



COURIER

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OUR MISSION

We, the First Presbyterian Church of Waverly, a congregation of dedicated believers in the grace of God, the love of Jesus, and the power of the Holy Spirit, strive to share this faith in worship and to express it through serving the community.

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Parson's Perspective

As we enter into a new year, numbered 2016 according to our calendars (start practicing now on writing it), many of us will contemplate resolutions, most of which won't last through January, maybe even not the first week of the year. We are good at fooling ourselves about what we are actually able to do. We say one thing but do another.

Jesus gets accused of saying things that he never said. Here are a few samples. Let them guide your thinking as you start a new year of faith-living.

"No shirt, no shoes, no service." Jesus never gave prerequisites for encountering his love. Regardless of a person's past (yours included) the love of Christi is available for anyone who is willing to accept it. Nobody is too flawed for forgiveness and eternal life.

"Follow me, and I will bring your fame and fortune." Jesus doesn't promise to hand everything to us on a silver platter. He isn't necessarily against all those kinds of things if used for God's glory and in living Jesus' faithful life-style. If a relationship with God is materially focused, it's time to reevaluate the god which is being looked for.

"Everything will go according to your plans." Sometime Jesus is perceived as a cosmic concierge or personal shopper: Whatever you need, just ask and it will come when you want it. The reality is that not all prayers will be answered, and if they are, not necessarily in the way requested. Jesus can answer any prayer that is asked of him. But being all wise, and seeing a much bigger picture than we can see, he knows more than we do and can tailor his answers to times and actions that are appropriate.

"Life is going to be smooth sailing." Lots of people think that just because they believe in Jesus everything will be flawless and perfect, that there will never be any rough places. A relationship with Jesus doesn't mean that life is going to stop moving forward and tough things won't happen. The message of the gospel is that in life's imperfection we have a perfect and flawless Savior who is in the thick of life's mess with us. You are not alone.

May the real sayings of Jesus guide us throughout 2016.

Pastor Rick

This Month

Friday, January 1 - New Year's Day
Church Closed

Sunday, January 3 - 9:30 a.m.

The final class of "People Surrounding Jesus' Birth: The Maji and King Herod Matthew 2:1-18 - Terry Smith, Leader

10:45 a.m. Worship

Epiphany Lunch following (Please bring a food to share such as sandwiches, chips, crackers, cheese, fruit, cookies or any food you can eat with your fingers Beverages and plates are provided.

Monday, January 4 - 7:00 p.m.

AA Meeting

Tuesday, January 5 - 3:45 p.m.

Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, January 6 - 8:00 a.m.

Sleeve-Tuggers Prayer Group

1:30 p.m. Circle Meetings: Esther Circle

Will meet at the home of Betty Sumey, 343 Wendy Lane-Terry Smith Study leader

Martha Mary Circle at the home of Sandy Hlasten, 708 E. Third Street-Irene Noble Study leader

Thursday, January 7 - 1:30 p.m.

Lent Sub-Committee Meeting

Saturday, January 9 -9:30 a.m.-

1:30 p.m. Partners In Education

Sunday, January 10 - 9:30 a.m.

A 2-week class on doctrine issues
Leader, Otto Zingg

10:45 a.m. Worship

Monday, January 11 - 7:00 p.m./

AA Meeting

Tuesday, January 12 - 3:15 p.m.

Member Care Mtg.

Tuesday continued...

3:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, January 13 - 8:00 a.m.

Sleeve-Tuggers Prayer Group

1:30 p.m. P.W.C.T. Meeting at the home of Evelyn Baker

Thursday, January 14 - 10:30 a.m.

Mission/Evangelism Meeting

2:00 p.m. Worship Meeting

Sunday, January 17 - 9:30 a.m.

Adult Class -Otto Zingg (Difficult Doctrine Issues)

10:45 a.m. Worship

Monday, January 18 - 7:00 p.m.

AA Meeting

Tuesday, January 19 - 3:45 p.m.

Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, January 20 - 8:00 a.m.

Sleeve-Tuggers Prayer Group

3:00 p.m. Session Meeting

Thursday, January 21 - 10:30 a.m.

Communion at Bristol Health Care

Sunday, January 24 - 9:30 a.m.

Adult Class - Bruce Henderson

10:45 a.m. Warship (Bob Getty Preaching)

Monday, January 25 - 7:00 p.m.

AA Meeting

Tuesday, January 26 - 3:45 p.m.

Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, January 27 - 8:00 p.m.

Sleeve-Tuggers Prayer Group

Sunday, January 31 - 9:30 a.m.

3-week class on Philippians begins
Elaine Zingg, Leader

10:45 a.m. Worship & Installation
of new Church Officers

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

January 2 - Glenn Noble
6 - Betty Jenkins
Judith Harrell
11 - Tom Mellinger
12 - Ruth Wonnell
13 - Linda Milam
Elinor Hodder
14 - Bruce Henderson
15 - Eric Melin
Helen Heinmiller
16 - Alexandra Getty

JANUARY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

January 31 - Barbara and Jay Early

OUR SESSION AT WORK

By Elaine Zingg, Clerk of Session

At the December 16th Session meeting it was reported that 36 Pledges had been received for a total of \$133, 808.00, which represents a net increase of \$6,136.00. A few more Pledges are expected, plus Loose Offerings. We would expect to have final income figures [including annual transfers from the Manse Fund, the McCluggage Fund, and the Vocal Music Lesson Fund] by the time of the Annual Congregational Meeting in February of 2016.

The donors of the money remaining in the Bell Tower Memorial Fund have directed that all that money [approximately 10,000, depending on stock values] be transferred into the Vocal Music Lesson Fund which is currently funding the participation of the three high school students singing in our choir.

Bruce Henderson made an excellent presentation on the mission initiative that is named "The Least We Can Do is to Give More". Following worship on January 3rd we will have an Epiphany finger food luncheon, at which time Bruce will explain this initiative to all members present.

The Member Care committee is finalizing procedures to follow when postponing congregational meetings or cancelling worship due to weather emergencies. The plan entails using a combination of E-mails and telephone calls to get the word out to members.

Charles Van Person has resigned as a Ruling Elder. The Session received his resignation with regret and appreciation for all he has added to the Session and our church family.

Presbyterian Life is shifting to a bi-monthly publication schedule, and is offering a free one-year subscription for new subscribers. A list for people wishing to take advantage of this opportunity to get acquainted with this excellent PC(USA) will be available on Sundays at worship.

Presbyterian Women

January, 2016



Are you ready for the new year? We can't help wondering what there is in store for us. What does God have in mind for us?

Presbyterian Women are always trying to discern that for all of our organization and our own Coordinating Team has been considering that for PW of The First Presbyterian Church in Waverly for 2016. There are some exciting plans ahead that we think you will enjoy. Come and be a part of it. If you have not joined the group we invite all women to share in our plans.

As you know, part of our giving tree was sponsored by PW and you contributed gloves and scarves and hats for Christmas gifts for the 30 women at Georgie Harris House in Waverly. We were concerned to get enough but prayed that God would provide. As it happened we have just enough to make the 30 sets that we had promised. Sandy Hlasten, our Mission Coordinator started this effort and with the help of others the gifts were taken to the girls. They were there waiting with the excitement of small children. Each one seemed pleased with their gift and soon were trying them on or some exchanging as they were told they could. Did you see the picture in the lobby at the church? Thank you cards from the women have started coming in. They were truly appreciative.

Our first Bible study for the year will be on January 6 when we will study lesson 4, "Dangerous Waters - God's Deliverance".

Martha Mary Circle will meet at the home of Sandy Hlasten with Irene Noble as Study leader and

Esther Circle will meet at the home of Betty Sumey with Terry Smith as the Study leader.

Watch for further details as we plan a real tea in February for the women of GHH and a luncheon on April 13 with Jenny Bent (wife of Mark Hare) when she will share with us about her medical work in the Dominican Republic.

All of this and more for PW and the church this year.

May you have a blessed new year. My prayer is Peace for all.

Evelyn Baker, Moderator

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>January 2016</h1>					1	2
					Happy New Year! Church closed P.M.	
3 Ad. Class 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Epiphany Lunch after Worship	4 AA Meeting. 7:00 p.m.	5 Choir Reh. 3:45 p.m.	6 Sl. Tuggers 8:00 a.m. Circle Mtgs. 1:30 p.m.	7 1:30 p.m. Lent Sub- Committee	8	9 P.I.E. 9:30-1:30 p.m.
10 Ad. Class. 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m.	11 AA Meeting 7:00 p.m.	12 Member Care Mtg. 3:15 p.m. Choir 3:45 p.m.	13 Sl. Tuggers 8:00 a.m. P.W.C.T. Mtg. 1:30 p.m.	14 Mission/ Evangelism Mtg. 10:30 a.m. Worship Mtg. 2:00 p.m.	15	16
17 Ad. Class 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m.	18 AA Meeting 7:00 p.m.	19 Choir Reh. 3:45 p.m.	20 Sl. Tuggers 8:00 a.m. Session Mtg. 3:00 p.m.	21 Communion Bristol Health Care 10:30 a.m.	22	23
24 Ad. Class 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Communion Deacons' Offering	25 AA Meeting 7:00 p.m.	26 Choir Reh. 3:45 p.m.	27 Sl. Tuggers 8:00 a.m.	28	29	30
31 Ad. Class 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Installation New Officers						

VERBALIZING OUR FAITH

My faith journey began at the tender age of 3. My family and I lived in Newark, Ohio, and attended the Second Presbyterian Church. My father was a deacon and I remember how proud of him I was when I watched him walk down the aisle. Mom assisted in the nursery. I attended Sunday School, was a member of the Junior choir, studied and received membership in the church. I attended that church until the end of 9th grade.

In that summer, due to my Dad's new job, we moved to Waverly where we became active members of the First Presbyterian Church. Upon high school graduation I enrolled at Miami University at Oxford, Ohio. I was so-o-o homesick. Mom suggested that I visit the campus Presbyterian Center of which I became an active member. It helped me adjust to being away from home through friends who were very kind and understanding.

Well, the Fall of that year Dad received a promotion from the New Idea Farm Equipment Co. and so we moved to Coldwater, Ohio. Now, Coldwater is predominately a Catholic town. There was one Protestant church-- Methodist. So we became Methodists! I stayed home, attended the branch of Ohio Northern University, attended that church and helped with the choir.

I began my teaching career in Waverly, married and attended the Calvary United Methodist Church with my husband Paul. He had attended that church since he was a small child and still attends to this day. A few years into our marriage Paul was diagnosed with coronary artery disease and needed immediate surgery. Once again and many times I called on God for help. It took much faith and determination to get the proper help for him. I believe God helped in every way. Today, 37 years later, Paul is still here and still going to his church.

In recent years I began to attend the First Presbyterian Church with my mother. I renewed my membership and have enjoyed being a part of a truly wonderful congregation. Today many responsibilities limit my participation in various church activities but I feel privileged to have had many wonderful Bible Study sessions with Dr. John Hamlin.

With a few detours, I have had many great Christian journeys and hope to continue learning and experiencing God's wonderful powers.

Signed: **Ann Cooper Oyer**

“The Least We Can Do is to Give More”

On December 17th, a large crisis occurred in Hollywood, California. It happened in a movie theater where a large crowd was watching the new movie, “Star Wars: The Force Awakens”. Fortunately, it was not another terrorist shooting of innocent victims. Actually, the movie projector malfunctioned right in the middle of the showing! The news reporter stated that the “fans went crazy!!”

Whether it is a relatively minor incident or a major tragedy, there is never a convenient time for a crisis. That is very true when a crisis occurs which stops a town or a nation in its normal pattern of life, and requires a sacrificial response. It is also inconvenient when it happens to a denomination.

As has been reported in the last two issues of the Courier, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is experiencing a crisis. Support for Jesus' Great Commission has declined to the point that some mission co-workers have been recalled from service. And the forecast is that many more may have to be recalled during the next two years. This is a crisis in our faithfulness to the Head of the Church.

One way we can respond is a plan called “The Least We Can Do is to Give More.” In Jesus' own words, “*what are you doing more than others?*” Here is the plan.

Two of our “giving units” have contributed \$5,000 to Presbyterian World Missionary Support. They are challenging the rest of our congregation to match their extra giving during 2016.

During January, the Evangelism/Mission Committee will provide information about how Presbyterians do Christ's mission, causes for the current crisis, the costs for sending and supporting mission co-workers, and how our congregation has been supportive of World Mission in the past.

Those who desire to make an extra pledge for 2016 to specifically “give more” to World Mission will have that opportunity between January 24 to 31. On Sunday, February 7th, we will celebrate our response to our crisis. Please become more informed, ask questions, and prayerfully make your response.

Free for One Year!

Have you read **Presbyterians Today** magazine? It is the award-winning magazine of the PCUSA and many of us subscribe to it annually. You can now try it for one year, free, to see how much you like it. And you probably will. Articles feature world and local missions, devotional materials, large and small churches, ethnic congregations, and Presbyterians of all ages from all over the nation, doing all kinds of things to make this world a better place. You'll be able to read articles by our national church leaders as they work out their witness as Christian leaders in these difficult times.

Mark Hare, a missionary our congregation sponsors, has been featured several times for his work with Haiti's farmers. You'll learn about the work many of our missionaries are doing as they minister to a hurting world. You'll also learn about how our church struggles to solve issues that challenge us, like immigration, slavery, and war.

Try **Presbyterians Today** for a year and learn the impact our church is making in our communities, our nation and our world. Simply call the church office and let Barbara know you want to take advantage of the free offer. It will enrich your life.

MEMBERS IN MINISTRY

DECEMBER 21, 2015

Ministers for Community: Every Member

Co-Pastors: Richard Hays and Robert Getty

Secretary Barbara Patterson

Clerk of Session: Elaine Zingg

Choir Director: Karen Henderson

Organist: Patricia Penrose

Treasurer: Robert Neely

Ministers for Vision and Mission: Session

Class of 2015

Betsy Hall

Ann Oyer

Dick Roberts

Tom Patterson

Class of 2016

David Bell

Robert Neely

Glenn Noble

Paula Hays

Class of 2017

Jim Clark

Dimitry Sergay

Elaine Zingg

Ministers for Member Care: Deacons

Evelyn Baker Kitty Neely Anne Young

Ministers Serving In Other Places

Pike County Outreach Council of Churches

Pike County Welfare House

Mark, Jenny, Keila Rosa & Anika Estela Hare — Papay, Haiti

Dendamrongsaat Church — Chiangrai, Thailand

Ministers Serving from Home

At Bristol Health Care

444 Cherry St., Waverly OH 4569

Maryanna Cassady-14

Virginia Dixon-313

Patty and Earl Todt 106

Virginia Hartwell-102

The Gardens

Betty Jenkins-207A

At Home Mack and Jean Earnhardt,
Marlene Voorhes

Other Places

Judith Harrell, Kitty McCollam,

For addresses, call the church at 947-2905, or e-mail <bpattersonpresbychurch@yahoo.com>

JANUARY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

January 3 -Gary Baker

10 - Florence Vonderohe

17 - Otto Zingg

24 - Evelyn Baker

31 -

JANUARY GREETERS:

January 3 - Barbara and Jay Early

10 - Ann Oyer and Ruth Wonnell

17 - Irene and Glenn Noble

24 - Elinor Hodder and Anne Young

31 - Nancy Seward and Florence
Vonderohe

JANUARY COUNTERS:

January 3 -Mike Milam and Bob Neely

10 - Jim Clark and Kay Weir

17 - Betsy Hall and Nancy Seward

24 - David Bell and Anne Young

31 - Mike Milam and Bob Neely

JANUARY USHERS

January 3 - Bob Neely, Kitty Neely, David Bell,
Ralph Strickland

10 - Ann Oyer, Terry Smith,
Wanda Stratton

17 - Bud Hobday, Dimitry Sergay,
Ivan Sumey

24 - See Bulletin

31 - See Bulletin

JANUARY COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

January 3 - Epiphany Finger Lunch

10 - Elaine and Otto Zingg

17 - Cay and Dick Roberts

24 - No Coffee Hour due to Communion

31 - Donut Sunday

THE 2016 FLOWER CHART HAS NOW BEEN POSTED. Dates are available for sign-up. Cost is \$25.00.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

211 SCHMITT DR.

WAVERLY, OHIO 45690

Address Service Requested

Amen Corner

WE ARE SHEPHERDS

A Song for Christmas, 2008
By Timothy Haut
(sung to the tune Picardy,
"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence")

We are shepherds in the darkness
Weary, watching through the night
Yet we waken to a promise,
Stirred by wondrous, holy light.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Stirred by wondrous, holy light.

We are shepherds on a journey
Bidden to a shining quest:
Find the Lord in humble dwelling,
God as human come to rest:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
God as human come to rest.

We are shepherds at the manger
Struck by wonder at the birth:
Miracle among us hiding,
As all holy gifts on earth.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
As all holy gifts on earth.

We are shepherds now returning
To the world our news we bring,
Busy, broken, lost and fearful:
We are loved by heaven's king!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
We are loved by heaven's king!