

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

January 2nd ~ 7pm
Common Meeting
Night

January 16th ~ 7pm
Session Meeting

January 18th ~ 12pm
Young at Heart
Luncheon

January 21st ~ 4pm
BBQ Chicken Dinner

PASTOR'S PLACE



Dear Friends,

January, the beginning of another year, comes from the word "Janus", meaning 'Janus's month' and became the first month of the year in circa 700BC when Numa Pompilius, a Roman King, added it and February to the calendar. Numa also moved the start of the year from March to January. Janus is the Roman god of beginnings and endings, he is also the god of gateways, gates, doors and doorways. The word 'janitor' is derived from Janus.



The pictures of Janus, a Roman god, usually showed him with two heads; one looking backward and the other forward. This also coincided with the attentive "Janitor" or guard of the gates always being on alert.

I have always used the beginning of a New Year to evaluate my life, things I had accomplished and things I wanted to improve. In many of my old journals, I wrote resolutions and commitments I wanted to engage for the coming year.

What might you want to list as actions and disciplines to improve during the days and months of 2012? To deepen our sense of spiritual awakening and peace, most traditions list three important practices: study, meditation/prayer, and service. This has always been my understanding of the Christian path and in joining the Theosophical Society nearly a year ago, these elements I learned were called part of their "triad" for growth.

Study has always been an important part of lives committed to growth. In the early church Paul once spoke in Beroea at a Jewish synagogue. It says "these Jews were more receptive than those in Thessalonica, for they welcomed the message very eagerly and examined the scripture every day to see whether these things were so." (Acts 17:10-11)

It's easy to get lazy about scripture reading and study. Very few ever attain skills or knowledge to advance far in their endeavors unless they study. If you are not presently reading and pondering scriptures daily, you are missing an important and rich part of growth and freedom. During the year, I will offer again books to read and discuss together along with sacred texts. I hope you will feel free join us.

Prayer and meditation are also critical for our spiritual growth. Prayer and meditation are chiefly listening techniques and practices as I have described. At least 20 to 30 minutes each day are usual norms with longer for others. John Calvin recommended we pause 7 times daily for prayers. Here you can leave the normal world of time and space, entering into that which is eternal. You can touch the Spiritual dimension of "just knowing" rather than the constant use of thinking and perception. Again, I will try to share common practices during the year for prayer and meditation. Feel free to ask is you would like some ideas for help and development.

Then service and help for others, a practice I have always found Presbyterians very active in participation. Sometimes I sense we are too active and need to stop and listen more, but be that as it may, the practice in giving freely to others in need is important. It enriches our sense of Spirit and compassion within. Again, there are several areas in which you can serve this year, in the community, world, and within the congregation. Working as an elder, usher, choir member or teacher are all important ways to serve others along with sharing to the greater world around us.

Make then January, the New Year, a renewal point in your lives. Look backward and look forward. Check over your gates of boundary and expansion. Together let us make pledges to support one another in commitments as we strive to work out own.

Happy New Year and may it be a blessed learning, study, and serving one!



FOLLOW THE LECTIONARY

January 2012

- Jan. 1st. Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:22-40
- Jan. 8 Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1st 4-11
- Jan. 15th 1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20); Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51
- Jan. 22nd Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12;
1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20
- Jan. 29th Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111;
1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28



WORSHIP & MUSIC

We did not meet in January due to respecting family holiday time. We will be welcoming the return of our Organist/Choir Director on January 15th worship service. Our thanks to Wendy Warren & Nita for sharing their talents with us the first two Sundays in the new year. At our all committee meeting for February, we're asking all to help "undecorate" the Sanctuary & Narthex & entryway. Please come and help in light of the fact that Tim single-handedly put the decorations up, we feel "many hands make light work", and faster too. At our February meeting we will plan Communion & upcoming events. Hope all had a merry, blessed Christmas, and best wishes for a safe, happy, healthy, and prosperous new year.

Don Schmid, Worship & Music Committee



YOUNG AT HEART

Well we have all survived Christmas and New Years. The weather has been fantastic and now it is time to resume our Young at Heart luncheons. For January we will only have one and that will be on Wednesday January 18th. In February we will have two luncheons and that will be February 1st and February 15th. Time is flying by at a rapid rate and before you know it Easter will be here. So as not to miss any of our luncheons mark your calendars for January 18th, February 1st, February 15th. We hope to see you all on those dates.

YOUR HAPPY COOKS: DICK & EDIE FISCHER

Tired of the cold? Wishing for summer?

Join us for a

Chicken BBQ Dinner

BW Chicken



TAKE-OUT ONLY



come & get your dinner & take home a little taste of summer on a cold winter's day

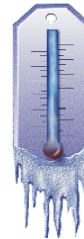
Saturday, January 21st

4:00 - 7:00pm

at

First Presbyterian Church

2085 Union Rd. (near Clinton) West Seneca



Tickets are \$9.00

please call the
church office 668-1115 for tickets



Dinner includes:

1/2 BBQ Chicken * Chef Salad
Potato Salad * Roll w/ butter

10% of proceeds will be
donated to the West Seneca Food Pantry



PRAYER CONCERNS

Members of our congregation

Myrt Halligan

Family & Friends of our congregation

Elaine Bergman (Sandy Fiegl) ♦ Richard Bralla (Cheryl Wilczak) ♦
Kathy Miller Colmerauer (Jane Lankes) ♦ Dan & Judy Cravotta
(Janice Jones) ♦ Pauline Deletti (Sandy Fiegl) ♦ Linda Dories
(Sandy Fiegl) ♦ Gildo Ferracini (Fatima Martins) ♦ Cathy Folaron
(Cheryl Wilczak) ♦ Joy Gordon (Debbie Ball) ♦ Ed & Dorothy
Gutowski (Ed Gutowski) ♦ Carolyn Halley (Marilyn Mohr) ♦ Sandy
Hoffmann (Kathy Doll) ♦ Tobi Horwitz (Edie Fischer) ♦ Jill Miller-
Kisker (Jane Lankes) ♦ Dee Dee Labby (Cheryl Labby) ♦ Aaron
Miechurski (The Halligan's) ♦ Donald Mohr (Sandy Perillo) ♦ Judy
Nickerson (Sue Piersa) ♦ Mary Orofino (Marilyn Mohr) ♦
Reinaldo Paschoal (Fatima Martins) ♦ Maureen Patti (Helen
Somer) ♦ Jodi Rustski (The Fischers) ♦ Elizabeth Shaffer
(George Shaffer) ♦ Angie Yelich (Cheryl Wilczak)



OUR SERVICE MEN & WOMEN

Russell Molnar ♦ Pat McCullough ♦ Zachery
Goggins ♦ Alison Lankes ♦ Erik Brown ♦ James
Schmidt ♦ Matthew Jones ♦ Kyle Ernst ♦ Mike Barnum ♦
Chris Kalinowski

THANK YOU

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the lovely centerpiece I received for Christmas. My family and I have enjoyed its beauty throughout the Christmas season. Also thank you for the beautiful poinsettia plant that Cheryl left for me. As always you are all very thoughtful.

Peace and Blessings,
Corinne

I'd like to thank my church family for the lovely centerpiece you gave me for Christmas. It was so thoughtful and I'm still enjoying it, candles and all.

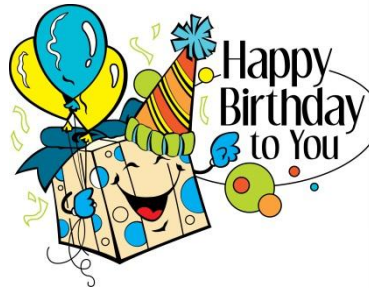
Much love,
Sue



BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- Jan. 4th Russell Molnar
- 11th Ellyn Reed
- 12th Jackie Hoesel
- 14th Vinnie Pagliaccio
- 24th Mary Gutowski
- 27th Lill Kieffer



NEW MEMBERS

The following new members were welcomed into our congregation in December. Please take a moment to welcome them if you haven't already.

- Andrew & Karen Doyle
- Bob & Fatima Ely
- Jackie Hoesel
- Ron Wilson
- Amanda Wilson



BAPTISMS

Riley Wilson December 11, 2011

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Rev. Dave Persons.....Pastor
Kathy Saeli..... Clerk of Session
Donna Cieslinski.....Church Treasurer
Edie Fischer.....Financial Secretary
Dick Fischer.....Property Manager
Corinne Northem.....Secretary
Sue Maciejewski.....Organist/Choir Director

Elders		
Class of 2012	Class of 2013	Class of 2014
Sue Piersa	Debbie Wilson	Kathy Saeli
Don Schmid	Bob Barnhart	Dick Fischer
Tim Miller	Bob Doll	
Deacons		
Class of 2012	Class of 2013	Class of 2014
Cheryl Wilczak	Marilyn Mohr	Edie Fischer
Dennis Fiegl	Sandy Perillo	Janice Jones