



## **FAIRGREEN LEAVES - DECEMBER 2022**

### **From The Pastors Desk...**

As we approach Christmas...the celebration of the gift of God's ONLY child given to each of us....in order to save us and call us to a new life....a life we have not experienced before...it is an important time to remember our faith walk and how we live it out.

The easiest way to try to live out the Christian faith is to make Christianity a faith of rules and regulations. That way we just have to abide by the rules and regulations that we or someone else thinks are essential. There is no thinking or praying or reflection or meditation or reading of the Scriptures required. Just keep the "rule sheet" in front of you and abide by the rules.

Unhappily for those who seek to pursue this type of "faith" the Scriptures tell us of a man named Jesus, the Christ, who makes vividly clear a faith of rules and regulations is NOT the faith He embraces let alone preaches and teaches.

Jesus consistently makes clear the Christian faith is a faith of relationships, not rules.

God's only child seeks to tell us that our faith requires us to live a life of relationship with God. In a faith of relationships with God our job is to do what is required of us which is our presence. What is required is for us to make ourselves constantly available to God...constantly present with God.

A relationship with God requires us to listen, respond, listen again to see if we got it right. Our presence is constantly required to be in a "right relationship with God". Jesus teaches us that it is impossible to have a healthy ongoing relationship with God if we seldom or never "show up"; if we often do not participate in the relationship with God that God seeks. That is an inactive relationship with God when and if we only rarely participate as an active partner with God. But this option is so tempting because it is so much easier.

As we begin a new church year it is a good time to work on overcoming an inactive relationship with God...IF we genuinely seek a saving relationship with the one who we tell others is the Lord of our lives.

May our Christmas in 2022 be more than "merry". May this Christmas season be a time when we move into giving God the gift of our presence in our relationship with Him. The Scriptures make clear, that is what He wants: Our presence!

-Pastor Bill

This was a stewardship message given by Peg Winslow during our November 13, 2022, worship service:

### **"Where Does Your Money Go?"**

God blesses us in many ways, each and every day, and mostly without us even asking. Do we ever thank Him adequately? Is it even possible to thank Him adequately? We can volunteer our time, we can share our talents and skills, we can help those in need, and we can contribute a portion of our earnings.

As part of our Stewardship series, I was asked to speak today about "where our money goes" when we choose to give some of it to Fairgreen? For many, this is an uncomfortable subject, but it is important for the sustainability of this worshipful place.

First, let's discuss what happens to your offering envelopes after you put them in the offering plate. Each Sunday, after being blessed, the envelopes are put in our safe through a small slot in the top. They are removed by one of only two people; Marilyn McAfee, our Financial Secretary or Sharon Durrant, the Assistant Financial Secretary. About every other week, the two of them count the money and deposit it into our bank account. We strive for confidentiality of the offerings, and Marilyn and Sharon are the only two people who have access to your pledge and offering amounts. If your offering is sent to us in the mail, Tricia does not open the envelope. She puts it into the slot in the safe. Marilyn and Sharon use a computer program to record your giving amounts, and periodically Marilyn sends you a statement which summarizes your giving information.

Currently, we have 74 church members and several friends who attend regularly. In 2022, 27 members turned in pledge cards.

One thing I would like to point out is that you can easily have your offering sent to Fairgreen directly from your bank and it doesn't cost you anything to do that. Just use your bank's Bill Pay program to do so. Then you don't have to remember to write a check, or to bring it on Sunday. If you would like more information on that, please talk to myself or Julie Murray.

Now, how does Fairgreen spend your offerings? The money is spent on either the business operations of the church or on our mission causes. The missions are the things that you see and participate in, such as the Food Pantry, Coffee Hour, the summer picnic, the Christmas shoe boxes, memorial purchases. The operations of the church are things such as the pastor and staff salaries, the building expenses such as electricity, gas, internet, snow removal, lawn mowing, plumbing repairs, cleaning and insurance. There are office supplies, paper for bulletins and newsletters, postage, the computers and copier costs. We have worship expenses such as microphones, speakers and candles. So, the operating costs are "behind the scenes" so to speak, they are necessary to operate the church, but not necessarily thought about or noticed.

Another big piece of our financial picture are our investments. Several decades ago, we received a large bequest from a member's estate, which we invested in the stock market. Since then, we've received a few more bequests as well. Also, many years ago, we were able to accumulate some profits, which were also invested. Thankfully, we still have some of those funds available to us. However, we are now a much smaller congregation, and in the past several years, we haven't been able to collect enough offerings to cover our operating expenses. We have had to draw money out of our investments to help out. But we also used some of our investment funds for major building improvements such as all new windows, new flooring, a remodeled chancel area with handicap access, roof repairs and so on. We have been fortunate to maintain our church in such a beautiful way, which many other churches have not been able to do.

Each year, our Annual Report is given to you, usually in February. It includes plenty of financial details of our offerings and expenses as well wonderful summaries of each mission area and committee.

(cont.)

**"Where Does Your Money Go?"**

(cont.)

From 2 Corinthians Chapter 8 verses 7-8: *<sup>7</sup>But just as you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us -see that you also excel in this grace of giving. <sup>8</sup>I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others.*

Please consider sharing some of your financial blessings with Fairgreen next year. Also, if you are able, please consider designating Fairgreen in your estate planning.

**Bible Study and Prayer:**

**Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes  
An Advent Study by Cynthia M Campbell**

Come on in! On each of the four Saturdays of Advent, you are invited into the "home"-scripture writing of one of the Gospel writers. See how Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John tell the Christmas story! Who would have been their audience? Are there any differences in the telling? What are they? Why?

We will gather in the lounge from 10:00am-11:00am on the following Saturdays:

November 27 to visit Mark 1:1-11.

December 3 to visit Matthew 1:18-25; 2:13-15,19-23.

December 10 to visit Luke 2: 1-14.

December 17 to visit John 1:1-5,14.

This study will be led by Connie Winslow.

This study will be led by Pat Gibson.

This study will be led by Julie Murray.

This study will be led by Melanie Rogers.

With your Bible in hand, look for the wreath on the door and the welcome mat on the floor!  
Please join us!



## **Hot Tips for a Cold December**

Recently, I went to the annual notice of change of benefits for 2023 to my Paramount Elite Medicare Plan. I was pleasantly surprised to discover some supplemental benefits that were added included something called Papa Pals. This is a service where for 30 hours per year a young student (high school or college, fully screened & vetted) will come to your home at no cost to you and perform a variety of tasks at your request, such as weeding your garden.

Also, for non-emergency transportation, twelve one-way trips are covered for the year. Additionally, there is an over-the-counter benefit which covers \$100 per quarter. In January, I will receive a card that can be used at Walgreens, Walmart and Rite Aid from Nations benefits. I believe other medical plans are providing similar benefits, so it is good to check!

I have decided that this year we will not put up a Christmas tree. Instead, I will use my red and green vases and bowls, put some greenery in them or Christmas balls and scatter them throughout the house. I will also gather my family Christmas pictures together and display them as a group on a side table.

Now to cookie baking! I have discovered a three-ingredient cookie recipe which is as follows:

- 1 - box cake mix (15.25oz, any flavor)
- 2 large eggs
- 1/3 cup vegetable oil



Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Stir together cake mix, eggs and oil. Place 1 ½ tbs, two inches apart on parchment lined cookie sheets and bake 10-12 minutes, Let stand 3 minutes and remove from baking sheets to cool. This makes approximately 2 dozen cookies.

You can if you wish to, add a cup of chocolate, peanut butter chips or fruit to the mix before baking.

Hopefully, you will find some of these tips to be useful to you.

-Chris Roebuck

**From Congregational Life:**



**Coffee Hour**

Coffee Hour – Wow, 2023! Where did 2022 go? At Fairgreen we continue to look forward to a joyful and exciting year. A year where our hearts continue to reach out to others and serve the less fortunate. And yes, I'm looking for volunteers to host a coffee hour on Sundays. It's on Sunday in the Commons after the 10:00 AM worship service that we have an opportunity to chat about the holidays, what we're hopeful for in the world, for our families; a chance to remember our friends who are perhaps missing or feeling "under the weather" so to speak. It's a time where we listen to one another. It's important! The dates for January coffee are: January 1, January 8, January 15, January 22 and January 29. I/Marilyn will host on January 1, 2023. Watch for the January 2023 sign-up sheet on the bulletin board ... or call or email me. Phone: 419-356-3127 -- E-mail: marmc@bex.net. Thanks . . . Blessings to all for your help in 2022.

Joyfully,

Marilyn

**Cookie Exchange**

**December 18th**

**Coffee Hour**

- Bring 2 dozen cookies, then take home 2 dozen cookies.**
- Any leftover cookies will be available for sampling.**
- Please bring your cookies in a disposable container and remember to bring one to take your own cookies back home too.**
- We would also love to exchange recipes so bring yours along with your cookies.**
- \*We will also have coffee, tea and our famous hot chocolate to go with your cookies!**



**From: Memorial Committee**

**MEMORIAL COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Memorial Committee has added the following names to the Fairgreen Presbyterian Memorial Board as of 9/2022

ELIZABETH WOLFF

JEANNE RYAN

FREDERICK J. KING

CARY VISCHER

CARL EATON

ROBERT BOYD

DAVID WHITELEY

JOHANNA CRAWFORD

LISA FINLAY

LYNN PANYUSCSIK

KEITH HALDERMAN

ANNA ORTMANN

ANNE CISCO

CATHERINE McCORNACK

IRENE ASPACHER

The committee will be updating the Legacy Board honoring major gifts to the church in the coming months.

**Submitted by Christina Roebuck, committee chair**

**Jan Anderson, treasurer**

**Nancy MacPherson, communications secretary.**

**From Matthew 25 Task Force:**

**Please join us at our monthly meeting:**

**Wednesday @ 7pm**

**December 7th**





**From : Worship Committee:**



"The Christmas Joy Offering brings the whole church together to be with the church workers and their families who are in critical financial need due to illness or a lack of resources. It also equips students of color through leadership development and education at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color to maximize their God-given potential as they lead our Church and our world. This offering is our way of being with these past, present and future leaders."

*Taken from Matthew 25 and Special Offerings PC (USA) web page.*

**\*Look for these envelopes in the bulletins on December 18th and 24th, 2022.**

**In other news:**

**Fairgreen Women's Retreat**

Saturday, February 25, 2023 at the Lial Renewal Center.  
Doors open at 8:30am. Retreat program starts at 9:30am-3:00pm.  
More information will be coming in the January Leaves!



**In other news (cont.):**

**\*\*\*IMPORTANT DATE TO REMEMBER!!!\*\*\***

Please join us for our next  
Congregational Meeting on  
Sunday 12/18/22  
following Sunday Service.

(\*Cookie exchange to follow)



We are happy to welcome back the Flag Line Group from Start High School. They will be practicing once again in the Commons on the following dates:

Tuesday 12/6 4-7:30pm  
Tuesday 12/13 4-7:30pm  
Wednesday 12/21 9am-2pm  
Wednesday 12/28 9am-2pm

**From the desk of the Church Secretary:**

First of all, I would like to say a huge THANK YOU to all of you for the continued support and amazing compliments that I hear about and receive regarding the bulletins and the newsletters. I really enjoy doing them and the positive feedback lets me know I am doing something right!!

Next, I wanted to mention that with the holidays coming especially but really in general, my normal hours in the office are Tuesday-Friday 9am-1:30pm. Please try to keep that in mind when sending people for donations or if you need something as it makes it tough for me if I am getting requests or people showing up at 1:30 when I am off the clock. I have included the office closures for December as I know them right now on the Calendar as well my vacations to help keep everyone informed. This is subject to change so from now until the end of the year you may just want give me a shout first if you need to meet with me or need to send someone in.

Again, Thank you all for your support and love, I feel very blessed!!!

Happy Holidays!!!

Tricia Manner  
Church Secretary





## Financial Information:

### **Fairgreen Giving Booklets - 2023**

The Fairgreen Giving Envelope Booklets for 2023 have been ordered and will be available for you to pick up before the end of December, 2022. 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 or in the pew envelope racks. In the front of each Giving Booklet you will find an Initial Offering and a Per Capita Envelope.

**This year the 2023 Per Capita apportionment is \$38.60 per member. We ask that you wait until after the first of the year to pay your Per Capita.**

### **Year End Contributions, Outstanding Invoices**

Any 2022 offerings to the Fairgreen Operating budget or for any other purpose; i.e. Food Pantry, Memorial, must be received into the church office no later than **Sunday, December 25, 2022** in order to be recorded as a 2022 contribution. **Offerings received after December 30 will be counted as 2023 income.**

If you have any outstanding invoices, you need to have them approved and into the church office no later than **Tuesday December 27, 2022.**



*Per Capita -  
For Love of  
Christ's Church*

## Food Pantry:



**There will be no Food Pantry in December.**

**Watch our Facebook page and church sign for future dates in the new year! date.**



Our Fairgreen Food Pantry has been blessed again this time by congregation members and beyond, with generous donations totaling \$2000. This money can be used for purchase items not available from regular resources. What a surprise and again what a true blessing!

**Did you know that the FAIRGREEN FOOD PANTRY FACEBOOK PAGE has 576 members?**



### **Christmas Eve Service:**

**On Saturday, 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:**

**Friday December 23 for Christmas Holiday  
December 30th for vacations**



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

# WELLNESS WEDNESDAYS

## Starting September 7, 2022

### TAE KWON DO

4:15-5:00pm After School

6:15-7:00pm Advanced

### FIND YOUR CHI

5:00-5:30pm

Bring a friend, next class is Free!

### SELF-DEFENSE

5:30-6:00pm

Bring a friend, next class is Free!



RESPECT  
CONFIDENCE  
DISCIPLINE  
FOCUS  
INTEGRITY



Balance  
Strength  
Flexibility



Call for Pricing

Suggested donation \$10

Suggested donation \$10

First lesson and First Wednesday of every month is by donation of Hygiene items for people in need.



Mary Jo Feldkamp, Certified Instructor & Fourth Degree Black Belt  
734-216-7524

Fairgreen Church, 3220 W. Laskey Rd, Toledo OH 43613

# December 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 ACA Meeting @6:30pm Rams Cheerleaders 6-7pm	2 Rams Cheerleaders 6-7pm	3 Advent Study 10-11am
4 10am Worship Service	5 Office Closed	6 Session @ 6:30pm Start Color Guard 4-7:30(WD)	7 Wellness 4-7pm Matthew 25 Mtg @ 7pm	8 ACA Meeting @6:30pm Rams Cheerleaders 6-7pm	9 Set up - all day For Winter Wonderland	10 Winter Wonderland 10am-12pm Advent Study 10-11am
11 10am Worship Service	12 Office Closed	13 Cong Life Mtg @ 10am Start Color Guard 4-7:30(WD)	14 Wellness 4-7pm	15 ACA Meeting @6:30pm Worship Mtg @ 6:30pm	16 Tricia Vacation	17 Advent Study 10-11am Teachers Decorating Commons
18 10am Worship Service Congregational Mtg Cookie Exchange	19 Office Closed Preschool Holiday Party (Commons)	20 Preschool Holiday Party (Commons)	21 Wellness 4-7pm Start Color Guard 9-2 (TM)	22 ACA Meeting @6:30pm	23 Office Closed (for the Holiday)	24 Christmas Eve Service @ 4:00pm *Take Poinsettia's home
25 10am Worship Service MERRY CHRISTMAS!	26 Office Closed	27	28 (No WW) Start Color Guard 9-2 (TM)	29 ACA Meeting @6:30pm	30 Office Closed Peg & Trish Vacation	

## 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		

**\*\*NO FOOD PANTRY THIS MONTH!**

**Fairgreen Presbyterian Church**  
3220 Laskey Rd.  
Toledo, Ohio 43613  
419.475.4436

**Pastor Bill Dunifon**  
Senior Pastor, Head of Staff  
Cell: 419.205.5037  
Email:  
wdunifon@gmail.com

**Dr. Mike Roadruck**  
Commissioned Lay Pastor  
Home: 419.260.7429

**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

