

Volume 10 - Issue-1 **First Presbyterian Church,
Paulding Ohio**

Thoughts from Ian...



January 2024 Newsletter

"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich." 2 Corinthians 8:9

As a kid in the 90s, I remember watching *Saved By The Bell*, listening to Michael Jackson, and cheering for Michael Jordan. The 90s were a fun era. One of the icons of this era was MC Hammer. His parachute pants and energetic dance moves were quintessential to 90s pop culture. His hit song, "U Can't Touch This" brought him numerous awards and he made his millions.

Only recently did I learn that even though MC Hammer had made over \$30 million, he lost it all within 6 years. He was wildly rich and then soon filed for bankruptcy. What happened?

MC Hammer spent it all. He bought a \$12 million mansion. He bought over a dozen luxury cars. He acquired a private jet and helicopters. He covered his hot tub and toilet with gold. He hired an entourage of 200 people to follow him around. He spent more than the millions he made and soon found himself in \$13 million in debt. An icon of the 90s, had fallen into poverty.

During Advent, we remember someone of much greater wealth who lost it all, on purpose. In 2 Corinthians 8, the Apostle Paul encourages a church to "excel at the grace of giving." Paul does not command them to give, but rather reminds them of the generous grace of Jesus Christ, who "though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9).

Jesus left the riches of heaven to become a poor man. As Jesus said, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head" (Matthew 8:20). Jesus did not bring with him an entourage of 200 angels to wait on his every need on earth. He came as a helpless baby into a working poor family. Jesus was not born in a palace with golden hot tubs and toilets. He gave up the luxuries of heaven so that he might live a difficult life and pay our debt of sin on the cross. He gave up everything so that he might "save the lost" (Luke 19:10).

Jesus gave His life for us that we might experience the riches of forgiveness, being set right with God, adopted into God's family, and enjoy eternal life. God is the most generous person of all and we were created to be in His image, to be like God. This Advent, may we give generously in the spirit of the One who willing became impoverished for our riches. Thanks be to God.



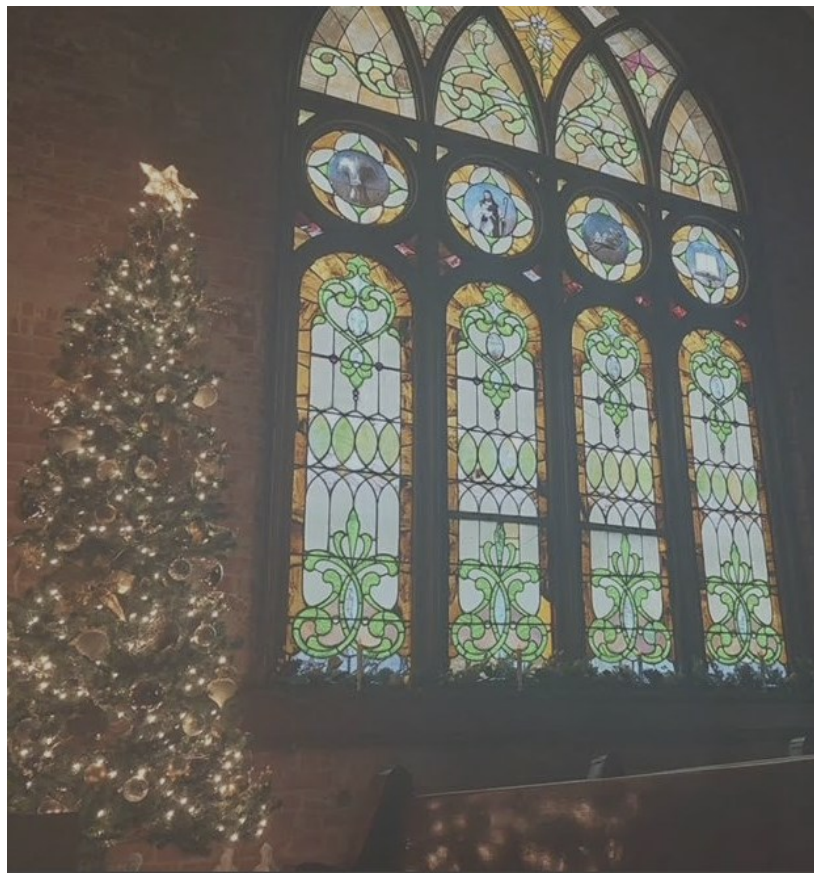
JANUARY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 	2 9AM Deacons Grounded Noon-LDL Past Time	3	4 7PM Women's Board NA meets 7:30 PM	5 Drug Court	6 8 AM Men's Breakfast Past Time
7 10:30-Worship Service COMMUNION	8	9	10 7PM Choir	11 6:30PM Women's Bible Study NA meets 7:30PM	12	13
14 10:30- Worship Service	15 	16 10AM- Caregiver Sup- port Group- Senior Center	17 7PM Choir	18 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study NA meets 7:30 PM	19 Drug Court	20
21 10:30- Worship Service <u>Annual meeting</u>	22	23	24 7PM Choir	25 6:30PM Women's Bible Study NA meets 7:30 PM	26	27
28 <u>10:30- Worship Service</u>	29	30	31 7PM Choir			

Apologies for the lateness of the newsletter. Problems with the copier is why it is in black and white.



Above- At the December Deacon's meeting, the Deacons prepared tins of cookies for shut-ins. The Ferguson children made tree ornaments under the direction of Deacon Brent. **Left to Right**—Mary McMaster, Patty Radel, Martha Panches, Brent Fishbaugh. Making sure their coffee cups don't hit the floor is Doug Radel and Paster Ian. Becky Riley is behind the camera.



Right and Above Right— The Sanctuary in all it's glory on Christmas Eve during the Candlelight Service.



Thank you to our church family for the Christmas gifts. We deeply appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity.

You are a blessing to us!
The Fergusons

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

2— Dianna Karlstadt
4— Darwin Cline
10— Mary VanAtta
11— Kenny Robinson
12— Brynn Ferguson
16— Larry Fishbaugh
20— Kristen (Koenig) Gerber
22— Harry Wiebe

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

12— Rob and Chris Henson



	X financial tidbits 11 2023.xlsx		
	A	B	C
1	FINANCIAL TIDBITS FROM NOVEMBER		
2	Designated Gifts:		
3	Amount	Purpose	
4	\$65.00	Donation for Historical Fund	
5	\$300.00	Missions	
6	\$200.00	Outreach Fund for 5QEvent	
7	\$200.00	For Capital Projects	
8	\$219.47	Nicelley investment dividend	
9	Notable Expenditures:		
10	Amount	Payee	Purpose
11	\$600.00	Hands of Hope Pregnancy Center	2023 allocation
12	\$600.00	Hands of Hope Pregnancy Center	2023 extra allocation
13	\$600.00	Caring Sharing Food Pantry	2023 allocation for operating expenses
14	\$600.00	Caring Sharing Food Pantry	2023 allocation for building fund
15	\$600.00	Gods Share Program	2023 extra allocation
16	\$600.00	Gideons International	2023 extra allocation
17	\$500.00	Evangelical Presyterian Church	2023 Christmas gift Tim & Karen Mindling
18	\$500.00	Evangelical Presyterian Church	2023 Christmas gift Benjamin & Monica Bailey
19	\$500.00	Wycliffe Bible Tanslators	2023 Christmas gift Brian & Beth Schwartz
20	\$500.00	ABWE	2023 Christmas gift Don & Karen Taber
21	\$1,500.00	Evangelical Presyterian Church	2023 extra allocation Tim & Karen Mindling
22	\$1,500.00	Evangelical Presyterian Church	2023 extra allocation Benjamin & Monica Bailey
23	\$1,500.00	Wycliffe Bible Tanslators	2023 extra allocation Brian & Beth Schwartz
24	\$1,500.00	ABWE	2023 extra allocation Don & Karen Taber
25	\$600.00	Compassion International	2023 mission allocation Henry Herrera Herrera
26	\$100.00	Compassion International	2023 Christmas gift Henry Herrera Herrera
27	\$600.00	Compassion International	2023 extra allocation Henry Herrera Herrera
28	\$225.00	West Bend Printing	Laminate historical display
29	\$100.00	Steve Heilshorn	Guest speaker fee
30	Budget vs Actual Income:		
31	\$147,182.36	Budgeted Income	
32	\$137,391.85	Actual Income	
33	(\$9,790.51)	Difference	



From
Treasurer
Carol
Razo

HAPPENINGS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- *Deacons will meet on Tuesday, January 2nd 9AM at Grounded Coffee Shop.
- *Ladies Do Lunch are gathering at the Past Time Café on Tuesday, January 2nd at noon.
- *Women's Board will meet on Thursday, January 4th at 7PM in the Fellowship Hall.
- *Men's Breakfast on Saturday, January 6th, at 8AM at the Past Time Café.
- *The Annual Member Meeting will be on January 21st, immediately after church service.
- *Drug Court will meet this month on January 5th and 19th.
- *Women's Bible Study will start on Thursday, January 11th at 6:30 PM and will continue for eight weeks.
- *There are N.A. open meetings on Tuesdays at 6 PM at the Antwerp Community Church, as well as in our Presbyterian Church basement every Thursday evening at 7:30 PM.
- *The designated Deacon for January is Becky Riley. However, any Deacon may be approached for questions or concerns.

GLIMPSES AROUND THE SANCTUARY IN CANDLELIGHT



Candles were lit from the alter candles and then shared with the congregation, while singing Silent Night.

This is a fabulous tradition that our church enjoys every year. Please make plans to join us in 2024. There will be a candle waiting for you.

NEW STAR

The Youth of the church and community presented the play *New Star* during the worship service on December 10th.



The pews were filled with extended family and members to watch the children perform.



ADVENT



Several church families helped in the Lighting of the Advent Candles every Sunday throughout December, the last one being lit on Christmas Eve.



ANGEL TREE

Jane Nice wants to thank everyone who generously supported the Paulding County Drug Court Angel Tree this Christmas. To everyone who bought gifts, donated cash, wrapping paper, bags and bows, and who wrapped presents. Thank You ! We Helped 11 families and their 35 children this year. Please continue to pray for them and their recovery. The gifts were distributed Friday during a special Drug Court.



Left— The gifts came pouring in. **Right**— wrapping in action. **Middle Left**—Drug Court with all the gifts. **Middle Right**— Jeremy and Amber and baby Lillian. **Bottom pic**— Judge Tiffany Beckman and the Drug Court participants.





Left- Some of the ladies gathered to see the play *Away in a Basement: The Church Basement Ladies* in Van Wert. They stopped at the Bob Evans for dinner.

Below -A small, but mighty group met at the Holly's in December for Ladies do Lunch.

Left to right- Alissa Ferguson, Barb Searing, Phyllis Crossland and Sue Crossland.

Below- Dan and Rachel (Razo) Orlando were married December 11th in a private ceremony at the home of her parent's Art and Carol Razo

CONGRATULATIONS !!



Below- Presby Singers celebrating the Season. **Back Row-**Sue C., Barb, Rhonda, Jill. **Front Row-**Sue P., Ruby and Don.



Sunday School at 9:00

Worship Service 10:30

**First Presbyterian Church
Corner of Caroline & Cherry
Paulding, OH 45879**



firstpresbyterianpaulding.com

**In Essentials, Unity,
In Non-Essentials, Liberty,
In All Things, Charity.**

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