at the center. Looking forward to next year.

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor God's gift of Jesus Christ by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

Watch the weekly bulletin for more information on this offering. Envelopes will be made available for your donation.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

### ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Our winter lesson series is entitled "Call in the New Testament" and focuses on God's call in stories from the New Testament. December lessons from the book of Matthew look at the heritage of Jesus, His birth, the witness of the Magi and John the Baptist's call to people to repent. All are welcome to join us for Bible study and discussion. We meet in the sanctuary at 9:45 in order to practice social distancing.

### CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL:

The Children's Sunday school class is studying parables are written in the different gospels. We meet in the basement at 9:45 a.m. each week. The class is also holding a fundraising event to benefit the Heifer Project. The lofty goal is to raise enough to provide an "ARK" which supplies bees, sheep, cows, oxen, water buffalo, pigs, goats, ducks, alpacas, fish and a community ark vet kit.

## ON-LINE SERVICES

We continue to have online worship which will be recorded during the worship service on Sunday morning and will be available sometime Sunday afternoon. We are providing this online service for the people who don't yet feel comfortable being in large groups and we respect your decision. Also, we ask that if you are sick, please stay home.

((( ONLINE WORSHIP )))

Click Here

[www.friendshippresbyterianchurch.weebly.com](http://www.friendshippresbyterianchurch.weebly.com)

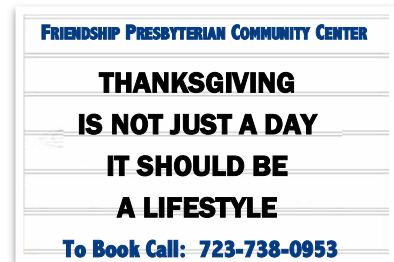
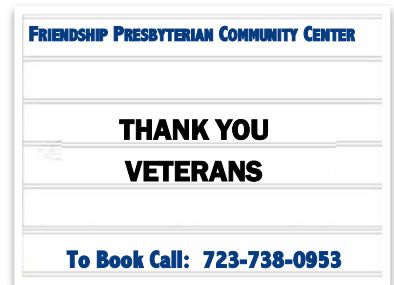
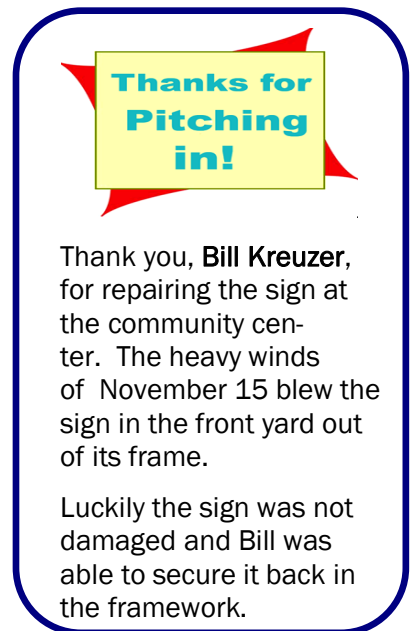
## SPECIAL DATES AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 6**                      **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
- Communion and Worship Service, 11:00 a.m., Sunday school at 9:45 a.m., Worship Center
- December 9**                      **FPC Presbyterian Women Meeting,**  
7:00 p.m., Community Center, The meeting will be hosted by Cindy Cross and Michelle Whitehouse. Join us for Bible study, a business meeting, some Christmas fun, and refreshments. Bring a wrapped “white elephant gift.” All women of the church are welcome!
- December 13**                      **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
- Worship Service,** 11:00 a.m., Sunday school at 9:45 a.m., Worship Center
- Last day to order poinsettias for the sanctuary for Christmas.
- December 20**                      **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
- Worship Service,** 11:00 a.m., Sunday school at 9:45 a.m., Worship Center
- December 21**                      **FIRST DAY OF WINTER**
- December 23**                      **Bell Ringing** for the Salvation Army, Giant Eagle. Sign up sheet located on the table in the vestibule.
- December 24**                      **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service,** 6:00 p.m., Worship Center
- December 25**                      **CHRISTMAS DAY**
- December 27**                      **Worship Service,** 11:00 a.m., Sunday school at 9:45 a.m., Worship Center. Rev. Willard Morse will lead the service.
- December 31**                      **NEW YEAR’S EVE**

## LOOK FOR THE SIGN!

Submitted by Evelyn Vargo

*When driving past the Community Center don't forget to watch for the signs of encouragement.*

**Thanks for Pitching in!**

Thank you, **Bill Kreuzer**, for repairing the sign at the community center. The heavy winds of November 15 blew the sign in the front yard out of its frame.

Luckily the sign was not damaged and Bill was able to secure it back in the framework.

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Friendship Presbyterian Church congregational meeting was held following the worship service on November 22. Rev. Jeff Curtis served as moderator.

- **Election of Elders:** Evelyn Vargo and Michelle Whitehouse (Outgoing elders are Bill Kreuzer and Ruth Keith. Those still serving are Michele Lagnese, Jeff Cross, Doris Allison and Wendi Vukson. Reach out to your elders if you have questions or concerns,
- **Auditors for 2021:** Bill Kreuzer, Nancy Natili
- **Nominating committee:** Jeremy Whitehouse, Ruth Keith and a member of session
- **Committee Reports**
  - ◆ **Facilities** - Bill Kreuzer: Two lawnmowers were acquired in 2020; both buildings were power washed and the fire extinguishers were checked. The sign at the Community Center and the lighting on the Worship Center sign need to be checked.
  - ◆ **Worship, Outreach and Welcome (WOW)** - Ruth Keith: Christmas Eve Service scheduled for 6:00 p.m., The ABBA Christian Center is using the Community Center on Sunday mornings.
  - ◆ **Christian Education:** Adult and Children's Sunday school classes are held at 9:45 a.m. All are welcome!
  - ◆ **Finance Committee:** The Presentation of 2021 Budget and the Pastor Terms of Call for 2020 was discussed. The budget will remain the same as 2020 with the exception of salary increases provided to Pastor Whitman and Sue Datt by the Session.
  - ◆ **Presbyterian Women** - Ruth Keith: Projects that are ongoing include school kits, health kits, Dress for Success and Meals on Wheels.
  - ◆ **SR Community Nursery School** - Cindy Cross: Classes held on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. There are 12 students this year. FPC Presbyterian members will be reading to the kids sometime soon.
- **Old Business:** None
- **New Business:** A general reminder to lock doors when exiting was issued to all who possess keys to one or both buildings after the front and side doors of the Worship Center were found to be unlocked recently.
- **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 12:16 p.m. Closed with prayer by Rev. Curtis

## CHRISTMAS PRESENCE

*Amid the secular trappings of the holidays, we can lose sight of the true meaning of Christmas, until we lament with Charlie Brown, "Isn't there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about?"*

*These reminders call us back to where it all began — in the heart of God.*

*"The giving of gifts is not something [people] invented. God started the giving spree when he gave a gift beyond words, the unspeakable gift of his Son."*

—Robert Flatt

*"Who can add to Christmas? The perfect motive is that God so loved the world. The perfect gift is that he gave his only Son. The only requirement is to believe in him. The reward of faith is that you shall have everlasting life."*

—Corrie ten Boom

*"The great challenge left to us is to cut through all the glitz and glam of the season that has grown increasingly secular and commercial, and be reminded of the beauty of the One who is Christmas."*

—Bill Crowder



# Prayer List

*“Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord.”  
James 5:16*

Anne D.  
April and Todd  
The Alben Family  
Jane Allison  
Carly Atkisson  
Zachary Barto  
Candy Boulanger  
Kayla Brundige  
Martie Cooper  
Ruth Cooper  
Cooperstown  
Congregation  
Kay Curtis  
Bessie Datt  
Heather Datt  
Winnie Davis  
Jim Dickey  
Mark Doerr  
Blanche English  
Jennifer Gilliland  
Donna Grossman

David Hall  
Kimberly Harrison  
Nancy Huntington  
Timothy James  
Jennie Jamieson  
Rev. William Jamieson  
Graham Larimore  
Landry Lawson  
Lisa Leach and Family  
Ed Lind  
Joe Lowers  
Will McCoy  
Kevin Michael  
Willard Morse  
Randy Morgan  
Jessie Myers  
David Parker  
Jon Richards  
Bill & Chris Schroeder  
Micheal Scott  
Helen Taggart

Joe Vivelo  
Seth Vogan  
Jeremy (God will know which one).  
Our military at home and abroad  
Persecuted Christians around the world,  
Alpha Omega (SR)  
Pregnancy Center  
Feed My Sheep Food Cupboard  
Beaver Butler  
Presbytery  
All those who have been impacted by COVID19

## OUR COUNTRY, OUR WORLD

## WHY ADVENT?

Waiting can be hard, and not just for children. But I do love Advent: this four-week time when the Christian church prepares for Christmas.

*Maybe I like Advent so much because it involves active waiting, not thumb-twiddling. It is a gift the church offers the world, to be active (which isn't the same as busy) in ways that open our hearts — and the hearts we touch — to the true meaning of Christmas.*

*Mother Teresa said, “At this Christmas when Christ comes, will he find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving others with God’s own love and concern.”*

*When I take time during Advent to remember in prayer and with gifts of money and time those who have less food than I do, those who are lonely, those without a home; when I pause to share love with a child or an elder, or gratitude for a healthcare worker, pastor or teacher; when I wait for justice to replace oppression but, while I wait, find ways to work for that result ... the Spirit’s warmth fills my waiting heart. I am ready to welcome Jesus.*

—Heidi Mann



# DECEMBER

## BIRTHDAYS

Bessie Datt, 12/7  
Damien Frampton, 12/7  
Cindy Cross, 12/9  
Donna Grossman, 12/10  
Nancy Natili, 12/28

## REMEMBER OUR FRIENDS IN NURSING HOMES



Bessie Datt  
Orchard Manor  
20 Orchard Dr.  
Grove City, PA 16127

Jessie Myers  
Grove Manor  
435 North Broad Street  
Grove City, PA 16127



Helen Taggart  
Orchard Manor  
20 Orchard Dr.  
Grove City, PA 16127



## ANNIVERSARY

Jeremy and Michelle  
Whitehouse, 12/13  
Paul and Donna Yanosy,  
12/30



**JUST FOR FUN**

**LET IT snow!**

Create a winter wonderland with this fun craft.



**What you need:**

- Glass jar with lid but no label
- Laminated photo (that will fit in the jar)
- Small plastic Christmas trinkets
- Hot or waterproof glue
- Container with spout
- 1 cup distilled water
- 3 tsp. glycerin
- Glitter

**What you do:**





1. Unscrew lid and flip jar upside down. Glue the photo and trinkets to the inside of the lid, standing upright.
2. In a container, mix water and glycerin. Pour the mixture into the jar, leaving space at the top.
3. Spoon in some glitter.
4. When glue is dry, attach the decorated lid tightly. Shake the jar to see “snow” swirl and settle.

































**WHITE AS SNOW**

Jesus, our Savior, came to earth to purify sinners.

*Directions: Figure out which path through the puzzle is correct. Choose one to try, starting at the first picture under the “Path” box. Follow each picture’s directional cues to see if the words make sense when placed in order in the blanks below. If not, try a different path until you figure out the Bible verse.*

 MOVE →    
  MOVE ↑    
  MOVE ←    
  MOVE ↓

PATH 1	PATH 2	PATH 3	PATH 4	PATH 5	PATH 6
 for	 give	 come	 together	 around	 after
 self	 into	 settle	 eternal	 thanks	 forgive
 God	 LORD	 says	 without	 Christ	 warmth
 love	 sins	 scarlet	 other	 light	 praise
 red	 star	 white	 snow	 winter	 peace

↓ EXIT

“ \_\_\_\_\_ now, let us \_\_\_\_\_ the matter,” \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ . “Though your \_\_\_\_\_ are like \_\_\_\_\_ , they shall be as \_\_\_\_\_ as \_\_\_\_\_ ....”

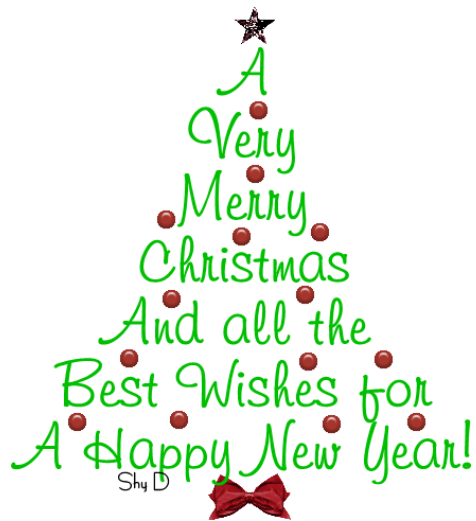
ISAIAH 1:18, NIV

Answer: Path 3; come, settle, LORD, sins, scarlet, white, snow





**FRIENDSHIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
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**SUBMITTED BY  
HEATHER DATT**