

1st Presbyterian Church Newsletter

November - December 2023



Tuesday, November 28 HANGING OF THE GREENS

6 pm Help decorate the church & enjoy a light meal

Children will decorate ornaments for the Angel Tree

December 3-24 ADVENT CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS

We will share ornaments & the stories that make them special

Sunday, December 10 CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Cookie Celebration during Fellowship Hour

Sunday, December 17 CHRISTMAS CAROLING & FELLOWSHIP

Enjoy the season with carols & good cheer as we visit our shut-ins

Fellowship to follow with munchies, cider, & mulled wine

Sunday, December 24 CHRISTMAS EVE

10 am Meditative worship service

7 pm Lessons & Carols

Celebrate Advent With Us!

First Presbyterian Church of Perrysburg

200 E. 2nd Street, Perrysburg, Ohio, 43551

www.1stpresbyterianprerrysburg.com

Celebrating Christ's love for all people

PASTOR'S PAGE

"With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need." —Act 4:33-35



Beloved Siblings in Christ,

We have completed our Stewardship Campaign. Thank you to all of you who have made a financial pledge for the coming year. Thank you to all of you who have pledged time and talents as well. This is what we do as followers of Jesus who are called together into a congregation. Together, in the Holy Spirit, we provide from our resources for the ministry of this place and this moment.

As some among our number are considering church membership, I think it is worthwhile to cap our Stewardship campaign with some words about what church membership entails in this congregation. Because each community of faith orders its life as it sees fit, within the mandates of its denomination.

Membership in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) requires baptism (only once), renouncing evil, claiming Jesus Christ as Lord of one's life (that is, he sets the rules by which one lives), promising to practice the activities of discipleship, and promising to actively participate in the life of the congregation (because congregations are called together for mutual support, see quote above). Most PCUSA congregations, including ours, expect that members will contribute financially to the maintenance and upkeep, the mission and ministries, and the pastoral leadership of the church. And, as congregational life continues to adapt to the times in which we live, we hope that all regular participants in this church's worship, mission, and fellowship will contribute time, talent, and treasure, regardless of membership status. A note on tithing: some denominations require that members "tithe," that is, contribute 10% of their income to the church. The PCUSA does have a financial requirement for membership, but considering the biblical idea of tithing when we decide our annual contribution to the church is a worthwhile practice.

As to the "active participation in the life of the congregation" that I mentioned above, what does that entail? The Book of Order states the following,

"A faithful member bears witness to God's love and grace and promises to be involved responsibly in the ministry of Christ's Church. Such involvement includes: proclaiming the good news in word and deed, taking part in the common life and worship of a congregation, lifting one another up in prayer, mutual concern, and active support, studying Scripture and the issues of Christian faith and life, supporting the ministry of the church through the giving of money, time, and talents, demonstrating a new quality of life within and through the church, responding to God's activity in the world through service to others, living responsibly in the personal, family, vocational, political, cultural, and social relationships of life, working in the world for peace, justice, freedom, and human fulfillment, caring for God's creation, participating in the governing responsibilities of the church, and reviewing and evaluating regularly the integrity of one's membership, and considering ways in which one's participation in worship and service of the church may be increased and made more meaningful." G-1.0304 Ministry of Members

I encourage you to take stock. Inquire of yourself, what do I give to the support of God's mission in the world as compared to what I would give if I was tithing? How have I participated in active membership in the past compared to the present? Beloved, you are all a blessing, *Pastor Katie*

Join us for Christmas Caroling!



THE MUSIC & WORSHIP TEAM ARE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE A CHRISTMAS CAROLING EVENT ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17! WE WILL BE FORMING GROUPS OF PEOPLE TO TRAVEL AROUND THE LOCAL AREA, SINGING CAROLS FOR MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY AND PERRYSBURG AT LARGE. AFTERWARDS THERE WILL BE FELLOWSHIP AT THE CHURCH, WITH APPETIZERS, HOT CIDER/CHOCOLATE, AND MULLED WINE PROVIDED BY THE CONGREGATIONAL LIFE TEAM. SIGN-UP SHEETS WILL BE POSTED AT THE END OF NOVEMBER. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

UPCOMING WORSHIP LEADERS:

November 19: Don Youel, Cecilia Richardson & Delbert Duckins/Marty Sloan, Jay Salvage, Gretchen Downs

November 26: Don Youel, Sarah & Lizzie Crawford, Kathy Jarosz, Nancy Gates

December 3: Stephen Potts, Mary Beth & Rick Gilts, Allison Mackin, Nancy Gates
Communion: Marty Sloan, Gretchen Downs, Rick & Mary Beth Gilts

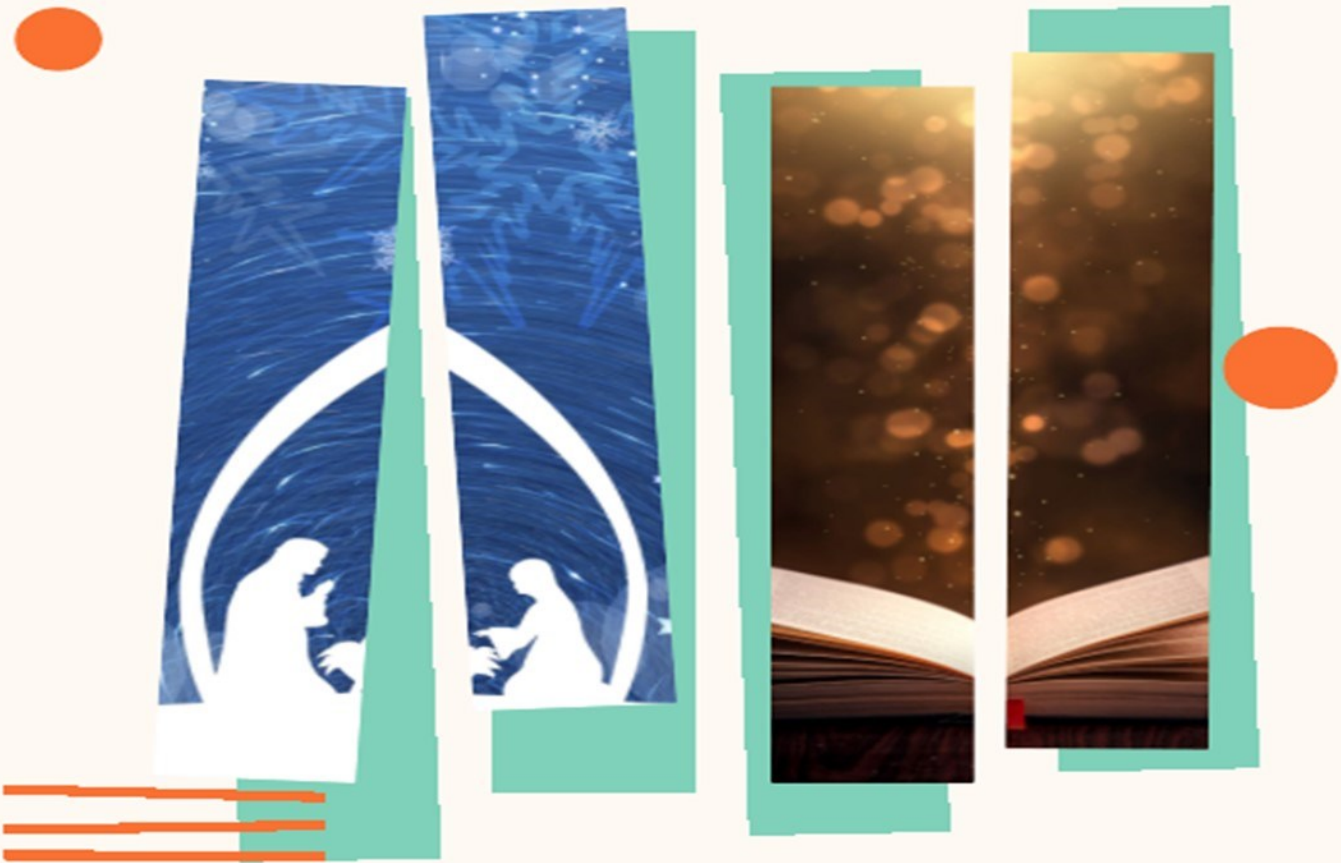
December 10: Don Youel, Jay & Jo Salvage, Sarah Magoun, Kathy Jarosz

December 17: Stephen Potts, Randy & Eileen Phillips, Jo Salvage, Gretchen Downs

December 24: Don Youel, Doris Currie & Robb Gates, Rusty Phlegar, Stephen Potts

December 31: Stephen Potts, Carol Sprague & Martha Gulth, Allison Mackin, Marty Sloan

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Our older youth will continue with the mentorship program for the time being. To keep them engaged we will add new dimensions as we move through the next several weeks. We are so grateful to our loyal mentors for sharing their time and wisdom with these wonderful young people.

Starting Nov. 19th there is a separate program for the intermediate youth (5th-8th grades). They will stay in service through the sermon. At the conclusion of the sermon they will be excused to the upstairs youth area to discuss the sermon, have a snack and maybe even get in a quick game of pingpong.

Our Jr. Worship group will continue the Adventure series focused on Paul. He sure was a busy guy spreading the Good News to so many!

The Christmas pageant will be performed on Dec. 10th during the service with a cookie reception to follow during fellowship time.

The dress rehearsal will be Dec. 3rd after church then on to the parade that starts at 2:00. We will provide lunch for the children. Parents are welcome and encouraged to walk in the parade with or without costumes which we will gladly provide!

Our support of the PHCC (Perrysburg Heights Community Center) continues to develop!

A note from Pastor Katie:

After PHCC leadership presented to us in Fellowship Hour some weeks ago, Fay and Mary Beth took the training and signed up to be reading mentors. **Great job, you two!** There is more need for mentors, so if you feel called, take the training.

And your Mission Team is helping with PHCC's Thanksgiving dinner distribution on Nov. 20!

During their presentation we also learned that when the students are home for the winter break this December, the Community Center needs help providing them with lunches. Our Mission Team, on our behalf, took on two of the dates PHCC requested help. And an individual in our congregation took on a third date.

This is really worth celebrating!

Deepening our relationships is what it is all about.

If you are excited about participating in opportunities like these to be a blessing to our neighbors, let the Mission Team know!

MISSION



"Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life." ~ Melody Beattie

THE TABLE:

November 15

Thanksgiving Feast



THE CHRISTMAS ANGEL TREE:

THE ANGELS WILL BE READY TO ADOPT WED, NOV 29

Other Mission Team Highlights:

The team donated \$424 of hygiene and cleaning products to PHCC.

The Total Amount Our Church Donated to the PCUSA PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS offering was \$1,146.00!

And the Team gives a *heartfelt* "Thank You!" to Selinda Schultz for giving the Mission Team a \$250 mission project grant through Thrivent Financial (a Christian-based financial planning agency). The grant was given to help defray costs for The Table during the Holidays.


SHOP for PCU:

November = TOILET PAPER

December = SOUP

Congregational Care

By Marty Sloan, Chair



The Congregational Care Team is assembling the annual Christmas Bags for our shut-ins and members in need. We will purchase gift cards through NOSA. The team will be delivering the Christmas bags through the month of December. This is an especially enjoyable time of the year to visit our shut-ins to express our loving care and celebrate the birth of our Lord!

JOIN US FOR A COOKIE CELEBRATION!

Sunday, December 10
Bring 1-2 dozen cookies to share
during Fellowship Hour




HANGING OF THE GREENS




TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28
6:00 P.M.

PLEASE COME AND HELP PREPARE THE CHURCH FOR THE ADVENT SEASON. FAMILIES ARE ENCOURAGED TO JOIN US FOR DECORATING THE ANGEL TREE. A LIGHT SUPPER OF SOUP, RELISHES, PIZZA AND COOKIES WILL BE PROVIDED BY CONGREGATIONAL LIFE. ALL HELP IS APPRECIATED AND NEEDED!

November 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
12	13	14	15 <i>Rev. Katie away</i> 5:30 pm The Table 7:00 pm Al-Anon	16	17	18 10am Unload Christmas Trees
19 Guest Preacher Pamela Short	20	21 10:00 am Bible Study	22 7:00 pm Al-Anon	23 Happy Thanksgiving! 	24	25
26 8:30am Men's Bible Study Worship: service of healing & wholeness	27 5:00 pm Congregational Life Meeting	28 10:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Hanging of the Greens	29 7:00 pm Al-Anon	30	Orange boxes indicate days we will be selling Christmas Trees at the church. Please find out what you can do and volunteer!	

December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Throughout Advent, keep an eye on the church Facebook page and website to see daily posts of ornaments that have special meaning for our congregants. Throughout the month we will be sharing the stories of these special objects and hanging them on a tree Sunday mornings.</p>					1	2
3 First Sunday of Advent Communion Holiday Parade	4	5 10:00 am Bible Study	6 5pm Worship Team meeting 6pm Mission Team Meeting 7:00 pm Al-Anon	7 1:00 pm Congregational Care Meeting	8	9
10 Second Sunday of Advent Pageant Christmas Cookie Celebration	11	12 10:00 am Bible Study	13 7:00 pm Al-Anon	14 4:00 pm MVP Team Meeting	15	16
17 Third Sunday of Advent CE Team Meeting 3:30 pm Caroling 5:30 pm mulled wine & munchies	18 5:30pm SMF	19 10:00 am Bible Study	20 7:00 pm Al-Anon	21	22	23
24 4th Sun. Advent 10am simple Worship 6:30pm Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols	25 Christmas Day 	26	27 7:00 pm Al-Anon	28	29	30
31	<p>Orange boxes indicate days we will be selling Christmas Trees at the church. <u>We will need lots of help this year.</u> Please find out what you can do and volunteer!</p>					