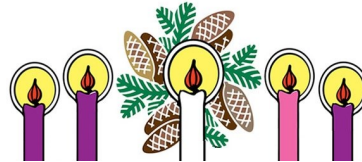




Among Friends

DECEMBER, 2021

An Advent Message From Our Pastor



Greetings,

As we begin our Advent journey, I want to focus on the small candles that represent what Christmas is all about.

The first candle on the advent wreath is the candle of HOPE. Until Jesus came, we had no hope.

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope.

Romans 15:4

Christmas is HOPE!

The second candle on the advent wreath is the candle of PEACE. The peace we get from the world is temporary and dependent on our circumstances. The peace that comes from the Lord can remove all worry and distress from our hearts and minds. The peace of God is stronger than the worries and fears of this world.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.
John 14:27a

Christmas is PEACE!

The third candle on the advent wreath is JOY. Do you want to experience joy? Christmas is the time of the year we celebrate the most wonderful gift ever given—Jesus. God has a gift for you; it is the joy that you unwrap when you focus on Jesus.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation.
Psalm 51:12

Christmas is JOY!

The fourth candle on the advent wreath is LOVE. Christian love comes from God. Christian love reflects God. Christian love proves

that we know God. Show others the love of Christ. Share Christ

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Pastor's Message
- 2 Online Worship Link
- 3 What's Happening at FPC
 - Missions Update
 - Sunday School Update
- 4 Inter-Presbytery Leadership Program
- 5 Joys and Concerns
- 6 Second Saturday Concert
- 7 Just for Fun



JANUARY

**Newsletter
Deadline**

December 28

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



SPECIAL DATES IN DECEMBER

- 2nd Sunday of Advent, December 5
- 3rd Sunday of Advent, December 12
- 4th Sunday of Advent, December 19
- First day of winter, December 21
- Christmas Eve, December 24
- Christmas Day, December 25,
- New Year's Eve, December 31

Deadline for
JANUARY
submission of
information is
DECEMBER 28

Submit to:
Sue Datt via

"Snail Mail"
324 S. Main St.
Harrisville, PA 16038

E-mail:
suedatt70@gmail.com

Phone:
724-991-5863

From Our Pastor's Desk (continued)

with others.

*God is love.
I John 16*

Christmas is LOVE!

The center candle on the advent wreath is the CHRIST candle. It is Christ who gives us hope and peace and joy and love. Most of all, focus on Christ as we prepare for the coming of our Lord.

*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."
Isaiah 9:6*

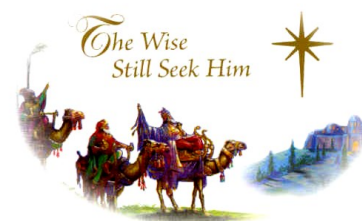
Christmas is CHRIST!

My prayer for all of you this holy season is this:

"O God of hope, peace, joy and love. As Mary and Joseph welcomed you into the world...now help us welcome you into our lives. Give us courage to **HOPE**; strength to seek **PEACE**. Fill our spirits with your **JOY** and our hearts with your **LOVE**. Through Jesus Christ, the Lord of all. Amen!"

Frank and I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas. Be just like the wise men and seek Jesus!

In His love,
Diane



DID YOU KNOW?

Submitted by Ruth Keith

Did you know? That Christmas carol that we love to sing, "Joy To The World" comes from the talents of three different people: Issac Watts, Lowell Mason, and Georg Frideric Handel. Watt(1674-1748) who wrote some 750 hymns penned the lyrics based on Psalms 96 and 98. The tune that we use today was written by Mason (1792-1872). He was an American composer. He published the tune in 1839 and revised it in 1848, calling it "Antioch". Mason attributed the tune to Handel(1685-1759), whom Mason greatly admired. Handel's "Messiah" inspired the music, but Mason did the arrangement. Joy to The World! the Lord is come!

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FPC?

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Adult Sunday School: Justice, law and history are the themes of our winter lessons based on Old Testament scriptures. In December, we will explore how David demonstrates justice by showing kindness to Mephibosheth, how Isaiah describes a reign of justice and righteousness through the Messiah, and how Nahum shows God's justice to Judah's enemies. Join us at 9:45 a.m. for a time of Bible study, discussion, and sharing.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL:

The children's Sunday school class is studying Genesis and how it applies to their lives. We meet in the church basement at 9:45 a.m. each week.



MISSION UPDATES



DRESS FOR SUCCESS: We will try to do a donation in the spring. Shoes, workplace wear, jewelry as well as "dressier" workplace wear are needed. Donations can be left in the coatroom.



OPERATION SHOE BOX: Thank you to all who packed a shoe box and/or came out to receive shoeboxes this year. Our drop-off center is part of the Butler-Armstrong Counties district. 10,462 shoeboxes were collected in this district this year. This figure does not include any boxes donated on the Pack A Box program conducted online. This is an increase from 9096 boxes collected in 2020 and that number does include the online boxes. Friendship Presbyterian packed 58 boxes, 28 of which were packed by Kids Club. Thank you, kids!

We received 404 boxes at our drop-off center. This is a decrease from recent years. In the past few years we have been receiving boxes from the Grove City area which did not have a convenient drop-off center in that area of Mercer County. A center was opened this year at Grace Methodist Church in Grove City. We are happy that they now have a center to use but we did miss our Grove City friends.

2022 Operation Shoe Box dates will be November 14-21.



CHRISTMAS FAMILY: Thank you to all who generously provided gifts for our 2021 Christmas family. Thank you to Joan West who arranged for a family through the Slippery Rock Area Elementary School guidance counselor.

FRIENDSHIP PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN MEETING

Presbyterian Women will meet at the community center December 8 at 7:00 p.m. for their monthly meeting and to enjoy some Christmas fellowship. There will be a "white elephant" gift exchange for those who wish to participate. Hostesses for the evening will be Cindy Cross and Michelle Whitehouse.



Inter-Presbytery Leadership Formation

Education & Enrichment for Ruling Elders in the Presbyterian Church (USA)

IS GOD CALLING YOU TO FURTHER LEADERSHIP?

If you are a Ruling Elder, God might be calling you to preach or become more involved in pastoral service. Redstone Presbytery, along with four neighboring presbyteries, will be continuing the training program to prepare possible "Commissioned Pastors" for the future.

New students may begin in the January of 2022. The program includes both classroom and hands-on experiences, and you will receive training and mentorship that will help you grow as a leader in Christ's Church.

The Spring Term of 2022 is January 8, February 5, March 5, April 4, and May 7. Course in the morning will be Reformed Worship and Sacraments with Rev. Dr. Peter Bower. Workshops are being finalized.

If interested, please contact the Beaver Butler Presbytery office at 724.452.7515 or Executive Presbyter Skip Noftzger at Redstone Presbytery for descriptions and details at 724.837.6767.

More information and an application can be found at this link.

[Microsoft Word - IPLF Information2 Registration doc.](#)
redstonepresbytery.org



LOOK FOR THE SIGN!

Submitted by Evelyn Vargo

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



MY FIRST CHRISTMAS IN HEAVEN

Submitted by
Phyllis Cooper

*I see the countless Christmas trees,
around the world below
with tiny lights like heaven's stars, re-
flecting on the snow.
The sight is so spectacular, please wipe
away your tears,
for I am sharing Christmas, with Jesus
Christ this year.*

*I hear the many Christmas songs,
that people hold so dear,
but the sounds of music can't
compare, with the Christmas choir here.
I have no words to tell you, the joy their
voices bring,
it's far beyond description, to hear the
angels sing.*

*I know how much you miss me,
I see the pain within your heart,
but I am not so far away. We really
aren't apart.
So be happy for me, loved ones, you
know I hold you dear,
And be glad I'm spending Christmas
with Jesus Christ this year.*

*I send you each a special gift, from my
heavenly home above.
I send you each a memory, of my undy-
ing love.
After all "Love" is the gift more
precious than pure gold.
It was always most important, in the
stores Jesus told.*

*Please love and keep each other,
as my Father said to do,
For I can't count the blessings,
or the love he has for you.
So have a Merry Christmas, and wipe
away those tears,
For I'm sharing Christmas with Jesus
Christ this year.*



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
Bonnie and Angie (of Georgia)
Woman from Michigan
The Alben Family
Jane Allison
Carly Atkisson
Zachary Barto
Kayla Brundige
Tyler Burson
Martie Cooper
Phyllis Cooper
Ruth Cooper
Jeff & Cindy Cross
Kay Curtis
Heather Datt
Jim Dickey
Mark Doerr
Blanche English
Jennifer Gilliland

Donna Grossman
David Hall
The Family of Arthur Hollabaugh and his Cooperstown Family
Timothy James
Rev. & Mrs. William Jamieson
Graham Larimore
Landry Lawson
Ed Lind
Joe Lowers
Will McCoy
Kevin Michael
Willard Morse
Randy Morgan
David Parker
Bernie and Linda
Bill & Chris Schroeder
Micheal Scott
Cindy Solman’s Mother and Sister

George Sonnet & Family
Steven, Lindsay and Ike Trate
Joe Vivelo
Seth Vogan
Joan West
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

SAVORING SIMPLICITY

Clare of Assisi, who lived in the 1200s, founded the Poor Clares, a community of simplicity and service. “O holy poverty,” she wrote, “to those who possess and desire you, God promises the kingdom of heaven and offers ... blessed life!”

These ancient words still ring true. We can’t serve both God and money, says Jesus, adding that it’s a matter of the heart. But before selling your house, consider small steps for embracing simplicity and blessing: Trade an afternoon of shopping for coffee with a friend who’s struggling. For guests, prepare a pot of chili rather than a multicourse meal. Donate good-quality items you’re not using.

Living simply is challenging, especially at the holidays, but the rewards are simply amazing. “The challenge of simplicity is a magnet to the human spirit,” writes Dale Evans Rogers. “Much of the beauty of Christmas lies in its challenge to look further, deeper, until we find its secret in the heart of God.”



BIRTHDAYS

Damien Frampton, 12/7
Cindy Cross, 12/9
Donna Grossman, 12/10
Jesus the Christ, 12/25
Nancy Natili, 12/28

ANNIVERSARY

Donna and Paul Yanosy, 12/30



THE SATURDAY CONCERT

NOVEMBER 13

On November 13, we hosted our Second Saturday Concert featuring the music of **Ron Knapp**. This was Ron's second appearance at "Second Saturday." He provided a variety of Country gospel and traditional gospel music. The audience enjoyed singing along to familiar toe-tapping tunes. Ron honored Dave Walker with the song, "Proud To Be An American." Dave was named this year's Butler County Veteran of the Year.



Salute to Dave Walker



Butler Veteran's Day Parade.

COMING ON DECEMBER 11

This month's Saturday Concert will be held on December 11 and will feature the music of the **Ken Mettrick**. Ken has been entertaining the Friendship Presbyterian family since we were three individual churches. We look forward to this evening of gospel and Christmas music, testimony and fellowship..



Spread the news to friends and family. Refreshments start at 6:30 p.m. and the concert at 7:00 p.m.



PRAYER

Submitted by Ruth Keith

This is one of my favorite prayers from *The Complete Book of Christian Prayers*. It was written by Toc H.

Slow me down, Lord! Ease the pounding of my heart by the quieting of my mind. Steady my hurried pace with a vision of the eternal reach of time. Give me amidst the confusion of my day the calmness of the everlasting hills Allow me to know the magical restoring power of sleep. Teach me the art of taking one minute vacations....of slowing down to look at a flower, to pat a dog, to read a few lines from a good book. Let me look up into the branches of the towering oak and know that it grew great and strong because it grew slowly and well. Slow me down, Lord and inspire me to send my roots deep into the soil of life's enduring values that I may grow toward the stars of my greater destiny. Amen

JUST FOR FUN

What do you get if you cross Santa with a detective?
Santa Clues

What did the gingerbread man find on his bed?
A cookie sheet

Which one of Santa's reindeer has bad manners?
Rude-olph

Where did the mistletoe go to become famous?
Holly-wood

What do monkeys sing at Christmas?
Jungle bells, jungle bells

What did one snowman say to the other snowman?
Do you smell carrots?

What's red, white and blue at Christmas time?
A sad candy cane

What do elves learn at elf school?
The ELFabet

What did Mrs. Claus say when she looked up in the sky?
Looks like rain, dear (reindeer)

What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations?
Tinsel-itis

How much did Santa pay for his sleigh?
Nothing, it was on the house

Why is it so cold at Christmas?
It's in Decem-brrrr

Why are Christmas trees bad at sewing?
They always drop their needles

Knock Knock! Who's there? Mary! Mary who?
Mary Christmas to all and to all a good night!





FRIENDSHIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
877 Franklin Road
Slippery Rock, PA 16057



**SUBMITTED BY
HEATHER DATT**