

 **Park Presbyterian Church**

January 2022

## Monthly Park Branches

Contact Us

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724-775-2936



*“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us—and we have seen His glory.” John 1: 14*

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year 2022—and Merry Christmas Year 2022!

What?

Well, there is no typo here: In addition to wishing you a Happy New year 2022, I am also wishing you all a Merry Christmas Year 2022.

What do I mean by this?

*“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us—and we have seen His glory.”*

With these words, John's gospel captures the essence of Christmas: God becomes one of us, not only taking on human form—so that we might recognize him—but also entering fully into our human condition. *“How can this be?”* asks Mary when the angel Gabriel announces this is about to happen. She speaks for us all. Christmas—the coming of God to be one of us—is an event filled with no small amount of mystery.

But the reason for Christmas is not mysterious: In order to help us, God decides to live with us as one of us. To be born of human parents. To be nurtured at the human breast. To work with human hands as you and I do. To die a human death—a death that came to Jesus at the age of 33 years. In Jesus we see God experience what we know.

We see more, however: In Jesus we also see God's desire to fundamentally change our world. Jesus embodies this change in many ways—even everyday ways. He does it by holding close those who know little—if any—human touch and tenderness. He does it by healing wounds both visible—and invisible—in the lives of everyday people. He does it by calling people back to the will and ways of God as laid out in the Holy Scriptures. He does it by proclaiming a new worldwide community, called the Kingdom of God, and he calls people of every strata of society to play their part in advancing this new society, grounded upon the peace, justice and mercy of God.

There are those who oppose this new society. Just as Jesus will not remain a baby but become a man, the powers that be will see that the wood of the manger becomes the cross on which Jesus dies. And, yet, through the power of God, this instrument of darkness and death—miraculously and mysteriously—becomes the catalyst to a new—and everlasting—life—that bursts upon the earth at Easter. *“The light shines in the darkness—and the darkness has not overcome it,”* as John declares to us.

There are many ways in which the life of Jesus, as the Christ, is a unique and unrepeatable event. There is what his willing death upon the Cross achieves. *“Through Jesus Christ”*—as we joyfully declare each Sunday, here at Park—*“we are forgiven!”* There is no need for what is past to cling to us so strongly that we cannot break free and renew our commitment to serving the Lord (just look at Peter!). And, yet, how hard it is to break free from sadness when—but 40 days after Easter—Jesus leaves Peter and the rest of the first disciples, all to return to the right hand of God the Father. You and I, let me suggest, experience a small sliver of their sadness when we take down the Christmas tree, and put away the decorations of the past month.

But is Jesus really gone?

Is Christmas really over?

As we read the gospels, we hear the promise of Jesus that he remains by our side in spirit. He promises us that he is here teaching us what we need to know. That he is here comforting us with the kind of comfort we need. That he is here, leading us to the truth we need to know.

And what is this truth?

***It is the truth that Christmas goes on!***

***It is the truth that Christ—the Word of God—takes on flesh—becomes visible to the world—THROUGH us.***

*Through the acts of love we perform*

*Through the mercy we give to others*

*Through the truth we utter to those in power*

*Through the justice we strive for, and—just as importantly—through the forgiveness we extend, one to another.*

*The Christmas story is God's story—but it is also our story, and it is a story that goes on, here and now.*

There is much that COVID continues to take away from us. No virus—indeed, no power on earth—can take away Christmas, however. As long as you and I have breath, we have the ability to speak—and to do—as Christ commands. In this way, December 25<sup>th</sup> is more than one day. It is a way of life, lived each and every day of the calendar year.

And so, as we give thanks to God for bringing us safely through 2021 to this New Year, let us also keep Christmas through each day of 2022.

Happy New Year 2022—and Merry Christmas Year 2022!

Faithfully,

Todd

### **Sunday Worship as Park Apart**

The worship video will be available on Sunday at 11:00 am and you can continue to find us anytime thereafter at <https://www.parkpres.org/swl-sunday-worship-live>. The bulletin for the service can also be found on the [Sunday Worship page](#) of our site. If you have announcements or prayer requests, please send them to Todd Allen on Sunday morning via text/call at 612-554 6527.



### **35<sup>th</sup> Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial and Awards Luncheon**

Friday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022, First Presbyterian Church, 252 College Ave, Beaver.

This annual event is sponsored by Christians United in Beaver County. There will be a remembrance service followed by a luncheon at the church.

Featured Speaker: The Reverend Marvin Moreland

Honorees: Ms. Susan Smith & Mr. Larry Blackwell

The service is limited in time so you can attend on your lunch break!

### **Church Office Closed!**

The Park Church office will be closed on Monday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022 in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The office will reopen on Tuesday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am.



### **Annual Congregational Meeting**

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 30<sup>th</sup> following worship. Copies of the Annual Report will be available on the previous Sunday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

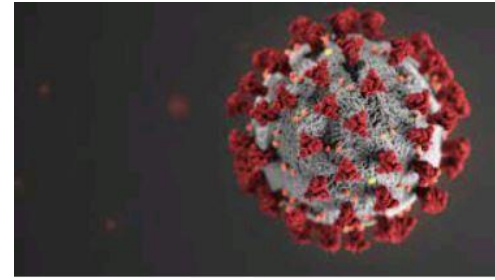
### **Lifeline Screening**

Lifeline will perform screenings at the church on Thursday, January 20<sup>th</sup>. Lifeline screenings go beyond regular checkups to look inside your arteries for signs of plaque build-up. You can get the following 5 screenings for \$139: Carotid Artery Disease, Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD), Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA), Atrial Fibrillation (AFib) and Osteoporosis Risk. Call toll-free 1-866-229-0469 or go online to <https://lisa.social/HSC> or text the word “circle” to 797979 to sign up.



### Mask Policy

The Session of Park Presbyterian continues to strongly encourage that masks be worn by all of us, vaccinated or unvaccinated, out of consideration for fellow church members and guests. The Session will continue to follow developments concerning the Omicron variant. Should you forget your mask, disposable masks are available in the sanctuary. Thank you for your cooperation in this new policy as we strive to serve one another well.



### December 2021 Financial Update

In December 2021, the Monthly Revenues were \$25,478.44 and the Monthly Expenses were \$28,811.28.

The 2021 Annual Revenues were \$288,103.50 and the Annual Expenses were \$214,018.82.

Please continue your generous support during the upcoming year!



### Celebrating Birthdays this Month:

Dale Fauser	2
Eric Kochanowski	2
L. J. Wolfe	3
Harley Allen	3
Mary Lou Leslie	4
Sue Hage	4
Emily Dugan	6
Barbara Anderson	9
LeahRae Ringer	10
Cindy Sheline	16
Bob Davis	17
Marjie O'Neill	19
Jan Pasuit	23
Florence Zielinske	26
Ginny Flick	27
David Saylor	27
Brad Davis	31