

## HOW TO RECEIVE CHRIST

1. Admit your need.  
*"I am a sinner."*
2. Be willing to turn from your sins.  
*"I am sorry for my sins, Lord. Please forgive me."*
3. Believe that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross and rose from the grave.  
*"I believe you did what you said you did—that you died on the cross then rose from the dead and have the power to save me."*
4. Through prayer, invite Jesus Christ to come in and control your life through the Holy Spirit.  
*"Please come into my life and change me. Make me a new person."*
5. If you have recently received Christ, we would like to give you a Bible and some study materials. Contact Janine Miller if you are interested.

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## Events in Our Church Family

### Monday

Youth New Year's Eve Party (Church)

### Tuesday

*Happy New Year's!*

### Wednesday

6:15 am

Men's Fellowship (Fellowship Hall)

### Sunday

8:30 am

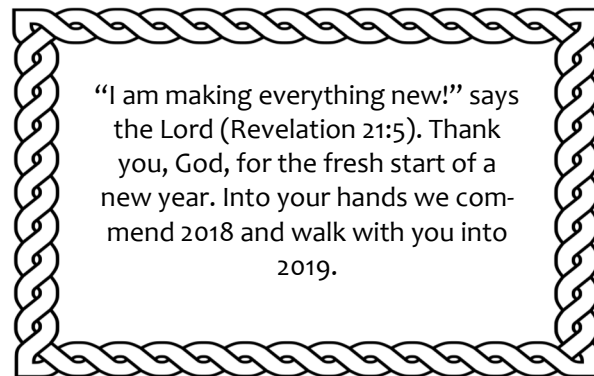
Traditional Worship

10:00 am

Sunday School for All Ages

11:00 am

Contemporary Worship



"I am making everything new!" says the Lord (Revelation 21:5). Thank you, God, for the fresh start of a new year. Into your hands we commend 2018 and walk with you into 2019.



# FPC NEWS

Dec. 30, 2018

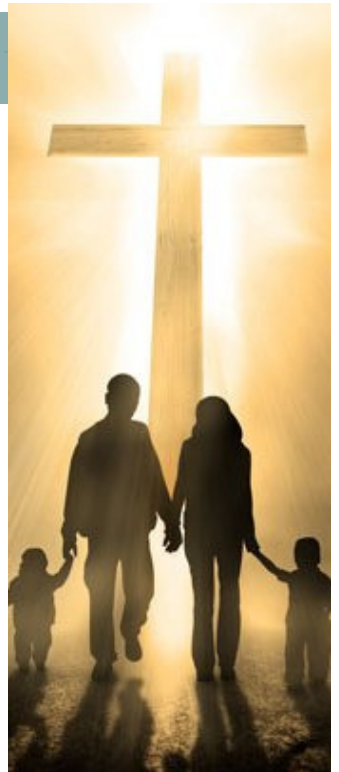


## New Year's Eve Party for Our Teens

"First Friday" for January is actually going to be the "last Monday" of December. We're having a New Year's Eve Party for our junior and senior high school students tomorrow evening here at the church. The time will be announced in church this morning, but come prepared to have a lot of fun and eat plenty of food!

## 2019 Offering Envelopes

Be sure to pick up your offering envelopes for 2019 from the table in the Fellowship Hall. If you do not see your name and would like envelopes, please contact Jane Hildebrand. If you haven't picked up your envelopes by next Sunday, we will be mailing them out. Please save us the shipping cost and take them home with you today!



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## From the Pastor

Like most kids, I eagerly anticipated Christmas. My parents were epic gift givers. The last gift was always the best, and the race to get there couldn't be faster! One year it was a drafting table, another it was a Super Nintendo, and another it was an electronic drum set. I had it all! I remember the nights after Christmas wondering how long it would take to get to the next Christmas morning... Those 300+ days could not move quick enough!

Don't hear what I am not saying, I was definitely a blessed kid who had a lot -- a pretty wonderful and caring family, and many material things, but I was all wrong.

I found this out in middle school at a youth group retreat. On this retreat, I heard a man named John share how he had done a thing that seemed quite foreign to me -- he placed faith in Jesus as his Lord and Savior and received a free gift from God of salvation by grace.

"A gift from God?" I wondered... I didn't know that God gave gifts. I thought He just demanded that I was a good person and to go to church (so boring!). Not a fun guy to me! But the gift He gave also was news to me.

A gift that never gets old, dusty, or forgotten in the pile of next year's gifts?

A gift that is given in spite of the fact that I am such an imperfect gift-receiver?

This was a gift I had never heard of. I thought I had to be a good kid. I thought my good had to outweigh my bad. I thought I had to keep my elbows off the dinner table and eat all my food. I thought that it was upon my efforts -- how often I had asked for forgiveness of my sins -- how often I had said sorry to God -- how many people I prayed for and smiled at, etc. But

John said otherwise. It was a gift given in spite of me but for me in particular. It was the best gift ever to be given, because it was truly unearned and would free me from my guilt, shame, stress and anxiety.

Have you heard of this gift before? The Apostle Paul says: *For it is by grace that you have been saved through faith, not of yourselves, it is a gift from God, not by works so that no one may boast.* This gift is offered to all who would receive it.

Now I am a boring adult who doesn't want too much on Christmas mornings. Frankly, I buy what I feel I want or need at or around the time that feeling arises, if the funds are available. The magic of gift-receiving is not exactly there any longer the way it was when I was a kid. However, the blessing of the gift I received in middle school is still as magical in my heart. It is the best gift I ever received! -- even better than Mario Cart!

On this Christmas, I want to ask you two questions: First, as John gave me the gift of the good news, are you willing to give someone else such a valuable gift? John put himself aside for a moment to share with some distracted, hormone-driven middle schoolers an honest and transparent story of his need for something outside of himself, and how he found that in Jesus. Are you willing to do the same? Will you be a gift giver?

Secondly, have you received this gift? In spite of the words of Cousin Eddie about the "Jelly of the Month Club", this gift is not simply "the gift that keeps on giving all year." No, this gift keeps giving eternally, and it gives the most specifically in those moments when we feel we least deserving of it.

My prayer for you this Christmas season is for generosity. And I pray that that begins by giving and receiving the good news of the salvation found in Jesus Christ alone.

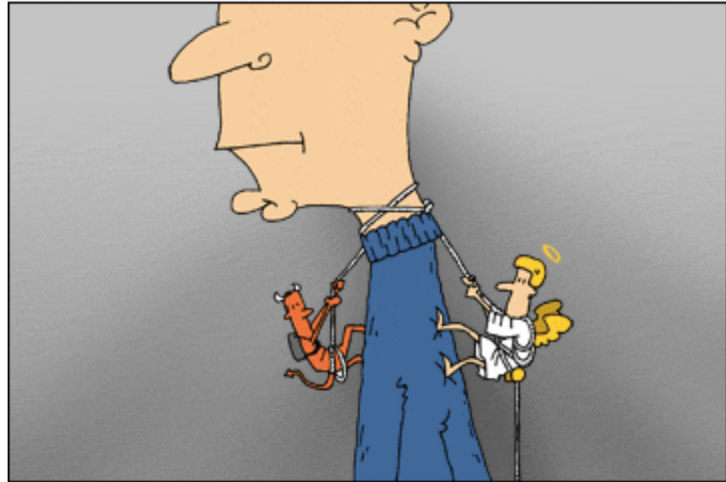
## Upcoming Sermon Topics

- Jan. 6—Beginning Our Walk, but Stalling (Luke 9:51-56)
- Jan. 13—Restarting Our Walk with Power (Luke 10:1, 17-20)
- Jan. 20—Listening to, Not Simply Hearing (Luke 10:25-42)
- Jan. 27—Asking with Devotion (Luke 11:1-9)
- Feb. 3—Blessing and Where It Comes From (Luke 11:27, 28)

## Where to turn to for help & answers...

Card Ministry.....	Barbara Florence
Chair Loan .....	Janine Miller
Change of Address, Phone or Name.....	Janine Miller
Church Calendar.....	Janine Miller
Deacons.....	Dan Smith, Fred Berge, Jim Lightle Bob Entler, Steve Paugh, Brad Timmons
Food Pantry .....	Jim Lightle, Fred Berge Dan Smith
Maintenance, Church Building.....	Bob Entler
Membership.....	Pastor Aaron White
Music Ministry .....	Carol Wildman, Deanna Mattinson
Newsletter .....	Janine Miller
Nursery .....	Julie White
Pioneer Clubs.....	Rachel Baldauff
Prayer Chain .....	Janine Miller
Rental, Church Facilities.....	Janine Miller
Session .....	Pastor Aaron White, Dave Morrow, Aaron Baldauff Chuck Wildman, Jim Hildebrand, Janine Miller, Rob Vaughn
Small Groups .....	Don Grigorenko
Website .....	Janine Miller
Youth Ministry.....	Dave Morrow, Pam Vaughn, Rachel Baldauff

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SKINNY MEL HAD, LIKE, ABSOLUTELY NO SHOULDERS WHATSOEVER

### January's Food Pantry Requests

#### Soup & Crackers

Thank you so much for your donations! Please place them in the Food Pantry bin in the Fellowship Hall.

### January Greeters & Readers

#### Greeters

8:30 Service—Fred & Daphne Berge  
11:00 Service—Steve & Terri Paugh

#### 8:30 Service Reader

Tom Staton

### January Anniversaries



- Jan. 17 Doug & Carolyn Ferguson—29 years
- Jan. 21 Chuck & Carol Wildman—35 years
- Jan. 23 Jeff & Cathy Delk—37 years

### Men's Bible Study

The Men's Saturday Morning Bible Study will begin again on Saturday, January 19, at 7:00 am at the home of Greg Rice. We will be studying Nehemiah. If you have any questions or would like to join us, please contact Keith Rotroff or David Morrow.

### 2019 Greeters

Greeters are an incredibly important part of our Sunday morning ministry. They are usually the first faces we see when we walk in the door and it often can set the mood for the morning, making us feel welcome and part of the church family.

**We are in need of several months worth of greeters for 2019.** Please see the sign-up sheet on the Get Connected table if you can help. If you'd like, you are welcome to sign up for more than one month, or if you can only do a few Sundays for the one of the open months, please put that down as well. If you have any questions, please see Janine Miller.



*If you weren't able to pick up your poinsettia on Christmas Eve, please don't forget it this morning! Our flowers need a good home!*

### Merry Christmas!

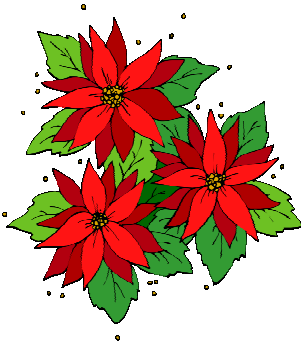
*"With miracles and magic, the season spreads its cheer  
And brings sweet hopes for happiness throughout the coming year."*

Merry Christmas to all you "happy Presbyterians" in South Charleston, Ohio. I always enjoyed my times at your church and so pleased that my son is involved—keep him busy!!

God bless you all and have a blessed new year!

Love,  
Dorothy Trayner in sunny Florida  
(Jim Hildebrand's mother)

# Poinsettia Memorials



Name	In Memory of...
Jodi Smith	Mike Maddex, Jean Maddex, Martha Burton
Tom & Lois Staton	Harvey William Staton
Fred & Daphne Berge	Mary & Lyford Berge, Vivian & Jim Phillips, Uncle Richard
Barbara Florence	Family & Friends
Severt Family	Joy & Angie Severt
Nancy Deerwester	Gary Deerwester, Family & Friends
Don & Louise Berrier	Lois & Lewis Frederick, Don & Joyce Berrier, Ron Abrams, Julia Bunch, Kent Lookabaugh
Tim & Vicki Cordial	Our parents, brother, & nephew
Jeff & Cathy Delk	Ken Delk & Patricia Girton
Brad & Diana Timmons	John & Vivian Hall and Ken & Betty Timmons
Marianna Polglase	Annamelia & A. Austin Wildman
Rusty & Julie White & Family	James McGinnis (Dad), Ginnie Moore
Larry & Roberta Miller	Margaret & Allen Miller, Bob & Clara Runyan
Rose White	Vivian White
Kenny & Janice Smith	Norwood & Louise Stewart, Nina Roberts
Bob & April Entler	Leroy & Mary Craig, Charles & Alan Entler,

Thanks to the following people for their service to God during the past month:

**Aaron & Rachel Baldauff** and **Rusty & Julie White** for greeting at our worship services.

**Laura Waymire, Raelyn Severt, Deanna, Kate & Scarlet Mattinson, Julie White, & Pam Vaughn** for serving in the nursery.

**John Eichelberger** for all his hard work in the hallway behind the Sanctuary Overflow.

**Pastor Aaron, Jay Mitchell, Paul Webb, & Dave Morrow** for participating in the craziness and relationships at 5th Quarter at Gilbert's.

**Julie Parker** for arranging the displays in the windows at Gilbert's.

**Paul Smith** for arranging and taking care of our poinsettias and for decorating the church for Christmas.

**Tom & Lois Staton** for the delicious Women's Christmas Brunch they prepared and for the lovely devotional Lois shared.

**Fred & Daphne Berge, the Mattinson Family, the Aaron White Family, the Baldauff family, Steve & Terri Paugh, Paul and Erin Webb, the Mitchell Family, and Dave & Rhonda Bryant** for lighting the Advent candles and doing a weekly reading at worship services.

**The Charleston Brass (Tom Allen, Alan Stiles, John Eichelberger, Jim Hildebrand, Chaylee Liberator), Praise Band (Carol Wildman, Tim Sullivan, Chris Cain, Shelly Dodds, Arlene Morrow, Steve Paugh), the Jazz Trio (Carol Wildman, Aaron White, Tom Allen), Brad Timmons and Chuck Wildman** for helping with the Christmas Eve Service.

**Brad Timmons, Steve Paugh, & Chris Cain** for putting in the new sound booth and all of its wiring.



When using church facilities, please don't forget to turn off the lights when you leave.

