



GOOD NEWS

LETTER

*Forest Presbyterian Church
Living God's Heart, Hands, & Voice*

Newsletter for Forest Presbyterian Church, Forest, Virginia

January 2020

God's Rainbow

"When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." - Genesis 9:16

All I needed was a book on a Saturday afternoon. Popped into the church, and quickly back out the door. As Gwen and I rounded the parking lot, we saw it, a full colorful rainbow stretched high across the sky, framing the church.

I jumped out of the car, knowing that, at any moment, the sign could vanish. I snapped several photos from the parking lot.



As beautiful as the photos are, they pale in comparison to the real thing.

In a new year, the rainbow reminds us of two things. On the one hand, each rainbow reminds us of God's everlasting covenant with us.

God will never leave us; God is always there for protection, for care, and for hope.

At the same time, God sees each rainbow. The rainbow is not meant only as a reminder for us. The rainbow reminds God of that same covenant. God remembers the promises made to us today and the hope for the future.

As we begin a new year, remember that God remembers you and that God goes with you and Forest Presbyterian Church throughout 2020.

Happy New Year!

Yours in Faith,

MORGAN

Share Love!



Valentines for College Students!

Our FYRE Youth Group will be sending Valentine's Cards to our FPC college students and we want the congregation to participate! Starting January 26 - through Sunday, February 9 you will find a table with blank hearts and envelopes for each student. Please take a minute to jot a note and place in the student's envelope. Donations will be excepted to help with the cost. We will mail valentines the week of February 10. What a fun time for students to be encouraged by members of our church!

SEE INSIDE

Pastor's Note.....	1
FYRE Youth	2
Christian Education	3
January Calendar	4
Birthdays	5
Retreat Information	5
Missions.....	6
Book Club	6
Disaster Notes	7



**Forest
Youth
Reaching
Everyone**



**It's Time For Souper Bowl
January 5 - February 2**

**No not the *Super bowl*, but the
*Souper Bowl of Caring!***

FYRE Youth Group will be participating in the nation-wide Souper Bowl of Caring project, and we'll be collecting food for Bedford Christian Ministries. This year instead of pitting different types of food together, we're going to go for a new record number of donations for FPC. Our record is 428 food items.

Let's go Team FPC and help beat hunger!

January **FYRE Meetings:**

Sunday, January 12, 19, and 26 4:30-6 pm
Regular FYRE Youth Meetings

**PoPs YOUTH
WINTER RETREAT
February 21-22
Camp Bethel**

**For ALL Middle and High
School Youth**

Theme this year is: *Centered on Sabbath*
Explore Sabbath with music, nature, art and more.
Registration deadline is **January 31**.

**Join other Youth
and have Winter Fun!**

**Chimes/Handbells
(Ding-A-Lings)**



Chimes/Handbells (Ding-A-Lings) -

Thank you again to everyone who has contributed to the gift of handbells for our church. We were blessed to have them in time for the Advent season and glorifying God through the gift of music. Contact Laurie Brownson if you wish to join this ministry.

NOTE: There will be NO handbell rehearsals on Wednesday, January 1 or Sunday, January 5.

Kids Music Program

The children's music program has been very well received. The enthusiasm for learning the language of music has been fantastic. After learning the time value of eight, quarter, half, and whole notes; we have started learning how to read the notes of the treble clef. With this comes the ability to start playing instruments and developing an ear for pitch. The chimes are being used to develop these skills. The children's program is open to the community from K-5th grade. We meet in the Sunday School area the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month from 2:15-2:45.



Christian Education

A Word from CE

Jesus

So they went out and proclaimed that people should change their hearts and their lives. -Mark 6:12

Happy New Year! What a great time to join us in Church School! This month we will be learning about how Jesus leads the community-starting with his baptism, the good news, and the disciples. Each Sunday, we read the Bible story, do puzzles, games, crafts, and watch a video about the lesson. When you see us after class ask us what we have learned. We have a great time! Come join us this Sunday and bring a friend!

The children at FPC are so much fun to teach and spend time with! Please consider volunteering to teach in Church school, lead children's chapel or help in the nursery. If you feel God is calling you to help in anyway, please talk to Meghann Cope, Angie Francis, or Stephanie Lane to learn more.

Adult Church School

All adults are encouraged to join us each Sunday morning 9:30 am as Pastor Morgan continues his new study in **The Present Word - Honoring God.**

Fellowship notes



Potato & Salad Bar



When: Sunday, January 19, 11:30 am

Cost: \$5:00 per/person



Mark your calendar now and plan to stay after morning worship to enjoy the food and fellowship with other members and friends.

January events

No Chimes/Handbells and FYRE Youth Group on Sunday, January 5 (resumes on January 12).

- Chimes/Handbells - Sunday's 3pm
- Chimes/Handbells - Wednesday's 6pm
- Choir Practice - Wednesday's 7pm
- TOPS - Thursday's 9am
- FPC Lunch Club - Thursday, January 9, 11:30am
- Deacons - Thursday, January 9, 6pm
- FYRE Youth Group - Sunday, January 12, 19 & 26, 4:30pm
- Newsletter Deadline - Monday, January 13
- Disciples in ChristCare - Tuesday, January 14 & 21, 10am
- Session - Tuesday, January 14, 7pm
- Children's Music - Sunday, December 12 & 26, 2:15pm
- Potato/Salad Bar - Sunday, January 19, 11:30am - following worship
- Two-Cents-A-Meal - Sunday, January 26
- Book Club - Tuesday, January 28, 7pm








Walking Group!



Our walkers continue to trek through Ohio on the Buckeye Trail. The North Scenic Trail incorporates 919 miles of the Buckeye in Ohio. We entered Ohio in the northeastern part of the state and covered 191 miles

before we joined the Buckeye. On the Buckeye, we have travelled south and then west and are currently in the Cincinnati area. We are now turning north and will soon leave the Buckeye to take the NCT into southern Michigan. Anyone wishing to join us can contact Ginny Lenz to become a member of the group.

JANUARY 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 New Year's Day	2 9a TOPS	3	4
5 Communion NO Handbells NO FYRE Youth Group	6	7	8 6p Chimes 7p Adult Choir  Choir Rehearsal	9 9a TOPS 11:30a FPC Lunch Club 6p Deacons	10	11
12 2:15p Kids Music 3p Chimes/Handbells 4:30p FYRE Youth Group	13 Newsletter Deadline 	14 10a Disciples in ChristCare 7p Session	15 6p Chimes 7p Adult Choir	16 9a TOPS	17	18 
19 11:30a Fellowship (potato & salad event) 3p Chimes/Handbells 4:30p FYRE Youth Group	20	21 10a Disciples in ChristCare	22 6p Chimes 7p Adult Choir	23 9a TOPS	24	25
26 2 Cents-A-Meal 2:15p Kids Music 3p Chimes/Handbells 4:30p FYRE Youth Group	27	28 7p Book Club	29 6p Chimes 7p Adult Choir	30 9a TOPS	31 	

ABBREVIATIONS

a - am
 p - pm
 MT - Ministry Team
 CC - ChristCare
 BS - Bible Study

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:30am - Church School
 10:30 am - Worship Service



Connected in Creation

Forest Presbyterian Church is having a church-wide retreat this Spring

YOU ARE INVITED!

We will spend time together in fun and fellowship to enrich and grow our intergenerational community. Throughout the weekend, we will enjoy sensory, interactive, hands-on and creative activities to explore how we are all *connected in creation*.

WHAT: FPC Retreat time away together!

WHEN: Friday, March 20 - Saturday, March 21, 2020

WHERE: WE Skelton 4H Educational Conference Center at Smith Mountain Lake

Registration: Opens January 12, 2020

Information Session: Sunday, January 12, 2020
In the sanctuary - immediately after worship



W.E. SKELTON 4-H EDUCATIONAL
**CONFERENCE
CENTER**
AT SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE



January Birthdays

- 2 Donald Nugent
- 3 Edie Tanner
- 4 David Boyle
- 4 Alan Ahrens
- 4 Rachel Heideman
- 6 Christina Bennett
- 6 Lindsay Bennett
- 6 Wayne Johnson
- 8 Ann Frances Harrison
- 10 Brian Klingenfus
- 15 Morgan Whitfield (Pastor)
- 15 Curtis Stephens
- 16 Louis Sims
- 25 Trish Hendricks
- 26 Cynthia Hendricks
- 26 Tom Leedy



Choir Notes

Did you enjoy Christmas? We hope everyone was able to enjoy all the special Christmas music that the Choir presented. It is wonderful to celebrate the birth of our Lord by lifting our voices together! If we have inspired you to sing, please come join us as we rehearse each Wednesday evening at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary. The choir is looking forward to the Easter season and would love for *YOU* to join us. All are welcome!



MISSIONS



Angel Tree - Thank you for your support for the 2019 Angel Tree. We were able to serve 40 angels this year that included elderly, disabled and children for Bedford County. This is a great undertaking for Forest Presbyterian Church, thank you for adopting all the angels and getting the wrapped presents back in time so we were able to deliver the gifts to all homes before Christmas. Thank you for putting smiles on many faces this Christmas. And thank you for **LIVING GOD'S HEART, HAND, AND VOICE** in our community!

Food Pantry - Cold weather is creeping in fast and the need for more food is always there. We thank you and appreciate all the help that you give to the Bedford Christian Ministries. The food pantry is in need of the following items:

Canned meats, fruit, vegetables, all kinds of cereals, mac-n-cheese, spaghetti noodles and spaghetti sauce, peanut butter, jelly, bottled juices, oatmeal, toilet paper, paper towels, napkins etc - all are needed. Thank you for all your help!



Circle of Friends Book Club

Can you believe we are starting a new decade?! It's the perfect time to make a New Year's resolution to read more books!

To help you get started, you are cordially invited to join the Circle of Friends Book Club. This fun group meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm at Forest Presbyterian Church and is open to anyone in the Forest/Lynchburg area who loves to read and talk about books (and laugh a lot!) We read a variety of titles including fiction, non-fiction, and classics. Upcoming selections include:

January 28- Educated- by Tara Westover

February 25- Where the Crawdads Sing- by Delia Owens

PLEASE plan to join us....we LOVE new members!

If you have questions, contact Sarah Heideman at 385-0608 or e-mail skhei5va@gmail.com



Disaster Preparedness - Winter Weather Safety

Though winter storms can be difficult to predict far in advance, it is possible to know when they are most likely to occur, to give yourself and your family adequate time to prepare for severe winter weather.



When a winter storm hits, you want to have the following ready:

- The ability to get weather forecasts and storm updates as they are released.
- Emergency supplies to keep you and your family warm and safe during a storm.
- Home preparations, including for your pipes, roof and indoor comfort.
- Car preparations, including antifreeze and ice removal equipment.



Weather Forecasts

You'll want to be able to receive all of the latest weather updates during a winter storm, which means you'll need more than one reliable source of weather information. We recommend the following:

- Sign up for [The Weather Channel](#) Alerts for your mobile phone and/or e-mail. Receive all our alerts by signing up here.
- Make sure you have fresh batteries for your radio(s), in case your home loses power.
- Learn the difference between a winter storm watch and warning.

Emergency Supplies

If you know a winter storm will arrive in your area soon, make sure you have the following ready, especially in the case of a severe winter storm:

- Firewood, if you have a fireplace.
- Food that is non-perishable, if you lose power.
- Emergency equipment such as generators and flashlights, tested and ready for use.
- Water for drinking and cooking, collected in bottles in case your pipes freeze.
- Make sure to charge your mobile phone, laptop and other mobile device batteries.



Prepare Your Home

- Make sure your home's attic and walls are properly insulated.
- Let your faucets drip to prevent freezing water from causing pipes to burst.
- Make sure your pipes are properly insulated and leave cabinet doors open around pipes to ensure they receive warmth from the air flowing through your home.
- Apply weather stripping to exterior-facing [windows](#) and doors, and put in storm windows.
- Set up emergency heating equipment, a fireplace with wood or coal and a camp stove with fuel.
- Purchase [space heaters](#) as needed and learn how to use them safely, keep space heaters away from furniture, drapes and all flammable objects, and never leave them turned on in a room where no one is present. Never drape wet clothes, gloves, hats or socks over a space heater to dry.
- Learn how to shut off your home's water valves in the [event](#) that a pipe breaks.