

A Few Minutes

First Presbyterian Church of Gilbertsville ~ 113 Marion Ave. ~ PO Box 314 ~ 13776

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 11 -Meghan Veenhof Garcia
- 2 -Barb Hill
- 3 -Susie Pochy Justin Ferrara
- 4 -Crystal Hill Michaud
- 8 -Mary Sloan
- 13-Cathy Osborne
- 14-Juliette Halbert
- 16-Laura Hall Dalton Proskine
- 19-Dean Veenhof
- 24-Lucas Piedmonte Suzanne Winter
- 28-Dave Robinson

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 4-Whitney Gilbert
- 5-Jimmy Pochy
- 7-Jason Garcia
- 12 Ethyle Canada
- 13-Maggie Gilbert
- 20-Nancy Meyers Ruth Baker
- 25-Dick Fields
- 27-Richard Bryden

Pastor's Notes: A Happy New Year - Day After Day After Day

When the clock struck midnight on January 1, 2020 something different happened - we entered into a new decade! And there's always something different when a decade has ended and a new one begins. We look back, not just on the past year, but on the last ten. And then, we may try to anticipate what the next decade may bring – what will the “roaring 20s” mean for us, our lives, the ones we love? What will 2020 mean for our world, our nation?

We hope, of course, for the best. We hope for struggles to cease and pain to end. And yet we know that life goes on, and no year or decade will ever be perfect. There will be struggles, losses and pain. But there will also be joy and happiness and lots of love to be gained through our relationships with each other, and mostly with Jesus.

As this new decade begins to unfold, perhaps the best “resolution” we can make – as Christians and as the Church that bears His name – is to stay the course and remember His last words to the disciples 2,020 years ago that still ring trues all the way through time and history and every decade through to us today:

“God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I will be with you as ou do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28: 18-20 The Message)

I pray that the 2020's find you happy, blessed and fully trusting in His presence day after day after day. Happy New Year! Pastor Mark



A New Year's Prayer

May God make your year a happy one!
 Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain,
 But by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes;
 Not by making your path easy,
 But by making you sturdy to travel any path;
 Not by taking hardships from you,
 But by taking fear from your heart;
 Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,
 But by keeping your face bright,
 even in the shadows;
 Not by making your life always pleasant,
 But by showing you
 when people and their causes need you most,
 and by making you anxious to be there to help.
 God's love, peace, hope and joy to you
 for the year ahead.

~Anonymous

Oh Come Let

The glow of the warmth in couple of turned up on launch the First Nativity in Friends from notably Carrie family and the were the

**Us Adore Him...**

luminaria reflected the hearts of a hundred folks who Dec. 22 to help Annual Live Gilbertsville. Garrattsville, D'Amato and Turnbull family, catalysts behind

bringing the pageant here for the inspiration and enjoyment of our community. Many thanks to all who helped in any way to build, stage, clothe, feed, record, direct, support, control traffic, wrangle animals—it was surely a gargantuan team effort. Thanks be to God for providing resources of every kind so that so many throughout the community could come together and be blessed.

Just a day earlier, a quiet, candle-lit sanctuary was the setting for our second Blue Christmas Service, a holiday observation for those whose festive mood may have been overshadowed general cultural concerns. acknowledge that the difficult as they are to embrace a time of year, meaningful readings, reflection in the candles' pealing bell, ringing hope more whole. Thanks to Kurt, and Pastor Mark for meaningful gathering.



by personal challenges or This service seeks to holidays are sometimes as joyous. It's an opportunity healing and renewal. This prayers, music, and glow culminated in a into hearts made just a bit Mother Donna, Pastor their leadership in this

Finally, the Community Christmas Eve service took place in a sanctuary filled with the joyful anticipation of Baby Jesus' arrival. Praise God for providing musicians of many ages and traditions to set an atmosphere of solemn, yet joyous, celebration. Even Santa could not resist a quiet visit to pay respects to the New Born King. And who can resist a full heart when surrounded by tiny **candles lighted to the strains of *Silent Night*?**

Our community rejoices in these ecumenical expressions of faith and in the faith stories represented in so many souls gathered in unity. We are thankful to our Butternut Valley pastoral team for these events and their dedication to serving the Lord Jesus Christ and the residents of our home area.



Blessed Event! We are so very happy to welcome Wren Evelina Corcoran to our church family through the sacrament of baptism. Wren's parents and grandparents and special friends were on hand on December 15 to witness this blessing and celebrate with a special cake at coffee hour. Welcome Baby Wren!!

>>>>>>>>>It's PER CAPITA Time!!—Each local church is responsible for a per capita apportionment to The Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley, one of two main sources of income to support our common ministry in the name of Jesus Christ. This year's amount per active church member is \$40.55, bringing the total owed by FPG to \$3000+.

We can help FPG Gilbertsville by paying this "head tax" each year to prevent regular tithes and offerings from funding this obligation owed to the PCUSA. If you are able to pay your part, just make a notation on the memo line of your check. Thanks!! <<<<<<<<<<<<<<

Thanks to (with apologies for anyone inadvertently omitted)...

- Butternut Valley Garden Club for front door wreaths
- Fosters for poinsettias
- Jim and Donnie for tree
- Roberta for cards and letters to shut-ins
- Presbyterian elves for seasonal decorations
- Marie, Laura, Elaina, and choirs for special music
- Aimee for coordinating Christmas families
- Theresa and Lou for delivering Operation Christmas Child boxes
- All who donated to the Christmas families
- Palens, Theresa, and Cathy for coffee hours and Fellowship Committee for baptism cake
- Theresa and Isaiah for managing the hymn boards in the sanctuary
- Advent Candle lighters
- The family of Mrs. Seaman for the vintage nativity scene donated to the church



KITCHEN ALERT REMINDER

After the December coffee hour, it was found that mice had been in the cupboard where the dish towels are stored. Continuing on in the other top cupboards, it was also found that other things had been visited by our 4-legged friends. There are several plastic containers where things like sugar, tea bags, etc should be placed. Consequently several of these items had to be discarded.

Based on the above situation, I can not stress enough that bagged items, such as potato chips should **NOT** be left in the cupboard and saved for use at another event. In checking the cupboard on this particular day, a bag of chips was found and had an expiration date of April 2019.

This same rule should also apply when putting opened items (ex:half & half) in the refrigerator, as you never know when the next event might be happening.

Presbyterian Women

PW met for their traditional Christmas luncheon on Saturday, Dec. 7, in the undercroft. Hostesses were Roberta Halbert and Jan Costello. Attendance was good, the mood was light, and the food was delicious. A short business meeting was followed by a presentation on Christmas Carols by Helen Palen. Our next meeting is March 7 at 10 am. We hope more women will join us for a time of fellowship and sharing.

Volunteers needed

--for the breakfast following the Sunrise Service on April 12. Coordinator of the breakfast is already in place. Call Roberta (783-2445) soon.

--for coffee hour to be held immediately after church one Sunday a month through June. Please check the sign up sheet posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex to see when you might be able to provide light refreshments. Any questions, contact Roberta (783-2445; berth@frontiernet.net)

**Senior center addresses**

Evelyn Butler, 73 Lyndon Lane, Haw River, NC 27258

Barbara Butts, Chase Nursing Home, 1 Terrace Heights, New Berlin, NY 13411 Joanne Rowe, Arlyn Wade, NRNC, 88 Calvary Dr. Norwich, NY 13815

Recent changes:

Richard Crocco, 256 Paramount St, Cottonwood, AZ 86326-5198

Bruce and June Huggins, 686 Pear Drive, Fruita, CO 81521

Richard and Arlene Daniels, 1 Buntline Drive, Room 104, Stamford, NY 12176

Prayer Concerns : Australia, Bahamas, anyplace suffering natural disasters; Scott Bedics, John Birdsall, Jamie Bonvilla (UV student with kidney failure), Baby Ruby Cotter, Evelyn Butler, Barbara Butts (Chase Nursing Home), Jim Carr, Richard Crocco, Emma Conklin (Angel's baby daughter), Arlene & Richard Daniels, Sophie Dixson, Janet and Dennis Farbent, Rose Foster, Will Foster, Hilary & Bill Fuller, Butch Gage, Gross's friends (Dalton and unnamed), The family of Deb Gross, Roger Halbert, the family of Carol Henkel, Steve Hughes, Bill Hultz (father of Piedmonte friend), Family and friends of Ron Ketchum and Brooke Ketchum, Pat Kuhn, Samantha Mayhood (UV student with head injury), Tim Meyers and family; Janet Nelson (Hampshire House), Nelson Park, Debbie Piedmonte, Larry Polsky, Garrett Proskine (Zach, Amy, Lauren & Dalton; Hill & Proskine Families), Brittany Ray, Jane Robertson, Joanne Rowe, Sue Sebeck, Nona Slaughter, Bob Stearns, Family of Bobbie Stensland, George Stockdale, Sarah Tyler, Baby Eden Ver, Vicktor & Kayla Ver, Arlyn Wade, Chuck Wade, Family of Tom Waterhouse (Prayer requests: contact Nancy Meyers at rjmnlm@hotmail.com or Pastor Mark)

Online Alert! If being more intentional and faithful about daily devotions is one of your New Year's resolutions, consider subscribing to have them delivered to your email inbox each day. Here are two options to consider. These organizations will send your daily devotions to your email inbox and all you have to do is click to read and/or listen. You can access BibleGateway for online Bible readings through *Our Daily Bread* as well. Online devotionals:

Our Daily Bread (<https://odb.org>)

Guideposts (<https://www.guideposts.org/>)

-----Clip and Post!!-----

Week of	Open/ close	Ushers	Liturgist	Communion	Coffee Hour	Lamb's Closet
Jan. 5	Jan	Jan and Bill	Jan	X	X	1/4-Cathy
Jan. 12	Elizabeth	Elizabeth Theresa	Dean	Elizabeth, Glenn Roger, Roberta	X	1/11-Judy
Jan. 19	Susie	Jim Susie	Jake	X	Roberta Roger	1/18-Mary
Jan. 26	Mary	Mary Elizabeth	Judy	X	X	1/25-Elizabeth
Feb. 2	Bill			Bill, Jan Barb, Shirley		2/1-Aimee
Feb. 9	Judy			x	X	2/8-Roberta
Feb. 16	Jan			x	Share a Valentine treat	2/15-Helen
Feb. 23	Glenn			x		2/22-Barb
Mar.1	Jake			Jake, Don Dean, Judy	X	2/29-Theresa
Mar. 8	Donnie				X	3/7-
Mar. 15	Jan			x	X	3/14-
Mar. 22	Elizabeth			x		3/21-Jan
Mar. 29	Susie				Hosting Garrattsville	3/28-

First Presbyterian Church
19 Marion Ave.
PO Box 314
Gilbertsville, NY 13776
(607) 783-2867