

ADVOCATE

First Presbyterian Church
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December 2017

ADVENT 2017



Habitat Progressive Concert

Friday, December 8 7:00 pm

For the seventh year, we will host the popular Habitat for Humanity fundraiser, thanks to the gift of our splendid choir.

Kids' Pageant Rehearsal

Saturday, December 9, 10:00 am

Kids 3 years old and up are invited to be part of our annual Christmas Pageant. We'll have only one rehearsal this year, and it will be followed by...

Kids' Advent Workshop

Saturday, December 9, Noon

...a mission project as part of our fun and festivities. Lunch is included.

Longest Night Service

Wednesday, Dec.21, 6:30pm

A special service of remembrance and healing aimed at those who find that the holidays bring memories of loved ones lost and feelings of grief and sadness.

Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 10, 5:00 pm

A potluck dinner followed by a new presentation of the Christmas Story. Always a favorite!

Morning Worship

Sunday, December 24, 10:15 am

We'll complete the Advent journey on this fourth Sunday of Advent with a festive worship in preparation for our evening ...

Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 24, 7:00 pm

Candlelight, Carols, the Christ Child! Come early to hear the wonderful pre-service music.



Construction Completion Expected by Late January

The wettest July in Westerville's recorded history and a two-week inspection delay with the city have put our construction project a month or more behind schedule. Don't dismay – it all should be done by late January. Although we had hoped construction would be finished by Christmas, it just wasn't in the cards. We may have first floor bathrooms in time for the Habitat for Humanity Progressive Christmas Concert on Dec. 8, but we will not yet be handicapped accessible. We are working to obtain a temporary occupancy permit that will allow us to use the new first-floor bathrooms before the rest of the construction in that area is completed. The elevator will not be functional until mid to late January. Installation of the elevator cannot start until the building is 100 percent weatherproof. That's still several weeks away, and the installation process takes a month or more.

In the meantime, here's the list of recent and current progress, for which we can be thankful:

RECENT PROGRESS

Over the past month, we have completed the following:

- New gas service has been installed.
- Boiler work has been completed and heat / hot water have been restored.
 - Roger Pulley is working to rebuild boiler #2.
- Underground storm water retention system is being installed and is 80 percent complete.
- New telephone and internet service from Spectrum has been installed.
 - The new system provides hi-speed internet service and costs LESS than the old system.
- Second floor concrete floor has been poured.
- Framing of the east wall and drywall installation have commenced.
- Stairs in the new main entrance from ground level to the main floor and to the lower level have been installed. Stairs are not yet 100 percent complete.
- New HVAC systems to serve the 1954 addition and the new addition have been installed.
- Organ and organ pipes have been covered with plastic to protect from dust.
- Sprinkler work has been completed on the lower level and main floor.

PENDING ACTIVITY

- Door frames are being installed on all three levels.
- Drywall installation on the lower and main levels will continue for the next 4-6 weeks.
- Sprinkler work is proceeding on the second floor; work in the sanctuary is part of 2nd floor work.
- New heating and air conditioning systems will be working within the next two weeks.
- New sidewalk and exterior sheathing along the east side of the building will be installed.
- Construction of the roof should be completed by the end of the month.
- Limestone and brick are on-site, and installation has started.
- Steel for the new drop area canopy has been delivered, and installation will start as soon as the crew is done installing the under-ground storm water retention system.

While we all would love to be closer to completion, it never hurts to remember that when this structure was built in 1913, the previous building had to be completely torn down. Members had to do without a physical church home for a full year. And our new addition will be worth the wait!

Thanks to the many congregation members who have donated hundreds of hours of their time toward completion of this project.

Building Transformation: A View from on High



This picture was taken from the second floor of the new addition. This view approximates the view that will be seen from the new second floor windows that will go in soon—except for the piles of construction materials and equipment that are currently covering our east yard.

First Presbyterian to Host Longest Night Service

Wednesday, December 20, 6:30 p.m.

For many, the holiday season is not filled with happiness and celebration, but rather it is a time of sorrow and grief. This is a time of year when the loss of a loved one is particularly painful. To help those who find December to be a difficult time of year, First Presbyterian Church will again host a Longest Night Service. This service will last about 30 minutes and focus on the message of hope, healing, and wholeness that Christ brings into the world. Rev. Mary Jane Hitt and Rev. Mark Gauen will lead this service.

LET US BUILD A HOUSE

All are Welcome

Although this hymn was written for a church dedication, this text is not about a physical structure, but a spiritual one. The building is, at best, only a vessel for the essential love and hope, life and faith, peace and justice, hospitality, and nurture that form the worshipping community.

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
all are welcome; all are welcome;
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
all are welcome; all are welcome;
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat;
a banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:
all are welcome; all are welcome;
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:
all are welcome; all are welcome;
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace;
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter;
all are welcome; all are welcome;
all are welcome in this place.

Submitted by Janet Withers



Ladies Night Out

Tuesday, December 19, 6:30pm

Join us the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm for food and fellowship. Bring a friend!
Tuesday, Dec. 19: Giammarco's, 6030 Chandler Ct., Westerville
Please RSVP to Kim Hunt.

Friday Dine-Out Group

Friday, December 1, 6:30 pm

ALL church members and friends are invited to attend! We will celebrate early in the holiday season by gathering at **Lucky House**, 54 East Shrock Road, 898-9860. (located on the north side of Shrock Road, half a block from the intersection with State Street) Note that we are meeting on the **FIRST** Friday since the Westerville Habitat Progressive Concert (which we hope you will support) is on the second Friday. (Our church choir will again participate.) Please contact Jim Hines or Bob Place for more information or to say whether you are coming.

January Men's Breakfast

Saturday, January 27

Something 'fishy' is up for the MEE Committee's January Men's Breakfast. The date is currently set for January 27 (subject to change). Our own Matt Borth works in the world of restaurant food supply and is associated with Catanese Classic Seafood. (This is the organization that donated the fish for our special event dinner last January.) Matt and one of his associates will give us a behind the scenes look of the food industry....and maybe more!

Offering Envelopes for Next Year

If you would like weekly offering envelopes for next year, please contact Treasurer Barbara Klingman before Monday, December 11.



Progressive Christmas Concert and Soup for Shelter

Friday, December 8

Dinner: 5-6 pm; Concert: 7:00 pm

The annual Progressive Christmas Concert sponsored by the Westerville Habitat Partnership will take place on Friday, December 8, at 7:00 PM. The concert has three stops within about a block of each other: Church of the Master, Church of the Messiah, and First Presbyterian Church. You can start your tour at any of the churches. Patrons are led from one church to the next by lantern-toting guides. Tickets for this event are \$10.

Don't miss a special dinner before the concert! A Soup for Shelter dinner from 5 – 7 pm will take place at Otterbein University Campus Center. Tickets are \$15 for soup and a bowl created by Columbus Academy ceramics students.

All tickets can be purchased at the Westerville Visitors and Convention Bureau, 20 W. Main St. or online at Westervillehabitat.org. All proceeds from these events support Habitat for Humanity building projects.

Volunteer Opportunity!

Kay Mackan will be retiring after many years as the coordinator of communion preparation, effective March 30. You could take her place!

The directions for both styles of serving communion (trays/plates and intinction) are self-explanatory. Your job will be to find two preparers each month, hand out instructions, and assist as needed. Kay has helped train many church members in performing this meaningful service to the church family and will provide a list of possible preparers. She suggests that two pairs of people share in coordinating this program to allow for vacations, travel, etc. Interested? Please speak with Kay or the Worship Committee Elder, Phil Nussdorfer.

MARK'S 20th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The Membership/Evangelism & Events Committee would like to offer a big

THANK YOU

to everyone who helped make Mark's 20th Anniversary celebration on November 12 such a memorable day for him and all of us.

Session – for all the ideas for celebration and gifts

Gary Hinzman – for coordinating all

Gifts from the congregation made by our members:

A beautiful stole (made by Linda Barr & Ann McElhaney)

An original water color painting (by John Cameron)

A framed certificate of recognition and appreciation (by Bev Etling)

Sharon Davis – for organizing the reception and decorations

The 'Events' Committee – for planning and setting up

Sharon & John Davis, Sue Ann & Denny Norton, David Demuth, Dorothy Driskell, Bev Etling, Matt Borth

Volunteer servers – Phyllis Brown, Ann McElhaney, Mary Jane Santee, Linda Backus
What a blessing these 20 years have been to First Presbyterian! Thank you again, Mark!



Youth and Family Activities

Mission Trip

We are very excited to announce that we will be taking our older youth on a Mission Trip to Lincoln, WV, June 24-29, 2018. We are partnering with a group called Youth Works to make this experience as meaningful and fun as possible. We will be working with local businesses and families to help paint houses, do yard work, and plan Bible study events for young children, such as Vacation Bible School. The cost will be \$309 per person. Any young person who is interested should contact Rev. Heather Hicks or Rev. Mark Gauen before the new year so we can ensure your spot.

Discovery Zone Wednesdays, 5 pm

Wish you had super powers? Want to know how you can be amazing like Wonder Woman, Spiderman, or another favorite super hero? Come join us on Wednesday nights at 5pm for our Discovery Zone program. If you have homework, come at 4:30pm and get some help. We will start at 5pm with fun, music, Bible Study, and dinner. There is no cost to attend. We ask only for \$1.50 donation per person for the meal. We can't wait to see you there as we learn to be SUPER!

Christmas Pageant

Pageant Practice and Advent Workshop: Saturday, December 9, 10 am – 2 pm
Pageant and potluck: Sunday, December 10, 5 pm

We all have that little Scrooge inside of us this time of year. With store Christmas decorations going up before the end of September, an overloaded schedule, and a soon-to-be empty bank account, we often lose sight of the reason for the season. For our pageant this year, we will tag along with the Grinch and Cindy-Lou Who as they explore the real reason for the season.

Please send your little one for our practice on Saturday, December 9, at 10am. We will rehearse in the morning, have lunch, participate in our afternoon advent workshop, and finish out the day with a visit from Santa. We will complete our Advent workshop by 2 pm.

Adults and congregation family, we invite you to our official Christmas pageant on Sunday, December 10, at 5 pm. We will have a potluck meal before the program, followed by the show in our beautiful sanctuary. Please come and enjoy the show while supporting our young friends.

Going to See “The Star” December 20

We are going on a kids and family outing to see “The Star” on Wednesday, December 20. We will meet at Marcus Crosswoods Theater at 6:00 p.m. for the 6:20 showing of the movie. All families interested in attending should contact Rev. Heather Hicks by December 13 for the advance ordering of tickets to make sure that we have seats for this showing of the movie.

Working with WARM

At the Westerville Area Resource Ministry (WARM), Bernie Simpkins is known as the “Freezer Queen.” Anna Dunlope, her helper, is the “Freezer Princess.” Unfortunately, this photo does not show them wearing their tiaras, which often happens. Every Thursday morning, Bernie and Anna help people shop in the WARM food pantry.



number of points to “spend,” depending on the size of their families. Some points are used for protein items, some for veggies, and so on. Bernie, who has volunteered for about seven years, helps them make choices from WARM’s large freezer. Anna sees where she can help, such as pushing a wheelchair, and she gets right to work. Bernie says, “She is a terrific helper!”

The clients each receive a certain

Dave Stamm has volunteered for WARM on Monday mornings for eleven years. He is responsible for quality control in the warehouse and stocking shelves in the food pantry. He makes sure that the food on the shelves has not reached its expiration date and that various kinds of food are available in the warehouse. When necessary, he goes to the Ohio Food Bank to replenish supplies. When people leave food in the WARM dropbox, Dave weighs and sorts it and adds it to the pantry shelves. Although he doesn’t work directly with WARM clients, Dave says he really enjoys working



with the staff.

Other church members also work with WARM from time to time. They include John Robbins, who stocks shelves and collects food contributions from Giant Eagle, Just Pies, and other sources. Church members have also interviewed WARM clients when they come to the pantry and helped job-seekers write resumes.

WARM can always use more volunteers, especially during holiday food drives, the Westerville Food Truck Festival, summer lunch programs in the parks, and the Christmas Adoption Program. For the Adoption Program, you can “adopt” one person or a family, receive a wish list from that person/family, and either buy gifts from that list or purchase gift cards from Kohl’s or Target, for example. Recipients include vets, the elderly and disabled, and single moms who are without support.

Bernie points out that WARM is a faith-based program. “We start every morning with prayer, and people talk about how prayer works in their lives.” Every morning, the WARM staff includes a specific church in these prayers. They have often prayed for us.

Deacon Update

Health Ministry at First Presbyterian Church

Our goal for this ministry is to improve the health and wellness of our congregation. In order to achieve this, we will be surveying the members to



see what your health interests and concerns are. There won't be any identifying questions on the survey, so members will be assured of confidentiality. We hope to have the questionnaire ready by March 2018.

Church Directory

Due to the construction, the Directory for First Presbyterian Church has been delayed until spring 2018. More information will be provided in the coming months. If you have any questions, please contact Debbie Dunlope.

Deacon of the Month: April Fuller

I have lived in Sunbury most of my life. I graduated from Big Walnut High School in 2000. I moved to Westerville and Worthington through college, and then we bought our first house in Sunbury. I have an older brother and sister, Adam and Amber. I married Jeff Fuller and have four boys: Carter, 17; Lucas, 13; Garrett, 11, and Mattix, 5. I love kids and worked in daycare for 15 years. I now provide childcare in my home for a few families that I have grown very close to. Our kids keep us very busy participating in sports. Carter plays tennis. Lucas and Garrett play football, basketball, and baseball. Mattix so far has played t-ball. I enjoy watching my boys' sports, and my husband coaches. We love to do things together as a family, like playing games and watching movies.



Youth Sub Sale



Enjoy a sub sandwich while watching Super Bowl LII! Let the church youth do the work for you! We will again be creating delicious subs for \$7 each. Order as many as you would like! **Orders are due January 28.** Email your order to Audra Hauff or put it in Heather Hick's mailbox. Subs will be paid for and picked up on Sunday, February 4, following worship. Proceeds from this sale will go towards summer camp and mission trips for our youth. Watch for the order form in the bulletins soon!

From the Rumble Seat

A private school teacher was teaching about religions and asked her students to bring something religious with them to school the next day.

The next day, when it came time to share, the first student said, "My family is Catholic, so I brought a crucifix." The teacher praised the student for a good job.

The next student said, "My family is Jewish, so I brought a Star of David." The teacher praised that student as well.

But the teacher was speechless when the third student reverently announced, "My family is Presbyterian, so I brought a covered dish."

Thanks to Jim Hines for this contribution!

Valerie Adams-Hildreth to Perform

Former member of First Presbyterian and frequent guest musician, Valerie Adams-Hildreth will be playing her flute at the Franklin Park Conservatory on Saturday, December 23 at 7:00 p.m. as part of the conservatory's Holiday Music program.

Adult Growth and Development

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

With the construction, several Adult Education Classes are meeting in new locations. Please note the changes for your class. If you have questions, contact Rev. Mark Gauen.

Activity	When	Where	What
Tuesday Morning Bible Study	Tuesdays, 9:30 am	Raisin Rack 2545 W. Schrock (at the corner of Schrock and Cleveland).	For Advent we will be looking at how each of the gospels treat the story of Jesus' birth. Join us each Tuesday for this enlightening study of scripture.
4th Monday Discussion	4 th Mondays, 7:30 p.m.	Fellowship Room	We will not be meeting in December, but join us when we reconvene on January 22 as we continue to explore the stories in the book <i>My So-Called Biblical Life</i> . Led by Rev. Gauen.
The Library Class	Sunday Mornings 9:00-10:00 a.m.	Fellowship Room	This adult discussion group explores the application of our faith to the challenges of living in our world today. Beginning Sept. 10, we will study the book <i>Healing the Heart of Democracy</i> by Parker J Palmer.
Circle 4 Women	3 rd Thursdays, 11:00 am	MCL Cafeteria	Our Presbyterian Women's Group usually meets monthly for fellowship and Bible study. However, we will not be meeting in December. Please join us on Thursday, Jan. 18, for our next meeting. Elaine Foley is our new study leader.



Pastor's Page

Thank you!

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to this congregation for wonderful celebration on Nov. 12 of my twenty years of ministry here at First Presbyterian. It was a great day for me and my family and I treasure the gifts that were given to me. As I said that morning, I have been here twenty years because this is such a great congregation and I am honored to be pastor here.

Dear Friends:

My grandson turns one year old on December 1. I could spend every waking moment of my day just watching him. A little child is that interesting. The other day he was in his high chair while his mother cut up his lunch into bite-sized portions. As she did this, he alternated between clapping his hands in excitement at impending arrival of his food and groaning impatiently as that food was not arriving fast enough. I know the feeling. I get it every time I go out to a restaurant—excitement that my special meal will soon arrive and impatience that it is not arriving soon enough.

I feel the same way about our church building project. I am excited that the work is progressing, and I am impatient that it is not finished yet. As you will read elsewhere in this newsletter, we will not make our early December completion date. We are now looking at completion in late January. Many factors went into this delay, but the bottom line is that we'll just have to wait awhile longer to have our new addition and all the benefits that it will bring. But waiting is so hard, especially when one waits for something exciting.

Which brings me to the season of Advent. Advent is the church's season to teach us what waiting is all about. There is an expectancy in waiting for God to act in the world, and that expectancy demands that we endure patiently for God's time to be fulfilled and that we prepare ourselves to be ready when that fulfillment comes—this is expectant waiting.

Some of the greatest events of life require waiting: We wait until we are old enough to drive; we wait for the birth of a baby; we wait for the boss to tell us we got the promotion; we wait for a loved one to call and tell us they got to their destination. There is no way to rush these events; they happen when the time is right. Waiting for these events is nerve wracking at times, and yet, there is a certain excitement in the waiting for we know what good things will happen when the time becomes right and the waiting is over. All we can do is be patient, and prepare for the completion when it does come.

Perhaps it is a good thing that our building project delay has come during the Advent season. Maybe we can use this delay to learn what it means to wait expectantly. And as we do, we can also wait expectantly for God to change the world—in the coming of the Christ child. Now that is worth waiting for.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark L. Lauer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mark