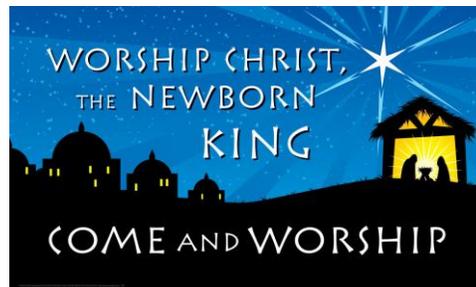




Reedurban Presbyterian Church

*Our dwelling place has been with the Lord for 90 Years of
Ministry*

Reedurban JANUARY 2017 Newsletter



Christmas Eve Worship
December 24 at 7:30PM
Service of Lessons and Carols
"The Radical Love of God!"
Candle Lighting

Worship on Christmas Morning
10:30AM
"I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day!"
(Bring a bell to ring)

Worship on New Year's Day
10:30AM
Sunday of Christmastide
Service of Word and Sacrament
"New Directions"



Dear Friends,

Christmas is almost here and the New Year is looming just ahead. As I focus on God's gift of Jesus and anticipate the change of the calendar with all its newness and potential, I sense a connection between them. The rebirth of the Savior in my life offers such opportunity to grow and move forward in new faithful ways. The question is, "Will I welcome Jesus to guide my actions and challenge my thinking as the days and weeks unfold?"

One of the Advent Devotionals I have been following this year reflected on the way *fear* influences our lives and relationships, as does the *desire for reward*. It told the story of a man who met an angel walking down the road with a burning torch in one hand and a bucket of water in the other. Asked what she was doing, the angel replied, "*I'm going to quench the fires of hell with this water and burn down the mansions of heaven with the fire. Then perhaps we'll find out who really loves God.*"

In the New Year, I pray that the babe of Bethlehem will find room to grow in my life. I know the greatest investment I can make in that hope is to regularly open myself in prayer and reflection on the Bible story. What if I took time to look at why I am doing, thinking, or deciding this or that, and asked myself: *Why am I doing this? To be rewarded? Why does this decision appeal? Because I am afraid? How can my loving relationship with God effect my decision and animate my activities?* What does the example of Jesus in the gospels say to me?

May GOD BLESS YOU as we celebrate Jesus' birth. May GOD GUIDE YOU and us together as we move into 2017 with faith in the gracious, saving, unconditional love of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Peace,

Lynn



The **Food Cupboard** is well stocked at the present time. As always your support is very much appreciated.

During the month of January we will be collecting winter items such as scarves, mittens, gloves, hats, etc. for the **Giving Tree**. They may be placed in the basket in the Narthex.

PARISH HEALTH MINISTRY UPDATE



Are you setting new goals for 2017? A top priority for many people is staying safe and healthy. Here are some **Winter Safety Tips for Seniors**:

- Avoid slipping on ice: Always wear shoes with good traction and non-skid soles. Be sure to replace worn tips on a cane.
- Dress for warmth: Do not let indoor temperature drop too low, dress in layers. Wear warm socks, heavy coat, hat, gloves and scarf outdoors. Cover mouth with scarf to protect lungs.
- Fight wintertime depression: Seniors can phone call neighbors to check on each other. Communicate with family and if need help with snow removal, ask for assistance.
- Check your car: Get car serviced before severe weather occurs. Check oil, tires, battery and wipers.
- Prepare for power outages: Be sure to have flashlights, battery power radio and supply of non-perishable foods on hand.
- Eat more foods fortified with Vitamin D such as milk, grains, tuna and salmon since less exposure to the outdoors and sunshine.
- Check your batteries on carbon monoxide detector, if you do not have one try to obtain one.

Best wishes for a wonderful Holiday Season and New Year.

Submitted by: *Gwen Weston*

Worship in Advent

This year the gospel of *Matthew* will be our principle source for reflection on the coming of the Christ Child. Music and prayers will include a *call to quiet and contemplation* as we prepare to receive the gift of God's Son again. If you are liable to stress out about Christmas preparations, we hope the hour together on Sunday morning will provide a corrective and respite. We will focus on preparing God's way in our hearts and in our living.

Christmas Joy Offering

The Christmas Joy Offering is one of four extra-mile church wide opportunities to contribute to meaningful programs that address human need. *Christmas Joy* supports past, present and future leaders. It honors the gift of our Savior by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in times of need and also contributes to the development of future leaders who study in church-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.

Contributions are collected during Advent. Please consider an extra-mile gift in the weeks ahead.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

On Sunday, December 18, 2016, the following were elected to serve for Elders and Deacons.

Elders: Class of 2019 (3 year term) - Debbie Anderson, Wendy Lichtenwalter
Class of 2017 (1 year term) – Victoria Brunk
Deacons: Class of 2019 (3 year term) – Jeanne Carson
Class of 2018 (2 year term) – Tim Shetzer
Class of 2017 (1 year term) – Sue Larke

The 2017 Nominating Committee consists of Lois Pinhard, Cal Simpson, Sue VanEtten, David Wright and an elder to be determined. Alternate is John Whitacre.

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE

As the end of the year is fast approaching, please remember the deadline for annual reports is **January 8, 2017**. Please e-mail them to the church at: reedurbanpc@gmail.com if you would like.

ANNUAL MEETEING

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held on Sunday, **January 22, 2017**, and lunch will follow after the morning worship service.

PER CAPITA

A great way to help the church financially is to contribute the amount of our denomination's per capita assessment. The 2017 annual per capita is \$29.11 per member. This enables the work of Presbytery, Synod and the General Assembly. If you have not contributed, but can, it would positively impact our budget as we submit the fee for all members who do not make that contribution.

BETTY'S SHOE BOXES

The Outreach Committee reports that we had 32 shoe boxes that were delivered to the Salvation Army in Massillon for distribution to Perry Township children. Our thanks for all your efforts in filling the shoe boxes.



Please save the front of used Christmas cards. Please no backs with names. We are asking for cards no larger than 5" x 7". The fronts will be sent out West for a children's group to use as a fundraising craft. We will collect them during the month of January. If you have any questions, please contact Juanita Luoni at 330-477-2580.

Many, Many Thanks . . .

To the wonderful crew of volunteers who came to decorate the church for the Christmas season. Special thanks to Margaret and John Whitacre who orchestrate the project.

To the Outreach Ministry Team for sponsoring Betty's Shoeboxes again this year, for organizing the Celebration Tree potluck and tree lighting, and for planning the holiday lunch at Grinders for the women of the church. (Special thanks to Carol Mossor for the favors.) Each event was meaningful and included lots of fun and fellowship. Well done!

To the Board of Deacons for their faithful work of packing Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets for families in our community and for organizing and carrying through with the Mary Volpe Giving Tree project.

To all those who have begun our Advent worship services by lighting the Advent candles. (Worship Ministry Team, Choir, Deacons and Session)

To the faithful church officers who have taken Home Communion to our members who are unable to be with us on Sunday mornings.

To Wendy Lichtenwalter for playing the flute with the anthem during worship on December 18th.

TO ALL OF YOU, generous and faithful people who have supported and donated to the many projects and missions of the Advent/Christmas season. God bless you!

Expressions of Love and Sympathy

Since the publication of the last newsletter, we have gathered to thank God for the life of elder, Rick Lichtenwalter, who died from this life on October 31, and we have received the news of the death of Gloria Perrin on December 6. Like Rick, Gloria was a vital part of our congregation, though unlike Rick she was physically unable to be present in recent years. Special services to thank God and celebrate the faithful lives of members are a blessing for the congregation as well as for the families of those who pass on. We hope to have a service for Gloria in the new year at a time when weather will be easier for family and friends to navigate. We will keep you informed.

A Few Words about Contemplative Prayer. . .

During Advent we have been introduced to *contemplative prayer* as a part of our worship experience on Sunday mornings. Contemplative prayer lets words and ideas go to discover the *silence* of listening and the quiet of just *being in God's presence*. Father Richard Rohr, a Franciscan and spiritual teacher describes contemplation as "*sitting in the silence until it silences us.*" Focusing attention on our breathing or on our bodily presence of where we are, like feet on floor, back in chair, hands in lap, gives our minds a break from the constant march of thoughts, worries, judgments that fill us up. Contemplation enables space and time to be with God.

Presbytery Report

We often speak of "Presbytery" as if it is a place, when really it is the members of 85 Presbyterian churches from Mansfield to Alliance to Marietta. At stated times of the year representatives of the church together with their pastors gather to worship, learn, hear reports and make decisions for our life together. On Saturday December 3, Carol Mossor represented our congregation together with Rev. Shetzer and attended the meeting of the Presbytery at Central Presbyterian Church in Massillon. Worship included remembrance of church leaders who have joined the church triumphant during the past year. Dorothy Carpenter and Rick Lichtenwalter were lifted up with gratitude in prayer. Our congregation received a special *thank you* for the financial support we have made to the larger church through the per capita assessment and special mission giving. A new structure of Presbytery leadership was voted on. It will mean a big change, as Presbytery finances makes hiring an Executive Presbyter very difficult at present. A "Mission Specialist" will join with a part-time Stated Clerk, a treasurer and administrative assistant, as well as several elected volunteers, to enable our mission in Muskingum Valley.



Open to anyone who would like to grow in their faith in the company of loving Christians.

Belayers – Sunday evenings 5:30 pm - conference room. Questions: Chuck Blackstone 330-936-3534.

Seekers – Every other Tuesday 1:00 pm - Woodlawn Village Club House. Questions: Carol Kaufmann 330-546-7316.

Sowers – 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 10:00 am - church : Don and Jackie Peel at 330-877-8745.

Men's Breakfast Group – 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 8:30 am – Main Street Grill (inside Buehler's). Questions: Jack Robinson 330-837-8217.

Crafty Knitters – 2nd and 4th Thursdays 10:00 am - church. Questions: Carol Mossor 330-433-0701



The Monthly Community Dinner sponsored by the Men's Breakfast Group is held on the last Tuesday of each month from 4:00-6:30 pm. The next dinner will be on **Tuesday, December 20th (please note date change for December due to Christmas)**. If you can spare some time the men would welcome any help as well as desserts. Blood pressure screenings are offered as well. Jack Robinson (330-837-8217) can answer any questions.

Sharing Ministry and Mission

The church is filled with inspiring stories of faith. Each of us has a story to tell of our individual faith journeys and how the Lord has blessed us along our way through caring people and the church community. You are invited to offer your story for publication through our monthly newsletter. It is an opportunity to glorify God and inspire the church. We are blessed by *Jim VanEtten* to share his faith story this month.

The Journey to Faith

Many of you who read this will be able to relate to how your journey to faith started and has evolved. For me, it started as a 10 year old when I saw my father collapse on the floor at 7:00 in the morning. Not knowing what to do as my mother helped dad, I started to pray. Some hours later as all was well, I went about my day. I did not really think how my first time having a long conversation with God really started my faith journey.

Over the years, I can think of numerous times I have gone to God in prayer for the health needs of family, friends and people I do not know. I prayed constantly for those Sue and I helped while on national disasters with the Red Cross. The same goes for those in the emergency room when I helped out at Aultman Hospital. It is easy to walk past people each day wrapped in my own thoughts. It is harder to look them in the eye and imagine what kinds of concerns they may be facing in their lives.

A few years back on a Red Cross Disaster assignment in Joplin, Missouri after a deadly tornado destroyed the town, I am sleeping on a cot in a gymnasium. In the dark, I realize I am having a kidney stone attack. The hospital in Joplin has been destroyed. Knowing God was with me giving me strength through that situation brought me peace.

I pray for those who do not know that God is there to help them at all times of their lives. Problems, small and large, will be answered by prayer. I learned that when I was 10 and I re-learn it constantly now.

As it says in 1 Peter, "Humble yourself under God's power so that he may raise you up in the last day. Throw all your anxiety unto him, because he cares about you."

Jim Van Etten

2017 SESSION

Moderator: Rev. Lynn Shetzer

Class of 2017:

Class of 2018:

Class of 2019:

Clerk:

Victoria Brunk
Chuck Leeser
Charles Blackstone
Dwight Newsom
Debbie Anderson
Gary Steinbach

Carol Kaufmann
Gwen Weston
Paula Bracken
Jack Robinson
Wendy Lichtenwalter
Jim VanEtten

2017 DEACONS

Moderator:

Class of 2017:

Class of 2018:

Class of 2019

Vice-Moderator:

Pam Baxter
Linda Radsick
Marge Merrin
Tim Shetzer
Jeanne Carson
Lois Pinhard

Sue Larke
John Whitacre
Darlene Mock
Renate White
Katie Hinson
Margaret Whitacre



To all my family at Reedurban Church,

I want to express my heartfelt appreciation for everything that you have done to help me in my bereavement. All of the cards, big hugs, messages of support, special notes and Bible verses and poems and helpful literature have been a blessing to me. I cannot ever thank you enough for sharing in the Memorial Service for Rick, for the delicious meal for our family and friends, and for continuing to bless me with your love. I can only hope to be of comfort and support to others in order to pass God's love along as you have done for me.

As ever,
Wendy

THE PRESCHOOL AROUND THE CORNER

The month of December in preschool has certainly been a whirlwind! The children have learned about holiday traditions. Part of holiday traditions include making gifts for their families - and keeping the gifts a secret! That is not always easy for preschoolers! Rounding out the end of December, we celebrated with a Christmas party which included decorating gingerbread men cookies! Lastly, we will have a PJ day with hot chocolate and other fun activities.

In keeping with our overall theme of diversity, a parent who is from Lebanon came to school. He shared pictures and stories of what life is like in a different part of the world. The most interesting thing the children learned was that families build on top of each other. There might be a store on the first level. Above that live the parents. The next level up would be another relative and so on. Very different than our homes here! The children were glad to know that Santa is in Lebanon, too!

Wishing you a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

Tricia Conner and Reta Hale

Reminder: For safety reasons no one will be permitted to use the back entrance or go beyond the partition from 8:30 to noon Monday – Thursday while they are in operation. Thanks for your cooperation.

Also, preschool will be on Christmas break from December 21st to January 2nd.



You Shop, Amazon Gives: Support Muskingum Valley Presbytery with Amazon Smile!

Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice: look for the **Presbytery of Muskingum Valley Board of Trustees** when prompted to select a charity.

AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.

Support your charitable organization by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.com.

JANUARY



- 3rd Norma Jean Marshall
- 6th Jennifer Ramsey
- 7th Zavier Doubrava
- 9th Bonnie Larke
Christian Pierce
Barry Shetzer
- 10th Thomas Crawford, Jr.
- 12th Lois Pinhard
- 13th Pat Bracken
- 14th T.J. Crawford, Sr.
- 15th Brenda Daniluk
Scott Phillips
- 16th Trudy Hart
- 22nd Debra Crotsley
- 23rd Lori Waibel
Jim Whitacre
- 24th Caroline Nist
- 26th Marjorie Merrin
- 27th Julia Parker

We are looking for volunteers to be greeters. Please sign up for a Sunday or two. For more information on being a Greeter, please contact Pam Baxter at 330-477-3389.



2017 FLOWER CHART

The 2017 Flower Chart has been posted on the bulletin board outside the office. If you would like to give flowers for a special occasion or a special person, please fill in your name next to the date. You will be billed from Flowers By Pat.



The **FEBRUARY** newsletter deadline is **January 15th**. Please have your articles to Cheryl Robinson (330-837-8217) (email: car929@aol.com) or to the church office by then.



On Saturday, January 7th at 10:00 a.m. we will be taking down the Christmas decorations at the church. If you could spare a little time to help, that would be very much appreciated.



8:00 am – 12:30 pm Monday – Thursday

If you call after office hours, please leave a message on the machine and someone will get back to you as soon as possible. If it's an emergency, please call Rev. Shetzer at home 330-494-2288.

LITURGIST SIGN-UP

Thanks to all who have volunteered to be a liturgist for December. The sheet for January/February is posted. Won't you consider volunteering?

If you are interested, please sign your name. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Kaufmann at 330-546-7316.



Condolences are extended to Dick Larson and family on the recent passing of his son Richard.

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family and friends of Gloria Perrin who passed away on December 6th.

Our prayers are with you and may the Lord extend his comfort to all.



- Phyllis Greene (Laurels of Massillon)
- Marge Showers (Hanover House)
- Bill Bowen
- Dorothy Bowen
- Paul Daniluk
- Jerry Givens
- Edna Harper
- Katie Hinson
- Bob Hookey
- Jackson Kiger II
- Marge Merrin
- Nadine Regula
- Kathy Steiner
- Jim Trimmer
- Lori Waibel
- Paul Waibel

T

If you or a family member is admitted into the hospital, please call the office and let us know. We cannot set up visitation or put you on the prayer chain if we do not know. The hospitals no longer call us.

2017 OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2017 Offering Envelopes are available for pickup. They are on a table in the Welcome Center.