

December Events:

- ⇒ **December 21st:** The Eplers are hosting a Christmas Party for the Young Adult Group .
- ⇒ **December 22nd:** Christmas Party at Simply Rustic Design in Fairmont. For anyone interested in going, see flyer in foyer.
- ⇒ **No Mid-Week Bible Study on December 25th or on January 1st.**

Today's Announcements:

- ◆ Today is Bridgeport's worship service at Pleasant Acres.
- ◆ Mark and Megan Jones along with the children are vacationing in Florida over the next few weeks.
- ◆ A big "Thank you" to the congregation for your help with the Holiday Baskets for our Shut-ins. The entire congregation was involved – whether you made cards, decorated boxes, provided items for the boxes, filled boxes, delivered boxes, or donated monetarily. It was a group effort and very much appreciated.
- ◆ The Eplers are hosting the Young Adult Group along with their kiddos at their home on December 21st at 4:00 p.m. Dinner will be provided, and Christmas pajamas are encouraged.
- ◆ No mid-week Bible Study on December 25th or January 1st due to folks traveling.
- ◆ If you would like to send a card to Tammy Wise or Michael Reid, their address is listed here: Tammy Wise, 19 Park Drive, Fairmont, WV 26554; and Michael Reid, 6636 West William Cannon Drive, #1333, Austin, TX 78735.



Elders: Raymond Anderson, Don Riffle, & Wayne Hartman
Deacons: Gene Wright & Robbie Buffington
Minister: Mark Jones Phone: (304) 842-6738

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Us:

Website to access



zoom link



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Bridgeport church
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Bridgeport Church of Christ

December 15, 2024

Giving and Receiving

"What are you getting for Christmas?" "What do you want for Christmas?"

How many times have you heard these questions lately? Christmas shopping is in full swing. For the next two weeks many gifts will be given and received. Which do you enjoy the most – giving or receiving? Unfortunately, for many people, the truthful answer to that question conflicts with the answer they know they should give. Honestly, receiving gifts, especially the one(s) we've always wanted, brings a lot of pleasure and happiness. But there's no honor in receiving gifts (however, there can be dishonor in the way we act when we don't get the gifts we'd hoped for).



Times of Service

Sunday:

Bible Study 9:30 am

Worship 10:30 am

Evening Worship 6pm

Wednesday:

Bible Study 7 pm

Several years ago, Calvin Coolidge, our 30th president, said, "No person has ever been honored for what he received. Honor has been the reward for what he gave." Can you think of an award or honor given to someone that received the greatest or most gifts? There may be, but nothing comes to my mind. On the other hand, there are numerous honors and rewards for those who excel at giving to an individual. Oscars and Emmys are given to the person who contributed the most to the music and entertainment industry. Athletics have their Most Valuable Player awards. Universities, governments, and even zoos have buildings named after major contributors.

This probably doesn't surprise you at all. No doubt you have heard many times the statement of Jesus: "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). The best known verse in the Bible honors God for what He gave, not for what He received (John 3:16).

What does surprise many people is that when God honors giving, it has nothing to do with the amount of the gift. Generation after generation honors the poor widow who, even though it wasn't much, gave all she had (Luke 21:2). The Macedonians are also esteemed for their giving, even though poverty stricken themselves (2 Cor. 8:1-5). In contrast, very little is said about those receiving the gifts. What do you know about the poor saints in Jerusalem other than they were famine stricken and very poor? About the only thing we know about how to receive gifts is to do so with gratitude and in a way that glorifies God. Perhaps we need to work a little harder at becoming a generous giver, and spend less time hoping and dreaming about all the things we might receive. That's hard to do, especially at this time of the year, but by doing so, we will become a little bit more like the God we love and serve. Givers truly are more blessed than receivers.

*Joe Chesser
Fruitland Church of Christ
Jackson, MO*

Upcoming Events/Dates to Remember

- December 21st: Young Adult Group at the Eplers**
- December 22nd: Christmas Party at Simply Rustic Design**
- January 4th: Ladies Lunch at Muriale's**
- January 19th: One Day Lecture-ship**
- January 24th-25th: Ohio Winter Lectures**
- March 21-22: Congregational Retreat at Jackson's Mill**
- End of April/May: The Wild Son Flower Farm.**

Our Record:

<u>Sunday Morning Assembly</u>	75
<u>Sunday Bible Class</u>	48
<u>Sunday Evening</u>	22
<u>Wednesday Bible Study</u>	23
<u>Contribution (Budget \$4,000)</u>	\$5985

December Birthday/Anniversary List:

9-Rachel West; 11-Terry & Yonnie Southall (A); 12- Jerry Maxwell; 14-Daniel Black; 15-Adam Epler; 17-Tom Tucker & Ann Black; 18-Tim Richmond; 21-Kristina Riffle; 23-Raymond & Debbie Anderson (A); 24-Millie Cate Currey & 24-Robert & Julie Armstrong (A); 29-Curtis Sleeth; and 30-Rick & Sherri Gallagher (A).

Prayer Requests:

For Our Congregation:

- Shut-in Members: Helen Potts, Ken Fortney, and Becky Britton.*
- **Brandi Richmond:** Had heart surgery this past week; at home not feeling well; has follow-up appointments at Cleveland Clinic.
 - **Ken Fortney:** Respiratory illness.
 - **Joyce Wright:** Upcoming future surgery in

Charlotte.

- **Jerry Maxwell:** Fell recently; not doing well.
- **Lois Jenkins:** Not doing well.
- **Alice Rollyson (Leah Sleath's Mother):** Mobility issues.

For Our Family & Friends:

- **Michael Reed (Lois Reed's son):** Recovering from surgery. Hoping to go home soon.
- **Jennifer Lee (Dale and Ramola's daughter-in-law):** Health issues.
- **Dave Thorn (Dale's brother-in-law).**
- **Teresa Kipp (Kathy Cross's friend).**

- **Conda Mace (BCoC neighbor).**
- **Tammy Wise:** Surgery went well; feeling good.
- **Helen Isabelle (Debbie and Raymond's friend).**
- **Brenda Jerkin (Friend of Dale and Ramola):** Health issues.
- **Roy (Raymond's friend):** Not doing well.



December Card Distributor: Cindy Moore

December Greeters:

December Baptismal Garments: Karen Seyler

Bible Class Locations

Adults- Main Auditorium

Young Adults (20s-30s)- Mark's Office

Children & Teens- Downstairs

Cradle Roll- Downstairs

If you have a prayer request or need to put something in the bulletin- Please email it to hgptchurchofchrist@yahoo.com or write it down and give it to Karen Seyler before Thursday.