



## The Big Table

The new year means a new Gospel for us to explore and inhabit. Last year we walked through Mark and learned about *The Jesus Way*. Mark is the shortest Gospel and like a Hemingway novel, every word is carefully chosen. This year we journey through my favorite Gospel—Luke. Luke is giant. It is not only the longest Gospel but the longest book in the New Testament. Chapter 1 has 80 verses! Luke is like a John Steinbeck novel—a sprawling tome with epic symbolism and scenes that stick in your mind forever. Who can forget the Christmas story, the Good Samaritan or the Prodigal son? Throughout 2019, we will walk through Luke's Gospel and witness the universal scope of God's mission in Jesus Christ. More than anyone else, Luke emphasizes the expansive reach of God's kingdom. The angels tell the shepherds that Jesus' birth is good news of great joy for **all people** (2:10). The genealogy in Luke 3 traces Jesus' lineage all the way back to "Adam, son of God." Jesus' last words are that repentance and forgiveness of sins are to be proclaimed to all (24:47). In other words, God's kingdom is here for everyone, not just a select few.

The ministry of Jesus in Luke demonstrates what that universal kingdom looks like, namely the inclusion of the poor and the outcast. Jesus' own mission statement speaks of good news to the poor, release of the captives, sight for the blind and freedom for the oppressed (4:18-19). Luke is the most socially conscious of all the Gospels, and Jesus is constantly getting in trouble for healing, and associating with outcasts. The religious leaders grumble that Jesus welcomes sinners and **even eats** with them (15:1-2). This last point is of particular interest. Everywhere you turn in Luke, Jesus is eating with people or telling stories about banquets, feasts and parties. Luke is the Gospel of *The Big Table*. The vision Jesus paints over and over again is that **the kingdom of God is a party where all are welcome and none are compelled to come and feast together at one big table**. The invitation is universal, but Jesus goes out of his way to personally invite those who feel excluded and unworthy—you too are welcome to eat! The only qualification is the humility it takes of sitting next to someone who smells funny, looks and thinks different than you. The religious leaders of Jesus' day had a hard time with that. Many refused to join such a big table, and 2000 years later many still do. Yet the invitation remains open to us all, for one day, "People will come from east and west, from north and south, and will eat in the kingdom of God" (Luke 13:29). This is the future God is creating, and we are free to start eating now.

In 2019, let us join one another at *The Big Table*. Our church knows how to cook and serve great meals. We do so at Community Kitchen, in the Lord's Supper, at congregational meals, and in our own homes. In all our feasting this year, may we look for more opportunities to extend a personal invitation to those who feel outcast. For all are welcome at God's table, even you.

Pastor Joel

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

...of Carolyn Edstrom who died 11/25/18.



...of Eric Ovesen, Libby Rushley's cousin's husband.

...of Frank Seimer who died 12/6/18

...of Dennis Hall who died 12/17/18.  
Son of Shirley Hall.

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#### **NEW ARRIVAL**

Gwen Teresa Modica born 1/10/19

Parents: Chris and Katy (Ankrom) Modica

Grandparents: John and Terese Ankrom and  
Judy and Leo Modica

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#### **NEW ADDRESS AND EMAIL**

Robert Downey, Jr.  
4549 Newport Loop E  
Grove City, OH 43123-8178

Doris Gruebel  
% Bob Gruebel  
150 Church St.  
Powell, OH 43065-7568

Gordon and Kim Jones  
gordonjoneswin@gmail.com

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#### **HOPE HOUSE UPDATE**

Hope House officially opened January 6<sup>th</sup> with an open house for the community to see what they have helped provide to men and families needing emergency shelter. It is a clean, safe place to stay and to begin or continue a path toward independence. A Board of Directors is forming to begin the process of obtaining 501(c)(3) tax exempt status. If you would be interested in serving in that capacity, please contact Pastor Joel. There are other volunteer opportunities to serve too and Pastor Joel, Clare Hall or Sam Wilson can tell you about those. Or if you wish to donate needed supplies, a list is on the window of the church office. Thank you for your ongoing support!

#### **THANK YOU NOTES**

Thank you to the Chance to Dance classes for the lovely Christmas ornament.

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There will be a lot of children and their families in our community that will have warm hands and heads due to the warm hearts of our congregation.

Thank you one and all.

Peggy Leasure

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I want to thank all of you who came to visit me and sent cards to me while I was at Pickaway Manor. I also appreciate all the prayers as they really helped keep my spirits up. 15 weeks is a long time to be confined to bed. The day I fell, I was definitely in God's hands. I also want to thank all the ladies who delivered meals to me at home the first couple of weeks. The dishes were delicious and you were thoughtful to bring several servings which helped throughout the first month. I grew up in the church as a child and it very rewarding to see how the congregation has continued to be very supportive of it's fellow members.

Thank you

Lou Ann Clark

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Thank you to those who donated mittens, gloves, hats and scarves to Head Start and Early Head Start children and their families. We had them in time for our winter family event, and our little ones and their siblings and parents were delighted to be able to pick out the perfect item to go with their coats, and fill a need to keep cozy and warm. Thank you to Peggy Leasure and the Presbyterian Women for organizing this collection for us. You have been so generous this year, and for many years! I wish you could have seen the smiles and heard the thank you directly from those who benefitted. Please accept my thank you on their behalf!

Donna Solovey



## JANUARY SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Session met January 9 with 11 members present. Members were encouraged to attend Presbytery officer training at Hilliard Presbyterian Church Saturday January 12. Session approved a new electronic giving company that will be less costly compared to Push-Pay fees. Session endorsed the continuation of the Community Kitchen for the coming year. A plan to examine the membership rolls was approved and will begin soon. Team reports were received and members signed up for participation on a team. The Finance Committee members were approved in accordance with the financial committee policies. Per Capita was discussed and the report will be sent to Presbytery of our intent to pay the full Per Capita. For the year 2019 the full Per Capita for each member of the congregation is \$35.75 which is broken down \$8.95 to General Assembly, \$3.25 to Synod, and \$23.55 to the Presbytery of Scioto Valley. Members of our congregation are urged to make a separate donation to help cover this expense. A final budget was approved and will be presented at the February 10, 2019 Annual meeting.

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## FINANCIAL UPDATE

The Stewardship and Finance Team wants to keep you informed of our financial status. The final result of the Stewardship Campaign was 80 total pledges, 67 with a defined dollar amount, for \$204,000. This is an average pledge of just over \$3000.00, which is very good. The response from the congregation was tremendous. However, our 2019 Budget is still in a deficit position even with this generous pledging. The issue is simply fewer pledges. Going back 12 years, we had 128 pledge units, and now it is 80. We have cut the expense side of the budget very significantly, and may have to reduce even more. We still need all of us to continue to increase our giving as much as possible. For a start, please donate an extra amount equal to your per capita assessment from Presbytery. This is \$35.75 for 2019. We will continue to keep you apprised of our financial status.

## NOON ROTARY RURAL URBAN DAY

Congregational Care Team will again host the Noon Rotary Club for their annual celebration of Rural Urban Day on Thursday, February 28, 2019, at 11:30 a.m. Our team with the welcome addition of church volunteers will prepare a meal of 2 meat dishes, vegetable, salad, potatoes, roll, and dessert. Desserts will consist of homemade cakes, cheesecakes and pies, and may be brought to church after 6 pm of February 27 or the morning of the event. The meal will be prepared the morning of February 28 from 8:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m. Servers and cleaners are needed 11:15 a.m.—1:30 p.m. Our team is so very grateful for the comradery and fellowship that these events bring to our church membership and its friends. If you are interested in helping with this community event, please notify Marcia Smith by phone 740-477-1772, text 614-306-8633 or email rmsmith74@hotmail.com.

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**Kay Farynowski**  
will celebrate her  
90th birthday

Please join family and friends as we  
celebrate this happy occasion.

**Sunday, March 24**  
**1-3 pm**

Pickaway Golf & Country Club  
1399 Stoutsville Pike  
Circleville, Ohio

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## NEW ADDRESS DIRECTORY COMING

**Please check your oldest blue directory and see if there are changes that should be made and let the office know. Phone numbers (added or deleted), land lines changed, emails changed.**

**Thank you**

### **In Our Thoughts and Prayers**

#### Caring Touch

Linda Stevenson

#### Circleville Care & Rehab

Judy Palm

#### Glendora

Woody Jones

#### Logan Elm Health Care

Lois Jones

Donald Maxson

Nancy Weitendorf (Sue Twining's mother)

#### 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

Diane Berger

Bill Campbell

Carol Campbell

Lou Ann Clark

Scot Clydesdale

Eugene Dowler

Martha Gearhart

Shirley Hall

Jim Hartley

Wally Higgins

Marcella Hostetler

Diana Jones

Carol Mader

Kay Martin

Mitch McAlister

Jimmie McKelvey

Kevin McMunn

Nancy Schneider

Bruce Stevenson

Ron Studebaker

Martha Wolfe

Doris Yamarick

Al York

Martha York

#### Also Convalescing

Ralph Ankrom (John's dad)

Charley Edgar & Corrine Edgar

Marty (Ward) Hart (Marcella Hostetler's sister)

Becky Myers (Kim Williams' mother)

Betty Topliff (LibbyRushley's mother)

**We are sorry if we have missed anyone! If  
you want someone added or removed,  
PLEASE call the church office.**

## **Annual Meeting Scheduled**

The Session of The Presbyterian Church of Circleville calls for an annual meeting to be held on Sunday, February 10, 2019, immediately following the worship service in Campbell Hall, for the following purposes:

- 1. To acknowledge those members who entered the Church Triumphant during 2018.*
- 2. To receive the annual reports of the various boards, teams, and organizations of the church, including financial reports.*
- 3. To present the church budget for 2019 as adopted by Session.*
- 4. To elect four members from the congregation to the church Nominating Committee. (Those being proposed should be contacted ahead of time regarding their willingness to serve, and may not currently be serving on Session, Deaconate, or Board of Trustees.)*

Prior to the meeting a homemade soup and salad lunch will be provided by the DSF Team.



# CIRCLEVILLE Presbyterian Church

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740-474-4791 Fax - 740-474-1404

E-Mail - [circpres@frontier.com](mailto:circpres@frontier.com)

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

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.

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U S Postage Paid  
Circleville OH 43113  
Permit Number 195

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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## *Looking ahead to..... April and May*

|       |    |                              |
|-------|----|------------------------------|
| APRIL | 7  | 5th Sunday in Lent           |
|       | 14 | Palm Sunday                  |
|       | 18 | Maundy Thursday—Communion    |
|       | 19 | Good Friday                  |
|       | 21 | Easter                       |
| MAY   | 1  | May Luncheon                 |
|       | 20 | June/July Pres-line Deadline |