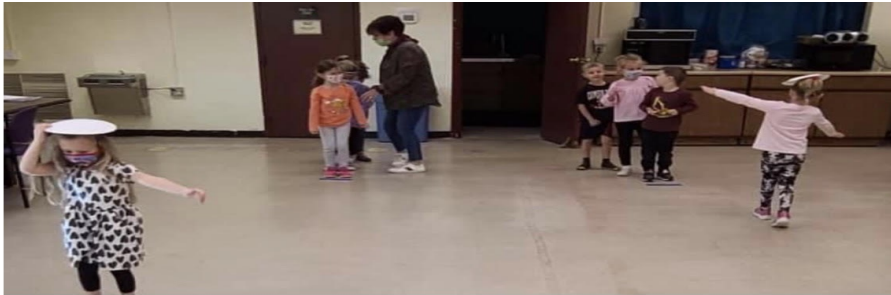


The Lamplighter

FEBRUARY 2022



THOMAS CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

If you are ever in the church on a weekday morning you are certain to hear the joyful sound of our preschool kids actively learning! The kids delight in the creative STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) projects their teachers have developed for them. Recently their science and engineering projects produced fascinating results! After reading How The Grinch Stole Christmas, the kids thought the Grinch needed a bigger heart. They made him one! The kids did an experiment using vinegar and baking soda and made the Grinch's heart bigger! The kids also counted presents and loaded them on their sleds!

Another special part of their curriculum is Team Tuesday. The kids compete in teams with a focus on good sportsmanship and congratulating their opponents. It is certain that these students will set the example of good and fair play in their future learning environments.

The Thomas Preschool children will be selling Sarris Easter Candy as a fundraiser. The orders will be delivered the week before Palm Sunday. Don't miss your chance to get a sweet treat and support our preschool kids!



SUNDAY MORNINGS
at
THOMAS CHURCH

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
9:00 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP
10:00 AM

COMMUNION
Sunday, February 6, 2022

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
December 24th 7pm

Pastor Debbie's Corner

The Examen with Fr James Martin SJ

The examen is a guided prayer practice that encourages you to review your day so that you can call to mind what you are grateful for, where you noticed God in your day, and where you might want to seek forgiveness and grace. Each podcast is 17 minutes long. <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-examen-with-fr-james-martin-sj/>

DEADLINE: Information to be included in the *Lamplighter* must be received by the 20th of the month. We reserve the right to edit all submissions for content and space.

THOMAS CHURCH
SESSION ELDERS

Peggy Flynn
mlflynn8@hotmail.com

Mike Clopp
driller96@yahoo.com

Kathi Durkin
kdurkin6@verizon.net

Jim Hixson
jehixson@verizon.net

Tom Walton
twalton1018@verizon.net

Keith Korintus
pkkorintus@verizon.net

Stephanie Modar
smodar@comcast.net

Sharon Richards
jmrsrvr@comcast.net

Alan Neil
daae1@verizon.net

Norma Itani
normajeane.itani@gmail.com

WHOLISTIC CARE DEACONS

Laurie Lersch
muffie40@hotmail.com

Cheryl Dudra
sherry386@comcast.net

Cathy Skinner
skinnermom7@yahoo.com

Pat Butto
patwvu76A@verizon.net

Denise Dahl
denisedahl@comcast.net

Linda Mahoney
1lazybonz@comcast.net

Amy Clopp
driller96@yahoo.com

Marge Tonecha
margetonecha@gmail.com

Elaine Hixson
jehixson91@gmail.com

city Mission

FEBRAURY MONTHY MISSION CITY MISSION

City Mission exists to share Christ, to shelter, to heal, and to restore the homeless to independent living...without discrimination. It is a 160-bed homeless rehabilitation program, which has four distinct shelters for four populations: men, women, women with children, and veterans. We provide food, clothing, shelter, counseling, case management, medical interventions and referrals, mental health stabilization and legal assistance, as well as a life-transforming recovery program which includes: Addiction Recovery, Anger Management, Relapse Prevention, Parenting, Trauma Recovery, Budgeting, Job Training, Work Readiness, Career Assessments, and Vocational Classes.

Underscoring everything we do is the enduring premise that Christ's healing love and redemption can work genuine miracles.

Current highlights of the program::

OVERALL SUCCESS RATE 75%

FOR RESIDENTS WHO STAY
90+ DAYS 66% OVERALL SUCCESS
RATE

2,421 UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS
SERVED

\$82,880 WORTH OF FOOD GIVEN
OUT TO LOCAL FAMILIES IN NEED
THE FIRST 2 MONTHS OF THE
COVID CRISIS

IN MEMORY

MICHELLE ZIMMERMAN

Michelle Zimmerman, a long time member and musician for Thomas Presbyterian Church passed away peacefully on Friday, January 14th. Her husband, Dave, was able to be by her side and we ask for continued prayers for him and his family at this difficult time.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

COMMITTEE:

The Building and Grounds committee is asking for input from the congregation on which projects should be addressed in 2022. We are presently discussing the renovation of Room 7 (to be used as session meeting room, Sunday school room, and general meeting room), renovation of Fellowship Hall, and upgrades/improvements of Meeting House. Please contact Jim Hixson at jehixson91@gmail.com or 724-344-5178 with any comments on these projects or suggestions for other projects.

FRIDAY NIGHT ALIVE

Thomas Presbyterian has begun hosting Brent Furlong and Go Time Ministries in the CLC every other Friday night.

WHO: Middle and High Schoolers

WHAT: Food, Fun and Fellowship

WHEN: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4 and

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 7-9:30 PM

WHERE: Thomas Presbyterian
Church, Christian Life Center

Questions?

724-941-8910 or

www.thomaspres.org

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FEBRUARY

Before Amen by Max Lucado

"In Before Amen, Max Lucado joins readers on a journey to the very heart of biblical prayer, offering hope for doubts and confidence even for prayer wimps. Distilling prayers in the Bible down to one pocket-sized prayer, Max reminds readers that prayer is not a privilege for the pious nor the art of a chosen few. Prayer is simply a heartfelt conversation between God and his child. Let the conversation begin. "

For the four Sundays in February, Adult CE will be reading and discussing Before Amen. 8:45-9:45 am in the Fellowship Hall. For info contact:

Sharon Richards: jmrsvr@comcast.net

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION LENT

For Lent, we will be doing the adult study, **Final Words From the Cross**. "Hamilton examines Christ's dying hours and his final words as seen and heard through the eyes and ears of those who stood near the cross. " The study will begin March 6 and continue through Easter, Sunday mornings at 8:45 in the FH. The books are \$10 and need to be ordered soon, so please contact Kathi Durkin if you plan to attend. kdurkin6@verizon.net

FOOD HELPERS

The Food Helpers program will take place on Tuesday, February 8 in the Left Lot from 9-11am.

Food Helpers is to serve as a short-term emergency food bank for people who have lost their jobs, have family issues, health issues, etc. This will serve those who do not qualify for the regular monthly Food Bank. Volunteers are welcome to help with traffic control, greet clients, load boxes, etc. If interested, please contact Patti Korintus.

For more information about Food Helpers please visit their website at <https://www.foodhelpers.org>

TAX PREPARATION

VITA volunteers will be preparing 2021 income tax for low income and elderly at The Bible Chapel on Washington Road in McMurray. Returns will be prepared from February 7– April 7, 2022. There will be forms in the back of the sanctuary with details.

CONTACT: Joseph S. Weimer 412-49-0737



Ash Wednesday

There will be an Ash Wednesday service at 7pm on March 2nd. The service will consist of scripture and reflection on the different signs of the ashes along with the distribution of ashes.

Girl Scout Cookie Sales

MARCH 3

On Thursday, March 3rd from 3-7pm the Girl Scouts of Thomas Presbyterian Church will be selling their famous cookies in the top lot. They will be near the sign to increase sales at the intersection. Please be sure to stop by and get some cookies, or you may use an order form that will be placed in the back of the Sanctuary and in the CLC. Also, please be sure to use caution if you are using campus parking lot at that time!

THANK YOU

Thank you for being such a faithful meal partner to our ministry this year! Blessing and Joy to you this holiday season!

~~Community 3 for 1

(for our days of caring)

I want to thank you for fixing my screens. I really appreciate it very much. You are lovely people and I'm fortunate to know you. God bless each and everyone for helping me and befriending me.

Always ~~ Judy Petrick

(from our Adopt-A-Families)

Thank you! My wife and I want to thank you for the wonderful blessings for the full Thanksgiving dinner and Christmas dinner and for providing us with all our gifts. This has profoundly lifted our spirits. As you know, prices have gone up so much, it has been tough. May God fill your year with many blessings! P.S. Please put this \$20.00 in the basket!

Thank you! To all the members of Thomas Presbyterian. We are so grateful to all of you! You made our Christmas extra special this! I hope each one of you have a very very merry Christmas!!!

THOMAS STAFF

Debbie Smith

Interim Pastor
724-941-8910
pastordeb-biesmith@gmail.com

Bob Lutz

Business Manager
724-941-8910
thomasbsmgr@gmail.com

Emily Carroll

Administrative Assistant
724-941-8910
office@thomaspres.org

Dennis Luisi

Custodian
Cell: 724-554-3002

Julie Galati

Music Ministry Coordinator
Home: 724-746-2620
juliegatali@gmail.com

Dave Zimmerman

Keyboard
tdzimn@verizon.net

Terri Kleinhans

Director
Thomas Christian Preschool
724-941-8910

Kathy Gaab

Thomas 2s
724-941-3845

Happy Valentine's Day

Session Meeting Highlights January 17, 2022

Future Focus: We discussed the implications of what we notice to be true about the people and resources God has provided us with.

- With members predominantly over the age of 60, we need to be thinking about their particular needs for care, spiritual formation, accessibility, service, and participation.
- With approximately 300 CLC users on our campus each week, we have an opportunity to consider how we might connect with them, potentially offering such things as support or study groups and opportunities for mission.
- With new neighborhoods being built all around us, we need to consider how to prepare to connect with them.

It was noted that the funds from the capital campaign designated for spiritual formation/mission provide an opportunity to experiment in living in to the realities listed above. We discussed forming a task force to discern how we might focus our work over the next year. We will begin by having session members give the items above some additional thought and encourage their committees to do the same. Next month, we will continue the conversation.

Washington Presbytery

Presbytery meeting to be via Zoom on January 22, at 9 AM. Stephanie Modar is the Commissioner for this meeting.

Worship

- Communion is scheduled for the 1st Sunday of each month in 2022 and for Maundy Thursday April 14.

Christian Education

- There will be a 4-week study Sunday mornings during Lent starting Feb 1 using "Before Amen" by Max Lucado

COVID Task Force

- Given recent member input regarding the increased risk posed by the omicron variant, the task force will revisit the COVID protocols.

Mission Outreach and Service Team

- Advised Session 40% of Pentecost collection be designated for Go Time Ministries.
- Advised Session 25% of the Peace & Global Witness collection to be designated for Heifer International.
- Voted to place a Special Olympics clothing /shoe collection box near the dumpsters on a trial basis.

Buildings and Grounds

- Approved up to \$9,000.00 to replace furnace in CLC to heat the entry way, bathrooms, and kitchen.
- Asked each committee to prepare a list of maintenance items and potential capital projects for discussion at their next meeting.

2021 Monthly Mission Offerings

MONTH	MISSION	AMOUNT CONTRIBUTED
January	<i>Family Promise</i>	\$145
February	<i>Health For Her</i> <i>(formerly Pittsburgh Women's Clinic)</i>	\$145 + diaper collection
March	<i>Pine Springs Camp</i>	\$405
April	<i>One Great Hour of Sharing</i>	\$272+ food drive
May	<i>Pentecost</i>	\$315 (40% Go Time Ministry)
June	<i>Habitat for Humanity</i>	\$345.00
July	<i>Deacons</i>	\$270.00
August	<i>City Mission</i>	\$620.00 + food drive
September	<i>Peace & Global Witness</i>	\$190.00 (25% to food helpers)
October	<i>Domestic Violence Services</i>	\$235 + \$265 (200 churches campaign)
November	<i>Adopt-a-Family</i>	\$914.00
December	<i>Christmas Joy</i>	\$527.00

THOMAS CHURCH'S COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT SPECIAL MISSION PROGRAMS CONTINUES

Each month Thomas Presbyterian Church designates a particular mission to be the recipient of the monthly mission offering. With the exception of the mission programs designated by the Presbyterian Church, the congregation chooses the mission programs that will receive these offerings. The chart to the right provides information on the 2020 mission programs and the church's response.

