

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

First News
February 2019
116 N. 3rd. Street, Toronto, OH 43964
740-537-3721 - Torontopresby.org
Rev. Tyler J. Bayless, Pastor

“You’re Invited!”

For the past year a group has been meeting almost every Tuesday evening in the parlor to discuss matters related to our faith, enjoy each other's fellowship and pray with and for each other. I am talking about Bible study and honestly it has been a wonderful experience to be with this group of people truly getting to know each other in ways that are not possible on Sunday morning. One person who has attended regularly even made the comment that “others don't know what they are missing out on by not being here together.” I cannot support this comment enough and that is why I want to invite each of you to join us as we begin a new study in March.

We began this Bible study group last year with the task of reading the Bible from cover to cover in 90 days. This endeavor took time and dedication each day to complete the entire Bible. However, I am happy to say that many did and because of it, faith and understanding was deepened. From there, we chose to take a closer look at the Book of Revelation. This book is often viewed as mysterious or scary but throughout it we are reminded that God is sovereign, always in control and that the love of Christ will shine forth through all eternity. We have learned so much together and will continue to do so until we close this study out at the end of February.

So that brings us to your invitation! On March 5th we will switch gears to combine a book study with a Bible study where we will read together *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis. In this book, adapted from a series of talks given during the years of the Second World War, Lewis aims to “explain and defend the belief that has been common to nearly all Christians at all times.”¹ My prayer is that by seeking the commonalities of our faith we can be drawn closer in our own relationship with our triune God.

Throughout his “talks” Lewis, one of the greatest authors of the 20th century, offers us a way forward that will “imaginatively transform our lives in a such a way that evil diminishes and good prevails.”² My hope is that through our time of studying together we can walk closer to the way of life that Christ has set out for each of us and be transformed to make that statement even more true.

If you have never read the book before, come join us! If you have read the book before, come join us! Either way, I’m sure that you will be glad that you did. Please let me know if you plan to join so we can have a copy waiting for you. Oh yeah, it starts each week on Tuesdays at 7:00pm. I hope to see you there!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Tyler

¹C.S. Lewis, Preface to *Mere Christianity*, pg. VIII

²Kathleen Norris, Foreword to *Mere Christianity*, pg. XIX

February Happenings:

- ◆ Sunday, Feb 3rd
Communion
- ◆ Wednesday, Feb. 6th
Bell choir rehearsal begins, 6:30pm
- ◆ Thursday, Feb. 14th
Yarn ministry , 10am
- ◆ Saturday, Feb. 23rd
Elder /Deacon training 9am
- ◆ Wednesday, Feb. 27th
Chi-Rho begins, 4pm
- ◆ Thursday, Feb. 28th
Yarn ministry, 10am

Bible Study
Tuesdays at 7pm

Bell Choir rehearsal
Wednesdays at 6:30pm

Choir rehearsal
Wednesdays at 7:30

Sunday School
10am

Sunday Worship
11am

Office Hours:
Monday- Thursday
9 - 2pm

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Gail Komar 2/1	Mark Holtzmann 2/19	<u>Church Staff & Officers:</u>												
George Wise 2/3	Harry Thomas 2/20	Rev. Tyler J. Bayless, Pastor Rev.tyler.bayless@gmail.com												
Goldia Smurda 2/5	Andrea Vein 2/21	Deborah Close, Admin. Assistant Deborah@torontopresby.org												
Fred Matyas 2/8	Jen Matyas 2/22	Ben Beswick, Clerk of Session												
Jenna Shimmel 2/8	Carolyn Hannan 2/24	Thomas L. Wilson, Treasurer												
Becky Beswick 2/14	Kim Kelley 2/25	Craig McCasland, Dir of Music												
Sara Franke 2/14	Betty Zorne 2/26	Karen Shell, Rehearsal Organist												
Alex Cooper 2/15	Dohrman Stratton 2/27	Lisa Grable, Custodian												
Tim Allen 2/17														

GIVE ONLINE: WWW.TORONTOPRESBY.ORG



Bell Choir

Rehearsal for the bell choir begins on **Wednesday, February 6th** at 6:30pm

2018 Annual Reports

are completed and may be picked up at the back of the Sanctuary.

2018 Giving Statements

Giving statements have been mailed. If there are any questions or concerns please contact Deb in the office 740-537-3721

Congratulations

Congrats to Marisa Young & Travis Weaver who were united in marriage on January 28th, 2019

Our THANKS, for their faithful service, to the following Elders & Deacons:

Paul Barnes, Shirley Clegg, Bob Owen, Joann Barnes & Roger Lewis.

Our current Elders and Deacons are listed below:

ELDERS

Class of 2019

Dolores Boggs
Connie Crawford
Tammy Beswick

Class of 2020

Mark Holltzmann
Judy Miller
Terry Wolter

Class of 2021

Brant Boka
Goldia Smurda
Cathie Young

DEACONS

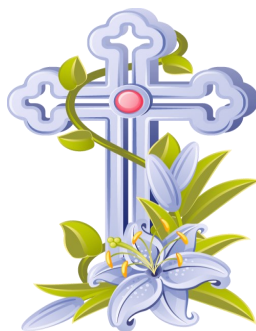
Ashley Owings
Julie Stovarsky
Bonnie Wilson

Kevin Gillis
Joe Shimmel
Maryann Stovarsky

Diane Boka
LaDawn Firm
Ed Weidger

Our Deepest Sympathy

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family on the passing of Nancy Lewis. A celebration of life was held Saturday, January 12th, 2018 at the First Presbyterian Church. Please keep her family in your prayers.



**Welcome
Our New
Members**

Welcome New Members

On Sunday, January 27th we welcomed

4 new members. Congratulations to Cliff & Darcy Barson and Jay & Juanita Swearingen. Please lift them up in prayer.

Chi-Rho

The spring session of Chi-Rho begins on **Wednesday, February 27th at 4pm**. Children are invited for an evening of prayer, fellowship, snacks, music, crafts, dinner & fun! Volunteers are welcome, please join us!

Notes from the Session Meeting:

- A motion was made by Cathie Young, seconded and approved to accept the 2019 session member committees.
- Pastor Tyler reported he will be out of town from Feb. 4th-11th, 2019 with, Laurie Armstrong filling the pulpit on Sunday, February 10th, 2019.
- Elder/Deacon training will be held at 9am on Saturday, Feb. 23rd, 2019.
- General Assembly Statistical Report to session members for review. A motion was made by Goldia Smurda, seconded and approved to accept the report and forward it to the General Assembly.
- Approved to donate \$50.00 to the Toronto Fire Dept towards children's education.
- Rebecca Jones will assume the Prayer chain lead.
- Pastor Tyler brought up a discussion to hold a movie night at our church.



Friends,

I want to say thank you for the bottom of my heart for the generosity that you showed my family and I during the Christmas season. All the cards and gift that you gave are so greatly appreciated! Thank you!

In Christ, Pastor Tyler



Prayer Chain

Please contact the office if you would like to be added on the Prayer Chain automated phone call list. Please contact Rebecca Jones, 740-457-3056, with requests for prayer in 2019.

Expense report for December

Expenses: \$14,511.07
Income: \$17,302.93
Difference: \$2,791.86



Toys 4 Toronto

Dear Members of The First Presbyterian Church,

Happy New Year! We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your help with the Toys 4 Toronto program this past Christmas season, for your monetary donation and for collecting and donating toys. With the help of caring people such as you, we were able to give 195 children in Toronto a wonderful Christmas. We couldn't have done it without your help! Your generosity to the community is greatly appreciated!

Sincerely,

Amy Rice

**Lent begins with Ash
Wednesday, March 6th.**

