



Reedurban Presbyterian Church

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

Reedurban FEBRUARY 2017 Newsletter

ANNUAL MEETING of the Congregation and Corporation

THIS Sunday, January 22, 2017

Fellowship Hall

Following morning worship

A light Lunch will be served.



Dear Friends,

I went to a high school basketball game last week. It was a lot of fun and brought back a lot of happy memories. I live in a basketball family. Tim played in high school and for The College of Wooster. Barry played for Hoover High School and then for West Liberty University. (He even played a year for a professional team on the Island of Madeira, Portugal.)

I've sure learned a lot about basketball over the years, but I've learned even more about teams. Perhaps the greatest insight is *what a difference it makes when the athletes dedicate themselves first of all to playing together*. Certainly some players have greater skills (shooting, rebounding) than others. But I've seen teams struggle when they relied too much on a particular player – AND when a particular player tried to carry the team.

It happened to Barry's college team. They had a lot of success, but it wasn't until the "star" hurt his back and had to rely on his teammates that they became a great team.

It is also true of the Church. Everyone has gifts to share, and some are super-talented. But to faithfully serve God, we need the gifts of everyone, and we all need to depend on each other. These are powerful ways we experience the presence of God in our midst.

What a blessing that so many Reedurban members share our gifts and support one another when we are in need. What a blessing that leadership is shared among so many. I anticipate creative, faith-filled projects and programs in 2017 that will witness to the love and mercy of God beyond our congregation. Consider your gifts and invest some prayerful brainstorming. We need YOU.

Go Team!

Lynn

Session Report

At the January Session meeting Wendy Lichtenwalter was welcomed as the new Clerk of Session. The Deacons reported on their holiday Giving Tree through the Mary Volpe Foundation. Seven families each received gifts and a box of food. Perry Schools helped with the food donations. A major initiative will be expanded Lenten offerings with a Wednesday evening series led by Rev. Shetzer called "Spirituality for the Second Half of Life." We also planned a special program with a musical group called "Simple Gifts." We are going to arrange a Sunday evening concert for April 23. Both of these will be heavily publicized through the church and the local press, as well as flyers sent to the schools about the musical group since their focus is encouraging students to try new instruments. Their performance is interactive with children being invited to try their hands at making music. We encourage all members to attend the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 22nd in the Fellowship Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Lichtenwalter



The Deacons are still collecting winter items for the **Giving Tree** through February. Hats, gloves and scarfs are needed for men as well as women and children. We have learned the items for men are always low. They may be left in the basket in the Narthex.



At last check the **Food Cupboard** is full.

Please remember the Deacons. They help the Church help those in need giving food or clothing or maybe just a little card to someone who is a little lonely or ill. There are envelopes in the pews. We need your help to help. Thank you.

As always thank you for your support.



Please save the front of used Christmas cards. There can be no writing on the back. 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.

PARISH HEALTH MINISTRY UPDATE



January 2017 has arrived and New Year's resolutions are either continuing or have been forgotten!

Important issues that should not be ignored are emergency safety plans. Have a plan to survive winter weather in your home if loss of power, or stranded in your car. It is also time to update your home OTC meds for cold and flu season and update your medication list you carry in your wallet.

If you need a new medication card, stop in at the January 31, 2017 Community Dinner from 4PM-6:30 PM and have a blood pressure check and get a new card.

Another excellent method to protect your health information and increase speed of EMT response to your emergency care is to upload the **i . c . e . for emergency** app on your cell phone. Free apps for In Case of Emergency are available for all cell phones, smart phones, androids. You document your name, address, emergency phone contacts, medication list, allergies and any chronic diseases. If you would be unresponsive emergency responders can have this information and their action can be life-saving. The app can even instruct on how to have police or EMT obtain phone number when your phone is locked.

If you do not have this app on your phone, please consider installing; and add another safe guard to your health, wellness and disaster preparedness.



In Case of Emergency Standard icon

Submitted by: *Gwen Weston*



Thank you to all those who assisted in worship leadership during Advent by lighting the Advent candles Sunday by Sunday.

Thank you to all the volunteers who came not only to decorate for Christmas, but also to take down and put away the decorations.

Thank you to the Worship Ministry Team who was so busy with all the various arrangements for worship during the Advent/Christmas season.

Thank you to all the scripture and poetry readers who so generously gave their time to bring us the good news of God's love and Jesus' birth during the Christmas Eve service.

Thank you, thank you to the church musicians for their dedication and gift of their talents as we prepared and celebrated Christmas. Special thanks to Charles Blackstone and Margaret Whitacre for their leadership, and to Chuck and John Whitacre for the beautiful duet on Christmas Eve.



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, January 31st**. 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.

Welcome New Church Officers

Our congregation is blessed by the faith and commitment of those who have answered the call to serve as officers in the next years. Ordained and installed on January 8 were:

Ruling elders: Debbie Anderson, Victoria Brunk, Wendy Lichtenwalter (clerk), Gary Steinbach and Jim Van Etten

Deacons: Jeanne Carson, Sue Larke, Marge Merrin, Lois Pinhard, Tim Shetzer and Margaret Whitacre
God bless you!

Souper Bowl of Caring

On Sunday, February 5, you will have the opportunity to donate to a special offering that supports the work of the Total Living Center. A "soup pot" will be in the Welcome Center, and we hope you will be generous to aid the various ministries of TLC. Those ministries include food aid, clothing, free medical clinic and chiropractic help, free legal clinic, Bible study and worship opportunities.

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 *Rob Townsend* to share his faith story this month.

My Journey with Christ

Knowing Christ for me and my four brothers was something our mother instilled in us early in our lives. As a young child I can remember the week always started on Sunday. Mom would wake us all and we knew it was time to prepare for church, where we attended a Presbyterian Church in a small town in SW Pennsylvania. First to Sunday school, then to choir practice, then off to worship. She also realized the importance of knowing Christ outside of church, therefore, every Wednesday our school bus would drop us off at the chapel where Francis and Edith would spend an hour with us teaching us more about Christ and ensuring we were well behaved, in this weekly Bible School. This was definitely my foundation in my Journey, which was routine until I was 12 or 13 years old. This is the time our youngest brother joined us and other things consumed our time, but Mom always reminded us the importance of our relationship with Jesus.

My journey continued when I arrived at Fort Leonard Wood, MI for basic training in Sept. 1986, which was the first time I had flown on an airplane, been away from family for more than a few days, and unsure of where life was going to lead me. I turned back to where I felt comfort and that was at worship on Sunday morning, really not sure who God was, but something deep inside told me he existed. This pattern continued sporadically when I arrived in Germany for a 3-year term, still not fully understanding the power of Christ, but knowing it brought a feeling of comfort while I was at worship. Although many other things consumed my time during these three years, I always knew there was someone out there much more magnificent than ones imagination, as I knew Mom would never lead me astray.

Following my time in Germany and returning back home, life then took on a different meaning as now it was time to take another journey in deciding what career path I would take and what it meant to be married and take on additional responsibilities. Although for the next 7 years, the weekly time in church had been replaced with other interest, I always felt comfort in the relationship I had with Christ, even at a distance, but still did not fully understand what salvation really was.

Living in Perry Township and following Christopher joining our lives, I felt the need to attend church again, and it so happens that at the top of the hill, close to home was a church I thought would be convenient, not realizing it was a Presbyterian Church. I can recall the early days sitting in the pew and Rev. Miller delivery God's message and I felt like the only person in the room and the message was solely for myself. This was the first sense I begin to understand who Christ was and the gift, I thought at this time I was blessed with, in eternal life.

It wasn't until a few years later, in a church in Wooster, OH on March 21, 2004 is when I truly accepted Christ as my one and only Savior and fully understood the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit.

Every day I wake up I feel my journey has just begun, and although I continue to veer off path periodically, I now know and look forward to my final destination, in the presence of Christ.

I am most proud that a few years following my accepting Christ, I was able to reintroduce my Mom back to the church, where she spent the last 8 years of her life serving Christ and re-establishing her relationship with Him. God is great!

Thanks be to God and everyone who has and will provide guidance in my journey! – *Rob Townsend*

2017 SESSION

Moderator: Rev. Lynn Shetzer

Class of 2017:

Class of 2018:

Class of 2019:

Clerk: Wendy Lichtenwalter

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: Linda Radsick

Class of 2017:

Class of 2018:

Class of 2019

Vice-Moderator: Darlene Mock

Pam Baxter

Linda Radsick

Marge Merrin

Tim Shetzer

Jeanne Carson

Lois Pinhard

Sue Larke

John Whitacre

Darlene Mock

Renate White

Katie Hinson

Margaret Whitacre



THE PRESCHOOL AROUND THE CORNER

We hope everyone one had a Merry Christmas and are on their way to a Happy New Year.

Both classes were very excited to be back at school and share what Santa had brought them.

The children are learning about how water freezes and melts. We are looking at snowflakes with magnifying glasses and color wands and learning that each flake is different from the other.

We have painted with pinecones to make a blizzard painting as well as painting with lemons and limes while learning about the letter and sound of the letter "L".

Preschool I is enjoying playing in their pretend snow and hope to either go out and play in the real snow or have some snow brought into the classroom.

Preschool II has mastered writing their first name and are beginning to write their last names. They are learning about opposites and have started writing numerals from 1-30.

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.



Church School Teachers

February 5

February 12

February 19

February 26

Children worship w/parents

Darlene Mock

Debbie Anderson

Paula Bracken

Submitted by: Darlene Mock

FEBRUARY



3 rd	Katie Hinson
4 th	Madeline Crawford
7 th	Linda Radsick
8 th	Nadine Regula
14 th	Jamie Whitacre
17 th	Kevin Pinhard
18 th	Victoria Brunk
	Claire Weston
20 th	Ruth Anderson
	Lucille Bennington
	Melanie Whitacre
21 st	Carol Frye
28 th	David Fox
	Gary Nist, Sr.



Feb. 5	Marge Merrin
Feb. 12	VOLUNTEER NEEDED
Feb. 19	VOLUNTEER NEEDED
Feb. 26	VOLUNTEER NEEDED

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.



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

PER CAPITA

Many thanks to all who have paid their 2017 Per Capita already. If you haven't done so yet, the amount is \$29.22 per member.



Feb. 5	Darlene Mock in memory of her mother, Delila Hines
Feb. 12	OPEN
Feb. 19	OPEN
Feb. 26	OPEN

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.



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.



- 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

LITURGIST SIGN-UP

Thanks to all who have volunteered to be a liturgist for January. The sheet for February/March 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.

YEAR-END STATEMENTS

The year-end statements are available for pick-up in the Welcome Center.



New address for Rob, Heike & Chris Townsend

7262 Montella Ave. NW
Canal Fulton, OH 44614

Can You Help in the Church Office?

During the *week of February 12*, both Lynn and Janice will be off for vacation time. It would be great if someone could volunteer to be at the office desk to answer the phone and greet people. We have a need for help on *Tuesday, Feb. 14, Wednesday, Feb. 15, and Thursday, Feb. 16*. If you are able to offer your time on one of those days *from 9:00am to 12:00 noon*, please let Janice know. Thanks.

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.

Lenten Study Being Planned

Lent begins on March 1 this year with Ash Wednesday. A service of prayer and the imposition of ashes will be held at 7:00pm that evening. On the four Wednesdays following through March, a group study exploring the topic, *"Spirituality for the Second Half of Life"* will be offered to church members and friends. Participants will look at scripture and other materials that challenge us not to settle for *"getting old,"* but to become true elders, people growing older in God's grace and wisdom with gifts to bless the world. Rev. Shetzer will guide the discussion. A simple soup and bread supper will precede the study.