

The Presbyterian

A Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church

July 2024

Exalting Christ. Denying Ourselves. Loving our Neighbors.

THE TERRITORY AHEAD

Hello Church Family! As you know 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 in this interim time). As you know, with the help of this committee Pastor Josh with Gateway Presbyterian (the EPC church in Findlay, OH) is providing access to his on-line sermon-series from the Old Testament Book of Daniel. Our church session/elders trust you're finding these messages applicable to your lives as we all Live Our Lives in this (current) Land of Exile.

In the upcoming weeks, Pastor Josh will be taking a break on July 7, so on that date elder Al Fulton will present the second in his two-part series on THE FIVE SOLAS (the five ALONE statements) of the Reformation. Then Pastor Josh will be back with us again.

Second - you should also know that once a month we have a Zoom Meeting with various representatives from the EPC Midwest Presbytery where they check in with us to ensure everything is continuing to work smoothly for our church during this interim period. They are very good about asking pointed questions so all aspects of our church are good and they are always sure to finish up these meetings with an audible prayer, asking God to bless our efforts here in Bucyrus. The next Zoom Meeting is scheduled for August 12th at 10:00am.

Third - one of the other things EPC-Midwest is providing is a Teaching Elder (pastor) as moderator for all our Session Meetings. This is currently being filled by Pastor Robert Tansill. So you can see that our Presbytery is very involved in our process and our church health.

Fourth - in previous newsletter articles, I've mentioned the possibility of EPC locating for us what's termed a Transitional Pastor to be on-site for no more than a 12-month basis (this person would not be eligible to become our permanent pastor). Along with the EPC Ministerial Committee, we've recently all come to the agreement that this is not for us. Therefore, our Church Session (and our church staff) are close to completing the sixteen (16) page E.P.C. document called a C.I.F. Church Information Form. Our intention is to have it completed by June 30, at which time we'll submit it to E.P.C. and they will "post" our job vacancy for all potential pastor candidates to view and consider submitting applications.

**** Lastly - with this in mind, we're almost ready to form our Pastor Search Committee and begin the process of reviews and interviews. Back in February/March, a number of you had mentioned you'd like to be part of this committee. Even if you said something before, please contact AL FULTON (in the next week or two) to confirm your interest. ****

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 **Tuesday July 16, @ 6:00 PM** in the Welcome Center.

Gamma Delta - The Gamma Delta group will meet on **Thursday, July 18, at 12:30 pm** at the **Bakers Pizza**.

Discipleship Group

The Ladies Discipleship group will meet **Tuesday, July 23 @ 6:30**. See below.

The Men's group will meet on **July 2, 16 & 30 at 7:00 PM**. The Men will continue meeting through the summer months.

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

LOOK! Ladies' Discipleship POP-UP

Meeting, Tuesday, July 23 at 6:30 p.m, Twelve Extraordinary Women by John MacArthur Ch. 3 "Rahab: A Horrible Life Redeemed" Come and join us for a meaningful prayer time and great conversation. All are welcome! Call or text Marcia with questions 419-217-9862.



National Night Out is August 6. Please see Kudos and Updates from Jan for all the details and the Deacons Plans



Happy Birthday

- 2 Rachel Ritzhaupt
- 3 Tom Ahlefeld
- 11 Phyllis Reed
- 15 Daron Watts
- 22 Mary McNeill

Anniversary

- 15 Dana and Carol Griffith
- 24 Al and Mary Ann Basinger
- 25 Duane and Connie Watts

Liturgist

- 07 – Bob Thompson
- 14 – Tami Robinson
- 21 – Carrie Diebler
- 28 – Tom Britton

Worship Schedule

- 07 – Al Fulton
- 14 – Josh Hanson
- 21 – Josh Hanson
- 28 – Josh Hanson

Ushers/Greeters

- 07 – Lori Rager
- 14 – Rachel & Harley
- 21 – Gary Irwin
- 28 –

Flowers

- 07 – Lori Rager
- 14 –
- 21 – Kathy Bardon
- 28 – Duane & Connie Watts



Shut-Ins:

Mary Lou Hastings, Sue Headley, JoeAnn Johns

Cancer

Annette Cheney, a friend of Kathy Bardon
Bruce Price, Dan's brother

Surgery

Tasha Nickler, recovering from carpal tunnel surgery
Ben Hubble, Jan's nephew, back surgery
Kathy Hildebrand, Courtney's Mother, received a liver transplant

Members, Family and Friends of Members:

Dan Price
Judy Eichhorn, waiting on MRI for pain in head, neck & shoulders
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

Elder of the Month: Marcia Stout

First Presbyterian News

Kudos & Updates from Jan:

We have two pianos available if anyone would like them. There is the old upright in the fellowship hall and another piano in the old choir room. Let me know if you are interested.

It is time to pay the Per Capita to our EPC and Presbytery. We pay \$36.00 per confirmed member every year. If you would like to help by paying your own Per Capita, just make your check out to First Presbyterian Church for \$36 for each confirmed member in your family and put “per capita” in the memo line. Your contributions would be greatly appreciated.

Marcia Stout is all moved in her newly decorated office. Stop and say “hi”! The carpet was removed and the original wooden floor refinished. We moved my former desk down from the balcony into her office. We also supplied a new office chair, laptop, rug, and added more electrical outlets. Marcia made the room her own by adding her own touches and it is lovely!!

Thank you to the Deacons for assisting with lunch at the second Refocus Meeting on Saturday, June 15th. Kudos to the 17 congregational members who took the time to show up and participate!!!

Sunday, June 30th is a busy day for us! After worship, we have a **Congregational Meeting** to elect Elders and Deacons. We will then enjoy a **POTLUCK** dinner followed by a church family discussion on moving forward in the life of our church. No food is being provided so we are counting on YOU to bring a casserole, vegetable dish, salad or dessert to share. Gamma

Delta will provide beverages and tableware will also be provided.

Tuesday, August 6th is NATIONAL NIGHT OUT! We will sponsor the NNO for our neighborhood from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm. We are in the planning stages so please let me know if you can help in any way with food & beverage donations, serving, games for kids and adults, face painting, music, set up & tear down. We’re also hoping to get a variety of small cups of ice cream from Mark’s Ice Cream to hand out. This is a way for us to reach out to our community and share the love of Jesus. Please get creative and offer up some great ideas and assistance for a fun evening!!

KUDOS to Ron who will continue to fill the organ pit on the first Sunday of every month. He will also be playing on the fifth Sundays and will be with us for some of our special services this year.

Jan Fulton – 419/561-0263

**Thank you from
Sam Rager**

Dear Church Family,
Your continued support of my college education is greatly appreciated. My college experience has expanded my view of the world. In addition to challenging academics, my time at Columbia and the University of New South Wales has developed my cultural intelligence through meeting and learning the cultures of people from many different countries. I have been so very fortunate to see the beauty of God's creation in the people and the places I have been.

This spring I will graduate with my bachelor's degree in Applied Physics and Applied Mathematics. The financial assistance you have provided has helped me achieve this.

With sincere gratitude,
Sam

Greetings from my Cozy Corner Office!

As I reflect on my new office and position at First Presbyterian, my heart is full. I am grateful to be here with all of you for such a time as this. It occurred to me as I have been getting settled that in the business world moving into a corner office is a sign that you have made it to the pinnacle, that you have arrived, that you have much power and control over others. The mindset that goes along with that high status can often produce hubris—an unwillingness to humble oneself—thinking, I am great; I deserve this.

My devotion this morning, Proverbs 25:28, reminded me that “A man (or woman) without self-control is like a city broken into and left without walls.” Self control comes from seeking first the Kingdom of God no matter where He puts us. I am not here to wield power and control; I am here to serve our Risen Savior right alongside each of you. As Josh Hanson reminded us in our sermon series on Daniel, our enemy “prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour” (1 Peter 5:8). I promise to serve with humility and the wisdom that God grants to me, and I pray that my little corner office will become a place of peace, comfort, and joy.

As we chase after Christ and seek to serve Him in this place where we have been gathered by the Good Shepherd, please join me to faithfully pray and study God’s word, to serve and sometimes suffer, and to be unified as the body of Christ. My door is open. You are invited to share the vision: “Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain” (Psalm 127:1).

May blessings abound!

Marcia

A letter from Marcia Burkhart

Dear Presbyterian Members and Friends,

Some of you know, and some of you don’t, but it is past time that I let you know why you have not seen me lately in worship.

The week before Christmas, my home church organist, Karen Scott, had emergency hip surgery and my somewhat substitute organist position at Bucyrus United Methodist church became urgent and full-time. Within a month her diagnosis was critical and she, along with her family, and the Pastors at the church deemed it necessary for her to retire. The job then fell to me to step into her shoes. Forward to today.

My time with all of you was very special to me. From day one, the 2nd Sunday of November in 2013, at the request of Al Fulton, when he asked for me to step in to give Julie Pelter a Sunday off a month for the first time in five years, I have felt nothing but welcome! You filled a void I was experiencing at my previous church, and you provided me a space to continue playing organ and staying up on technique and church music. Your heart-felt appreciation and thankfulness toward me has been amazing! Over the 10 years I was with you (which never felt like 10 years!) I have come to know you all as friends, when in fact most of you were complete strangers or mere acquaintances to me in the beginning.

I served under two pastors, several interim pastors, two different hymnals, two secretaries, Julie as organist, and Anya as bell choir and choir director. You graciously adjusted to my crazy schedule with United in Harmony and business meetings when it was necessary for me to change Sundays.

I played for several funerals and weddings, once filled in for Bell Choir, and I became a part of the 1st Presbyterian family. You prayed for my family when some were going through various health issues and surgeries, as I did for your members and families. Our lives were intertwined in so many ways. And I am so thankful!

And so, now it is time for me to say farewell.
2 Corinthians 13:11 states: Finally, brothers
and sisters, rejoice, be made complete, be
comforted, be like-minded, live in peace; and
the God of love and peace will be with you.
May God's richest blessings be upon you all!
With Love and appreciation,
Marcia Burkhart

