



## **The Gospel is Public**

Our journey through the Gospel of Luke is ending. Advent is just around the corner and with it comes a new church year and new Gospel in which to soak our imaginations. Before we leave Luke behind, the message of the Big Table deserves one last consideration. One of the great temptations of the church is to privatize the good news of Jesus Christ. Perhaps the most influential American theological contribution has been the insistence on a personal response to God. It's not enough to simply be born into a Christian family or be a member of a church. The American Church has taught that individuals must personally respond to the good news of God in Christ. God cares not just about humanity writ large, but about you. That's true in so far as it goes, but the downside of such teaching is that we are tempted to think that the personal is also private. We begin to think that our relationship with God is simply a private matter, and public concerns are not God's concerns. Yet over and over throughout the Gospel of Luke we see that God's concerns are personal but never private. Luke 15 and 16 drive this home in both comforting and disturbing ways.

Is there a more comforting chapter of scripture than the parables of Luke 15, the lost sheep, the lost coin and the lost sons? Through them all we witness that God so cares about individuals that there is no length to which God will not go to see all his children come home. The great conclusion of these parables is a father inviting his petulant child home, saying, "Son, you are always with me, and everything I have is yours" (15:31). Could it be that God says this to every resentful son and to every wayward daughter? The amazing grace of God is sweeter and more personal than we have ever imagined.

Then come the disturbing parables of Luke 16, which home in on the difficult teaching that "No one can serve two masters... You cannot serve God and wealth" (16:13). The chapter concludes with the parable of Lazarus and the rich man, a stark reminder that God is greatly concerned with how we treat the poor and how we spend our money. These are not private matters, nor are they secondary concerns to God. How we treat the Lazarus's in our lives is the true test of whether we understand the good news of God's love made so clear in Luke 15. In other words, the gospel is both personal and public. It is true that God loves you personally, but the Big Table isn't just set for you. God is not your personal chef come to throw a party for you and your friends. God is setting a table for everyone, which means God is concerned with how we treat everyone. Father Richard Rohr loves to say, "How we do anything is how we do everything." How we treat the poor, the orphan and the immigrant is how we treat God, ourselves...everything. How we treat the rivers and the oceans, the land and animals is how we treat everything. There is no private relationship with God.

The good news is that God loves you more than you know. The good news is also that God loves everyone and everything with that same fierce, personal and public love. May our life together be focused not merely on ourselves, but on the world for which Jesus lived, died and rose again.

Pastor Joel

## PHONE/EMAIL CHANGES

Bob and Margaret Parker-delete home phone number

Bob and Jan McKelvey-delete home phone number

Steve and Paula Thomerson-delete home phone number

Bill Adkins-change email  
wsadkins6@gmail.com

Megan McAlister-change email  
dandeliongrower@gmail.com

Mitchell McAlister-change email  
mitchellmcalister00@gmail.com

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## NEW ARRIVAL

Layla Nanette Shepherd born August 18, 2019 to  
Madison (Spence) and Tyler Shepherd  
Marilyn Spence, Great grandmother

Stella Nicole Reeves born September 16, 2019 to  
Sydney and Tyler Reeves  
Norm & Nancy Baldinger, Great grandparents

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## WEDDINGS

Alyssa Lamb and John Essman wed on July 20, 2019.

Emily Walters and Edward Allen III wed on Sept. 7, 2019.

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*We offer our condolences to the  
family and friends....*

...Eileen Rife, who died in June.  
A good friend of Marcia Davis.

...Diane Berger who died in August.

...Jane Daly who died in August. Alice Harker's  
mother in Florida.

## In Our Thoughts and Prayers

### Caring Touch

Linda Stevenson

### Chapel Hill

Anne Shilling (Paula Thomerson's mother)

### Chillicothe VA

Jim Hartley

### Glendora

Woody Jones

### Logan Elm Health Care

Donald Maxson

### Pickaway Manor

Eloise Beers (Kathy Studebaker's mother)

Mildred Dyer (Blaine Keckley's mother)

Doris Luna

Sharon Ryan

### The Inn at Olentangy Trail

Doris Gruebel

### Wyngate

Sharon Sanders (Todd Tomlinson's mother)

### Convalescing

Bill Campbell

Carol Campbell

John Chumley

Judy Corbett

Lou Ann Clark

Scot Clydesdale

Eugene Dowler

Sandy Edgar

Mary Embrey

Martha Gearhart

Shirley Hall

Wally Higgins

Diana Jones

Kay Martin

Mitch McAlister

Jimmie McKelvey

Bruce Stevenson

Ron Studebaker

Martha Wolfe

Al York

Martha York

### Also Convalescing

Charley Edgar & Corrine Edgar

Becky Myers (Kim Williams' mother)

Betty Topliff (LibbyRushley's mother)

**We are sorry if we have missed any-  
one! If you want someone added or re-  
moved, PLEASE call the church office.**

## 2020 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

The 2020 Stewardship Campaign will not officially start until after the 2020 Budget is completed so that we have a goal established. However, it is not too soon to begin thinking about our commitment for next year. Our membership has been declining in recent years, but most of our expenses are not proportional to membership. Therefore, each one of us must spend time in prayerful thought about what this church and our faith means to us. To sustain and even grow our ministry, financial support is necessary. Our leaders are being diligent to curtail expenses, and we will use endowment funds everywhere possible. The response from the congregation for the 2019 Campaign was very good in terms of commitment increase. But with fewer pledge units, we need to have another nice increase for 2020.

Tom Dixon  
2020 Stewardship Chair

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## HEALTH

Time to get your flu shot — I am preaching again, as I do every year! It is recommended that you get a flu shot every year by the end of October. Even if you get the flu, the immunization can make the illness much less serious. Medicare and Medicaid coverage makes the shot free. Some other insurance policies help with the payment. The CDC (Center for Disease Control) recommends that all people from the age of six months get this yearly protection that not only helps keep each person well, but keeps the community well also. When enough people are immunized, the community as a whole is safer from the deadly disease. Talk to your health care provider about the need for the flu immunization. The shots are also available at the drugstores and at Kroger.

Sarah Baehr  
Your church nurse friend



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## RECYCLING OPPORTUNITIES

Two easy recycling projects have come to our attention:

- 1) Calvary Methodist Church is collecting pop tabs to donate to Children's Hospital.
- 2) Meg Kadunc is collecting small hard plastic lids such as lids from plastic pop bottles or milk jugs that will be recycled into benches.

Containers will be on the table outside the church office. Please collect and encourage you children to help with these projects.

Thank you!



## WHAT'S IN SIGHT?

With the year **2020** on the horizon, it only seems fitting that we **fine-tune** all our recipes. With that **vision** in mind, we have decided to publish an updated cookbook with the help of Morris Press. It will contain several of the tried and true recipes from the 2003 printing, but will also include Recipes from Our Annual Events, Recipes for 1 or 2, School Night/Ball Game Instant Meals and more. We are encouraging each church family to submit those recipes you **see** as family and/or church favorites. We suggest 4 or 5 recipes per family, but there is actually no limit.



Forms and instructions are available in the church office on the bookcase under the bulletin board. If you choose to type/print yours as a text document, please follow the acceptable 8-1/2" x 11" format as displayed on the form and described in the instructions. Only one recipe may be typed per page.

We will be collecting recipes through the fall with December 31, 2019, as our deadline. **Focus** on collecting, recording and submitting your favorite recipes to Box 32 at church. Please **zoom** your questions to members of the cookbook committee: Nancy Baldinger, Marilyn Herel, Madeleine Hosterman, Peggy Leasure, Margaret Parker and Marcia Smith.

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## CHRISTMAS IS COMING!!

Just a "heads up" that our Mission Team will again be collecting (New) coats and pajamas for the children of Pickaway County that will be distributed by PICCA with their "Toys for Tots" Program. The collection will be during the month of November until December 9.

Details to follow...

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## LUNCH BUNCH UPDATE

The Lunch Bunch meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month. October 2 we are having lunch at Cook's Creek. Meet us there or come to church at 11:00 am to carpool. Watch the weekly announcements for our next destination. Plan to join us for a great lunch and wonderful fellowship. All are welcome!

## COMMUNITY KITCHEN UPDATE

Our church has been very generous with their time and donations for the Community Kitchen. To help with staffing needs a sign-up sheet will be posted on the office window with space for workers and dessert donations.

Currently we have plenty of plastic containers for leftovers. We'll let you know when we need more.

If you know any community groups or churches that might be interested in serving meals on a regular basis, please contact Alice Harker (474-4435). Their commitment would be every other month and very much appreciated!

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### OCTOBER 6, 2019

The first Sunday in October is World Communion Day and also the day we receive the Peace and Global Witness Offering. What a wonderful way to celebrate our unity with churches around the world and to commit to the peace of Christ for all.

Some of the programs supported by this offering include educational funds for veterans, helping incarcerated mothers and mothers-to-be with health care and training in how to be a loving parent, helping Senior Citizens remain in their homes by providing help with light chores and supporting mission workers domestically and internationally.

Local congregations can keep 25% of the donations for local programs. Please support this opportunity to help those who live around the corner and others who live around the world.

Special envelopes can be found in the pews or you may give electronically designating P&GW Offering.

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### COFFEE HOUR OCTOBER 20

On behalf of Judy Corbett, we would like to thank the entire church family for your unending support, love, and prayers during Judy's battle with cancer. Living out of town has not been easy during this journey, but it has been a great source of comfort knowing you have been gracious with offering rides, running errands, preparing meals, helping with house keeping, attending doctor's appointments, organizing medical documents, and sitting beside Judy during chemotherapy and radiation. As a small token of our appreciation for your service towards our family and to celebrate Judy's strong spirit, please join our family at Coffee Hour on October 20.

Gratefully,  
Kara and Mike (Jacob and Elizabeth)  
Jonathan and Julie (Grace and Hope)

## CHURCH MASONRY AND SLATE REPAIRS

For those of you who might not be aware, the Trustees just completed an ~\$40,000 project to make some repairs to the exterior of our church. The scope of the work included:

Removing the upper ~20 feet of the large, no longer in use chimney in the west wall of our church that was badly deteriorated.

Closing and filling in the exterior entrance on the west side of the church to the kitchen off of the former social room. This entrance, which was no longer required or used since the accessible entrance was installed in the rear wall of the social room, was the source of some long-term maintenance issues.

Grinding out and replacing the mortar between all of the stones on the front part of the east, Campbell Hall portion of the building and beneath the steps to the two front entrances to the sanctuary.

Grinding out and replacing some isolated areas of damaged and missing mortar in the exterior walls of the older, sanctuary portion of the building.

Cutting out and re-caulking a number of deteriorated caulk joints on the exterior of both parts in the building.

Applying a water repellent on the exterior walls of the older, sanctuary portion of the building.

Such work is periodically required on especially older masonry buildings. The Trustees last undertook similar work on the older, sanctuary portion of the building in 2010. No such work had been performed on the newer east part of the building since it was upgraded and expanded in 2005.

The Trustees have also entered into a contract with Durable Slate to perform some repairs to the slate shingles on the older, sanctuary portion of the building and the steeple sometime next month. In addition, they will reattach the ground cable to the lightning rod on the steeple, which became detached from the lightning rod sometime earlier this year. While the required work on the lightning rod is unusual, some repairs to the slate roof on the sanctuary portion of the building have typically been required every 1-2 years.

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### SOUP FOR HOPE HOUSE OF PICKAWAY COUNTY

The Board of Hope House is inviting the community to join us for soup on Friday October 25<sup>th</sup> from 11-1 in Campbell Hall. Several churches who helped reopen the shelter for men and families will prepare soup, sandwiches and cookies for a light meal to counter balance the indulgences of Pumpkin Show. We hope you will invite a friend or co-worker to come too.



# CIRCLEVILLE Presbyterian Church

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Website - [www.circlevillepresbyterianchurch.com](http://www.circlevillepresbyterianchurch.com)

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43113  
Permit Number 195

Please remember to contact the church office with your new address. As bulk mail, the Pres-Line is not forwarded and is returned to the church for a fee.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



*Looking ahead to.....*



- 1 1st Sunday of Advent  
Advent Brunch
- 8 2nd Sunday of Advent  
Light Up A Life Program
- 14 COOKIE WALK
- 15 3rd Sunday of Advent  
Christmas Caroling
- 22 4th Sunday of Advent
- 25-26 Office Closed for Christmas
- 29 Wippel/Davis Wedding