

Waiting with Patience...

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Lana Potter
(bottom right)
hosted Diane Dai
(top left) at her
family's
Thanksgiving
Dinner



I speak a variation of one or more of these particular phrases on an almost daily basis: "I need you to be patient;" "Yes, but I would like you to wait a little bit;" "I will let you know when it is time;" "A few more minutes...please...just give me a few more minutes." I often speak them to a child who has one thing in mind: a snack, a show, a game, a bath, a trip, etc., etc., etc. My adult brain has a very specific image in mind when I request that a child wait with patience. It is a picture that envisions a child sitting quietly in a chair, or patiently finding something else to do until I finish whatever task might be preoccupying my mind and time. To a child, however,

patiently waiting is active waiting. It is filled with eager anticipation that at any moment they are going to receive their hearts' desire. It includes several reminders that they are still waiting, just in case one might have forgotten. Waiting with patience often holds a different meaning to an adult that it does a child.

Advent is the season of waiting. As Israel waited for the first coming of the Messiah, we now wait for the second coming of the Messiah. Even as I was writing this last sentence, I confess that it lacks the emotion and excitement that it warrants. My waiting upon the Lord can become too much like an adult-style waiting and not enough

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CCO Wraps Up the Fall Semester

The first semester has come and almost gone. As we reflect, we do so with grateful hearts at all of the ways that you have embraced the Coalition for Christian Outreach (CCO) ministry. We've had several church congregants regularly attend Chinese Church services on Saturday nights, invite students to events outside of church, and welcome students into their families for Thanksgiving. It is beautiful! Students are greatly blessed by your invitations and presence. Our hope is that as you reflect on your involvement with students, you'll be aware of how much their presence is a gift to you as well. It is our experience that **as we encounter, see, and come to know students, God works**

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Chinese Moon Festival



With new congregants at FPC comes new traditions. Chinese Moon Festival was celebrated at FPC on September 22. The Moon Festival is a very important Chinese harvest celebration in the fall that commemorates harvest much like Thanksgiving does.

Events included a potluck, dumpling making, games, and traditional mooncake.



Birthdays



DECEMBER

5th Donna Harrop
 6th Betty Garrett
 10th Jacqueline Blasdel
 Alysa Frcka
 Dotty Tennis
 13th Isabel Brinker
 Sean DeLong
 Sydney Webb
 15th Tony Smetana
 16th Teresa Hudson
 Jolynn Lopeman
 20th Emily Travis
 21st Jim Hooker
 26th Bill Latham
 28th Alex Jarvis
 29th Brett Miller
 Rochelle Tabler
 31st Lucille Ford

JANUARY

8th Al Holdren
 10th Tom Mason
 12th Avyanna Brinker
 13th Robert Beer
 Zane Blasdel
 15th JoAnne Kash
 24th Faye Baum
 26th Gabriella Carver
 29th Sloan Brune
 30th Kaitlynn Barnett
 Brenda Potts
 31st John Potts

FEBRUARY

2nd Jaxson Dew
 5th Anne Downs
 Debbie Reidy
 7th Janice Carr
 8th Carroll Schweyer
 11th Tommy Foley
 Jane Sponsler
 12th Bill Dravenstott
 13th Miracle Brinker
 18th Dorita Ramage
 21st Aaron Mason
 Josiah Mason
 Jean Mason
 26th Lana Potter



POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

\$12.00 each

Due Sunday, December 9

In Loving Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Given by: _____



Please use one form per poinsettia. Return this order form by **Sunday, December 9th** with your payment to either the church office or place it in the offering plate. Checks should be made payable to the First Presbyterian Church and please put "Poinsettia" on the memo line. Thank you.

**You are encouraged to take your poinsettia with you
 either after worship on Christmas Eve, or the following Sunday.**

Financial Reports

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FINANCE REPORT - OCTOBER 2018

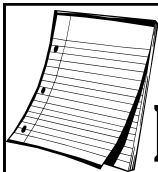
<u>Contributions/Receipts</u>	<u>OCT. 2017</u>	<u>BUDGET 2018</u>	<u>OCT. 2018</u>
	<u>YTD</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Pledges	\$159,951.00	\$171,499.24	\$149,740.00 *
Non-Pledged Contributions	\$28,974.20	\$33,333.30	\$31,338.50
Loose Offering	\$2,408.01	\$2,500.00	\$2,670.04
Prior Year Pledges	\$1,825.00	\$500.00	\$0.00
Church Use Donations	\$5,600.00	\$5,416.70	\$5,450.00
Whiting Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
ACCF - Program	\$13,334.85	\$13,600.00	\$4,444.25
ACCF - Building	\$7,870.00	\$7,200.00	\$4,343.25
ACCF - Mission	\$2,721.25	\$2,400.00	\$1,891.50
ACCF - Member Endowments			\$8,566.80
Interest/Investment Income	\$46.19	\$41.70	\$391.80
Miscellaneous Income	\$1,048.54	\$833.30	\$303.63
Total Receipts	\$223,779.04	\$237,324.24	\$209,139.77

Expenses

Personnel	\$171,472.88	\$185,134.90	\$189,200.88
Health Insurance	\$12,413.30	\$13,020.80	\$13,020.80
Property	\$14,411.00	\$19,166.60	\$61,838.65
Property Insurance	\$7,620.00	\$8,250.00	\$7,620.00
Utilities	\$15,673.11	\$18,041.60	\$18,014.04
Finance	\$449.46	\$216.70	\$283.87
Per capita assessment	\$5,239.80	\$5,135.00	\$5,134.50
Session Expenses	\$235.00	\$833.40	\$490.00
Worship/Music	\$1,642.79	\$4,359.90	\$1,517.61
Office	\$7,497.09	\$8,416.80	\$8,225.59
Discipleship	\$1,466.63	\$2,250.00	\$782.68
Stephen Ministry	\$27.85	\$83.30	\$0.00
Mid Week Gathering	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Formational Prayer/Training	\$38.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Evangelism / Outreach	\$12,000.00	\$12,916.70	\$11,832.28
Fellowship / Gatherings	\$475.70	\$1,250.00	\$549.69
ACCESS / Community Care		\$0.00	\$0.00
Pastor Discretionary Fund	\$569.85	\$833.30	\$325.00
Total Expenses	\$251,232.46	\$279,909.00	\$318,835.59

EXCESS INCOME / EXPENSES (\$27,453.42) (\$42,584.76) (\$109,695.82)

* Includes prepaid pledges of \$35,245.50.



**Take
Note!**

Monday, December 31 is the last day the church can accept contributions for 2018. The church office will be open until noon. Payments also may be postmarked by December 31 or dropped off in an envelope through the mail slot on the church office door.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Balance Sheet (UNAUDITED)

Consolidated - October 2018

11/01/2018 10:20 AM

	Current Year
ASSETS	
CASH ACCOUNTS	
Sutton Bank Checking Acct	\$18,057.21
JanneyMontgomeryScott LLC	80,774.06
Subtotal Cash Accounts	98,831.27
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$98,831.27</u>
LIABILITIES	
RESTRICTED FUNDS <i>Restricted Funds</i>	
Property Purchase	\$31,810.00
Chinese Church Liab. a/c	1,870.64
Lick Fund-Children'sMusic	300.00
Prayer Shawl Ministry	270.00
Memorial & Special Gifts	
Nancy Donley Estate	2,565.66
Kitchen maint. Liab. a/c	708.18
StephenMin./HealingCare	2,396.24
Jesus/StainedGlassWindows	2,249.55
Music/Choir - H Webb Mem.	770.00
Carl Armstrong Memorial	659.00
Kitchen Liab.a/c/Luttrell	25,429.55
S Steere Mem. (Choir)	500.00
Marti Casciani Memorial	340.00
Mary Jane Keys Memorial	225.00
Kyle Harrop Memorial	290.00
Subtotal Memorial & Special Gifts	36,133.18
Youth Ministry	
ACCF - Johnson	2,578.50
Subtotal RESTRICTED FUNDS <i>Restricted Funds</i>	72,962.32
WITHHELD PAYROLL TAXES	
F.I.C.A.	424.15
Medicare	99.18
Federal Income Tax	372.87
State Income Tax	123.17
City Income Tax	136.84
Employer's Share FICA	424.15
Employer's Share Medicare	99.18
Subtotal Withheld Payroll Taxes	1,679.54
TOTAL LIABILITIES <i>+ Restricted Funds</i>	<u>74,641.86</u>
FUND BALANCE	
Fund Balance	\$24,189.41
TOTAL FUND BALANCE	<u>24,189.41</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	<u><u>\$98,831.27</u></u>

Waiting with Patience...

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like a child's waiting. Consider that for which we wait: the return of our Savior, Lord and King; the fullness of the Kingdom of God on Earth as it is in Heaven; the end to all pain, suffering, tears, injustice, death, and the like; the experience of perfect love, joy, and peace throughout the world. I am just scratching the surface of all that will become a reality when Christ returns.



This Advent Season I am going to seek to be a person waiting with the active patience of a child. Is there an invitation in this for you as well? "Come, Lord Jesus, Come. Meet us now. Meet us here. Come, Lord Jesus, Come."

In Christ's Love, *Pastor Mike*

I wonder if the "child-like faith" that Christ calls us to live applies to the way we are to experience the Advent Season of "waiting." Henri Nouwen, in his small devotional piece "Waiting with Patience" reminds us that waiting is not meant to be passive (or as I am arguing here – adult). "It is an active waiting in which we live the present moment to the full in order to find there the signs of the One we are waiting for." I love this invitation into the present moment. You see, when I ask my children to wait with patience they absolutely stay in the present moment. And in doing so, they do receive more of my attention. They receive reminders that I am present, I have not forgotten them, and I still care about their needs and wants. Sometimes their persistence is rewarded with a hug or an opportunity to "patiently wait" on my lap. Sometimes I am the one that is ultimately rewarded.

I wonder if we can find similar surprises from our Heavenly Father when we are more active and persistent in our waiting. Perhaps a Scripture comes to our mind as a gentle reminder that He is listening. Or maybe we will experience the hand of the Father tapping us on our head or shoulder. We might even experience the Father placing us on His lap as He promises to hold us in the wait. Might we experience a bit of what we are waiting for in the future, right here in the present because we continue to pursue, persist, pray, seek, ask, beg, and remind the Father in many ways that we are still here waiting with anticipation?

Church Family Meetings

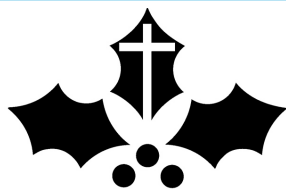
This fall, Pastor Mike started the process of hosting small groups of individuals from our church family for what we are calling "Family Meetings." The purpose of these meetings is to pass along some information regarding the life and ministry of First Presbyterian, and also to allow you to give your input and ideas for our future ministry. These meetings will also provide you an opportunity to ask Pastor Mike any questions that may be on your mind about the "state of our ministry."

During December, we would like to invite those of you who have not had a chance to attend one of these meetings yet to one of three daytime Family Meetings at the church:

- Sunday, December 9 following worship
- Wednesday, December 12 at noon
- Tuesday, December 18 at noon

Please RSVP to the church office so we can plan for lunch. There will be a couple of more Family Meetings in early January.





Christmas Worship Services

Christmas Eve

7:00pm Worship - family-friendly, blended worship with choir, praise band, and candlelight

11:00pm Worship - with Communion and candlelight

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

Sunday, December 30

10:00am Coffee and Welcoming

10:30am Lessons and Carols

Celebrate the story of Christ's birth through scripture and hymns

Evangelism and Outreach

Upcoming Events

December: On Sunday the 16th during worship we will highlight a video of Keith Pepsny's Navigators ministry at the University of Washington. On Sunday the 30th, our next Loud Sunday offering will go to support Keith and his mission.

January: For our Hunger Sunday on the 6th, we encourage you to provide items for a spaghetti dinner, like pasta and sauce, for our monthly food drive for Associated Charities.

February: Plan again every Sunday to bring Peanut Butter and Jelly to place on the trees in the front of the church. You did such a great job of bringing in items last year. Let's duplicate that effort again or do even better.



Annual Wassail Reception Sunday, December 16



Stay after worship for cookies and wassail in the lounge hosted by the Worship Ministry Team. We invite you to help provide cookies for this event. See Carol Keil with questions.

Holiday Office Schedule:

Monday, December 24
office open until 12:00pm

Tuesday, December 25
& Wednesday, December 26
office is closed

Monday, December 31
office is open until 12:00pm

Tuesday, January 1
& Wednesday, January 2
office is closed



Congregational Meeting



Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held after worship on **February 10**.

I want to thank my church friends who visited me and sent me greeting cards on my recent 95th birthday. I appreciate your thoughtfulness and wish you a very Happy Holiday season.

Sincerely, Ruth Armstrong



We just want to thank everyone for all the unceasing prayers for our family and for Maddox. We are all home together and setting into a routine. God bless you all! We are eternally grateful for each and every prayer and extensions of care and ministry then and now.
Andrea and Justin Dew

December

First Presbyterian Church of Ashland

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Every Saturday Worship: 5:00pm Potluck 6:00pm Chinese Worship	Every Sunday Worship: 10:00am Coffee and Welcoming 10:30am Worship		Advent Multi-Generational Sunday School 9:00—10:15am December 2, 9, 16, 23			1 Presbytery Meeting—Westminster Wooster 1:30pm Cookie Baking Event
2 Advent I Communion Congregational Meeting 5:30pm Small Group	3 5:00pm PMS Shopping Trip	4 9:00am Worship Planning 8:00pm AA	5 Reports to Session Due 10:00am Bible Study 1:30pm Prayer Shawl 6:30pm Praise Band 7:30pm Choir	6 11:30am Staff Lunch 6:00pm Rooted Ashland Cohort Meeting	7 Evening—Young Life Event	8
9 Advent II 9:00am Sunday School Family Meeting	10	11 9:00am Worship Planning 10:00am Worship Ministry Team 8:00pm AA	12 10:00am Bible Study 12:00pm Family Meeting 6:30pm Praise Band 7:30pm Choir	13	14	15
16 Advent III 9:00am Sunday School Wassail Reception 5:30pm Small Group	17	18 9:00am Worship Planning 12:00pm Family Meeting 8:00pm AA	19 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Praise Band 7:30pm Choir	20 9:00am Staff	21	22
23 Advent IV 9:00am Sunday School	24 12:00pm Church Office Closes 7:00pm Worship 11:00pm Worship with Communion	25 Christmas Church Office Closed 8:00pm AA	26 Church Office Closed	27	28	29
30 Loud Sunday Offering Benefits Keith Pepsny/ Navigators	31 12:00pm Church Office Closes					

January

First Presbyterian Church of Ashland

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Every Sunday Worship: 10:00am Coffee and Welcoming 10:30am Worship		1 Church Office Closed—New Year's Day 8:00pm AA	2 Church Office Closed 6:30pm Praise Band	3	4	5
6 Hunger Sunday 5:30pm Small Group @ Eckenroths'	7	8 9:00am Worship Planning 8:00pm AA	9 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Praise Band	10	11	12
13 Communion	14 6:00pm Women's Group Book Study @ Lana Potter's	15 9:00am Worship Planning 8:00pm AA	16 Healing Care Event 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Praise Band	17 Healing Care Event	18 Healing Care Event	19 Healing Care Event
20 5:30pm Small Group @ Eckenroths'	21 Office Closed- MLK Day	22 9:00am Worship Planning 8:00pm AA	23 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Praise Band	24	25	26
27	28	29 9:00am Worship Planning 8:00pm AA	30 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Praise Band	31 10:30am Finance Ministry		Every Saturday Worship: 5:00pm Potluck 6:00pm Chinese Worship

February

First Presbyterian Church of Ashland

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Every Sunday Worship: 10:00am Coffee and Welcoming 10:30am Worship	Every Saturday Worship: 5:00pm Potluck 6:00pm Chinese Worship				1	2 "Be Our Guest" Ladies' Brunch
3 Hunger Sunday Communion 5:30pm Small Group @ Eckenroths'	4	5 9:00am Worship Planning 8:00pm AA	6 Healing Care Event 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Praise Band	7 Healing Care Event	8 Healing Care Event	9 Healing Care Event
10 Annual Congregational Meeting	11 6:00pm Women's Group Book Study @ Lana Potter's	12 9:00am Worship Planning 8:00pm AA	13 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Praise Band	14	15	16
17 5:30pm Small Group @ Eckenroths'	18	19 9:00am Worship Planning	20 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Praise Band	21	22	23
24	25	26 9:00am Worship Planning	27 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Praise Band	28		

Property Committee Report

The FPC Property Committee met in June, 2018 to recap the property's masonry project and future work on the facility. The vendor, Quality Masonry of Marion, OH completed the tuck pointing and applying weatherproofing sealant to the entire exterior of the building, including the stone in the courtyard, prior to Memorial Day weekend, 2018. The job also had the main entrance stonework at each side of the stairway, taken down and re-mortared. In addition, the site manager took care of items that were not originally quoted in the bid price, such as repairing the concrete corner of east entry facing south (Andrews Chapel) that wrought iron railing had split the corner concrete; prior roof patches (total of 4) that were no longer adhering to the rubberized roof, had adhesive pitch applied and were refastened; finally, original red brick, previously obscured by pine shrubbery, was exposed once shrubs were removed. Quality Masonry applied mortar slurry to adhere and protect red brick, which was then also treated with water repellent. The extra cost on the project by the vendor was cost on additional lineal feet of mortar used in the project. The vendor tuck pointed approximately 70% of the surface area of FPC; although a sizable expenditure, one well worth undertaken for the future structural integrity and historic architectural significance FPC has within our community.

The committee approved BCU Electric install a surge suppression component onto the buildings main power source, thereby rendering the need for various surge suppression devices throughout the facility. BCU also completed installation of a replacement ballast on the interior lamp located in the church loft.

In addition, the committee arrived at consensus that bids to have landscaping done where the prior shrubbery had been located, be undertaken. The committee discussed landscaping product features, such as an annual expense, versus a one time expenditure for services to have a lasting and visually appealing and practical solution. Two vendors

have been contacted and once bids have been secured, work to have these areas fiber lined and decorative small stone installed will be installed in Spring, 2019. This project has been provided in the church's 2019 budget.

In addition, due to financial considerations, another item deferred until Spring, 2019 is a refurbishing of all FPC wood exterior doors. The vendor, who has previously provided services on these surfaces, will remove all exterior hardware, remove weathered product from each door, refinish and apply weatherproofing product onto each door then reinstall all FPC wood exterior doors. This project has been provided in the church's 2019 budget.

I took it upon myself in August, before returning to my interim administrative role, to paint 97% of the third floor office space currently being used by Dolly Dong for Chinese Church office space. I intend to trim out the remainder of the room before Christmas.

Speaking of the church's upper floors, it has been suggested that an opinion on the tile floors' durability and longevity on the second and third floor be sought. A no cost, non-binding opinion is being sought from a local floor guy.

The only other area with which to update the congregation is the prospect to repair some loose slate shingles that have come ajar on the building. Our local roofing vendor has been contacted and there is nothing that currently requires immediate repair; however, in Spring, 2019, our vendor will be asked to assess and address roof issues. This project has been provided in the church's 2019 budget.

Kevin Reidy, Trustee

Please tune into WNCO FM 101.3 or AM 1340 for news of cancellations due to weather. Our church website will also list any closings, ashlandfpc.org.





**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

Response to the California Wildfires

Dear family of God,

We know that your hearts, like ours, have been broken as the devastation wrought by wildfires in California continues to increase in severity. In addition to the destruction of land and forests, the cost to lives and human community has been unprecedented, and those costs are still rising. The town of Paradise has been leveled; more than 80 people have been confirmed dead at this writing, and thousands more are unaccounted for. In Northern California, families are living in tents and having difficulty accessing basic services; many of those who have lost their homes are older than 60. While the focus is on those closest to the fires, the impact is widespread. Due to the smoke, communities hundreds of miles from the fires are being impacted by unhealthy air quality. What's more, after the wildfires there is an increased risk of mudslides.

Through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has been present since the beginning of the disaster. Working closely with leadership in the affected presbyteries, we have released emergency grants to support the presbyteries in meeting the urgent needs of their neighbors. At the request of the Red Cross, PDA has deployed four disaster spiritual care providers from our national response team to work directly with survivors in shelters and the affected communities. We are deploying additional PDA teams to support the presbyteries in their assessment and response as they help their neighbors begin recovery. Additional grants for ongoing emergency support for survivors and long-term recovery will be forthcoming.

How You Can Help

Your gifts to DR000165 (U.S. Wildfires) will ensure that PDA has adequate resources to support the recovery. Gift of the Heart kits (see instructions at <http://pda.pcusa.org/page/kits/>) are a hands-on way to help others and a fun project for the Advent season; hygiene kits and school kits will especially be needed in California.

As people of faith we seek comfort, support, and direction from God. We ask that you join your spirits with ours as we walk with our California neighbors through the valley of the shadow.



**CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS**

CHURCH LEADERS—PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

The Christmas Joy Offering is traditionally received during the Advent Season to help sustain the following PC(USA) ministries and programs:

- The Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions
- Schools and Colleges Equipping Communities of Color
- Leadership Development for People of Color

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 place your contribution in the offering plate indicating that it is for Christmas Joy.

CCO Wraps Up the Fall Semester

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mightily in our hearts. We need each other. Thank you for all of the ways you have opened yourselves up to touch and be touched by the hearts of AU students this semester.

As we head into winter break, we do so with anxious excitement about the semester to come. The annual CCO Jubilee Conference will take place February 22-24th in downtown Pittsburgh. Last year, we were able to care for 9 students who attended the conference and spent three days immersed in messages about the Kingdom of God and how it transforms every aspect of life. We are currently recruiting students to attend this year's conference. We look forward to a meaningful and lively weekend in February. If you have any interest in attending the Jubilee Conference, please contact me (Sarah) or Pastor Mike to find out more details.



Dolly, Aimee, Lily Feibi, and Zoe Thanksgiving Trip to NYC and Boston



(Left) Yan, Yayu, and Lily during Crop Walk in October

One conviction on my heart as the semester ends is the call to begin leading AU students into their own journeys of leading others to Jesus. God has called this ministry to walk with students in the development of their faith in Jesus, but there is an even greater call to invite these students to start discipling others. It is a big ask for college students, one that will take courage and faith, but it is one that I sense God placing before us. Please pray for students like Maddie, Taylor, and Trent as we challenge them to consider ways that God has designed them and is inviting them to lead in His kingdom.

Please also pray as we begin to have discussions with students and church staff about forming a fellowship of college students that meet regularly. Students are desiring meaningful connection and fellowship with one another - please pray that the CCO ministry and students would be able to discern what this fellowship will look like and how it might connect with First Presbyterian Church.

Thank you for all of your love and support.

Your CCO Ministry Team,
Dolly Dong, Sarah Bardall,
and Jake Blasdel



Sarah Bardall hosted two Korean students, Hyewon and Seungah, at her family's Thanksgiving

First Presbyterian Church of Ashland
320 Church Street
Ashland, OH 44805



Transforming Lives in Jesus' Name

Phone: 419-289-6205
Email: office@ashlandfpc.org
Facebook: FPC Ashland
Instagram: fpc_ashland

www.ashlandfpc.org

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To:

Winter 2018-2019

Advent at FPC

Advent the Season of Hope Sunday School

Sunday mornings-9-10:15 December 2nd through December 23rd. This multi-generational experience includes stories, activities and experiential prayer activities. On December 23rd during this time we will be caroling and passing out donuts to our neighbors.

The Hope Tree

Stop by the Hope tree to write your hopes and pin your star to the tree.

The Random Acts of Kindness Tree

On the Advent table please take a random act of kindness to do for someone. You can revisit the tree every time you complete an act of kindness to get another act of kindness to do.

