

The Presbyterian

A Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church

May 2024

Exalting Christ. Denying Ourselves. Loving our Neighbors.

THE TERRITORY AHEAD

Hello Church Family ! As we reported in last month's newsletter we all are on a JOURNEY TOGETHER toward

THE TERRITORY AHEAD. This journey includes both: keeping the church operational (including lining up sermons and services, as well as the day to day operations) -- and -- beginning the process of bringing on a new pastor.

First - we have been working closely with E.P.C.'s Midwest Presbytery - Ministerial Committee (that's responsible for helping us with Pulpit Supply). With the help of this committee, Gateway Presbyterian (the EPC church in Findlay, OH) has agreed to provide equipment and training for us to "stream" their sermons during our church service. The senior pastor at Gateway Church is Josh Hanson, and he typically presents "three-week sermon-series". By the time you're reading this, we will have already done this several times. Other than the sermon itself, we will continue to use our normal church service agenda.

Second - on the Sundays following each Gateway Church "three-week sermon-series" we will ensure someone presents the sermon here in-person for either one or two weeks, before starting the next "three week sermon-series"

Third - one of the options E.P.C. is working with us on is to possibly locate a Transitional Pastor who would basically fill the role of our very own pastor, but only on a 12-month basis (with extensions available in 2-3 month increments). This person would not only present weekly sermons, but also handle sacraments (such as communion, baptisms, funerals and pastoral counseling). They would not be eligible to become our permanent pastor - because they have been specifically trained to help churches through interim times only.

Fourth - our Church Session (and our church staff) are working on completing a sixteen (16) page E.P.C. document called a C.I.F. Church Information Form. Once that is completed and approved by the EPC-Midwest - Ministerial Committee, we will submit it to E.P.C. and they will "post" our job vacancy for all potential pastor candidates to view and consider submitting applications. As these applications start to come in, we will then form our Pastor Search Committee and begin the process of reviews and interviews.

On another note, we just launched a NEW WEBSITE that we hope you'll visit regularly. Several months ago, we were contacted by A-1 Printing (our website administrator) and advised they were "updating their servers" and our old website would no longer be supported, so it was a good time to "update our look". One of the KEY changes is that our shut-ins (and out-of-towners) can now watch our "entire services" LIVE on Sunday morning (by visiting the new website). This should be great for

anyone that isn't a member of FaceBook. Also, our website has had (and will continue to have) archives of all of our past: weekly-bulletins, weekly-services-videos, monthly-newsletters and photo galleries (of church activities) that can be accessed.

In the meantime, we encourage each of you to visit the following (2) websites to learn more about the workings of the E.P.C. Evangelical-Presbyterian-Church (nationwide) and the Midwest-Presbytery (our local representation) www.epc.org www.midwestpresbytery.org

In every one of these upcoming Newsletter Articles, we will continue to remind us all that - the overall process 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 either myself or any of our current Session Members.

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Group and Committee Dates

Session Meeting

The Elders will meet on **Thursday, May 16, @ 6:00 PM** in the Welcome Center.

Gamma Delta

The Gamma Delta group will meet on **Thursday, May 16, at 12:30pm** at Whistle Stop in Galion.

Discipleship Group

The Ladies Discipleship group will meet **May 14, at 6:30 pm**. The Ladies will take the summer off and resume their meeting in the fall.

The Men's group will meet on **May 14 and May 28 at 7:00 PM**. The Men will continue meeting through the summer months.

Table Toppers

The Table Toppers meet **Wednesday afternoons at 2:30 until 5:00**. All ages are welcome to join in for an afternoon of board games and card games. Bring your snacks and beverage.

Presbyterian Men

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

Deacon's Meeting

The Deacon's meetings are to be announced.

Finance Committee

The next Finance Committee meeting will be announced.



Happy Birthday

- 2 William Fox
- 3 Bridget Kohls
- 4 Dana Griffith, Alan Bacon
- 7 Kathy Randall
- 23 Ronda Hoerig, Tommy Randall
- 24 Al Fulton
- 26 Elijah McNeill
- 29 Kenny Hablitzel

Anniversary

- 1 Dan and Barb Price
- 6 Al and Jan Fulton
- 13 Tom and Vickie Ahlefeld

Liturgist

- 05 – Bob Thompson
- 12 – Duane Watts
- 19 – Tami Robinson
- 26 – Marcia Stout

Ushers/Greeters

- 05 – Lori Rager
- 12 – Cindy Inscho
- 19 – Gary Irwin
- 26 – Tom & Sandy Britton

Flowers

- 05 – Dan & Barb Price
- 12 – Kathy Bardon
- 19 – Tasha Nickler
- 26 – Tami Robinson

Elder of the Month: Tom Britton



Shut-Ins:

Mary Lou Hastings, Sue Headley, JoeAnn Johns

Cancer

Melody Fagan, friend of Sandy Britton
Annette Cheney, a friend of Kathy Bardon
Bruce Price, Dan's brother

Surgery

Ben Hubble, Jan's nephew, back surgery

Members, Family and Friends of Members:

Dan Price
Barb Price for the loss of her son Jay
Dave Hablitzel
Judy Eichhorn, waiting on MRI for pain in head, neck & shoulders
Kathy Hildebrand, Courtney's Mother, waiting on liver transplant
Lou Ross, recovering from a, stroke, Lori Rager's Dad
Whitney Hildebrand, Courtney Posey's sister
Abigail Sutherland, recovering from heart surgery, Dishon's granddaughter
Mike McKee, Heart problem. Friend of Kathy Bardon
Becky Bellamy, Parkinson's, sister of Kathy Bardon
Mary Dunham, Kathy Byrne's friend

Military:

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



First Presbyterian News



Kudos & Updates from Jan



Renovations in the church are ongoing. Many thanks to everyone who purchased furniture and gave us a donation. The donations will go to B.O.R.N. for help in keeping their outside Blessing Food Box filled. The first room we completed renovation in is the old Heritage Room/Elevator Room, which is off our large Welcome Center. This was specifically renovated to become the new **Information Center**. You will notice that the large registers and the small table in the back of the Sanctuary are now cleaned off. All information, i.e., pamphlets, give-a-way bibles, extra hymnals, Upper Room books, Discipleship Books, sign-up sheets for flowers, etc. are now in the new Information Center. Please stop in and familiarize yourself with this new location for all of your informational needs.

Deacons Prayer List - As you know we continue to have a prayer list in our weekly bulletins. Also, the deacons have a very active prayer chain with more detailed prayer needs. They will be using this column in the monthly newsletter to keep you aware of more prayer needs. Feel free to let me know if you would like to add anything to our list. We ask for prayers for the following: prayers for **Jan and Al's nephew, Ben Hubble** who is recuperating from major back surgery; prayers for **Al Fulton** on the loss of his older brother, Jack; continued prayers for **Courtney's mom**, who finally received a new liver; prayers for **Dan and Barb Price** whose son, **Jay**, died; continued prayers for **Dave Habbitzel** as he continues to gain weight and strength, and for **Debbie** who is his main caregiver; prayers for **the family of Melodie Fagan**, who died this week after battling cancer; continued prayers for **Dan and Barb Price** as they navigate the many stages of Parkinson's Disease; prayers for **Sam and Joe Rager** as they spread their wings and

grow as young men outside of our community; prayers of compassion for **Gary Hess** and others who suffer depression AND live alone; continued prayers for the **McNeill family** as they begin a new chapter in their life AND prayers for our congregation as we refocus our energy and talents to strengthen our congregation, begin the search for our new pastor and increase our outreach outside of our doors... all for the glory of God!

We are encouraging those of you who give **flowers on Sunday** to have Michelle order a smaller, round arrangement. These round arrangements look more like a gift of flowers instead of a funeral arrangement.

The Finance Committee would like to congratulate **Sam Rager** on receiving a \$2,500 FPC scholarship for the 2024/2025 school year, which will be his senior year. Sam is currently a junior at Columbia University and spent the spring semester in Sydney, Australia, attending the University of New South Wales. He is working toward a Bachelor degree with a double major in Applied Mathematics and Physics.

Jan Fulton – 419/561-0263

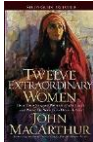
New Members And Baptisms



In December we were so excited to have Kaitlyn Bardon become a member of First Presbyterian Church. In March we welcomed ten new members, Jake Ritzhaupt, Rachel Ritzhaupt, Harley Shaum, Kaelee Britton, Brydan Lohr, Tom Ahlefeld and Lauren Bishop and her children, William, Emily, and Maddie. Those that were baptized were Harley, Kaelee, Brydan, Tom, Lauren and her three children.

First Presbyterian Church
Women's Discipleship Spring Sched-
ule 2024 12 Extraordinary Women
by John MacArthur

May 14 Ch. 3 "Rahab: A Horrible
Life Redeemed"



There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns. Psalm 46:4-5

The Men's group will meet on **May 14 and May 28 at 7:00 PM**



I CAN DO ALL THINGS
THROUGH CHRIST WHO
STRENGTHENS ME

PHILIPPIANS 4:13



First Presbyterian Church
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