

The Presbyterian

A Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church

February 2025

Exalting Christ. Denying Ourselves. Loving our Neighbors.

THE TERRITORY AHEAD FEBRUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

Hello Church Family! By the time you read this, the New Year of 2025 is already in full swing! As you know we all are on a JOURNEY TOGETHER toward THE TERRITORY AHEAD. This journey includes both: keeping the church operational (lining up sermons and services, as well as day-to-day operations) -- and -- working through the process of bringing on a new pastor. Please know our Session and staff are working hard for you! Please keep us in prayer!

First, our Pastor Search Committee is continuing the process to locate the right person to fill our vacancy. Currently the committee has no viable candidates to consider, so we are “on-hold” until we have some new applicants.

Second, we continue to give thanks for Pastor Josh Hanson (and the team from Gateway Church in Findlay, OH) for providing most of our Sunday church service messages. Currently Josh is leading us through the book of Romans, which contains Paul’s guidance to the newly formed Christian church in Rome. This book of scripture is often referred to as The Romans Road (for new believers today) because it includes information on things like:

- ** I consider myself a good person, won’t that be enough?
- ** Is sin really that big of a deal (and if it is, what hope is there)?
- ** After what I’ve done to grieve God, how could He willingly send His Son Jesus Christ to actually die for me?
- ** How can I be saved? Does God hear me? Will He accept me? What do I do next?

If you want to know more about this, take up your bibles and read all of Romans (and talk to any of our elders to help in your understanding). Just as a reminder, if you’d care to watch again (any of Pastor Josh’s sermons) they are all available on our church website www.firstpresbucyrus.com I’d encourage you take advantage of this feature that we have included for you; for further study and consideration.

Recently we sang another of my favorite hymns # 281, God of the Ages Whose Almighty Hand. Too often when we sing hymns we fail to fully digest all the wording and the message, so again I’d like to list the lyrics here for your consideration (as we continue into the new year)

God of The Ages, Whose Almighty Hand; Leads Forth In Beauty, All The Starry Band Of Shining Worlds, In Splendor Through The Skies; Our Grateful Songs, Before Thy Throne Arise

Thy Love Divine, Hath Led Us In The Past; In This Free Land, With Thee Our Lot Is Cast Be Thou Our Ruler, Guardian, Guide and Stay; Thy Word Our Law, Thy Paths Our Chosen Way

From War's Alarms, From Deadly Pestilence; Be Thy Strong Arm, Our Ever Sure Defense Thy True Religion, In Our Hearts Increase; Thy Bounteous Goodness, Nourish Us In Peace

Refresh Thy People, On Their Toilsome Way; Lead Us From Night, To Never-Ending Day Fill All Our Lives, With Love And Grace Divine; And Glory, Laud and Praise Be Ever Thine

May these words be included in your personal (and our church family's corporate) mantra throughout the year !

In each of the upcoming Newsletter Articles, we will continue to remind us all that - the overall process of securing a new pastor will take time and much patience and prayer. As always, if you have any comments or questions, we strongly encourage you to reach out to any of our current Session Members.

AL FULTON

419-563-8277

afulton@rrochio.com

MARCIA STOUT

419-217-9862

marciastout17@gmail.com

TOM BRITTON

419-569-2988

(best to call)

CARRIE DIEBLER

419-569-1861

ldieble@columbus.rr.com

 Group and Committee Dates
For January 2025

Deacon's Meeting – The Deacons will meet on **Wednesday, February 12th, @ 6:15 PM.**

Session Meeting - The Elders will meet on **Tuesday, February 18th @ 6:00 PM.**

Gamma Delta - The Gamma Delta group will not meet in January or February.

Discipleship Groups – **Ladies Discipleship** will not meet during the months of January and February.

The **Men's Discipleship Group** to be announced

Presbyterian Men - The Presbyterian Men's Bible Study meets each **Friday @ 7:00 AM, at the Pelican.** All men of FPC are invited to attend.





Happy Birthday

- 4 Marcia Dishon
- 10 Beth Cotsmire
- 19 Brydan Lohr
- 20 Steve Ritzhaupt
- 24 Madelynn Fox
- 26 Phyllis Cole

Anniversaries

- 12 Howard and Lucille Gilliland
- 22 Austin and Kaelee Britton

Ushers/Greeters

- 02 – Lori Rager
- 09 – Carrie Diebler
- 16 – Harley & Rachel
- 23 – Gary Irwin

Flowers

- 02 –
- 09 – Lori Rager
- 16 –
- 23 –

Liturgist

- 02 –
- 09 – Marcia Stout
- 16 –
- 23 –

Worship Leader

- 02 –
- 09 – Marcia Stout - Gateway
- 16 –
- 23 –

Shut-Ins:

Mary Lou Hastings, Sue Headley,
Joe Ann Johns is currently in Altercare, 1929
Whetstone Street, room 411. Prayers & cards are
greatly appreciated.
Chet Johnston, cards can be sent to Altercare,
Room 108. He would appreciate visitors.

Cancer

Marcia Dishon, prayers needed as she begins
chemotherapy
Annette Cheney, a friend of Kathy Bardon
Amanda Compton, Lori Rager's step-daughter

Surgery

Tami Robinson, healing from cataract surgery
Abigail Sutherland, for upcoming procedures,
Dishon's granddaughter

Members, Family and Friends of Mem- bers:

Major Tom Grace, Bucyrus Salvation Army, re-
cuperating from a massive stroke and deep brain
bleed.
Kathy Hildebrand, Courtney's Mother, in the
hospital
Judy Eichhorn, prayers while Judy lives with
chronic pain
Dan Price, Parkinson's
Lou Ross, Lori Rager's Dad, Dementia
Whitney Hildebrand, Courtney Posey's sister
Mike McKee, Heart problem, Jenny McKee, torn
retina, friends of Kathy Bardon
Becky Bellamy, Parkinson's, sister of Kathy Bar-
don

Military:

Keagan Rios, Gennie Rios grandson
Levi Diebler, member and Carrie Diebler's son
Grayson Robinson, Tami Robinson's grand-
nephew

February Elder : Tom Britton

First Presbyterian Church News

♥♥Kudos and Updates from Jan:♥♥

Many, many thanks to everyone who stayed after worship on January 5th and helped take down our **Christmas decorations**.

We will be mailing out **end-of-year giving statements** to members the week of January 27th. If you do not receive one or notice a discrepancy, please let me know.

Kudos to everyone who attended the **Annual Meeting AND shared a soup, salad or dessert**. We have fun even when we're taking care of business!!

Remember that B.O.R.N. is in need of clean, gently used coats, scarves, hats, gloves, mittens and packages of new, warm socks during these cold winter months. Please bring them to church, and I will be happy to take them to the B.O.R.N. office.

Jan Fulton, Treasurer, 419/561-0263

Greetings from my Cozy Corner Office!

I wonder if anyone else feels like we are still in the Advent season, that season of waiting and expectation for the birth of Christ. Yes, we have lit the candles, sung the hymns, and celebrated the new-born King, but we are still waiting. Waiting for Him to come again. Waiting for Peace on Earth. And most immediately, waiting for our next earthly shepherd. It's not easy waiting for Christmas; it's not easy waiting for our next pastor either, and yet wait we must. In God's perfect timing, we trust Him to reveal this person to us. In the meantime, like wiggly three year-olds, we may find it hard to sit still, stay focused, and be patient.

Does anyone remember this song? We used to sing it in children's choir when I was a kid.

Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning,
give me oil in my lamp, I pray; give me oil in
my lamp, keep me burning, keep me burning
till the break of day.

Sing hosanna, sing hosanna, sing hosanna to
the King of kings! Sing hosanna, sing ho-
sanna, sing hosanna to the King!

It's based on the parable of the ten virgins in
Matthew 25:1-9. It's a good lesson for the
Advent season, and it's a good lesson for us
now as we wait in expectation for the next
occupier of the other corner office in our
beautiful church, but we aren't meant just to
sit and wait; we must go on with the work
our Father has called us to do: praying, wor-
shipping, serving, tithing, congregating,
singing, supporting one another, and loving
our neighbors.

I hope you'll join Jake Ritzhaupt and me as
we co-lead a new adult Sunday School class
beginning February 16; it's a 9-week Lenten
study of John Piper's book *The Passion of
the Christ*, *Fifty Reasons Why Jesus Came to
Die*. Our church is also collecting blankets
this month and food for B.O.R.N.'s Blessing
Box, among other activities. So, join me,
won't you? Let's keep oil in our lamps. Let
our next pastor find us faithfully being salt
and light. And, don't forget to sing! Sing ho-
sanna to the King!

Blessings,
Marcia

Mission Committee

Blanket Sunday will start on Sunday, Feb-
ruary 2nd and run through the month. On
February 2nd, there will be Blanket donation
envelopes in the back of the pews. Please
make sure your name is on or in the enve-
lope with your donation.

Also, in February the **Mission Committee**
is sponsoring the BORN Box. They will
have baskets available for non-perishable
food items and each week a committee
member will take the items to fill the BORN
Box. **If you need recommendations on
items to donate see below:**

Convenient foods for donations:

Pop-Up Cans are best or add a Can opener
No glass containers
No foods past their expiration date
No large containers – they might not fit in the BORN box

Canned or Dried beans
Peanut Butter or Peanut butter crackers
Canned fruit, Vegetables or Tomatoes
Dried Fruit
Soup canned or in packages
Canned tuna and chicken
Pasta with canned pasta sauce, canned stew and canned pastas
Suddenly salad or any box mixes that can add water and/or oil
Dried milk, shelf stable milk or Milk substitutes
Rice
Cereals
Crackers
Apple sauce
Cooking oil
Honey
Chicken, beef and vegetable broths and stock.
Toilet Paper, Paper Towels,
Dishwashing liquid
Individual wrapped bars of soap
Tooth paste & tooth brush



Adult Education Class

The Passion of the Christ
Fifty Reasons Why Jesus Came to Die
by John Piper

A special, 9-week, Adult Sunday School Class February 16 through Palm Sunday, April 13 at 9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall
Marcia Stout and Jake Ritzhaupt, co-leaders.

Join us as we read and discuss the deeper meaning behind the single most important event in human history. Many of the members of the Ladies' Discipleship group already have a copy of Piper's book, but more copies will be made available in the Resource Room—one book per family, please.



Happy 100th Birthday to Alice "Joe Ann" Johns!
January 21, 2025

Cards appreciated; please send in c/o Donna
Watts
140 Schell Drive
Bucyrus, OH 44820

