

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ASHLAND

# THE JOYFUL NOISE

VOLUME 27, ISSUE 2

JANUARY 31, 2019

## FEBRUARY

### INAUGURAL COMPANIONS SHARING GROUP

Together on the Journey  
Tuesday, January 29

On a cold Tuesday, a warm-hearted group gathered for the first Companions Sharing Group. Together they sang favorite hymns, had lunch, read scripture, prayed and began considering some topics of interest to seniors. Joyce Stokes also spoke about how the idea for a group like this grew out of a need to reconnect with others in similar stages of life.

Jody Watson will continue to lead this new small group that will meet once a month 11:30am—1:00pm. Topics will be geared toward seniors and their companions, but the group is open to all.



#### COMPANION SHARING GROUP SCHEDULE

Tuesday, February 26  
Tuesday, March 19  
Tuesday, April 30  
Tuesday, May 21



## COALITION FOR CHRISTIAN OUTREACH (CCO) MINISTRY UPDATE

### Some New Things for the New Semester

After a fall semester of outreach events, trainings, and various kinds of ministry, Dolly and I are looking forward to finishing out the spring semester by trying out a few new ideas. Ministering to international students in the fall taught us that there are many Chinese students on campus who appreciate connection through community and find comfort in reminders of their Chinese culture. Every Tuesday throughout the fall, we saw 20-30 students come to enjoy a meal, commune with one another, and make connections with people from our church and the community at Chinese Lunch. This semester, we will turn our Monday morning bible study into a chance to do further outreach! Gathering as a small group in the lower level of Ashland's chapel, we will continue studying the Psalms while also providing traditional Chinese breakfast food for students and being available to pray for anyone who comes. We are also in the process of planning several mini-retreats and trips throughout the next few months in order to create opportunities to meet Chinese students in an area of their interest -- traveling!

Most Chinese students are coming to Ashland with no basis for understanding or accepting the beliefs of Christianity, with little openness to considering the existence of our God. We've sensed resistance and hesitation among Chinese students in the area of faith, so we will continue to minister the love of God through hospitality and building community, asking the Holy Spirit to work and make room in the hearts of students for the Light of Life to be seen and embraced. Please pray with us for this community and for us as we minister.

I will continue to individually mentor Maddie, Taylor, and Nicole this semester. Throughout the fall, in one way or another, each of these

young women expressed a desire to grow in fellowship with other people. They want to be a part of a community where they can be honest, feel connected in their humanity, and be encouraged as people of faith. This semester, we will gather together in hopes of seeking to create a kind of community where this connection can exist. Starting the first Sunday afternoon in February, a small group of these women and I will begin to gather together. Please pray with and for me as I consider how to form our time together and best minister to the group. May the reality that the presence of



Jesus is among us be the most true thing of our fellowship, and may God be glorified and these students' lives be filled with more Life through it.

February is the month of CCO's Jubilee Conference, and we are looking forward to it! From Friday, February 22nd to Sunday the 24th, Dolly, six students, and I will travel to Pittsburgh to worship God in song and dance, receive teaching about the Kingdom of God among us, and be called to take a step deeper into the Kingdom mission, as children of God. Please pray for us as students come to the conference with unanswered questions in their heart and a desire to experience God. Holy Spirit, we ask that you come and prepare the way before us, banishing anything that is from the enemy, and we ask that you give us all a spirit of wisdom and revelation so that we might know you better. Amen.

Sarah Bardall, Director of CCO Partnership

I would like to thank you all for your prayers before and during my two heart surgeries and continued recovery. I felt your caring and God's love were around me and the surgeons and nurses. The prayer shawl that you gave me reminds me of all your caring.



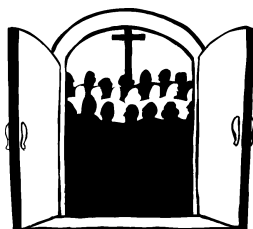
With Love, Joyce Stokes



## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

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



Stay after the meeting for a soup, chili, and salad lunch hosted by the Deacons.

## EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH (E&O) FEBRUARY IS "GIVE THE LOVE" MONTH

E&O invites you to "Give the Love" by donating peanut butter and jelly to Associated Charities. Our peanut butter and jelly trees will be ready for you to decorate with your donations every Sunday during the month of February.



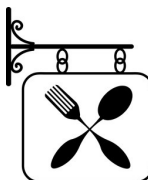
## PRAYER SHAWLS

FPC has a prayer shawl ministry group who work together to make shawls which are delivered to those in our church family who are going through a challenging time. The shawl is a reminder of God's loving presence and is meant to encourage someone and let them know that their church family is thinking of them and praying for them.

This group meets next at 1:30pm on Wednesday, February 6th. New people are always welcome! Contact Brenda Luttrell, 419-289-8168 if you would like to create prayer shawls.



## PRESBY LUNCH BUNCH: Tuesday, February 12



The Presby Lunch Bunch will dine at Jake's on Tuesday, February 12, 11:30am. Please confirm a reservation with Cora no later than Sunday, January 20th.

## \*NEW\* FPC OFFICE HOURS Beginning Monday, February 25

Linda Swanson, our Operations Manager, will be taking advantage of an internship opportunity that will take her out of the office several days a week for 7 weeks. During her absence, the times the church office will be open will change.

The office will be closed on Mondays, February 25 through April 9. On Tuesdays and Wednesdays the church office will be open 8:00am—1:00pm. Thursdays and Fridays it will be open the regular time 8:00am—3:00pm.

Most of these weeks Linda will be in the office on Thursdays and Fridays. Often the office will be staffed by volunteers during Linda's absence. This schedule is subject to change so please look at the weekly calendars in the bulletins and on our website calendar for current information. Thank you for your understanding during this time.

## LENTEN POTLUCKS BEGINNING WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

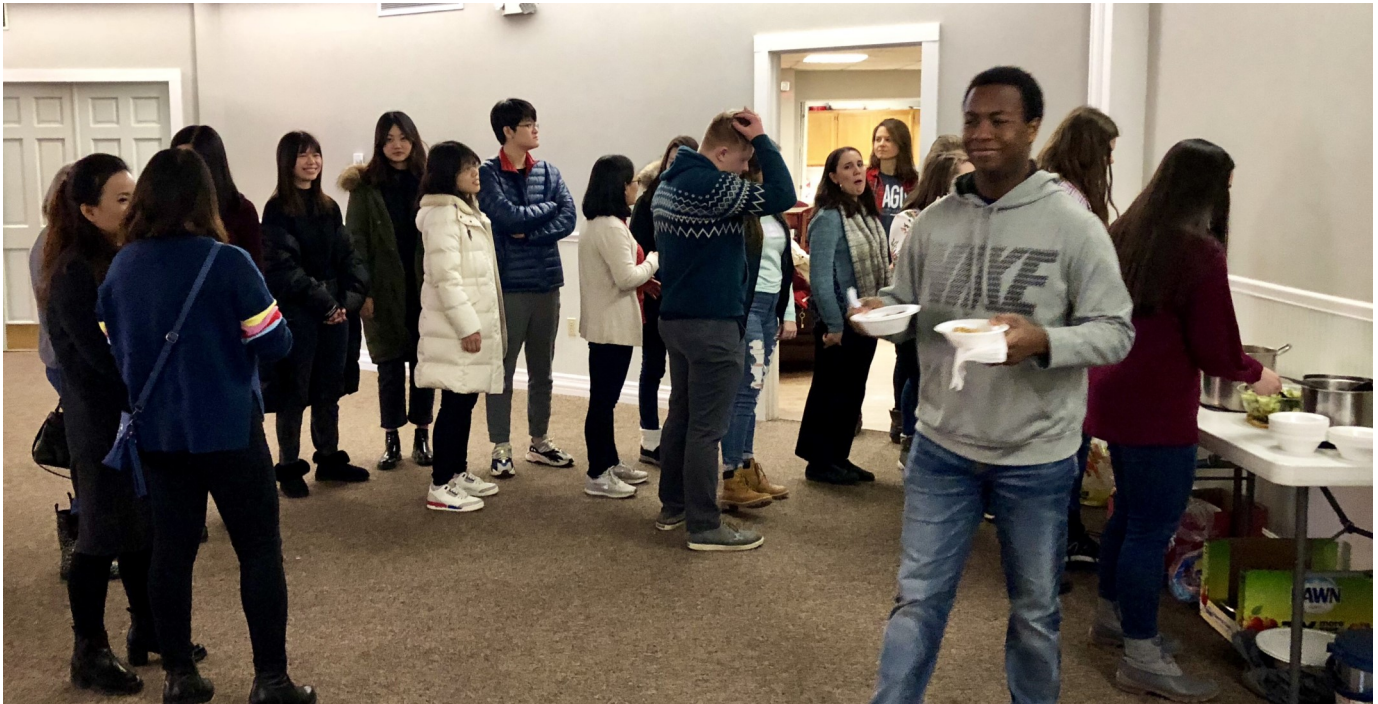


Each Wednesday during Lent, FPC will have a gathering at the church from 5:30—7:00pm. We will have a potluck and fellowship from 5:30—6:00pm followed by a program. For Ash Wednesday, worship will follow the potluck. More details to come.

# FEBRUARY

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ASHLAND

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Every Sunday Worship:</b> 10:00am Coffee and Welcoming 10:30am Worship	<b>Every Saturday Worship:</b> 5:00pm Potluck 6:00pm Chinese Worship				1	2  5:00pm Chinese New Year Celebration and Potluck
<b>3</b> Hunger Sunday Communion 11:30am Family Meeting 5:30pm Small Group @ Eckenroths'	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 9:00am Worship Planning  8:00pm AA	<b>6</b> Healing Care Event 10:00am Bible Study 1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30pm Praise Band	<b>7</b> Healing Care Event	<b>8</b> Healing Care Event	<b>9</b> Healing Care Event  Presbytery Meeting Alliance FUPC
<b>10</b>  11:30am Annual Congregational Meeting  Soup, Chili and Salad Lunch	<b>11</b>  6:00pm Women's Group Book Study @ Lana Potter's	<b>12</b> 9:00am Worship Planning 10:00am Worship Ministry Team 11:30am Presby Lunch Bunch 8:00pm AA	<b>13</b>  10:00am Bible Study  6:30pm Praise Band	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>  Private Birthday Party
<b>17</b> 11:30am Evangelism and Outreach Team  5:30pm Small Group @ Eckenroths'	<b>18</b>  Office Closed—Presidents' Day  Quarterly Newsletter eadline	<b>19</b> 9:00am Worship Planning  8:00pm AA	<b>20</b> Healing Care Event 10:00am Bible Study  6:30pm Praise Band	<b>21</b> Healing Care Event	<b>22</b> Healing Care Event	<b>23</b> Healing Care Event
<b>24</b>  2:00pm Rooted Cohort	<b>25</b> Church Office Closed  6:00pm PMS @ Uniontown Brewery	<b>26</b> 9:00am Worship Planning  11:30am Companions Sharing Group 8:00pm AA	<b>27</b> 10:00am Bible Study  6:30pm Praise Band	<b>28</b>		



### AU CHINESE LUNCH

Tuesdays 11:00am-12:30pm

Lower Miller Chapel

Chinese Tuesday Lunch has resumed at AU for the spring semester. The lunch, which brought together about 28 people, was really good.

An AU Mission class professor heard about international campus ministry and this lunch. She and I connected during winter break to plan how to pair her students with the international students so they could learn about different cultures from each other. We helped the students to get together today during the Chinese lunch. This Chinese lunch brings more activities and programs to those involved. Praise God and thanks for your prayers.

Dolly Dong  
CCO Campus Staff



**JOIN US!** A growing number of students have been attending this time of laughter, conversation, and connection. We invite you to come, bring a dish, or simply eat and join in conversation with students. Students desire your presence and the more we get to know students, the more blessed we are by them. Join us and watch what the Lord does.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH OF ASHLAND**

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**TRANSFORMING LIVES  
IN JESUS' NAME**

[www.ashlandfpc.org](http://www.ashlandfpc.org)

**NewsLetter  
DEADLine**

**Monday  
February 18**



**ACCESS Update**

Guests in the ACCESS program are now housed in apartments instead of in church buildings, but we still host them by helping with groceries, meals, and other needs. Our weeks to host in 2019 are:

April 7—13  
June 30—July 6  
September 22—28  
December 15—21  
More information to come!

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**To:**

**February 2019**



**Associated Charities requests the following items:**

**NON-PERISHABLE FOODS**

Jelly (any kind)  
Peanut Butter  
Egg Noodles  
Saltine Crackers  
Juice (any kind)  
Fresh Potatoes  
Syrup

**PERSONAL CARE ITEMS**

Deodorant  
Body Wash/Bath Soap  
Shampoo and Conditioner  
Feminine Products  
Kleenex Tissues  
Dish Soap



**HUNGER  
SUNDAY**

**February 3**