

ADVOCATE

First Presbyterian Church
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614-882-3155 Phone 614-882-2421 Fax

April 2018



JOIN US FOR WORSHIP EASTER WEEKEND

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, March 29

WORSHIP 7:30 p.m.

Join us as we reenact our Lord's Last Supper

Good Friday

Friday, March 30

COMMUNITY WORSHIP SERVICE Noon
at Church of the Messiah

Easter Morning

Sunday, April 1

SUNRISE SERVICE 6:45 a.m.

We will gather in our darkened church to witness the resurrection.

EASTER CELEBRATION SERVICE 10:15 a.m.

Join us as we celebrate the glory of the resurrection
and enjoy the opening of the new addition.

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION MARCH UPDATE

In last month's update, I commented that there was "finally light at the end of the tunnel," and that we were in the final phases of our building project. Unfortunately, some of my optimism was premature, and that "light at the end of the tunnel" was really the proverbial freight train coming right at us.

UPDATES to LAST MONTH'S REPORT

Last month I reported that – *"the other good news is that the organ will be back for Palm Sunday and Easter services. We will uncover the organ and have it tuned the week before Palm Sunday."*

UPDATE – while we could have had the organ back for Palm Sunday and Easter, we have made the decision to hold off until after Easter in order to ensure that the dusty/dirty part of construction is 100% done before uncovering the organ. This decision is not directly tied to any construction issues but will provide maximum protection for the organ.

Last month I reported that – *"barring any more unforeseen conditions – we should be using the new elevator for Palm Sunday and Easter services."*

UPDATE – well, those unforeseen conditions happened and the elevator likely will not be available until sometime after Easter. We (church members) observed that the elevator's "fire controls" and "handicapped signage" were being installed on the wrong level. While this might seem like a minor fix – it is not. Getting the necessary parts is a 3-5-week lead time.

Last month I reported that – *"we originally hoped to be done with the project by Christmas, but, sadly, we missed that date by a wide margin. At this point, we are planning to be done for Palm Sunday and Easter."*

UPDATE – it's looking a little questionable for Palm Sunday (we might still make it), but it's still looking good for Easter Sunday.

PROGRESS -- Work has been proceeding well for the past month:

- Restrooms are done.
- Fire sprinkler installation is nearly complete with work in the sanctuary being wrapped up this week.
- Most of the new door frames have been set, and door installation started this week.
- Most of the drywall work is complete with a minimal amount still to be installed.
- Ceilings have been completed on all levels.
- Painting is nearing completion.
- Carpet installation has commenced.
- Millwork (new stair railings, window sills, desk/welcome center) will be completed this week.
- Elevator installation is nearly complete but had been set-up and programmed incorrectly. The fire controls and handicapped signage were installed on the lower level and must be changed to the parking lot level. This is actually more complicated than it sounds.
- Work has resumed on the new stairs on the east side of the building and should be completed by the time you read this.

PARKING LOT

The parking lot cannot be paved until the asphalt plants reopen, usually sometime in April. Our plan is to have the parking area paved BEFORE the April 29 dedication (weather permitting).

PLEASE NOTE - that we are not paving the entire parking lot. When we planned this project, we realized that our budget would be extremely tight, and we opted to try and SAVE as much of the existing parking lot as we could. When you look at the parking lot, the only areas being repaved are those sections that have already been excavated. The driveway in from College Avenue and the sections of the parking lot in front of, along the west side of, and directly behind the garage ARE NOT BEING REPLACED. We realize that these sections are in poor condition, but we cannot afford to repave them at this time.

NEXT STEPS

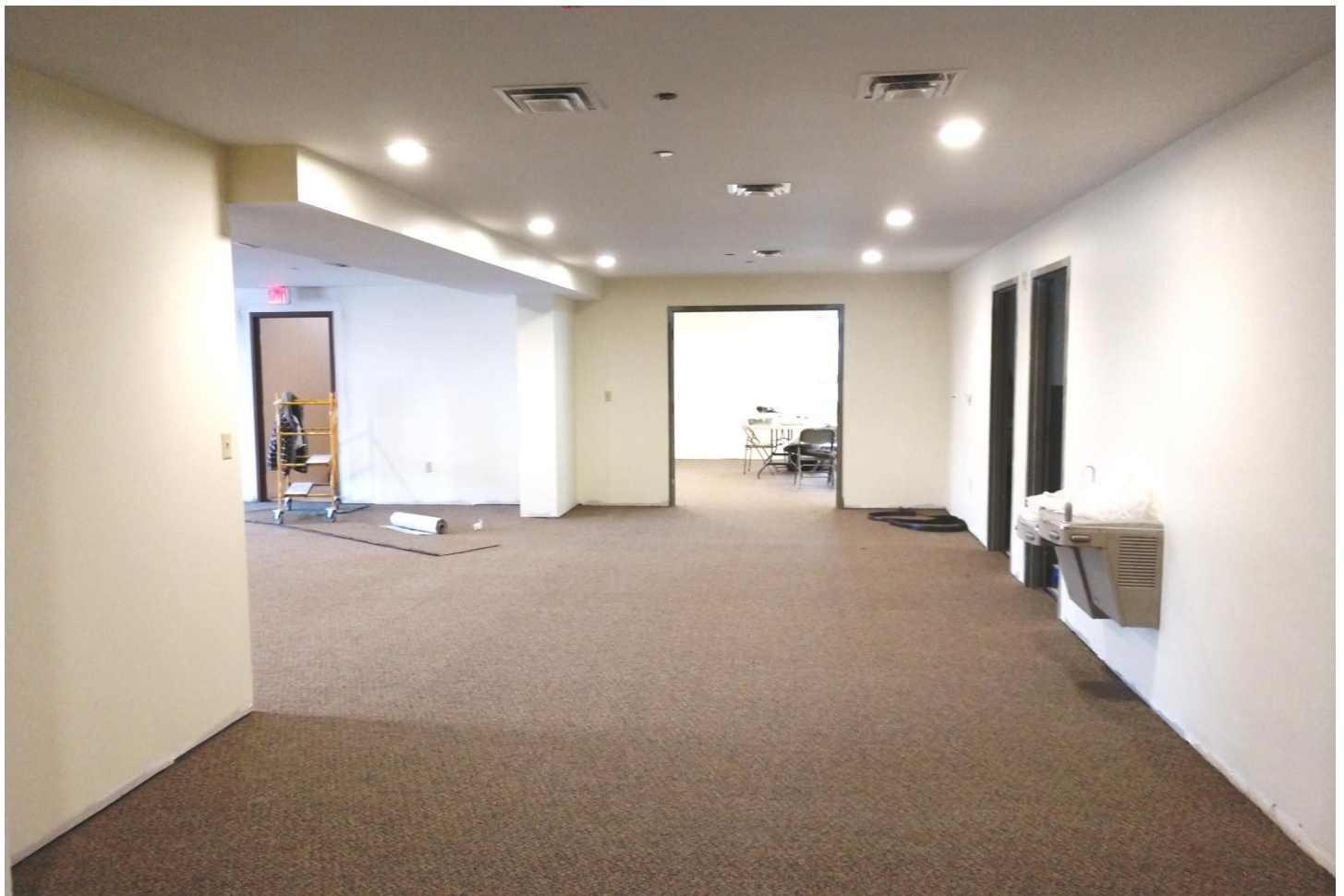
The next big task will be moving into the new space. The Administrative Services Committee and the Building project team will be organizing a couple of work days to start moving furniture and materials back into the main building from the 29 West building.

Jim Hines

Building Transformation: Almost Finished!

As of the *Advocate* Deadline, the construction project is nearing completion.

These two pictures are both taken from the entrance to the sanctuary from the old Knox Hallway. The top picture shows how this hallway typically looked before construction. Below is the nearly finished remodeled view. Straight ahead is the old Lounge, which is now called the Knox Meeting Room. To the right, where the Library used to be, is now our new men's and women's rest rooms. To the left, where the church office used to be, is now the opening to our new entry/gathering space. The doorway to the left in the new view is the entrance to the new stairs that will take you to the second floor or down to our lower level. We will dedicate the new building on Sunday, April 29, as part of our morning worship service.



You're Invited!

*All members and friends are invited
to celebrate the completion
of our new building addition
at our*

*Dedication Service
on Sunday, April 29, 2018
at 10:15 a.m.*

*Punch and Cookie Reception
to follow*



What Do You Like To Do?



MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, April 21 - 9:30 am

This will be a morning of 'just us' – sharing who we are and what we like to do for fun! Do you have a favorite activity or sport? Do you have a special talent that you like to talk about? What do you do for fun? Everyone has *something* they like to do when they have free time.

If possible, bring an object or item that reflects your talent, skill, or hobby and how you spend your time. (Woodworking? A novel? A golf club? A fishing rod? Painting? Music? Running? Boating? A picture of yourself on a bike – or bring the entire bike!) It will be a fun time to let others know more about you and vice versa.

Please sign up for the breakfast in April by Wednesday, April 18.



Music



Ladies Night Out

Tuesday, April 17, 6:30 pm

Las Margaritas, 706 N. State St., Westerville



Join us the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm
for food and fellowship. Bring a friend!

Please RSVP to Kim Hunt

A Meeting of the Congregation

Sunday, April 22

11:15 a.m. (immediately following the Worship Service)

We will meet to elect new church officers. Members are asked to attend; visitors are welcome to attend.



Second-Friday Dine-Out Group

Friday, April 13, 6:30 pm

On Friday, April 13, you are invited to join us at 6:30 pm at **Mimi's Café**, 1428 Polaris Parkway (614-433-0441). All members and friends are welcome. They have a varied menu. They are also a bakery, and in addition to dinner, their breakfast menu is available all day. Take I-71 and go west on Polaris Parkway across I-71 and turn right at the first light on Lyra Dr. You can see Mimi's to your left. Then take three short left turns to reach their parking lot. Contact Jim Hines or Bob Place for questions or to say whether you can attend.

Schedule for Church Directory Photography Sitzings

Please place on your calendar the following dates to have your and/or your family pictures taken at the church for our new directory. This directory will provide another way to get to know our church family.

Tuesday, April 10, Wednesday, April 11, and Thursday, April 19 **2:00pm – 8:00pm**

A signup sheet to schedule your appointment will be on the table in the Knox Street hallway. Contact your Deacon to schedule your appointment if you cannot schedule on the signup sheet.

Circle 4 Women: Faith and Fellowship

You might think that the 4 in this group's title is a short way to write *for*. You would be wrong! Years ago, our church actually had four active circles for women. Our current one, the fourth circle, is the only survivor. And it not only survives, but thrives!

Circle 4 has been active for as long as church members can remember. For many years, the late Lois Scott led the group. More recently, Dorothy Butz organized the meetings, and now Elaine Foley has stepped in. Six to twelve women currently attend the monthly meetings. Since the meetings include lunch and informal conversations, they also enable members to get to know each other well. The meeting location has shifted from the MCL Cafeteria (which has closed) to the Raisin Rack Store on Schrock Road. Raisin Rack has a small room just right for the meetings—and many choices for lunch!

The goals of the group are to nurture members' faith through prayer and Bible study and to support the mission of the church worldwide. Each spring, the group decides on a text to use as the basis for its study and discussions during the following year, choosing from Presbyterian Women publications. In 2017-2018, the Circle is using *Who Is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes*. For example, one lesson explores Jesus according to Luke, while another one focuses on Jesus according to contemporary cultural interpretations.



The group has also contributed gifts to the church over the years and has donated to Westerville Caring and Sharing and other charities. You are invited to the next Circle 4 meeting on April 19 at 11:00am at Raisin Rack. No need to call ahead. Just come!

Here are more ways that Presbyterian women can stay connected:

Presbyterian Women on the Web

www.presbyterianwomen.org

Call 844/PWPCUSA (844/797-2872)

PW on Facebook

www.facebook.com

Search for "Presbyterian Women in the PC(USA)."

PW on YouTube

www.youtube.com/presbyterianwomen

Subscribe to YouTube to see the latest PW videos.

PW on Flickr

www.flickr.com/photos/presbyterianwomen

PW on Twitter

www.twitter.com

Sign up and then search for PWPCUSA, and "follow."

PW on Pinterest

www.pinterest.com

Sign up and then search for Presbyterian Women.



Fabrics of Faith

April 16, 1-2:30 pm



Our next Fabrics of Faith meeting is Monday, April 16, 1:00 - 2:30. The room will be announced in church on Sunday, April 15. (Be there for the news!)

On January 8, women met to share projects and ideas, do needlework, and have good fellowship. We had a great time! Do join us in April. All are welcome! Contact Beckey Stamm

PS. Quilt class is coming in late June! It'll be a real treat for participants. Contact Ann McElhaney or Karen Hoggarth for more information.

Health Ministry

The Health Ministry Team would like to thank you all for your participation in the survey! We are busy working with the Mt. Carmel Church Partnership to tabulate your responses. Look for programs addressing the interests and concerns of this congregation to begin this summer.



2018 Women's Retreat

4:00 p.m. Friday, May 11 until

3:00 p.m. Saturday, May 12

St. Teresa's Retreat Center in Columbus

You are invited to get away and explore your faith in the company of other women at our annual Women's Retreat. Our time together begins with dinner on Friday and ends mid-afternoon on Saturday. In between, our leader, Rev. Kristin Schutte will lead us in an exploration of evil, suffering and the crisis of faith. There will also be

plenty of time to relax, refresh and enjoy the grounds of the St. Teresa Retreat Center on the east side of Columbus. The cost is \$62.00 for the weekend, including meals. You may register at the sign-up sheets in the back of the sanctuary. Questions? Call Kristin.

Youth and Family Activities



Mother's Day Gifts

Our youth are raising money for summer camps and conferences by offering Mother's Day flowers. Cost is \$5 per plant, which will be available on Sunday, May 13. Please fill out the form below to order yours. The deadline for ordering plants is May 6. We will have some extras on the day of the sale, but we cannot guarantee there will be enough extras for everyone.

Name _____

Number of flowers _____ Cost Total _____



Spaghetti Dinner April 15

Don't forget our annual Spaghetti dinner on Sunday, April 15, right after church. This is a fundraiser for our youth to go to summer camps and conferences. Cost is \$8 per meal. Take home containers will be available. Please come and support our youth!



Graduation Sunday May 20

We will be recognizing our graduates and all their accomplishments on Sunday, May 20. Please come and help us celebrate with them as they share where they are going and what they will be doing in the coming years. Cake and cookies will be served after church as a part of this celebration so please plan to stick around!

Vacation Bible School July 9-13



Vacation Bible School is coming soon! Keep your eyes peeled for more information to come. Mark your calendars for July 9-13. We will meet in the morning from 10am-12pm and serve lunch! Plan to bring your child(ren). We are so excited to share in this special program!

Adults who are willing to serve as teachers, crafters, music leaders, etc should contact Rev. Heather Hicks for more information. We are all a team and can use all the help we can get.

Children's Musical Postponed



We are still planning to "Spend Awhile on the Nile," but our cruise has been rescheduled for spring 2019.

Give Your Child the Experience of a Lifetime: Send him or her to Church Camp

All sorts of summer camps are available for children these days—sports camps, music camps, technology camps—but for a truly life-changing experience, send your child to Church Camp. As many of our children and youth can attest, Church Camp is an experience like no other. Christian Camps combine the wonders of God's world with the spiritual experience of a close community to give children and youth an encounter with God that they can get nowhere else. Also, most church camps also run camps themed on sports, music, art and other specialties, which only adds to their appeal. The costs are reasonable, and First Presbyterian Church offers Church Camp Scholarships to children and youth. These scholarships are available thanks to our youth fundraisers, such as the recent Spaghetti Luncheon. Contact Rev. Gauen or Rev. Hicks to apply for a scholarship.

Below is a list of Church Camps in Ohio that our own people have attended—check them out. Please let us know if you are sending your child to Church Camp this summer.

Kirkmont Camp (Presbyterian)

6946 Co Road 10, P.O. Box 128, Zanesfield, OH 43360
(Western Ohio-about 50 miles from Westerville)
937-593-2141 www.kirkmontcenter.com

Kirkmont is the camp that ministers to our Presbytery. It offers summer camp experiences for children from grade school through high school, many with themes, such as horseback riding and sports. You can attend a camp for the whole family in August. Former Student Minister Betsy Maurath has served on the staff there.

Camp Presmont (Presbyterian)

34211 4-H Club Road, Piedmont, OH 43983
(Eastern Ohio-about 110 miles from Westerville)
(304) 737-2730 www.presmont.org

Camp Presmont is set in the rolling hills of eastern Ohio. It has camps for all ages, including an Adventure Camp for high schoolers. Sarah Brickersmith has attended this camp the last several years.

Camp Christian (Disciples of Christ)

10335 Maple Dell Rd., Marysville, OH 43040
(North Central Ohio – about 30 miles from Westerville)
(937) 348-2845 www.ccinoh.com

Camp Christian is in nearby Magnetic Springs and runs camps for kids in grade school through high school, with a special camp for grandparents and grandkids. This is a favorite of Heather Hicks and Audra Hauff.

Geneva Hills Camp (Independent)

1380 Blue Valley Rd. SE, Lancaster, OH 43130
(Southeast Ohio- about 50 miles from Westerville)
(740) 746-8439 www.genevahills.com

Geneva Hills Camp belonged to our Presbytery until it was sold in 2008. Now run by the non-profit Geneva Hills Group, the camp runs summer camps for children in grades 3-5. Rev. Gauen and others have taken our youth to retreats at Geneva Hills when it was run by the Presbytery.

Adult Growth and Development

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN			
As the construction ends, some of our Adult Education Classes will be returning to the church after meeting elsewhere for the past year. Check with your class leader for your class location this month.			
Activity	When	Where	What
Tuesday Morning Bible Study	Tuesdays, 9:30-11:00 am	Raisin Rack 2545 W. Schrock (at the corner of Schrock and Cleveland).	"The Book of James"—this little New Testament Book has been called "the most American book in the Bible." Join us as we see if this is true. We'll be meeting at Raisin Rack until the elevator is working. Then we will meet at the church.
4 th Monday Discussion	4 th Mondays, 7:30 p.m.	Fellowship Room	Join us on April 23 as we explore the faith of Presbyterian authors. Led by Rev. Gauen.
The Library Class	Sunday Mornings 9:00-10:00 a.m.	Fellowship Room	Adult Library Class —We are beginning a new study based on the book, <i>Strength to Love</i> , a collection of MLK Jr's sermons. This class meets in the Back Room of Fellowship Hall.
Circle 4 Women	3 rd Thursdays, 11:00 am	Raisin Rack 2545 W. Schrock (at the corner of Schrock and Cleveland).	Our Presbyterian Women's group meets monthly for fellowship and Bible study. Join us on April 19 for an insightful look at the gospels and wonderful fellowship. Elaine Foley is our study leader.

The Civility Challenge

Three Westerville churches are investigating how we can be a more respectful society. To that end, you are invited to be part of Westerville's "Civility Challenge" a seven-day exercise in promoting civility in our public discourse. If you are interested in this community activity, you are invited to attend this seven-day program, which will begin on Monday, April 9. Participants will meet daily for six days, either in a morning group or an evening group, to discuss the challenge for that day and then individually do the challenge action for the day. On the seventh day of the challenge, Sunday, April 15, both groups will meet together for a dinner and discussion at the Church of the Messiah. To learn more, please contact Rev. Gauen.



Pastor's Page

"Now I should remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain. For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures"
- I Corinthians 15:1-4

Dear Friends:

It was a year ago April that we began our construction project. It began with a dumpster outside our back door and a big mess inside as the demolition of the interior of the church building began. Thus commenced an odyssey that has taken 12 months to complete. In those twelve months, we have seen the CE wing stripped to the girders; we've seen a new foundation excavated on the east side of our building; we've seen the cement trucks come and pour their loads to make that foundation; we've seen new exterior walls go up, brick by brick; we've seen new girders installed; a new roof put down; new plumbing, new heating, new air conditioning, new lighting, and a new sprinkler system put in; we've seen new stairways, new restrooms, new hallways, new offices—all according to the plans that our architects developed. In the final days of March, we are witnessing the flurry of activity that accompanies the end of a project.

Of course we aren't quite done yet—the elevator has issues that need to be resolved, new furniture has to be delivered, the parking lot still needs to be paved, and the grounds will have to be landscaped. But we are close—the end is in sight!

We are hoping to have the Coffee Hour on Easter Sunday in our new gathering space—the first step in the moving-in process. Over the next month, we will gradually move into the new space in the CE wing. We also have to do a major clean-up of the rest of the church building, for construction dust travels everywhere. During April, we will have several work sessions to clean, dust, move and arrange the various items and surfaces of our entire church building. The first of these work sessions will take place on Saturday, March 31, at 1:00 p.m. when we will clean the children's toys and equipment and move them into the new nursery—a bright and beautiful new space in our lower level. Any help you can offer on this day will be greatly appreciated. Other cleaning days and moving days will occur throughout April—stay tuned.

We started this project shortly after Easter last year. We will be finishing about Easter this year. I find it appropriate that Easter will bracket our construction. Jesus' resurrection was the foundational event of our faith—and it is through that power that we have been brought together as a church; it is through that power that we proclaim the good news to the world through our words and actions; and it is through that power that we have built and expanded this church building. And this is the power that continues to undergird our ministry as a Church of Jesus Christ.

The construction of our new building is nearing completion—but the work of building the Kingdom of God is just starting. This new building is a tool that we can use to bring healing to a hurting world, comfort to the sorrowful in our midst, and hope to all who come through our doors. Building a new addition has been fun, but the real excitement comes when we build Christ's church! Amen.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Mark L. Lauer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.