

# WINDOW

JANUARY 2018



The Monthly Newsletter  
of First Presbyterian Church  
Athens, Ohio

## January 2018

### Sunday, January 7th Epiphany Sunday

10:30 a.m. - Communion  
during Worship

### Sunday, January 14th

10:30 a.m. - Ordination and  
Installation of New Officers  
during Worship

### Sunday, January 21st

10:30 a.m. - Puppets Minis-  
try during Worship

### Sunday, January 28th

10:30 a.m. - Bells during  
Worship

## A New Year's Prayer

*Lord, You make all things  
new. You bring hope alive  
in our hearts and cause our  
Spirits to be born again.*

*Thank you for this new year  
For all the potential it  
holds. Come and kindle in  
us A mighty flame  
So that in our time, many  
will see the wonders of God  
And live forever to praise  
Your glorious name. Amen.*

*(A modern prayer for the New  
Year from [www.lords-prayer-  
words.com](http://www.lords-prayer-<br/>words.com))*

*"We are a Christian  
community of faith that  
shares the love of God  
with all people  
everywhere."*

## From the Pastor....

I first must start off by saying that I am completely biased when it comes to seasons. Because when it comes to seasons, I by far show favoritism to the season of winter. Now granted, this is the favorite season for a lot of people, particularly children. Maybe it's the thought of playing outside after a beautiful snowfall, or simply having a "snow day" from school. Our biblical version of the seasons comes from the third chapter of Ecclesiastes. It is one of the most recognized chapters in scripture, and it can be one of the most difficult books to understand. When considered in the larger context of the Old Testament, Ecclesiastes stands out as an unusual book. There is nothing in Ecclesiastes of Abraham, Isaac, or Jacob. There is no mention of The Exodus, or Gods special relationship with the Israelites or the Great Promised Land.

The author of Ecclesiastes seems to be opening up the book (prior to the familiar chapter three) with having a grim view of life, finding it to be pointless and meaningless. In fact, Chapter One of Ecclesiastes reads: "Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher. "Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless." Even though we don't know who the author may be in the first chapter of Ecclesiastes, we can be assured of this, he or she, doesn't view the glass as half full. But why does this author feel this way, why does he feel life to be meaningless and pointless? Is he naturally a pessimistic person? Or is this author experiencing a season in his life of great sorrow and great pain. What season is this author in when we read these first two chapters?

In chapter three, the author seems to be more reflective upon life—recognizing that everything we experience, the good, the bad, the times of joy, the times of sorrow, the times of beginnings, and the times of endings, are together, seasons we experience in life. It's almost as if he wrote the first two chapters as a journal entry during his darkest time and in chapter three, is writing as if he recognizes how it difficult his life was in those first two chapters but now knows that all seasons are a part of life and the difficult season is never the last season of his life.

Theologian Daniel Migliore Writes:

"Hope is the steadfast love of God that raises the dead and brings a transformed heaven and earth filled with righteousness, freedom, and peace. The hope for the coming of God's glory for the final healings of all nations, for the realization of God's reign of justice and peace throughout all creation and for the end of all crying and death. Hope is the fulfillment of life beyond all that we deserve and imagine."

My friends, our lives are much like the changing of our seasons: There are times we find ourselves experiencing blossom and beauty, but there are also seasons where we are experiencing fall and darkness and lament. Yet despite these more difficult seasons, what we do see in the difficult seasons is that God is still present for us and seasons of darkness and despair don't have the last word. After all, this scripture ends with the words 'birth' and 'peace.' For those who find themselves mourning the loss

*(continued on page 2)*

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of a loved one, it is this message that reminds us there will be a season of healing. For those who are grieving the end of a relationship, it's this message of hope which reminds us of a new season of re-building, for those who are

experiencing changes in their jobs, it's this message of hope which reminds us of new seasons of planting will begin. Above all, it's this message of hope, a message that reminds us that despite our brokenness, despite our pain, hurt,

doubts, and insecurities, that no matter how long the road may be, how dark and cold that winter may seem, there will be just around the corner, a new season of life once again.

~~ Pastor Rob Martin

### Church Office Volunteers Needed

Would you like to be a church office volunteer? Basically the only duty is someone in the office to answer the phone and take messages. You can volunteer for a whole day or a half day (mornings 8:30-Noon and afternoons 1:00-5:00). If you would be interested, please phone Jane at the church office (593-3351) or email ([office@athensfpc.org](mailto:office@athensfpc.org)) to more info. It is easy, really!

### The Children's Chime Choir

The Chime Choir has rehearsals on Sundays, at 10 a.m. downstairs in the bell room. Please contact Kirsten Trachsel ([ktrachsel1@gmail.com](mailto:ktrachsel1@gmail.com)) if your child would like to join the ensemble.

### Windows ON: Church Community Committee REMAKING "SATURDAY NIGHT SUPPERS"

New offering from the Church Community Committee - In Church Progressive dinner.

This is an in-church version of Saturday evening suppers, i.e. there will be groups with each person or couple bringing a salad, main dish, and dessert. In each group there will

be special guests, newer church members. These special guests will progress from group to group with each course, so they will be able to get to know people in three groups.

This dinner will take place on February 3rd with February 10th

as the snow date. All groups will gather in fellowship hall for appetizers before going to respective tables.

Sign-up sheets will be in fellowship hall in early January. So save the date - Saturday, February 3rd.

### Placing Events on the Church Calendar

All occasions/events should be listed on the church calendar to avoid conflict over use of the facilities. The sponsoring group must cover out-of-pocket expenses. Please phone the church office (593-3351) to request a form for placing your event on the calendar.

### Windows ON: Outreach Mission Committee MISSION TRIP 2018 - WEST VIRGINIA MINISTRY OF ADVOCACY AND WORKCAMPS (WVMAW)

Excerpts from a letter received from Joan Stewart, Executive Director, WVMAW:

"In 2017 WVMAW hosted 82 teams representing 1,147 individual volunteers. These angels helped to build or rebuild destroyed or severely damaged homes, serving over 200 people. Many replaced flooring, walls,

porches, built ramps, put on roofing, siding, cleaned out and underpinned, insulated, sheet rocked, painted, trimmed, plumbed, wired—whatever was needed. Many of you got to know the families you served and found out that was as much mission as driving nails! From the little things to the big things, every one made a difference in the lives of each family you touched."

Would you consider joining the FPC mission team when FPC volunteers will return to Webster Springs from May 26–June 2, 2018? Please contact Carla Boyle.

**Read the Bible in a Year Study - January 16, 2018**  
**Dinner at 5:30 p.m. / Program from 6:00-7:00 p.m.**  
**Fellowship Hall**

**Preview of a coming attraction.....**

"What would you wish for if you could wish for anything?" It's a game I used to play as a child, inspired by tales like "Aladdin." As I recall my wishes usually had to do with wealth or fame or playing for the Detroit Tigers. Our Read the Bible in a Year Bible study will focus on the January readings from the book of I Kings. Early in the book, Solomon has just ascended to the throne of his father David, that beloved king of Israel. It is a succession marked by court intrigue and competition between rival factions (1 Kings 1-2). A few people lose their lives in Solomon's consolidation of power, including David's older son, Adonijah, who had designs on the throne himself.

But after all the intrigue, now Solomon is king, and he goes to Gibeon to offer sacrifices to the LORD. The LORD appears to Solomon in a dream there and says, "Ask what I should give you." It is a remarkable offer for this young king; "Ask what you will," says God. One can imagine what he might request: long life, riches, power, and victory in battle.

Solomon asks for none of that. Instead, he praises God for God's faithfulness to his father David, and he describes his own situation. He has to govern a very numerous people; and not just any people, but a nation of God's own choosing. Therefore, he asks of God a "listening heart" (or, as many translations put it, "an understanding mind") in order to judge God's people, and "to discern between good and evil."

A listening heart, an understanding mind, the ability to discern what is right and good--these are qualities essential to good governance, qualities we should pray to find in all our leaders. It speaks well of the young king that he recognizes the enormous responsibility he has and seeks not material gifts for himself, but gifts of character that will benefit his people.

The chapters that follow then speak in detail of the glory of Solomon, his magnificent building projects (including the Temple), his wisdom and the fame it brings him (1 Kings 4:29-34; 10:1-13, 23-24). Solomon seems to fulfill the promise we see in him in chapter 3. Later in the story we find that Solomon too has his flaws. "What would you wish for if you could wish for anything?" Solomon, for all his shortcomings later in life, answers well. He wishes not for personal gain or material possessions, but for a listening heart, a discerning mind, and the wisdom to govern his people well.

**Senior Artists' Exhibition**

Featuring The Athens Village at Paper Circle Gallery,  
35 Columbus Street, Nelsonville

January 2-8, 2018

There are twelve intended exhibitors so far, including three members of the FPC congregation: Ann Fox has composed geological haiku, Burt Stumpf will exhibit three different works and Jane Woodrow has written a poem. There may be more exhibitors and visitors are most welcome.

**All Session Chairs**

**Annual reports are due BY Friday January 19th**  
**Please drop off or email to the church office.**

**2018 Per Capita - \$33.00**

Please consider donating the per capita assessed by the Presbyterian Church USA per member. The 2018 per capita is \$33.00. Your donation helps stretch the FPC budget dollars. It can be mailed to the office or placed in the offering plate. Thank you!

**Christian Education Schedule - 2018 - Theme: *Deep and Wide***

**Weekly Schedule: Sunday morning schedule:**

9:30 a.m. - Childcare available, nursery / Adult Sunday School, lounge

10:00 a.m. - Children's Chime Choir rehearsal, hand bell room (begins September 10th)

10:30 a.m. - Worship and Children's Church, Sanctuary and classrooms

11:30 a.m. - Children's Craft Time, classroom / Coffee and Fellowship time, fellowship hall

**Tuesday - 12:00 Noon - Bible Study, church library**

## Windows ON: FPC Member NICHOLAS "NICK" DINOS and LYLE MCGEOCH

(more in the February newsletter)

Nicholas "Nick" Dinos passed away early December 18, 2017. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Lyle McGeoch passed away December 23, 2017. A service will be held in January, date not set at this time.



## Windows ON: Church Support 2018 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

In January of 2018 we will kick-off a new capital campaign to raise funds for the repair of the church elevator, a much needed renovation and repair of our organ, and our continued outreach to the world in mission. We want our light to shine in a world where people seek refuge, for mooring, for grounding in something hopeful and something bigger than themselves. We want to be able to welcome people more warmly, hospitably, and safely whether they come to worship or to one of the many other ministries we offer here because we have been blessed with this church.

First Presbyterian Church of Athens has existed for more than a 200 years. Originally established to serve the needs of the University community, the church expanded in the 1980s to make the building more user friendly. Fellowship Hall was renovated to create more classroom space, and an elevator was installed. The Holtkamp Organ was installed in 1985. This instrument has inspired people, bringing them closer to God with its expressions of majesty, sorrow, and joy. It is an organ that supports congregational singing and our chancel choir. No significant work has been done since its installation and much needed repairs to some of our pipes and a voicing overhaul are needed.

A recent appraisal has put our instruments value at \$600,000.00. Handicap restrooms replaced older, smaller restrooms, and the church moved to become more ADA (American with Disabilities Act) compliant. Rooted in our faith, the campaign calls for vital investments in our church home, in our music ministry, and in our mission outreach. Focused on our future, the campaign aims to create a fund to provide for the needs of new generations, without compromising our endowment or our ongoing ministries and programs.

**Improvements and Projected Costs** - This capital campaign will enable us to raise money for the re-payment of an outstanding loan for the elevator repair in 2017. Our second goal is the re-furbishing and renovation of our outstanding pipe organ. Our third goal is a major contribution to our sister church in Chang Rai, Thailand on the occasion of our 25 year sister relationship and their need for a new sanctuary following a devastating earthquake.

Total Goal	\$200,000.00
• Elevator Repair	\$90,000.00
• Organ renovation and repair	\$70,000.00
• Mission Outreach	\$40,000.00

During the initial phase of our 2018-2021 campaign, we encourage you to make an outright financial gift, or a pledge that can be paid off over a three-year period. Every member of our congregation will be asked to consider making a commitment to our Capital Campaign. This campaign provides an opportunity for each of us to reflect about our deepest commitments in life — to consider the place that God, God's church, and its work take in our lives.

Please prayerfully consider your commitments. The challenge before us is nothing less than ensuring that First's next 200 years reveal a church every bit as faithful as the church of the last 200 years. We are writing the next history. What will it say? Just as important: Who will see it? Theologian Stanley Hauerwas wrote, "God's truth is credible to the world only when it sees a community shaped by the truth... If the gospel is to be heard, it must also be seen."

~ Pastor Martin



## Worship Information for January 2018

January 7th	Psalms 29 and Mark 1:4-11	<i>Nothing Will Be the Same Again</i>
January 14th	Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18 and 1 Samuel 3:1-20	<i>Call and Response</i>
January 21st	Psalms 62:5-12 and Jonah 3:1-5, 10	<i>A Whale of a Tale</i>
January 28th	Psalms 111 and Mark 1:21-28	<i>As One With Authority</i>



**Windows ON: Lindley Inn Hymn Sing  
THIS MONTH**

*"Rejoice, rejoice, the Savior  
promised long.  
Let every heart prepare a throne  
and every voice a song."*

Twenty Lindley residents and FPC volunteers raised their voices to sing the familiar carols of the season on December 17th.

Joy Creighton was pianist, and Ann Fox FPC's hymnologist introduced the lovely Christina Rossetti poem set to music by Gustaf Holst. It has been sung on many note-worthy occasions, and the FPC Quartet: Betty Lacy,

Benji Martin, Melanie Schori, and David Tees added to that list. Jean Drevenstedt and Barb Martin read the Christmas story from Luke, and each resident received a jingle bell to ring as attendees sang that old favorite. Barb Martin brought lovely decorations made by FPC school children as gifts for the residents.

The hymn sing closed with "We Wish You a Merry Christmas," and promised to return for more hymn singing **on March 18th.**

**Windows ON: Amesville/New England  
THIS MONTH'S NEWS**

After many months of not having the Thursday Church group at the Athens Presbyterian Church because of no elevator, the group met on the first Thursday in November. A good time was held by all attending. Thankful that the elevator is fixed; thanks to Keith Morrow for his many handy-man helps when needed. Also appreciated: Mary Jane Black, Carla Boyle, Mike Boyle and Joy Creighton for their help. It takes a village to do a program!

On the Monday after Thanksgiving, there was no school in the Federal Hocking School District, so a church/tree decorating project was held at the Amesville Presbyterian

Church. In a little over an hour, the church and tree were decorated.

On Sunday, December 17th, the Parish Children's Christmas Program was held, with nine children participating. A rhythm band call to worship to "Go Tell it on the Mountain", a Nativity Scene was formed while the congregation sang appropriate Christmas Carols; the Chime Choir played several numbers; and one of the children played two piano selections all were part of the program. A fellowship time followed the service.

On Monday, December 18th, the children participated in a "Make

**College Lunch New**

College lunches will move to Thursdays this coming semester. Lee Gregg is taking the lead. Wendy Toadvine will be contacting people. If you are interested in cooking, baking or volunteering - contact Lee Gregg or the church office.



**Presbyterian Women  
Tuesday and Thursday  
Circles**

are invited to hear  
Pastor Rob's talk on angels  
**Tuesday, January 2**  
**10:00 -11:30 a.m.**  
in the church Fellowship

and Take It" afternoon. Five centers were set up and the children put together family gifts which were then wrapped at a wrapping center. It was a fun time for all who participated. Marcia Burchby, chair of the Education and Mission Committee coordinated the event. A pizza supper was served.

On Sunday, December 24th at 7:00 p.m. a Christmas Eve Candlelight service of carols and scripture was held, helping all who attended to focus on the Love that came through the birth of Jesus in a manger.

**Need a ride to Church? Know someone who does?**

Contact Harold Robison, Deacon of the Month



Phone - 740-592-1450  
Email - hrobison@columbus.rr.com

**Communion**

Communion at FPC offers gluten-free bread along with regular bread for communion.



**Caring For the Congregation**

Pastor Rob and the Deacons place a priority on visiting hospitalized members of the congregation. Hospitals no longer provide information on admissions and dismissals. Please notify the church if you know of someone who should be visited in the hospital or while recovering at home or at a nursing facility.



**The FPC Worship Service is aired on Athens City Community TV Channel 9**  
 Monday-Friday - 9:00 a.m.  
 Saturday/Sunday - 5:00 p.m.

**Bible Study - Noon, Tuesdays, Library**

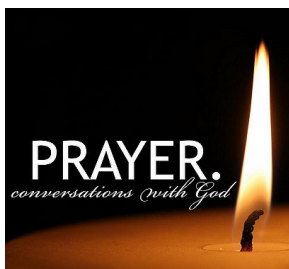
**Bell Choir Rehearsal**  
 6:00 p.m., Wednesdays, Bell choir room  
**Choir Rehearsal**  
 7:00 p.m., Wednesdays, Sanctuary

**Church Office Hours**  
 9 North College Street  
 Monday-Friday - 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

**Prayer Concern Requests and Visitation**

Prayer request slips are available in the narthex. If you would like others in the church to pray for a person or for a concern near to your heart, place the slips in the Prayer Request box in the narthex.

If you or someone you know would enjoy a visit from Pastor Rob and a Deacon, or appreciate receiving communion at home, phone the church office (593-3351), place a note in the collection plate, or email: [office@athensfpc.org](mailto:office@athensfpc.org)



**Did you know...** you can find recordings of the sermons, music, and puppet skits each week on the church's Facebook page. It is a public site so you do not have to be a Face book user to access the recordings and content. Simply go to:  
<https://www.facebook.com/AthensFPC/>

**Newsletter Helpers**

Jane Baker, Lillian Dinos, Ann Fox, Catherine Hare, Betty Lacy, Susan Loughridge, Robert Martin, and Kirsten Trachsel.

**Food Pantry Sunday**

Food Pantry Sunday is the fourth Sunday of each month.

**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

- 3 – Carla Boyle  
Dorothy Bryant
- 4 – Mike Boyle
- 5 – Bill Dix
- 6 – Nick Jagers
- 7 – Mary Jane Black  
Tim Jagers
- 8 – Paul Mullins  
Davis Ann Kramer
- 9 – Bill Allen
- 10 – Elsa Heffelfinger  
Annica Strickmaker
- 11 – Brad Graves  
Debra Rentz
- 13 – Abbey Heinrich  
Bethany Jagers
- 16 – Rita Oberholzer
- 18 – Charlene Culbertson  
Keith Wiens
- 21 – Emma Hauser
- 22 – Bobbi Conliffe  
Susan Loughridge
- 23 – Patricia Palmer
- 25 – Matthew Brient  
Dick Robe  
Eric Yehl

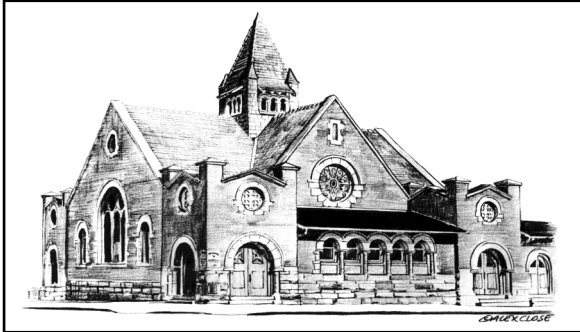
- 26 – Theodore Broadbent
- 28 – Amy Bianco
- 30 – Rieta Shoemaker  
Anna Wright

**JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

- 2 – Lloyd and Barbara Culbertson
- 15 – Ernest Bastin and Dorothy Bryant
- 27 – Mike and Carla Boyle

www.athensfpc.org

January 2018



**First Presbyterian Church**  
9 North College Street  
Athens, OH 45701



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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AthensFPC/>

**Pastor:** Rev. Robert E. Martin  
**Clerk of Session:** Andrew Stuart  
**Choir Director:** David M. Tadlock  
**Organist:** Janice Robison  
**CE Coordinator / Bell Choir Director:** Kirsten Trachsel  
**Adm. Assist.:** Jane A. Baker

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**Office hours:** Monday-Friday-8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

**Church:** Corner of Court and Washington Streets  
**Office:** 9 North College Street

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**Phone:** (740) 593-3351      **FAX:** (740) 593-3352  
**E-Mail:** [office@athensfpc.org](mailto:office@athensfpc.org)      **Web:** [www.athensfpc.org](http://www.athensfpc.org)

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**Worship Service and Children's Church - 10:30 a.m.**  
**Coffee/Fellowship - 11:30 a.m.**  
**The Worship Service is aired**  
on Athens Community TV Channel 9 -  
Monday-Friday - 9:00 a.m. and Saturdays-Sundays - 5:00 p.m.

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**Bible Study:** Tuesdays at 12:00 Noon in the church library

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**Deadline for February 2018 Newsletter: Noon January 22nd**

**First Presbyterian Church, Athens, Ohio - AFPC** has occupied its site in the center of Athens, Ohio since 1809. Among the founding fathers was Ohio University's first president, a Presbyterian minister, the Rev. Jacob Lindley. Dr. Lindley served this congregation as Moderator and Pastor until 1824. Over the years, thirteen pastors of the church have been either university presidents or members of the faculty. Dr. William Holmes McGuffey, author of the McGuffey's Readers, was called to serve as President of Ohio University and served as pastor of the church in 1839.

**Presbytery of Scioto Valley -** The Presbytery of Scioto Valley encompasses twenty-six counties in south central Ohio. From Ironton in the south to Ibera in the north: Hanover in the east and London in the west, FPC's presbytery consists of 112 congregations many of them historic where Presbyterians today are carrying on a long tradition of witness and service in their communities. All over FPC's presbytery, Presbyterians reach out to welcome the stranger, sharing the Gospel and God's love as Christ bids us to do.

**Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) -** The PC (U.S.A.), with denominational offices in Louisville, Kentucky, has approximately 2.3 million members, more than 10,000 congregations and 14,000 ordained and active ministers. Presbyterians trace their history to the 16th century and the Protestant Reformation. Its heritage, and much of its doctrine began with John Calvin (1509-1564), whose writings crystallized much of the Reformed thinking that preceded him.