

Happy New Year!

Fairgreen Leaves

From The Pastors Desk...

January 2022

A Clean Slate

By the time you receive this newsletter we will be engaged in the earliest days of 2022. Yikes!

A New Year. A New Year that offers new beginnings. A New Year that we know, regardless of our wishes, will NOT be like 2021 or any other earlier years we have lived.

Some see that as a negative thing because it is natural for us to wish for the predictable; to wish for what we have known and experienced rather than face fresh, new, unknown, and somewhat unpredictable times. But the New Year is a gift from God as well. We have a clean slate in front of us and what that slate of 2022 will contain depends on us and what we choose to do as well as on those unpredictable things we know are out there.

The very good news of our faith is that we are not alone in facing the unknown and unpredictable times ahead of us. We are accompanied by our God who loves us so much that He sent His only child to walk beside us and to challenge us and to lead us. What a gift!!! What a loving, caring God!!!

The Scriptures show that the work of the Holy Spirit will be a major force at work in our lives individually and collectively in 2022...because that is a primary way God seeks to engage His people and lead His people and challenge His people. And we know the Holy Spirit works through all of us...including those who we might not expect (given our subjective viewpoints) the Spirit to choose.

So, at the beginning of 2022, my prayer and hope for each of us individually and for us collectively as a worshipping community is that we will open ourselves to the freshness and newness that 2022 offers. I pray we shall have sufficient confidence in God's walk alongside us that we will become relaxed with the freshness and newness God is giving us. And above all, that we will not shy away from the opportunities and the challenges and joyful engagement with the Divine that 2022 makes possible.

So, in spite of our understandable anxiety and hesitations, I pray we shall each in our own ways accept God's gift and welcome this fresh new year with confidence and rededication to the One who we seek to serve and worship.


Peace and Joy

2022 Women's Retreat

"Come away with me to a quiet place,
apart from the world with its frantic pace,
to pray, reflect and see God's grace.
Come away with me. Come away."

The Lial Renewal Retreat Center provides just that space for a person to withdraw from the outside world. It is located near Oak Openings Metropark on Davis Road, Whitehouse, Ohio.

Lial is where we will gather for our Fairgreen Women's Retreat on Friday, February 11, starting at 7pm until Saturday, February 12 at 3 pm. This is an overnight retreat with individual rooms; there is a charge for the overnight accommodations. (Room costs are included below.) Joining the retreat on just Friday night or Saturday morning- afternoon is also an option.

The theme of the retreat is  Our Hope, as Change Happens and is scripturally based on Matthew 1:23. We will have time for both individual and group prayer, study, singing, fellowship and yes! a craft!

Overnight room prices:

*Private room with bathroom:

Fairgreen member-\$55.00

Nonmember-\$65.00

*Private room with shared bathroom at end of hall:

Fairgreen member-\$45.00

Nonmember-\$55.00

Room Scholarships for Fairgreen members are available. Please contact Pat Gibson about this.

In addition, each woman will be asked to bring an item of food to be used in creating our Saturday breakfast and lunch. When you register for the retreat, a Sign-up sheet will be available as to the food item you'd like to bring! Friday evening snacks, to share, are optional!

Retreat Registration will begin on Sunday, January 23rd at the Welcome Center. The last day for signing up will be Sunday! February 6, 2022!

In your schedule, make the space
to come to this place
where grace
awaits.

Pat Gibson
Retreat Coordinator

The Commons

We gratefully continue to move out of the pandemic and return to having worship, meetings, events and gatherings, not just in the sanctuary, but in other areas of the church.

Back in June of 2020, in a bi-monthly Guidepost publication called Strength and Grace, author Maryanne Curran had a message titled, "Finding Common Ground". Without reading further, my mind began to reflect upon our church area which we call The Commons!

When the new addition was built onto the main church building, suggestions were sought as to what to call this wonderful new space. Yes, it looked like a gym and we had dreams of basketball and volleyball being played there. Yes, it was to be a gathering area for church dinners and other activities. Yes, we had hopes that it would be the center for outreach and meetings and preschool activities. Different names were put up for a vote and The Commons became the name given this part of the church building for it was envisioned as a shared gathering place.

The devotional, I was reading, cited Hebrews 16:13 (NIV): "And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for such sacrifices God is pleased". This, too, made me reflect on the many shared times in the Commons of Fairgreen: summer worship services, weekly community volleyball games, Great Banquet conference and dining area, LOGOS Wednesday night dinners, Carol's Cupboard food ministry, Family Promise, Christmas Bible School, funeral dinners (wedding receptions, baby showers), family movie nights, impromptu basketball games, Craft Shows, Youth overnight Lock-ins, speakers on various topics, Presbytery dinners, packing Thanksgiving/Christmas boxes for families in need, Red Cross blood donation plus primary/general election voting site. The list goes on, including our Christmas Tea on December 4th, 2021 and a safe place for the Start Flag Corps to practice.

Even as we remember the many ministries and events that have brought people together, and in many ways still do, let us go forward with listening hearts for God's Spirit to show us how we can, along with our "common ground", continue to be used "to do good and share with others" in response to the Spirit's call!

Pat Gibson

BIBLE STUDY AND PRAYER

Bible Studies at Fairgreen Are for Everyone

We hope to continue with a hybrid model of in-person and zoom of all our Bible Studies – Monday Beginners Bible Study; Wednesday Bible Studies; and Saturday Bible, however, with the rise of covid cases things can change daily so for in person sessions please watch your email or 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=Z3RBSVVVCUkxTMjdpODlibUZTTjFJQT09>

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

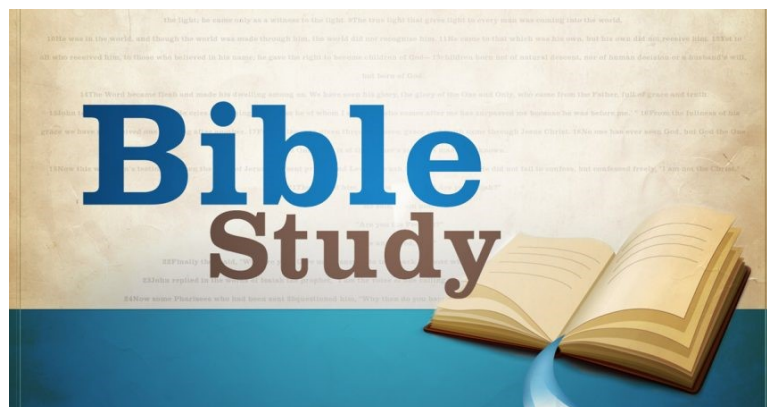
Meeting ID: 419 475 4436

Passcode: 4754436

Beginners Bible Study: Mondays at 2 pm, continuing the study of Mark

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 (1/8 & 1/15) currently studying 1,2,3 John. We begin at 9:30 am with a light breakfast and fellowship (when in person). Opening prayers and study begin at 10.



Coffee Hour  for Jan., Feb., & March:

Greetings everyone,

It's opportunity time! I'm **still** looking for volunteers to host Coffee Hour for the months of **January, February and March, 2022**. I know, time flies and you probably feel like you just hosted a Sunday coffee. We seem to enjoy the fellowship but we can not continue to do it without volunteers. Please keep it simple/easy. Just a few treats . . cookies, donuts, scones, etc. is all that is needed.

Please call **Marilyn @ 419-356-3127** or email @ **marmc@bex.net** if you can help with any of these dates!

Thanks for volunteering!

<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>March</u>
9 - Marilyn	6	6
16 - Mary Beth Henning	13 - Joyce	13
23 - Chris & Agnes	20	20
30 - Sharon	27	27

IN OTHER NEWS:

- by Marilyn McAfee

PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT

The Per Capita Apportionment for this year 2022 did not change. It is still \$37.25 per person. There is an envelope in your 2022 Giving Packet marked Per Capita. It is now appropriate to make this contribution



FROM LINDA HOOVER:

Food Pantry Feature
December 2021
January 2022

Many blessings were bestowed upon the Food Pantry during December of 2021.

During December, I was made aware of \$3,000 of designated donations from 7 different donors. Gratefully, these donations more than covered the cost of the extras we offered at our December 10, food pantry distribution.

The 100 fleece blankets were appreciated by every client's family, and we had an adequate amount left over to offer our volunteers. The money more than covered the cost of all grocery items for every client's family to receive an entire SURPRISE Christmas Chicken Dinner within a Blessing Bag! Heather Allen heard about FREE taco shells from the Home Goods store. Monnette's and Milo's helped us in providing all the ingredients, at a very good price, to offer taco dinners within the usual monthly bags. Additionally, Debbie Filby, her mother Bev, and Tammy Rober all worked endlessly in resourcing any needed groceries, offering free donations, and finding resources of hats, scarves, and gloves for all ages. The Congregation and other donators also contributed hygiene products. We thank all 40 volunteers, (ages youth to adult), who worked tirelessly in preparation for the HUGE Food Distribution and the FREE Give Away items in the gym, We also are indebted to the teens from Start High School who supervised the stations of all the extras offered.

Did you know that the FAIRGREEN FOOD PANTRY FACEBOOK PAGE has 344 members?



Food Pantry
Holy Spirit Moments
By Linda Hoover

1. Monnettes Donation of 19 boxes of beautiful Zucchini shared with a number of congregational and community people. Many let me know of the zucchini bread they made and enjoyed.
2. Monnettes Donation of 12 boxes of fresh yams on Friday Dec. 31. Many helpers were involved in the distribution. Melanie Rogers helped me pick them up (making two separate trips to Monnettes), Tammy Rober posted the donations on the Fairgreen Food Pantry Facebook page (338 members presently), and Patti Ashenfelter and grandchildren picked up the leftover yams on Sunday, January 2 to deliver to Cherry Street Mission.
3. A surprise Christmas card was received from Florida by a Garage Sale vendor. She thanked the Mission Committee and Tricia for the wonderful planning of the Garage Sale in September of 2021.
4. I received a call from a parishioner at Corpus Christi Catholic Church, located by the University of Toledo. Beth was advising me that our food pantry had been selected to receive the parish collection of items for the month of January. Very soon we expect to receive these generous donations of hygiene products and other food items.
5. In **ONE** day at the end of December, I received **THREE CALLS** concerning dropping off items for the free tables, as well as free shelving for our organizational efforts. Debbie Filby and husband Ron, (bringing items from Mary Jo Feldkamp), Nancy Sams and Christina Baker, all volunteers and consistent donators, met me at church, all selecting the very same time on December 31st, and we had a lot of help storing all the great items.

PRAISE GOD FOR THE CONTINUAL, SURPRISING
WORK OF THE Holy Spirit!!



SESSION NEWS:

In December the next Regular meeting of Session to be held January 4, 2022 was moved to January 11, 2022. The installation of the newly elected Elders was voted to be Sunday, January 9, 2022.

As of January 1, 2022, Pastor Bill Dunifon's new contract as a Part-time pastor takes effect. There will be a 50% reduction of his job allotted time.

A survey was emailed to Session, Committee Chairs, Congregational members and friends, as well as volunteers. The survey invited ALL interested individuals to attend a workshop. The purpose of the Workshop is to discuss detailed options in which a portion of Pastor Dunifon's duties may be covered through 2022. The survey offered the following dates:

Wednesday, January 19

Thursday, January 20

Friday, January 21

***Weekday meeting times -- begin at 6:30 pm**

Saturday, January 22.

*** Saturday meeting times - being at 1:00 pm**



January 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10am Worship Service	3 Church Office Closed	4 <i>Mission & Out, Meeting @10am</i> *Start Flag 3:30-6pm	5 3pm Prayer & Bible Study	6 4pm Worship Service-Lounge	7	8
9 10am Worship Service *Installation Of Elders	10 Church Office Closed	11 Session mtg @ 6:30pm *Start Flag 3:30-6pm	12 3pm Prayer & Bible Study	13 4pm Worship Service-Lounge	14	15 10am Prayer & Bible Study
16 10am Worship Service	17 Church Office Closed	18 *Start Flag 3:30-6pm	19 3pm Prayer & Bible Study	20 4pm Worship Service-Lounge	21	22 10am Prayer & Bible Study
23 10am Worship Service	24 Church Office Closed	25 *Start Flag 3:30-6pm	26 3pm Prayer & Bible Study	27 4pm Worship Service-Lounge	28	29
30 10am Worship Service	31 Church Office Closed					

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Aggie Burtch January 4
John Adams January 11
Nancy Ahrens January 15
Jeff DeVaul January 17

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Wanda Bielski January 19
Rick Amendola January 26
Jesse Murray January 26
Mike & Barb Roadruck January 4
Ken & Patricia Close January 6

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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

