

WINDOW

DECEMBER 2018

The Monthly Newsletter
of First Presbyterian Church Athens, Ohio

THE Wonder OF
CHRISTMAS

December 2018

Sunday, December 2nd 1st Sunday of Advent “Hope”

10:30 a.m. - Lighting of the 1st Advent candle, children’s music, presentation of the Crèche and Communion during Worship

11:30 a.m. - Festive Tie and Sweater Fundraiser

Sunday, December 9th 2nd Sunday of Advent “Peace”

10:30 a.m. - Lighting of the 2nd Advent candle and special music during Worship

11:45 a.m. - Earth Justice Group meeting

Sunday, December 16th 3rd Sunday of Advent “Joy”

10:30 a.m. - Lighting of the 3rd Advent candle and puppets during Worship

1:00 p.m. - Lindley Inn Hymn Sing

Sunday, December 23rd 4th Sunday of Advent

10:30 a.m. - Lighting of the 4th Advent candle during Worship

Monday, December 24th

5:00 p.m. - Family service

7:00 p.m. - Organ Music

7:30 p.m. - Service of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 30th

10:30 a.m. - Worship

From the Pastor....

We begin the season of Advent on Sunday, December 2nd. Advent comes from the Latin word, *adventus*, meaning “coming.” Since the fourth century, Christians have set aside the four Sundays before Christmas as a season to prepare for the coming of Christ in various ways: the promised coming of the Messiah, the coming of Jesus born in Bethlehem, the promised return of the risen Christ in final victory, and the continual coming of Christ into our lives and hearts.

It is a time when we notice that we are living “in between”: In between the first and second coming of Christ; in between memory and hope, past and future; in between the Good News of the Gospel and the culmination of God’s hopes for Creation.

Advent is a time we notice that while we strive for the Kingdom, we’re not there yet. We are not there yet. Looking back at 2018 can be painful: A resurgence of out-in-the-open white supremacy; catastrophic hurricanes; the Campfire fire; too many mass shootings to enumerate; nuclear saber-rattling; the exposure of our culture’s hidden acceptance of sexual harassment; multiple threats to the simple assumptions that keep people safe, happy and healthy. And that’s just in the wider culture. Everyone, as well, has a personal story to tell of loss, confusion, or disappointment. It isn’t surprising that many people feel that things are falling apart. Sometimes it feels as though all the Earth is waiting

not just for things to get better but for things to be different. Completely new. Overhauled.

That is an Advent kind of feeling. As someone said to me recently, “When you figure out that what you’re doing doesn’t work anymore, it’s time to think differently.” Advent asks us to open our eyes to what isn’t working, to lament what we see, and to remember God’s vision:

“The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid” (*Isaiah 11:6*)

“...they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more; but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees, and no one shall make them afraid” (*Micah 4:3-4*).

That is the vision for which we wait, and for which we hope. All the Earth waits for that vision. All the Earth looks with hope to a time when what Christ began is completed.

~ Pastor Rob Martin



“We are a Christian community of faith that shares the love of God with all people everywhere.”



Star Gifts

On Rally Day, everyone in the congregation received a Star Gift. What is a Star Gift? Just a piece of paper with a word printed on it that you will be asked to reflect on during the coming year. What could this gift bring to you? What possible significance could it hold? Let's find out together! If you didn't get one, stars are still available. See Kirsten Trachsel.

Christian Education Theme 2018-19 - "Lost in Translation"

Words can be tricky. Do they really mean what we think they mean? Are they being used correctly? Has the meaning of the word changed over time or has it been "Lost in Translation"? This year we will delve into the world of words - words in the Bible and words in our every day lives. Join us as we unravel, decipher, and bring new and deeper understanding to words and the way they enrich (or muddy) the stories that contain them.

Sunday Morning Schedule

Nursery available - 9:30 a.m.
 Children's Chime Choir - 10:00 a.m.
 Worship Service/Children's Church - 10:30 a.m.
 Children's Craft Time - 11:30 a.m.

**Booklets Available
 in Narthex and Fellowship Hall**

Read the Bible in a Year - 2018/2019
 And Pastor Rob's weekly commentaries

Christmas Poinsettias

Poinsettia plants in various colors will grace the church sanctuary. If you would like to honor or remember a loved one by purchasing one or more poinsettias for use in the FPC worship services, please inform the church office **by Monday, December 10th**. The cost of each plant will be \$10.00, payable at the church office. Donors may give the plant to the Deacons for distribution, or pick up following the Christmas Eve service.



PW Calendar

- December 2nd - 4:30 p.m. - Advent Service at Good Shepherd Episcopal Church
- December 8th - 8:00 p.m. - Choral Concert at First Methodist Church, including Vivaldi Magnificat
- December 11th - 10:00 - 11:15 a.m. - Combined Circles at The Plains Library with Pastor Rob. Lesson Four- Bible Study
- 11:30 a.m. - "Out to Lunch" at Applebee's for all church women
- December 16th - 1:00-1:30 p.m. - Lindley Inn Caroling
- January 8, 2019 - 10:00 a.m. - Coordinating Team, The Plains Library
- 11:30 a.m. - "Out to Lunch" at Applebee's.

REMINDER - all scheduled meetings canceled if schools are on delay or closed.

**Windows ON: Presbyterian Women
 THIS MONTH'S NEWS**

Thank You to all who made, donated, or bought handcrafts at the PW Missions Sale on November 18th. \$429.00 was collected \$429 to benefit Athens Food Pantry, Haiti and Dominican Republic served by co-workers Mark Hare and Jenny Bent. The PW is always surprised and grateful for the generosity of the FPC congregation, and thank God for the support in the PW projects.

Combined Circles will meet on December 11th with Pastor Rob leading a discussion of "God with us when we seek God." Read Psalm 9, and bring a Bible and/or study

guide. Library does not open until 10:00 a.m. Enter meeting room, NOT at entrance, but to far right - leading directly into the meeting room. There is NO CT meeting in December, but short report on Missions Sales will be given at this meeting.

PW Christmas Project this year will be a donation to the Athens Food Pantry where needs are great during the winter months. If you care to help, please write a check to Presbyterian Women, with Note: PW Christmas, or place cash in brown envelopes found in pews. The hungry and cold of Athens County will thank you.



"People, look East and sing today; Love the guest is on the way."

~ Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965)

**Blue Christmas Service
December 23, 5:30 p.m.**

This Advent we honor the fact that for many people, Christmas does not bring with it the joy and happiness that is advertised on shopping websites or on TV. People who are separated from loved ones, who have experienced a loss or health setback, who are unable to afford the Christmas our culture promotes, or who are suffering emotional pain may feel God's comfort in this more contemplative service. Do you know people who are grieving, or ill, or unemployed, or have painful memories of past Christmases? Do you know anyone who is finding it hard to hope? Consider recommending the Blue Christmas service to them. Sunday evening, December 23rd, 5:30 p.m., in the sanctuary.

December Dates to Remember

Sunday, December 2nd - Children's Crèche Presentation

Sunday, December 9th - Christmas Music Sunday

Sunday, December 16th - Puppet Ministry during the children's moment

Sunday, December 23rd - 5:30 p.m. - Blue Christmas Service (*see above*)

Monday, December 24th - 5:00 p.m. - Family Service

7:00 p.m. - Organ Music

7:30 p.m. - Traditional Service (*see page 8 for details*)



Luke 15 *When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."*

¹⁶*So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.*

¹⁷*When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.*

The NEW Church Website is Now Live!

Please take the time to check out the site at www.athensfpc.org. A note that if you have the old site bookmarked, you will need to refresh the page to pull up the new site and erase the "memory" of the old one. Here are a few of the exciting new features of this site: *online calendar of events, *weekly bulletin and monthly newsletter, *video archives of sermons, music, and puppet skits, *Pastor Rob's blog page, and *beautiful new photographs of the church building and fun candid shots from the past few years throughout the site.

DECEMBER WORSHIP

December 2nd	<i>Hope</i>	Luke 21:25-36 and Jeremiah 33:14-16	<i>The Hope We Need</i>
December 9th	<i>Peace</i>	Philippians 1:3-11 and Luke 3:1-6	<i>Second Thoughts</i>
December 16th	<i>Joy</i>	Isaiah 12:2-6 and Luke 3:7-18	<i>Joyful News</i>
December 23rd	<i>Love</i>	Psalm 80:1-7 and Luke 1:39-45	<i>Mary's Song</i>
December 24th	<i>Christmas Eve</i>	Family Service, 5:30 p.m., Organ Music, 7:00 p.m. and Service of Lessons and Carols, 7:30 p.m.	
December 30th		Colossians 3:12-17 and Luke 2:41-52	<i>Growing in the faith</i>



Windows ON: Church Community

LINDLEY INN HYMN SING

On a sunny November afternoon, twenty-one residents and FPC volunteers "sang praises to God's name" and thanked Him for the life of Bob Schulz, faithful member and accordionist with the FPC team of volunteers for seven years.

Barb Martin was the afternoon's piano accompanist for "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come," and familiar hymns that followed.

Ann Fox introduced the Quartet's special music, "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" with a story of its 1907 beginning at Williams

College; Henry Van Dyke's words and music by Beethoven.

Thank you to the FPC Quartet: Melanie Schori, Betty Lacy, Danny Moates, David Tees. Rita Oberholzer read Philippians 4:4-7, and shared her reasons for this favorite hymn, "What a Friend We have in Jesus."

Thank you to the Scripture readers who introduce each hymn that is being sung: Jean Drevenstedt, Benji Martin, Martha Johnson, Margaret Bourke, and Rita Oberholzer.

Pastor Rob left those attending with words of thanksgiving and hope.

Before we left, a special surprise for each resident was the "giving" of colorful canvas bags, decorated by the children of FPC. Thank you to Kirsten Trachsel and Barb Martin for supervising this kind gesture!

On December 16th FPC volunteers will bring jingle bells and cheerful voices to sing favorite Christmas carols and hymns. Come join others for this happy event at Lindley Inn on December 16th from 1:00-1:30 p.m.

Note of Thanks

Dear Presbyterian Church Family of Bob and Marlene Weinfurtner,

Thank you so much for your beautiful cards and kind messages for Bob and Marlene's 64th wedding anniversary. We delivered the cards to them along with a cake for a small anniversary celebration. Marlene read the cards to Bob and they cried and laughed while reading your words of congratulations, well wishes and comfort.

Please know that they are getting wonderful care and, if health would allow, would have loved to send each one of you a personal thank you. Marlene asked that I write to you to say a big thank you for the card shower and for helping to make their anniversary a special day. While we realize people have asked to visit them, Marlene said she feels it is best to give them time to adjust to their new living quarters.

God Bless You All, Bob and Marlene's son and daughter-in-law, Greg and Cathey Weinfurtner

Windows ON: Amesville/New England

We're thinking about Christmas events here in the Amesville-New England Parish.

- Since Federal Hocking does not have school on Monday, November 26th, the children and youth will meet to decorate the Christmas tree and the sanctuary. The group will meet from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.
- On Monday, December 10th from 4:00 to 6:15 p.m. there will be a Make it and Take it afternoon. Instead of shopping for Christmas gifts for family members, the children will make gifts to wrap and take home for their family. There will be

stations of activities set up for the children by various church members. A pizza supper will end the afternoon events.

- The Children's Christmas program will be held on Sunday, December 16th at 10:00 a.m. followed by a coffee hour. There will be a practice on Saturday, December 15th.
- The Candlelight Christmas Eve Service of carols and scripture will be held on Monday, December 24th at 7:00 p.m.

The week following Thanksgiving, Keith Hare (Granville) and Aaron Hare (Cleveland) will make a trip to Haiti to work on the air-

conditioning and other electrical problems at the Dumay Clinic sponsored by the Healing Art Missions and directed by Dr. Tracee Laing of Granville. Check their website out at <https://healingartmissions.org/>

The Days for Girls Hygiene Kits that have been constructed by Amesville Parish Women and friends will be sending 25 more kits to Haiti with the electrical crew. This will make 68 kits that will be distributed to teen-age girls in 2018.

Windows ON: Christian Education Committee "GOING DEEPER" BIBLE STUDIES - NOVEMBER 13th

The Going Deeper Bible Study series will continue! Pastor Rob has agreed to continue holding the studies which focus on a single book of the Bible at each meeting. Participants this past year have enjoyed the opportunity to take a closer look at the overall composition and content of each book they have discussed. It has brought deeper understanding and wider perspective on the history

and purpose of the writings. The study does not require participation in the "Read the Bible in a Year" program and participants do not need to have read the book that will be discussed prior to the evening of the study. **The next study take place on Tuesday, January 15th.** A light dinner is served at 5:30 p.m. with discussion from 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Going Deeper Dates
Tuesday, January 15, 2019
Tuesday, February 19, 2019
Tuesday, April 30, 2019
Tuesday, May 21, 2019
Summer 2019 - TBA



Windows ON: Christian Education Committee READ THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

You are invited once again to enrich your understanding of the Bible by reading it on a daily basis with the "Read the Bible in a Year" program. A new program booklet undated for the 2018-19 year is available. Readings began on September 1st.

Daily readings usually include about 1 or 2 chapters from two different books of the Bible. There will also be a companion booklet that includes all of Pastor Rob's writings from the weekly email blasts. Contact Kirsten or Pastor Rob with any questions.

Windows ON: FPC Elders and Deacons 2018-2020 Elders and Deacons

FPC Church Elders:

- 2018:** Carla Boyle, Penny Shelton, David Tees, and Andrew Trachsel
2019: Carolyn Allen, Pamela Harvey, Susan Loughridge and Andrew Stuart
2020: Carl Franz, John King, Sandy Nesbitt, and Debbie Perry

FPC Board of Deacons:

- 2018:** Mary Costello, Benji Martin, Harold Robison, Calista Strickmaker and Margie Shelton
2019: Kimberly Jordan, Helen King, Patrick Tegge, Linda Parsons, and Wendy Toadvine
2020: Harvey Ballard, Margaret Bourke, Martha Johnson, and Carol Perry

Would you like to serve as a Deacon or an Elder?
If so, please contact Sandy Nesbitt, Chair of the Nominating Committee
740-592-5642 or sandynes@yahoo.com

Kroger Rewards Program

Please consider participating in this program.

How to register? Go to: www.krogerrewardsprogram.com to establish your account.

Next - click the button for "Ohio" and then scroll down to the bottom and click the "enroll" button.

You are required to have an email address and create a password. You will need your 12 digit Plus Card number that can be found under the bar code on the back of your Plus Card.

Once you have an account established you may need to click "My Account" and then again click "Edit Kroger Community Rewards."

**If you registered last year—
YOU MUST REGISTER
EVERY YEAR!**

**NEW Account Number
See below**

To link your account, use AFPC's Kroger non-profit number - **FB949** or select First Presbyterian Church from a drop down list.

[Your Plus Card can be linked to only one non-profit charity.]

Any questions? Phone Krogers - 1-800-KROGERS.

Sign up today, and see what AFPC can make just by YOUR grocery shopping!



**Shop
for
FPC!**

Windows ON: Church Community Committee - College Lunch
COLLEGE LUNCH RECEIVES COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AWARD

On November 14th, FPC received the first annual Award for Global Engagement from the Ohio University international studies program. The award recognized over 35 years of weekly free college lunches for students in the fellowship hall.

The presentation occurred during the sixth annual Global Engagement Awards gala at Baker Center on the Ohio University campus. Other awards recognized achievement in global outreach and study by OU faculty, staff, and alumni as well as by the university's ongoing exchange program with Chubu University in Japan.

Speakers presenting the awards emphasized two basic themes. The first was a need for citizens in a complex, interconnected world to recognize their dependence on each other. People of different nationalities, ethnic groups, religious faiths, genders, and socioeconomic statuses need to understand and respect each other at a deep level which involves genuine empathy.

College lunch helps achieve this by providing a chance for relaxed conversation among a very diverse group of students. International students were a key to the initial formation of the event and remain

central to its mission. Many students come to OU's Program in Intensive English largely to increase their English-language mastery and learn about American culture. Naturally, people of a given nationality tend to talk with each other because they share a language and culture. However, in collaboration with OPIE director Jerry Krzic, AFPC members working with the lunches encourage interaction with native English speakers. Also, students have a chance to learn about – and even volunteer with – various non-governmental organization that serve basic needs in southeastern Ohio.

A second major theme was the need for students to work across national and cultural boundaries. This, in turn, requires a need for **sustainable development**. Alumni Award winner David Wilhelm, a native Athenian who served as manager of a successful presidential campaign for Bill Clinton, recalled visiting Lake Hope State Park as a young person. He noted that virtually all trees around the lake had been cut down to serve industries producing charcoal and other products. A result was long-term poverty and barren land despite huge short-term financial gain by a few firms' leaders. Conservation and wise use of

natural resources, of course, are major goals of FPC's Earth Justice Program.

A very appealing feature of the gala was a video showing students interacting and having fun during lunch. Margaret Stumpf, long-time coordinator of the weekly event, narrated the video. And Isaac Zika, a student majoring in music therapy, played the piano in the background. This presentation gave lunch-bunch members a moving trip down memory lane.

Main-course food from October 25th through November 15th was provided by Betty Lacy, Marla Longenecker, Benji Martin along with Miranda Williams, and Harvey Ballard along with Andrew Stuart. Desserts came from Rita Oberholzer, Alan Boyd, Adrienne Nagy and Carolyn Allen. Lunch workers included Hugh and Charlene Culbertson, Lee Gregg, John and Helen King, Betty Lacy, Joyce Mullins, Carol Perry, Annie Poore, Wendy Toadvine and Emily Wood.

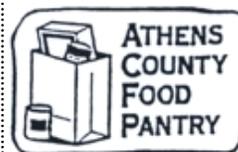
The last fall-semester college lunch was held November 29th.

Need a ride to Church?
Know someone who does?

Contact the Deacon of the Month - Margaret Bourke



Phone - (309) 318-9043
 Email - mbourke1935@gmail.com



Food Pantry Sunday

Food Pantry Sunday is the fourth Sunday of each month.

Communion

Communion at FPC offers gluten-free bread along with regular bread for communion.

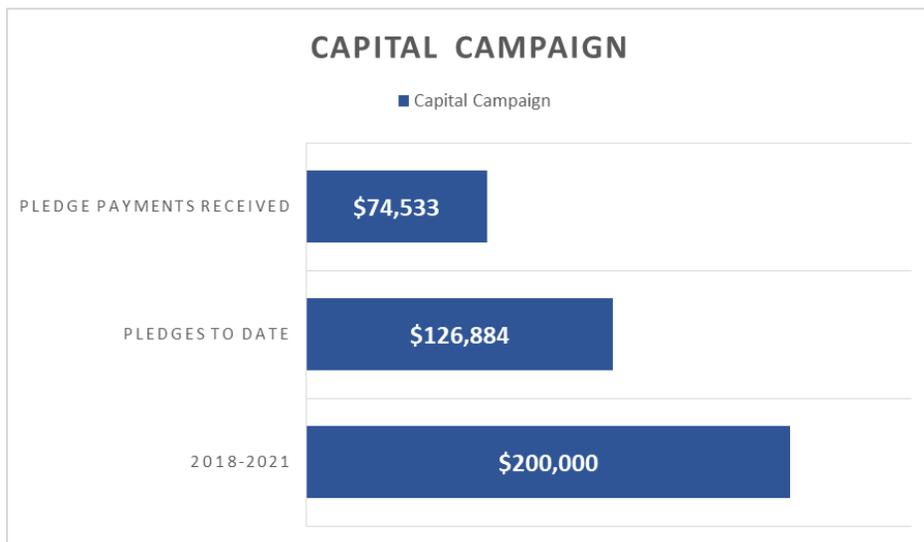


Windows ON: Finance Committee 2018-2020 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

FPC's 2018-2021 \$200,000 Capital Campaign is focused on three areas:

- retiring the accessibility loan from the PC USA Investment and Loan Program which was used to repair the FPC elevator last year (\$70,000);
- restoration of the FPC 1985 Holtkamp Organ (\$70,000) this past summer;
- and mission projects (\$60,000).

**2018-2020
Capital Campaign Cards**
are available
in the narthex and at the church office



Windows ON: Stewardship STEWARDSHIP TO SUPPORT ATHENS FPC OPERATION IN 2019

Session has approved a final budget for 2019 of \$451,866. This less than the 2018 budget of \$466,868. The 2019 budget includes a 3% cost of living increase for the Pastor and church staff. Outreach: Mission and Personnel requested increases in 2019. Worship, Fellowship, Christian Education, and Membership budgets remained the same as 2018. Church Support requested \$25,802 less in 2019.

The theme of the 2019 Stewardship Campaign is derived from the Christian Education theme "Lost in Translation." FPC began the church year this year by handing out STARwords for the year - to guide your prayers and start a new conversation with the Divine. FPC hopes that each of you will share with others how your word works on your life this year. For the Stewardship Campaign this year,

the word is "Grateful." As of November 13th, Athens FPC has received 58 pledges totaling \$182,688, seventy six percent of AFPC's 2019 pledge goal of \$240,000.

**2019 Pledge Card
below**

GRATEFUL

2019 Stewardship Campaign

FPC began the church year this year by handing out STARwords for the year - to guide your prayers and start a new conversation with the Divine. FPC hopes that each of you will share with others how your word works on your life this year.

The FPC stewardship campaign this year, the word is "Grateful"

Name: _____
Address: _____

PLEASE CHECK AND COMPLETE AS APPROPRIATE: [] Below is my pledge amount for the 2019 Budget.

Amount	Week	Month	Year
Payment Interval (choose 1)			

- [] I will not formally pledge but will give as I am able throughout the year.
 [] Please provide giving envelopes.

- PLEASE CONTACT ME ABOUT:** [] Making a gift to a FPC Athens Endowment Fund.
 [] How to accomplish a lasting gift to the church.
 [] Pledge payments through electronic funds, debit or credit card transfers.



Windows ON: Christmas Services WALKING IN THE LIGHT THIS ADVENT SEASON *(by Rev. Martin)*

This Advent, FPC will be decked for the season, and we will use our sacred space to create ambiance and light. Additionally, we will make use of candlelight, and enjoy the lights of downtown shining in on us. Psalm 46 reminds us that “God is in the midst of the city,” and Advent will be a time when we seek the light that Christ offers us and look for glimpses of hope and promise.

We have much in store these Advent Sundays, starting December 2nd. Over four weeks we will read through the beginning chapters of the Gospel of Luke. And, musically, the choirs will lead us in worship on December 9th. December 23rd at 5:30 p.m. will be our Blue Christmas Service. This is a service where grief, pain or disappointment can be acknowledged in the hustle and bustle of the holidays. The

contemplative, candle-lit setting promises respite to weary hearts.

If you haven’t come to the Christmas Eve worship services, consider joining us in Advent! Our family service begins at 5:00 p.m. designed for children, but open to all. You are invited to come early and join the throng of angels, shepherds, and kings as the Christmas story is told in the service. Join us at 7:00 p.m. for our Advent/Christmas organ recital, followed at 7:30 p.m. for a traditional Lessons and Carols service.

We are about to enter the blessed season of Advent. In looking through the liturgical planning guide for the year, I am struck by two ideas that consistently jump out of the scriptures we will read in December. One is the universality of

God’s saving acts: “And all flesh shall see the salvation of God... For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth.... Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low.” The other is the intimate kiss of God on each of us: “He will renew you in his love...he shall feed his flock...I will bring you home.”

The universal and the intimate come together in Emmanuel, God with us, the Creator of the universe clothed in human flesh. It is the great reveal. The Advent-Christmas journey is indeed a time of wonder, one we can take together in worship at First.

Windows ON: Church Support Committee FINANCE REPORT

Income and Expenses, 2018			
Offering Budgeted for 2018	\$ 263,000	Offering Received to Date	\$237,147
Other Income Budgeted for 2018 (endowment, parking lot lease, Putnam apt. rent, interest)	\$ 137,085	Other Income (Received to Date)	\$66,755
2018-2021 Capital Campaign (\$200,000)	\$67,000	Campaign donations to date	\$74,533
Total Income Budgeted 2018	\$ 467,085	Total Income (Received to Date)	\$375,435
Current Assets (checking & petty cash)	-----	Total Cash on Hand	\$70,078
Expenses Budgeted in 2018	\$ 466,868	Expenses to Date	\$357,135
PCUSA \$90,000 Accessibility Loan for Elevator Repair		Current balance	\$62,649
Other Endowment and Contribution Activity in 2018			
Special Offerings (Christmas Joy, Pentecost, One Great Hour of Sharing, and Peacemaking)	\$3,142	Sent to Presbytery (40% -of Pentecost is retained for local use and 25% of Peacemaking offering is retained for local use)	
Offering Gifts - (Athens Co. Food Pantry, Good Works, My Sister’s Place, Planned Parenthood, Habitat for Humanity, etc.)	\$4,282	Disbursed to appropriate agency or group	
Memorial Gifts - (honoring Bill Allen, Nick Dinos, Lyle McGeoch, Ruth Nostrant and Rieta Shoemaker)	\$3,910	Disbursed as designated by donors.	
Offering gifts designated for the Discretionary Fund (Local Emergencies)	\$3,499	To be distributed by the Pastor for local emergencies	
Local Emergencies - Special	\$7,433	Designated community donations (a refugee family and other specific individuals). Flow-through account for Athens FPC to pay family bills.	
Gifts supporting AFPC Mission Projects	\$125	Used for Athens FPC mission work projects	
Gifts Supporting Trail Mix Ministry	\$335	Used to buy supplies.	

The FPC Worship Service is aired on
Athens City Community TV Channel 9
Monday-Friday - 9:00 a.m.
Saturday/Sunday - 5:00 p.m.

.....
Bible Study - Noon, Tuesdays, Library

.....
Church Office Hours
9 North College Street
Monday-Friday - 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Caring For the Congregation

Pastor Rob and the Deacons place a priority on visiting hospitalized members of the congregation. Hospitals no longer provide information on admissions and dismissals. Please notify the church if you know of someone who should be visited in the hospital or while recovering at home or at a nursing facility.

Did you know... you can find recordings of the sermons, music, and puppet skits each week on the church's Facebook page. It is a public site so you do not have to be a Face book user to access the recordings and content. Simply go to:
<https://www.facebook.com/AthensFPC/>

Prayer Concern Requests and Visitation

Prayer request slips are available in the narthex. If you would like others in the church to pray for a person or for a concern near to your heart, place the slips in the Prayer Request box in the narthex. If you or someone you know would enjoy a visit from Pastor Rob and a Deacon, or appreciate receiving communion at home, phone the church office (593-3351), place a note in the collection plate, or email: office@athensfpc.org



Newsletter Helpers

Jane Baker, Hugh Culbertson, Lillian Dinos, Ann Fox, Catherine Hare, Betty Lacy, Susan Loughridge, Robert Martin, and Kirsten Trachsel.

Placing Events on the Church Calendar



All occasions/events should be listed on the church calendar to avoid conflict over use of the facilities. The sponsoring group must cover out-of-pocket expenses. Please phone the church office (593-3351) to request a form for placing your event on the calendar.

Church Office Volunteers Needed

Would you like to be a church office volunteer? Basically the only duty is to be the office to answer the phone and take messages. You can volunteer for a whole day or a half day (mornings 8:30 a.m.-Noon and afternoons 1:00-5:00 p.m.). Interested? Please email Jane at email office@athensfpc.org or phone the church office (593-3351) to get more info. It is easy, really!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

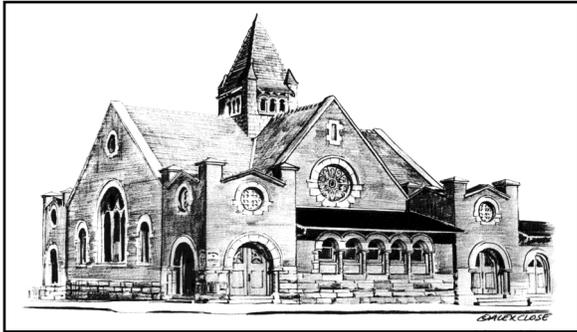
- 1 – Ann Dombrowski
- 2 – Lyntha Eiler
- 6 – Trevor Key
- 10 – Perry Lloyd
Dawn Stout
- 13 – Adalyn Broadbent
Florence McGeoch
- 15 – Theresa Kerr
- 16 – Kevin Eskey
- 17 – Nina Bierlein
Carolyn Allen
- 21 – Lois Harkins
Zachary Strickmaker
- 22 – Linda Philips
- 24 – Heidi LaJohn-Marty
Wendy Toadvine
- 29 – Kimberly McKinley
Nicholas Stephenson
- 31 - Debbie Coon
Jim Gleason

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 15 - Ron and Calista Strickmaker
- 18 - Paul and Joyce Mullins
- 21 - Don and Dawn Stout
- 23 - Neal and Sandy Nesbitt
- 26 - Corey and Elizabeth Howell
- 27 - Don and Mary Ellen Borchert
- 28 - Travis and Mink Neely

www.athensfpc.org

December 2018



First Presbyterian Church
9 North College Street



Phone: 740-593-3351

Fax: 740-593-3352

E-mail: office@athensfpc.org

Web: athensfpc.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AthensFPC/>

Pastor: Rev. Robert E. Martin
Clerk of Session: Andrew Stuart

Choir Director: David M. Tadlock
Organist: Janice Robison
CE Coordinator / Bell Choir Director: Kirsten Trachsel

Adm. Assist.: Jane A. Baker

Office hours: Monday - Friday - 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Church: Corner of Court and Washington Streets
Office: 9 North College Street

Phone: (740) 593-3351 **FAX:** (740) 593-3352
E-Mail: office@athensfpc.org **Web:** www.athensfpc.org

Worship Service and Children's Church - 10:30 a.m.
Coffee/Fellowship - 11:30 a.m.
The Worship Service is aired
on Athens Community TV Channel 9 -
Monday-Friday - 9:00 a.m. and Saturdays-Sundays - 5:00 p.m.

Bible Study: Tuesdays at 12:00 Noon in the church library

Deadline for January 2019 Newsletter:
Monday Noon - December 17th
(early due to the Christmas holidays)

First Presbyterian Church, Athens, Ohio - AFPC has occupied its site in the center of Athens, Ohio since 1809. Among the founding fathers was Ohio University's first president, a Presbyterian minister, the Rev. Jacob Lindley. Dr. Lindley served this congregation as Moderator and Pastor until 1824. Over the years, thirteen pastors of the church have been either university presidents or members of the faculty. Dr. William Holmes McGuffey, author of the McGuffey's Readers, was called to serve as President of Ohio University and served as pastor of the church in 1839.

Presbytery of Scioto Valley - The Presbytery of Scioto Valley encompasses twenty-six counties in south central Ohio. From Ironton in the south to Ibera in the north: Hanover in the east and London in the west, FPC's presbytery consists of 112 congregations many of them historic where Presbyterians today are carrying on a long tradition of witness and service in their communities. All over FPC's presbytery, Presbyterians reach out to welcome the stranger, sharing the Gospel and God's love as Christ bids us to do.

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) - The PC (U.S.A.), with denominational offices in Louisville, Kentucky, has approximately 2.3 million members, more than 10,000 congregations and 14,000 ordained and active ministers. Presbyterians trace their history to the 16th century and the Protestant Reformation. Its heritage, and much of its doctrine began with John Calvin (1509-1564), whose writings crystallized much of the Reformed thinking that preceded him.