

FPC NEWS

A NEWSLETTER FOR FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



NOW COME THE DAYS OF THE KING (PART 2)

BY PASTOR ANDREW GILMAN

My servant grew up in the LORD's presence like a tender green shoot, like a root in dry ground. There was nothing beautiful or majestic about his appearance, nothing to attract us to him.
—Isaiah 53:2

Last month (see November's newsletter) I wrote an article entitled "Now Come the Days of the King". In that article we explored the implications of Jesus' ministry on earth for both our days of difficulty in the present and our expectations of glory in heaven for eternity. Like every good story of heroic triumph, we long to see or understand the backstory. If the cross of Christ and the great resurrection miracle three days later was the culmination of God's rescue mission for creation; then what is the backstory of our hero? (Continued on page 8)

KEY DATES

DECEMBER 2

BFB Revitalization Dinner

DECEMBER 3

Communion
First Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER 3

Christmas Party at Dick Brown's

DECEMBER 15 & 16

Community Christmas Drive

DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve Worship
10am & 7pm

DEEPEN YOUR FAITH

THE WESTMINSTER LARGER CATECHISM

Q. 63. What are the special privileges of the visible church?

A. The visible church has the privilege of being under God's special care and government¹ and of being protected and preserved throughout the ages, in spite of the opposition of all her enemies.² The visible church also provides fellowship for God's people, functions as the ordinary means by which people are saved,³ and extends God's grace through Christ to all her members in the ministry of the gospel, testifying that whosoever believes in him will be saved⁴ and excluding no one from fellowship who desires to come to Christ.⁵

1. Is 4.5-6, 49.14-16, 1 Tm 4.10, 1 Cor 12.28, Eph 4.11-12, Acts 13.1-2.

2. Ps 115, Is 31.4-5, Zec 12.2-4, 8-9, Mt 16.18.

3. Acts 2.39, 42, Rom 3.1-2.

4. Ps 147.19-20, Rom 9.4, Eph 4.11-12, Mk 16.15-16, Acts 16.31, Rv 22.17.

5. Jn 6.37. Jn 12.38-40, Rom 9.6, Mt 22.14, 7.21, 13.41-42, Rom 11.7.



READING PLAN

WEEK 1 | DECEMBER 1

□ Mark 10

WEEK 2 | DECEMBER 4-8

□ Mark 11

□ Mark 12

□ Mark 13

□ Mark 14

□ Mark 15

WEEK 3 | DECEMBER 11-15

□ Mark 16

□ John 1

□ John 2

□ John 3

□ John 4

WEEK 4 | DECEMBER 18-22

□ John 5

□ John 6

□ John 7

□ John 8

□ John 9

WEEK 5 | DECEMBER 25-29

□ John 10

□ John 11

□ John 12

□ John 13

□ John 14

YOUR MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

PHILIPPIANS 2:3-8

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

BIRTHDAYS

12/01 Jacqueline Martin
12/04 Craig Leland
12/05 Shirla Neff
12/06 Karen Henninger
12/13 Patti Jetter
12/19 Harding Stevenson
12/24 Lori Conway
12/25 Holly Finnarn
12/26 Shannon Thomas
12/28 Jillian Mumaw
Jocelyn Mumaw
12/30 Molly Mumaw
Becky Hare

ANNIVERSARIES

12/02 Dan & Mindy Rehmert
12/04 Ryan & Bevin Fields
12/12 Hendrik & Marnelise van der Walt
12/17 James & Sherry Ward
12/28 George & Becky Luce



THAT'S A WRAP DONATION DRIVE



We are all ready to say, "That's a wrap!" when it comes to these renovations. However, the project won't be complete without a few finishing touches! Your furnishings committee comprised of Elder Pam Bowman, Elder Jan Roestamadji, Amanda Hines, Kelsey Ervin, and Paige Ervin would like your help to get us to the finish line. We have already purchased all new furniture for all the common areas. However, our children's spaces still need some NEW!

We have a goal of \$5,000 we would like to raise from the congregation to help with these missing pieces. Some of these items include a couch for Children's Church, new gliders for the nursery, baby swing, baby bouncer, changing wedge, miscellaneous décor, updated toys and more!

We have a display setup in the sanctuary with gift tags for you to fill out in support of this "That's a Wrap Donation Drive". We need 6 families to give \$500, 10 families to give \$100, and 20 families to give \$50 to reach our goal. Think of it as a baby shower for the church! However, this gift truly is the gift that keeps on giving as SO many different children will be blessed by this donation for years to come!

To support this FUN-draiser, just pull a gift tag off the display, fill it out and drop it in the offering box nearby. Envelopes are located on the offering box for those who have their cash or check ready to go. Donations may also be made via the app.

ANNUAL CALENDAR REMINDERS

By Paige Ervin

OFFICES CLOSED The church will be closed between Christmas and New Year's.
ANNUAL MEETING We will gather immediately following worship on Sunday, January 21st for this meeting. Reports by officers need to be turned in by January 1st.
MIDWEST PRESBYTERY MEETING All EPC teaching elders (pastors) and commissioned ruling elders will gather, here, to discuss/vote on church business and worship together. It is a privilege to host this group of leaders in our church. The Midwest Presbytery will meet Friday, February 9 and Saturday, February 10, 2024. We encourage you to mark these dates on your calendar and plan to be a part of the weekend wherever you are able. We will need help with dinner, sign-in each day, and worship. Worship and all the meetings are open to you to attend as well. We strongly encourage you to attend worship with us Friday night at 7:00pm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Join us at 7:00pm on Sunday, December 24th for our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight worship. Terri Fryman will play a special Christmas prelude beginning at 6:30pm. This year's service will feature special dance and musical numbers. We have a gift for our little ones who will be in attendance too!
***We will still have worship at 10am that morning.

CHRISTMAS CHAOS LOCK-IN

On December 19th, the youth will meet for their Christmas Chaos Lock-In event at 7:00pm until 7:00am. Christmas Chaos will be filled with games, food, movies, snacks, and more! Eat dinner before.

CHURCH CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our annual Christmas party at Dick Brown's home (5480 Requarth Rd.) is December 3rd! The Wavares will perform for us beginning right at 6:00pm. We ask everyone to bring a dish/snack to share for the night!

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DRIVE

We are "ringing the bell" at Eikenberry's again this year to support the Community Christmas Drive. Our days to serve are December 15th and 16th from 10am until 8pm each day. An in-person sign-up will be available December 9th. You may also call a deacon to reserve a specific time slot at any time. We encourage your family to take this opportunity to serve & tend the kettle together this holiday season.

CAST YOUR CARES CHALLENGE

The challenge is for you to submit a weekly, personal, prayer request via the app (or the offering boxes) to Pastor Andrew. We encourage you to use the offertory time to submit your request each week. (Place request in envelope from pew for full privacy.)

GROW OPPORTUNITIES

MEN'S ISI BREAKFAST

The men will meet again on Saturday, December 2nd at 8:30am at the church in the parlor. Please contact Augie Roestamadji (906-523-4459) for more details.

WOMEN'S STUDY

The women will meet again on Saturday, December 9th at 8:15am at the church in the parlor. If you have a book (not required), please read chapters 5 and 6 before the next meeting. Contact Jan Roestamadji (937-692-6404) for more details.

PASTOR'S STUDY

Every Wednesday at 10:30am, Pastor Andrew will continue his study through II Kings. All are welcome to attend. Jocelyn Sheldon is hosting the study throughout the renovation.

COVER THE CHURCH

In the parlor, this prayer group focuses on praying for FPC, its' Sunday morning worship service and ministries. You are invited to pray silently in the parlor or pray aloud as you feel led. They will meet every Sunday at 9:30am and pray until 9:45am, leaving plenty of time for socializing before church!



PRAYER

Please continue to pray for the following updates from last month.

November 2033 Prayer Requests:

11/28/2023: Samuel Howell is going to Children's on Thursday to check how he's doing with weight gain & malnutrition. They are taking more tests to see if he's better now. Please pray that he is better. And pray for Didi that she would not be anxious about it. ***Update: GOOD report!!

11/28/2023: Inara Howell has a painful rash under her arms that is getting increasingly worse. Please pray someone can help figure it out to give her relief and healing.

11/08/2023: Didi is needing to switch Sammy to formula to help him gain weight quickly. Please be praying that he takes to it well and gains the weight needed!

11/06/2023: Please pray for Sammy Howell. He'll be seeing a gastroenterologist tomorrow to look into his weight gain. There isn't much concern but prayers are appreciated.

11/06/2023: Please pray for Lester Trittschuh, Phyllis' brother-in-law. He is currently struggling with pneumonia and other health issues.



FPC LIFE (CONT. PG. 9)

NOTE OF APPRECIATION

Jack and Gloria Horner would like to say a big THANK YOU to all of you. The cards, planned visits, surprise visits and flowers mean so much to them both. They would love to be at church with their FPC family, but it is just not possible in this current season of life, but they love you all and want to tell you their door is always open and they would gladly welcome you in with open arms any time!

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Thank you to all our volunteers, and organizer, Kelsey Ervin, who helped decorate the church this year for Christmas. Your help was greatly appreciated! Pictures are on page 9!

FRIENDSGIVING

The youth group held their first Friendsgiving last month! Pictures from the day can be found on page 9. Thank you, Kelsey and Brandon Ervin, for their continued leadership in this thriving ministry!

HEALTHY KIDS AWARDS

Congratulations to our FPC Kids, Maddox Carty, Cora Ervin, and Randall Ervin. Maddox placed 1st in his age group for this fall's Healthy Kids Running Series in the park. Cora & Randall both placed 2nd. Congrats!

FPC KIDS SPECIAL

By Callee Moore

Look to hear from another one of our FPC Kids next month!

HELLO CHURCH FAMILY

My name is Callee Moore. I am a junior at Greenville Senior High School. I play golf for GHS and dance at Final Bow. I just finished my second year of golf and started my 11th year of dance. I work at the Union City Bowling Alley and Jim's Rootbeer Stand in season. I stay busy with school, dance, and travel.

Photo: Callee Moore (directly right of the tree) with fellow members of the Garden Club.



First Presbyterian Church of Greenville Ohio
Minutes of the Session of
October 12, 2023

I. Opening

A. Call meeting to order with reading of the Word and prayer

The October 2023 stated meeting of the Session of First Presbyterian Church of Greenville was called to order on October 12, 2023 at First Presbyterian Church at 7 PM by Pastor Andrew Gilman. Pastor Gilman opening the meeting with prayer.

Members Present: Pam Bowman, Wes Jetter, Jan Roestamadj, and Helen Miller (4)

Members Absent: Peter Haviza, Craig Leland and Randy Tester

Guests: Don Stevenson for Financial Report

Approval of Agenda A motion was made to approve the docket by Wes Jetter and seconded by Helen Miller. The motion passed 4-0.

Approval of Minutes Jan Roestamadj motioned to approve the September 2023 minutes. This motion was seconded by Pam Bowman. The motion passed 4-0.

II. Agenda Items

Financial Report Don Stevenson presented the financial report for September 2023. Highlights included mentioning that we had \$8,064 in contributions in September. Contributions to date have reached \$101,114. Don also mentioned that \$55,405 have been made toward the capitol improvement account. Don stated that \$1,000 had been contributed by the church to Campus Outreach and there was another unusual expense item of \$250 to cover entry fees to the youth group to attend the Illuminations concert. Helen Miller motioned to accept this report, seconded by Pam Bowman and passing by a margin of 4-0.

Renovation Project John Vehre (JV) had a brief FYI updating session on the need to modify the plans for the women's lounge next to the restroom. Because of sprinkler pipes discovered during demolition, a change had to be made to both construction and the architectural drawings. As part of these modifications, Dustin Nealeigh had a suggestion of placing an L-shaped entry wall, but after considerable discussion by the renovation committee it finally was decided at this time to just add carpet, new lighting and install technology hookups. At a later date the church may consider further renovations of the women's restroom and most likely the men's room at all, but no set date has been made for these projects.

Pam Bowman also had an FYI on furniture. Her committee met with representatives from IOS. A number of items were examined, and tentative selections were made. A final assessment will be made when IOS gets back to us with actual cost estimates.

Helen Miller had an FYI on the upcoming annual retreat. Final Bow will be the location and all final preparations had been made for the event. She mentioned lunch will consist of cold cuts and various other items not requiring cooking or warming.

Andrew Gilman presents a brief FYI on the book the Great Dechurching. In addition to the brief oral discussion, he included in the session packets an 8-page summary of the book.

Andrew also had a brief written summary for Stated meeting of the Midwest Presbytery that he attended and which took place from September 15-16, 2023.

Pastor's Report (Andrew Gilman – written submission) Pastor Gilman submitted a written report of his activities for September. His oral presentation was truncated because of the need for him to attend to the pastoral needs of fellow parishioners, who are facing a loss in the family. Andrew also reported that B.J. Newman will be giving a sermon on November 19, 2023, during Andrew's upcoming "Staycation" that will take place from November 17-24. Wes Jetter motioned to accept the report. This was seconded by Pam Bowman and passed 4-0.

Deacon's Meeting A written report was submitted for the October 2, 2023 meeting. After session reviewed the report, a motion was made by Pam Bowman to accept it, seconded by Helen Miller and passing 4-0.

III. Closing

Prayer. A closing prayer was made by Pam Bowman.

Adjournment. Jan Roestamadji motioned to adjourn, which was seconded by Pam Bowman. The motion passed 4-0.

John Vehre

Andrew Gilman

Clerk of Session

Moderator of Session

LEADERSHIP MEETINGS THIS MONTH

DEACONS	MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2023	7:00PM
SESSION	THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2023	7:00PM
WORSHIP	THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2023	10:00AM

NOW COME THE DAYS OF THE KING (CONT.)

The backstory of Jesus is one that has been told over and over again in the world; and rightly so for He is the savior of the world still today. Each year we go back to Bethlehem in storybooks and worship services to enjoy the retelling of the birth of Jesus in a manger. But what is it all for? That's what I want to talk about in this article? Why retell these stories over and over again?

First, we retell the story of Jesus' birth because we are truly amazed that God became a man. If we view the birth of Jesus through the lens of lore or mythology then the details become somewhat mundane. Afterall, there's another superhero origin movie out every couple of months it seems. However, if we understand the story the way God intended, then we see that this miraculous birth was the opening shot in an ancient battle between God and the Evil One. It was God marching on the gates of hell. One man stepping down into darkness to do battle with the enemy of humanity. The baby in the manger was God's Son, His Chosen One for the mission of reconciling the world to Himself.

Second, we retell the story of Jesus' birth because we are truly amazed that God's son would choose to come as a baby. One of the first questions we ask ourselves is why God would come as a baby? Why subject yourself to 30 years of growing and learning everything from chewing to walking to reading and so on? If we were in-charge, we would likely have sent a fully formed adult warrior; ready to go on day one. We don't fully understand the wisdom of God in having Jesus born subject to all of the laws of nature as well as the laws of Moses.

However, Jesus had to fully succeed in keeping these laws in order to present himself as a perfect sacrifice on our behalf. He was fully God so he was capable of fulfilling the law of Moses and he was fully man capable of substituting for humanity having been subject to every law of nature just as we ourselves are.

Third, we retell the story of Jesus' birth because we are truly amazed that Jesus was born in such

humble circumstances. We struggle to see why God would choose to put his only son on earth to be born along-side animals. He was born to a blue collar man and a young woman with little to no wealth. This too confuses us since we would prefer to gather up stuff. If we had a choice to be born into a poor family or a rich family we would choose the latter. Who wouldn't? And we know that God had a choice as to where Jesus would be born, and yet it was to Mary and Joseph in a manger.

Perhaps it was so that we could not accuse Jesus of having special privileges that others did not have. Or maybe it was so that every person could be encouraged by all he accomplished despite his lowly beginnings. These may make sense on a human level, but is there a lesson for us in this that is closer to the core of the gospel mission of Jesus? I think there is.

Jesus estate as a baby in the manger is both an affirmation of our own stories growing day by day as well as a condemnation of the sin and impoverished image of God in humanity at the time of his birth. In God's design for creation, he did not have in mind that children would come into the world in the cold, nor did he imagine they would be born next to the filth of animal refuse. He did not have in mind a world where there was "no room in the inn".

Jesus came to save humanity from the effects of the fall, the corruption of our beings by sin, and to finally put an end to our great enemy Satan. But the origin story of Jesus goes much further back in time than just that cold December night in Bethlehem. It goes back to before the foundation of the world.

Ephesians 1:4 says this...

"Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes."

This was the moment when God the Father agreed with God the Son, that a Savior needed to be sent and that you and I would be among those

who belonged to Him by faith. It was a volunteer mission. It was a necessary mission. It was a mission that became visible to us for the first time in the manger; it came upon a midnight clear. It culminated in a march to the cross and the glorious resurrection from the grave. It is why we still tell the story year after year. It is the hope of all humanity to know and be restored to their creator, God Almighty.

This year, let's marvel again at the wonder of the birth of our savior. Let's consider again how his birth has everything to do with the mission he came to accomplish. Let's remember that this is no myth or legend. It is God stepping down into darkness to rescue the world He made and loves from sin and the curse. This is the prequel to the great deeds and miracles of Jesus as an adult and as our eternal King.

FPC LIFE (CONT.)



FPC LIFE (CONT.)

THANK YOU FROM DICK NORD

Last Saturday our church had a Celebration of Life for Frances Ann Nord. Pastor Andrew Gilman officiated the ceremony aided by Pastor Dr. John Person. Terri Fryman played the piano accompaniment. Frances' husband, Richard, daughters Jennifer and Kimberly, grandson Ashley and son-in-law Charles Brown also participated in the service. The pallbearers were five grandsons and one nephew.

The congregation consisted of many regular church members, many of France's longtime friends and acquaintances, a large group of her family consisting of her children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, in-laws, nieces, and nephews on both sides of her family. Quite a few from out of state. Not visible, but certainly there, her deceased daughter Kathleen and her deceased son Daniel and of course our Lord Jesus Christ. My personal opinion and observation of the ceremony was one of admiration, solemnity, warmth, meaningful, overall a beautiful celebration of Frances Ann's Life.

Following the Graveside Service, a Reception (meal) was held at St. Paul's United Church of Christ. Pastor Doug Klinsing graciously made their social room and kitchen available to us due to the construction currently being done at our church. Our Church group of ladies headed up by Helen Miller and aided by Jeff Deeter (from St. Paul's Church) presented a wonderful meal, which was well attended.

My family and I are forever grateful for the gentleness, kindness, and efforts extended to us for Frances Ann's Celebration by our church family and staff.

In His Faith, Richard Nord

PASTOR APPRECIATION THANK YOU

My family and I would like to give a heartfelt thank you to all of you, for your love, support, and gifts throughout the Pastor Appreciation season. I was filled with joy from the various notes and gifts and prayers you offered our family. I continue to be blessed by you and thankful for God's bringing us all together in this season of life at FPC. Our family looks forward to the next months and years of ministry with you. Thank you again for all your support.

We see the hand of God at work. We will be forever grateful for your support, kindness, and love. Indeed, you revealed the true foundation of this church is kindness and love.

May the grace of the Lord be with you all. Thank you, Pastor Andrew, Jenna, Sienna and Shane

THANK YOU FROM PAIGE ERVIN

I would like to thank you all for your gracious gifts and notes in October. Thank you for including Jared in those notes as well. I could not do what I do without his support at home; especially with Cora and Randall. It is a joy to serve our church family in my role on staff at FPC. Each of you means so much to us and it truly is a treat to serve. Most recently, I have been blessed to serve alongside some amazing women in our body as a part of the furnishings committee. I thank you all for your continued prayers for this project. Our committee is the best I have ever served on. It was nothing but wonderful! We made A LOT of big, tiny detail decisions as a group and it could not have gone smoother. It was a privilege to serve alongside the ladies in that way and again, I thank you for the prayers you all continue to cover this project in as it currently is a huge part of my life as I live in the renovation every day!

On another note, I thank you all for the encouraging words and notes you have shared with Cora since she sang "Holy Forever" with me on Pastor Appreciation Sunday. She loves that song and was so happy to be able to share it with all of you as well!





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FPCGreenville.ChurchTrac.com



COMMUNION

FIRST SUNDAY EVERY MONTH

CHAPEL

Cover the Church

SUNDAYS 9:30AM

**Christmas Eve
Service**

YOU ARE INVITED

7pm



DECEMBER 15 & 16

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DRIVE

FIRST SATURDAY EVERY MONTH

**men's
bible
study**

LEARNING THE WORD TOGETHER

8:30am

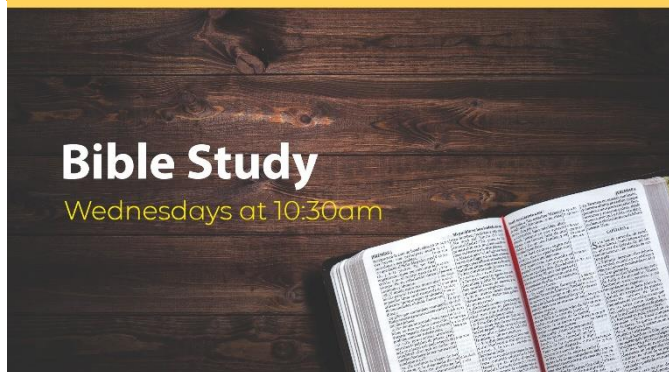


**WOMEN'S
STUDY**

SECOND SATURDAY EVERY MONTH AT 8:30AM

**CAST YOUR CARES
CHALLENGE**

DON'T FORGET TO SUBMIT YOUR WEEKLY PRAYER REQUEST



Bible Study

Wednesdays at 10:30am



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GIFTS**

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LIVE THE

Story of Redemption

AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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