

# Van Buren Presbyterian Church

## January 2012

207 W. Market St  
P. O. Box 35  
Van Buren, OH 45889

Rev. James E. Friedmeyer  
(419) 299-3097  
[www.vbpres.org](http://www.vbpres.org)

Sunday School 9:15 am

Worship 10:30 a.m.

### PASTOR'S NOTES

Another year comes to an end. 2011 is finished and 2012 begins. Wow, that kind of boggles my mind. I remember how weird it seemed to write 1970 when that new year came (my first decade change that I was aware of). And now we are writing 2012! Has this past year been fast or slow for you? For me it has been a fast year. With serving half time with the church and picking up other work as a tax preparer and driving instructor it seems everything has moved along at a fast pace. It seems hard to believe I'm about ready to start tax season again.

When I was growing up my cousins, my brothers, and I spent our summers "working" at the resort our grandparents owned on a lake in northern Indiana. We did work, but we also played a lot more. I remember how long those summers seemed. I also remember noticing that as I got older, the summer seemed to pass more quickly. The older I became, the faster time passed.

Time is something we live in as humans. God is not bound by time as we are. To God, the day of creation is right now, as well as the end of the creation. In 2 Peter 3:8 we are told, "...With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day." Peter is writing to Christ followers who are awaiting the return of the Lord. They expect it any day. Perhaps some were growing impatient or discouraged that the Lord had not yet returned. Peter tells them that the Lord's patience was being exercised so that people had a chance to repent and not perish. Basically he was saying, don't worry about time, God has a plan and God is working that plan. We need to be concerned with our own faithfulness, live a life worthy of Christ, and He will return at the proper time.

Peter tells us that the return will be a day of judgment. The old heavens will be destroyed and the earth laid bare. And in keeping with the promise, we look forward to a new heaven and a new earth. In the meantime, Peter tells us in verses 11 and 12: "Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed on its coming...."

The New Year is seen as a time for new beginnings. A time when resolutions are made. Some resolutions die on the first day, some last for months, a few may even make it through the entire year. Resolutions do not always work, but they are a beginning. An opportunity to look at oneself, and plan for changes. Are your resolutions ones which will help you live a holy and godly life?

As you begin the New Year, let the New Creation be evident in your life. Yield yourself to Jesus Christ. Immerse yourself in God's Word. Bend your knees in daily prayer. Dedicate yourself to regular worship. Open yourself to the work of the Holy Spirit and you will be amazed at the real and lasting change that will take place.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Jim



PSALM 29:11, NRSV

### Sixth Annual Groundhog Pancake Breakfast

Presbyterian Pete is starting to stir and the griddles are being warmed up for the Annual Groundhog Pancake Breakfast here at the Van Buren Presbyterian Church. Invite some friends to come and be our guests for breakfast on Saturday, February 4, 8-11 am. A free will offering will be received.

### Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, February 5, 2012 following worship

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held following worship on Sunday, February 5, 2012. Business will include the annual reports, the 2012 Budget, and the remembrance of all members who have died in the past year. All members are encouraged to attend.

### SESSION MEETING

The Session will meet on Tuesday, January 17, at 7:00 pm.

## WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

We enjoyed our December meeting with all the "goodies" to taste and share and studied lesson 10 in our book by Max Lucado. It was about the Holy Spirit and what He does in our lives. We had much discussion and many of us came away with a new understanding of the Holy Spirit.

We will not be meeting in January but have some plans for the new year. We are having a canned goods collection for the City Mission during lent. This is for the industrial size cans of fruits and vegetables. On March 26, 2012 we will share with the United Methodist women to host the Salvation Army Food Kitchen. We voted to give \$100.00 for gas cards from the Pilot station. Pastor Jim will have these at the office to help those who stop at the church for help.

Our next meeting will be February 14, 2012 at 7:00 pm. We invite all the women of the church to join us for Bible study and fellowship. A brand new year but all the same good times.

## FROM THE SESSION

The session will hold its next meeting on January 17, 2012. A brand new year! We are looking forward to resuming the New Beginnings meetings and looking deeper into the life and workings of our church. The installation and ordination of officers will be held on Sunday, January 8, 2012 during the worship service. We are hosting a Mobile Food pantry on January 14, 2012. Looks like 2012 is going to be a busy year. Keep in mind that it takes all of us to do the Lord's work in the church and community. We appreciate all the help with the various projects and faithful attendance at services and meetings. We pray God's Blessings on this New Year.

## CHOPIN HALL MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

January 14<sup>th</sup> is fast approaching and we are still in need of some volunteers to help with the mobile food pantry. There is a sign up sheet at the back of the sanctuary.

If you have been thinking about doing some community service, this is a great way to get started, as there are jobs that anyone can do. We will need people to help unload the truck, help set up and bag the food items for distribution, help with distributing the food, helping the clients collect their food items and get it to their cars for them, break down the cardboard boxes, and help cleaning up.

Volunteers will need to be at the Family Center on Blanchard St in Findlay at 7:30 A.M. because that is when the truck with the food arrives. We are usually finished by noon. If you would like to help, but only have a couple hours, please consider joining us. There are times when things will be really busy and then times where things will slow down so if you need to leave early, you can.

One thing to remember, the food pantry will be held outside so dress appropriately.

If you have any questions regarding the mobile food pantry, please contact Amy Sammet.



## January Birthdays

- 6 Ruth Huntington
- 17 Ben Harris
- 20 Andrea Miller

**\*If your birthday or anniversary was missed, please let the church office know so that we can get our records straight. Thank you.**

## January Worship Helpers

Deacon of the Month - Terry Sammet

### Greeters

- 1 Terry and Amy Sammet
- 8 Donna Ollendorf and Jim Kuhlman
- 15 Ashley Sammet and R.J. Wilhelm
- 22 Rex and Amy Fishbaugh
- 29 Iris and Lasley Wilkinson

### Lay Readers

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 Rosine Harris
- 15 \_\_\_\_\_
- 22 \_\_\_\_\_
- 29 \_\_\_\_\_

## INVITE A FRIEND TO WORSHIP

Churches that grow do so because the members invite their unchurched friends to come worship with them. Do you have a friend who is searching? Why not invite that friend to come worship with you?

## PRAYER PALS

Are you praying for your Prayer Pal? On January 8 you will have the opportunity to sign up for a 2012 Prayer Pal. Just fill out a slip before worship and pick one from the basket following worship. Be sure to pray for your pal every day. This is not a secret pal, so be sure to tell the person whose name you drew that you will be praying for them throughout the year.



## ANNUAL REPORTS DUE

If you are responsible for a report to be included in the Annual Report, please turn it in as soon as possible. We would like to have the reports ready early this year for your perusal before the Annual Congregational meeting on February 5.

## IN CASE OF BAD WEATHER

If the winter storms roll in and you are wondering if a service or activity is cancelled, listen to WKXA 101.5 FM or WFIN 1610 AM, or check out the Courier - WKXA - WFIN website for a cancellation.

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