



FAIRGREEN LEAVES - JANUARY 2023

From The Pastors Desk...

Brian McLaren writes a lot about the motivations each of us tend to have that cause us to value our Christian faith. But more than that, McLaren says, we do more than simply value our Christian faith. We tend, as Christians to believe that "our" faith and the way we live it gives us a quality...and **that quality we think is supremacy over other religions.** If and when we calculate we are "good", faithful Christians, it is easy for us to slip into the drainage ditch of feeling that precisely because we are "good" Christians **we are superior** to others...all others.

The parable of the "Good Samaritan" offers a way of thinking about this temptation to think of ourselves as superior to all others. (Luke 10) A priest and a Levite are traveling down the same road. This is not a surprise because Levites were people who assisted the priests in worship and in all of the duties of a priest.

The minister (the priest) and his helper (the Levite) are focused like a laser on whether or not they are "good", "faithful" believers in the religion of the Jews in Jesus day. Among many other things, this meant they did not want to touch the body of any person who was made "unclean". An "unclean" person could not by definition be a "good" and "faithful" believer if she or he was "unclean".

One way a person was made "unclean" in those days was to have blood on the body. It didn't make any difference how the blood got to be on the body...it could be an accidental cut, a scratch from a tree branch, a medical condition no matter how natural, a fight, or blood from another person's body. Just the presence of blood made a person "unclean". And that made that person untouchable by authentic, true believers of the faith.

So, when the priest and the Levite saw an injured bleeding person lying along the side of the road **the "clean" and superior "believers" in the faith made every possible effort to bypass the injured neighbor.**

Then, so the story goes, along came a Samaritan — a "dirty half-Gentile" to use the biblical language. The Samaritan cares more about his injured neighbor than about remaining "clean". The Samaritan focuses on helping the injured neighbor.

Then Jesus comes to the point: caring for another the way the "dirty half-gentile" did is what it means to live by the greatest commandment.

Living by the greatest commandment as Jesus Christ describes it means forgetting about getting or remaining "clean" in order to live the perfect religious life. Rather it means dethroning those beliefs and ways of living that allow or cause us to believe we are superior to all of those who are "unclean". Living by the greatest commandment in Jesus' view means to get rid of all of those ways of thinking about ourselves and our faith that lead us to see ourselves as superior to those whose beliefs are different...those who are the "unclean" of the world...and stopping to help and care for each one of them wherever we meet them.

As we begin this new year, may we each resolve to live out our faith according to Christ's call to live by the greatest commandment.

-Pastor Bill

A PERFECT RECIPE FOR THE NEW YEAR

When I was searching out recipes for my Christmas cookies this year, I came across this recipe in the St. Stephen's Lutheran church cookbook for 1987. The church is in Sylvania, Ohio. I thought the recipe was a perfect fit for Fairgreen Presbyterian church in Toledo, Ohio. Here it is:

A CHRISTIAN GARDEN

First plant four rows of peas

Presence

Preparedness

Perseverance

Promptness

Next plant three rows of squash

Squash gossip

Squash criticism

Squash indifference

Now put in three rows of lettuce

Let us be faithful

Let us obey rules and regulations

Let us love one another

No garden is complete without turnips

Turn up for meetings

Turn up with a smile

Turn up with new ideas

Turn up with determination to make everything

Count for something good and worthwhile

Turn up on time.

It is credited to a Nancy Goettner but now adopted by **Chris Roebuck.**

We should each make this our New year's resolution for the betterment of Fairgreen Presbyterian Church.

NEWS FROM CONGREGATIONAL LIFE:

January 15 - At coffee hour we will have decorated stars for Epiphany along with coffee, etc.

February 12 - Souper Sunday with a variety of soups at coffee hour. More to come in February.

March 12 - We will celebrate St. Patrick's Day with green and maybe some soda bread, etc.

Also in **March** we are planning a "DINNER AND A MOVIE". More details later.

Coffee Hour

Welcome to January 2023! Is winter really coming after a relatively beautiful fall? A warm cup of coffee, tea or hot chocolate is so welcoming on a brisk winter morning after being fed the word of God at the 10:00 AM worship service. Please keep in mind that this fellowship only continues when we volunteer to be a host. Open dates follow below and you can always sign your name on the sign-up sheet posted on the board next to the kitchen window.

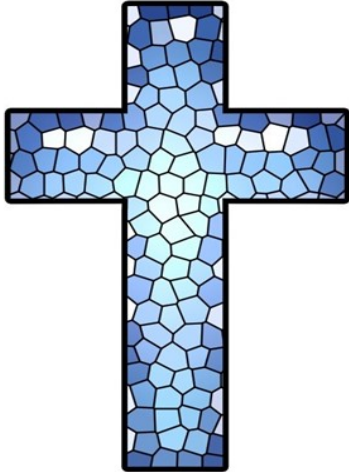
Thanks to all who hosted (some more than once) in 2022. How great that we are blessed by one another. -Marilyn McAfee

<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>March</u>
1 – Marilyn McAfee	5	5
8 – Loretta Deal Family	12 – Souper Sunday	12 – St. Patrick's Day
15 - Epiphany	19	19
22	26	26
29		



Financial Information:

Welcome Winter and Welcome 2023!



Annually, the Presbytery works out a per capita offering for all churches belonging to the Presbyterian Community. This is due in January of each year. "Per Capita" is an organizational expense of the Presbytery. It pays for the operation of the governing bodies of the Presbytery as well as the promotion of worldwide Christian unity. The amount that is set for per capita is based on the number of members in each church of the Presbytery. Fairgreen's per capita for 2023 is \$2,895.00 based on 75 members on our roster (our number from 2021 year end.) That is \$38.60 per capita for

each member. If you can, please make a contribution towards the per capita paid on your behalf by Fairgreen. You can use any envelope and mark it as "Per Capita." Let me know if you have any questions...Thanks, Julie Murray, Treasurer.



Hanging of the Greens - December 2022:



****A big thank you to Jennifer Webber (Winslow) and Connie Winslow for the homemade cookies!**

From : Worship Committee:

Women's 2023 Retreat

Be sure to mark, on your new 2023 calendar, our Fairgreen Women's Retreat: "Our Toolbox for Prayer".

Place: Lial Renewal Center, Davis Road, Whitehouse, Ohio

Date: Saturday, February 25

Time: Gathering 8:30-9:20am with cocoa, coffee, tea and muffins
Retreat 9:30am-3:30pm: including lunch and Holy Communion

Cost: No cost other than bringing an item to share for either our morning gathering or our lunch

Registration: Two Sign-up Sheets will be at the Welcome Center, in the church narthex, on Sunday February 5, 12, and 19. One will be for attending and one for a food item to bring.

There is the option of spending Friday night at the Lial Center. You would be responsible for the cost of the room. There will be no formally planned retreat during this time. If you have an interest, please talk with Pat Gibson by February 19 for details.

Pat Gibson, retreat coordinator



January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10am Worship Service	2 Office Closed	3 Preschool Back <i>Funeral Luncheon for Dick Morrow</i>	4 Preschool Back	5 Wellness Day 4:15-7pm	6	7
8 10am Worship Service <i>Installation and Ordination of Officers</i>	9 Office Closed Wellness Day 5-6:30pm	10 Session @ 6:30pm Cong Life Mtg @ 10am	11	12 Wellness Day 4:15-7pm	13 TSA practice 4-7pm (Nicole)	14
15 10am Worship Service	16 Office Closed Wellness Day 5-6:30pm	17	18	19 Wellness Day 4:15-7pm Worship Committee @ 6:30pm	20	21
22 10am Worship Service	23 Office Closed Wellness Day 5-6:30pm	24	25	26 Wellness Day 4:15-7pm	27 Food Pantry 4-6pm	28 Blood Drive Sorrells 9am-3pm
29 10am Worship Service	30 Office Closed Wellness Day 5-6:30pm	31				

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Aggie Burtch January 4
John Adams January 11
Nancy Ahrens January 15
Wanda Bielski January 19
Johna Brown January 16
Rick Amendola January 26

Brandi Brown January 26
Jesse Murray January 26

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Mike & Barb Roadruck January 4
Ken & Patricia Close January 6

*Calendar subject to change.

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Dr. Mike Roadruck

**Office Hours
Tuesday-Friday
9:00—1:30pm**

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

**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
Terri Turner, Director**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**Did you know that the FAIRGREEN
FOOD PANTRY FACEBOOK PAGE has
590 members?**

