

First Presbyterian Church

Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Lockport | January/February 2017

A New Year offers New Beginnings

Each new year brings us new opportunities to know Him more, to walk in faith, and grow by His grace.



Mark Your Calendar

- 1.6.17
Ephiphany of the Lord
- 1.8.17
 - Ephiphany Communion Worship Service
 - Baptism of the Lord
 - Ordination & Installation of new Officer's
 - Undeck the Hall's following the service.
- 1.17.17
Committee Annual Reports due
- 1.21.17
Officer's Training
- 1.29.17
Annual Meeting
- 2.5.17
Souper Bowl of Caring
- 2.11.17 & 2.12.17
Kenan Lecture Series
- 2.14.17
Valentine's Day
- 2.26.17
The Dublin Quartet

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

By: Reverend William James Hardy

In Revelation 21: 1-8, John writes about a coming New World. Dr. Diana Butler Bass writes about this passage in her book *Grounded*. She argues that “the book of Revelation is not a heavenly escape story. Instead, it tells the opposite tale. We do not go to heaven. Heaven comes to us. The end of history is not destruction; rather, its end is sacred restoration.” It is not a story about the end, but it is a story about the beginning and the newness that comes with it.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; ⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.” And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children. But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the polluted, the murderers, the fornicators, the sorcerers, the idolaters, and all liars, their place will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”

The Asbury Commentary on this particular passage states that this “section throbs with the theme of newness...John envisions a new heaven, a new earth, and a New Jerusalem. God announces a new existence free from tears, death, mourning, crying, and pain because the old order of things has passed away ([v. 1-4](#)).” For John, God makes everything new. John draws



his inspiration here from the prophet Isaiah.

In fact, Isaiah speaks for God in 43:19, where God says to the People Israel, “See, I am doing a new thing!”

In fact, according to the commentators in *The Asbury Commentary* “John draws upon [Isa 40-66](#) at least five times in these verses. As Isaiah promised a new creation and restoration of Israel after the judgment of the Babylonian exile, John speaks of a new creation for the church after the final judgment.”

The New Year is a time to think about new things. God calls us to consider ways of breaking out of our traditional boxes to explore new ways of understanding and communicating with God. Just as God announced in Isaiah

about “doing a new thing,” we need to consider ways of breaking old, worn out habits and doing something new. This process can be challenging for us because old habits can be comforting, but comfort is not necessarily what God wants us to pursue.

Shortly after Isaiah speaks to Israel about comfort in Chapter 40, he reminds the people that “All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.”

Our comfort is not the overarching purpose of these passages. Rather, God is calling us to recognize that our time is short and new visions often come that must be acted out. These new visions will come in the appointed time. They will come from God. They will refresh us with their power and newness. But they also may be uncomfortable and may challenge us to step out of our comfort zones.

As the prophet Habakkuk reminds us, “...the vision *is* yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.”

In Christ,
Pastor Jim

Congregational Records Update

Congregational Records Update 2017
 Please complete form as is applicable and place in offering plate or drop off to the church office.

Please Print I am a member I am a visitor I wish to join I wish baptism

Name(s): _____
 Address: _____
 City/State/Zip: _____
 Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____
 Church Newsletter email mail pick up at church
 e-Mail: _____

Single Married Anniversary Date _____ Baptised _____
 Head of Household: _____ Date of Birth _____ Yes No
 Spouse: _____ Date of Birth _____ Yes No

No
 Children:
 Name: _____ DOB: _____ Baptised Yes No
 Name: _____ DOB: _____ Baptised Yes No

In an effort to ensure that our congregational and visitor records are up-to-date, please complete a form for your family and place in the offering plate. We thank everyone for their co-operation in this endeavor. Forms are in each pew. If you can not find the form please request one from one of the ushers.

Committee Annual Reports

REMINDER...TO ALL COMMITTEE'S: Your Annual Reports are due on Tuesday, January 17th, 2017. Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 29th.

2017 Offering Envelopes

Please stop and pick up your boxed Offering Envelopes. If you would like a box of envelopes, please print name, phone # and the numbered box you are taking.

Envelopes for special events, etc.

In an effort to ensure that monies placed through the office mail slot are clearly identified, please use the envelopes marked "Special Events Payment form that is posted in Arnold Hall. If you need to drop off other monies to the church office, you may use the envelopes that are posted above the office mail slot. Please complete the envelope with your name, designation (ie. *Coffee Hour, etc.*) and amount. Please do not place loose money in the mail slot.

House & Grounds Committee

We have finished remodeling the final restroom on the second floor. It is now a single use, unisex restroom with a lock for privacy. This restroom is for everyone's use and is located down the hall from the Youth Room/Upson Parlor. We hope you will enjoy its brand new look.

We have had some issues with our sanctuary lighting which we are working to correct. We are also aware of more exterior painting projects to happen in 2017. These always prove costly. The decorative brown stone sidewalk pavers have become somewhat dangerous so we are investigating new stamped concrete to replace them.

There is never a time when House & Grounds doesn't have a list of projects. We thank all the volunteers that silently go around fixing things and cleaning things!

Church Office closed on Monday, January 2nd & Monday, January 16th and Monday, February 20th.

FLOM Upcoming Events in 2017

January 15th -29th, CWS Blanket Sunday...Funds collected will go to Church World Services for blankets to provide assistance. Each blanket costs only \$10.

January 21st, Saturday; 7 – 9 PM.....Family Game Night...Participants will be asked to bring a snack or dessert and their favorite game.

February 5th, Souper Bowl Day of Caring... Sign up sheet is posted in Arnold Hall. FLOM will sponsor the Soup Luncheon at 11:30.

February - March Hospice Spring Flower Sale.... Hospice Spring Flower Bouquet Sale will be between February and March. More information to follow.

MISSION – Blanket Sunday (Jan 15 & 22, 2017)
 Most of us take a blanket for granted. There is always one or more on our bed keeping us warm at night and when we are sick. What about the people around the world who are displaced by natural and/or man-made disasters. Where do they turn for a warm blanket to keep their families warm on cold night nights or cool on hot days? That is where Church World Service (CWS) Blanket Sunday comes in. CWS delivers the right blanket to the right people when disaster strikes. But we need to support CWS so they can purchase and deliver the right blankets to the people who need them. CWS has delivered blankets around the United States and around the world. I hope the entire congregation will consider a **\$ 10 donation or more** to CWS to purchase these much needed blankets that help use wrap God's Love to other people around our world. Thank-You for your support and God Bless you and your family.

Stay Warm this Winter,
 The First Church Mission Crew (The M in FLOM)

Un-deck the Halls

January 8, 2017 We will un-deck the Halls following the 10:30am Worship Service.

Note from The Board of Deacons

We wish to thank everyone who purchased the lovely poinsettia's that graced our sanctuary. A portion of the proceeds benefit future Deacon's functions. We had a grand total of 90 plants purchased. Many thanks and God Bless!

Upcoming Music Events in 2017

February 26th, 2017 at 4:00PM

Dublin Guitar Quartet



The Dublin Guitar Quartet will be our next concert Sunday, February 26th at 4PM. This group direct from Ireland is making a US tour this spring stopping in Lockport to share their passion for new music. Billed as the “quartet with a difference” this group concentrates specifically on music recently written for guitar quartets. They have commissioned many new works and been involved in many new projects pushing the envelope of guitar music into new and exciting areas. They have also explored the electric side of guitar music with several new projects including a joint project with Steven Reich.

Dublin Guitar Quartet is a classical guitar quartet devoted to current music, which makes them unique. The group is constantly working to bring new music to new audiences, which has led them to commissioning new works and adapting modern masterpieces from outside of the guitar repertoire.

For the concert in Lockport the quartet will be using 8 eleven-string guitars and will perform a concert of music by Phillip Glass. Many videos of the group are available to view on YouTube.com but you really must experience them in person at our church on Sunday February 26th at 4PM.

All of our concerts are presented free of charge to the public and are paid for by a generous grant from the William Rand Kenan Jr Charitable Trust in memory of William Rand Kenan Jr.



November 17th, 2017, 2017 at 7:30PM

Anderson & Roe Piano Duo



"The most dynamic duo of this generation."

— *San Francisco Classical Voice*

With Billboard chart-topping albums, Emmy-nominated music videos, and an extensive international touring schedule, the Anderson & Roe Piano Duo aims to make classical music a relevant and powerful force in society.

Known for their adrenalized performances, original compositions, and notorious music videos, GREG ANDERSON and ELIZABETH JOY ROE are revolutionizing the piano duo experience for the 21st century.



Handbell & Choir Rehearsal's

No rehearsals on Wednesday, January 4th, 2017.

All choir rehearsals resume on Wednesday, January 11th.

Peanut Brittle

Lockport goes **NUTS** over peanut brittle

First Presbyterian's annual sale a popular event

BY KALEY LYNCH
kaley.lynych@lockportjournal.com

The annual peanut brittle sale at First Presbyterian Church is a sure sign that Christmas is on the way.

The congregation has been making and selling the sweet treat for nearly a half-century; it's a tradition that started in the mid-1960s. Production takes place over an eight-week period in November and December.

The sale is the biggest fundraiser of the year for the Church Street church. The funds support a variety of church programs, including sending young members to a youth conference in North Carolina every year, according to coordinator Justin LaMont.

Lamont has been involved with First Presbyterian peanut brittle production for about eight years. This year he's the program coordinator, having taken the

reins from David Shambach, who moved to New Mexico recently.

"He has been in charge of it as long as I can remember," Lamont said of Shambach.

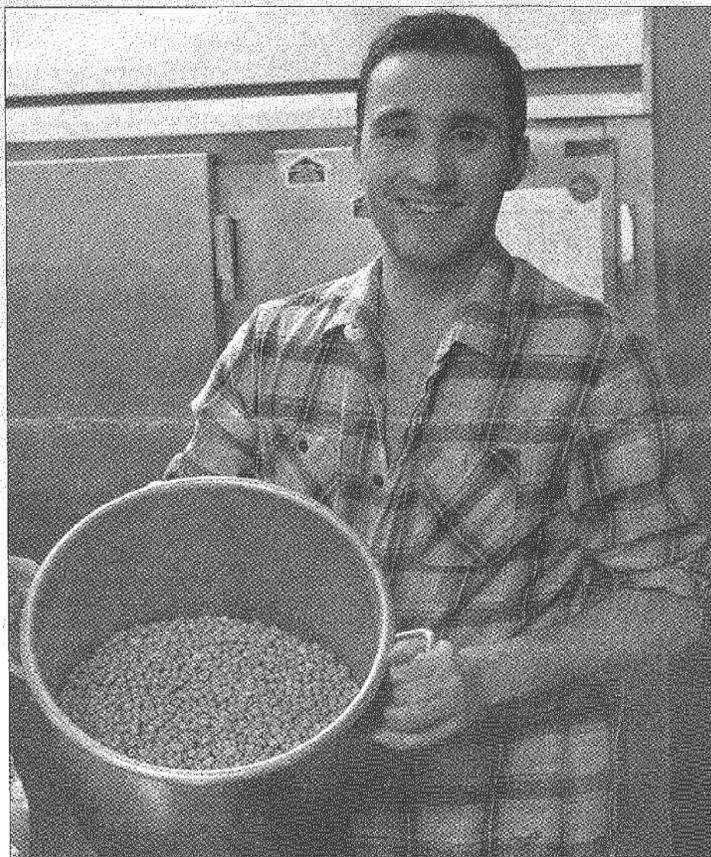
The church enlists about a dozen businesses around Lockport to sell its candy.

"Everyone I've talked to says they can't keep it stocked," Lamont said. "Scapelitti's has called me twice for more peanut brittle. I can't believe it."

Making the sticky delicacy takes a lot of peanuts "and a lot of stirring," Lamont said.

To prepare for this year's effort, the church purchased 750 pounds of peanuts.

Volunteers gather about 7:45 a.m. each Saturday to prepare batches of brittle. Corn syrup, sugar and water are set to boil in three kettles; peanuts are stirred in when the liquid starts to bubble. The mix is considered cooked once it turns a certain color, then it's stretched out to a crunchy thinness.



Peanuts are stirred into the "brittle" part of the crunchy confection once the liquid base – corn syrup, sugar and water – comes to a boil.

"You have about three or four minutes to stretch it," Lamont said. "You don't want it to be too thick."

The process can be strenuous, especially on the volume scale that First Presbyterian works at.

"I have some burns on my arms," Lamont says, laughing.

To place an order for First Presbyterian peanut brittle, call 433-3103. Boxes can be picked up at the church or delivered on request.

Thanks!
for your
Support!!

We have just completed another successful Peanut Brittle fundraising season. We wish to thank all the volunteer's for their hard work and time. To all those who sold our delicious candy and all the businesses that support us year after year, we thank you! A very special thank you to Justin Lamont for accepting this monumental task as the co-ordinator of this important ministry. Justin you deserve a great round of applause for all your hard work to ensure another successful season of Peanut Brittle. We could not have done it without all of you! Our heartfelt thanks to everyone!



Thanks
to Our
Volunteers!

Kenan Lecture Series presents...



Dr. Jeremy Begbie

February 11th & 12th, 2017

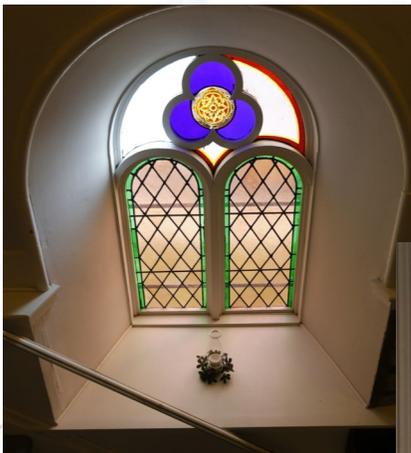
Jeremy Begbie teaches systematic theology and specializes in the interface between theology and the arts. His particular research interests are in the interplay between music and theology. Previously associate principal of Ridley Hall, Cambridge, he has also been honorary professor at the University of St Andrews, where he directed the research project, Theology Through the Arts at the Institute for Theology, Imagination and the Arts. He is a senior member of Wolfson College and an affiliated lecturer in the faculty of music at the University of Cambridge. He studied philosophy and music at Edinburgh University, and theology at Aberdeen and Cambridge. A professionally trained musician, he has performed extensively as a pianist, oboist and conductor. He is an ordained minister of the Church of England, having served for a number of years as assistant pastor of a church in West London.

He is author of a number of books, including *Voicing Creation's Praise: Towards a Theology of the Arts* (T & T Clark); *Theology, Music and Time* (CUP), and most recently, *Resounding Truth: Christian Wisdom in the World of Music* (Baker/SPCK), which won the *Christianity Today* 2008 Book Award in the Theology/Ethics Category. Most recently, he has published *Music, Modernity, and God* (OUP). He has taught widely in the UK and North America, and delivered multimedia performance-lectures across the world, from Israel to Australia and Hong Kong.

Psalm 150, a psalm extolling us to praise the Lord with everything we have, will be the centerpiece of Dr. Jeremy Begbie's Sunday message with us on February 12th, 2017. This psalm has inspired generations of composers to set its majestic words to settings of their own. Our choir will present Harper's setting of Psalm 150 as well as other festive music. We look forward to Dr. Begbie's insight during this service of praise. "Let everything that has breath Praise the Lord!"

A Closer Look: Lockport's First Presbyterian Church and its Tiffany windows.

Our church has been feature in The Buffalo News twice in December 2016. To view the beautiful photo's go to: www.thebuffalonews.com click on search and type Tiffany Windows.



Ring those Christmas Bells 2016



A note from our Music Director

Many thanks to everyone who made Christine Anderson's handbell concert a great success. She truly enjoyed being here in Lockport at our church.

The Great Christmas Ring

The Great Christmas Ring was a huge success at the Palace Theatre on Sunday December 18th. Our church sponsored this event which featured 75 handbell ringers from across WNY. Behind the scenes there were many who helped in setting up, carting equipment, and general organizing. No one worked harder on this than our own Elizabeth Lattimer who kept our Director of Music on point and organized during this chaotic event. Many thanks to Paul Allison and Pete D'Angelo for loaning music stands to the event. A great time was had by all.



We wish to give special thanks to our Music Director—Jeffrey Seekins for bringing such a special array of music for our enjoyment and entertainment. Jeff possesses a deep passionate love of music which has blessed all who have attended the concert and special music events in 2016. 2017 will be just as exciting with the The Dublin Quartet performing on February 26th and Anderson & Roe Duo pianists on November 17th.

Lockport Presbyterian Church

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Every second brings
a fresh beginning,
Every hour holds
a new promise,
Every night our dreams
can bring hope and
Every day is what you
choose to make it.



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Kim Seekins
Julia Shambach
Nancy Shambach
Linda Taylor
Linda Vincent
Noreen Weatherall
Thomas Witkowski

Pray for those in nursing facilities, our shut-ins, and those serving in the military. Contact the church office to add/remove off the prayer list.

- All birthdays will be posted in that months Pew News.
- New Years Day-Office Closed
- Martin Luther Day- Office Closed
- Presidents Day-Office Closed



From the Editor

Deadline for submissions is the **15th of the month** of the upcoming publication.

Our next edition will be the March/April 2017. Deadline for submission is February 15th 2017.

STAY IN TOUCH

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