Bazaar





A huge thank you to all the wonderful people who helped with the Presbyterian Women's Bazaar. It was a resounding success. There were people who donated, who baked, who set up, who organized, who shopped, who cleaned up, and drove extras to Savers or other mission groups. PW raised $5390.81 for their mission work!

Seneca Sessions





Thank you to all who have attended the Sunday morning Seneca Sessions to hear and engage about Indigenous peoples during the month of November! Please join on 11/29 for "Witness to Injustice" from 2-5pm with food to follow. Thank you!

Book Club



Join us on Thursday, Dec 3 at 6:30 in the lounge for “The Glass Castle” by Jeannette Walls!



FISH



For the month of December, we’ll be collecting canned ravioli for FISH of East Aurora!



We’ve reached our stewardship goal! Our current total is $200,354! If you haven’t returned your pledge card, there is still time to do so. Thank you!

December Birthdays! Happy Birthday Everyone!

Mark Ackley
Jenny Beyer
Catherine Burt
Connie Byrne
Catherine Cardina
Mark Dechert
Geoff Gunner
Judi Hamms
John Johnston
Molly Pearson
Carl Porter
Aubrey Roden
Fred Thornley
Barb Zimmerman

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.

Calendar

Al Anon: Dec 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, 10am

Book Club:
Dec 3, 6:30pm

Back Row Boys:
Dec 2, 9am @ The Iron Kettle

Bible Study:
Dec 2, 9, 30, 10am

Caroling with Youth Group
Dec 13, 12pm

Ms. Bridget's Sprouts:
Dec 1, 2, 8, 98, 22, 23, 29, 30, 10:30am
Dec 1, 8, 4:30pm

Christmas Pageant:
Dec 13, 10am

Service on Christmas Eve:
Dec 24, 4pm Service
Dec 24, 9:30pm Concert
Dec 24, 10pm Service

Christmas Eve Services!

We will have two opportunities to worship on Christmas Eve! We will have a traditional service at 4pm. At 9:30 Brad will lead our annual Christmas Eve concert, followed by a service of lessons and carols at 10pm. Please spread the word to your family and friends. We hope you can join us!



Advent Decorating!



Decorating the sanctuary is always one of the most fun days of the year! Thank you to everyone who helped! A great time was had by all, and we were done in time for the Bills Game!



Matt Black Concert

A HUGE thank you to Matthew Black who performed a wonderful concert for us on Nov 8th. It was an evening of uplifting music. We are so grateful he traveled to share his gifts with us!



All of us here at FPCEA wish you and your family a peaceful and joyous Christmas season!

First Presbyterian Church of East Aurora
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office@fpcea.org

Christian Education Update

December= The Festivities Begin

Sunday School: So many fun things happening this month. Be sure to place all on your calendar:

December 6th:

- “Music with Brad” for pK-2
- Sunday Class for 3-6 grade

December 13th:

- The Church Pageant during the church service. (Please watch for an update on the rehearsal date.)
- Congregation Pizza Party following the service.
- Youth Group Christmas Caroling from 12pm-2pm. Note all ages welcome to attend.

December 20th

- Sunday School pk-2
- 3-6 grade class participates in the “Informal” Church Service

December 27th

- Sunday School pk-2
- 3-6 grade participates in a special “Jesus’s Birth Fun Facts” Church Service.

Bible Study: 10 am Wednesday Bible Study will meet: Dec 2nd, Dec 9th, and Dec 30th.

CE Committee: No December meeting. Next meeting is scheduled for Jan 4th.

Hoping you can participate in all or some of these events!

Angel Tree

This year we are collecting for Urban Christian Ministries located on Jefferson Ave in Buffalo. Their program focuses on empowering 14-24 yr olds. Let us provide a special Christmas for these youth and their families who have very little. Please bring in the following items by December 13th:

- Gift cards to Aldi and TOPS
- Gift Cards to Walmart, Target or Amazon
- Warm gloves, hats and socks
- Personal hygiene products (male & female)

We hope to purchase some winter jackets with our mission funds. Take a tag off the tree if you need a reminder. Thank you!!



Poinsettias



If you wish to order a poinsettia for Christmas, please place your information on the order form the back of the sanctuary, or call Annie in the office. Orders are due by Sunday, December 13th! Thank you!



A Note from the Pastor!

The beginning of the new church year always begins on the first Sunday of Advent – which creates a strange tension since in the secular world, we are wrapping up the current year. It feels like we have a foot in both worlds – a new year and the old one at the same time. Perhaps this unique positioning is a helpful illustration about Advent – the season of hopeful expectation. We look backward as we commemorate Jesus’ birth into the world years ago, while we also look forward to the day when Christ will return.

As we read scripture during Advent and throughout the year, we are often taught to strive to be to be present in the midst of it all – to be watchful, to be thankful for the day’s bread, to save tomorrow’s worry for tomorrow. It’s actually a fairly radical message in this day and age as we spend so much time and energy planning for the future. During the holiday season, more so than any other time of year, we are so busy planning for one big day – Christmas! There is an insane amount of things to do – parties to prepare for and attend, concerts, pageants, gifts to buy, cards to write, goodies to bake, not to mention all of the duties we have wrap up before January 1. But as we race to check off the many items on our list, the days fly by, as well as the magic of the season. We realize that we have failed to be present in one of the most special times of the year.

Thankfully, some churches are pushing for sabbaths during the entire month of December – no meetings, no events, just space to revel in the season and be more present. Our own church takes a break from committee meetings as well in hopes of helping alleviate this mad rush of busy-ness. As Advent begins, how might we all slow down and try to be more present? What are practices that you can do to be more present during this wonderful time of year? Can you find the time to reflect, pray, and discern the ways the Holy Spirit is present in our hurting world? And where might the Spirit be leading you in the days ahead? What ways can you help to prepare the way of the Lord – for the hope of a peaceable kingdom, of the lifting up all who have been laid low, for the coming of the messiah? Lord knows we all have plenty of stuff, but we could sure use more peace and presence in our lives and communities. Happy Advent and Merry Christmas!
-Jesse



Pageant



Join us on Sunday, December 13th for FPCEA’S annual Christmas Pageant! It is one of the best Sundays of the year, when we get to see our kids shine! A pizza party will immediately follow the service!









Caroling



Join youth group as they carol for some of our friends! The annual merriment will take place on Sunday, December 13 from 12:00-2:00. We will convene at the church and caravan to all stops!



