

Winter 2017-2018

November 29, 2017

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Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

It is hard to believe that the Season of Advent is upon us. It was truly only a few years ago when I began to understand the significance of Advent in regards to the Christian faith. While it does lead up to the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, it symbolizes so much more for us. I appreciate these words: "The season of Advent, a season of waiting, is designed to cultivate our awareness of God's actions - past, present, and future. In Advent we hear the prophecies of the Messiah's coming as addressed to us – people who wait for the second coming. In Advent we heighten our anticipation for the ultimate fulfillment of all Old Testament promises, when the wolf

will lie down with the lamb, death will be swallowed up, and every tear will be wiped away. In this way Advent highlights for us the larger story of God's redemptive plan." (taken from *The Worship Sourcebook*)

The Season of Advent is an opportunity for us to reflect upon our lives and faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Christ came into the world - the Word became Flesh and dwelt among us. Immanuel – God is with us. Jesus came into this world to "do life" with us – to chat, to eat, to hang out, to dwell, to be in relationship with us! And while Christ's presence remains with us through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, a

continued on p. 11

Created for Relationship

Ashland University Students Attend Alpha



We were created for relationship.

This truth finds its root at our beginning (Alpha), in Genesis 1 & 2.

Everyday, Jake and I encounter college students who were created for relationship. Yet, we live in this world where sin destroys and shame fuels isolation. Like many of us, **college students live in the tension of both deeply desiring and fearing vulnerable relationships.**

continued on p. 2

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Relationship continued from p. 1

In his book, *The Soul of Shame*, Curt Thompson speaks of the remedy for our isolation: "But it is in the <u>movement toward another</u>, toward <u>connection with someone who is safe</u>, that we come to know life and freedom from this prison." Safe relationships are the connections we long for.

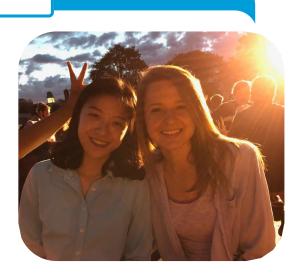
This fall, we had the opportunity to facilitate an Alpha course with two student leaders. Let us tell you about Daniel, who continually showed up to Alpha due to the work of God and your faithful prayers. With each Tuesday night meeting, Daniel slowly began to share stories of his past experiences with faith. He grew up in a Catholic school before turning away from faith in the 7th grade. Daniel isn't a believer, but every week he fully engaged, offering thoughtful comments about Jesus; he seemed to have a growing respect for a Christian faith that was different than the one he encountered when he was younger. Daniel has shown an appreciation for the Alpha leaders that have welcomed him and his beliefs, no matter where they fall on the spectrum of faith. One thing is certain --God has not given up on Daniel.

Sarah Bardall with AU Students Priya (below) and Dawn (above)

As Champions of the Gospel to college students, we all share the same heart: to lead students to



deeper relationships with God and others. *Will* you continue to pray for Daniel?



Let us <u>continue to champion</u> the real connection students long for in relationship with God and others. Here are some practical ways to do that this winter:

Pray: Pray for non-believing students like Daniel, Priya (below), and Dawn (above) to have eyes to see the truth about their need and about Jesus.

Sit: Do you have any home projects that AU students could help complete in order to earn money for the 2018 Jubilee Conference? We'd love see more students be able to attend the conference. As we recruit, we see the need to help students find ways to raise support!

Go: Join us on the evening of Saturday, December 16th as we share a multi-ethnic meal, prepared by international students in the fellowship hall at FPC!

Thank you for championing college students for Christ!

Your Fellow Champions, Sarah Bardall, Director of CCO Partnership, and Jake Blasdel CCO XD Resource Staff, Greater Ohio Region

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Birthdays Manifel Mani

DECEMBER

Amira Boswell
Donna Harrop
Betty Garrett
Jacqueline Blasdel
Alysa Frcka
Dotty Tennis
Roslyn Lerback
Isabel Brinker
Sean DeLong
Sydney Webb
Tony Smetana
Teresa Hudson
Jolynn Lopeman
Emily Travis
Jim Hooker
Shiann Conley
Bill Latham
Andrew Lerback
Alex Jarvis
Brett Miller
Rochelle Tabler
Lucille Ford

JANUARY

ULINUT	11/1
7th	Elizabeth Richmond
8th	Al Holdren
10th	Tom Mason
13th	Robert Beer
	Zane Blasdel
15th	JoAnne Kash
24th	Faye Baum
26th	Gabriella Carver
29th	Sloan Brune
30th	Kaitlynn Barnett
	Brenda Potts
	Amanda Robles
31st	John Potts

JARY
Jaxson Dew
Anne Downs
Debbie Reidy
Janice Carr
Carroll Schweyer
Tommy Foley
Jane Sponsler
Bill Dravenstott
Dorita Ramage
Aaron Mason
Josiah Mason
Jean Mason
Lana Potter



Church Closings and Cancellations:

Please tune into WNCO FM 101.3 or AM 1340 for news of cancellations due to weather. It will also be listed on their websites and any of the other Clear Channel stations in the area.



Our church website will also list any closings on our home page **ashlandfpc.org**

Deepest 1*m/pal*

To the family and friends of

Richard S. Bonesteel

who passed away on November 7, 2017 A big THANK YOU to everyone who helped make our annual Harvest Dinner a success again!! From the ones who planned, shopped, baked, decorated, prepared food, served dinners and beverages, washed dishes and tablecloths, took down tables, took food to shut-ins, etc., etc.

It all comes together every year and we are truly blessed to belong to such a giving congregation. About 100 people enjoyed the delicious turkey dinner. Blessings to you all -The Harvest Dinner Family



Financial Reports

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FINANCE REPORT - OCTOBER 2017

Contributions/Receipts	<u>OCT. 2017</u> <u>YTD</u>	BUDGET 2017 YTD	OCT. 2017 YTD	
Pledges	\$161,355.34	\$176,763.34	\$159,951.00	*
Non-Pledged Contributions	\$34,417.04	\$37,500.00	\$28,974.20	
Loose Offering	\$2,625.36	\$4,166.70	\$2,408.01	
Prior Year Pledges	\$625.80	\$1,000.00	\$1,825.00	
Church Use Donations	\$750.00	\$5,416.70	\$5,600.00	
Whiting Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
ACCF – Program	\$13,294.10	\$10,500.00	\$13,334.85	
ACCF – Building	\$7,654.50	\$5,625.00	\$7,870.00	
ACCF - Mission	\$2,751.50	\$1,875.00	\$2,721.25	
Interest/Investment Income	\$75.79	\$12.50	\$46.19	
Miscellaneous Income	\$2,584.53	\$2,083.30	\$1,048.54	
Total Receipts	\$226,133.96	\$244,942.54	\$223,779.04	

Expenses

Personnel	\$173,229.37	\$180,210.98	\$171,472.88
Health Insurance	\$12,095.90	\$12,413.30	\$12,413.30
Property	\$14,692.33	\$17,333.30	\$14,411.00
Property Insurance	\$7,620.00	\$8,250.00	\$7,620.00
Utilities	\$14,753.82	\$18,166.50	\$15,673.11
Finance	\$208.90	\$216.80	\$449.46
Per capita assessment	\$5,171.40	\$5,240.00	\$5,239.80
Session Expenses	\$350.15	\$1,250.00	\$235.00
Worship/Music	\$2,234.55	\$2,526.70	\$1,642.79
Office	\$7,705.55	\$8,458.40	\$7,497.09
Discipleship	\$2,290.59	\$2,458.30	\$1,466.63
Stephen Ministry	\$84.89	\$416.70	\$27.85
Mid Week Gathering	\$329.87	\$833.30	\$0.00
Formational Prayer/Training	\$421.00	\$833.30	\$38.00
Evangelism / Outreach	\$11,000.00	\$9,500.00	\$12,000.00
Fellowship / Gatherings	\$556.51	\$1,916.70	\$475.70
ACCESS / Community Care	\$803.39		
Pastor Discretionary Fund	\$798.29	\$833.30	\$569.85
Total Expenses	\$254,346.51	\$270,857.58	\$251,232.46
EXCESS INCOME / EXPENSES	(\$28,212.55)	(\$25,915.04)	(\$27,453.42)

* Includes prepaid pledges of \$26,580.

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FIRST PRESBYTE	RIAN CHURCH
Balance Sheet (UNAUDITED)
Consolidated - C	October 2017

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ASSETS	
CASH ACCOUNTS	
Sutton Bank Checking Acct	\$27,776.55
JanneyMontgomeryScott LLC	172,159.18
PayPal	599.00
-	Concerning of the Concerning o
Subtotal Cash Accounts	200,534.73
TOTAL ASSETS	\$200,534.73
LIABILITIES	
Restricted Funds	
Property Purchase	\$31,810.00
Prayer Shawl Ministry	270.00
Memorial & Special Gifts	210.00
Nancy Donley Estate	3,197.63
Helen McClellan Estate	23,217.07
Kitchen maint. Liab. a/c	708.18
StephenMin./HealingCare	
	2,026.24
Jesus/StainedGlassWindows	2,249.55
Music/Choir - H Webb Mem.	770.00
Bev Bixler Mem./St. Min.	670.00
Dean McBurney Memorial	150.00
Carl Armstrong Memorial	659.00
Kitchen Liab.a/c/Luttrell	25,429.55
S Steere Mem. (Choir)	500.00
Subtotal Memorial & Special Gifts	59,577.22
Special Mission Gifts	
CWS / CROP	50.00
DomesticViolenceSafeHaven	188.18
Subtotal Special Mission Gifts	238.18
Youth Ministry	
ACCF - Johnson	2,086.50
Subtotal Subtotal	93,981.90
WITHHELD PAYROLL TAXES	
F.I.C.A.	354.49
Medicare	82.89
Federal Income Tax	459.15
State Income Tax	110.70
	114.68
City Income Tax Employer's Share FICA	354.49
Employer's Share Medicare	82.89
Subtotal Withheld Payroll Taxes	1,559.29
	1,000.20
OTHER LIABILITIES Pre-Paid Pledges	600.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES & Restricted Funds	
	96,141.19
Fund Balance	\$104,393.54
TOTAL FUND BALANCE	104,393.54
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	\$200,534.73

Christmas Joy Offering Thanks Be to God for this Indescribable Gift

2 Corinthians 9:15

Paul speaks to the Corinthians of a generous gift that has been promised, and illuminates the impact of generosity. God's generosity is first lifted up as source and amplification, when partnering with human generosity. Gifts that we give are from God, then multiplied and increased by God as we give.

The Christmas Joy Offering celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, the truly "indescribable gift," as well as the gifts of church leaders – past, present, and future. Church workers in need welcome the outpouring of generosity of the church, as they have been generous in service to it. Students in Presbyterian-related schools and colleges receive assistance as well, as they proceed to dedicate their lives to service the church.



Out of Gratitude We Give

Pew envelopes to receive your Christmas Joy Offering will be available until December 24 morning service. Watch for bulletin inserts, one of which will focus on assistance provided through the Board of Pensions to retired and current church workers. A second will share the impact of scholarships made possible for racial ethnic students being equipped for ministry.

If you would like to give with online, you can give directly at https://pma.pcusa.org/ donate/make-a-gift/gift-info/CJ999999/ or you can give through our website, ashlandfpc.org. Indicate that it is for Christmas Joy.

The Dad Connection: Becoming Fathers of Blessing

Fatherhood brings great responsibility and incredible opportunity. Lives will be shaped. How the father relates to the child lays the foundation for self-esteem, self-confidence, self-image, and so much more. Fathers are in many ways the craftsmen that lay the foundation upon which an entire life will be built.

This small group program is designed to help fathers of any age enrich the lives of their children and grandchildren by equipping men to better understand and function as Fathers of Blessing. It is a twelve -week program that helps fathers actively and intentionally bless their children, regardless of age.

The Dad Connection will meet on most Mondays, 6:30—9:00pm, January 22 through April 30. See calendars and our website for the specific schedule. The cost for materials is \$75 for FPC members, \$100 for nonmembers; scholarships are available upon request. Contact Pastor Mike for more details and to RSVP if you are interested in participating.

Advent Devotional 2018

FPC is interested in creating our own Advent Devotional for 2018. As you journey through Advent this year, take some time to jot down your thoughts, reflections, and prayers and share them with the office. Our goal is to use the gifts of our congregation for next year's booklet. We look forward to your submissions!





Christmas Worship Services

Christmas Eve Morning:

10:00am Coffee and Welcoming 10:30am Worship with Communion No morning Sunday school

Christmas Eve Night

7:00pm Worship - A family-friendly, blended worship with choir, praise band, and candlelight. This is the only evening worship on Christmas Eve. Communion will be celebrated during the morning Christmas Eve worship.

FPC encourages families to worship together; the nursery will not be staffed on Christmas Eve in the evening.

New Year's Eve:

Sunday, December 31 10:00am Coffee and Welcoming 10:30am Lessons and Carols Celebrate the story of Christ's birth through scripture and hymns

Congregational Meeting

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held after worship on **January 21**.





Take Jote: Sunday, December 31 is the last day the church can accept contributions for 2017. This year it is a Sunday, so the office will

be closed. Payments may be postmarked by December 31, put in the offering plate Sunday morning, or dropped off in an envelope through the mail slot on the church office door. You can also stop by on Thursday, December 28, 8:00am-3:00pm or Friday, December 29 before noon.

Warm Fuzzy Tree

Let's load up the tree in the narthex with warm and fuzzy mittens and hats for children again! These will be delivered to Associated Charities where the need always exists.



All-Church Thank You Reception Sunday, December 10

Join us after worship for refreshments in the lounge provided by the Finance Ministry Team to thank the congregation for their support of our church ministry.



Annual Wassail Reception Sunday, December 17

Stay after worship for cookies and wassail in the lounge hosted by the Worship Ministry Team. You are encouraged to provide cookies for this event and to share later at Kingston.



2:15pm Worship at Kingston Come to sing carols and enjoy cookies with the residents of Kingston.

Holiday Office Schedule:

Friday, December 22 office open until 12:00pm

Tuesday, December 26 office is closed

Friday, December 29 office is open until 12:00pm



Monday, January 2 office is closed

December

First Presbyterian Church of Ashland

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Presbytery Meeting, Christ PC, Canton
3 Advent I Hunger Sunday Communion	4 6:00pm Women's Group Book Study	5 10:00am Trustees PMS Holiday Hoopla Shadowbox	6 Reports to Session Due 10:00am Bible Study 1:30pm Prayer Shawl 6:30pm Praise Band 7:30pm Choir	7	8	9 Private Event in Fellowship Hall
10 Advent II All-Church Thank You Reception by Finance MT	11	12 1:00pm Organ Tuning 2:00pm Worship Ministry Team 8:00pm AA	13 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Praise Band 7:30pm Choir	14 9:00am Staff	15	16 Holiday Celebration with International Students
17 Advent III 11:30am Wassail Reception 2:15pm Worship @ Kingston	18 Monthly Newsletter Deadline	19 8:00pm AA	20 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Praise Band 7:30pm Choir	21 6:30pm Evangelism and Outreach Team	22 12:00pm Church Office Closes	23
24 Advent IV No Sunday School 10:30am Worship 7:00pm Worship	25 Christmas Church Office Closed	26 Church Office Closed 8:00pm AA	27 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Praise Band 7:30pm Choir	28	29 12:00pm Church Office Closes	30
31 No SS 10:30am Carols and Lessons Loud Sunday Offering Benefits Salvation Army						

January First Presbyterian Church of Ashland

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Church Office Closed—New Year's Day	2 Church Office Closed 8:00pm AA	3 10:00am Bible Study 1:30pm Prayer Shawl 6:30pm Praise Band 7:30pm Choir	4	5	6
7 Hunger Sunday Communion	8 6:00pm Women's Group Book Study	9 8:00pm AA	10 Healing Care Event Reports to Session Due 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Praise Band	11 Healing Care Event	12 Healing Care Event	13 Healing Care Event
14	15 Office Closed- MLK Day	16 8:00pm AA	17 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Praise Band 7:30pm Choir	18 6:30pm Evangelism and Outreach Team	19	20
21 Annual Congregational Meeting	22 Monthly Newsletter Deadline 6:30pm Dad Connection	23 8:00pm AA	24 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Praise Band 7:30pm Choir	25	26	27
28	29 6:30pm Dad Connection	30 8:00pm AA	31 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Praise Band 7:30pm Choir			

February

First Presbyterian Church of Ashland

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Hunger Sunday	5 6:00pm Women's Group Book Study 6:30pm Dad Connection	6 8:00pm AA	7 Healing Care Event Reports to Session Due 10:00am Bible Study 1:30pm Prayer Shawl 6:30pm Praise Band 7:30pm Choir	8 Healing Care Event	9 Healing Care Event	10 Healing Care Event
11 Communion	12 6:30pm PMS @ Cindy Click's Home 6:30pm Dad Connection	13 8:00pm AA	14 Ash Wednesday 10:00am Bible Study Communion	15 6:30pm Evangelism and Outreach Team	16	17 Possible Quarterly Session Meeting
18 2:15pm Worship @ Kingston	19 Presidents' Day Office Closed Quarterly Newsletter Deadline	20 8:00pm AA	21 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Praise Band 7:30pm Choir	22	23	24
25	26 6:30pm Dad Connection	27 8:00pm AA	28 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Praise Band 7:30pm Choir			

Come! continued from p.1

day is coming when Christ will once again be physical present with us when He returns to establish God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. This is God's promise to us!

Advent is an opportunity for us to renew our hope, trust, faith and

expectation in this promise – the promise of salvation made available to creation in Jesus Christ – the good news that the kingdom of God has come. And so we wait, dream, and long with expectation for that day even as we pray "Come, Lord Jesus, Come!" May we each seize the opportunity to be drawn closer to the Lord and closer to each other throughout this season of anticipation. May we each reflect upon the past, present, and future blessings that God has poured out upon us, and may we extend those blessings to others.

As you experience the Lord in these many ways throughout this season, we also invite you to share your reflections, meditations, and prayers with us! Our desire is to create an advent devotional based upon the writings, reflections, artwork, and general creativity of our congregation. We look forward to hearing from you and seeing how God is at work in and through you this Christmas season.

May you each be filled with Christ's joy and peace this Christmas season.

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM \$10.00 each Due Sunday, December 10	
In Honor of:	
Given by:	
Please use one form per poinsettia. Return this order form by <u>Sunday, December 10th with your</u> payment to either the church office or place it in the offering plate. Checks should be made payat to the First Presbyterian Church and please put "Poinsettia" on the memo line. Thank you.	ole
FPC will no longer be delivering poinsettias to others. You are encouraged to take your poinsettia with you either after worship on Christmas Eve, or the following Sunday.	





Evangelism and Outreach Team (E & O)

Once known as "mission committee," the Evangelism and Outreach (E & O) is striving for more active involvement and commitment in the community, beyond merely allocating the budgeted mission dollars. While some activities may be limited to once a year (CROP walk, Warm and Fuzzy Tree as examples), several will be on-going, such as filling needs for ACCESS. Hunger Sunday, our monthly donations to the food pantry at Associated Charities, will continue to be encouraged, with greater emphasis on specific items as appropriate. Pleasant Hill Outdoor Center not only receives monetary support, but eagerly welcomes volunteers to help with mailings to campers and supporters. We are building stronger ties with Safe Haven Domestic Violence services, and planning to hold training for volunteers. Sending Spanish Bibles for women in Honduras and Dominican Republic with Tia Sponsler on her visits there will provide for many their first exposure to the written Word.

Current members of the team include Linda Hartzfeld, Barb Latham, Lana Potter, Ellen Saccomen, Becky Sheeks, and Tia Sponsler. Contact any of them if you would like to get involved.



Crop Walk 2017



<u>The totals for 2017</u>: 12 Congregations 75 Walkers \$6,815.00 raised

25% of funds raised is shared equally by St. Edward's Church Lunch Program, Emmanuel United Methodist Church Breakfast Program, the Salvation Army, and Helping Hands Food Pantry of Loudonville.

Compassion International Compassion Clippings

(Some gleanings from communications with Compassion kids sponsored by FPC members)

7 year-old Tania in Bangladesh writes that her favorite day of the week is Friday when she can travel with her parents. Playing dolls with her friends is her favorite activity.

Juana from Guatemala wrote the following: I am wearing a corte (Guatemalan typical skirt), which is the costume of my town. The corte we wear is made in a pedal loom, the men of my town work it out and our guipil (typical blouse), is hand-knit. I want you to know that my mom can knit guipiles with different kinds of embroidery. Almost all the boys wear pants now a day, but in my case I just wear pants for physical education.

I want to tell you about my last medical checkup. It was a good report, but I have caries. My medical checkup was done here at the Heraldos del Rey Child Development Center. My mom came with me to my medical checkup because I always have the support of my mom. I thank my tutor because she gives me the talks about how to wash my hands, how to brush my teeth, how to bathe, she also gives me information about the common illnesses and how to eat healthy. I like fruit especially watermelon and pineapple. The vegetables I like are carrots and squash, I like them in beef broth. Do you like watermelon? Do you like carrots? I will always thank you and ask you to pray for my family. I wish great blessings in your spiritual and material life. Thank you for the letters you sent me. Bye for now with a smile for you.

Compassion International is a child-advocacy ministry that pairs



compassionate people with those who are suffering from poverty. The ministry releases children from spiritual, economic, social, and physical poverty. The goal is for each child to become a responsible and fulfilled adult. www.compassion.com



Our church family to stayed after worship to help decorate our church for the season of Advent. Kids did crafts and cookie decorating while others worked on the decorations. A light soup lunch to be shared by all. It was a great way to begin the Advent season together! Special thanks to Ellen Saccomen and Rochelle Tabler for organizing this event.

Cindy Click and Sophia Barrows Decorate Cookies



Rochelle and AJ Tabler



First Presbyterian Church of As 320 Church Street Ashland, OH 44805	shlandPRSRT STD Non Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAIDAddress Service RequestedAshland, Ohio Permit No. 258
First Presbyterian Church Growing Inward & Going Outward	To:
Phone: 419-289-6205 Email: office@ashlandfpc.org Facebook: FPC Ashland Instagram: fpc_ashland	
www.ashlandfpc.org	Winter 2017-2018
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