

The Presbyterian

A Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church

October 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, our Pastor Search Committee is busily engaged in reviewing possible candidates' backgrounds and qualifications. To date, the committee has received information from five (5) candidates. The first three were advised we did not think they were a good fit (none of these had a Reformed-Presbyterian background). The committee is currently considering candidates 4 and 5. We will keep you updated all along the way! Please keep this committee and all 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!

October 20 - Tom Britton

October 27 - Marcia Stout

December 29 - Al Fulton

Have you ever wondered where the Presbyterian Faith got its start - or - how our E.P.C. denomination began? Here is some information taken from the E.P.C. website that you can check out in more detail online at <https://epc.org/about/history> (additional details will be given in upcoming newsletters)

HISTORY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN FAITH

The Presbyterian Faith is an expression of the Protestant Reformation led by John Calvin in Switzerland in the 1500's that was subsequently developed by John Knox in Scotland in the same century. Responding to what they saw as a denial of the gospel and the corruption of the Roman church, they called for reform that was explicitly based on the Bible as the authoritative Word of God. Our spiritual ancestors came to North America during the 17th century. Francis Makemie, Jonathan Dickinson, and William Tennent were leaders who helped establish the Presbyterian Church in North America, where the first presbytery was formed in 1709.

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.

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Group and Committee Dates



For October 2024

Session Meeting - The Elders will meet on **Monday, October 7 @ 6:00 PM.**

Deacon's Meeting - The Deacons will meet on **Wednesday, October 9, @ 6:30 PM.**

Gamma Delta - The Gamma Delta group will meet on **Thursday, October 17, at 12:00 PM at Pisanellos Pizza.**

Discipleship Group - The **Ladies' Discipleship Group** will meet at **6:30 PM** on **Tuesday, October 8**, Ch. 7 "Anna: The Faithful Witness" and **Tuesday, October 22**, Ch. 8 "The Samaritan Woman: Finding the Water of Life"

The **Men's Discipleship Group** will meet on **October 15th**, 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.





Happy Birthday

- 1 Charles Rager
- 4 Sue Headley
- 5 Lucille Gilliland
- 9 Leon Diebler
- 10 Marcia Burkhart
- 17 Marcia Stout
- 23 Austin Britton, Anya Schell
- 29 Howard Gilliland

Anniversary

- 09 Hannah & Levi Schafer
- 24 Randy and Cindy Inscho

Liturgist

- 06 – Tami Robinson
- 12 – Lori Rager
- 20 – Tasha Nickler
- 27 – Tom Ahlefeld

Worship Leaders & Sermon

- 06 – Tami Robinson – Gateway
- 13 – Al Fulton – Gateway
- 20 – Tom Britton
- 27 – Marcia Stout

Ushers/Greeters

- 07 – Lori Rager
- 12 – Gary Irwin
- 20 – Harley Shaum & Rachel Ritzhaupt
- 27 – Carrie Diebler

Flowers

- 06 – Al & Michelle Bacon
- 13 – Dave & Deb Hablitzel
- 20 – Tami Robinson
- 27 – Jeri Hargis

October Elder: Marcia Stout



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

Jeri Hargis, Knee Replacement
Nedra Baum, Judy Diederich's daughter
Michael Cole, son of Phyllis Cole, is at home
recuperating from heart surgery.
Kathy Hildebrand, Courtney's Mother, re-
ceived a liver transplant

Members, Family and Friends of Members:

Chet Johnston, cards can be sent to Alter-
care, Room 108. He would appreciate visi-
tors.

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

Kudos and Updates from Jan:

This month I have my **Stewardship** hat on. **Kudos** to everyone in our congregation who stepped up this year to lead and care for our congregation. Our staff, Session, Deacons, committee members and our tech team have gone above and beyond to keep our church running smoothly. Thank you to those in our congregation who volunteered your **time** when we needed you in so many different ways. You also blessed us with your **talents** through leadership, technical knowledge, cooking/baking, serving and caring for each other in so many different ways. Time and talents are two of the ways we show our love and stewardship for this church family. The third, of course, is **financially**.

Our total budget for **2024** was \$225,019.00. Pledges came in at \$105,000.00. We planned for \$20,019.00 in unpledged/plate offerings, a beginning checking account balance, member receipts for Sunday flowers/apportionments/bulletins and building usage. The balance of \$100,000.00 would be needed from investment funds. We only paid three months of a pastor salary package and that allowed us to reduce the need of investment funds to \$20,000.00.

Our preliminary budget for **2025** is \$239,815.00. The main budgetary categories are:

- \$ 65,000.00 Pastor Salary (53,000.00) & Housing (12,000.00)
- 32,350.00 Pastor Pension/Insurance/Benefits
- 67,915.00 Staff Salaries/Payroll Expenses/Travel Allowance (Presbytery/EPC)
- 7,050.00 Office Equipment, Supplies, Postage
- 14,000.00 Elevator/Equipment/Building/Grounds Maintenance & Supplies
- 33,500.00 Insurance/Utilities/Telephone/Property Taxes/Apportionment
- 6,400.00 Programming
- 13,600.00 Mission (11 Organizations & 3 Missionary Couples)
- \$239,815.00 TOTAL Preliminary 2025 General Fund Budget**

This budget number will be firmed up at year's end with confirmed 2025 pledges, 2024 expenses/receipts taken into account and inflation reckoned with. However, you can see that pledge income needs to increase greatly from the 2024 figure of \$105,000.00. To date our pledge total either pays for the minister or pays to keep the church running... but not both.

2 Corinthians 9:6-8 *Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 7 Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.*

Refer to this scripture as you prayerfully consider how you can continue to help our church family meet all three stewardship opportunities needed to continue the ministry and life of Bucyrus First Presbyterian Church. Give and serve as God has blessed you, and do it cheerfully. Think about how blessed we are to be members of the family of God and dwell in this beautiful house that He has provided for us. Think about how blessed we are to be able to gather safely and continue our ministry while we wait for God to bring our next earthly shepherd.

Please fill out the pledge card and bring it to church by November 1st. As always, please contact me with ANY questions. Many thanks for your gracious consideration during this important time of the year.

Warmest regards,

Jan Fulton, Treasurer

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2025 Pledge Card for First Presbyterian Church,

In grateful recognition that all of my(our) time, treasure(s) and ability(ies) come from God, I(we) gladly pledge an annual contribution of \$ _____,

To be paid per (check one): ☐ weekly ☐ quarterly ☐ monthly ☐ yearly

Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God that He has given you. Deuteronomy 16:17

Signature: _____

Greetings from my Cozy Corner Office!

If you took time to read my article last month, you know I traveled to northern Minnesota in September. Although my cousin became ill and we had to cut our trip short, we still enjoyed the beauty of the Chippewa National Forest which is where our cabin was located. A highlight for me was watching a little family of loons feeding in the reeds just beyond our cabin and hearing them calling back and forth to each other. If you have never heard loons, I urge you to find a video on YouTube and listen. Loons have four distinct calls, but their wails are other-worldly and haunting, especially in the fog. A group of loons is called an asylum, and if you've ever heard the crazy laughing tremolo sound they make, you know why. Loons also coo and yodel and each sound means something different.

Loons are not unlike us. We make different sounds, too, depending on our mood and our feelings of security or lack thereof. When one loon wails across the lake and another one answers, "Here I am," I think of how we cry out to God in times of distress and loneliness. When loons coo, I think of how God sends someone to wrap their arms around us in times of joy and friendship. And the crazy tremolo? Well, we've all felt as if we are coming apart, that life is just too much, that we may "lose it" if things don't settle down soon, hoping someone will answer and come to comfort us. Christians are called to be in communion with each other, to share each other's burdens, to pray, to listen, to worship together, and to read God's word for wisdom and comfort, and like loons, if we swim through this life together, keeping Christ as our Savior, listening for calls of distress and answering, we will find strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow.

This month the Deacons and I are preparing a luncheon to uplift and nurture Caregivers, those who selflessly sacrifice their time and love to someone they hold especially dear,

and I'm preaching again on October 27—not barn-raisin' this time, but bridge-building—so join in as we chase after Christ and become a family of God dedicated to glorifying His name in all the earth. Don't hesitate to coo, wail, yodel, or tremolo, as the mood fits. God will answer or He will surely send one of His chosen to comfort you.

May blessings abound,
Marcia

Here are some haiku I wrote during my trip that I would like to share:

fog silently drifts
obscuring lake, reeds, shoreline
a lone loon laughing

Poplar, Oak, Birch lean—
papery leaves softly dance
—tiny acorns fall

a breeze whispering
lake rippling, wrinkling,
lapping the boat's hull



Women's Discipleship Fall Schedule 2024 @ 6:30 PM

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 Worshiping"

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



The Mission Team has all the shoeboxes ready for everyone to pick-up and fill. The dates to bring the shoeboxes back are on **November 3rd, 10th, and 17th**. Please see **Debbie Hablitzel** for more information

Autumn

WORD SEARCH



E	A	X	W	A	L	R	S	T	S	T	
T	K	W	Q	U	E	E	F	G	C	N	Y
F	B	O	O	T	S	F	A	E	I	D	L
H	A	E	A	R	C	I	L	S	K	A	I
M	F	E	O	E	A	P	L	S	C	S	E
A	W	H	H	E	P	U	M	P	K	I	N
S	I	H	K	A	R	B	E	T	P	R	D
E	A	A	N	E	Y	N	M	R	O	A	C
O	R	J	X	K	V	S	N	C	G	R	Q
H	L	E	A	F	S	C	A	R	F	I	O



SCARF	APPLE	BOOTS
TREE	FALL	RAKE
ACORN	PUMPKIN	PIE
HAY	SWEATER	LEAF