

The Disciple

Faith Presbyterian Church's Monthly Newsletter
5555 Chambersburg Rd. Huber Heights, Ohio 45424



“There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars... When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near” (Luke 21.)

Happy Advent Everyone! I love the season of Advent. It is such a welcome alternative to the hustle and bustle of the world around us. I was encouraged to find out though that some stores that have been open on Thanksgiving, but not last year, have decided to make last year a habit and close their doors for good on Thanksgiving. I say Amen to that! It is good that a few restaurants are open though, as David reported when I sent him out for milk on Thanksgiving morning, so that everyone has some place to go.

The good news is that we'll be needing some milk after worship now that coffee hour is back in swing. We do realize that the infection rates haven't come down yet, but you all can choose what you need to do to stay healthy this winter. I got my booster shot last week, to be on the safe side. As of this writing, no decision has been made yet on the Christmas Eve Deacon's reception. But stay tuned, and we'll let you know what the plans are closer to the date.

The Advent season is all about finding some clarity in this crazy, confusing world we live in. And it's about coming home to who we are as God's beloved children and letting ourselves soak in the quietness and inner peace into which Advent invites us. Those are the names of our four Advent candles this year: clarity, home, quietness, and inner peace. We are getting ready to hear once more a beautiful story of a miraculous birth when the world was peaceful and still, and the angels sang to the shepherds and the magi followed a star. And to let that story touch our lives, especially where we feel most vulnerable.

The challenge with this beautiful story is to not turn it into a fairy tale. We all have memories of Christmas pageants gone by where the children were so cute and sweet and there was a feeling, at least for a brief time, that all was right with the world. Kind of like the song, "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas." It's almost as if we are reluctant to let the "real world" touch our idyllic vision of Christmas, lest it be ruined.

Yet aren't we missing the point here? Those visions of a world in trouble which we read at the beginning of Advent are very much a part of our journey as believers. The Christ Child was born to save the troubled world. So the two need to talk to one another. And yet our world today is having a hard time keeping up its end of the conversation. How can the church help get the communication flowing again? The best answer I know is to listen. Listen to our neighbors, friends and family members who have left the church and try to understand why. Listen to those who have no idea what church is about and try to understand what gives them meaning. Listen to those who are hurting most and learn from them.

May God grant us all clarity, a loving home, quietness and inner peace this Advent. And especially may God grant us a listening ear. Hope to see you on Sunday!

Wishing Everyone a Blessed Advent and Christmas season.

Pastor Julia

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Greg Hughes
 Financial Secretary: Don Niece
 Treasurer: Diane Grycz
 Support: Paul Brown and Keith Williams

Finances:	Oct	YTD
Income	\$ 7,597	\$117,492
Expenses:	<u>\$13,034</u>	<u>\$106,045</u>
Difference:	\$(5,437)	\$ 11,447

Next Meeting: Dec 2nd at 7 PM

Pledges were down again this month. Our expenses were more than income the past six months. The Payroll Protection Program Loan we received in March has helped carry us thru. The building insurance was paid in October in the amount of \$3,408. The lawn service bill was \$1,020 which was for 4 mowing's, edging all the sidewalks and getting rid of the weeds that were growing in the parking lot. The windows were cleaned in the sanctuary thanks to a generous donation. The new front doors have been installed. Third quarter tax filings were completed and filed.

Session Notes

November 2021

Session met on November 11 by Zoom. Pastor Julia attended both UCC and Presbytery meetings, including Presbytery Staff Support. She made visitations and phone calls to watch over our flock. The finances remain steady, and income continues sufficient to cover expenses. The church will purchase Dragons tickets for next year. Covid-19 policy is being relaxed, masks are encouraged but not required, and after-church social hour will resume on November 28. A review of active membership is in process. The Session approved vacation for Pastor Julia from Dec. 26 – Jan. 1. Session has read the *Adept Church* which analyzes various issues churches face regarding stagnation and growth. The Session will meet in January to discuss how this can be useful to Faith and the best way to include the congregation in the process.



The Christmas Joy offering will be collected on Sunday, December 19th.

As we prepare for Advent expectation, we know that the only perfect gift ever given was the one we received in Jesus Christ—a perfect gift from our gracious God. In Matthew's Gospel, one of the names given to Jesus is Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." We know that in

Jesus, we receive the perfect gift of God being with us. What a powerful gift, a perfect gift, the gift of...being with. Although we cannot give the perfect gift, we can give generously to support and be with our past, present and future leaders in their time of promise and their time of need. By giving to the Christmas Joy offering, you honor God's gift of Jesus Christ by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

The offering is distributed equally to both. God has blessed the Church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. This Offering addresses the support needed by some of our leaders, including supporting leadership development for communities of color, and providing support for Presbyterian Church workers in their time of need. The Christmas Joy Offering is one of four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Thank you for your support of the Christmas Joy Offering!



Our next meeting will be January 5th at 9:30am.

On Nov. 28th, we will begin having coffee hour after church. It is a time to drink your favorite beverage and talk with others. We do recommend masks if not drinking, snacks will be added later.

Advent is here and our Advent study is being done at 9:30 AM before church for Nov. 28th, Dec 5th, Dec 12th, and Dec 19th. The church is decorated and filled with the symbols of Christmas. Come and join us at this special time of year.

The Christmas Eve Open House is on hold and we will let people know via prayer chain and on the Web site if we will have an open house before the Christmas Eve Service.

The Presbyterian Woman’s study continues on the second Thursday of the month at 1pm. See Jo Hall for information.

We begin in-person Sunday school January 9th at 9:30 and will use the fall session of “The Present Word”. The Worship Committee is extremely grateful for your donation of your time and gifts, which are vital to our life together as a congregation.



	WORSHIP	GREETER	USHER
5	Jo Hall	Dan Bolebrunch	Chris Adams
12	Cyndi Adams	Jan & Vaughn Beam	Mary Skare
19	Keith Williams	Dottie Standley	Cyndi Adams
26	Sami Adams	Beverly Brown	Bev Brown

May you be merry and joyful during this season of love and family.

Cyndi Adams, Chris TenBroeke, Jo Hall, and Pat Harris

Our Adopt-a-Family project begins on Sunday, December 5th.



Our annual tradition embraces struggling families by providing food, Christmas gifts, and mostly hope at Christmas. The Christmas tree on the poster will be posted with bulbs on the window of the church office. Each bulb will have a gift suggestion for a member of the family. All you need to do is remove a bulb and sign that you have it then purchase a gift for the individual described on the bulb. Gifts need to be wrapped and brought back to the church by Sunday, December 19th with the bulb attached. The bulbs need to be on the gift so the committee can deliver the gift to the correct person. If you would like to make a monetary donation, you can put it in the offering and mark for “Adapt-a-Family.” This money will be used to buy perishable food and gifts. All food contributions to FISH during December will be given to the families along with the gifts before Christmas. If you would like to help with grocery shopping or delivering the gifts, please tell Diane Grycz, Ellen Mayhew, Mary Skare or Sheryl Williams.

The offering collected at the Christmas Eve Service, will go to FISH (our local food pantry here in Huber Heights.)

As always we thank you for your generous support.



Prayers for our Church Family.

Jan Beams, Bob Christian, Jenny Davis, Norma Leshner, Betsy Morris, Roy Schroeder, Marj Zepernick

DECEMBER



- 8 Jackie (Ellis) Hyden
- 13 Jim Kempton
- 14 Wilma Shields
- 24 Paul Brown
- 26 Doris Harmsworth
- 27 Kelly Mayhew

- 5 Don & Linda Niece
- 9 Kevin & Kimberlee Sharp

On first Sunday of the month the Worship and Nurture committee places flowers arrangement on the chancel in memory / honor of loved ones of the family of Faith.



If you would like to provide a flower arrangement in memory/ honor of a loved one return the following form with your donation to Samantha. The arrangements cost \$18 for one and \$36 for two, make the checks payable to Faith Presbyterian Church. Your Gift will be recognized in the bulletin, unless you ask otherwise. Please check the form if you would like to pick up the arrangements after worship, otherwise it will be delivered to someone who needs a little cheer. For more information please contact Samantha Adams.

Memorial Flower Gift

Please accept my donation of \$18_____ \$36
For the Memorial flowers fund in Memory of /
Honor of _____

Given By: _____

I would like to pick up the arrangement _____



Cold Weather is coming: inclement weather conditions sometimes result in making it necessary to cancel church or related activities. We have discovered that calling everyone is ineffective during closures so we will now only notify Channel 2 and Channel 7. Please check these channels on either the internet or TV for this information.



God's Son Is Born

(Luke 2)

Mary and Joseph decided to stay in a stable. During the night, a wonderful thing happened! Mary gave birth to Jesus—God's own son. She wrapped Him in a cloth and placed Him in a manger.

Use the code to color the picture.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<p>1</p> <p>8:15 A Exercise 9:00 A Worship & Nurture</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7P Admin</p>	<p>3</p> <p>8:15A Exercise</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5</p> <p>9:30A Advent Study 10:30A Worship</p>	<p>6</p> <p>8:15A Exercise</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>8:15A Exercise 10:30A Blankets Foodbank 9:15A</p>	<p>9</p> <p>1P Presbyterian Women 7P Session</p>	<p>10</p> <p>8:15A Exercise</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12</p> <p>9:30A Advent Study 10:30A Worship</p>	<p>13</p> <p>8:15A Exercise</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>8:15A Exercise 10:30A Blankets</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Preschool Christmas Parlor & Sanctuary</p>	<p>17</p> <p>8:15A Exercise Preschool Christmas Parlor &</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19</p> <p>9:30A Advent Study 10:30A Worship</p>	<p>20</p> <p>8:15A Exercise Preschool Break No School until</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>8:15A Exercise 10:30A Blankets</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Open House TBD 7:00PM Worship</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Christmas Day</p>
<p>26</p> <p>10:30A Worship</p>	<p>27</p> <p>8:15A Exercise</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>8:15A Exercise 10:30A Blankets</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>New Year's</p>	