



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

## PPC PRESSing News

January 2021

Vol. 29 No. 1

(614) 873-5011 • E-mail: [seccg@plaincitypresby.org](mailto:seccg@plaincitypresby.org)

website: [www.plaincitypresby.org](http://www.plaincitypresby.org)



### Word from Pastor Alice

Dear Church Family,

As 2020 comes to a close, I am sure that we will all say "Hooray!" It has been one year that we would definitely like to put behind us. But let us not do it so quickly without first giving thanks for 2020! "What???!!"...You may say. Well, let's just stop and think of the many blessings that 2020 brought to light.

Here are just some...

1. Our Lord Jesus Christ has never left us and has given us strength!
2. A renewed sense of family time
3. A greater appreciation for ALL people and being together in large groups
4. A greater appreciation for teachers
5. A greater appreciation for jobs as we realized there are A LOT of essential workers!
6. Take out food and groceries delivered
7. Toilet paper, paper towels, cleaning supplies
8. A vaccination
9. A greater appreciation for hugs
10. A greater appreciation for church family, worshiping together, and singing together
11. A greater appreciation for faces...seeing smiles and laughter
12. Technology that has allowed us to communicate and see one another and worship virtually...and thankful for those who operate equipment
13. Being able to get things done around the house that perhaps have been put off for years
14. Intense prayer and Bible reading
15. A greater appreciation for doctors, nurses, therapists, support staff, cleaners, administrators in hospitals as well as first responders-police, firefighters, and Emergency squad personnel.

That is just a small list of thankfulness that 2020 has brought to us. Perhaps you can make your own list or add to this.

In any case...No matter what life throws at us, as followers of Jesus, we are called to be thankful.

**Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.**

#### **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

Love being your pastor! Thank you for your faithfulness! Hoping and praying 2021 will bring us all together again in worship...can't wait to hug all of you!!

Love and Blessings in Jesus!

Alice

### **A Note of Thankfulness.....**

**Rev Alice wants to take this time to say THANK YOU...**

**...for tuning in** on Sunday mornings to our livestream worship as well as special services!

**...for your amazing generosity.** You have financially supported the church as well as missions in unbelievable ways this year! We will be ending an uncertain, trying year in the black! We are very grateful!

**... and speaking of generosity -** thank you for the cards, gifts, and for the very kind and generous love offering Christmas gift I received. I am grateful and appreciate your thoughtfulness!

**Thank you to those who made this Christmas Season extra special**

**Special music:** Ailene Albrecht, Dirk Ahlgrim, Caitlyn MacKay, James Predovich, Liz Woolley, Janell, Eevee, and Briar Rose Wilcox, Roy Woods, Brynn Craney, Morgyn Craney, and a special little video of Elliott Bradley.

**Christmas Eve video of church members:** thanks to those who sent in pics...and special thanks to Ailene Albrecht who put the video together and provided music for it.

**Advent wreath lighters:** Harley and Judy Bodenbender, Jim and Karen Kaufman, Larry and Pat Myers, Ian, Henleigh, and Olivia Reed, and John, Beth, Lexi, and Katelyn Rihl.

**Our Audio Visual guys:** thanks to Dave McCray and Jim Kaufman who have made it possible for the live-streaming each week of the service in addition to the special services. And thanks to Carolyn for preparing the PowerPoint and getting out the bulletin in the mail to members who don't have email access.

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

- Don McKelvey
- Ian Reed

We will also 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).



**On Sunday, January 3, we will celebrate Epiphany (Jan. 6).** You will have the opportunity to get a special Scripture passage for the year. Since you can't be in worship at the church to pick one out of a bag or have it attached to your bulletin, we will use a different method. Choose a number between 1 and 100. Send your number to Alice either by text (740-391-2531) or by email [revalp@neo.rr.com](mailto:revalp@neo.rr.com), and Alice will send you your verse for the year.

### **Update on Number of Board Members:**

Session decided to change the number of board members beginning with the class of 2021. This decision was made realizing the number of board members for the size of our church seemed out of balance along with the fact that people were serving many years without a break. So beginning in 2021, we will be electing two trustees and three deacons. This will continue each year until the number of board members by 2023 will be six instead of nine trustees, and the number of deacons will be nine instead of twelve. The Elders will remain the same at nine members.

**On-Line Worship Continues....**We have temporarily suspended in-person worship. This was a decision in which we really wrestled in making. 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.

**Thank You** 

Once again you, as a congregation, have generously blessed the staff of this church during this holiday season.

Your Love Offering gift was very much appreciated by each and every staff member. With much gratitude,

*Rev. Alice, Elmer Collier, Suzanne Merkle, Judy Walker, and Gary & Carolyn Gibeaut*



**Monday Night Prayer and Bible Study resumes January 4 at 6:30 pm** We will wrap up the last study and then begin a new one on **Romans** on January 11. If you would like to join us, please let Rev Alice know and she will send the Zoom connection.

**Attention MEN! ZOOM Bible Study on Saturday** mornings is here! The group currently meets on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month. Please contact Bill Pettibone if you would like to join! [billpsurvey@hotmail.com](mailto:billpsurvey@hotmail.com)

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

The AV Team needs **MORE** volunteers. Dave McCray and Jim Kaufman have been our ever faithful camera men for **MONTHS** 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.

### **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.

### **The Christmas Basket Program- A success even in the year of Covid**



Thank you to everyone who assisted with the annual Christmas Basket program in any way. This

year 124 families were assisted with over 296 children receiving Christmas gifts. Thank you to Dave McCray and Jim Kaufman for their leadership in this annual program that helps many in need and brings the community together for a good cause during the Christmas season.

## Church Treasurer Report for November 2020

For the month of November, donations for the church's general fund were up from the prior month while expenses were similar. Part of this was due to five weeks of donations being included, so the general fund has enough balance as of the end of the month to cover the upcoming quarterly church insurance bill.

### General Expenses Fund

Beginning Balance 11/01/2020	\$ 335.63
Income	13,276.98
Expenses	<u>(10,021.01)</u>
Ending Balance 11/30/2020	\$ 3,591.60

For the month, \$500 was provided to the Plain City Food Pantry. There have also been Centsibility donations for Hope's Lantern the past couple months, totaling \$271.00. The Judy Walker Scholarship fund received additional donations of \$825.00, so the balance is now \$4,021.00.

A couple other items of interest: \$34.64 was donated by Kroger's community outreach program which donates money based on Kroger members indicating a specific charity of choice with their membership card; The Ohio Bureau of Worker's Comp also sent back \$226 from our annual worker's comp premium from the prior year as part of the state's Covid relief effort.

If there are any questions, please let me know.

Best Regards,  
Gary Gibeaut, Treasurer



What goes up  
must come  
down...

January 13  
Morning.

Carolyn will be removing Christmas decorations on Wednesday January 13 during office hours. 9 am until 1 pm. If you would like to help give her a call. We'll do the social distancing un-decorating, apart but together. It should not take very long.



### Our Shut-ins

## REMEMBERING OUR SHUT-INS

Being shut-in this past year 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

ville

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

## 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.

### Matthew 25 Church- Scriptures for study and reflection

Matthew 25:31–46

Acts 2:42–47

John 4:1–41

John 13: 2–17

Isaiah 6:1–13

Acts 6:1–7

2 Corinthians 5:11–21

**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.

**PIE Leadership Training Day on ZOOM**  
**Saturday, January 9 from 10:00 – 11:30 am**  
**Wednesday, January 13 from, 7:00 – 8:30- pm**



**Words of Inspiration** Co-moderators from the 224th General Assembly, Teaching Elder Gregory J. Bentley and Ruling Elder Elona Street-Stewart

**PIE Workshops (Choose one)**

**Elder Training** – The rule of the elder and session is unlike that of any other governing body. This workshop will explore practical and spiritual topics of church leadership for today and for the future.

*Led by the Rev. Dr. Peggy Hinds, professional congregational and leadership coach. Peggy has taught elder workshops for several presbyteries and at PCUSA's Big Tent. Along with coaching, Peggy serves as a transitional pastor and consultant.*

**Deacon Training** –This workshop will help you learn ways to grow community, compassion, and witness in the deacon ministry, in ways both great and small.

*Led by the Rev. Charles “Chip” Hardwick, Interim Executive for the Synod of the Covenant*

**Clerk Training** – This workshop offers tools, methods, tricks of the trade and resources for clerks of sessions

*Led by Jim Wilson, Clerk of Session from Columbus Broad Street Presbyterian Church*

**Faith Practice Toolkit** - The practices of Hospitality, Prayer, Service, Storytelling, and Retreat in your faith community offer a means to connect the different life stages in life-long formation and cultivate intergenerational community. We will explore these practices and how to engage with them in your congregation, especially in the upcoming season of Lent. A toolkit for each participant will be provided.

*Led by Stephanie Fritz -Mission Coordinator for Christian Formation in the Presbyterian Mission Agency, PC(USA)*

**Clergy Self-Care** -This workshop will not only offer ways for pastors to practice self-care, but to help shift their mindset and intention to make self-care an integral and essential part of their ministry.

*Led by the Rev. Anne Russ – An ordained pastor in the Presbyterian Church (USA) who has as a solo pastor for over 15 years and learned the hard way how to take radically good care of herself. She has created an online faith community called Doubting Believer and currently lives in New York City.*

**All workshops are offered both days, but you may attend both times if you'd like to take two workshops. We hope to record the events. The event is FREE, but please register at the link on [www.psvonline.org](http://www.psvonline.org)**

**CURRENT CHURCH OFFICERS- Please plan on tuning in to this in January. When the new officers are elected when we reopen, they can watch the recorded version.**

# 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**  
**3 members to the Board of Deacons**  
**2 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.

Return to Judy Brady, chairman, via email at [jjabrad@aol.com](mailto:jjabrad@aol.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** (3 to be elected)

**Trustees** (2 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)



January 21

Chris and Whitney Reed



**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

01/02	Jeff	Denhardt	01/15	Barbara	George
01/03	Jim	Mitchell	01/16	Brenda	DeLeon
01/04	Bryon	Smith	01/19	Travis	Manning
01/05	Helen	Watson	01/20	Matthew	Sperling
01/08	John	Bowen	01/20	Judy	Brady
01/11	Dave	McCray	01/25	Emily	Baker
01/12	Spencer	Beltz	01/26	Eric	Manning
01/14	Karon	Kaufman	01/27	Molly	Sperling
01/14	Sharon	Newell	01/28	Beth	Rihl
01/15	Bob	Beach	01/28	Pat	Myers
			01/29	Avery	Salyer
			01/29	Donna	Gibson