

# THE FORECASTER

A publication of the First Presbyterian Church of Youngstown, Ohio.

First Presbyterian Church  
201 Wick Avenue  
Youngstown, Ohio 44503  
Phone 330-744-4307

Rev. M. Payne Warner, Pastor & Head of Staff  
Prof. Larry Harris, Director of Music/Organist  
Dave Todd, Property Manager  
David Pratt, Financial Secretary  
Patty Schuley, Church Secretary

## From the Pastor's Desk

Happy New Year!

It shouldn't be surprising to read these words, since we begin the new church year on the first Sunday of Advent. Due to holidays and the torturous route our mail takes, you may be reading this before or after that date, but the sentiment still stands.

In this season of Advent, a time where, we are waiting with anticipation for what is to come, I want to focus on Joy.

Traditionally, Joy is one of the candles or weeks of Advent, but in this time and in these days, I believe that Joy is something we could all use more of.

Joy is not simply happiness. Being happy is something that comes and goes. It can be fleeting or short-lived. Joy is something else entirely. Joy is something that has deep roots. Someone can have a deep and abiding sense of joy that permeates everything going on in their life, even if the realities of life can mean they are dealing with the high and low emotions that come with being human.

We know, even though we are waiting with anticipation, that the victory has been won. Christ is King. Life wins over death. God reigns triumphant. This truth should be our foundation, set on the bedrock of God. If God is for us, who can be against us? Let us live our lives joyously, living as examples of the joy that God brought and brings into the world through the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus the Christ.

Merry Christmas and Happy holidays,

Rev. M. Payne Warner

### December 2024

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## From the Session

### The Vision Statement of the First Presbyterian Church of Youngstown

*The First Presbyterian Church, an increasingly diverse faith community,*

- *opens its heart and doors to all,*
- *serves everyone with compassion,*
- *fosters spiritual growth through scripture-based worship and study*
- *works for racial and social justice for all; and,*
- *models the principles of Jesus' life and teachings in the world.*

### SESSION UPDATE

#### Clerk's Corner

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Youngstown met on Tuesday, November 19, 2024. We had a first look at the proposed 2025 Budget. There are still some outstanding questions which will be addressed for the next meeting of Session.

The Session approved:

- dates for the celebration of the Sacrament of Communion for 2025. Communion will be served on the first Sunday of each month, with some months having additional dates for significant liturgical days. Watch for a full calendar in your January Forecaster.
- a special called meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, December 8, 2024 after worship to hear the report of the Nominating Committee and to vote on the 2025 Terms of Call for the Pastor.
- a request from the BEG Committee for up to \$50,000.00 to replace the HVAC (air conditioning) system. The committee is researching bids now.

Rev. Warner announced that his theme for Advent this year is Joy to the World.

Arrangements are being made in January for the Session to meet and discuss where we have been for the last 225 years as the First Presbyterian Church of Youngstown, and where we are going as we vision for the future.

Session ended its time discussing where they find hope, how they share hope, and do they see hope in the church. It was a reflective way to end the meeting.

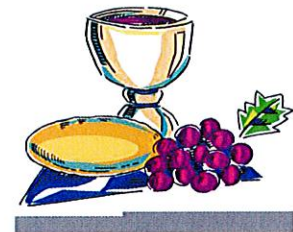
The next meeting of Session will take place on Tuesday, December 17, 2024 at 7 p.m.

-- Patricia L. Gruver, Clerk of Session

#### COMMUNION DATES FOR 2024 AND EARLY 2025

In order to prepare for the celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, the following dates have been approved by the Session:

- Sunday, December 1 – First Sunday of Advent
- Sunday, January 5, 2025
- Sunday, February 2, 2025



#### **Special Called Meeting of the Congregation**

The Session has called a special meeting of the congregation on **Sunday, December 8, 2024** following worship. The purpose of this meeting is to hear the report of the Nominating Committee and to vote on Pastor Warner's 2025 Terms of Call.



# Mission and Community Ministry

## Christmas Joy Offering

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we lift up the past, present, and future leaders of the church. The **Christmas Joy Offering** has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. God has blessed the Church with incredible leadership in every time and place, and those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years.

You can make a donation to the **Christmas Joy Offering** in any of these ways:

1. Through FPCYO by check or cash.
2. Text CHRISTMAS JOY to 91999.
3. By credit card online to [pcusa.org/give/christmasjoy](http://pcusa.org/give/christmasjoy)  
(if giving online, be sure to name our congregation so our church receives credit for the gift.)

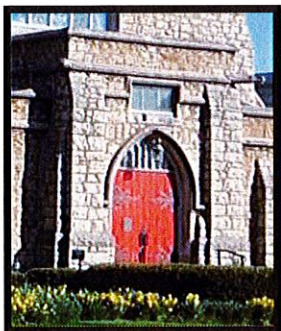
The **Christmas Joy Offering** will be dedicated on Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please help us celebrate the perfect gift of the birth of the Christ child, through your gifts to those in need.

## Volunteers Needed

The Mission Committee's "Winter Fest" for our neighbors at Gutknecht Tower will take place on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. This event will be held in Helen Chapel from 2:00-4:00 p.m. It will be an afternoon of cookies, cocoa, Bingo and fellowship. You can help in several ways:

- Donate cookies (bring to church on Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>)
- Help set up and decorate
- Join us that day to welcome our guests

If you can help, please call Sandy Benson at 330-503-4407.



## MISSION COINS REMINDER

We continue to collect coins for the **Red Door Café and Food Pantry at St. John's Episcopal Church**. Your loose change helps provide a meal and groceries to our community neighbors in need. You can help by depositing your coins in the collection plates on Sunday mornings. You may write a check and put in the the memo – RDC.

THANK YOU,  
The Mission Committee



## First Presbyterian Women

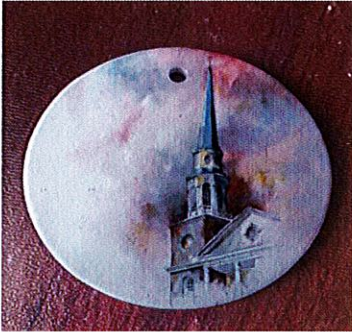
### Upcoming Events

You are invited to join us for any of or all of our activities.

Join us as we celebrate the season. Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at Piccadilly Parlour, 114 S. Broadview Street, Canfield, Ohio at 5:30 p.m. We will order from the menu. Bring a wrapped ornament for gift exchange. Reservation due by December 3<sup>rd</sup> to Margie - 330-507-2345.



### CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS



The 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee is selling ceramic Christmas ornaments with all proceeds going to the church general fund. These ornaments are 3 inches in diameter with a picture of the church on one side and the wording "First Presbyterian Church 1799-2024" on the other side. The cost is \$5.00 per ornament. They can be shipped at an additional cost of \$13.00. Shipping will be through UPS. The ornaments are a **limited edition**, only 100 are available. We received preorders at the anniversary luncheon and will continue taking orders until the ornaments are sold out. If there are any still available, they will be sold after worship beginning Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. Please see Patti Keenan to place an order. You may also email her at [pbk1010@gmail.com](mailto:pbk1010@gmail.com) or call Patti at 330-770-0999.

### CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

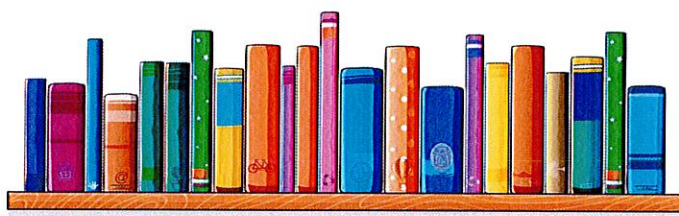
Poinsettias have been ordered to place on the chancel for Christmas in honor and memory of members, their family, and their friends. If you would like to purchase poinsettias in memory or in honor of someone, **the cost is \$20 per pot**. The deadline to purchase poinsettias is **December 18<sup>th</sup>**. Please call Patty Schuley, our church secretary and be sure to give her the specific information so it will be printed in the special insert for the Christmas Eve service.



## FPC Book Club DECEMBER

We have reservations at the Piccadilly Parlor in Canfield at 11 A.M. on December 3<sup>rd</sup> for our December Meeting where we discuss the books we will read for 2025.

All are welcome to join us. Call Becky Murray 330-360-7526 for more information.



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### Advent Sunday School and Adult Forum

**Advent Sunday School:** During Advent, we will be exploring the topic of joy through the lens of the 300+ year old hymn, *Joy to the World*. *Joy to the World* was written by the English minister and hymnist Isaac Watts in 1719, and is based on Psalm 98. We will be looking at joy through different mediums, as well as diving into discussions about what joy means. You are invited to join us in our Sunday School hour from 9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. for discussion and light refreshments.

**Adult Forum - The Rescue Mission:** On Sunday, December 15, a representative from the Rescue Mission will be joining us to discuss the work of the Mission, current needs, and the new facility that was completed several years ago. This discussion will have two parts. First will be a session of our Adult Forum during the Sunday School hour from 9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Light refreshments will be served. This will be followed by a Moment for Mission during the worship service. We hope you join us to learn about the long-serving and vital ministry in our community.



## Prayer List

Please keep these members of our congregation, our family and friends, our neighbors, our mission partners, and people around our nation and world in your prayers.

- The residents of the Realty Building & International Tower
- The people of the Ukraine
- The people of Israel and Gaza
- Our Mission Partners including Mahoning Valley Association of Churches, Wick Transition Housing, Community Education & Schools (with Taft School), Ethiopian Children (EECMY), Protestant Family Services, CityScape, Needle's Eye, RAHAB Ministries, and Meals on Wheels, the City of Youngstown, our community, and for one another.
- NuShawn Moore (Jackie Rogenski's daughter)
- Carol Reed
- Patrice Hight (Carol Reed's sister)
- Lila King (Lynn Toman's mother)
- Debbie Osman (Chet Cooper's sister)
- Cheryl (Lynn Toman's sister)
- Ron Strasik (Rena Scharf)
- the Sarver family (Lynn Toman)
- Caleb (Barb Altman's grandson)
- Mary MacGregor Neff (Wilma Miller)
- Barb Altman
- Dave Todd
- Pat and Bob Fitch
- Lynne Pebworth
- Leeann Comstock
- Martin Goss
- Rick Benson
- Bridget Benson
- Cindy Milicich
- Janis DePasqua
- Rev. Jim Ray
- Mary
- Jackie Rogenski
- Julius Balogh
- Arlene Wright
- Marien Sue Martin
- Tim Keenan
- Marion Kohler
- Victor Wan-Tatah
- The Pickett family
- Terry Gregory

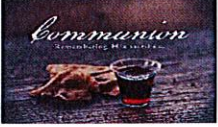

## December Birthdays



12-1	Audrey Frost	12-11	Doug Goodman
12-3	Annie Oton Amanor	12-15	Chet Cooper, Jr.
12-4	Elfie Bulkey	12-15	Matt Mineo
12-5	Connor Wittenauer	12-18	Doug Doyle
12-8	Judy Smith	12-19	Sean Barron
12-10	Veronica Burnette	12-19	Ben Bestic
12-10	Karen Cooper	12-21	Barbara Altman
12-10	Shannon Flauto		



# DECEMBER 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Worship Service 11 am Communion Sunday 		5:30-7 pm – NAMI Yoga – HC 6 pm Scouts	11-1 pm Citizens Circle – Parlor 11:30-1 pm – Lunch Time Learning – HC	MFHC PT 9 am – 2 pm PT 3 pm – 8 pm	1:30-2:30 pm – OL – YSU Fitness – HC 7 pm Scouts Lock In – HC	7:30 – Midnight Scouts Lock In – HC 2:00-4:00 pm – Gutknecht Tower Winter Fest – HC
Scouts Lock In till 10 am Worship Service 11 am	6 pm – Mission Mtg - Zoom	5:30 pm – FPW XMAS Party – Piccadilly Parlour 6 pm Scouts	6 pm – Finance Mtg – Pastor’s Office		11-1:30 pm –OL - XMAS Party - HC	11-2 pm – Hats Off to Seniors XMAS Luncheon - HC
Worship Service 11 am 11 am-6 pm – Naomi’s 1 <sup>st</sup> Birthday – HC		2-3:30 pm – OL – Women in History – HC 6 pm Scouts 7 pm – Session Mtg – Library	12:00-2:00 pm – Blind Vets Xmas Party – HC	5 pm Clinic	8-1 pm – OL – Living Well – HC	9 am – Cub Scout Lock In
9 am Cub Scout Lock In till 10 am Worship Service 11 am		<b>OFFICE CLOSED AT            NOON</b> CHRISTMAS EVE Worship Service 7:30 pm	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 			
Worship Service 11 am		<b>OFFICE CLOSED AT            NOON</b> 