



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ASHLAND

THE JOYFUL NOISE

VOLUME 26, ISSUE 1

DECEMBER 28, 2017

TWO SMALL GROUPS BEGIN IN JANUARY

THE HEALING POWER OF FORGIVENESS

Forgiveness is a process that is very difficult and may take a long time. This eight-week small group lead by Sandra Vilela is designed to help people journey through that process, equipping them to find emotional, relational and spiritual healing through forgiveness. It's a journey that will help participants accept God's forgiveness, forgive others and even forgive God.

The Healing Power of Forgiveness emphasizes the necessity of extending forgiveness after the healing of a deep wound.



This group 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 \$50 for FPC members, \$65 for non-members; some scholarships are available upon request. Contact Pastor Mike for more details and to RSVP if you are interested in participating.

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 non-members; scholarships are available upon request. Contact



REMOVING THE GREENS



Removing of the Greens

Please stay after worship on January 7 and help take down the Christmas decorations. The more hands, the lighter the work! Contact Ellen Saccomen for more details.

January



REV. MATTHEW SKOLNIK ACCEPTS CALL AS GENERAL PRESBYTER

At the December 2, 2017 gathering of Muskingum Valley Presbytery, Rev. Matthew Skolnik accepted the call and was elected to serve as General Presbyter.

Matt has served within our Presbytery bounds for the last 10 years, first at Northminster Presbyterian Church in North Canton and now at Warsaw First Presbyterian Church. Since Matt joined our Presbytery he has served in various leadership capacities including:

- Committee on Ministry member (now called Parish Elders)
- Response Team member and congregation/session moderator for a congregation in crisis
- Future Story group leader
- Israeli/Palestinian Conflict educator
- Journey ReMix facilitator

In addition, Matt has trained pastors in Egypt, has designed and lead an all day seminar on emotional wounds for the Presbytery of Chicago, annually is a guest lecturer at the Weatherhead School of Management at Case Western Reserve University, and teaches at the University of Mount Union.

By the direction of our Presbytery Council, Matt will continue to build on our foundation of Journeying with Jesus to Touch the World. He will also be walking with and systematically guiding the Presbytery as it seeks to more fully live into its vision of Making Disciple, Nurturing Faith, and Meeting the Needs of the Community.

Matt and his wife Vanessa Worley have two children and live in North Canton.



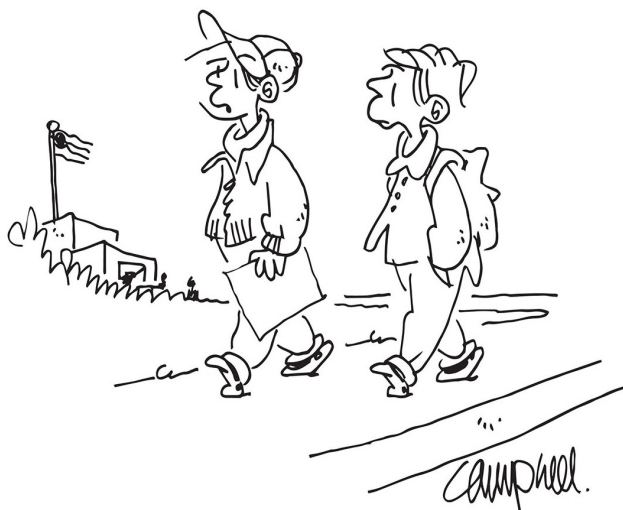
Dear Evangelism and Outreach Team,

Kate and I were looking through our finances this past month and saw your giving to us and The Navigators. Thank you so much for doing that! In light of our history, my family, and various friendships at 1st Presby, it means a lot to have you involved. In many ways, First Presbyterian has served as our home church in Ashland. We are grateful!

If possible, please continue to pray that the Lord gives us wisdom, strength, and a deep love for these students and grads. God seems to be doing something special at the University of Washington and in Seattle, but it's requiring a lot of wisdom, patience, and endurance.

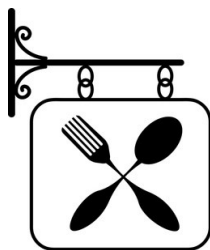
Thanks again... glad to be in it with you,
Keith and Kate Pepsny

In 2017, FPC supported Keith Pepsny, Navigator, through our Evangelism and Outreach Ministry Team. In April 2018, Keith's ministry will benefit from our Loud Sunday Special offering.



"I made a New Year's resolution to eat broccoli. If I can't stand it, I'll give it up for Lent."

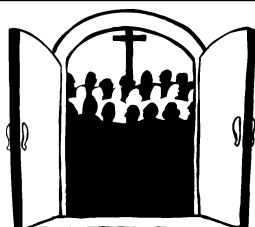
PRESBY LUNCH BUNCH: **Tuesday, January 16**



The Presby Lunch Bunch will meet at Tim Horton's on Tuesday, January 16, 11:30am. Please join us for food, fun, and fellowship. RSVP to Cora Walker by Sunday, January 14, 419-289-2316.

DATES TO NOTE!

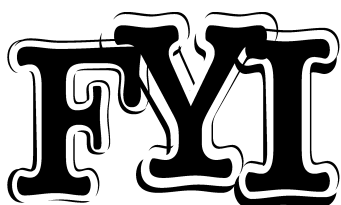
FPC will ordain and install our new officers for 2018 on **Sunday, January 7** during worship.



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

The business of the meeting will include:

- Approving the terms of call for Pastor Mike
- Electing representatives to the Nominating Committee
- Receiving the annual budget and any annual reports



• FOR YOUR INFORMATION •

Per Capita for 2018 is \$29.34.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSINGS

For the New Year:

Monday, January 1

Tuesday, January 2

Martin Luther King Day:

Monday, January 15



PUBLIC LECTURE AND WORKSHOP WITH DR. SUSAN GLISSON AND CHARLES TUCKER

JANUARY 30-31 (RESCHEDULED)
ASHLAND UNIVERSITY

Using Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's quote, "My enemy is someone whose story I haven't heard" as a touchstone, Dr. Susan Glisson and Charles Tucker, the co-founders of Sustainable Equity, will share stories of dialogue, understanding and trust within divided America. From a historic conviction in a cold civil rights case, passage and implementation of a statewide law requiring civil rights and human rights history curriculum in all Mississippi schools, to work with the City of New Orleans on Confederate monuments, and work with corporations such as Facebook, Glisson and Tucker have a diverse and substantial list of success stories of leading individuals and communities to examine their own attitudes and biases combined with the building of trust and respectful relationships.

Conversation about Historical Context in Confederate Monuments: Who Are We?

Tuesday, January 30th at 2:30pm in Eagle's Landing (Hawkins-Conard Student Center)

Public Lecture: No More Enemies

Tuesday, January 30th at 7:30pm in the Trustees Room of Upper Convo

Welcome Table Workshop

Wednesday, January 31st at 7:30pm in the Trustees Room of Upper Convo

These events are part of the Ashland University Symposium Against Indifference and co-sponsored by the Department of Religion and Ashland Center for Nonviolence. All are free and open to the public. For more information, see <https://www.ashland.edu/cas/ashland-center-nonviolence/events>

JANUARY

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ASHLAND

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	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 Ordination and Installation of Officers Removing the Greens	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 7:30pm Choir	11 Healing Care Event	12 Healing Care Event	13 Healing Care Event
14	15 Office Closed- MLK Day	16 11:30am Presby Lunch Bunch @ Tim Horton's 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 6:30pm Forgiveness	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 6:30pm Forgiveness	30 10:00am Worship Ministry 8:00pm AA	31 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Praise Band 7:30pm Choir			

EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH UPDATE

Jonathan and Gemma Donker are missionaries in Spain that received training through Healing Care Ministries here in Ashland. They and their three children moved to Spain this past year. FPC supported their ministry in 2017 through our Evangelism and Outreach committee. Here are some highlights from their last newsletter:

From our mission we were granted a six month period in order to get settled and adjust before continuing ministry full throttle. It has been nonstop, but we are settled now and the girls have adjusted well. We are so thankful for this.

In October we attended a mission conference with missionaries from different countries from Europe and the States. The main focus was church planting in Spain. There was a group of 80-90 people. People with a heart for the Lord, but a lot of them feeling discouraged. One of the missionaries said to us, "It is very discouraging to see after ten years of ministry just one person come to Christ." Another missionary couple has been in a town for more than 5 years doing ministry, but no one has shown any interest in the gospel. They feel alone there. As you may now, Europe is known as the cemetery of missionaries. This is why: it is a postmodern and post Catholic-Protestant society and the spiritual warfare is huge.

The question we could ask is: Is the Lord not doing anything in Spain or Europe? We are convinced that the Lord is moving in Spain in many ways that we cannot see, even through the politically tense situation. Maybe we don't know exactly what, but we cannot believe the lie of the enemy that we are alone and that the Lord has forgotten about us.

We had a great time at the conference, and we believe we were able to bring some fresh air from the Spirit to some of them. We had deep conversations, and several of them told us that

they want to be trained in what we have learned in Ashland, Ohio.

One of the missionary families at the conference, is from another European country. They have been in Spain for 6 years now. In these last two years, the husband has gone through a deep depression. The Lord has opened the door to start working in a deeper way with them. Gemma is meeting with the lady doing spiritual direction. Gemma is super excited to be a witness of how the Lord is meeting with her in the sessions and she can see a little bright light in her eyes already. The Lord is faithful! They also told us that they want to be trained in inner healing! As you may know, we have a vision for Europe, and the Netherlands and Belgium are the next places that we feel in our hearts the Lord wants us also to invest in. We believe that it is not a coincidence that this couple is Dutch.

You are also part of this! We want to thank you for continuing in prayer for us and with us! Please, keep praying for:

- For Júlia and Ona that they can be light in a school with no believers. Pray for protection for them.
- Pray for a small group we are trying to start with 4 families; that it will grow together and search God's will for this area.
- For the political situation in Catalonia. As you may know it is a moment of a lot of uncertainties and a lot of people is afraid. We feel peace knowing that the Lord is in control of this situation, but please pray for the elections of December 21st, that the will of the Lord will be done.
- The doors that the Lord is opening already for us to do His ministry. Pray for wisdom and discernment for how to continue to walk in His steps.
- For our financial situation, that the Lord will continue to provide to cover our needs.

We love you!

Jonathan, Gemma, Júlia, Ona and Eloi

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF ASHLAND**

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**TRANSFORMING LIVES
IN JESUS' NAME**

www.ashlandfpc.org

**NewsLetter
DEADLine**

**Monday
January 22**

A special end-of-the-year thank you to George Holmes, who has served as FPC's Food Dude for many years. George not only encouraged us to donate with his Food Dude messages, but he made sure our Hunger Sunday Donations were delivered to Associated Charities each month.

George has retired from his Food Dude duties and we thank him for his service.



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To:

January 2018

Happy New Year & Happy New Year

Associated Charities requests the following items:

Non-Perishable Needs:

Peas, Carrots, and Mixed Vegetables
Mac & Cheese
Egg Noodles
Crackers, Pop Tarts, Cookies, and Granola Bars
Jello or Pudding Snack Packs
Jelly- Grape and Strawberry
Tea Bags, Hot Chocolate and/or Coffee
Spaghetti, Noodles, and Spaghetti Sauce
Ketchup, Mustard, and Mayo

Non-Food Items:

Toilet Paper
Laundry Soap
Dish Soap
Deodorant-both male and female
Toothpaste and Brushes
Shampoo and Conditioner
Paper Towels



**HUNGER
SUNDAY**

January 7