



THE COLUMNS

December 2020, Volume 58, Issue 12

First Presbyterian Church, Waynesboro, VA



First Presbyterian Church of Waynesboro is a community-minded congregation living out the love of Christ as we serve one another with humility, gentleness, and patience through God's grace.

Sunday Morning Worship Schedule

Pastor's Hours Monday -Thursday 10-2:30
Video Broadcast until further notice

Church Office Hours

Monday - Wednesday - 8:00 - 2:30
Thursday 8-4:30
Friday - Closed

As the unrelenting trial that is 2020 comes to an end, I find the advent of, well, *Advent* to be a welcome relief. It's not so much the seasonal aspect - the decorating and music and the eggnog - because let's face it: the holidays are going to be pretty low-key this year. No; it's the hope that comes with a new liturgical calendar.

God's Creation is marked by the cyclical: the seasons of the year; the circle of life; evaporation and precipitation; every breath we exhale and is absorbed by the forest. There is quite literally a revolutionary quality to the world, and to our own existence.

The church year is also a cycle. From Advent to Christmas, Lent to Easter, Pentecost to Christ the King, we enact the life of Jesus Christ, even as we seek to grow in faith and wisdom, fellowship and compassion. Advent is a season of anticipation, of looking forward - not simply to a blank calendar, but to the return of the one who makes all things new. It is a season of hope in the midst of darkness, and I for one could use a little hope.

If you have access to Zoom, check out the Advent study organized by the presbytery, or use the devotional published by the Outlook. Continue to join us for worship on Sundays. Nurture that hope.

TWO COLUMNS NEWSLETTERS????

Some of you were a little confused to receive a short online Columns the past few weeks. Our efficient, computer savvy interim preacher saw the need for better and more frequent communication to the congregation. He has taken it upon himself to put together timely weekly offerings. Did you realize that, in addition to what's going on, you can click on links to timely outside sites? I only wish I could do what he can at the computer!

The monthly FPC newsletter has been issued since the 1970's, if I'm not mistaken, and originally edited by Dorothy Woodworth and then Barbara Neet. I took over in the '80's working at the typewriter on sideways 8-1/2 x 11" sheets divided into 2 columns. At least it was an electric typewriter. I worked in the church office and also typed individual birthday letter signed by Whit Kennedy. In the computer age, I work at home and forward articles to Colleen who formats the newsletter. I have no plans not to continue.

Meanwhile, enjoy both Columns!

-Betsy Ruehl



MUSIC NOTES



We once again celebrate the beginning of a new church year. Each Advent offers a time to prepare for the coming of Christ, and we are grateful to be able to do so, even in the midst of these trying times.

While we still hope to gather together in our lovely Sanctuary soon, the coronavirus restrictions currently in place do not allow us to do so just yet. We will continue to record church services for the foreseeable future, even if we are able to worship in person. We are fortunate here at FPC to have many musicians who willingly offer their time and talents to enhance our virtual worship experience.

Advent began on Sunday 29 November, and the music for that day reflected the call to get ready for the birth of Jesus. Celia Daggy played viola on the anthem, Johann Sebastian Bach's setting of *Zion Hears the Watchman's Voices*. The two hymns were *The Days are Surely Coming* and *Soon and Very Soon*.

For the second Sunday of Advent, pianist Charles Simpkins will join in the worldwide celebration of the 250th anniversary of the birth of Ludwig van Beethoven. The iconic composer was born in Bonn, Germany, on 16 December 1770. Charles will play a movement from one of the composer's final works for piano, the Sonata no. 30 in E, Opus 109. Hymns for the day continue to help prepare for the season, with *Comfort, Comfort Now My People* and *Prepare the Way, O Zion*.

FPC usually celebrates the third Sunday of Advent with a service of Lessons and Carols. Alas, the choir will not be joined by our usual assembly of instrumentalists 😞. However, we will sing two favorite Advent hymns, *O Come, O Come Emanuel* and *Come, Thou, Long Expected Jesus*. We will also highlight Mary's joyful acceptance of being the mother of God with a movement from the *Magnificat* by Johann Sebastian Bach. In a reversal of roles, Roger will sing *Quia fecit mihi magna* (For He that is mighty hath magnified me and holy is His name) and Kimberlea will play organ!

The fourth Sunday of Advent brings the handbells back into the Sanctuary! Cathy and Mike Cunningham will join Roger and Kimberlea for the anthem on December 20th. The hymns for the final Sunday of Advent continue to help prepare for the coming of Christ: *Savior of the Nations, Come* and *Of the Father's Love Begotten*.

Much as we would all like to worship together with our families on Christmas Eve, we will have to make do with a virtual service. And how fortunate we are to have Kathy Brown sing the anthem on the 24th, *O Holy Night!* The service will open with *O Come All Ye Faithful* and the final hymn, as always, will be *Silent Night*. Roger will conclude the service with Bach's setting of *In dulci jubilo*.

FPC continues to celebrate the birth of Christ on the final Sunday of the year. December 27th features two more favorite Christmas carols, *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing* and *Joy to the World*. The anthem on Christmas I will be provided by none other than our Interim Minister, Reverend Patrick and his daughter, Brigid.

We are so appreciative of the continued support of the music program at FPC, especially during these challenging times. We know that one day, we will once again raise our voices in praise to God, altogether, in our inspiring Sanctuary. Until then, may you have a blessed and safe Advent and Christmas season.

Most gratefully,

Roger and Kimberlea Daggy

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Session held a Stated Meeting on November 10, 2020, via Zoom.

Rev. Pettit distributed Procedures for On-site Worship which will be our guide to determining whether or not we hold on-site services. In addition to listing the common cautions of a service (30 minutes, no singing, no bulletins etc.) he described observing the Average Incidence Rate for Central Shenandoah District which should be within the medium range. The congregation will be informed of this determination.

Mike Cunningham was elected commissioner to the Zoom Shenandoah Presbytery meeting on November 17, 2020.

The refrigerator in the Fellowship Hall Kitchen needs to be replaced.

Disciples' Kitchen has requested 20 pairs of adult gloves and 20 hats as Christmas gifts.

The replacement furnace and humidifier for the office and library have been installed. Work on the boiler has almost been completed.

The goal for the first in-person worship service is November 29, the first Sunday in Advent, assuming requirements can be met.

Rev. Pettit offered to write a Stewardship letter. Mark Henderson, Jen Jones and Betsy Ruehl volunteered to give a Minute for Mission at Sunday worship.

The meeting was opened and closed with prayer.

HIGHLIGHTS OF PRESBYTERY MEETING NOVEMBER 17, 2020

Morning worship included a sermon by our candidate for ministry, Molly Morris, who will be ordained at Tinkling Spring via Zoom on December 13.

Bobby Snell from Tinkling Spring is a new inquirer for ministry.

Teaching Elder (TE) Thomas Groome, III, is the new interim pastor for Lexington PC and TE Loren Tate Mitchell is new pastor at New Providence PC.

TE David Howard was elected moderator-elect. CRE Judy Hensley will be moderator for 2021.

The Administrative Committee shared dealing with the departure of First Martinsburg to the EPC. Details will be in the full minutes of the meeting.

Presbytery passed the 2021 budget. The annual meeting of Shenandoah Corp. was held.

New folks were elected to committees and others rotated off. {Of particular interest to FPC members are retirees Wray Sherman, Joyce Tipton and Betty Dax.}

-Bronwen Boswell, General Presbyter & Stated Clerk

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL CROP WALK

Terry Crickenberger reports that FPC raised \$600 for the 2020 Waynesboro-East Augusta CROP Walk held September 20. \$13,000 was collected in total, only \$4,000 less than last year, when circumstances were a lot more favorable.

STEWARDSHIP

We are stewards, caretakers, of *everything*.

I am the church, you are the church – we are the Church, together.

Giving to the church means supporting our own ministry, as well as ministries near and far we recognize as doing the Lord's work.

Although God *needs* no help from us, God *chooses* to work through us, and provides us with all we need to do that.

Built into the gifts we enjoy are the resources to further God's mission and ministry in this place.

Our need to give far outweighs the church's need for our money.

Giving serves as a tangible reminder we are both blessed and called by God. It is a discipline that trains us to trust in God's provision and to see the highest and best use for his creation – including ourselves.

And giving leads our attention toward things outside ourselves, focusing instead on the needs of others.

The Holy Spirit cannot be thwarted; God's mission will come to pass.

The only question is, will we play our part?



Greetings from the Preschool,

On behalf of the Preschool, I would like to wish all of you a blessed, safe and Merry Christmas! Fred Rogers ("Mr. Rogers") once said, "When we treat children's play as seriously as it deserves, we are helping them feel the joy that's to be found in the creative spirit. It's the things we play with and the people who help us play that make a great difference in our lives." You at First Presbyterian Church have taken play seriously by providing our students with a place where they can find joy in the creative spirit.

In November the two-year-old class created "Blessing Jars". Ms. Diggs printed out a picture of a jar and had each student tell her what they were thankful for. She then wrote the responses on a shape and had them glue it onto the "Blessing Jar". Ms. Diggs also accompanied the craft by reading "The Blessing Jar" by Colleen Coble. Throughout the month, the students had access to the sensory table that is filled with red and yellow leaves and orange, pink and yellow string.

Ms. Lynda found a creative way to introduce the letters "H", "I", "J" and "K" to the three-year-old class. Say hello to "Mr. H. Happy Hair", "Miss I Incredible Inventor", "Mr. J Jumble Junk" and "Mr. K Kind Kicking". The three-year-olds kept active by "Dancing to the Beat" and playing "Hippo Hide and Seek". Other themes for November were "Iguana on Ice", "Jungle Jamboree" and "Kangaroo Kazoo". The students also discussed "The First Thanksgiving".

The four-year-old class created tractor, train, tiger and turkey crafts that adorn the wall opposite its classroom. The students also sang songs and played games that correlated to the letters "L" "N" "T". Ms. Aimee engaged the four-year-olds in discussions about what they are most thankful for.

Once again, I wish you and yours the happiest of holidays as we look forward to a brand new year!

Thomas V. Sheffey, Preschool Director

ADVENT SEASON



Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas – this year on November 29. Advent is a holy season in the Christian calendar and is the beginning of the liturgical calendar. Christians wait and prepare for the coming of the Lord whose birthday we celebrate on Christmas.

In the early days of the church, Advent was a time of prayer and confession. Today Advent is more a time of preparation and expectation of the coming of the Lord.

The Advent Wreath is an important symbol. Of German origin the wreath is composed of evergreens and four (or five) candles. Its circular shape represented eternity, for it has no beginning and no end. The evergreen was chosen as it symbolizes growth and everlasting life.

On the first Sunday a purple candle is lit, the second Sunday two purple candles and on the third Sunday two purple candles and a pink candle. The fourth candle is purple, they symbolize hope, peace, joy and love.

Sometimes there is a white candle in the center of the wreath. This Christ Candle may be lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

These candles are signs of the growing light of Christ who is coming in all fullness into the darkness of our world.

First Sunday of Advent

- 1 With Christians around the world, we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of God's Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Today we light the first candle of the Advent, the candle of **HOPE**.
2. When we are honest with ourselves, we can admit the damage sin inflicts on our lives. Our hope begins with anticipation of God's grace, as the prophet Isaiah prayed:
But now, O LORD, you are our Father, we are the clay, and you our potter; And all of us are the work of Your hand. Do not be angry beyond measure, O LORD, nor remember iniquity forever; Behold, look now, all of us are your people.
3. Please join in our responsive call to worship:
Leader: Almighty God, work our lives until we are the likeness of your son, then send us out as lights for a dark world. Prepare our hearts, for Jesus is our hope.
People: **Come Lord Jesus!**
Leader: Let us worship God.

Second Sunday of Advent

1. With Christians around the world, we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of God's Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. For the second Sunday in Advent, we relight the candle of **HOPE**, and light the candle of **PEACE**.
2. Peace is a word that can describe a variety of circumstances, from the end of hostilities to a warm breeze beside a quiet stream. As we prepare for his coming, the prophet Isaiah reminds us that Christ's peace is like no other:
3. *Get yourself up on a high mountain, O Zion, bearer of good news, lift up your voice mightily, O Jerusalem, bearer of good news; lift it up, do not fear. Say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" Behold, the Lord GOD will come with might, with His arm ruling for Him. Behold, His reward is with Him and His recompense before Him. Like a shepherd He will tend His flock, in His arm He will gather the lambs and carry them in His bosom; He will gently lead the nursing ewes.*

Please join in our responsive call to worship:

Leader: Gracious God, help us remember that lasting peace is found only in you.

People: **Come Lord Jesus!**

Leader: Let us worship God.

Third Sunday of Advent

1. With Christians around the world, we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of God's Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. For the third Sunday of Advent, we relight the candle of **HOPE** and the candle of **PEACE**, and light the candle of **JOY**.
2. Joy is more than just an emotion; it is a state of being, marked by the recognition of God - God's presence, God's power, God's love. As Isaiah wrote:
3. *I will rejoice greatly in the LORD, my soul will exult in my God; For He has clothed me with garments of salvation, He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes the things sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.*

Please join in our responsive call to worship:

Leader: Our spirits praise you, O Lord, for the Joy which marks us as your own. Help us to respond to your call to spread that Joy, by the power of your Spirit.

People: **Come Lord Jesus!**

Leader: Let us worship God.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

1. With Christians around the world, we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of God's Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Today we relight the first three candles of the Advent Wreath – the candles of **HOPE**, **PEACE** and **JOY** and we light the candle of **LOVE**.
2. Love is God's defining characteristic. Love puts others first, making their needs a priority. Love wants what is best for the other and works to bring it to pass. Love is steadfast, even when confronted by hurt or disappointment. Just as God told David:
3. *'Thus says the LORD of hosts...I will also appoint a place for My people Israel and will plant them, that they may live in their own place and not be disturbed again, nor will the wicked afflict them any more as formerly, even from the day that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. The LORD also declares to you that the LORD will make a house for you.*

Please join in our responsive call to worship:

Leader: As we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth, fill us with love for the world, that we might share of ourselves until all know the love that sent to us your son, our Savior.

People: **Come Lord Jesus!**

Leader: Let us worship God.

CHRISTMAS EVE

1. With Christians around the world, we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of God's Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. On the eve of our Christmas celebration, we light all of the candles of the Advent wreath: the candle for **HOPE**, because Jesus is our hope; the candle for **PEACE**, because Jesus is our true peace; the candle for **JOY**, because of the joy we have in the presence of Christ; and the candle for **LOVE**, because the love of God is made manifest in Jesus.
2. Finally, we light the **CHRIST** candle. Jesus is born; our salvation has come.

Please join in our responsive call to worship:

Leader: Halleluiah! Christ is born!

People: **Christ is born! Halleluiah!**

Leader: Let us worship God.



I Will Light Candles This Christmas

By Howard Thurman

I will light candles this Christmas,
Candles of joy despite all the sadness,
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,
Candles of courage for fears ever present,
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,
Candles of love to inspire all my living,
Candles that will burn all year long.



Prayers for Health and Other Concerns:

The Legacy: Eloise Morris

Augusta Nursing & Rehab: Mary Ann Maupin

Shenandoah Nursing Home: Rubye Schwab

Summit Square: Lillian Hryshkanych

Home: Dick Huff, Nancy Garber, Mary Ultee, Edie Lawrence, Steve Doherty, Kathy Brown

Friends and Family: Andy & Jean Robeson, Wanda Braden, Lucy Colbert, Charlie Fairchilds (Cunninghams), Steve Stevens, Paul Jones, George & Alice Morris (Jen Jones), Danny Smith (Nancy Hypes), Jennifer & Charlotte Sergeant (Kathy Brown), Emily Bardeen (Sandi Henderson), Kathy Doyle (Cindy & Rodger Doyle), Bill Metzler (Joyce Tipton), Tony Poplin, Jerry Hughes, Paul Watts (Colleen Cash), Helen Schurz (Holly Bennett), Shae Blackwell and Family (Preschool), Carol Buckalew (Jen Jones), Col. Stuart Roberts (Mark Henderson), Lawrence Maddox

Military: Jeremiah Henderson, Carson Craig

Missionaries: Elmarie & Scott Parker, PC (USA) Regional Liaisons to Iraq, Syria & Lebanon



December 4 Jean Hashagen
December 10 Burnie Powers
December 12 Connie Sachlis
December 14 Nancy Garber
December 14 Roger Daggy
December 24 Joyce Tipton
December 27 Hunter Trimble
December 27 Judy Tomey



December 5 Mark & Jean Droughman
December 28 Mitch & Edie Lawrence

2020 CONTRIBUTIONS

All 2020 giving/pledge fulfillments must be received in the office by 9a.m. on January 4, 2021. All monies received by mail that day or afterwards will be posted in 2021.



AUGUSTA HEALTH TO PROVIDE FREE FLU SHOTS
TO ANYONE 9 YEARS & OLDER
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ON 11th STREET
DRIVE-THROUGH EVENT
DURING FOOD BANK HOURS ON
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, FROM 1:00-4:00 P.M.
INVITE YOUR NEIGHBORS!



REACHING OUT WHILE STAYING IN

As we journey into the season of Advent in 2020, things are quite a bit different for us than ever before. Instead of gathering in our sanctuary to worship, passing the peace and catching up after service, we are watching on a screen in the comfort of our homes. Albeit for good reason of keeping everyone safe, it's been quite an adjustment for all of us to not be in each other's company.

So what can we do to reach out while we're staying in?

First and foremost, we can do exactly that: *reach out*. Reach out to friends. Reach out to neighbors. Reach out to those who live alone. Ask them how they are doing and *listen*. Make a phone call. Send a card. Drive by, honk, step out in the front yard and wave from a distance. Even those of us who are getting out are feeling the effects of all the separation. Connecting and showing each other love is invaluable.

We can also extend our love by showing support for those who need it. Choose organizations or missions that you are passionate about and donate. In this year especially, there is increased need and decreased funding for just about everything. You can make donations as a memorial or honorarium, too. Here are a few suggestions:

- First Presbyterian's Food Bank
- FPC Preschool scholarships
- 4-Cents-A-Meal
- Disciples' Kitchen
- Salvation Army
- Elmarie & Scott Parker, the PC(USA) missionaries FPC helps support
- Presbyterian Giving Catalog (presbyteriangifts.pcusa.org)

All of these gifts you can make through the church. Simply note which organization you'd like to receive your donation.

In addition to cash donations, lots of organizations need specific goods or may have 'wish lists' for items they need. Here are a couple suggestions:

- **Disciples' Kitchen has requested we help support their Christmas gifts to community residents in need.** They have asked for 20 sets of adult gloves and 20 adult hats. Donations need to be *dropped off with Colleen Cash at the church office by December 14*.
- Food Bank: non-perishable food items and toiletries as well as plastic grocery bags and boxes in good condition for food packaging.

Another small but mighty act we can all do is **pray**. As I write this, I am praying for you. For us. Our church family. Our community. Our country. Our world.

Lastly, as we all work to reach out to touch others with the love of God, **please don't forget that if you have a *need*, that is also the time to reach out.** The time to reach out and let someone know. Whether that be the pastor, a friend or lots of folks... telling someone is vital. If others don't know you are in need, they may not readily see that you need help. (And that goes for mental, physical, spiritual, financial... we aren't all experts, but surely we can show love and get you connected with the right folks.)

Sending love, hope and great big (safe!) air hugs to my siblings in Christ. May you all have a blessed Advent, feeling the presence of God's love embracing you.

-Jen Jones

Editor—Betsy Ruehl (etruehl@ntelos.net) Layout—Colleen Cash
Reporters—Members of the Congregation & Staff

COLUMNS Mailing List

During the pandemic the newsletter is being mailed to members and friends. Please remember to give your new address to the Church Office when you move. We do not want you to miss any of the Church news. Just contact the Church Office (949-8366 or church@firstpresway.com) *Sermons, bulletins and many Columns articles can be found on the church website:*

firstpresway.org Deadlines: *COLUMNS*: 20th of the month

Calendar

Food Bank Thursdays
December 3, 2020 2-4 pm
December 17, 2020 2-4 pm

Session
December 8, via Zoom at 2:30 pm



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Church Office Hours

Monday-Wednesday

8 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Thursday

8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Friday

Closed

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Mrs. Caroleia Strandberg

Child Care Attendants

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