



December 2023

From The Pastors Desk...

Visions of Thanksgiving Turkeys fade quickly. They have given way to Christmas wreaths, Christmas Trees, images of Santa, and hopefully images of a helpless child on a pile of hay. That latter image is stunning when we think of it. God is trying to break through to get the attention of human kind!

The WAY God chooses to do that is absolutely mind boggling. A helpless little baby... God's only child...lying among what we call farm animals. Surrounded by that child's earthly parents...an exhausted mother...a confused father.

God is trying once again in 2023, to jolt us in order to get our attention. And more than getting our attention, God once again is trying to inspire us to do something revolutionary. God is trying to get our attention in order to get us to see ourselves and others differently...to see all women and men....girls and boys in the most extraordinary way of all: as people so devoted to God that we throw away the ways we are used to doing things in order to do things the new and fresh way which God holds up as the new standard for humanity.

In this Advent Season of 2023 we are not doing very well at that. A dictator in Russia has invented a war that has killed countless people and permanently injured more. In the area where God's child was born, over 13,000 people have been killed in violence which is generating more violence. New born babies are shown in incubators which cannot function with no power . The babies are holding each other to keep each other warm.

What more could the God of Abraham do to get Muslims, Jews, and Christians (all of whom trace our religious roots to one common ancestor) to follow His new way? During this Advent season, let us all ponder the answer to that question. As God seeks to break through human history, with His only child to lead us on a way to salvation, why are humans of ALL religious traditions so resistant?

There is a second question for us to ponder as well at Advent. What are you and I doing even in the smallest way to release an influence (no matter how small) that contributes to what God is calling people in all places to do through the incredible gift of His Son: Jesus Christ? Honest answers to that question seem essential during Advent 2023.

May by God's grace this season somehow become the Season of Peace on Earth!

-Pastor Bill



Weekly Bible Study

Bible Study at Fairgreen IS for Everyone

We are continuing with the hybrid model of in-person and zoom access for our 3:00 pm Wednesday Bible Study. In-person study is in the church's lounge.

Zoom participation can be accessed in three ways:

by clicking on/entering this link which will be resent by email prior To each study (if you are not receiving this link in an email on Tuesday and Wednesday, contact Mike):

<https://zoom.us/j/4194754436?pwd=Z3RBSVVCUkxTMjdpODlibUZTTjFJQT09>

or go to <https://us04web.zoom.us> and enter
Meeting ID: 419 475 4436
Passcode: 4754436

or on your smart phone Dial (312) 626-6799 and enter
Meeting ID: 419 475 4436
Passcode: 4754436

All are welcome!

News from Mike Roadruck:



***There will be no Saturday bible studies in December.**

***The men of Fairgreen and friends will not be meeting in December.**

CHRISTMAS COOKIES TO TRY

From Chris Roebuck

7 LAYER BARS

1 stick butter or margarine
1 cup graham cracker crumbs
1 6oz pack of chocolate chips
1 cup chopped nuts

1 6oz pack of butterscotch chips
1 cup of coconut shredded
1 cup Eagle brand condensed milk

Melt butter in bottom of 9x13x2 pan and sprinkle graham cracker crumbs over that. Sprinkle chocolate chips, butterscotch chips and coconut on top in layers. Drizzle condensed milk over top, sprinkle with nuts and bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Slice into squares when cool.

ENGLISH TEA COOKIES

2 cups brown sugar
1/2 cup shortening (butter or margarine)
1/2 cup strong coffee
2 eggs

3 cups flour
1/2 box raisins (8oz)
1 cup chopped nuts
1/2 tsp salt
1 tsp baking soda

Put raisins in pan with water and bring to a boil. Drain and let cool. Cream shortening and sugar, add eggs, cold raisins and dry ingredients. Fold in nuts. Spread in a greased 9x13x2 pan and bake for 30 minutes at 350 degrees, Cool, sprinkle with confectioners sugar and cut into bars.

CARMEL MORSEL BARS

14oz Kraft Caramels
3 tbs water
5 cups rice crispies

1 cup peanuts
1 6oz pack of chocolate chips
1 6oz pack of butterscotch chips

Melt caramels in pan with water over low heat. Pour over cereal and nuts. Toss until well coated. Press mixture into greased 13x9x2 pan. Sprinkle both chocolate and butterscotch chips over the top. Place in oven at 200 degrees for 5 minutes until morsels soften and then spread to make a frosting. Cool and cut into bars.

From The Congregational Life Committee:

-There will be no meeting in December.

-Next meeting will be January 11, 2024 @ 10:00am



Samaritan's Purse Shoe Boxes are off to the distribution center. We collected 17 boxes this year.

Our Angel Tree is up in the Narthex. If you want to give a gift to a child, please take an angel off the tree and sign up at the welcome center. You can then bring any gifts, wrapped please, with the angel attached and place under the tree.

Please return gifts by December 17th, 2023.

If you have any questions, call Julie Murray at 419-297-4020.



Coffee Hour

Special Coffee Hour on 12/17/23 with special teas, hot chocolate and our famous Christmas Cookies!



GIVING ENVELOPES

Giving Envelope Booklets for 2024 will be available for you to pick up on **Sunday, December 17, 2023**. As before, each month will have two envelopes. If it's more convenient to give weekly, please pick up an extra envelope on the table in the Narthex or find a white one in the pew holders. This year we did not change the booklet cover. It is the same blue cover as 2023. There is one change however; there is no year listed. This was done in an effort to cut costs. In the front of each Giving Booklet you will find an Initial Offering Envelope and a Per Capita Envelope. Thank you.



YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS, OUTSTANDING INVOICES, PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT

Any 2023 offerings to Fairgreen Church (Operating Budget or for any other purpose) must be received into the church office no later than **Sunday, December 31, 2023** in order to be recorded as a 2023 contribution. **Offerings received after December 31 will be counted as 2024 income.**

If you have any outstanding invoices, you need to have them approved and into the church office **no later than noon on Wednesday, December 27, 2023.**

The year **2024 Per Capita** apportionment is **\$39.10** per person. We ask that you **wait until after the first of the year to pay your Per Capita.**



CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

This year we will receive the Christmas Joy offering on Sunday, December 24 at the morning 10:00 AM worship service as well as at the 4:00 PM evening candle-light service.

There will be special envelopes placed in the bulletin for both services. It is our opportunity to reach out beyond our own community to the broader church that we are connected to and help in many ways.



**For Christmas and New Years Holiday
the Church Office will be Closed:**

**Tuesday, December 26 - Friday, December 29, 2023.
(We will reopen Tuesday January 2, 2024)**

**Wishing you and your family a very
Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!**

From the Secretary's Desk:

Please Note:

We will continue with a monthly newsletter in 2024! So the next deadline to submit material will be **Friday, January 19, 2024.**

**Thank you so much to all those who help fill the
newsletter each month through the year! It could not
happen without all of you.**

Happy Holidays!

-Tricia Manner
Administrative Assistant

THANK YOU!

Thank you to the many volunteers that put in time to help pack, get food, prepare food bags, donated items or food and to the volunteers that helped the day of....

We at Fairgreen Food Pantry & Fairgreen Presbyterian Church appreciate each and everyone that helped in any way. It truly takes an army or a Great Team!!





From the Food Pantry:



No Food Pantry in December

**Next Food Pantry
Friday January 19, 2024
From 4-6 pm**

**FUN FACT: FAIRGREEN FOOD PANTRY
FACEBOOK PAGE has a smashing
950 members now!!!!**



We are still in need of the really nice Kroger bags that you receive when you do the click list grocery pick up. They are white, very heavy duty and have handles. We also need regular size paper bags for packing the food in.



December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Winter Wonderland 10-12pm
3 10am Worship Service *Hanging of the Greens after service	4 Office Closed Wellness Day 5-7pm	5 Session Mtg @ 6:30pm	6 Bible Study @ 3pm	7 Wellness Day 4:15-7pm	8	9
10 10am Worship Service Congregational Meeting after service	11 Office Closed Wellness Day 5-7pm	12	13 Bible Study @ 3pm	14 Wellness Day 4:15-7pm	15	16
17 10am Worship Service *Special Coffee Hour	18 Office Closed Wellness Day 5-7pm	19 Preschool Christmas Program	20 Preschool Christmas Program Bible Study @ 3pm	21 * Worship Committee Mtg @6:30pm Wellness Day 4:15-7pm	22 *	23
24 10am Worship Service Christmas Eve Service @ 4pm		26 * Office Closed for the Holidays	27 * Office Closed for the Holidays Bible Study @ 3pm	28 * Office Closed for the Holidays Wellness Day 4:15-7pm	29 * Office Closed for the Holidays	30
31 10am Worship Service				*Preschool off until January 4, 2024		*Calendar is Subject to Change



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



DECEMBER

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Sharon Durrant	December 1	Wade Lee– Smith	December 16	Gary Herren	December 22
Danilo Gonzales	December 6	Kiara Gonzales	December 17	Ellie Henning	December 30
Patricia Close	December 15	Kayionna Rogers	December 18		
Linda Hoover	December 15	Erika Dunn	December 19		

JANUARY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Aggie Burtch	January 4	Wanda Bielski	January 19
John Adams	January 11	Rick Amendola	January 26
Nancy Ahrens	January 15	Jesse Murray	January 26
Jeff DeVaul	January 17		

**Fairgreen Presbyterian
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419.475.4436**

**Pastor Bill Dunifon
Senior Pastor, Head of Staff
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Email:
wdunifon@gmail.com**

**Dr. Mike Roadruck
Commissioned Lay Pastor
Home: 419.260.7429
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**Office Hours
Tuesday-Friday
9:00—1:30pm**

**Email:
fairgreen.church@gmail.com
Fax: 419.475.6404**

**Worship Service
10:00am Sunday**

**Website:
fairgreenoutreach.com**



**Fairgreen Preschool
3220 W. Laskey Rd.
Children ages 3, 4 &
Young 5's**

**For information call:
419.475.5367**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

