

FIRST CHURCH OF THE
RESURRECTION
EST. 1810 | CANTON, OH



THE HELPER

December/January 2022-23

Strong Heritage Bright Future

Volume 102 Issue 12

Dear Church,

In these last weeks we have been walking and worshiping in the season and spirit of Advent together. In hopeful expectation, we anticipate the coming of Christ - our Mighty God, the Prince of Peace, the Light of the World, and Immanuel, God with us! Soon we will enter the season of Christmas, a 12-day celebration of the fulfilling of these expectations in the birth of Christ, which changed the course of history and touches each and every one of our lives today.

The Christmas season spans the turning of one calendar year to the next and offers us a welcome opportunity to step back to get a birds eye view of our lives and circumstances. Doing so helps us to know how to prayerfully look to God for his direction and provision. As your pastors, we long to come alongside you in that journey. We also join with the elders in what they have to say below as we seek to do this as a church.

**Grace + Peace,
Pastors JR & Amy Rozko**

As your elders, we look to the new year with both hope and concern. We're very hopeful, with the leadership of our pastors, we can grow and become a vital part of the community, as we have been in the past. Our concern is that if we continue as we are now, this isn't going to happen. We are currently taking significant money from the Foundation just to pay the bills. At this rate the Foundation will be depleted in 5 to 6 years. Pledges are down. We are fortunate that the Sunday night community has made pledges of financial support this year, but money aside, we need to make changes to be a growing and vibrant church.

As we have been working with Fresh Expressions, the elders have requested the Pastors to come up with proposals; to spend time and energy to research different possibilities or options for the long-term future of First Church. We don't know exactly at this time what that means. But if we don't at least try some new things we will cease to be a church. We know this all sounds drastic and a little scary, but this is a serious situation that requires much thought and prayer. We have, many times over the years, come together to be there for each other and the church. We are very hopeful we can do it again.

**Your Elders,
Jim Bellamy (Chair), Sue Casto (Vice-Chair), Barb Davis (Secretary), Helen Wentworth, and Jan Jozwiakowski.**

Our study through Acts and focus in Advent has reminded us that we worship a God who excels in making a way even when there seems to be no way. As we look to the future we continue to remember the message of Christmas - that God is with us! - as well as the message of Easter - that our God is victorious over all things, even death. We are people of the resurrection!

**Sincerely,
Your Leadership Council**

January 2023

Birthdays:

5th-Donna Blair 14th-Lois Vitale
 18th-Bev Raff

Your Friends and Family at First Church of the Resurrection want to wish you all a joyous celebration and many blessings for the year to come!

Please Pray for:

Shirley Jordy Judy Snyder Diane Fair
 Zella Yohe Donna Blair

In the Military:

Scott Gordon R J Smith Aaron Schlabach
 Josh Porco Kellan Gier Scott Smeltzer
 Brian George Steven Okey Ryan Souers
 Luke Groves Robert Blair

Serving as Mission Partners:

Leonel & Belgica Ortiz - Columbia
 Greg, Megan, Lydia & Theodore Owens - Middle East
 Andrew & Sarah - Middle East

Your Leadership Council at Work December 16, 2022

- The Elders have requested pastors to spend time and energy to research possibilities for the future of First Church.
- Snow removal has been arranged, if needed, for Christmas Eve service.
- Pastors will be on vacation January 15-22. Pastoral coverage will be secured.

Servants for God Forever,
 Leadership Council

Join Us for Bible Study Sundays at 9:30am



Volunteers for providing December snacks:

12/4 Sandy & Jim Bellamy
 12/11 Bob & Jan Jozwiakowski
 12/18 Dawn & Daryl Sowers

Pray for the following local churches, their

Pastors and leadership:

Sanctuary Church of God
 Second Wesleyan Methodist
 Sherrick Road Church
 Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church
 Simpson UMC
 Southeast Church of Christ



James (Jim) Franklin Ackelson, age 65, went home to be with the Lord on November 28, 2022. He was born on May 30, 1944. Jim is survived by his loving wife, Barbara Ackelson. Jim will be missed.

Financial Report For November 2022

Income: \$ 9,083
 Expenses: \$ 14,009
 \$ -4,926

Usher's Committee Report Sunday Attendance

November 2022

Date	Adults	Children	Total
November 6	25	7	32
November 13	27	9	36
November 20	22	4	26
November 27	19	4	23
Total	93	24	117

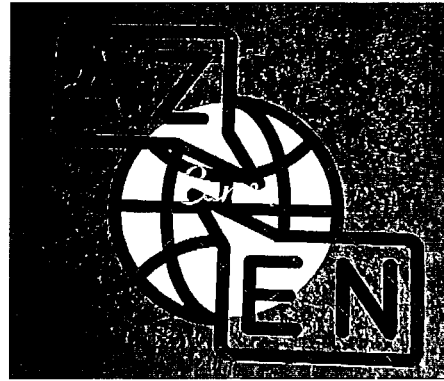
Sunday total average = 29.25
 Sunday average of children = 6

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to teach English over Zoom.
Professionals not required!

You Must:

- Speak English fluently
- Be available Mon, Thurs, or Fri mornings
- Use Zoom and Google docs easily

For more information contact:
AZEN at thanksgiving.in.turkey@gmail.com



There will be a giving tree in the sanctuary. Please donate socks, gloves, hats, mittens, any cold weather items. The tree will be available until January 1. Bring the items with you to church or drop in during weekdays. We will give the donations to Refuge.

Thank You and
God Bless You

Missions Committee



Christmas Eve 12/24/22
6:30pm

All Committees
Year End Reports are due to the
office no later than Sunday, January 29th
Thank you!



Church Budget (where we get our offering envelopes) is experiencing some difficulties with a few of the presses they have going down and getting the parts to fix them. Also, they are having difficulties hiring extra help to complete the orders they have. They are working very hard to get the orders out and will get them to us as soon as possible. The goal is to have every order out by Christmas but they cannot guarantee that. If we do not have them by Christmas, it will be shortly after the first of the year. I will put them in your boxes as soon as I have them. Thank you for your patience. Tina ☺

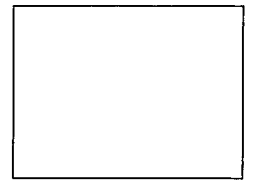


The Church
Budget Envelope Company



THE HELPER

Serving God for 211 years
First Church of the Resurrection
901 East Tuscarawas St.
Canton, OH 44707



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



XXX

HELPER DEADLINE the 15th of each month

First Church of the Resurrection's Staff

Rev. JR Rozko, Lead Pastor
Rev. Amy Rozko, Lead Pastor
Katrina Kenyon, Worship Leader
Seth Kenyon, Music Director
Tina Copeland, Office Secretary
Church Phone: 330.453.1719
Office Hours: Mon. & Wed. 10:00am-2:30pm

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Visit our Facebook page



Our Vision Statement:

We invite seekers and followers to come with us on an ever deepening journey of discipleship, as we serve God by building the community of Jesus.