

The Presbyterian

A Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church

September 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 (lining up sermons and services, as well as the day to day operations) -- and -- beginning the process of bringing on a new pastor.

As detailed in prior newsletter articles, your Church Session has finalized our sixteen (16) page questionnaire called a C.I.F. (Church Information Form). EPC-MIDWEST MINISTERIAL-COMMITTEE has reviewed and approved it -- and -- we have now "posted" our vacancy on the E.P.C.-Ministerial Staff Opportunity website (where potential candidates can learn about our opening and also our church/community (if you'd like to see this document, please go to the website <https://epc.org/mso> - and - scroll down to our listing (listings are shown alphabetically by-state) -- or -- you can ask our Church Office for a copy. In addition to "posting" on the EPC website, we have also submitted it to approx. ten (10) Reformed Theology Seminaries and they have added our vacancy information and our C.I.F. to their Job-Boards (for graduates and seminary-students to see).

On August 4th at the specially-called Congregational Meeting, our membership voted unanimously to approve five (5) congregation members to serve as our Pastor Search Committee.

These members are: Tim Mutchler Marcia Stout Austin Britton Carrie Diebler Jake Ritzhaupt (with Al Fulton serving as Advisor - and - EPC-Liaison)

This committee will hold their first meeting on Sunday August 25 -- to first elect a chair-person and discuss how they will conduct the search (and prepare a list of questions for Pastor candidates.) Second as resumes (Personal Information Forms - P.I.F.s) are received from candidates, the committee will review the paperwork and conduct in-person meetings via "zoom" or other means. We will keep you updated all along the way! Please keep this committee and potential candidates (and the overall process) in your daily prayers! God certainly has someone already out there in-mind to fill this opening.

Concerning upcoming sermons, we will continue to regularly hear from Pastor Josh Hanson - Gateway Presbyterian Findlay, OH -- except for the following Sundays when we will have one of our elders (or friends) filling the pulpit. Please pray for these people (before and during their messages) and also be sure to thank them for their service to our congregation!

September 1 -- Al Fulton

September 8 -- Matt Eichhorn

October 20 -- Tom Britton

October 27 -- Marcia Stout

In each of the 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 any of our current Session Members.

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Group and Committee Dates

Session Meeting - The Elders will meet on **Wednesday, September 11 @ 6:00 PM**

Deacon's Meeting – The Deacons will meet on **Wednesday, September 11, @ 6:15 PM.**

Gamma Delta - The Gamma Delta group will meet on **Thursday, September 19, at 12:30 pm** at **PePe's Mexican Restaurant** .

Discipleship Group – The Ladies's Discipleship Group will meet on **Tuesday, September 3rd and 24th, at 6:15** and the Men's group will meet on **September 3rd, at 7:00 PM.**

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.

September 15th is Deacon Sunday

All loose cash donations will go to the Deacons' fund to
thank them for all they do.

Please give generously and keep them in your prayers
as we go through this period of transition.

Please keep the Elders in your prayers.

They are working very hard to keep our
church activities and Sunday Services
organized, along with many other duties.

Please keep the new Pastor Search Committee

in your prayers as they begin the process of reviewing possible
candidates for the position.



Happy Birthday

- 3 Gary Irwin
- 11 Harley Shaum
- 13 Susan Irwin, Peyton Bardon
- 22 Duane Watts
- 23 Levi Diebler
- 28 Judy Diederich
- 30 Sammy Rager

Anniversary

- 6 Tom and Sandy Britton,
- 21 Tim and Brenda Mutchler

Liturgist

- 01 – Deb Hablitzel
- 08 – Tamie Robinson & WL
- 15 – Tom Britton
- 22 – Tami Robinson
- 29 – Marcia Stout

Worship Leaders & Sermon

- 01 – Al Fulton, Sermon
- 08 – Tami Robinson (WL)
Matt Eichhorn, Sermon
- 15 – Tom Britton (WL) – Gateway
- 22 – Tami Robinson (WL) – Gateway
- 29 – Marcia Stout (WL) – Gateway

Ushers/Greeters

- 01 – Lori Rager
- 08 – Cindy Inscho & Gary Irwin
- 15 – Harley Shaum & Rachel Ritzhaupt
- 22 – Lori Rager & Tami Robinson
- 29 –

Flowers

- 01 – Barb Price
- 08 – Tasha Nickler
- 15 – Kathy Bardon
- 22 – Tami Robinson
- 29 – Lori Rager

September Elder: Al Fulton

The Office will be closed August 28 through September 2nd.

Shut-Ins:

Mary Lou Hastings, Sue Headley,
Joe Ann Johns is currently in Altercare, 1929
Whetstone Street, Room 411. Prayers &
cards are greatly appreciated.

Cancer

Annette Cheney, a friend of Kathy Bardon

Surgery

Eva, a child of friends of Tami Robinson, will
have hip dysplasia surgery in 3-4 weeks,
with a long recovery.

Michael Cole, son of Phyllis Cole, Michael
home with Phyllis, recovering
Kathy Hildebrand, Courtney's Mother, re-
ceived a liver transplant

Members, Family and Friends of Members:

Chet Johnston

Dan Price

Judy Eichhorn, prayers for acceptance, en-
durance and patience while Judy lives with
chronic pain

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

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 and Updates from Jan:

Tuesday, August 6th, was **NATIONAL NIGHT OUT!** We had a great plan, a free meal, Mark's Ice Cream, fun activities, a wonderful co-sponsor in Good Hope Lutheran Church... and then the clouds moved in, the wind blew and it rained like crazy!!! KUDOS to all of you who showed up, helped move our party to the fellowship hall and carried on with a much smaller NNO. We did have neighbors brave the weather and two creative indoor activities. Representatives from the Bucyrus Police Department and Fire Department visited, as well as, our mayor along with other city officials and Crawford County Sheriff deputies. The Lutherans and the Presbyterians supped together, visited and got to know each other better. We have lots of hotdogs and ice cream in the Fulton's freezer..... I'm thinking that next up might just be a combined Trunk or Treat and cookout with the Lutherans in October!!! Who's with me???

KUDOS to Ron Bower who will continue to fill the organ pit on the first Sunday of every month and now also the fifth Sunday... **AND how blessed are we to have Patti Neff** playing for us a couple Sundays a month out of the goodness and sweetness of her heart!??!

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.

Don't forget that there are [greeting cards and stamps available to all church members in the Resource Center](#). This is a ministry of love from your Deacons to you... so there is no charge. If you would care to help the Deacons with future card and stamp purchases, please see me.

Women's Discipleship Fall Schedule 2024

Tuesday, September 3, Ch. 5 "Hannah: A Portrait of Feminine Grace"

Tuesday, September 24, Ch. 6 "Mary: Blessed Among Women"

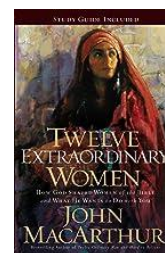
Tuesday, October 8, Ch. 7 "Anna: The Faithful Witness"

Tuesday, October 22, Ch. 8 "The Samaritan Woman: Finding the Water of Life"

Tuesday, November 5, Ch. 9 "Martha and Mary: Working and Worshipping"

Tuesday, November 19, Ch. 10 "Mary Magdalene: Delivered from Darkness"

Tuesday, December 3, Ch. 11 "Lydia: A Hospitable Heart Opened" and "Epilogue"



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

Greetings from my Cozy Corner Office!

When I was growing up, my family vacationed in northern Minnesota with our cousins. We always went to the same “mom and pop” resort on Bass Lake in Itasca County, primarily so my dad and my uncle could fish for Walleye, Muskie, and Bluegill. I have deep and abiding memories of stopping for ice cream at Bridgeman’s, going horseback riding in a hilly, wooded region near the lake, and eating lots and lots of fresh fish. I don’t think it was much of a vacation for my mom and my aunt, however. My family of seven and their family of six stayed in tiny cabins with one bathroom and no appliances except for a quirky old gas stove and a small refrigerator. Sand felt gritty in the bed sheets and wet bathing suits decorated the cramped bathroom.. My mother always said she was so happy to get home to her clean, modern kitchen after weeks of cooking one fish fry after another.

It was a carefree time for us kids, though. We didn’t realize the sacrifices our parents made in order for us to be able to take this nearly 1,000-mile sojourn every summer. No family-friendly restaurants existed in those days, interstate highways were still being constructed—some of our earliest trips were made without seatbelts—and even if you didn’t need a bathroom, you better go anyway because it could be many, many miles before there would be another place to stop, and there was no guarantee it would be clean!

My dad and my uncle were fishers of fish during our vacation weeks, to be sure, and I know those trips were the highlight of their year. My dad was a busy realtor who owned his own company and managed several other agents, and my uncle was a school principal who managed small children in Columbus. When we were in Minnesota, I saw them relax, laugh, and engage: they took us for evening boat rides, taught us to water-ski, showed us how to pick blueberries, and brought us to see where the mighty Mississippi River begins its 2,300 mile journey to the Gulf of Mexico. It was a magical time, a time for family, fish, fun, and faith.

As we journey together praying for our new earthly shepherd, and as we learn each day to become better fishers of men, may I remind us all to take time to build memories with family—memories that don’t involve screens, memories that run deep and will last a lifetime, memories that can make the foundation of strong families and strong faith. Just so you know, I’ll be out of the office from Sept. 6 through Sept. 20. I’m going back to Minnesota with one of my cousins and his wife, not to the same resort; it’s long-since been sold and turned into luxury lake property, and we aren’t kids anymore either, but it will be a great trip anyway. We’ll build on the foundation our parents laid and make new memories. We will cast our nets wide and see what we catch.

May blessings abound!
Marcia

Thank you from Kaitlyn Bardon

“Thank you for the opportunity to grow as a designer and the opportunity to attend Columbus College of Art & Design. I was able to learn many useful tips and processes that will allow me to create unique pieces. I am very grateful I was able to learn such valuable information thanks to the church.”

Sincerely,
Kaitlyn Bardon

Contact Crawford County Thank You

Dear Friends,
Words cannot express our appreciation for your continued support and hospitality to Crawford County Contact for so many years. Thank you for helping us achieve our mission to listen to so many of God’s children.

May God bless you always!
Sue Bishop, Contact Treasurer

Gamma Delta Thank You

The members of Gamma Delta wish to thank everyone that helped with the Bratwurst Festival parking project. We appreciate all the help with parking cars and the tent set-up and tear-down and to the church members that gave a donation to park. We were able to raise \$409 this year. Thank you all.

This is from Crawford County Council on Aging from a Festival Facebook post

“Looking for a space to park for Bratwurst Festival? Support our neighbor, First Presbyterian church. They will be using their parking lot and our parking lot for donation parking. The church is so kind throughout the year to allow their lot to be used for our overflow parking during large events for seniors. We are thankful for their partnership and support of seniors in Crawford County.”



Thank you

Dear First Presbyterian Church & Congregation,

You are helping us keep the mission of Lifewise alive – to reach unchurched students in public schools with the Gospel. It is our vision that every public school student across Crawford County has the opportunity to hear the Gospel during school hours!

Thank you for making this possible.

Sincerely,
Lifewise Crawford County