

First Presbyterian Church
November 2020
Tidings

December 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Day of Prayer 8:00AM HH @ The Cup Door Drop Ministry	2	3	4	5
6 10:00AM Morning Worship, Communion	7	8	9 11:00AM Brad- ford Cty. Treat- ment Court	10 9:00AM Main Link Staff Mtg.	11	12
13 10:00AM Morning Worship	14	15 6:00PM Trustees 6:00PM Session 6:30PM Trustee/ Session joint mtg.	16	17	18	19
20 10:00AM Morning Worship, TACO Collection 5:00PM Girl Scouts	21 1st Day of Winter	22	23	24 7:00PM Christmas Eve Service	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS	26
27 10:00AM Morning Worship	28	29	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE		



From the Pastor's Desk

I chuckled recently when I saw a print ad for a unique Christmas ornament. It was a sleigh that had toilet paper and hand sanitizer bottles inside, with "2020" painted on the side. The driver was a kitten wearing a mask!

We've had to work sometimes to find humor this year. Aside from the pandemic, we've been strained by racist conflict and election incivility... not to mention the difficulties in our own personal lives. Yet as Christians, we know there is always hope, and joy, and the love of God. No doubt this year has not gone the way any of us would have chosen, but nothing in it was a surprise to the Lord. Satan's been awfully busy wreaking havoc, but the Lord is not only in control, but overcoming. Only those of us with faith and the eyes to see His handiwork can attest to this, but we must!

For me, a beautiful symbol of 2020 is a box sitting on my dining room table. It is so full of cards and notes that I have to cram new ones in. But I am keeping each and every one of them forever, because they were sent to me by thoughtful and caring people who are walking with me through a serious illness. Thank you for them, and for all the other ways you have supported me during difficult days-- days when you could have been wrapped up in your own valid difficulties, but reached out to me anyway. I am deeply grateful, beyond words.

The success my treatments have had is truly due to the Lord answering your prayers-- this is definitely a team effort. You have a hand in my wellness, and I praise God that so many of you have come alongside to help! The Apostle Paul knew struggles quite well. Yet in 2 Corinthians 4, he wrote about our certain hope: "God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ. ⁷ But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. ⁸ We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. ¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸ So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."

When 2021 begins, it would be great if the pandemic and our other national and personal concerns would all evaporate, but that probably won't happen. Even so, we who follow Christ are His light-bearers. The light is most powerful in the darkest days. So no matter what, draw closer to Him, and shine His light through praying, encouraging, caring, and serving others. When so many feel that the world is spinning out of control, we can share hope by assuring them that they can be blessed by counting on our precious, holy Cornerstone. His name is Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us.





December

Door Drop continues to be a success. We are enjoying delivering ministry bags to our families. Our delivery dates for December are the 2nd and the 16th.

The 16th will feature the virtual program titled Dough Holy Night. We are going to eat cookies and praise Jesus!

Our November 18th ministry bag included a gift card to Huley's. This was to help families with their Thanksgiving dinner. The response from this was wonderful. Many families reached out and shared their appreciation of this gift.

Join us December 16th:

Dough Holy Night

for more
information
visit our website

Operation Christmas Child Our congregation collected enough money to assemble 30 boxes for children in need. Thank you for the support in this mission!

Spring Schedule:

Our Door Drop ministry will take the month of January off.

Deliveries will resume in

February.

Our schedule will be as follows:

- ♦ February 10th
- ♦ February 24th
- ♦ March 10th
- ♦ March 24th
- ♦ April 7th
- ♦ April 21st
- ♦ May 5th
- ♦ May 19th



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

5th - Nancy Neilson
18th - Mern Stroud
20th - Lynn Homet
23rd - Craig Wollenberg
25th - Holly Keegan
29th - Mark Vaughn

DECEMBER ELDER ON CALL

6th - Dick Walsh
13th - Julie O'Donnell
20th - Sarah Dunn
27th - Judy Douglas



CHURCH DAY OF PRAEYR ITEMS:

1. For people's hearts to be filled with the joy of Christmas and open to receive Jesus Christ as Savior during this season of celebrating His birth!
2. For God to guide the church officers as they seek His will in furthering the mission and vision of the church.
3. For the church officers to have discernment in setting a budget for 2021 reflective of a decreasing income.
4. For the Lord to shape each of us to grow and and be bold to share our faith in Christ with others, so they may be blessed with salvation!
5. For our Kids Club and SWAG Door Drop Ministry to bring God's Word to the youth and their families, and the SWAG Zoom meetings to be a good connection to the youth.
6. For God to bring the pandemic to an end, and that people will return to church when it does end!
7. For healing and strength for Pastor Rachel, Peg Putnam and Clayton Mount as they continue to fight cancer.
8. For those who have lost loved ones, those who are battling illnesses, and those who are in need.

A note from the Treasurer:

Please turn in your vouchers for reimbursements/payments as early as possible in December. Thank you!



A message from Ethel & Ed Miller

We greatly enjoyed and appreciated attending First Presbyterian Church. After 60 years of living in the greater Towanda area, we have relocated to live with family. Best wishes to all.

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MEMORY VERSE

For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder.
And His name will be called
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Our expression of thanks to the following who gave gifts in loving memory or honor of their loved ones allowing us to enjoy the flowers as they adorn our sanctuary during the Advent Season.

In Honor of our grandchildren Victoria, Natalia, Tyler, Marisa and Michael Richard given by Jack & Pearl Fox

In Honor of our granddaughters Kennedy and Kerrigan Walsh given by Dick & Sandy Walsh

In Honor of Debra Waicker and family and Judith Douglas and family given by Paul DeWitt

In Memory of William H. and William C. Homet given by Lynn Homet

In Memory of John R. Strohl Sr., Diane Cocoran, Warren & Edna Card and Francis & Arlene Strohl given by Shirley C. Strohl

In Memory of George R. Rohrer, Mr. & Mrs. Henry Rohrer and Mr. & Mrs. A.L. Sebring given by Sally Rohrer

In Memory of Michelle Field Allen by Bucky & Martha Field



ENDLESS MOUNTAINS PREGNANCY CARE CENTER NEEDS:

Size 3 - 6 Diapers	New Bottles
Nursing Pillow	Crib Sheets
18M -2T Clothes	L/XL Maternity Clothes
Bath towels	Lotion
Bath Shampoo	Pacifiers
Wipes	Baby Board Books
2T-3T Pull ups	

Jesus Is The Reason

In Bethlehem, God gave to us
The source of Christmas joy;
A star shown on a miracle:
The virgin birth of a boy.

He was born both God and man,
A Savior for us all,
The way to get to our heavenly home,
If we just heed His call.

So as we shop and spend and wrap
And enjoy the Christmas season,
Let's keep in mind the sacred truth:
Jesus is the reason.

By Joanna Fuchs

**How did Mary and Joseph know
Jesus' weight when he was
born?**

They had a weigh in a manger!



*The Peace & Promise of Christmas,
a devotional from Our Daily Bread,
is available at the church
while supplies last.*