

First Presbyterian Church January 2021 Tidings

First Presbyterian Church
Five Court Street
Towanda, Pa 18848



January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 New Year's Day	2
3 10:00AM Morning Worship, Communion	4 5:00PM Trustee Mtg.	5	6 Day of Prayer 8:00AM Hez. Hands @ The Cup	7	8	9
10 10:00AM Morning Worship	11	12	13	14 9:00AM Main Link Staff Mtg.	15	16
17 10:00AM Morning Worship 11:15AM Session 5:00PM Girl Scouts	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 10:00AM Morning Worship 11:15 Annual Con- gregational Mtg	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 10:00AM Morning Worship						

From the Pastor's Desk

Greetings from Pastor Brenda Reibson!



Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

This exclamation is how a pastor friend of mine opens each worship service. It's a signal that it's time to be quiet and pay attention because the service is starting, and it's also a great reminder of two things we have from God because of our relationship with Him.

Grace:

Grace is defined as "unmerited favor." Through faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, we do not receive what we deserve because of the sins we've committed, instead we receive God's love and favor. We can be confident of our standing before God because he has made us part of his family and treats us as beloved sons and daughters.

Peace:

Through Jesus' sacrifice for us on the cross, our sins are blotted out and the barrier that stood between us and God because of our sin is removed. We are at peace with God our Savior. An inner peace, that doesn't always make sense when we face difficulties and trials, is possible because of the ultimate peace obtained for us by Jesus.

I was asked to share a little bit about myself. My own experience with God's grace and peace was solidified in my life when I was 25. I was raised in Manheim, PA in a family of 6 girls (no boys) and went to college in Western PA at Indiana University of PA. I was a Medical Technologist on and off for 25 years. At 25, I gave my life to the Lord and started attending church. I married, moved to Christiana, PA, and had two sons. Mike is my second husband; my first husband passed away in 2012. Mike and I have been married 7 years already! We love to hike at State Parks and eat hoagies from Subway and chili from Wendy's, that is, when Mike isn't cooking healthy meals for us. At home, I can often be found reading a book, or working on a crossword puzzle or a sudoku. Mike has two daughters and we had three grandchildren arrive in the last year!

My call to ministry developed through the years. My M. Div. is from Biblical Theological Seminary (renamed Mission Seminary) in Hatfield, PA and I was ordained by ECO in 2018. I love ECO for its commitment to discipleship and transformation. I am happy to be here with you, until at least the end of January. I want to respect the social distancing required for now in church, so if you are comfortable doing so, please come up to me and introduce yourself. Or call me on my cell at 610-761-9780. I would love to meet you, even if it has to be from a distance for now.

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. Romans 5:1



Christian Education News

Welcome to the new year! We wrapped up our fall semester of Kid's Club on December 15th. Our church blessed each family in our Children's Ministry with Christmas gifts; pizza and cookies!

Our spring semester will begin in February. We will continue our Door Drop Ministry through May.

Our hope is that we can be back in person for summer fun!

Pictures

December
Door Drop
Bag
Gifts for
Our kids &
Dough Holy
Night





03 - Amy Carr
 05 - Rhea Johnston
 07 - Ashley Mount
 11 - Tammy Becker
 15 - Claudia Mehalchick
 16 - Paul DeWitt
 20 - Kambria Howard
 28 - Jim Gore
 31 - Antonio Brown



ELDER ON CALL

1/3 - Judy Douglas

1/10 - Sarah Dunn

1/17 - Dick Walsh

1/24 - Danise Fairchild

1/31- Danise Fairchild

MEMORY VERSE

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"

2 Corinthians 5:17

Happy New Year!

"Cast your burden upon the Lord and He will sustain you; He will never allow the righteous to be shaken."

Psalms 55:22

1. For us to have optimism for 2021, and embrace the blessings God has in store for us!
2. For opportunities to be bold and share our faith and the good news of Jesus with others!
3. For Pastor Brenda Reibson as she joins our ministry in leading us at the present time.
4. For our church members during this Covid-19 time and that they may all feel safe to return soon.
5. For our partners in mission Craig Weyandt, Heather and Nick Smartt, and Tim and Bernadette Negus as they work to spread the Gospel to many others. Bless their ministries and keep them safe.
6. Praise the Lord for the power of prayer!!
7. For peace and comfort for the Tom Williams family in the loss of Patricia, his wife, and the mother of Todd and Colleen.
8. For the homeless to find shelter during the cold weather, and those who are struggling to heat their homes and put food on the table.
9. For those battling cancer, Pastor Rachel, Peg Putnam, and Clayton Mount, as they continue the fight.
10. For those battling Covid-19 and those who have lost loved ones to this devastating virus.
11. For the Covid-19 vaccines to bring protection against this nemesis.

DAY OF PRAYER ITEMS



NEWS FROM THE NELSON'S

I am writing to check in and thank you all for your constant giving to Special Hope Network in Lusaka. We are grateful for churches like yours who pray for us, and remember us, even though we are so far away. What would we do without you?

We are greatly in need of more gifted hands both here in Lusaka, Zambia, as well as folks to dedicate some hours of work from their homes in the USA. We realize that our supporting churches will be the best places to ask for people to be praying with us as we search and look for gifted missions workers to either come work with us here, or work from the USA if they have time and writing, administrative or researching skills as well as unlimited internet.



Thanks so much,
Holly Nelson



December 19, 2020

Dear Praying Friends,

This year, 2020, had many challenges and disappointments. I am thankful that I work with a mission of godly men and women who are committed to keeping Christ pre-eminent in all things. They are also committed to helping City Team Leaders, like me, Lead well in uncharted waters.

We have finished the year well and have witnessed growth and spiritual fruit at every level of our goals- **Develop.Empower.Release**. This Blessing can only be attributed to God and his faithfulness in the midst of crises and pandemic.

Just as Baptism is an outward symbol of an inward washing and Spiritual Reality the inaugural Lighting of the Cross on our Steeple over Thanksgiving, as beautiful as it may be, has a deeper symbolic meaning. The Cross and the Light are symbols of the Gospel and the Great Commission of Christ. They represent our Mission and Vision as a Church to Give every foreigner in Rio an opportunity to know, worship and to follow Jesus while they are far from their country of origin.

Would you consider making a year-end financial gift to support the Weyandts. Let's keep The Light Shining Brightly in Rio in 2021. We rely on monthly support, but it is the strong, year-end giving that gets us off to a great start!

Thank You for All that You Do!

Delighting in Him,

Craig Weyandt

Partner with the Weyandts financially!

[Click Here to Give](#)

Or Copy and Paste this link below

<https://my.efca.org/SSLPage.aspx?pid=359&des=WEYANDT-M1409>

Or

Make checks out to: EFCA ReachGlobal

Attach a note that says: I am supporting the ReachGlobal work in Brazil by Craig
Weyandt, Account 1409

Please Mail Check to: EFCA ReachGlobal; 901 East 78th Street; Minneapolis, MN
55420-1300

New Year 31 DAY SCRIPTURE WRITING PLAN

Each of the scriptures below takes ten minutes or less to copy out. Commit to spending ten minutes each day listening to God's voice as you simply copy these texts out of your bible.

Week 1

DAY 1- Isaiah 43:16-19
DAY 2- Lamentations 3:22-26
DAY 3- Ecclesiastes 3:11-15
DAY 4- Psalm 98:1-9
DAY 5- Psalm 90:12-17
DAY 6- Jeremiah 29:11-14
DAY 7- Philippians 3:7-14

Week 2

DAY 8- 2 Corinthians 5:17-21
DAY 9- 1 Peter 1:3-9
DAY 10- Mark 12:28-33
DAY 11- Ezekiel 36:24-28
DAY 12- 1 Chronicles 16:8-14
DAY 13- Colossians 3:12-17
DAY 14- Hebrews 12:7-13

Week 3

DAY 15- Isaiah 40:28-31
DAY 16- Philippians 4:4-9
DAY 17- Luke 14:28-35
DAY 18- Romans 12:1-8
DAY 19- Romans 12:9-16
DAY 20- Romans 12: 17-21
DAY 21- Psalm 37:1-6

Week 4

DAY 22- Psalm 37:7-11
DAY 23- Psalm 37:18-19, 23-24, 27-28
DAY 24- 2 Peter 1:1-4
DAY 25- 2 Peter 1:5-11
DAY 26- Romans 18:18-25
DAY 27- 2 Corinthians 12:9-10
DAY 28- Psalm 27:1-4

Week 5

DAY 29- Psalm 27:5-8
DAY 30- Psalm 27:9-14
DAY 31- Choose your own verse

Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.

Psalms 119:18



Bible Verses of Renewal and Hope for the Coming New Year

"And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." Revelation 21:5

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." Lamentations 3:22-23

"Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." Isaiah 43:18-19

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." 2 Corinthians 5:17

"Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead." Philippians 3:13

"Therefore, repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord." Acts 3:19

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11

"But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint." Isaiah 40:31

"I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them..." Ezekiel 11:19

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6

"May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed." Psalm 20:4



The church was badly in need of a coat of paint. So the pastor decided he'd do the job himself. But all he had was one bucket of paint. So he got a bunch of buckets and some water, and he thinned the paint enough to cover the entire church. Then he spent all day painting. That night it rained—very hard—and washed all the paint off. The pastor was quite discouraged and asked God, 'Why...why God, did you let it rain and wash off all my hard work?' To which God thundered his reply, 'Repaint! Repaint! And thin no more!'

Three boys are in the school yard bragging about their fathers. The first boy says, "My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, and they give him \$25."

The second boy says, "That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song, and they give him \$200."

The third boy says, "I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon, and it takes eight men to collect all the money!"

