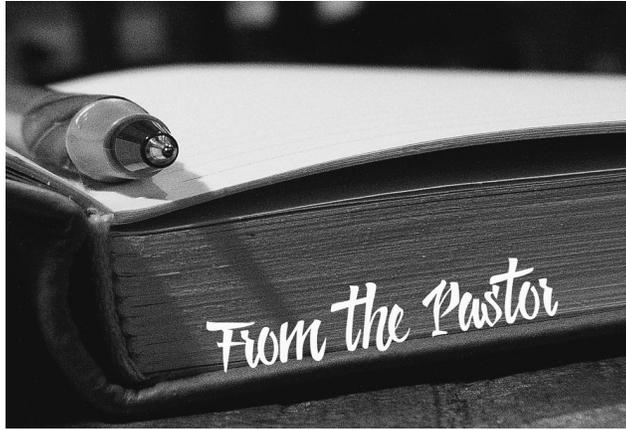


The Disciple

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



“Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you” (Isaiah 60:1.)

This verse from the Prophet Isaiah is traditionally read on the first Sunday in January to celebrate the coming of the light of Christ not only to the Jewish people but to all people. The strange appearance of those three magi to welcome the Christ Child affirms this understanding that God's love is not limited to one group; but extends farther than people back in Bible times could ever imagine. Who would have thought that odd looking

foreigners would arrive on camels bearing strange gifts not necessarily fit for a baby and his parents? And then of course there are always the jokes about what if it had been three wise women? Then the gifts would have been so practical: diapers, a good donkey “car seat” and a casserole!

In my Beavercreek neighborhood someone came up with the idea of asking everyone to put out luminaries on their driveways and sidewalks on Christmas Eve. These can be as simple as a paper bag or a milk jug with a candle inside. Several houses did so and as I drove up to Faith on Christmas Eve and then back home again through my neighborhood, my way was lit up quite beautifully! The luminaries blended in well and complimented all the other Christmas lights.

Christmas lights in the darkness remind me of something that is really quite obvious; but we often don't think about it. That's the fact that unless it's dark out, we can't see the lights. When my son was young, we worked hard one December weekend to put lights on the bushes in front of our house. He then said, “Mom, plug in the lights!” I told him we had to wait until it gets dark. That's sometimes how it works with God too. When it's light outside and all seems well, God often gets forgotten. But in our darkest moments, the light of Christ will shine.

This year has been a bit of a dark one. Yet I give thanks for all of you. I give thanks for your steadfastness in sticking with worship on the website or in your email or snail mailbox. This is not an ideal situation by any means, but I know we are all learning things in the process. And there are some positives too. We had a couple who were at Faith in the 1980s join us over Zoom for the Christmas Eve service. Now that would have never happened before Faith Church took the bold leap into new technology! There were smiles on many faces Christmas Eve as old friends got to greet one another and reconnect.

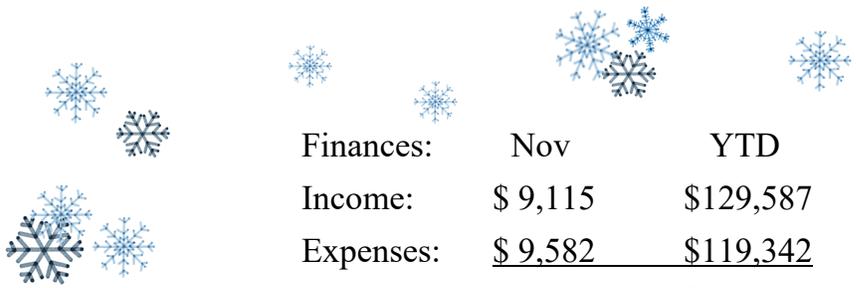
Thank you all so much for your cards and gifts. They brighten my day! We are in this together and we will all come out stronger, with a renewed deep appreciation for being together, complete with coffee, snacks and handshakes and hugs! Until then, please continue to keep in touch.

Sending New Year's Blessings to All!

Pastor Julia

Administration Committee

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



Next Meeting: Jan 7th at 7 PM

Finances:	Nov	YTD
Income:	\$ 9,115	\$129,587
Expenses:	<u>\$ 9,582</u>	<u>\$119,342</u>
Difference:	(\$ 467)	\$ 10,245

Here are some of the items going on in the church:

- Memorial contributions of \$64 were received in November for Sets Nagaoka.
 - Total expenses in November were more than income. However YTD we are doing well. Thank you to all that continue to send in your pledges even though we are currently unable to meet in person.
 - Pledges are still coming in; we are about half of what was budgeted currently for 2021.
 - Building insurance was reviewed and approved with no changes.
 - Korrekt plumbing was out and repaired the men's urinal.
 - A Ring doorbell was purchased and will be installed for the front door; this is going to be a hardwire installed for reliability. While this is getting wired by an electrician, we are also getting a photo eye installed for the light at the entry door for safety at night. These two items should help with security. It will also be easier to greet people, due to the locked door during the day. The install cost should be less than \$200.
 - Norton Antivirus was purchased for the church to help with internet security.
 - As an ongoing quest to save money, we are now switching from ATT for phone to Spectrum for phone and internet. Doing so will save the church and preschool approximately \$130 a month.
 - The administration team is installing a Cat 6 LAN wire from the mechanical room where the router is, to the sanctuary to accommodate the growing need for fast internet. Once installed, Don will be doing some testing for online sermons.
 - Paul and Greg fixed some shingles that had come loose on the roof.
 - A tree limb fell at the back entrance. Chris Adams volunteered to cut and clean this up.
- Christmas decorations are up, thanks to all that helped.

Session Notes

December 2020

Session met by Zoom on Dec 10. Pastor Julia continues to maintain contact with our members and friends through phone calls, texts, and cards. She also attended the Presbytery meeting, SONKA (UCC) meeting, held preschool chapel and started the Advent study. Session reluctantly decided to continue virtual worship via YouTube at least through the first two weeks of January. This will be further reviewed at the Session meeting on January 14. A report was received from preschool Director Kelley Britt. The preschool has received government pandemic funds which will assist in dealing with the difficulties of the Covid-19 pandemic. Admin Committee reported a new doorbell and lighting are being installed at the entrance to improve security and the phone and internet providers are being changed to reduce cost. There should be no disruption of service with these changes.



Our next meeting will be January 6th at 9:00 on Zoom.

Advent is done and a New Year is beginning. Welcome to 2021.

In 2020 we have had challenges to overcome and thanks to Don Niece, Pastor Julia and Sarah one of the challenges was met by learning to record and place our worship services on YouTube for us each week. I hope you have been able to watch them. We have also had weekly Popcorn with the Pastor sessions to keep us

connected. If you would like to join us, we will be glad to teach you how.

It has been decided that our worship will remain remote thru at least January 10th. The session will again revisit church in-person at our session meeting and we will let everyone know when we can again begin in-person Worship.

The Presbyterian Woman study is on hold and will continue when it is safe to gather again.

Many of us miss seeing our friends and being able to catch up on the latest news. Hopefully, you are calling the pastor or sending information to the prayer chain if prayers are needed.

We are keeping each of you in our prayers as this challenging time continues. Hope is in the air with the vaccine coming out and being given to those that are on the front-line workers and in nursing homes. Hopefully, the rest of us will be able to get in line for the vaccine (if you want it).

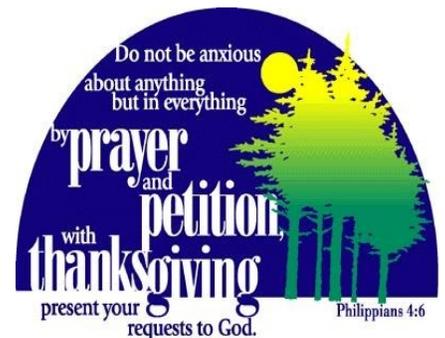
The Feast of the Epiphany, January 6th, is just around the corner. There are many ideas to celebrate this remembrance of the Visitation of the Magi. This may be the year to do a house blessing.

Have a house blessing. Each year, we ask for blessings for all who will enter our house. A visible reminder of our prayer and our commitment to treating all who enter as if they were Christ himself is a blessing written in chalk above the front door on the inside of the house. Consider a house blessing for your home. Have an adult write in chalk above the door: 20 + C + M + B + 21 (the numbers change each year) "Christus mansionem benedicat" Latin for "May Christ bless this house."

*We wish you all a safe and happy start to the New Year
Cyndi Adams, Kyung-Hee, Chris TenBroeke and Jo Hall.*



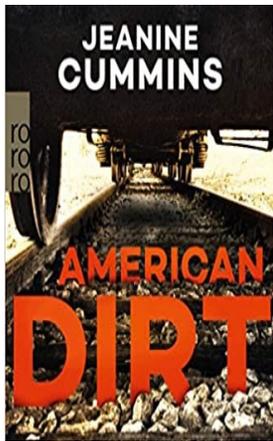
Beth Griffin, Betsy Morris, Jan Schroeder, Deborah Moore, Mary Swartzel, George O'Bryan, Norma Leshner, Bob and Emily Christian, Maria Beimly, Rick Latimer, Dottie Standley, Doctors, Nurses, Frontline & necessary medical workers.





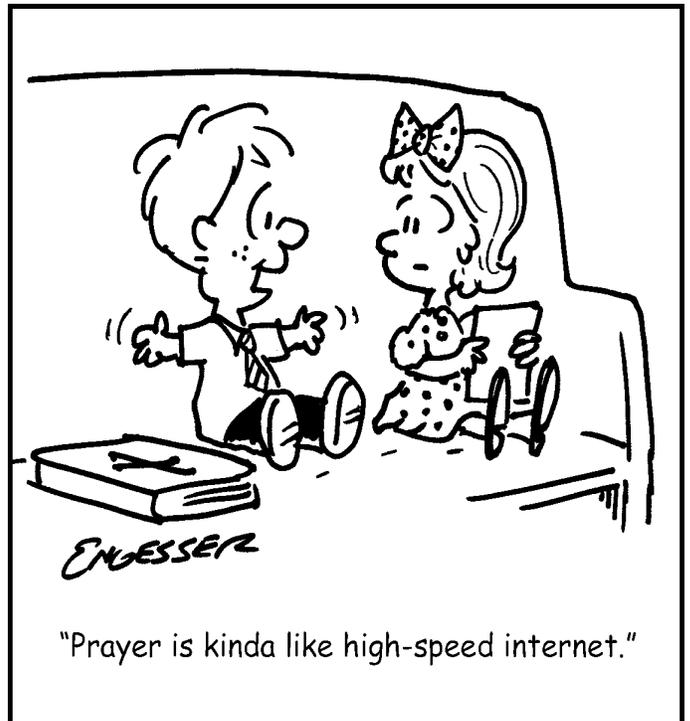
Two families gratefully and tearfully accepted your gifts of love this Christmas. Your generosity and kindness is a reflection of the true Christmas Spirit. Each family received about 15 bags of groceries and gifts for under the tree. The Girl Scout Troop 2033 that meets at Faith also joined with us in providing gifts and groceries for the children. Financial donations totaled \$430 and that was used to purchase some gifts, perishable groceries and Kroger gifts cards for the families. Both families expressed much appreciation. THANK YOU!!!

After the groceries were packed for the families, there were still 8 cases and 4 bags of food

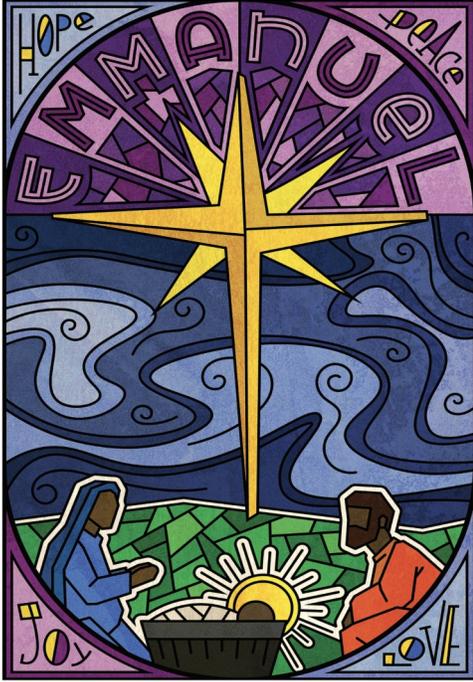


Sweet Communion Book Club returns in January!

But probably without communion this time. We will discuss the novel American Dirt, by Jeanine Cummins. It is the gripping story of Lydia and her son Luca who leave their home in Mexico to save their lives by immigrating to the United States. When I read it, I couldn't put it down! It is gripping to hear the obstacles they must overcome to make it to the border and the people they meet along the way. Some help them out and others are a threat to their lives. We will meet over Zoom on Weds, January 20 at 5 PM. This book is very popular, so allow extra time to reserve it at the library. Books can also be ordered for \$14.



— STAYING —
CONNECTED



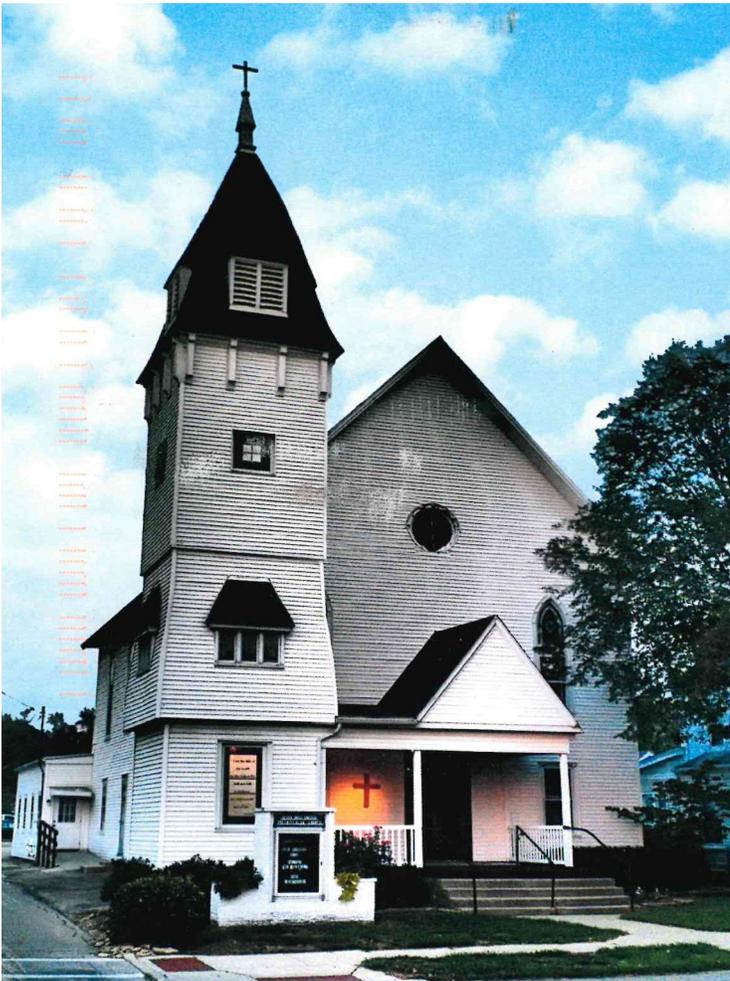
 CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
LEADERSHIP, PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

We will continue to collect the Christmas Joy Offering into January and there are several ways to give;

- Mail to 5555 Chambersburg Rd Huber Heights 45424 attention Financial Secretary. Make sure you note the check this is for the Christmas Joy.
- Give online at <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/make-a-gift/gift-info/christmas-joy/>
- You can also support the Christmas Joy Offering through gifts to the [Presbyterian Giving Catalog](#).

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.

Thank you for your support of the Christmas Joy Offering!



Seven Mile Presbyterian Church

Bible based since 1821

Newly restored 1870's sanctuary

Seven Mile, OH 45062

*Dear Friends,
Please know we pray
for your Church session,
congregation, and mission
you support. God has
us all in his hands
each day - of that we
are certain.
Most cheerfully,
Pastor Sidget and the
congregation of Seven
Mile Presbyterian Church*



Merry
Christmas
& A Happy
New Year
from
Faith
Preschool



Wishing many blessings

January
BIRTHDAYS

3 Chris Adams

Lisa Kawanishi

Neway Tumasang

7 George Kawanishi

11 Michael Grycz

George O'Bryan

15 Krysteena Tumasang

20 Mary Swartzel

21 Linda Niece

23 Jace Fetters

25 Duane Skare

30 Corey Farrar

31 Deborah Moore

January
ANNIVERSARIES

24 Dave & Naomi Henry



On the first Sunday of the month the Worship & Nurture committee places flower arrangements on the chancel in memory or honor of loved ones of the family of Faith.

If you would like to provide a flower arrangement return the following form with your donation to Samantha Adams. The arrangements cost is \$18 for one and \$36 for two. Please make checks are payable to Faith Presbyterian Church. Your Gift will be recognized in the bulletin unless you instruct otherwise. Also be sure to mark if you would like to pick up the arrangement.

All arrangements not collected will be delivered to those in need of their day brightened. For more information

Please accept my donation of

\$18_____ \$36_____

For the Memorial flowers fund

In Memory of:

In Honor of:

Given by:

I will pick up the arrangement

January 2021

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

3	4	5	6	7	8	1	2		
Worship Online		6:30 P Popcorn w/ Pastor	9 A Worship & Nurture 5 P Christmas Clean-up	6 P Missions & Outreach 7 P Admin		Happy New Year			
10	11	12	13	14	15				
Worship Online		6:30 P Popcorn w/ Pastor		7 P Session					
17	18	19	20	21	22				
Worship TBD	Martin Luther King Day	6:30 P Popcorn w/ Pastor	5 P Book Club Zoom						
24/31	25	26	27	28	29				
Worship TBD		6:30 P Popcorn w/ Pastor	Tentative Foodbank						