

# THE FIRST PRESS

JANUARY 2016

## *From the Pastor*

I like that the New Year comes a week after Christmas. For those not aware of Jesus' birth nothing changed, but for those who knew of His birth everything changed. Today people celebrate the New Year as an opportunity for renewal and change, though in reality there is very little renewal and change. Why do New Year's Resolutions so often fail? Changes to our daily routine, even little changes, take work and commitment, often we need support, and the potential benefit is difficult to realize.

I want us, as a congregation, to renew our commitment to God's Word. As our culture becomes de-

creasingly biblically literate, the importance of our spending time in the Bible increases. We need to know the Scriptures, and the only way to do that is to regularly spend time in them.

I invite you to join me in reading through the Bible in one year (it takes about ten minutes a day). On the back page of this newsletter we have included a reading guide for the month, we will continue to do so through the year. You can pick up a guide on the back railing, look it up on line, kindle the One Year Bible, or buy a copy.

There have been a dozen years that I have tried to read

through the Bible in a year, and only one year did I read it every single day of the year. Some other years if I missed a day (or a week), then I read two a day until I caught up. Some years if I missed a day, then I missed the reading for that day and didn't try to catch up.

Daily Bible reading is supposed to be a blessing and not a guilt inducing burden, so you decide whether you will join me in reading the Bible in a year.

If you join me in this resolution I promise you two things. 1. It won't be easy. 2. This time next year you will have a better understanding of God and a better relationship with God.

One more promise: if more than a few of us do this our congregation we all see the positive impact it will have on our congregation.

-Jim

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# January Birthdays and Anniversaries

1 - Noël Curtis, Marjorie Gill, Sharon Kribbs,  
2 - Caroline Campagna, Grace Van Patter  
5 - Mindy Lind, Wendy McTammany  
7 - John Mutschler  
9 - Roger Curran, Ken Jusko  
12 - Kath Schwieger  
13 - Ryan Graver  
15 - Rhiannon Dame, Alex Sabo  
17 - Mary Shaffer  
18 - Christina Han  
21 - Peggy Starkey  
22 - Karen Graber  
23 - Jim Zaiser, Matt Reinhart  
24 - Andrew King, Serena DeCosmo, Morgan Dame  
25 - Corey Jusko  
27 - Kyle Guissanie, Michael Fox  
28 - Judy Miller, Clint Shurtliffe, Robert Han, Gabriel Halteman  
29 - Jean Hormell  
30 - Seth Young  
31 - Giselle Taylor

2 - Dave & Judy Miller celebrating  
their 34th wedding anniversary

9 - David & April Shrom celebrating  
their 39th wedding anniversary

11 - Ken & Jean Lepley celebrating  
their 13th wedding anniversary



## REMINDER OF OUR WEATHER POLICY:

The church (and the youth programs), follow the Lewisburg school district weather policy. Listen to the radio or tv: If there is an early dismissal or cancellation of school, we will not have after school and evening programs. If there is a morning delay, there will not be youth breakfast.

We will always maintain our Sunday morning schedule. Safe Travels; use your discretion when thinking about whether you should come to church or not.



## Thank You

Thank you very much for those of you who contributed to the Clothes Share Program's Christmas distribution. We were able to provide new pajamas, hats, gloves and socks to approximately 202 children. This would not have been possible without your help. Thank you!



## “Saying ‘Amen’ to Following Christ”

Although our small group Bible Study is made up of people who have been friends for, at least 10 years and in some cases for as long as 40 years, we are often surprised by what we learn about each other and our faith. In our last meeting, we came prepared to share our memories of special Christmas music. For nearly an hour we told stories of early experiences with music, taught one another the genesis of familiar carols, listened to tunes prominent and obscure, and blended our disparate voices in the strains of our all-time favorites. We heard afresh the words of the familiar *Joy to the World* and *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*. We marveled again at the miracle of the incarnation as evoked in the strains of *Mary, Did You Know?* We heard *Mary’s Song* and the lesser known *Joseph’s Song*. We shared memories of *In the Bleak Mid-Winter* and *The Holly and the Ivy* as led three decades ago by our Germanic choir director, John Magnus.

With prayer time approaching, we closed a nostalgic hour of music by singing *Silent Night* and listening to the incredible “Amen” chorus of Handel’s *Messiah*. Reading from a wonderful Advent study entitled, *Every Valley: Advent with the Scriptures of Handel’s Messiah* (Jessica Miller Kelley, ed.), my wife, Sharon, reminded us that “Amen” means both “So be it” and “Yes!” Explaining further, she read this passage from the study: “...in faith, Mary said ‘yes’. Joseph said ‘yes’. John [the Baptist] said ‘yes’ to a supporting role, preparing the way for His Savior. Jesus said ‘yes’ to sorrow and suffering on behalf of a sinful world. And as disciples, we say ‘yes’ to following Christ, giving honor to God, accepting the callings God speaks into our lives” [175].

Ever since that evening, I’ve been pondering the callings that God may be speaking into my life. I have said ‘yes’ to following Christ, but have I recognized other callings, accepting them with a resounding ‘yes’, or have I been slow in recognition and/or response?

If you have said ‘yes’ to following Christ, have you sensed that He is speaking other callings into your life? If so, how are you responding? When God speaks His callings into our lives, we cannot afford to dither over our answers. As Christ’s disciples, we owe our salvation to a long line of courageous, faithful people who prepared the way by saying ‘yes’ to God, and to Jesus Christ, who in the Garden of Gethsemane cried out ‘yes’ to His Father. Our answer, the answer of a disciple, must be, “Amen. So be it. Yes!”

Bob Kribbs

❄️❄️❄️ All Church Winter Retreat ❄️❄️❄️

Mark your calendars for a weekend in Trout Run PA

Jan. 29-31, Liz Kidney will be our speaker.

More details to follow later



## Operation Christmas Child Update

We want to thank Mark and Amie Reif for their many years of running the OCC collection center

the dollar store or make simple draw string bags with the material and roping (patterns in the office)

3) "green" bags

4) plastic princess crowns

5) 2 rubber bands in each box so they can put them around the box to carry it back home from the distribution site

6) hammer and bag of nails (that you have boxes of at home)

7) deflated soccer ball with a pump

First Presby of Lewisburg has been involved with OCC since the mid 1990s. Since the year 2000, a total of 319,263 shoeboxes have been collected in our region and shipped from here.

This year our site collected 20,677 boxes (increase of 1,182 from last year). Our collection center had a good problem in that we collected so



in our church. Their zest for the mission as well as their energy is contagious! Through their efforts they collected many many boxes and have begun several more relay sites that bring boxes to our church!

Thank you to Lamar & Lorri Bruckhart who have agreed to take over the collection process next year.

When you go to the OCC distribution center to inspect shoeboxes, you have



many boxes that they didn't fit in the four tractor trailers! The OCC mission trip participants of Alice Marquart, Jim King, Jan Temple, Jessie Walsh, Christena Harder, Sharon and Bethany Dittmar packed their cars to the roofs with 567 shoeboxes to take to Baltimore the day they volunteered. Louann Graves who recently relocated to the DC area was able to join them also.

the opportunity to see great new ideas for our future boxes. Some ideas of things to start saving/making for next year's boxes....

1) crocheted or knit hats, purses, hand puppets (patterns available in the church office).

2) pieces of material (that you bought but never used) and little sewing kits from





# JAM News

January will continue our study of Jesus as we explore how He goes from being a tiny baby to a worker of miracles! Sunday school and Big Idea will explore how Jesus interacted with other people in His life.

JAM will look a little different in the new year. We will now be starting at 5:30 (instead of 5:00) and no longer be serving dinner. We will continue to grow our relationship with God this year by continuing our study of the Lord's Prayer and exploring how we should talk to God. In January, we will be meeting on the 6th and 20th. All kids in grades kindergarten- grade five are welcome to join us.

JAM Movie Night will be on Sunday January 17th (there is no school on Monday the 18th). To celebrate the new Star Wars Movie, we will be watching Star Wars Episode 1: The Phantom Menace. Please bring \$3/child to help offset the cost of pizza. Remember your sleeping bag and pjs!!!

## REMINDER OF OUR WEATHER POLICY:

The church, and the youth programs, follow the Lewisburg school district weather policy...If there is an early dismissal or cancellation of school, we will not have after school and evening programs. If there is a delay on a Wednesday morning, we will not have our Breakfast & Devotion. But check your email for notices and updates regarding a program, in case there would be an exception to the policy.

**Please consider joining us at the All-Church Winter Retreat!!! January 29-31!!! See any church staff member for more information. Please join us-it's a great time!! If you can't commit for the whole week-end, come try the day on Saturday!!!**

If you haven't "liked" us and are on Facebook, it's a great way to keep tabs with what is happening in Children's Ministry.

-Rhiannon Dame



But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people." Luke 2:10





# January 2016

## First Presby Youth

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 NO Sunday School	4	5 Girl Talk 2:30pm Refuge 7-8:30pm	6 Breakfast 6:30am Fuel 7-8:30pm	7 Winter Jam Concert	8	9
10 Sunday School 9-10 Spaghetti Fundraiser	11	12 Girl Talk 2:30pm Refuge 7-8:30pm	13 Breakfast 6:30am Fuel 7-8:30pm	14 Rejoicing Spirits 6:30	15	16
17 Sunday School 9-10	18	19 Girl Talk 2:30pm Refuge 7-8:30pm	20 Breakfast 6:30am Fuel 7-8:30pm	21	22	23
24 Sunday School 9-10	25	26 Girl Talk 2:30pm Refuge 7-8:30pm	27 Breakfast 6:30am Fuel 7-8:30pm	28	29 Susque Retreat!	30 Susque Retreat!
31 Susque Retreat!						

**COLOR KEY:** Green Events - ALL youth event  
 Red Events - High School events  
 Blue Events - Middle School events

**Questions or comments? Feel free to contact us!**  
 Tim and Lauren Halteman, Youth Directors  
 570-524-4419 Office





# January 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b> Office Closed 7:00 NA	<b>2</b> 7:00 NA
<b>3</b> 10:30 Worship 2:00 NA	<b>4</b> 7:30 Missions	<b>5</b> 10:00 Staff Mtg 3:00 Girl Talk 7:00 NA 7:00 Refuge	<b>6</b> 6:30 Y Breakfast 10:00 LAMBS 5:30 JAM 6:00 Bells 7:00 Fuel 7:30 Choir	<b>7</b> 6:00 DBR 7:00 NA	<b>8</b> 7:00 NA	<b>9</b> 7:00 NA
<b>10</b> 9:00 Sunday Schl 10:30 Worship	<b>11</b> 9:15 Trainers	<b>12</b> 10:00 Staff Mtg 3:00 Girl Talk 7:00 NA 7:00 Refuge	<b>13</b> 6:30 Y Breakfast 10:00 LAMBS 6:00 Bells 7:00 Fuel 7:30 Choir	<b>14</b> 6:00 DBR 7:00 NA	<b>15</b> 7:00 NA	<b>16</b> 7:00 NA
<b>17</b> 9:00 Sunday Schl 10:30 Worship JAM Movie Night	<b>18</b> 7:00 Session, Trustees, Deacons	<b>19</b> 10:00 Staff Mtg 3:00 Girl Talk 7:00 NA 7:00 Refuge	<b>20</b> 6:30 Y Breakfast 10:00 LAMBS 5:30 JAM 6:00 Bells 7:00 Fuel 7:30 Choir	<b>21</b> 6:00 DBR 7:00 NA	<b>22</b> 7:00 NA	<b>23</b> 7:00 NA
<b>24</b> 9:00 Sunday Schl 10:30 Worship	<b>25</b> 9:15 Trainers	<b>26</b> 10:00 Staff Mtg 3:00 Girl Talk 7:00 NA 7:00 Refuge	<b>27</b> 6:30 Y Breakfast 10:00 LAMBS 6:00 Bells 7:00 Fuel 7:30 Choir	<b>28</b> 6:00 DBR 7:00 NA	<b>29</b> 7:00 NA	<b>30</b> 7:00 NA
<b>31</b> 9:00 Sunday Schl 10:30 Worship						



First Presbyterian Church  
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Web: www.first-presby.org  
Email: info@first-presby.org

**Ushers:** Eric Schmidt, Richard Erdley, Mark Davies, Joseph Gallagher, Mark Reif, Brad Zimmerman

**Nursery**

- 3** Rousell and Mast families
- 10** Grimes and Graver families
- 17** Jusko and Lind families
- 24** Heid and Papsen families
- 31** Foster and Samuelson families

**Coffee Social**

- No Social
- Dave & Ruth McCord
- Natalie Grimes
- Rob & Lisa Black
- Steve & Alesia Foster

**Dinner By the River Teams (and devotion leader)** 7 Temple/Torretti (Guissanie) 14 Sacred Heart (Shaffer) 21 Beaver UMC (Gathman) 28 Bruce/Ishii/Ringkamp (Kribbs)

## *Thru the Bible in a Year Reading Guide*

1.	Genesis 1-2 Matthew 1:1-2:13 Psalm 1 Proverbs 1:1-6	9	Genesis 20:1-22:24 Matthew 7:15-29 Psalm 9:1-12 Proverbs 2:16-22	17	Genesis 35:1-36:43 Matthew 12:1-21 Psalm 15 Proverbs 3:21-26	25	Genesis 50:1- Exodus 2:10 Matthew 16:13-17:9 Psalm 21 Proverbs 5:1-6
2	Genesis 3-4 Matthew 2:13-3:6 Psalm 2 Proverbs 1:7-9	10	Genesis 23:1-24:51 Matthew 8:1-17 Psalm 9:13-20 Proverbs 3:1-6	18	Genesis 37:1-38:30 Matthew 12:22-45 Psalm 16 Proverbs 3:27-32	26	Exodus 2:11-3:22 Matthew 17:10-27 Psalm 22:1-18 Proverbs 5:7-14
3	Genesis 5-7 Matthew 3:7-4:11 Psalm 3 Proverbs 1:10-19	11.	Genesis 24:52-26:16 Matthew 8:18-34 Psalm 10:1-15 Proverbs 3:7-8	19	Genesis 39:1-41:16 Matthew 12:46-13:23 Psalm 17 Proverbs 3:33-35	27	Exodus 4:1-5:21 Matthew 18:1-20 Psalm 22:19-31 Proverbs 5:15-21
4.	Genesis 8-10 Matthew 4:12-25 Psalm 4 Proverbs 1:20-23	12	Genesis 26:17-27:46 Matthew 9:1-17 Psalm 10:16-18 Proverbs 3:9-10	20	Genesis 41:17-42:17 Matthew 13:24-46 Psalm 18:1-15 Proverbs 4:1-6	28	Exodus 5:22-7:25 Matthew 18:21-19:12 Psalm 23 Proverbs 5:22-23
5.	Genesis 11:1-13:4 Matthew 5:1-26 Psalm 5 Proverbs 1:24-28	13	Genesis 28:1-29:35 Matthew 9:18-38 Psalm 11 Proverbs 3:11-12	21	Genesis 42:18-43:34 Matthew 13:47-14:12 Psalm 18:16-36 Proverbs 4:7-10	29	Exodus 8:1-9:35 Matthew 19:13-30 Psalm 24 Proverbs 6:1-5
6.	Genesis 13:5-15:21 Matthew 5:27-48 Psalm 6 Proverbs 1:29-33	14	Genesis 30:1-31:16 Matthew 10:1-23 Psalm 12 Proverbs 3:13-15	22	Genesis 44:1-45:28 Matthew 14:13-36 Psalm 18:37-50 Proverbs 4:11-13	30	Exodus 10:1-12:13 Matthew 20:1-28 Psalm 25:1-15 Proverbs 6:6-11
7	Genesis 16:1-18:15 Matthew 6:1-24 Psalm 7 Proverbs 2:1-5	15	Genesis 31:17-32:12 Matthew 10:24-11:6 Psalm 13 Proverbs 3:16-18	23	Genesis 46:1-47:31 Matthew 15:1-28 Psalm 19 Proverbs 4:14-19	31	Exodus 12:14-13:16 Matthew 20:29-21:22 Psalm 25:16-22
8.	Genesis 18:16-19:38 Matthew 6:25-7:14 Psalm 8 Proverbs 2:6-15	16	Genesis 32:13-34:31 Matthew 11:7-30 Psalm 14 Proverbs 3:19-20	24	Genesis 48:1-49:33 Matthew 15:29-16:12 Psalm 20 Proverbs 4:20-27		

