

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
COMMUNICATOR



FROM THE PASTOR:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ . . .

Kyle Peters is writing in place of Jonathan due to our Pastor being on vacation.

First of all, I have to say that Melissa and I have been shocked by the overflow of generous gifts and care that we have been given in the past few months as we've awaited Micah's arrival. In hindsight, all this paired with the conclusion of the Consumed Series, I'd like to share a testimony of how Melissa and I have experienced God's generosity in the past few weeks.

Recently I was handed \$50 by a member of our congregation and was told to "invest it in Micah's future." I was very grateful that someone cared to consider Micah's needs 20 years from now so I decided to take the investment very seriously. After talking with my dad and Jonathan -both have given thought into investment- I decided that it would be wise to choose a company that I respect and that provides a good product and buy stock in that company. So I started studying different options and learning how stock works. After a week or so of study, I had picked my company and decided on a total amount to add to that original \$50 to invest. I asked Melissa for permission to invest that amount, to which she responded, "I trust your judgment".

The next morning (on my day off), I found a quiet place to do my devotions and commit to the stock. As I was eager to purchase the stock, I started to turn on the laptop, but it wasn't working. I decided that was my hint to do the devotions first, so I pulled out the Consumed booklet. As I read the devotion, a verse in Proverbs stuck out to me:

"A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed."

Upon reading this text, it was clear that God was speaking directly to me. It was as if He was saying, "There is no greater investment than giving your money away". Odd isn't it? It's also a little uncomfortable. So I tried to ignore the thought as I continued my devotions, but it kept coming back. I was reminded of the text that Jonathan had read in Church a week or so prior, "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse. Test me in this', says the Lord Almighty, 'and see if I don't open the floodgates and pour out so much blessing that you will not have enough room for it'" (Malachi 3:10). Wow, that's a huge promise! Despite the seemingly foolish logic of it, God promises an overflow of blessings when we give. Of course there is no promise that such blessings will come in the form of finances, but is that even the end result that we desire?

So I decided to bring this idea to Melissa. Certainly she would help me "wise up" to see the foolishness of giving away what we had allocated for stock investment.

Continued on page 5

DECEMBER 2010

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**Forward in Faithfulness:
Celebrating 200
years of witness
for the Lord
Jesus Christ**

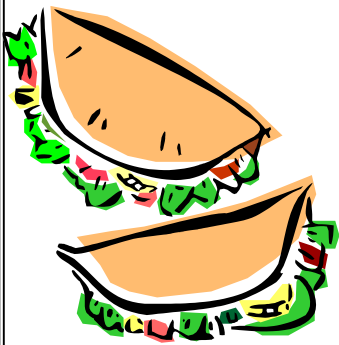
Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witness, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Winter

Greetings! Can you believe the snow we're getting? I don't remember the last time the ground was covered like this in the beginning of December. It seems like normally I can still play a round or two of golf after Thanksgiving...maybe not this year. It is beautiful outside though, I don't mind that.

Here are a few dates I wanted to make sure that you were aware of for Presby Youth stuff:



December 19th: Christmas party for both Jr. & Sr. High -6-8 pm at the church.

We will be having a "Taco/Burrito Bar" for dinner. If you'd like to contribute, check with Barb Reitsma (reitsmab@denison.edu) to see what you can bring.

December 20th: Christmas shopping for Jr. & Sr. High at 1 pm. -Bring money for CRC teens' gifts (some parent chaperone's are needed, please let me know if you're interested).

December 23 & 26th: No Youth Fellowship (we will have it the following week)



January 2nd: Parent Meeting at 9:45 am. I'm not yet sure where we'll meet in the church. We'll be discussing confirmation, plans for the Summer, and other upcoming events.

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me via email or phone.
In Christ,
Kyle



Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these the kingdom of heaven belongs." Matthew 19:14

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL GRADES K-5

Last Sunday the children enjoyed shopping for the family they adopted for Christmas. Over the course of the last four weeks, the children did many extra chores and earned \$162.77. They did anything from cleaning horse stalls, sweeping barns and decks, dusting, yard work, cleaning bathrooms, and vacuuming, to doing dishes, folding laundry, cleaning basements and moving furniture. The children put their hearts and souls into this community project. Thank you to the children - A.J. and Jacob Camillo, Corinne Eutsey, Cassidy and Molly Gebhardt, Logan Kaufman, Lydia McKenzie, Josephine Nonnan, Anna Paxton, Olivia Wiley and the parents and grandparents who guided them through the true meaning of giving. Jesus loves all of you and appreciates the love, dedication and hard work you did for our adopted family. CONGRATULATIONS FAMILIES! WHAT A GREAT TEAM EFFORT!



Practices for the Christmas Eve program will be next Sunday during Sunday School - December 19th from 9:55 -10:55 and Tuesday, December 21st from 7:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. at the church. If you have any questions, please contact Missy Kaufman at 392-2255.

There will be no Sunday School on December 26th. Sunday School for Grades K-5 will resume January 2nd at 9:55 in the large group Sunday School room.



Many thanks to all of you who responded to our first request for supply donations! It's been encouraging and humbling to witness how generous the congregation has already been to this new ministry, and we haven't even begun the program yet!

We are still seeking donations of supplies for this program, though our list has been slightly revised. See below:

decorative paper (wrapping paper, design paper, patterned paper, wall paper, etc)

fabrics (all sizes and quantities welcome)

yarn

ribbon

cotton canvas

easels

feathers

buttons

artificial plants/ flowers

water color paper

drawing paper

assorted tissue paper

plastic table clothes

paints

paint brushes

Please drop off donations in the designated box located in the church's foyer, or contact me to make special arrangements: bewiley@gmail.com or 740-398-7019.

Thanks again for your support and prayers for this new ministry.

Sincerely,

Liz Wiley

Cont. from page 1

Imagine my surprise when upon hearing my story, Melissa responded with, "Let's do it." And so, three days later, on first day of Melissa's unemployment, we wrote a check to World Vision (as we've been discussing world hunger with the teens recently).

Melissa and I want to invest in Micah, we want him to be blessed. But who would be better to put our trust in for blessings than the Lord Almighty? Google can't give me those same results, neither can Apple, or Verizon, or any of the leading markets out there! Of course I am not saying that financial investment is a bad thing. Since this happened in our lives we have continued a discussion on stock investment. My point is that if we believe that God is faithful to His promises, then we can believe that the generous man will not only refresh others, but he will in turn be refreshed.

Melissa and I have desired to share this story with you because many of you have been so generous with us. We don't want any of you to miss the amazing gifts that God has planned for you and your family. The more you give away, the more God is going to bless you. I'm not going to tell you that I believe that promise with all my heart, there are many times that it seems upside down. Yet God's Word is clear, and God is faithful to His Word.

With Praise and Thanks in Christ our Blessing,

Kyle Peters



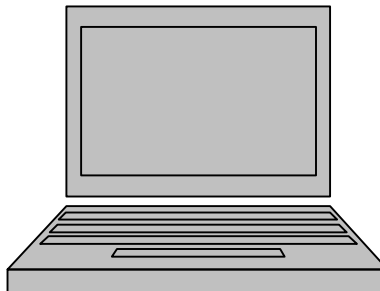
A Special Thank You...

Words are hardly adequate when we try to express our thanks to everyone who offered help to us during my recent health event. We so appreciate the cards and visits, food and phone calls, and most of all-the prayers. I was filled with a peace that only comes as a gift from God, and I am humbly grateful for each day that I am here to serve the Lord. We love you all, and look forward to our future as part of this amazing faith community.

Your friends in Christ,
Marilyn and Mead

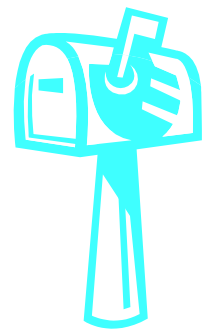
FACEBOOK First Presbyterian Finding Fans on Facebook

First Presbyterian Church has started a Facebook page that allows members and friends to interact and stay informed about events and news from our church. Join more than 57 others and "Like" First Presbyterian Church of Mount Vernon, Ohio at www.facebook.com.



. Got Mail?

Are you a snowbird? A college student? Bought a new home? Started a new job out of town? If so, please notify the church office of your new postal address, phone number, email address and other contact information so you can continue to receive "The Communicator", emails and other communications. If your postal address is temporary, please indicate a start and end date. The church data base will automatically change your address if the dates are entered (this needs to be done each calendar year). Parents are encouraged to provide current information for kids in college or are grown, have moved away and wish to stay in touch until they find a new church home. You can put the information in the Sunday offering plate, phone the church office or send an email.



Congregational & Corporate Annual Meeting

10:30am – January 23, 2011

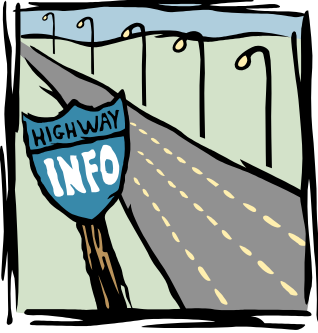
In the Fellowship Hall

The Session of First Presbyterian Church has scheduled a Congregational & Corporate Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 23, 2011 at 10:30am, for the purpose of receiving the Annual Report, updating and revising the Bylaws/Regulations and to transact any other appropriate business. The meeting will be held during the Fellowship Breakfast that is also scheduled for that morning.

Annual Report: All ministries of First Presbyterian Church, including committees, teams and special functions are invited to submit a written report to the Church office for inclusion in the Annual Report to the Congregation. In order to provide sufficient time for publication, reports that are hand written must be submitted not later than January 10. If the report is word processed (please use Microsoft Word), please email to the church office not later than January 14. When using word processing, please do not use any imbedded commands. Imbedded commands make it very difficult for the Administrative Assistant to properly format the report. If you have questions, please contact Holly in the Church office. Reports should include information that demonstrates how this Church is fulfilling our Mission “To grow in the knowledge and love of our Lord Jesus Christ and make Him known in our community and the world.”

Bylaws/Regulations Revision: The Session has done a thorough review of the Bylaws/Regulations of The First Presbyterian Church of Mount Vernon, Ohio USA, Ohio Corporation #268584, and determined it is time to do a revision. The revision will bring the business practices of the Church into compliance with the Book of Order, Presbyterian Church of the USA and with actual practice and traditions of this Church. The complete text of the proposed revision will be mailed to all active members of First Presbyterian Church prior to the meeting on January 23.

If you wish to suggest additional items for the agenda at the Annual Meeting January 23, please submit them to Clerk of Session William Shriver not later than January 7 so the active Elders can take action at their regularly scheduled Session meeting.



3 C's

Do you remember when 3 C's brought to mind the connecting highway from Cincinnati to Columbus to Cleveland? Ah, nostalgia!

Let's look at 3 C's today....Consumed, Changes and Choices.

We come into God's beautiful world with nothing, using his resources, bask in his love and leave his world with nothing. Are we good, stewards of God's world and all that he provides for us? Or do we "worship" things instead of God alone?

As young people we live in a "me" world. When do we make (or do we) the transition to God's world and obey his commandments? Changes occur in many ways that affect our thinking and living. We finally (hopefully) come to the realization that things are "gifts from God and not to be worshipped.

In making choices, as we mature, we find rewards in assisting others in many ways. Deacons daily witness choices and changes that we made through circumstances over which we have no control. Our mission and ministry in God's love proves we can and do rise above being consumed by things. It isn't easy in today's high-tech media advertising frenzy to make right choices. May we continue to live faithfully in God's love and work to make Jesus Christ known in our community and the world.

Peace and Blessings,

Ellen

Building and Grounds

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Fall clean up Saturday in November. Many hands make the work go faster and the fellowship is a gift to us all. We will connect again in the Spring to beautify our grounds with the planting of flowers and mulching etc. Thanks again.

The Building and Grounds Committee



Fellowship Breakfasts for 2010/2011

“They devoted themselves to the apostle’s teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer” *Acts 2:42*

Thank you to all who stepped up to baking, setting up and cleaning up for the breakfast on October 17th; your time and efforts are so appreciated and your devotion to this ministry inspires me. And a special thanks goes out to Vera, for the abundant fruit salad she single-handedly prepared..... amazing!

The next Fellowship breakfast will take place on Sunday, January 23rd, at 9:45 AM, in Fellowship Hall. It is once again timeto bring back pancakes! It seems like a fitting menu for the winter and one which most enjoy. There will also be fruit, yogurt and granola so.....looking ahead, I will need your help in making granola (I can provide the recipe), cutting up some apples and flipping pancakes. Working together provides great opportunities in getting to know one another and to share joys and concerns.

Those wonderful “behind-the-scenes” folks who set up and clean up are always needed.....you are the best! And we need your assistance again. Three individuals from the first service for clean up would be ideal.....And two from the second service for set up would be a big help.

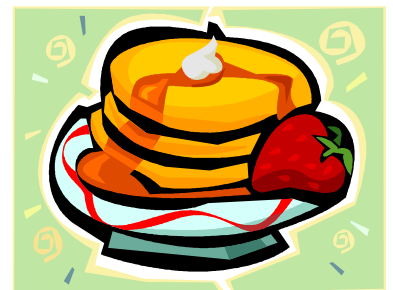
We look forward to your presence at this Fellowship table....and to all that you bring in fellowship, love and spirit.

God bless you all.

Gratefully,

Penny Sajkowsky 397-2251 penny.sajkowsky@gmail.com

Cindy Bevington



What: **Moms2Moms**

When: **2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month at 9 am
in Fellowship Hall**



This fall our church launched an exciting **new ministry for mothers of babies and preschoolers** called **Moms2Moms**. The group is a ministry of support, encouragement, and friendship for both Christian and nonChristian mothers in Mount Vernon and surrounding areas. Early motherhood is a time of trials as well as joys, both of which cause women to reconsider and redefine themselves in many ways. Moms2Moms will give these women the opportunity to develop relationships and receive advice that will strengthen them for the task of caring for small children. Each meeting will include an ice breaker; a talk, lesson, or activity of some kind; and a snackchat time of fellowship. Childcare will be provided, allowing women to enjoy much needed interaction with their peers. Moms2Moms will also schedule play dates, Moms Nights Out, and weekend retreats so that mothers' who cannot attend regular meetings can benefit from this group. Even though this ministry is geared towards mothers of young children, there are many ways you can participate::

*Pray that our Lord would use this ministry to strengthen and encourage women in our community.

*Use the flier included in this month s communicator to invite a mother of young children that you ' know from your neighborhood, workplace, or other involvements.

*Be present at meetings to greet attending mothers and help them find their way to the fellowship hall, nursery rooms, and other places in our church.

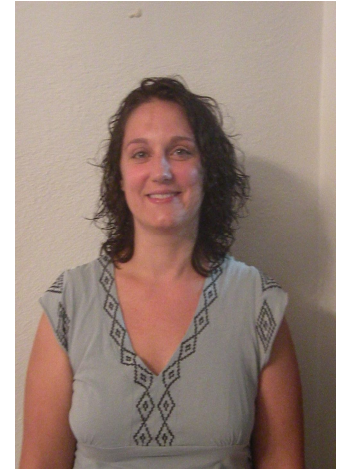
*Help provide childcare by working in the nursery on an occasional or regular basis.

*Share your gifts and talents with these young mothers in the form of a lesson or activity. Topics suggested so far include parenting, cooking, crafts, exercise, etc. We would love to hear your ideas for curriculum! *Prepare a snack for a meeting.

If you yourself are a mother of a baby or young children, we would love to have you attend!

Please contact Amber Vanderhoof (7405011340 or ambervander@yahoo.com) if you are willing to participate or have any questions.

Mollie West has lived in Mount Vernon since she was 10 years old. As a child she attended First Presbyterian Church but stopped coming when she became an adult. She credits her son's birth as the reason she sought to return, "I had my son, Will, in September, 2009, and his birth changed my life. I felt like I was part of a miracle and wanted to share him with God." In a conversation about Will's baptism, Jonathan suggested Mollie attend the new Alpha course that was starting up at the church. Mollie says she soon fell in love with it, "I continued on the next course as a helper and then the following one as a leader." In addition to Alpha, Mollie has enjoyed helping Kyle and the children with Our Chapel, and she wants to learn more about how she might help with the Art Program and the youth mission trips. Mollie gets excited when she thinks about the future of our church, "I love the community involvement. I love that people make you feel like family." She also notes she's excited to watch Will benefit from all the blessings that come from growing up in the church. She looks forward to his involvement in Sunday School and the friendships he'll have through his church experiences.



Petite Orange and Raspberry Pochettes

Recipe courtesy of Melissa D'Arabian for Food Network Magazine

Prep Time: 1 hr 33 min Cook Time: 22 min Level: Easy

Serves: 3 dozen cookies



INGREDIENTS

- 2 sticks unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 8 ounces [cream cheese](#), at room temperature
- 2 cups all-purpose flour, plus more for dusting
- 1/3 cup orange [marmalade](#)
- 1/3 cup [raspberry jam](#)

CONFECTIONERS' SUGAR, FOR DUSTING

DIRECTIONS

Beat the butter and cream cheese in a bowl with a [mixer](#) until light and creamy. Slowly add the flour, mixing just until a dough forms (do not overmix). Divide the dough into 2 balls, then flatten each into a disk. Wrap in [plastic wrap](#) and refrigerate until firm, at least 1 hour.

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F. Roll out 1 disk of dough on a floured surface with a floured [rolling pin](#) to 1/8 inch thick. Cut out as many rounds as you can using a 3-inch-round fluted cutter. Top each with a heaping half-teaspoonful of [orange](#) marmalade. Brush the edge of the dough with water, then fold the dough over to make a half-moon and press to seal. Place on an ungreased baking sheet. Reroll the [dough](#) scraps and repeat, then repeat with the remaining disk of dough, filling with the raspberry [jam](#).

Bake the cookies until golden, 20 to 22 minutes. Transfer to a rack to cool completely. [Dust](#) generously with confectioners' sugar.

CHRISTMAS LOVE

Paraphrase of 1 Corinthians 13

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing in the choir's cantata but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child.

Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the spouse.

Love is kind, though harried and tired.

Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.

Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way.



Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails. Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, but giving the gift of CHRISTMAS LOVE will endure.

Standing calendar events

Please remember to fill out a building use event form for all events and return to the office.

Sunday:

7:30 a.m. Worship Team Practice **8:30 a.m.** Early Worship Service with Communion

9:55 a.m. Church School for everyone.

11 a.m. Traditional Worship Service with Communion served on the first Sunday of the month.

6-8 p.m. Sr. High Fellowship-Youth Room

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Monday:

5:30 p.m. Hot Meals **7 pm** Cub Scouts

Tuesday:

2nd & 4th Tues. 9 am– Moms2Moms

Noon Men's Prayer Lunch-Kitchen **6 pm** Prayer Meeting **6:45**-Girl Scouts

7 PM-Boy Scouts **7PM**-Divorce Care

1st Tuesday of Month 7 p.m. Finance Meeting-Chuck Waugh

2nd Tuesday of Month 7 pm Session Meeting

3rd Tuesday of Month 6 PM Leap Service

4th Tuesday at 7 pm Committee Meetings– Building & Grounds-M. Weil & Missions Committee –B. Malek

Wednesday:

2nd Wednesday of the month 9:45 am Women's Circle Meeting

6 pm Hand Bells **7 pm** Worship Team Practice **7 PM** Chancel Choir

Thursday:

9:30am Women's Bible Study –Parlor **11 am** Bridge Club-Knox Meeting Room

Noon-AA meeting –CE bldg. **6-8 pm** Jr. High Fellowship-Youth Room **6 pm** Alpha –Parlor

Saturday: Last Saturday of the month 9 a.m. Men's Fellowship Breakfast-Parlor

SPECIAL EVENTS

DEACONS CARE & COMPASSION

"...pray for each other so that you may be healed..." James 5:16

At the Ohio Eastern Star Home

Linda Fox Katherine Garzieri
Maxine Peters Martha Warden
Edith Whitney (*Sally Martin's grandmother*)

Autumn Health Care

Helen and Everett Chrisman

The Living Center

Jean Fribley Myra Philpott

At Home

Rebecca Grove Ruth Grove
Treva Haltermon
Ellen Proper
Dorothy White

In the Military

Jacob and Curtis Hahn-USMC-Moreland's
Nephews-Afghanistan
Brian Short-USMC-Afghanistan
Matt Patterson-USN -P. Patterson's son

Special Prayer Concerns

Jerry and Mary Ellen Baugher (*Jerry-cancer,
Karen Bell's parents*)
Madeline Blamer (*kidney-Weil's granddaughter*)
Darla Brown (*Niece of Sally Conway*)
Anna Beall Carson (*friend of B. Phillippi*)
Glenn DeBoard (*Liver cancer*)
John Ewalt
Tom Hall (*cancer-friend of Stone family*)
Marilee Harrison (*surgery*)
Jennifer Hatton (*Tyson's granddaughter*)
Kathy Lapp *surgery*
Jackie Lehr
Reverend and Mrs. Markle (*friends of Toby Lord*)
Matt Palmer (*Lung cancer-friend of Sally Martin*)
Barbara Reitsma
Lowell Rollins (*heart surgery*)
Robert Kidder (*Polly Patterson's father*)
Harriet Sells (*Toby Lord's sister.in law*)
Red Shaw (*cancer*)
Lindsay Smith (*Crones disease*)
Jason Southern (*malig. Tumor-V. Donnelly cousin*)
Kirk Swartz (*cancer-Ketner's nephew*)
Misty Whitmann (*Lupus-family of Shillito's*)
Bertha Wright (*heart attack-K. Wright's mother*)

**COMMUNION**

If you have an update to the Deacons Care & Compassion list please let the Church Office know as we would like to stay as up to date as possible. Also, If you are a shut in or know of a shut in who would enjoy having communion, please contact the office with your name, date, time and location as there are friends who are willing and anxious to come to you and share the sacraments. Thanks!



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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WE'RE ON THE WEB

WWW.MTVPRES.ORG

The web site has the most up to date information about what is happening in the life of the church.

You can access the Interactive Church Calendar, Sermon Audio Archives and much more. The web site is constantly updated, so be sure to check it out!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

December 1
Phil Herald

December 2
Rebecca Grove

December 3
Joe Hathaway
Julie Wilbur

December 5
Carrie Swingle

December 6
Ana Bergeson
John Noonan

December 7
Anthony Camillo
Jacob Camillo
Vera Stetson

December 8
Joann Ketner

December 10
Margene Albright
Debbie Shepherd-Gregg

December 11
Sharon Ewalt
Jennifer Reynolds
Ian Richardson

December 12
Rebecca Hinch
Brenda Schultze

December 15
Alex Shillito

December 16
Ginny Cameron
Ruth Crumm

December 20
Eric Vanderhoof

December 23
Ralph Haffenden

December 25
Tim Franks

December 26
Sarah Kahl



December 27
John Carhart
Jen Highnam

December 28
Beth Ruth
Bonnie Stone

January 1
Melisa Hathaway

January 4
Margaret Mazza

January 8
Kim Reitsma

January 9
Melanie Bolender
Matthew Patterson

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY SERVICES

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 19

8:30 am Contemporary and 11:00 am Traditional

Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24

7:00 pm Family Service including Children's Pageant

(babysitting is available for 7 pm service)

11:00 pm Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 26

8:30 am Contemporary and 11:00 am Traditional

