

Pastor's Corner

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.

This November and December, I am eager to explore the fruit of the Spirit. What does it look when God's spirit is at work in our lives? How is God shaping us as disciples? We often try to evaluate ourselves by our achievements, however the fruit of the Spirit shows us another way. The fruit of the Spirit is about how God works in our lives. It is about how God takes control and nourishes us in ways that are hard for us to imagine.

I'd like to imagine that the fruit of the Spirit does not just blossom in our individual lives, but it is also blossoms from our life together as a church. My hope is that our own church bears fruit. Some of this fruit was identified in our stewardship campaign, and I hope we will continue discover this fruit together.

During the next two months, I also want to hear about your dreams for the Church of Jesus Christ. I want to talk with you about the ways you'd like to see the church bear fruit. Maybe your dream is having a church more responsive to particular needs in the community. Maybe your dream for the church is a community garden to teach people how to grow food. Maybe your dream is strengthening our relationship with one of our schools. Maybe your dream for the church is big and abstract. Maybe your dream for the church is particular and concrete. I want to hear them all so we can start weaving them together into a bigger vision for this congregation. So please flag me down. Call me. E-mail me. Let's dream together.

Gratefully,

Michael

November Worship Services

Sunday, November 5

Communion

All Saints

Patience

Music by the Sanctuary Choir



Sunday, November 12

Kindness

Music by the Central State Choir

Sunday, November 19

Stewardship Sunday

Gentleness

Music by the Sanctuary Choir

Renaissance Ringers

11:15 Stewardship Fete in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, November 26

Self-control

Music by the Sanctuary Choir

Worship begins at 10:00 a.m.

Immediately following worship, join us for fellowship and light refreshments in the Gathering Area.

Tuesday Bible Study Schedule

We will begin each session with sharing scripture passages that have shaped our own understanding of these different fruit. Please bring these passages with you.

October 31 – Patience

November 7 – Kindness

November 14 – Gentleness

November 21 – No Bible Study (Thanksgiving week)

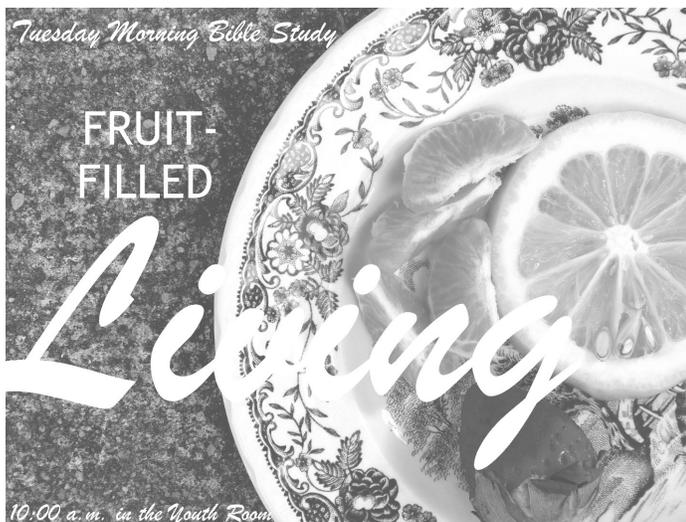
November 28 – Self-Control

December 5 – Peace

December 12 – Joy

December 19 – Love

*Due to the abundance of God's fruit, generosity and hopefulness will be included when appropriate.



Christian Education and Faith Formation



Save the date for **Saturday, December 2**, from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. New this year - we will be making evergreen Advent Wreaths! Participants will also receive a devotional booklet to help celebrate this special season. All are welcome!

Children Ministries

Children are always welcome in worship! Wiggle bags are available at each Sanctuary entrance to help children feel included and engaged during the worship service. Additional resources for parents and guardians are also available - look for the pinwheel and enjoy!



This month, Sunday School (children ages 6-12) meets following Circle Time, in the Godly Play Room on November 12, 19, and 26. Children will be dismissed in the Gathering Area following worship.

Each Sunday in the Nursery, children gather for a brief story time from the "God Loves Me" series. We model faith practices including fellowship, prayer, storytelling, and wondering questions. A loving, Christian environment is provided year-round from 9:45 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. for infants and children up to 5 years old.

Interested in learning more about how you might serve children, youth, and families in the life of the church? Contact Lisa Kaufer for information about the many opportunities to serve. God gives us a variety of gifts and talents - we're better together!

Adult Ministries

Sunday Night Live meets at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Paula and Jay Cohen. We'll continue the series, "Events that Changed the World." Everyone is welcome. Call Paula at 423-4443 or Barb Alder at 360-7424 for more information.

Tuesday Morning **BIBLE STUDY**

This November and December, the Tuesday Morning Bible Study (10:00 in the Youth Room) will be studying a fruit of the Spirit each week. Join us!

Family-friendly Worship

Join us on **Wednesday nights** at **6:30** for an informal worship service. For the past two months, a small group of people have been trying an experiment in the Youth Room. We sit in a circle, read Scripture, reflect by telling our own stories, and sing two simple songs. The time has been youth-led, and we are now eager to open it up. This is intended to be family-friendly, so children are never a distraction. The service is highly participatory.

Music Notes

*Deep peace of the running wave to you.
Deep peace of the flowing air to you.
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.
Deep peace of the shining stars to you.
Deep peace of the gentle night to you.
Moon and stars pour their healing light on you.
Deep peace of Christ,
of Christ the light of the world to you.
Deep peace of Christ to you.*

(from "A Gaelic Blessing" by John Rutter)

Many thanks to all who helped to create another exciting and inspiring Kirkin' of the Tartans Service! May the words of the "Gaelic Blessing" continue to comfort you and give you peace.

Looking forward to an inspiring December:

***Invitation to a Miracle*—Christmas Cantata**

"This is a time when we really need a season of miracles and wonders; a time to celebrate the glorious impossible of God's magnificent gift of grace. Celebrate FAITH, HOPE, PEACE, LOVE, JOY, LIGHT and LIFE. Let the darkness see and believe. Let the shadows surrender to light. Let the miracle begin! Come celebrate Jesus! Know the wonder of grace!"

These inspiring words from composer and lyricist, Joseph

Martin, describe his beautiful cantata, "*Invitation to a Miracle*", which will be presented on Sunday, December 10th during the 10:00 a.m. worship service by the Sanctuary Choir, soloists, chamber orchestra, and sacred dancers from *The Academy of Dance Arts* with choreographer Melanie Malicote. *Be sure to mark your calendars to be part of this inspiring morning.*

***The Bells of Glocken*---Children's Christmas Musical**

The Bells of Glocken is the delightful tale of a tiny kingdom whose ruler bestows the great gift of four tower bells to his people, one each for hope, peace, love and joy. After the good king's death, the bells fall silent, and the people become frightened and angry. Dark years pass, and the people long for a new king who will bring them salvation. Then, late one night, three wise men from the East appear at the gate, announcing that a new king has been born. Gradually, the bells begin to toll, first one and then another, until the tiny kingdom resounds with the glad news of the birth of Jesus, who is the King of Kings. The true message of Christmas, as told in this delightful tale, will be delivered by the voices of the *Joyful Noize Choir* in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, December 17, at 4:00 p.m. Please join us for this inspiring Family Worship Service.

November Birthdays!

02.....Lara Moon	19.....Tony Susco
03.....Jean Lyons	19.....Wyatt Kaufer
07.....Peggy Dobrozsi	25.....Ron Sutter
07.....Jack Newlin	25.....Annie Brehm
09.....Loyce Martin	26.....Ida Mae Peck
09.....Sandi Templeton	26.....Martha Robertson
10.....Bill Sandston	28.....Jim Harris
10.....Neila Barnes	30.....Ann Stoutenborough
11.....Carol Minge	30.....Catherine Taylor
11.....Nancy Shafer	
12.....Fearn Gerber	
13.....Mary Enochs	
13.....Sharon Perkins	
14.....Lou Borneman	
14.....Paul Nisbet	
15.....Barbara Steel	
17.....Julie Nickell	
17.....Josh Biddle	
19.....Helen Haass	
19.....Chuck Minge	



Men's Monthly Meeting

The Men's Monthly Meeting is an opportunity to get together and socialize over a meal outside the church. You're welcome to join them on **Tuesday, November 14**, at the Clubhouse Sports Grille, 250 N. Main Street in Monroe @ 5:30 p.m.



Ladies @ LaRosa's

ATTENTION: ALL CHURCH GALS AND FRIENDS!



You are invited to a fun and casual evening at The Spinning Fork, 2220 N. Verity Pkwy on **Tuesday, November 21**, at 6:30 p.m.

So that they know how many to expect, please RSVP to Pat Hathaway: 513-422-3915

Stretch and Tone meets each week on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall for an hour of exercise.

These exercises are for everyone to help you continue to move your body. They are not strenuous and will not tax your heart. Come join us for the fun and find out what you've been missing! See you then!

Your Fearless Leader,
Nancy Strait

STRETCH AND TONE



Report from October 22 Congregational Meeting

On October 22, we had a congregational meeting following worship. The meeting was called by session to consider the recommendation from the trustees and to sell the manse. Buying, selling, or encumbering real property requires congregational approval. Now that this is approved, the request will go to the Presbytery of the Miami Valley.

The purpose of the meeting was solely to consider the sale of the manse. This recommendation was made after Pastor Isaacs informed the Trustees and Session of his intent to move out of the manse. The pastor's terms of call includes a provision that allows the pastor to move out of the manse without changing the effective salary. (The manse would be substituted for a housing allowance equal to the value of the manse.) Proceeds from the sale of the manse will be held in escrow to offset the cost of the housing allowance for years to come.

Those who have served as a trustee know that the discussion whether or not to hold this property is not new. The decision to sell the property, instead of leasing it, includes several considerations. This removes the responsibility of being a landlord from church administration. It relieves our resources from on-going and future maintenance, including the wear and tear of renters. We currently draw nearly \$7000 a year from our Endowment Fund for taxes, insurance, and maintenance, not including any major repairs.

If you have any additional questions, please know that our trustees, elders, and pastor are willing to address any concerns you may have.



We ask that more able-bodied people park in the East Lot or park on the street. Please help us keep the West Lot hospitable for those who need it the most.

Congratulations on the birth of Magdalena Rose Weber, born on October 8, to Dan and Jessica Lane Weber, who live in Chicago. The proud grandparents are Steve and Susie Lane and great-grandmother, Nancy Strait.



Clare Zimmerman, our new contact with **Rosa Parks Elementary**, noted the needs for November are **laundry detergent** and **winter appropriate kids' shoes for Kindergarten -5th grade**.

Volunteers are needed for **distributing the weekend meal backpacks to the classrooms on Thursday mornings**. This takes about 45 minutes to unload them from the Shared Harvest van into the classrooms. Please call the church office.



A very special Christmas remembrance. . .

Christmas trees adorned with beautiful ornaments create some of our most special Christmas memories. The Music/Worship Ministry Team invites you to join us once again to create a *Memorial Christmas Tree* in the Gathering Area. This year we have a band of beautiful *Christmas Angels* to adorn our tree.

May one or more of these lovely *Christmas Angels* find a home on your tree and in your heart or be given as a special gift.

The *Christmas Angel Ornament* will be on display in the Gathering Area and the church office. Proceeds will go to the Christmas Baskets.

You have the opportunity to purchase a *Christmas Angel Ornament* in honor or in memory of a loved one. After the Christmas season you may take your lovely ornament home to adorn your tree next year. You may also purchase extra ornaments as beautiful gifts. Just fill out the form below and for only \$10.00 each, you'll help to create our beautiful *Memorial Christmas Tree*.

Christmas Angel Ornament

I will purchase _____ *Christmas Angel Ornament (s)* for the Memorial Christmas Tree.

In honor/memory of _____

(Circle your choice.) Please print information exactly as you would like it listed.)

Given by _____

(Please print information exactly as you would like it listed.)

Phone _____

Payment Enclosed _____

Proceeds will go to the Christmas Baskets.



Presenting our eighth annual

Festival of Organ Music

Featuring our “mighty Moeller pipe organ”

Friday, November 10

Dinner and Pipe Organ Concert

***5:00-6:15 p.m. A delicious chicken deluxe
dinner served in Fellowship Hall***

*Proceeds will benefit the First Presbyterian Pipe Organ Support Fund and
Choralfest (sponsored by SW Ohio Choristers Guild to promote
choral singing for young children)*

Tickets will be available from members of the Music and Worship
Ministry Team, Joyce Zigler, or the church office

Tickets: \$10.00 for adults

\$5.00 for children from 6-12 years old

Children 5 and under eat free

7:00 p.m.

From Classical to Jazz: an amazing and fun evening!

Featuring: Joyce Zigler, organ

Joyful Noize Choir

Margaret Chambers, piano

Tara Downie, soprano

Kara Miller, soprano

Matt Miller, tenor

Lara Moon, alto

Renaissance Ringers

Janet Scott, organ

Brian Shepard, tenor

Cyndi Zopff, soprano

The concert is free and open to the public. A free-will offering will be taken.

2017 CHRISTMAS BASKETS

Plans are already underway for our annual Christmas Basket Program. This year, the deacons have made some changes to the program. We will adopt 50 families through the Salvation Army, providing food and gifts to those in need.

In order to provide for consistency and better nutrition, we have partnered with Kroger to gather all of the sufficient food items for our 50 families. Therefore, it will no longer be necessary for members to purchase or bring in food products. However, we do need your financial support to ensure this program is a success!

The cost per food basket will run approximately \$60. Look for the green "Christmas Basket" envelopes in the pews to make your gift. Any amount donated will ensure that we can bring Christmas joy to the many families we sponsor this year. Baskets will be delivered on Saturday, December 16, from 9—noon.

As in the past, we'll need members to adopt a family, especially those with children who would love to receive a few wrapped presents from Santa (purchased by you). Use the form below to adopt a family.

If you'd like more information, please contact Bill Bursk, Gene Schaefer, or the church office.

You can sign-up for your family in the Gathering Area on any Sunday in November.



If you wish to participate in this program, please fill out this sign-up form, tear it off this page and either drop it in the collection plate on Sunday, give it to a deacon, or return it to the church office. Your participation allows us to continue this successful program every year!

YES! I want to sponsor a family and my preferred size is:

- I have no size preference; use me where needed
- Small family (2 – 4 people)
- Medium family (4 – 6 people)
- Large family (6 or more people)

YES! I want to help deliver baskets

YES! I'd like to donate \$ _____ to help defray program costs.

Name

Phone Number



FOOD BASKETS

Our Mission

...to **SHARE** the good news

...to **NURTURE** the Spirit

...to **SERVE** members and neighbors

On Sunday, November 12
the Central State University Chorus,
under the direction
of Jeremy Winston,
will join us for worship at 10:00 a.m.



Michael Isaacs, Pastor/Head of Staff
Joyce Zigler, Director of Music
Lisa Kaufer, Director of Faith Formation
Kathy Harris, Administrative Assistant
Sandy Fisher, Secretary
Bob Lawwill, Custodian
Cheryl Jarbo, Custodian
Margaret Chambers, Pianist
Lara Moon, Director of Children and Youth Choirs
Janet Scott, Director of Handbells
Paula Elliott, Dir. of Kindergarten Readiness
Kim Flesher, Pre-K Teacher

Office Hours
Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Website: www.fpcmiddletown.com

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