

Calendar

- AI Anon:
January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30,
10am in the Lounge
- Bible Study:
January 8, 15, 22, 29, 10am
- Book Club (NEW!):
January 27, 6:30pm
- Christian Education Meeting:
January 20, 6:30pm
- Community Engagement Meeting:
January 12, 8:30am
- Deacons Meeting:
January 28, 7pm
- Men's Group:
TBD, 9am, Fox Run
- Ms. Bridget's Sprouts
January 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 10:30am
- Session Meeting:
January 13, 7pm
- Women's Group:
January 22, 6:30pm, Location TBD
- Worship Committee Meeting:
January 19, 11am

A Festive December!



Book Club!

Lets all jump into stories; we'll talk about ideas and ourselves, and share food and fellowship. Youth and adults are invited! First up is "The Lottery" by Shirley Jackson, as timely now as when it was written in 1948. January 27, 7pm in the church lounge. Bring a snack to share. -Submitted by Mary Ann Colopy



Christian Education Update

- A huge thank you to all that helped decorate the church, eat the donuts, and participated in the pageant practice on 12/1. It was really fun watching our "church family" preparing for Christmas together!
- Congrats to all the cast and crew for this year's pageant!!!! A special thank you goes to Brad for helping with our young musicians. The pizza shared by all prior to the annual Christmas Caroling Advent helped strengthen the voices of those spreading Christmas Cheer.
- On the schedule for January is Wednesday Bible Study at 10 am in the lounge. We will be completing the series of questions serving as the foundation of the current confirmation classes.
- Winter Sunday School is in full swing. Sign-up for the teachers is going well. We only have a few slots to fill. Assistants are still needed for multiple dates. Don't hesitate to be part of the "cool crowd" and join in the fun.
- Submitted by Amy DeMario

A Note from the Pastor!

I'm writing this letter to all of you in the wonderful season of Advent – a time of expectation. We await the birth of the Christ-child, we await hope for troubling times, we await the promise of peace. Interestingly, the Biblical stories about Advent and Christmas are full of wild surprises, most of which upend our expectations. A virgin becomes pregnant? Who could have ever imagined that God would have entered the world as a vulnerable child to impoverished parents? And this remarkable child would grow into a man who would not restore Israel to its former glory, but instead would save the entire world by a sacrifice of love.

As I begin my pastorate with you all, it's only natural that many will have a variety of expectations of things they'd like to see at First Presbyterian Church of East Aurora – as well as things they don't want to see at our church. We are excited about the future and we have many good ideas to share. However, we would be wise to avoid the temptation of allowing our expectations to turn into hardened agendas. After all, the church isn't a business or even a nonprofit – Jesus Christ is the head of our community and we are led by the Holy Spirit. Our holy work is to be open to the movement of the Spirit, discerning the unique and often surprising ways it is leading. What new opportunities is God presenting to us? What holy experiments is the Spirit calling us toward? It's only natural for all of us to want to sit in the driver's seat, and yet the Bible shares with us, time and time again, that our work is to be faithful and trusting – and to then enjoy the wild ride that the Spirit takes us on!

I'm almost there! I'm nearly packed. The movers are arriving soon. I'm selling my car and flying back East at the end of the month. I ask your grace and trust as we begin this new endeavor together. Let us take time to get to know one another. Let's spend some time reviewing where we have been. Let's inventory our strengths and weaknesses. Let's worship, sing, and pray together to grow in faith. And let's keep the Advent spirit of openness and wonder towards upended expectations alive each and every day! See you soon! -Jesse



Happy New Year



**Would you consider serving as a Deacon or Elder starting in February?
If so, please contact Curt Colopy at 914-213-5732. Thank you!**

January Birthdays! Happy Birthday Everyone!

Barbara Ackley	Adelaide Byer	Wesley Hernandez	Addison More	Annika Spencer
Sandra Beers	Lincoln Byer	Richard Higgins	Adam Murphy	Noah Suckow
Pavel Bittner	Colleen Carlson	Lorny Hurd	Matthew Seifert	Grace Tapani
Connor Boss	Shawn Gingerich	Lisa Krieger	Mark Sleeper	Don Taylor
				Richard Van Slooten

Ms. Bridget's Sprouts

Come each week to join Ms. Bridget and her friend Sprout this winter! Sprouts is designed to enhance your child's early growth & development and increase socialization. Get ready to learn and have fun each Tuesday & Wednesday at 10:30am! Ages 6m-5y. Please contact Bridget Pacholec to register at 716-982-2000.



Join us for worship Sundays at 10am, in person or on Facebook!

The sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated the first Sunday of every month.

Community Engagement News

Happy and Healthy New Year to you all!

-Thank you all for the toys and gift card donations for Urban Christian Ministries. Many families on the east side look to UCM for some help during the holidays and you have made a difference with your generous giving.

-Each year our church has given the Mission/Community Engagement Team \$5,000 from the interest on the church's endowment. The team with your mission dollars has added \$2,000 to be donated. At the end of the year, we as a team decide how to distribute it as charitable giving. We are pleased to announce the following organizations that will receive money from First Presbyterian Church of EA from these funds in 2024:

Water=Life \$1,500 FISH of East Aurora \$1,500

Urban Christian Ministries \$1,500, Peace of the City \$1,500, Tonawanda Seneca Nation \$400, Fundamaya (Guatemala family needs) \$600.

-Sub Club volunteers will be making 60 sub sandwiches for South Buffalo Community Table on Sunday, January 26th at 8:30 before church.

-We are always looking for individuals interested in outreach. Join us for our next monthly meeting which will be on Sunday morning, January 12 at 8:45 in the lounge.

-Submitted by Darcy Sowyrda

One of the Best Nights of the Year!

On December 11, our friends from the Aktion Club joined us for our annual advent service. It is always a most joyous occasion, and this year was no exception! Thank you, Aktion Club for sharing your gifts with us. We are so grateful for you!

