

The Belltower

January 2019

A Monthly Publication of Dunnellon Presbyterian Church

Declaring and Demonstrating the Promises of Christ



Dear Members and Friends of DPC,

*How silently, how silently; The wondrous gift is given
So God imparts to human hearts; The blessings of His heaven
No ear may hear His coming; But in this world of sin
Where meek souls will receive him still; The dear Christ enters in.*

As I write this message, it is just a little over a week until Christmas day. By the time you read this message we will be well into the season of Christmas with perhaps just a few days left before Epiphany/the Baptism of our Lord that marks the end of the 12 days of Christmas. The presents will all be opened. In many households, the tree will have been taken down, the wrapping paper hauled away to the dump, and the ill-fitting or duplicate gifts will have been returned or exchanged. We will have settled back and considered our season of giving and make an assessment of our giving in this oft proclaimed season of giving.

For most of us we will have a sense of accomplishment that we have met the expectations we have set upon ourselves for the giving of gifts and the sharing of that which we have shared of our time and talent with others during this season of giving. We may recall how great it was to have bought those gifts on lists, gone over the limits on our Angel Tree gifts, gone out of our way to purchase just the right “special” ingredients we purchased to make Christmas goodies we have shared with others. We may also recollect the smiles on the faces of those whom we have visited in lost places like nursing homes, memory care facilities and perhaps even a detention center. It is the season for giving and we have done our share and more, that’s a great thing to celebrate. We can be satisfied.

A season for giving! That is what many of us have come to think about Christmas, and yes, it is a season for giving, but perhaps most importantly, it is about receiving. Yes, I said it, receiving. Now, I am sinful enough to love to hear my name called out on Christmas morning when packages are being distributed. There is joy in my receiving, but at the end of the day, I am usually more worried about whether the gifts I offered were pleasing to the recipient- just the right thing. Perhaps in a good way, the focus on giving has its merits, but if we forget the receiving portion, we miss the most meaningful aspect of Christmas, the celebration of the Nativity of Christ. *“How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!”* The drumbeats of our desires to give, drown out the sweet quiet melodies of receiving the Christ child. We may so focus on the giving of gifts after the pattern of the wise ones from the east, that we miss the significance of the true gift, Jesus the Christ.

In many good ways, we, by nature and nurture are better at giving than receiving, but Christmas is a time when we can learn to be better recipients of gifts. The writer of the carol says, “where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.” Meekness is not necessarily an admired quality in the world. To be “humbly patient, docile, overly submissive or compliant, tame or spiritless” all words used to define meek does not fit well with the portrayal of the American persona. Yet it is in meekness, we find ourselves most ready to receive the graces of Christ and the gifts of others.

Matthew Henry was an English Presbyterian who lived from 1662-1714. You may have spoken a quote or two attributed to him in your lifetime. Just a few of his famous quotes are: “After a storm comes a calm.” “None so deaf as those who will not hear.” “The Scriptures were written, not to make us astronomers, but to make us saints.” and for we procrastinators, “Better late, than never.” One of Henry’s books was titled, “*A Quest for Meekness and Quietness of Spirit.*” Here are a few quotes from that book that may help each one of us to understand how we may become better recipients of God’s gifts including that of himself in the baby Jesus. Along with each quote are some passages from Scripture that may be enlightening.

“Meekness is calm confidence, settled assurance, and rest of the soul. It is the tranquil stillness of a heart that is at rest in Christ. It is the place of peace. Meekness springs from a heart of humility, radiating the fragrance of Christ.” (Matt.11:28-30; Psalms 37:7, 119:105, Heb 4:11; Isaiah 26:3-4: Prov 3:26, 14:26; Jer 17:7-8)

“Meekness is the silent submission of the soul to the “providence” of God concerning us.” (Eph 1:3-8, 5:8-11; Prov 16:32; Rom 12:18-19; Col 3:1-17; I Peter 4:19)

“The work and office of meekness is to enable us to govern our own anger when at any time we are provoked, and patiently bear out the anger of others that it may not be a provocation to us.” ((Ps. 102:25–27; Eph. 4:13–15; 1 Peter 3:13–16; Heb. 13:8; (2 Cor. 10:3–5; Phil. 4:8–9).

“It is “in the sight of God great price.” It is really a precious grace, for it is so in the sight of God . . . Herein we should every one labor and this we should be ambitious of, as of the greatest honor . . . it is a thing attainable through the Mediator from whom we have received instruction how to walk so as to please him. We must walk with meekness and quietness of spirit, for this is “in the sight of God great price.” Therefore, this mark of honor is, in a special measure, put upon the grace of meekness, because it is commonly despised and looked upon with contempt by the children of the world . . . meekness and quietness of spirit is a very excellent grace which we should every one of us put on and be adorned with.

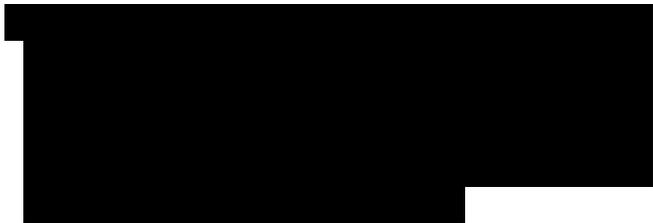
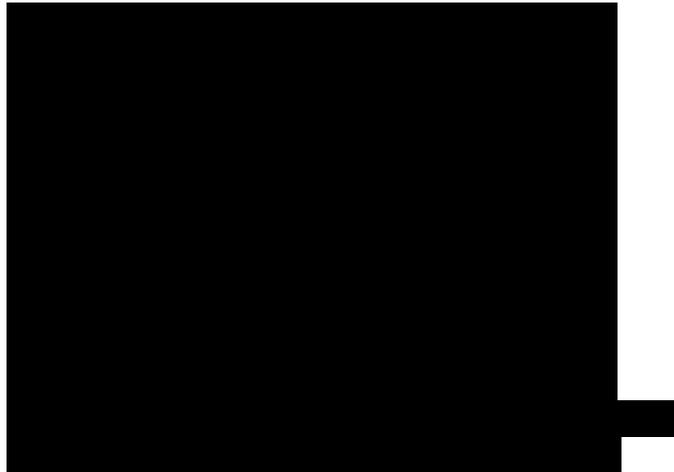
By the grace of God, may we each learn how to be good “receivers” as well as “givers.” May we be “the meek souls that receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.”

Striving alongside you to be a better receiver and giver,

Jeff

Treasurer's Report

Results for NOVEMBER:



New Year's Wish: Whatever happens in the new year, may you find some measure of comfort knowing that God does win in the end. We may not see it in our lifetime, but we believe that Jesus will triumph over evil and His death was not in vain.

Until He Returns or Calls Us Home,
Craig Henry

Church Contact Information

Church Office Phone: 352.489.2682
Office Hours: 9:00 am -1:00 pm, Mon - Fri
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Website: www.dunnellonpcusa.org
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If you have any changes to your address, phone, or email, please call the office or email your changes.
Thank you for keeping us updated!

January Family Night Dinner

Wednesday, January 9th at 6:30 pm

POTLUCK DINNER!

Hosted by The Deacons
Bring you Favorite potluck dish to share.
Join us for Food, Fun and Fellowship!

Memorial Garden

The garden is in slow-growing mode right now. This will give the volunteers who keep it looking good a short break. If you would like to be a volunteer, let me know. Jean K. 489-2682.

Movie with Meaning

Saturday, January 5, 2019 at 1:00 pm

The 2018 documentary, "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" about Fred Rogers, Presbyterian minister and children's TV show host, is of course rated PG-13. It might be a good way to start 2019 out on the right foot.

For over 30 years, Fred Rogers, an unassuming minister, puppeteer, writer and producer, was beamed daily into homes across America. In his beloved television program, Mister Rogers' Neighborhood, Fred and his cast of puppets and friends spoke directly to young children about some of life's weightiest issues, in a simple, direct fashion. There hadn't been anything like Mr. Rogers on television before and there hasn't been since.

We hope you can join us in the fellowship hall for the free movie with popcorn and other goodies at 1:00 p.m. Then stay a while for a discussion.

Love and best wishes to all for a Happy New Year!
Terry

Music

January Concert Cancelled

The concert originally scheduled for pianist Joshua Ross, Sunday, January 20, 2019, **has been cancelled.**
A new date has not been set for his appearance.

Presbyterian Men

January Men's Breakfast

Thursday, January 17, 2019 at 8:00 am

The Men's Club will meet January 17th at 8:00 am at Purple Sage Café on E. Pennsylvania Ave, in Dunnellon. We will make plans for our February 21st Valentine's Breakfast with our "Significant Other"; the March 13th Family Night Dinner; and continue to raise funds for Camperships. The Men's Club donated two "Angels" at Christmas-time. Please notify Don K. 352-489-2682 by Monday, January 14th, to make your reservation.

Presbyterian Women

PW Circles

Wednesday, January 2, 2019

1:00 pm Pat McDowell Circle

7:00 pm Lydia Circle

PW Coordinating Team

will meet on

Wednesday, January 16th at 10:00 am

PW Quilt Circle

Tuesdays, January 8th and 22nd

10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Our Quilt Circle will meet January 8 and 22 from 10 to 3 p.m. Start the new year by joining us. You can learn to quilt, go to lunch, or just visit with us for a few minutes. The lap quilts we make are given to shut-ins, members who are sick, or children of the church.

Any questions, call Jean K. at 489-2682.

A Note from the PW Moderator

Happy New Year to everyone! It is hard to realize we are beginning a new year.

I would like to thank all of the P.W. Coordinating Team and our congregation for their support the last two years. We really were a team for the "Game Day" and it was a great success. The Christmas Reception was a "feast" thanks to the cooperation of the congregation with their delicious sandwiches, cookies etc. We supported 20 families for Christmas with gifts and a food gift certificate for \$50.00. We are a small congregation with a very big heart.

Carolle C., PW Moderator

2019 PW Officers & Flea Market News

The new officers of the 2019 Dunnellon Presbyterian Women will be installed in January. Moderator, Joh Lybass, Vice-Moderator, Katherine Heindel and the Coordinating Team are already busy making plans for our "bigger than ever" **Flea Market on February 9th**. We will begin accepting donations on Monday, February 4th so be looking around your house for the items you no longer use or wonder why you bought it at all! Unfortunately, we can't accept electronic equipment or clothes but will certainly welcome accessories such as purses, hats, scarves, gently used shoes, etc. In addition to your items, we look forward to your participation. This is always a fun project that you won't want to miss so mark your calendars for the Week of February 4th.

SET-UP DATES & TIMES

Monday, Feb. 4th through Friday, Feb. 8th
9:00 am–3:00 pm is Set-Up and Receiving of Items

FLEA MARKET SALE DAY

Saturday, Feb. 9th 8:00 am – 12:00 noon

Christian Community Action Committee

Thank you to the DPC congregation for your support of our Christmas outreach to Romeo Elementary School. Your generosity allowed us to provide Christmas food and gifts to twenty families which included sixty-three children.

Janet E.

PW Christian Community Action Committee

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STAMP

REV. JEFFREY W. WELCH, PASTOR

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

ARISE, SHINE, FOR
**YOUR LIGHT
HAS COME,**

and the glory of the
LORD rises upon you.

ISAIAH 60:1, NIV

