

First Presbyterian Church  
116 N. Third St.  
Toronto, OH 43964-1416  
Change Service Requested

US PSTG  
PAID  
Permit # 39  
TORONTO, OH  
43964

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Renee Siegman 12/2

Nada Todd 12/17

William Franke 12/3

Kevin Gillis 12/20

Charles Petrosky 12/7

Beth Cooper 12/8

Bob Owen 12/10

Matthew Firm 12/11

Bonnie Wilson 12/13

Terry Cattrell 12/14

Dolores Boggs 12/15



### Church Staff & Officers:

**Rev. Tyler J. Bayless, Pastor**  
Rev.tyler.bayless@gmail.com

**Deborah Close, Admin. Assistant**  
Deborah@torontopresby.org

**Virginia Popson, Financial Sec.**  
VPopson@sbcglobal.net

**Ben Beswick, Clerk of Session**

**Thomas L. Wilson, Treasurer**

**Craig McCasland, Director of Music**

**Karen Shell, Rehearsal Organist**

**Lisa Grable, Custodian**

## December Happenings:

- **Thursday, Dec. 6th**  
Yarn Ministry, 10am
- **Sunday, Dec. 16th**  
Children's Christmas  
Program & Snack with  
Santa
- **Monday, Dec. 17th**  
Session, 6pm
- **Thursday, Dec. 20th**  
Yarn Ministry, 10am
- **Friday Dec. 21st**  
Longest Night  
Service, 7pm
- **Sunday, Dec. 23rd**  
Christmas Joy Offering  
Taken/Christmas  
Cantata
- **Monday, Dec. 24th**  
Christmas Eve  
Service, 7pm

**Bible Study**  
Tuesdays at 7pm

**Choir rehearsal**  
Wednesdays at 7pm

**Sunday School**  
10am

**Sunday Worship**  
11am

**Office Hours:**  
Monday- Thursday  
9 - 2pm

## First News DECEMBER 2018

116 N. 3rd. Street, Toronto, OH 43964  
740-537-3721 - [Torontopresby.org](http://Torontopresby.org)  
Rev. Tyler J. Bayless, Pastor

### “Christ Like Compassion”

I recently finished listening to an audio book by The Rev. Gregory J. Boyle, S.J. who is a Jesuit Priest and the founder of Homeboy Industries, a gang-intervention program. In his book, *Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion*, he recounts his many years of ministry to the homeboys and homegirls of numerous Los Angeles gangs. He retold stories that included success and sadness, victory and defeat, and everything in between. Each story would involve a gang member overcoming something in their life and realizing their potential, rival gang members coming together to work side by side showing compassion to each other, or the tragedy that happens when compassion and the value of human life is lost to gang related violence.

Each of these stories is told with a rawness and vulnerability that lets you understand how simply being in an authentic relationship with somebody that may be going through the most difficult moment in their life is an opportunity to show Christ like compassion. This person may be drastically different than you are, they may be going through something you could never understand but to be able to be compassionate to them is truly a Godly act. Father Boyle or G, as he is affectionately called, reminds us that there is a “power in unconditional love” and an importance that we view “no life less valuable than another.”

As we come into the season where we celebrate the ultimate act of compassion it is important for us to not get to absorbed in the things that ultimately do not matter. When Christ, the Incarnate Son of God, came to earth as a baby we see that God is compassionate to us. When Christ is ministering to the people, we see that Christ is moved with compassion and that he teaches compassion to another. When Christ is sentenced to death on a cross, the compassionate act of death, resurrection and ascension truly transcends our understanding.

Throughout this Advent and Christmas season, I encourage you to think about ways that you can show compassion to others that may be going through some of the most difficult moments of their lives. When we show Christ like compassion to one another and extend the love which God has shown to us in the birth of His Son, then we can truly understand the significance of this season. May God bless each of you with a joyous and compassionate Advent and Christmas.

With Hope, Love, Joy  
and Peace,

Pastor Tyler

GIVE ONLINE: [WWW.TORONTOPRESBY.ORG](http://WWW.TORONTOPRESBY.ORG)

### The Longest Night

Please Join Us for a Service of Light in the Midst of Darkness which will include singing, prayer & remembrance on **December 21, 2018 at 7pm**, at the First Presbyterian Church. A time of fellowship will follow. Hosted by the Toronto Area Ministerial Association.



### Live Nativity

Celebrate the true meaning of Christmas on **Sunday, December 9th** to witness the Christmas story through drama, music & live animals. Presentations in 30 minute intervals starting at **5:00-7:30pm** Starkdale Presbyterian Church . 4600 Sunset Blvd. Steubenville, OH Enjoy homemade cookies and hot beverages in the Fellowship Hall.



### *Christmas Worship Schedule*

### Christmas Worship Schedule

**Friday, Dec. 21st**-Longest Night service, 7pm  
**Sunday, Dec. 23rd**-Worship at 11am & the Chancel Choir will present is annual Christmas Cantata.  
**Monday, Dec. 24th**-Christmas Eve Service & Communion ,7pm

### Christmas Cantata

**December 23, 2018 11:00am**

Appalachian Winter, A Cantata For Christmas by Joseph Martin. Combining folk music, popular American carols, and thoughtful narration, this Cantata brings the wonder and joy of the Christmas Season and the birth of Christ to the congregation. Please plan to attend and witness this meaningful event performed by our choir and special guests.



### Holiday Fun for the Kiddos

The Children's Christmas Program will be on **Sunday, December 16th** & a "Snack with Santa" will follow worship. All are welcome! Please join us!

### Poinsettia Sale

Please notice the newsletter insert. Deacons are sponsoring the placement of poinsettias in the Sanctuary for the Christmas season. They are \$13.00 each. Deadline to place an order is **Sunday, December 9th**.



### PWA Christmas Card Exchange Project

Please address your cards (no out of town or cards to be mailed please) and place them in the baskets in the back of the Sanctuary on **Dec. 9th or 16th**. They will be sorted and ready for pick up on **Sunday, Dec. 23rd**. Please remember no cards will be mailed.



### Notes from the Session Meeting:

- Session approved the donation of 320 boxes of stuffing to the Helping Hands of Toronto Food Pantry for the Thanksgiving distribution.
- Approved that the local portion of the Peace and Global Witness Offering to be designated the food pantry as well.
- Approved the 2019 Budget as presented by the Finance Committee.
- Advised that we still need to find somebody to provide snow removal services for this winter. Currently, we have been unsuccessful in our attempts.
- Heard Reports from the Christian Education, Mission, Membership, Worship & Music, Personnel, and Nominating Committee.
- Informed that the Deacon's made a donation to the Salvation Army, Toys for Toronto, Christmas with a Cop, and the Food Pantry with \$150.00 given to each.
- Approved a number of building use requests.
- Discussed the need for a new electric piano with updated recording and memory capabilities.
- Next meeting will be held on December 17th at 6:00pm.

### The Perfect Gift

In the lead up to Christmas, many of us spend time in search of the perfect gift-the gift that communicates to friends and family how much we know & love them. For those of us gathered together in Advent expectation, we know that the only perfect gift ever given was the one we received in Jesus Christ – a perfect gift from a gracious God. Although we cannot give the perfect gift, we can give generously. "Every generous act of giving... Is from above." Thank you for your participation in the Christmas Joy Offering. If we all do a little it adds up to a lot! Christmas Joy Offering taken on **Sunday, December 23rd, 2018**

### Expense report for October

Expenses: \$ 13,191.41

Income: \$ 8,781.38

Difference: \$ -4,410.03

### \$5.00 Challenge Report:

Thank you to those who have given \$5.00 extra each week. We encourage you to keep giving this little bit extra each week to help financially with the mission of the church. So far we have raised \$3,471.00 in 2018! Thank you! We will continue the \$5.00 challenge in 2019.

*Thankful & Grateful*

It is with my deepest appreciation and love that I attempt to offer my thanks to each of you for the beautiful retirement dinner given in my behalf. To the planning committee, the workers who cooked, served and did the cleaning up and to those who decorated the tables, I say, "A job well done." My thanks also to Pastor Tyler and Deborah for handling the invitations and reservations and to the congregation and all who attended for the commemorative clock, your support and your kind words of appreciation and well wishes. Last be certainly not least to the choir-a great team I had the privilege of coaching all these years. Thanks for your faithfulness, dedication, love , your time and your support year after year -making us one great family! It has truly been an honor and pleasure to have served our church as Director of Music the past 42 years. Many thanks. In Christian Love,

Dolores Boggs

*Thank You*

Many Thanks to all for your birthday wishes on my "90th" Birthday!  
Love, Richard Lewis

*On behalf of the Session, Deacons & Staff, may Christ's blessings be upon you this Advent & Christmas season. Merry Christmas, Pastor Tyler*