

The Weekly Chimer

1st Presbyterian Church of Franklin
November 30, 2014



A Note from the Pastor

That, while under the conviction of the above principle we think it necessary to make effectual provision that all who are admitted as teachers be sound in the faith, we also believe that there are truths and forms with respect to which men of good characters and principles may differ. And in all these we think it the duty both of private Christians and societies to exercise mutual forbearance toward each other. F-
(*Book of Order*, 3.0105)

This is the fifth of the eight Historic Principles found in the Book of Order, and it builds upon the others. It is especially related to the first one, ‘God alone is Lord of the conscience,’ and the fourth, ‘Truth is in order to goodness.’ The church acknowledges and indeed encourages diversity of viewpoints and opinions regarding what are considered nonessentials. As far back as 1729, nonessentials of the faith were understood as important but included subjects that benefited from diverse perspectives. The church does not ask for compliance on nonessentials; the first principle regarding the individual conscience applies.

Mutual forbearance is the willingness to accept other people in the church who do not share your ideas and viewpoints. To exercise forbearance is to accept diversity with gratitude for those who differ and a willingness to remain in conversation with those whose positions may be disturbing to us.

This is a difficult principle for many of us. It helps to remember that our unity is in Christ, and we are not seeking uniformity, but unity. We also remember that God is sovereign, and the Holy Spirit is working in the church. There is no evil that can defeat the work of the Spirit. We can trust in God that Christ is indeed the head of the church, and we are the body of Christ together.

God bless,

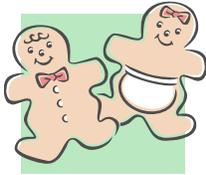
Pastor Nancy

Blue Christmas Worship Service

We will host a Blue Christmas Worship Service on Tuesday, December 2 at 7:00 pm. This is a quiet service of comfort for those who have experienced loss or who are having a difficult time with the holidays. It is an opportunity to hear a word of hope and the promise that God is always present, in the darkest as well as in the best times of our lives. Please share this information with friends who may find comfort and hope in the good news.

Presbyterian Women Christmas Dinner

Presbyterian Women will be hosting a Christmas Dinner at Lafayette House on Thursday, Dec. 4 at 6:30 pm. All women of the congregation are invited to attend. Please call Carol Diffin at 973.209.3430 to RSVP.



Cookie Walk

The annual Christmas Cookie Walk will be held on Saturday, Dec. 13 beginning at 9:00 am. If you are contributing cookies, please bring them to the church beginning on Wednesday, Dec. 10.

Children's Christmas Activity (and Parents' Day Out!)

The Christian Education Committee of the session is sponsoring a "parents' shopping day out" on Saturday afternoon, Dec. 12. Children are welcome in the Great Hall from 2:00 – 5:00 pm, where they will participate in crafts, activities, etc. while parents are free to go Christmas shopping. There is no charge for this activity.



Wanted: Worship Leaders

As we begin worship each Sunday morning, do you wish you were up front, leading the congregation? We are in need of worship leaders to assist each Sunday morning. If you are interested, please contact Beth Fielding, the chair of the Worship and Music Committee, or Pastor Nancy.

Board of Deacons Meeting

The Board of Deacons will meet on Monday, Dec. 1 at 6:30 pm in the Hocking Lounge.



Impromptu Christmas Pageant

Our 4:00 pm Christmas Eve service will be an Impromptu Christmas Pageant. Bring your children to participate in the Nativity story. They may come in costumes for the Nativity (angels, sheep, wise persons, shepherds, stable animals, etc.). Come be a part of the Christmas story!

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