

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

US PSTG
PAID
Permit # 39
TORONTO, OH
43964

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Malik Stovarsky 1/1
Brant Boka 1/13
Robert Lewis 1/13
Deb Close 1/15
Kelly Phillips 1/17
Cindy Fisher 1/21
Dan Weidger 1/22
Joann Barnes 1/23
Brad Beswick 1/29



Church Staff & Officers:

Rev. Tyler J. Bayless, Pastor
Rev.tyler.bayless@gmail.com
Deborah Close, Admin. Assistant
Deborah@torontopresby.org
Ben Beswick, Clerk of Session
Thomas L. Wilson, Treasurer
Craig McCasland, Director of Music
Karen Shell, Rehearsal Organist
Lisa Grable, Custodian

January Happenings:

Tuesday, Jan. 1st
Happy New Year!

Sunday, Jan. 6th
Installation & Ordination
of new Elders &
Deacons

Tuesday, Jan. 8th
Bible study resumes,
7pm

Sunday, Jan. 13th
Communion & de-
greening of the church

Tuesday, Jan. 15th
Deadline for annual
report information

Monday, Jan. 21st
Session meeting, 6pm

Sunday, Jan. 27th
Annual Congregational
meeting after Worship

Bible Study
Tuesdays at 7pm

Choir rehearsal
Wednesdays at 7pm

Sunday School
10am

Sunday Worship
11am

Office Hours:
Monday- Thursday
9 - 2pm

First News January 2019

116 N. 3rd. Street, Toronto, OH 43964
740-537-3721 - torontopresby.org
Rev. Tyler J. Bayless, Pastor

“Faith vs. Ideology”

Recently, during my time of study, I have come across quite a few articles that have dealt with what it means to view the life of Jesus Christ as an ideology versus what it means to view Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, part of the triune God, in whom our faith is securely put. With the birth of the Christ child celebrated just a few days ago and at the beginning of a New Year I thought it would be good time to reflect upon this and share why we must claim faith in Jesus Christ and not simply live according to the ideology by which he lived his. The ideas from a quick glance may seem very similar however if you take a closer look you will see why faith is more important.

An ideology is essentially a set of ideas and ideals by which we form how we live life and view areas within it. Such as medicine or politics or how we build relationships. When we turn the work of Jesus simply into an ideology, we diminish what it means to be a disciple and follower of Christ. Henri Nouwen contested that when we reduce Christianity down to an ideology that “Christ is often transformed into a cultural hero reinforcing the most divergent and often destructive ideological point of view.” In other words when we follow the ideology that Jesus lived by and not by faith in Jesus Christ, we run the risk of picking and choosing the parts of it that fit our views or agendas. Thereby missing out upon some of the

biggest and most important teachings that Christ gave while going from place to place during his earthly ministry.

However, faith by definition is the “complete trust or confidence in someone or something.” For a Christian this is obviously the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. When we view Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, we view him as not just some guy who gave us some good ideas about how to live life but the one who, in fact, gives us life. When we have faith to believe that the life by which we live for all eternity is in the hands of a God who cares so much for us that He would give His Son for the atonement of sin, then we also have to believe that our lives can be changed in radical and transformative ways to align more with the ways of Jesus Christ. This may mean having your eyes opened and viewing some area of your life completely different when it is viewed through the lenses of faith.

As we move into 2019, I encourage you to examine your own life and faith. Think about whether you are simply living according to the ideology that Christ gave or are living according to the faith which we are called to have and be transformed by. May God’s blessing be upon each of you as we move into this New Year!

Grace and peace, Pastor Tyler

GIVE ONLINE: WWW.TORONTOPRESBY.ORG

The Sacrament of Baptism

On Sunday November 25th, 2018

We celebrated the joy of baptism with Lincoln Andrew Hannan and his parents Doug Hannan & Eliza Reese. Please celebrate this joy with them.

Christmas with a Cop 2018

Dear First Presbyterian Church Deacons, Thank you so much for your generous donation to Christmas with a Cop 2018. It helped to give the children a Christmas they deserve. May the Christmas season fill your home with joy, your heart with love and your life with laughter. Merry Christmas!
From, The Toronto Police Dept & their families.

The Youth Christmas Program

The youth Christmas program was Sunday, December 16th. Thank you to everyone who made this day possible. The kids all did a great job!



Christmas Cantata



Thank you to the choir & special guests who attended & sang at the Christmas Cantata this year. It brought the wonder & joy of the Christmas season & the birth of Christ to the Congregation.



Beacon House Donations

Dear First Presbyterian Church Members, On behalf of all of us at the Beacon House, thank you for the toiletry donations. These donations will help many homeless individuals in your community. You truly did a wonderful thing. Again thank you. We appreciate your support of our mission & the work we do in our community.

Sincerely, Shirley Clegg (Housing coordinator & The Beacon house Staff)

\$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. We have raised \$4,373.00 in 2018! Thank you! We will continue the \$5.00 challenge in 2019.

Notes from the Session Meeting:

- Meeting began with devotion provide by the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
- 2019 Communion dates established
- Examined new Elders & Deacons, all approved to be ordained/installed on Sunday, January 6th, 2019
- Continue to look for options for snow removal. Discussed the option of electric snow blower
- Called Annual Congregational meeting for Sunday, January 27th, 2019, immediately following Worship
- Examined 4 potential new members, all approved & will be welcomed by profession of faith/letter of transfer at a date to be determined
- Next meeting will be January 21st, 2019



Dear Tyler & Congregation, Thank you for being bell ringers for the Salvation Army kettle drive. It is due to you that the Salvation Army is able to help those in need. Thank you, George Komar

“Thank you” to our wonderful church choir for coming to sing to us on Sunday, December 16th. What beautiful music! We certainly enjoyed it. Thank you so much! We also want to thank the Yarn Ministry for the beautiful afghan! We do appreciate it & you all.

Love & prayers, Rich & Nancy Lewis

Expense report for November

Expenses: \$ 12,905.93
Income: \$ 8,147.00
Difference: \$ -4,758.93

Dear Deacons,

Thank you so much for you recent donation to the Salvation Army. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Your donation will assist some of our neighbors in need with their heating bills. Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely, Gail Walker

Pledge cards

A sincere thank you to those who have turned in a pledge card. If you have not completed a card please call the church office, email, or send us the pledge card below. Thank you for your pledge.

Pledge Card

As my commitment to my God, I promise to give to my church for:



Church Expenses & Benevolence \$ _____

Weekly Monthly
Quarterly Yearly

(Please circle one of the above)

Date _____

Signed _____