



## From the Pastor's Desk

*He was in the world and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God who were born, not of blood or the will of man but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory of a father's only son full of grace and truth. John 1: 10-14.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The words of the Carols still ring in our ears, the sights of Christmas trees and wreaths and candles are still visible in many places and Christmas is in our midst. I know many of you are thinking, "this is January! Doesn't she know that Christmas is over?" I get it, for many, January is the get over it and move on, it's a new month and a new year. And I get that sentiment, but I would like to suggest that as we enter this year, instead of rushing head long, lets commit to living in the minute. Christmas in fact, is the heart of January and we often forget that. It starts us off deeply rooted in the Christmas story to prepare us for the coming year. The stories of the Christmas season span Advent and go through the second Sunday of January, so we can sit with the events for more than one day.

This year let's slow down and remember the lessons of Christmas. This year, no matter what it brings, remember that God took on flesh so that he could abide with us through the blessings and the woes of life. This year I pray that we would slow down enough to make a commitment to community, remembering that our church family is our anchor spiritually and communally.

Pastor Melissa

### 3 WAYS TO GIVE

- In Person
- By Mail: 4030 Douglas Rd  
Toledo 43613
- On-line using bank Bill Pay

419-473-1294 Church Office  
 419-473-1295 Church Office Fax  
 419-474-7144 Precious People Preschool  
 E: office@aldersgatetoledoumc.org  
 W: [www.aldersgatetoledoumc.org](http://www.aldersgatetoledoumc.org)  
 Facebook/aldersgatetoledoumc.org

### COMMUNITY MEAL

Drive Thru & Inside  
 Friday, January 14 5-8 PM

February articles should be in by  
 January 21st.

## CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

### illumination: lost

Guiding God, without the presence of your Holy Spirit,  
we are hopelessly lost on this Advent journey.

Come to us in this place

as we gather to hear your Word.

Open our hearts to receive your Word

and our minds to understand it. Amen.

by [Rev. Stephen M. Fearing](#), Shelter Island Presbyterian Church, NY

We read this poem as we kicked off Advent at the end of November and each week at youth group, we have made time to reflect on the promise of the coming Emmanuel ~ God with us ~ as we discussed the hope, peace, joy and love that Jesus brings to our world and our lives. Our faith conversations were aimed at making tangible how we can reflect and follow Jesus' lead – since he came to show us the best way to live. Looking ahead into the new year, pray that we can continue to have open hearts and minds as we learn and practice what it is to live lives of Love.

Fun activities in December for the youth included hanging out in the youth room playing games, making Christmas ornaments, preparing for the Christmas luncheon (we have some chefs in the making!), decorating Meinhart Hall, making Gingerbread houses, and singing in the Christmas concert. Old and new faces have been coming together, and we are hopeful for lots more fun and togetherness in the new year! Due to the continuation of Covid infections, some events had to be cancelled in December, like Caroling and our Christmas Party, and the Children's musical. Make up dates will be announced, and we will ring in the New Year for Youth Group on Sunday January 9!

We are still in need for more volunteers to help with Children and Family Ministry. If you enjoy hanging out with Youth and have the time and heart to pour into them – I'd love to talk with you about volunteering as a Youth Leader. We meet Sunday Evenings at the church from 6-8pm. Commitments could be weekly or every other week. For anyone interested in getting involved with ministry to children, youth, and families: **Family Ministry Meetings will be held on the second Tuesday evening of the month, 6:30pm in the Youth Room!** Beginning in January, we will begin looking ahead to VBS planning, Youth Summer Mission Trip, Summer Camp, and also brainstorming for ways to invite new families into our church community. Please Join Us!

Additionally, Jeremy Horner will be teaching a study on the Armor of God in Sunday School, in the youth room on Sundays at 9:30am.

<p><b>JANUARY BIRTHDAYS</b></p> <p><u>January 3</u> Doyle Ayers Steffany Baker Sharon Corliss</p> <p><u>January 4</u> Joseph Galati</p> <p><u>January 5</u> Kim Brobst Megan Edgington Alice Giltz Joyce Godfrey Lou Ann Shearer</p> <p><u>January 6</u> Jamie Feudi</p> <p><u>January 9</u> Carla Giltz</p> <p><u>January 10</u> Sally Finnegan</p>	<p><u>January 13</u> Kelly Bitter</p> <p><u>January 14</u> Carol Bolander</p> <p><u>January 18</u> John Fischer Brian Scherer</p> <p><u>January 19</u> Kevin Allan Nicholas Hamm Charlie Matuszewski</p> <p><u>January 20</u> Emma Poore J.P. Smith</p> <p><u>January 21</u> Kristi Lanigan</p> <p><i>Happy Birthday</i></p>	<p><u>January 22</u> Sara Matuszewski Brandon Mertes</p> <p><u>January 23</u> Nancy Liming Greg Thomas</p> <p><u>January 24</u> Janice Drum</p> <p><u>January 27</u> Diane Lanzer Gary Mohr</p> <p><u>January 28</u> Tamara Bennett Tom Cox Jeremiah Galati</p> <p><u>January 31</u> Ronald Ley Rachel McCloskey</p>	<p><b>ALDERSGATE STAFF</b></p> <p><b>PASTOR</b> Rev. Melissa Steinecker</p> <p><b>CHILDREN, YOUTH, &amp; FAMILY DIRECTOR</b> Carla Hinde</p> <p><b>SENIOR MINISTRIES</b> Barbara Myers &amp; Rebecca Grohowski</p> <p><b>STEPHEN MINISTRY LEADER</b> Larry Godfrey</p> <p><b>CHANCEL CHOIR &amp; CELEBRATION RINGERS DIRECTOR</b> Jacob Smith</p> <p><b>ORGANIST</b> Judy East</p> <p><b>ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT</b> Tamara Bennett</p> <p><b>CUSTODIAN</b> Becky Buchanan</p> <p><b>PRECIOUS PEOPLE PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR</b> Jennie Matuska</p> <p><b>GATEWAY EDITOR</b> Debbie Myers</p>
<p><b>FRIENDLY CENTER</b></p> <p>There will be no meetings until March.</p> <p>Anyone can be a member at \$5.00 or more a year. I am now collecting 2022 memberships. If you have never done this before, please consider it. All your money goes into keeping the mission alive. Put it in an envelope and mark it "Friendly Center" and give it to me on any Sunday or to the office. Thanks! Sally Finnegan</p>	<p><b>PRECIOUS PEOPLE PRESCHOOL</b></p> <p>Precious People Preschool has had a very busy December! The students learned about the birth of Jesus and other winter holidays. We also put on a wonderful Christmas Program for parents.</p> <p>As we move into January, we will be selling recipe books as a fundraiser for our parent group. The recipe books include mostly desserts, and all of the recipes were submitted by preschool families. The recipe books cost \$3 each or 2 for \$5.</p> <p>Please keep an eye out for order forms at the back of the sanctuary. We are also selling an ABC coloring book created by Miss Erin, our preschool teacher. These books also are \$3 each or 2 for \$5. Books can be one of each if you choose the 2 for \$5 deal. Books must be paid for at the time of ordering and will be available for pick up in the church office once you receive notification that your order is complete.</p>	<p><b>EUCHRE</b></p> <p>Join us Tuesday, January 18th at 1:00 pm in the Choir Room. Coffee and a sweet dessert will be served.</p>	<p><b>BODY BETTER</b></p> <p>Body Better is Fridays from 9:15 am to 10:15 am. Please contact Barb Myers for more information.</p>
<p><b>DISTRICT LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TRAINING</b></p> <p>In early 2022, clergy and leaders in the West Ohio Conference will have four opportunities to participate in regional leadership Training. Four <i>District Leadership Development</i> events have been planned across the West Ohio Conference to serve all eight districts. Each event will offer a hybrid format; in-person with local COVID-19 practices and an online option. Each training will include a keynote speaker, highlighting key annual conference initiatives, as well as breakouts for leadership training and development.</p> <p><i>Registration will open on January 1, 2022.</i> Mark your calendar and plan to attend with the leadership team from your church for the date, location, and theme of your choice:</p> <p><b>Northwest Plains and Maumee Watershed Districts:</b> Date: Saturday, January 29, 2022 Location: Findlay St. Mark's UMC or online Keynote: "It Starts with One" Rev. Ann Marie Carley, Director of Camps, Retreats, and Next Gen Engagement</p>	<p><b>FOOD FOR ALL PANTRY NEWS</b></p> <p>Distribution for the month of January will be Tuesdays the 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, from 12-4pm We still <b>need people</b> to help with <b>packing, distributing, and stocking</b> the food.</p> <p>If you could help, please call the office at 419-473-1294.</p> <p>Please pray about serving in this important ministry.</p> <p><b>We are in need of Jelly, Spag. Sauce, Canned Meat, Monetary Gifts for Fresh eggs, bread, and cheese.</b> Thank you and God bless!</p>	<p><b>ELDERSGATE</b></p> <p>The luncheon will be on January 25th from noon to 1:30 p.m. Cost is \$5.00. Please <b>RSVP</b> by January 20th @ 419-202-1004.</p>	<p><b>UMW MEETING</b></p> <p>There will be a meeting on January 12<sup>th</sup> at 1pm for all ladies of the church to decide the direction we would like to go with the UMW.</p> <p>At the small, short meeting we had at the beginning of December, it was decided to divide the money we had in our account and give half to The Friendly Center and the other half to the District towards our apportionments. We would like to start one Circle during the day and try to come up with some fund-raising activities. We would value your opinions.</p>
			<p><b>ALTAR FLOWERS</b></p> <p>To request a bouquet of flowers for Sunday worship, please sign up on the Flower Board near the church office. The bouquets are \$30 each.</p>