



First
Presbyterian
Church
of Waynesboro, Virginia

The Columns - *Online.*

December 2, 2020 | Waynesboro, Virginia | Betsy Ruehl, Publisher

CLARIFICATION.



It has been rumored this weekly email will somehow replace the monthly newsletter. This is not true. Betsy continues to edit and publish *The Columns*, with the able assistance of Colleen (not pictured.) Look for it in your mailbox this week.

COVID average Incidence Rate per 100,000
from the Virginia Dept of Health.

Augusta County:	32.4
Harrisonburg	25.4
Staunton	206.9*
Rockingham	29.4
Waynesboro	46.1
Average	33.25

Session will schedule in person worship when the incidence rate reaches 10 or less. For more information about incidence rates and their significance, click this link:

[What is Incidence?](#)

*The Staunton rate reflects an outbreak at the Middle River Regional Correctional Facility, and was not averaged in for this week.

Hats & gloves NEEDED

for Disciples Kitchen:
Please bring NEW items
to the church office ASAP!



Music Notes for the Second Sunday in Advent

During this second week of Advent, we sing two lively hymns. The melody of *Comfort, Comfort Now My People* was written by French composer Claude Goudimel (1514-1572) and published in the Genevan Psalter in 1562. Over a century later, an old Swedish tune was set to the text *Bereden väg för Herran (Prepare the Royal Highway)* and published in 1697 in the Swedish Psalmboken. The lively music conveys the exciting sense of anticipation, awaiting the coming of Christ.

This week, First Presbyterian Church also celebrates the 250th anniversary of the birth of Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827). The



pillar of classical music was born in Bonn, Germany in the season of Advent, on 16 December 1770. Beethoven was at the height of his career when he realized he was going deaf. The unimaginable was happening to this gifted musician, and he contemplated ending his life. But, through the grace of God, Beethoven found the strength to persevere, as he wrote in his *Heiligenstadt Testament* in 1802:

"I would have ended me life - it was only my art that held me back. Ah, it seemed to me impossible to leave the world until I had brought forth all that I felt was within me. So I endured this wretched existence... Patience, they say, is what I must now choose for my guide, and I have done so - I hope my determination will remain firm... Perhaps I shall get better, perhaps not; I am ready. - Forced to become a philosopher already in my twenty-eighth year, - oh it is not easy, and for the artist much more difficult than for anyone else. - Divine One, thou seest my inmost soul thou knowest that therein dwells the love of mankind and the desire to do good."

Beethoven spent the next twenty-five years composing works that forever changed music, including his piano sonatas, string quartets and symphonies. The duet that marks this week's prelude was written when Beethoven first noticed a change in his hearing, in 1796. The piano sonata that is this week's anthem was composed decades later, at the same time that Beethoven was composing his Symphony no. 9. By that time, he was totally deaf. In remembering Beethoven this week, we can draw strength from Beethoven's example that, during the most trying time, the grace of God is with us always.

Roger and Kimberlea Daggy



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have received the annual letter from the Session. Please return the enclosed pledge card as a reminder to yourself and a planning aid for the session. Remember: during this time of enforced separation, the work of the church goes on. Mail your pledges and contributions to:

P.O. Box 877
Waynesboro, VA 22980

