



# Fairgreen Leaves

*From The Pastors Desk...*

*December 2021*

Recently, Dorothy and I had the privilege of looking at dozens and dozens of artifacts each of which were between 1500 years old and 3000 years old. They were striking in many ways. One of the ways they struck us deeply was the incredible skill of the craftsman and artists. There before us were blown glass glasses and large pitchers (very large pitchers) that could have just come off the shelf at a retail store for Christmas 2021 gifts. The glass was clear and the forms were perfect (or at least perfect to my untrained eye). And they were created 500 to 800 years **before** the birth of Christ!

As we think about that time before the birth of our Savior many of us think of cavemen and cavewomen clothed only in animal skins carrying great big clubs to kill a wild animal for their next couple of meals. We think that sometimes, if they disagreed or had "wars" those same clubs were used to maim and kill each other.

But the hundreds and hundreds of artifacts we saw made it clear our perceptions of life 2000 or 3000 years ago are more like comic book perceptions...not based on reality. We think of the people in "those days" being partially human; more like intelligent wild animals when compared to us.

There is a lesson there for us as we approach this holiday season. *When we begin any of our comparisons of other people and their abilities and capacities and habits with the assumption, we are the standard against which others are to be measured we set ourselves up to always think those "different others" are inferior...*

The one who was born in a stable and grew into adulthood went about being the Savior of the World by spending most of his time with "different others"; not people like himself. Even more amazing, is the reality that he did not judge others who were different than He was as inferior. He accepted them and embraced them as few of his peers were ever able to do.

At this Christmas Season, I pray we can each be more aware of our predispositions to judge those who are different than we are as inferior. And I pray we will allow the Holy Spirit to lead us to accept and embrace those who are different children of God.

Peace and Joy and Compassion

Pastor Bill

## **GIVING ENVELOPES**

Giving Envelope booklets for 2022 have been ordered and should be available for you to pick up before the end of December, 2021. As before, each month will have two envelopes. If it's more convenient to give weekly, please pick up extra envelopes on the Welcome Center. In the front of each Giving booklet you will find an Initial Offering and a Per Capita Envelope. Thank you.

## **YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS, OUTSTANDING INVOICES, PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT**

Any 2021 offerings to Fairgreen (Operating budget or for any other purpose) must be received into the church office no later than **Sunday, December 26, 2021** in order to be recorded as a 2021 contribution. **Offerings received after December 30 will be counted as 2022 income.**

If you have any outstanding invoices, you need to have them approved and into the church office no later than Monday December 27, 2021.

The year **2022 Per Capita** apportionment did not change, it is **\$37.25** 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 Friday, December 24 at the 4:00PM evening service as well as on Sunday, December 26 at the 10:00 AM worship 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.***



## BIBLE STUDY AND PRAYER

### Bible Studies at Fairgreen Are for Everyone

At this time, we anticipate returning to a hybrid model of in-person and zoom of all our Bible Studies – Monday Beginners Bible Study; Wednesday Bible Studies; and Saturday Bible. Of course, things can change, so if in doubt call Mike at 419-260-7429. In-person studies are held in the church's lounge. Zoom participation can be accessed in three ways:

**by clicking on the link which will be sent by email** *(if you are not receiving this link, 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

### **Beginners Bible Study:** Mondays at 2 pm

**Wednesday Bible Study:** Wednesdays at 3 pm is studying the book of Acts – the work of the Holy Spirit through the Apostles including Paul.

**Saturday Bible studies** are twice a month on the second and third Saturdays. (12/11/21 & 12/18/21) We begin at 9:30 am with a light breakfast and fellowship. Opening prayers and study begin at 10.



## Coffee Hour ☕ for December:

Following the 10:00 AM Sunday morning worship service please join us for coffee, tea or hot chocolate in the Commons. This allows for fellowship time where we can visit with one another and share our concerns, joys or even the morning's message.

We all say **"Thank You"** to the volunteers who have graciously hosted a Sunday treat while we visit.

December dates as follows:

December 12 - Judy Stuart

December 19 - Mission & Outreach

December 26 - No Coffee Hour

January-TBD





**FROM LINDA HOOVER:**

**Did you know that Monette's Market is still donating fresh produce almost every week to our Food Pantry?**

**Did you know Kay Amendola has begun a WELCOME Ministry? She has made 4 of her famous banana breads and they are stored in the kitchen pantry freezer. These tasty gifts are meant to bless visitors. If you bring a guest to church or speak to a visitor, let KAY know. If you want to join this Homemade Bread WELCOMING Ministry, contact Kay Amendola.**



**Did you know that the FAIRGREEN FOOD PANTRY FACEBOOK PAGE has 274 members?**





### From Mission & Outreach:

Since we did not pack boxes for the Shoebox Ministry this year we are asking for monetary donations from the congregation. Such donations could be indicated on checks or envelopes as “for Shoebox Ministry.”



### FAIRGREEN WOMENS RETREAT: By Pat Gibson

**Women's Retreat:** There will be a Women's Retreat at the Lial Center on February 11-12, 2022. \*Save the Date!

### Lamb Ministry – By Joyce Koback

The lambs are back in the Narthex. They are recently cleaned and sanitized. If you need a lamb for a sick friend, relative or neighbor please take one. Also please chart it in the Lamb Ministry Prayer Book.

### IN OTHER NEWS:

We have the unique opportunity to offer space to a team in need. We were contacted by The **Flag Line Coach at Start High School** about needing some practice space for her team. \*The Commons will now be in use on Tuesday evenings from 3:30-6pm by this Flag line group for their practices.

**\*The Commons has also been rented out on Dec. 11th from 11:30am-4:30pm for a baby shower.**

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**\*Sunday December 12, 2021 - Congregational Meeting following service\***



**Fa-La-La-La-La!**

**You are invited to a Christmas Carol Sing**

**Sunday, December 12th at 4pm!**

As long as the weather cooperates, we will be outside, so dress accordingly. Bring a chair or stay in your car. (Should the weather not be conducive for being outside, the Carol Sing will be inside!)

During this Advent season, let us prepare our hearts for Jesus' birthday with the rich carol-words and beloved music by joining our voices in adoration, praise and joy!

## *Christmas Baskets*

Set up for Christmas Basket packing will be in the Commons on Thursday December 16, 2021 @ 6pm

Packing the Baskets will then also be in the Commons on Friday December 17, 2021 @ 6pm (includes pizza)



## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

On Friday, December 24, we will come together at 4pm to celebrate Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Share with us the true Spirit of Christmas, all are welcome.



## HOLIDAY CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The office will be closed the following days for the holidays:

December 23 & 24th for Christmas  
December 31st for New Years



We wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year!!





We give thanks to Lynn Panyuscsik for the beautiful floral arrangement that graced our Thanksgiving Buffet Coffee Hour November 21, 2021. Even a little turkey peered through the pumpkins and sunflowers. Continued prayers for Lynn as she endures chemo treatments for her cancer.



# December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 3pm Prayer & Bible Study	2 4pm Worship Service-Lounge	3	4
5 10am Worship Service	6 Church Office Closed	7 Session mtg @ 6:30pm *Start Flag 3:30-6pm	8 3pm Prayer & Bible Study	9 4pm Worship Service-Lounge ACA @ 6:30pm	10 3:30-5:30pm Drive-by Food Distribution	11 10am Prayer & Bible Study **Rental ** 11:30 - 4:30
12 10am Worship Congregational Meeting after Caroling @ 4pm	13 Church Office Closed	14 *Start Flag 3:30-6pm	15 3pm Prayer & Bible Study	16 4pm Worship Service-Lounge ACA @ 6:30pm Christmas Basket set up @6pm	17 Poinsettia pick up (Julie) Basket Packing 6pm	18 10am Prayer & Bible Study
19 10am Worship Service Holiday Brunch after service	20 Church Office Closed	21 *Start Flag 2:30-8pm	22 3pm Prayer & Bible Study	23 Church Office Closed ACA @ 6:30pm	24 Church Office Closed Christmas Eve Service @ 4pm	25
26 10am Worship Service	27 Church Office Closed	28 *Start Flag 3:30-6pm	29 3pm Prayer & Bible Study	30 4pm Worship Service-Lounge ACA @ 6:30pm	31 Church Office Closed	

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Sharon Durrant	December 1	Wade Lee- Smith	December 16	Cadence Parsons	December 23
Danilo Gonzales	December 6	Kiara Gonzales	December 17	Ellie Henning	December 30
Stacy Parsons	December 12	Kayionna Rogers	December 18	Adrianna Leu	December 31
Patricia Close	December 15	Erika Dunn	December 19		
Linda Hoover	December 15	Gary Herren	December 22		

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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  
4:00pm Thursday

**Website:**  
fairgreenoutreach.com

**Facebook.com/**  
FairgreenPresbyterianChurch



**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

