



# PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.) Plain City, Ohio

## PPC PRESSing News

December Update

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### Word from Pastor Alice

Dear Church Family,

Are you weary? I would venture to guess most of us are. Might I suggest... we are weary of Covid-19, of wearing masks, of being closed up more in our homes, of not seeing family and friends, of not having the freedom to go and do what we would like to do when we would like to do it, of uncertainty in our country, of violence, sadness, and disappointment, of online learning, of fear and anxiety, Zoom meetings, and the list could go on and on!

During this Advent Season and Christmas we will focus on being weary and the antidote for weariness. My sermon series is entitled, "The Weary World Rejoices!"

Advent Sermon Series **THE WEARY WORLD REJOICES!**

- 11/29 - Weary of Waiting - Prophecy (Rejoicing in the Word)
- 12/6 - Weary of Criticism - Elizabeth (Rejoicing in Trust)
- 12/13 - Weary of Confusion - Mary (Rejoicing in Belief)
- 12/20 - Weary of Worry - Joseph (Rejoicing in Rest)
- 12/24 - THE WORLD REJOICES IN THE SAVIOR
- 12/27 - Keep From Being Weary on the Journey - Focus - The Magi

Although we may face daily the battle of weariness, we can turn to the One who can allow our heart to rejoice in the midst of it all...our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. For Jesus gives us strength, peace, joy, and hope in the battle. That is Good News!

***Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11***

Although at the present time our in-person worship is temporarily suspended, we invite you to join us on Facebook live to worship with us. The service remains on our Facebook page to be viewed afterwards as well. Services are also posted on our website to be viewed later.

I sure do miss seeing you! I love you lots and am grateful to be your pastor!

Love and Blessings in Jesus! Alice



**A SPECIAL NIGHT OF LESSONS AND CAROLS! December 13, 2020 at 7:30 pm!**

Join us online for a live stream Christmas music special December 13, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. Ailene Albrecht will provide piano music remotely, Dirk Ahlgrim will be live on our organ, and harpist James Predovich will provide music via video. Come enjoy the music of the season!

### **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE** -

Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service will be [at 7:00 p.m.](#) (please note earlier time) **PLEASE HAVE YOUR COMMUNION ELEMENTS READY AHEAD OF TIME!** AS OF RIGHT NOW - IT WILL BE ON FACEBOOK LIVE ONLY! We will keep you posted should that change!



Thank you for your Support!  
The J-Walkers (Jesus Walkers) Youth

**Group** increased the number of Christmas shoeboxes from last year! We had 7 boxes in church and at last count 27 online boxes for a total of 34 boxes!! **Thank you all so much for helping!**

Keep these folks and their caregivers in your prayers for healing and recovery from hospitalization or recent illness.

- Don McKelvey
- Brenda DeLeon
- Richard Meeker



## Returning to ON-LINE ONLY worship beginning 11/29

For a time your Session has been in conversation regarding in-person worship. We are fully aware of the increasing numbers of cases of Covid.

We regret to make the decision; but at this time, we are temporarily suspending in-person worship. This was a decision in which we really wrestled in making. We know, by far, we are probably the safest church sanctuary around in the area. We have been diligent in practicing very safe protocols and in sanitizing. We also know that for some that have faithfully attended since July, this is their only opportunity to worship; since they do not have internet access. We had to weigh all those factors with the increase in Covid and Presbytery and Madison County Health Dept. recommendations. We believe it is the safest and most loving thing to do at this time.

We have not set a date to reopen, but we will be closely watching numbers. When we see a shift in numbers of Covid going down, we anticipate reopening as soon as possible.

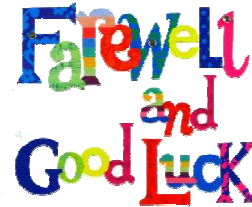


We will pray for individuals with Covid and you can send any names to email to Rev. Alice at [revalp@neo.rr.com](mailto:revalp@neo.rr.com).

## Monday Night Prayer and Bible

**Study 6:30 pm** will do an Advent Study by Anne Graham Lotz on *The Light Still Shines*. If you would like to join us on Monday's at 6:30 p.m., Nov. 23-Dec. 14, please let Rev Alice know and she will send the Zoom connection.

**Attention MEN! ZOOM Bible Study on Saturday** mornings is here! Please contact Bill Pettibone if you would like to join! [billpsurvey@hotmail.com](mailto:billpsurvey@hotmail.com)



The Plain City community and our church family say "Goodbye and Thank You" to Mike and Barbara George this month. Mike and

Barbara are relocating to the North Canton area to be closer to their daughter, Molly and her family. Mike and Barbara have been long time members and servants for our church. They were the faithful driving forces behind the Feed My Sheep ministry. Both Mike and Barbara have served on many committees throughout the years, Trustees, Session, Deacons and more. Barbara faithfully took her place in the choir loft each week and Mike was willing to step up whenever a need arose- researching the new sign to setting up the poinsettia tree and much more. They were also generous in their support for outreach throughout the community. Their positive attitude and energy was much appreciated and will be greatly missed. We wish them only health and happiness as they transition into this new adventure. Their new address is :

245 James St. SW  
North Canton, OH 44720.

God Bless You! Thank you so very much!

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

AV Team needs more volunteers. Dave McCray and Jim Kaufman have been our ever faithful camera men for weeks now. They are need of some more volunteers to train. Please consider helping with this important service to the church family. Contact Dave or Jim if you are willing to learn and help.



We say "Thank You" to Judy Brady for providing the poinsettias decorating the sanctuary and to Gary and Carolyn Gibeaut for putting up the Christmas decorations in the church.

## MISSION UPDATE..WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER!

THANK YOU TO SO MANY FOR YOUR GENEROUS GIFTS TO THE MISSION FUND! Session decided to disperse \$500 per month to the PC Food Pantry which will take our giving to them through the winter months. We are also awaiting to hear what will happen with DNA in regards to possibly moving from their current building.

## Church Treasurer Report for October 2020

For the month of October, donations for the church's general fund were up somewhat from the prior month while expenses were about the same. The general fund was able to maintain a small positive balance as of the end of the month.

### General Expenses Fund

Beginning Balance 10/01/2020	\$ 751.31
Income	9,714.00
Expenses	(10,129.68)
Ending Balance 10/31/2020	\$ 335.63

The local mission fund balance is \$2,519.42. For the month, \$500 was provided to the Plain City Food Pantry. The Judy Walker Scholarship fund received additional donations of \$592.00, so the balance is now \$3,196.00.

If there are any questions, please let me know.

Best Regards,  
Gary Gibeaut, Treasurer

**Just a reminder - if you haven't turned yours in yet - Per Capita for 2020 is \$37.75 per person and is due by the end of the year.**



## The Judy Walker Music Scholarship Still Collecting Donations

Judy Walker has faithfully served our church as organist for the past 54 years. The Session has wanted to find some way to honor Judy for her many years of service and decided to establish the Judy Walker Music Scholarship Fund. Each year a graduating student will be chosen. The amount given each year will be determined by the funds that become available. Please mail your gift to Suzanne Merkle; or if you are worshipping in person, you may bring your gift to the church. **PLEASE** designate on your check/envelope that it is for the Judy Walker Music Scholarship Fund.



## DNA Coat Drive

In early December DNA will also especially need new children's coats for Christmas. They will also be accepting good used coats for the Kids Closet program. Any coats provided will be given to DNA. You are welcome to drop coats off directly at DNA or you can stop by during office hours, Tuesday, Wednesday or Friday mornings 9 until 1. Give the office a call 614-873-5011 to let Carolyn know you are stopping by.



## REMEMBERING OUR SHUT-INS

### Our Shut-ins

Being shut-in these past few months should have given us a better appreciation for those on our shut-in list. Please take a moment to remember our shut-ins. Drop them a card or give them a call!

Mary Mitchell— Prestige Gardens Marysville

Bob Schlitz—Home

Connie Zimmerman—Arizona home

Dick Harper—Home

Fred DeLeon - Home

Marian Thomas & Pat Stenner & Bruce Keiser—Dublin Retire Village Assisted Living

Chuck Stoker—Home Pat Stoker- Bluebird Retirement, Marysville

Alice Shalosky— Home

Bryan Becker—Home

Arlene Perkins— Walnut Crossing Assisted Living, Marysville

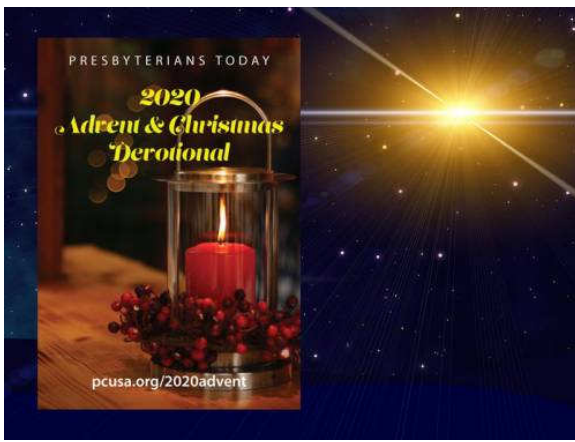
Ray Russell, Emily Baker, Mary Lou Rihl- Edgewater Assisted Living

Georgianna Rymer- daughter's home

**WHAT'S IN THE TUB....** There is a plastic tub outside the Church Street door which you can stop by anytime and get: **UPPER ROOMS AVAILABLE**- The **January/February Upper Rooms** have arrived. **UPDATED CHURCH DIRECTORY**-If you have changes/corrections, please don't hesitate to let Carolyn Gibeaut know. A church directory is always a work in progress.

**Shut in Visitation** If you are shut-in and would like a visit, or if your family member is shut-in and you would like Rev Alice to visit him/her, please let her know.

**For the protection of everyone, she will only visit outdoors at nursing homes, assisted living places, or homes with everyone wearing a mask and social distancing. No home communion at this time, unless you or family has the communion elements available and already there for his/her loved one.**



**Let Us Light Candles - The Presbyterians Today's Advent and Christmas devotional is something new this year. It will be online only. For those of you with online access, the link is at [pcusa.org/2020advent](http://pcusa.org/2020advent). Included below for those without the computer ability is a daily scripture and reflection guide.**

— PRESBYTERIANS TODAY'S ADVENT & CHRISTMAS DEVOTIONAL —  
 READ ONLINE AT [PCUSA.ORG/2020ADVENT](http://PCUSA.ORG/2020ADVENT)

## Advent and Christmas at a Glance

### Week 1

*Candles of joy despite all the sadness*

**Reflect:** Where in life can you spread some joy to others? What does that joy look like?

Nov. 29, First Sunday of Advent,  
 Matthew 25:1–13  
 Nov. 30, Luke 20:1–8  
 Dec. 1, Isaiah 1:21–31  
 Dec. 2, Isaiah 2:1–4  
 Dec. 3, Luke 20:27–40  
 Dec. 4, 1 Thessalonians 4:1–12  
 Dec. 5, Isaiah 4:2–6

### Week 2

*Candles of hope where despair keeps watch*

**Reflect:** What leads people to despair? How can we get better at identifying early signs of despair? What ways can hope turn despair around?

Dec. 6, Second Sunday of Advent,  
 Luke 7:28–35  
 Dec. 7, Psalm 40  
 Dec. 8, Luke 21:29–38  
 Dec. 9, John 7:53–8:11  
 Dec. 10, Isaiah 7:1–9  
 Dec. 11, Psalm 130  
 Dec. 12, Luke 22:31–38

### Week 3

*Candles of courage for fears ever present*

**Reflect:** What does courage look like? Who are those in your life that have exemplified courage? What can you learn from them?

Dec. 13, Third Sunday of Advent,  
 John 3:22–30  
 Dec. 14, Isaiah 8:16–9:1  
 Dec. 15, Luke 22:54–69  
 Dec. 16, Mark 1:1–8  
 Dec. 17, Matthew 3:1–12  
 Dec. 18, Ephesians 6:10–20  
 Dec. 19, Revelation 20:1–10

### Week 4

*Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days*

**Reflect:** Think about a time when amid a storm in life you found a sense of peace. Where did it come from? Who was the angel perhaps who brought it to you?

Dec. 20, Fourth Sunday of Advent,  
 Luke 1:5–25  
 Dec. 21, Revelation 21:9–21  
 Dec. 22, Isaiah 31:1–9  
 Dec. 23, Psalm 147:1–11

### Christmas Eve

*Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens*

**Reflect:** On this holy night, mentally drop all of the burdens you are carrying at the side of the newborn's cradle. Imagine the streams of light coming from heaven, surrounding you with grace.

Dec. 24, Luke 2:1–14

### 12 Days of Christmas

*Candles of love to inspire all my living*

**Reflect:** The season of Christmas has begun. For each of these 12 days, write down one way you will show God's world, and those in it, the love of Christ.

Dec. 25, Titus 3:4–7  
 Dec. 26, Acts 6:1–7  
 Dec. 27, Matthew 1:18–25  
 Dec. 28, Psalm 2  
 Dec. 29, John 7:37–52  
 Dec. 30, Isaiah 25:1–9  
 Dec. 31, John 8:12–19  
 Jan. 1, Colossians 2:6–12  
 Jan. 2, Hebrews 11:1–12  
 Jan. 3, John 6:41–47  
 Jan. 4, John 14:6–14  
 Jan. 5, John 15:1–16

### Epiphany

*Candles that will burn all year long*

**Take action:** Epiphany comes from the Greek word *epiphania*, meaning "appearance" or "manifestation." Christ has appeared to us and his divinity has been revealed. Start an Epiphany journal in 2021, recording daily where it is you have seen Christ's light.

Jan. 6, Matthew 12:14–21

### SOCIAL MEDIA PARTICIPATION

*Presbyterians Today* wants to see your light shine this holiday. Submit pictures of the candles you are lighting (actual candles or how you are shining light in the world by bringing joy or hope to others). Include your name, church and a brief description of the picture. Send to [editor@pcusa.org](mailto:editor@pcusa.org)



# NOMINATIONS FOR CHURCH OFFICERS

The Nominating Committee for 2020\* will be meeting soon to prepare the slate of officers for our church. We would appreciate your willingness to serve on a board by letting us know which positions you would consider, and also your recommendations for other members that you feel have a gift for any particular board.

We will be electing: **3 members to the Board of Elders**  
**4 members to the Board of Deacons**  
**3 members to the Board of Trustees**

## CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

### SESSION

#### Class of 2020

Shane Manning  
 Chris Johnston  
 Bob Merkle

#### Class of 2021

Judy Brady  
 Betty Ferguson  
 Pat Myers

#### Class of 2022

Bill Pettibone  
 Rita McCray  
 Mindy Foust

### DEACONS

#### Class of 2020

Connor Johnston  
 Sharon Newell  
 Whitney Reed  
 Judy Weeks

#### Class of 2021

Don McKelvey  
 Nancy McKelvey  
 Paula Williams  
 Trina Stone

#### Class of 2022

Carol Burkhart  
 Kathy Wilson  
 Valerie Merideth  
 Barbara Berry

### TRUSTEES

#### Class of 2020

Gary Gibeaut  
 Steve Patterson  
 Donna Rihl

#### Class of 2021

Norm Troyer  
 Jim Kaufman  
 Frank Smith

#### Class of 2022

John Rihl  
 Larry Myers  
 Nancy Patterson

The Class of 2020 will retire as of 12/31/20. You will be nominating individuals for the class of 2023. All members serve a 3-year term.

Please prayerfully consider being on a Board. You know your strengths and the strengths of your neighbor! Remember to thank all of those who have given of their time and talents and have been faithful servants for 3 years.

**THANK YOU to the following individuals for providing music each Sunday.** Session has decided to send them monthly gift cards from our church family in appreciation. If you would like to send a note of thanks to them, here are their addresses.

**DR. AILENE ALBRECHT & CAITLYN MACKAY**  
 2235 Hackney Ct  
 Hilliard 43026

**DIRK AHLGRIM**  
 139 N Powell Ave  
 Columbus, OH 43204



12/03	Tom	Stapp
12/04	Jack	Mercer
12/06	Samuel	Stapp
12/07	Judy	Weeks
12/08	Tommy	Lear
12/09	Marian	Thomas
12/10	Carol	Karrer
12/11	Chuck	Stoker
12/17	Keith	Lester
12/17	Harmony	Hargis

Return to Judy Brady, chairman, via email at [jjabrad@com](mailto:jjabrad@com) or mail to 4083 Plumwood Ct. Plain City 43064, or send/drop off at the church.

\*Members of the 2020 Nominating Committee are: Judy Bodenbender, Jerry Smith, Linda Watson, Brenda DeLeon, Mindy Foust Alternate: Beth Beach, Jane Denhardt

I recommend the following persons for consideration as church board members:

**Elders** (3 to be elected)

**Deacons** (4 for 2023)

**Trustees** (3 to be elected):

**Worship and Music Committee** (1 to be elected): Currently serving: Suzanne Merkle (2020) Janell Wilcox (2021) Roy Woods (2022)

**Audit Committee** (1 to be elected): Currently serving: Harley Bodenbender (2020) Elaine Wilcox (2021), Sally Petznick (2022)

**Nominating Committee for 2020**– From Congregation-at-Large (5 + 2 Alternates to be elected)



12/21

Harley and Judy Bodenbender

12/20	Janie	Warner
12/21	Brian	Pettibone
12/24	Alice	Shalosky
12/25	Maggie	Stahl
12/25	Julie	Thomson
12/25	Ayodele	Longe
12/25	Hannah	Beach
12/28	Elizabeth	Bradley
12/30	Rosemary	Anderson