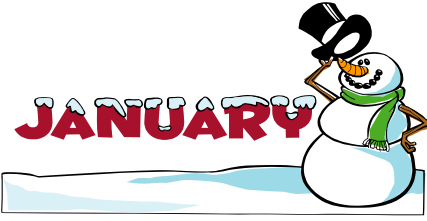


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WARREN

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Happy New Year!

50-YEAR MEMBERS OF 2024



HOMETOWN HOLIDAYS

Church Growth, and Christian Education committees welcomed over 200 community members to a warming station at FPC for the Warren Hometown Holidays event. Families enjoyed hot chocolate, cookies, and a chance to write letters to Santa.



THE SP  RE

January

ISSUE 2025 VOLUME 1 JANUARY 2025

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WARREN

CAROLING AT LAKE VISTA AND ELASTIC BAND



LOVE TREE 2024



FPC members and friends purchased gifts for 80 students in need at Willard School. Thank you for your continued generosity!



Happy New Year Happy New Year Happy New Year

Alternative Gift-Giving Report 2024

“The joy of brightening other lives, bearing each other’s burdens, easing others’ loads and supplanting empty hearts and lives with generous gifts becomes for us the magic of Christmas.”

(William Carey Jones)

It is with deep gratitude that the Alternative Gift-Giving Committee announces the wonderful response to this year’s mission:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Animal Welfare League - \$1585 | FPC Wish List – Sound System - \$2175 |
| Second Harvest - \$530 | Water for the People - \$690 |
| FreeThree - \$600 | Free Indeed - \$850 |

Grand Total - \$6440

WOW! The FPC family of faith and friends of FPC once again demonstrated their generosity and spirit of giving. On behalf of the six organizations that benefitted from this year’s mission, the AGG Committee thanks everyone who participated. Happy New Year!

GOOD STUFF YOU NEED TO KNOW

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION Our next celebration of Communion will be *Sunday, January 5, 2025*, during our regular 10:00 a.m. worship service. The Deacons will also be collecting for the **2¢-A-Meal offering** on *Sunday, January 5, 2025*.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE If you or someone you know would like a visit or assistance from the Deacons or Pastor, please call the Church Office.

LISTEN TO US EVERY SUNDAY MORNING at 10:00 a.m. on 1570 AM or 97.7 FM or watch us on Facebook at First Presbyterian Church of Warren.

LOOKING FOR A DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE? The January/February issue of the Upper Room is now available in the hall by the Church Office. These free magazines are compliments of your Board of Deacons. Large-print copies are also available.

SANCTUARY FLOWER CHART – The Sanctuary Flower Chart for 2025 is in the Church Office. Please reserve your date or dates now for 2025.

MIRIAM ESTHER CIRCLE will discuss Lesson 3 and 4 of “Let Justice Roll Down” **Thursday, January 2**, at 11:00 a.m. in the Parlor. Lunch will follow at 12. Please bring a bag lunch.

SPIRE DEADLINE will be **Wednesday, January 22**. Please email your photos and articles to Kathie at kathietrowbridge@fpcwarren.org.

DE-DECORATE THE CHURCH Join us on **Sunday, January 5, after worship**, as we pack away the Christmas decorations. Afterwards, lunch will be provided in Fellowship Hall.

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Miriam Esther decorated the Parlor



BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE





Deacons' News

Happy New Year 2025! The Deacons met on December 16 and discussed budget items, goals, and projects for the upcoming year. As we welcome 2025, we continue to focus on the needs within the congregation, community, and the world. Your support allows us to continue our various mission activities and projects.

The generosity of our congregation was exemplified with their donations to the 2-Cents-a-Meal monthly collection. The total for 2024 was \$1068.37. The proceeds provided financial support for Bread for the World and Warren Family Mission. Both non-profits strive to eliminate food insecurity.

During the month of December, the Mission Committee purchased a washer and dryer for Someplace Safe with a generous Sheely Foundation grant given to the FPC Board of Deacons. Four boxes of household items were donated to the YWCA- The Wings. This Committee also had a global view by designating funds to some of the missions listed in the *Presbyterian Giving Catalog*. Funds were provided for Hygiene Kits, Health Education, for Mothers and Newborns, and Families of Chickens for farmers in developing nations. The Mission Committee always tries to improve living conditions both in our communities and around the world.

The Congregational Care Committee delivered twenty poinsettias to our Special Care Members. Many of the poinsettias were delivered while Christmas Caroling. We would like to thank the Craft Group for the "Pocket Angels," too. Also, if you have a January birthday, you should soon receive your birthday treat in the mail.

The Fellowship Committee was involved with the various Advent activities during December. Please remember there are donuts, bagels, and coffee before and after worship; please stop and enjoy fellowship during our cold winter months.

The Grocery/Lunch Distribution took place on December 17. The Fellowship Hall was a lively place. Fifty-six lunches were served, and everyone enjoyed a delicious holiday meal of ham, mashed potatoes, green beans, salad, and strawberry cobbler. During the luncheon, the students from the Chickadee Preschool provided entertainment for our guests' enjoyment. After lunch, 47 carts full of groceries were distributed. Appreciation and gratitude were expressed by all as they left with bags of food for their holiday tables.

As we welcome the New Year, may the light of God's hope shine upon your path and bring you peace and joy. Happy New Year!

Sarah Hirt Buzulencia- Moderator of the Deacons



CONGRATULATIONS to Mary Ann Bromley on her retirement as Chaplain with Ohio Living. Mary Ann worked at the retirement community of Lake Vista in Cortland since 2014.

CONGRATULATIONS to Sara and Kyle Pressley on the birth of their daughter, Townes Adriana. The proud grandparents are Chris and Mary Chuirazzi.

A member of the church, who previously had been attending services regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks, the pastor decided to visit him.

It was a chilly evening. The pastor found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his pastor's visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace and waited.

The pastor made himself at home but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning logs. After some minutes, the pastor took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember, and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone then, he sat back in his chair, still silent.

The host watched all this in quiet contemplation. As the one lone ember's flame flickered and diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and dead.

Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. The pastor glanced at his watch and realized it was time to leave. He slowly stood up, picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow, once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it. As the pastor reached the door to leave, his host said with a tear running down his cheek, "Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery sermon. I will be back in church next Sunday.

I did not write this story, once upon a time it came across my Facebook feed. We don't know why this man stopped coming to church. Did it start out as a legitimate reason like sickness or work that kept him away and then morphed into something that just got comfortable as he stayed home?

Did he not see, as the story might suggest, how the church sustained him in the same way that heap of burning coals fed the lonely ember? Perhaps he didn't realize that, in his absence, he was not benefitting from others; but he was not contributing to the welfare of the community either.

In the era of online streaming, pastors sometimes ask, "Are we making it too easy for people to stay home." Maybe that is how many see it. Some people might like to be home where they watch in their PJs, or maybe they watch later – forward through the boring part? Before long, that person may not be involved in the work of the church or contributing any kind of offering. Will it lead to people leaving the church altogether?

I answer that question with the bold assurance that our streaming is necessary and that it must continue beyond the pandemic. The equipment we have and those who generously give of their time and talents to capture, broadcast, and record our services bring the community to those who, for whatever reason, are not in our midst. What a blessing it is to have our homebound members seeing and hearing what goes on here each week. Our members who have relocated are with us from far away places, as are my own parents and Audwin each week.

Those of you who are online can attest to the fact that participation is happening. Not only are people signing in as we have asked for attendance purposes, but they are also saying good morning and welcoming others online in their chats. They comment on beautiful music, on people being recognized for certain things, or something said or done during the service that was meaningful. Just coming into view and waving during the passing of the peace gives those at home a feeling of presence as though they were here in this place. They have told me so.

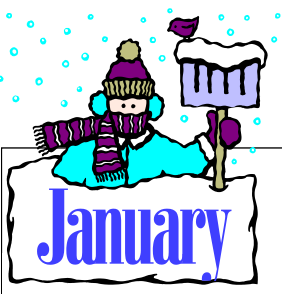
I fully support those who join us virtually. For me, the story of the lonely ember isn't so much about being at the building. It's about the lack of participation in the life and work of the church. For that reason, I truly hope that we are all taking the time to reach out to one another. I often talk about community. As a faith community, we have a responsibility to one another. Thankfully, we live in a time where there are so many ways to connect with and communicate with each other and to come together for the common good as we serve our God. May we strive to be part of it all and may we all be preachers of that fiery sermon. *Pastor Kelly*

FPC January Birthdays

- 01/05 Acea Lipscomb
- 01/07 Hannah Buzulencia
- 01/09 Paige Odille
- 01/10 Andrea Nadenichek
- 01/11 Linda Scala
- 01/12 Jayda Hayes
- 01/14 David Snyder
- 01/15 David Fitzgerald
- 01/16 Hayley Buzulencia
- 01/20 Jim Dennis
Marilyn Pogue
Candy Falkner
- 01/21 Lane Hurd
- 01/26 Melanie Box
- 01/28 Judy Ward
Chris Chuirazzi
- 01/29 Melanie Vlad
- 01/31 Linda Brodell
Benton Beerbower



If we have overlooked anyone's birthday, we apologize. Please contact the Church Office, so that we may update our records.



FPC JANUARY 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 New Year's Day Church Office Closed	2 9:00 am Prayer Talk, FH 11:00 am Miriam Esther, P	3 Church Office Closed	4 11:00 am AA, MC
5 Communion/2¢ A Meal 8:30 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am De-decorate the Church/Lunch	6 Epiphany of the Lord 10:00 am OA, P 5:30 pm Girl Scouts, B 7:00 pm AA, MC	7 9:30 am Al-Anon, MC 5:00 pm Girl Scouts, FH 7:00 pm NA, MC	8 5:00 pm Someplace Safe, B 6:00 pm NAMI Meeting, P 6:30 pm AA, MC 7:00 pm CE Meeting 7:00 pm Church Growth	9 9:00 am Prayer Talk	10 Church Office Closed	11 11:00 am AA, MC
12 8:30 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 11:15 Bell Practice	13 10:00 am OA, P 5:30 pm Girl Scouts, B 6:30 pm BGA Meeting, FH 7:00 pm AA, MC	14 9:30 am Al-Anon, MC 7:00 pm NA, MC	15 1:00 pm Crossroads Be-reavement Grp., P 6:00 pm Relay for Life, FH 6:30 pm AA, MC	16 9:00 am Prayer Talk 12:00 pm Dessert & Dia-logue Women's Study, P 7:00 pm Worship Mtg.	17 Church Office Closed	18 11:00 am AA, MC
19 8:30 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 11:15 am Bell Practice	20 MLK Day 10:00 am OA, P 3:00 pm Deacons' Meeting, FH 5:30 pm Girl Scouts, B 7:00 pm AA, MC	21 9:30 am Al-Anon, MC 11:00 am Free Lunch & Grocery Distribution 5:00 pm Finance Mtg, P 5:00 pm Girl Scouts, FH 7:00 pm NA, MC	22 Spire Deadline 5:00 pm Someplace Safe, B 6:30 pm AA, MC	23 9:00 am Prayer Talk	24 Church Office Closed	25 11:00 am AA, MC
26 8:30 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 11:15 am Bell Practice	27 10:00 am OA, P 5:30 pm Girl Scouts, B 7:00 pm AA, MC	28 9:30 am Al-Anon, MC 7:00 pm NA, MC	29 6:30 pm AA, MC 7:00 pm Session Mtg, FH	30 9:00 am Prayer Talk	31 Church Office Closed	

