

ADVOCATE

First Presbyterian Church
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August 2018

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Sunday, August 12, 10:15 a.m.

School is right around the corner—and we want all our children to start the year right! So on Sunday, August 12, we will have our annual “Blessing of the Backpacks” as part of our worship service. Kids should bring their backpacks to church that Sunday, and we will bless them as part of our ‘Especially for Children’ segment of the service. It’s a reminder to us about all of God’s blessings, including school. We will also bless the backpacks of our Backpack Bounty program.





Youth Group Kickoff

**Sunday, August 26, 6:00 p.m.
Walnut Ridge Park in Westerville**

The youth of First Presbyterian (grades 6-12) and their families are invited to a season Kickoff Picnic and Kickball Tournament on Sunday, August 26, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Walnut Ridge Park, 529 East Walnut Street in Westerville. We will meet at the shelter for a families-vs-youth kickball game followed by a picnic dinner and introduction of our new youth group leaders! Bring a dish to share—hamburgers and hot dogs along with beverages will be provided. Please RSVP to Rev. Gauen or Rev. Hicks by Wednesday, August 22, so we can plan the food



Notice of Congregational Meeting Sunday, August 5, 11:15 am

The Session of First Presbyterian Church has called a Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, Aug. 5, at 11:15 a.m. to elect a new Elder. Elder Julie Seward has resigned from the Session due to personal reasons. The congregation will elect a new Elder to fill this vacancy in a special meeting following the worship service. Members are asked to attend, and visitors are welcome to attend.

Deacon Thank You

Thank you to everyone for participating in the photo sessions for the church. Right now, the finishing touches are being put on our directory. If you have a phone number that you wish NOT to have published, please let Bonnie Moses or Debbie Dunlope know. The Deacons look forward to presenting you with a lovely updated directory soon!

The Best of Times: God's Call in the Third Thirty of Life

The Presbytery of Scioto Valley's Older Adult Ministry Task Team is privileged to host the POAMN (Presbyterian Older Adult Ministry Network) regional conference on Friday, October 12, at Worthington Presbyterian Church. This region encompasses presbyteries from throughout the Midwest, and several hundred people are expected to participate.

Please remember that Older Adult Ministries are intended as ministries FOR older adults, so that everyone who serves our church in any way would benefit from this conference: deacons, elders, and all committee members. Those who volunteer within the community with groups such as WARM would also find the conference beneficial. Workshop topics will include issues such as spiritual vibrancy in the third thirty years of life, retirement, dementia, ethical wills and other related documents, older adults and social justice, and other pertinent topics.

The cost will be \$25.00 if paid a month or more before the conference, and up to \$40 at the door, with breakfast and lunch included. Fliers will be available at our church with the information needed for registration. Please don't hesitate to call or text Kristin Schutte, Parish Associate, with any questions.

Save the Date!
Sunday, September 9

Rally Day 2018

10:15 a.m. - Worship
Bibles presented
The Choir returns

5:00 p.m. - Picnic
On our NEW Church Lawn

VBS: Splash Canyon

Our VBS theme this year was splash canyon. The kids learned stories that took place at the river as we explored how God provides for and protects us. We had an average of 16 children every day and lots of wonderful helpers.



Special thanks to Holly Harvey for leading our preschool group, as well as Audra Hauff, Hannah Hauff, Gabe Hauff, and Leah Bichon for helping with this group. Thanks to Kathy Gauen for leading our K-2nd grade group, as well as Sarah Bichon and Bob Place for helping her. Thanks to Kathy Krotz for leading our 3rd-5th grade group. Thanks to Linda Springer for leading our crafts and to Robin Buser for leading music. And thank you, Mark Gauen, for taking and posting pictures for us all to see. You are all very talented and wonderful workers.



Also, a special thanks to our men's and women's groups who prepared our meals for the week. They were spectacularly fun and enjoyable. Thank you also to the Health Ministry, who came and talked to us about the importance of water.

Many hands always make for light work. You have done marvelous things, and we look forward to seeing more of you in our youth programs as the year goes on.

Rev. Heather Hicks

Something Simple

Rev. Heather Hicks

As the summer continues, we are already starting to see school supplies in the grocery stores and families trying to squeeze in a last-minute vacation. It seems like summer break was hardly a break at all.

When we greet people we have not seen in a while, we often ask the same question, “How are you?” I can guarantee that eight out of ten times they will roll their eyes and respond with “Oh, my gosh! We are so busy.” I am guilty of this, too. It would seem that our culture has become busier and busier over the decades. We barely have five minutes to process all the work we’ve done before we are off to the next thing. We all seem driven by the age-old adage “leave no stone unturned.” But what does that do to us? We are run so ragged and pulled so thin that we rarely have time for contentment. Our lives are so full that we don’t have time to breathe.

Scripture is full of passages that tell us about the importance of rest. God created the Earth in six days and then rested. Jesus moved away from the busy crowds and took a break so that he could reconnect. We all need those Sabbath moments in our lives. If we do not take the time to reflect and recharge, we are not only doing ourselves a disservice, but also our bosses, clients, friends, and families.

Mother Teresa said that world peace does not start out in the world but at home. I will go a step further and say that peace must start within each of us. If we cannot give ourselves a moment of peace each and every day, how can we expect to interact with the world around us? Take some time for you. Sit quietly with a hot beverage, meditate, yield to God’s loving presence, take a quiet hike in the woods. Take time for yourself, or you won’t have time for anyone or anything else.

May God bless you on your life journey.

Prayer: Lord God, help me to set aside time for me. This life is so full of busy ups and downs that it is difficult for me to make time for everything I want to do. In this busy life, help me to find moments of peace so that I may reconnect with your heart beat and make it the rhythm of my life. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen



Join Us! Westerville Habitat Partnership Habitat for Humanity House Wall Build

Prep: Friday, August 17 Build: Saturday, August 18

Again this year, the Westerville Habitat Partnership will be assembling the walls of a Habitat for Humanity house. We need your help!

Prep: Friday, August 17
5 pm – 7 pm

Where: Otterbein's The Point, 60 Collegeview Rd. (parking lot to NORTH of building)

What to bring and wear: Close-toed shoes, hat, comfortable clothing, water bottle, sunscreen
Experience with a table saw is strongly encouraged and highly appreciated. Pizza and beverages provided.

Build: Saturday, August 18
7:30 am prompt start
1:00 pm approximate end

Where: Otterbein's The Point, 60 Collegeview Rd.

What to bring and wear: Close-toed shoes, hat, comfortable clothing, water bottle, sunscreen
Tools and guidance provided!

Habitat for Humanity (H4H) provides affordable housing for those in need. Prospective homeowners must contribute 300 volunteer hours, have the resources to repay a mortgage (yes, homeowners have a mortgage!), and meet H4H's standards. For more info about H4H Del&Un Co.: <https://habitatdelawareunion.org/about-our-program>

To sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090a4ba4ad2aa5fb6-habitat1>

Taking photos at last year's wall build.



Fellowship Fun! ***July-August-September***

CLIPPERS GAME – August 5 – 4:05 pm, Huntington Park



This is a great outing for all ages and requires no athletic ability!
Cost of general admission tickets is \$10 for adults and \$5 for seniors and children. Bob Place will purchase tickets for those who sign up and pay him by Sunday, July 29. Those who wish to car pool from church should arrive and be ready to leave by 2:30 pm.

Questions: Contact Bob Place

CANOE TRIP - Saturday, August 25

Signup by the week prior, Sunday, Aug. 19

Be at canoe livery by 9:30 – bus pickup leaves at 10:00 am

Little Miami Canoe Rental (513-899-3616)

225 Corwin Rd.

Oregonia, OH 45054 - site is for the 8 mile trip

Livery is about a 45-minute drive from Westerville –

Participants can arrange their own carpools if desired

Rental cost in cash: \$16 (1 person's share of a canoe) or \$27/ kayak

Transport to/from the river for your own canoe/kayak = \$15/canoe & \$14/kayak

A picnic lunch will be provided by the Membership and Events Committee

BYO drinks



Questions: See Carol O'Kane

(See www.littlemiamicanoe.com for location and more information.)



RESCHEDULED! **GOLF OUTING – Saturday, September 15, 10:00 am**

We will play at the Big Walnut Golf Course,
6638 St. Rt. 61 in Sunbury.

The cost will be \$12.00 for 9 holes, including cart. For the 19th Hole, the Nortons have invited participants to a picnic lunch afterward at their cabin. (Directions will be given to golfers when they arrive at the golf course.) We cannot assume that all of those who signed up before will be able to participate on this new date. So... please sign up (again, even if you did previously) by Rally Day (9/9) so we will have an accurate headcount for the golf course and lunch.

Questions: Lane Hough or Sue Ann Norton



Friday Dine-Out Group

Friday, August 10, 6:30 pm

On Friday, August 10, at 6:30 pm, we will meet at Mimi's Café (614-433-9441), 1428 Polaris Parkway. Everyone is welcome! After crossing I-71 going west on Polaris Parkway, turn right at the first light (Lyra). Then turn left three times right away, and you are there. We have gone to Mimi's several times and always enjoyed it. The cuisine is moderately-priced general American menu. The menu can be Googled at Mimi's Café. If you'd like to go, please contact Jim Hines or Bob Place.

Dine-with-Nine Groups Forming

Dine-with-Nine groups meet in each other's homes every month or so over a year's time for a shared dinner. The groups are for singles and couples and available to our members and friends. A vegetarian group is also forming again.

The Dine-with-Nine groups will be formed by early September, before Rally Day, so please immediately contact Bob Place to join one of these great fellowship groups. Once members experience it for a year, almost all continue for many years, joining a different group each year. If you are already in a group, you do not need to call, but if you wish to join a group and were not in one last year, please call Bob right away.

Ladies Night Out

Tuesday, August 21, 6:30

This month: Bru Burger, 691 N. Cleveland Ave. (near the intersection of Cleveland Ave and Polaris Pkwy, in the same building as Local Cantina). Please RSVP to Kim Hunt.

Note: Kim has organized this group for years and is ready for someone else to take over. Interested? Talk to Kim. Identifying a restaurant each month, with help from the group, and managing the sign-up is a good way to get to know more church members!



CROP Is Coming! Can You Walk?

We hope you will be able to participate in our annual CROP walk on Sunday, September 30. A quarter of all the money we raise will go to WARM (Westerville Area Resource Ministry), and the remaining 75 percent goes to CROP, an international organization overseen by Church World Services. These ecumenical walks provide an opportunity for each of us to walk side by side with other socially conscious people, from our own congregation and from several other community churches. CROP delivers about \$100 million annually to developing communities and countries around the world, with many hundreds of walks taking place across the USA each fall. The money goes to help people develop their own community gardens and their own water supply. It also helps with emergency food relief, but the most important aspect is to help people produce their own food.

Our church and two others in Westerville have raised about \$6000 in each of the last several years. Our congregation usually is the most active, contributing around \$3000 each year. We want to expand our walk because that will mean more farming assistance, water wells, and emergency food relief for food-challenged people. This is an opportunity for both adults and youth to take a personal step toward direct involvement with a worthy service project.

On September 30, we will gather at Hoff Woods (across from the post office on McCorkle) at 1 pm to register and have a short service of gratitude to send us off to walk at 1:30. The walk is from 1 to 6 miles and is entirely within the confines of Hoff Woods Park. The distance is your choice, depending on how much you want to/can walk. Ahead of time, walkers find as many financial supporters as they feel comfortable approaching, and then most church supporters will pay directly to the church treasurer.

Please contact Bob Place to let him know that you plan to walk. He will give you support materials later in the summer so you can approach church members, family, and friends and ask them to support your efforts.

We hope you can join us in this vital ministry to God's children.

WEEKDAY PARKING NOTICE

Now that our construction project is done, we will be allowing city employees to use our parking lot again on weekdays. From 8 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday, the eight parking slots on the east side of the parking lot, south of the garage, are reserved for city employees. Church members are asked not to use these spaces during these times. If we have a funeral or special event, city employees will park elsewhere, and our members and guests can use those spots for the event. Thanks for your cooperation in this matter.

*The following was submitted and condensed by Janet Withers
Sent by her brother, Robert Bolgard, who attends this church.*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Hartford, Connecticut

This week the church received a bid for some proposed building repairs. It was addressed to “First Perspiration Church.” At first, I wondered if calling us First “Perspiration” Church was a comment on how warm the sanctuary can be on a Sunday morning in July. Ok. We don’t have air-conditioning. But I am guessing that the contractor in question had the auto-correct function turned on and it treated “Presbyterian” as a spelling error and made a quick correction to “perspiration.”

I often have to tell a clerk or service provider how to spell Presbyterian. I was once asked what it means that we call ourselves Presbyterians. I explained that Presbyterian comes from the Greek word for “elder” (presbytos) and because we are governed by elders or presbyters—meaning people who are mature or “seasoned with experience” – we call ourselves Presbyterians. My questioner had a puzzled look on his face and said, “Elders are old people. Do you mean only old people can belong to your church or be leaders in it?” No. That’s not exactly what we mean when we call ourselves Presbyterians.

The longer I thought about it, however, the more I wondered if being called “First Perspiration Church” might have a point. We talk about people needing to invest “sweat equity” in projects. According to one definition, sweat equity describes “a party’s contribution to a project in the form of effort, as opposed to financial equity, which is a contribution in the form of capital.”

Perhaps “First Perspiration Church” is something we should aspire to be. A place where every person is investing their time and energy in ways that build up the body of Christ. Being First Perspiration Church is not the responsibility of a few elders on Session, or deacons, or Sunday School teachers. To make our common life happen takes the commitment of every person’s perspiration or sweat equity towards some specific aspect of our life together. We cannot individually do everything, but at least all of us can do something.

I notice sometimes that it is the same small group of individuals who are Sunday School teachers. Perhaps they need you to step forward and help them. We have people with musical gifts to sing or provide instrumental music throughout our congregation, yet our choir consists of approximately the same people as when I arrived as co-pastor. (3 years ago).

The word “perspire” comes from Latin. The prefix “per” means “through, throughout, thoroughly, entirely, utterly.” It is attached to the root for “spirit.” To perspire then, could mean –with a little imagination – to be thoroughly, or entirely filled with the Spirit. And, when we are filled with the Spirit, we seek ways to give of ourselves, to let the energies of the Spirit that has been poured out upon us overflow into the life of the world around us.

Maybe each of us should examine what sweat equity we are investing, in what ways we are giving of ourselves and our time or talent, to the building up both of ourselves and this particular expression of the body of Christ.

A good prayer for this coming week might be one written by St. Ignatius Loyola. I invite you to copy it and pray it as we perspire through these humid, steamy summer days.

Take Lord and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding and my entire will.
All I have and call my own, You have given all to me. To you, Lord, I return it.
Everything is yours, do with it what you will. Give me only your love and your grace,
that is enough for me. Amen.

See you in worship this Sunday.

Pastor Thomas

Adult Growth and Development

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN			
Activity	When	Where	What
Tuesday Morning Bible Study	Tuesdays, 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Knox Meeting Room	“The Spreading Fire-The Book of Acts” Join us this month as we begin a study of the New Testament Book of Acts. See how the church was born in the fire of the Holy Spirit and how that fire spread throughout the world.
4 th Monday Discussion	4 th Mondays, 7:30 p.m.	Knox Meeting Room	Be sure to join us on Monday, August 27, from 7:30-9:00 p.m. in the Knox Meeting Room as we discuss <i>Faith in Words</i> , a collection of writings by a variety of Presbyterian authors.
The Library Class	Sunday Mornings 9:00-10:00 a.m.	Fellowship Room	This class is for all adults who want to understand our faith and apply it to the world in which we live. We will resume our class in September.
Circle 4 Women	3 rd Thursdays, 11:00 a.m.	Raisin Rack 2545 W. Schrock (at the corner of Schrock and Cleveland)	Our Presbyterian Women’s group usually meets monthly for fellowship and Bible study. However, Circle 4 is on sabbatical for the summer. We will not meet in June, July, or August. Be sure to join us at our next meeting, September 20. Elaine Foley is our study leader.



Pastor's Page

*"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."
—Rev. 22:13*

Dear Friends:

The Canoe Trip is coming—August 25! I hope you will join us. It's a great outing for all ages.

I am a canoeist from way back. My dad not only took me and my brother on canoe outings when we were kids, he even built his own canoes. When I moved to Wisconsin after college, I joined a canoe club, and we canoed the rivers of northern Wisconsin almost every summer weekend. Thus, our church canoe trip down the Little Miami River is one of my favorite events of the year.

There is something special about canoeing down a river—it has a "back to nature" element to it. It is just you and the boat and the water—all flowing downstream together. It's exciting to round a bend, wondering what wonderful sight might be ahead—a turtle sunning itself on a log, a great blue heron stalking its prey, or maybe even a bald eagle regally surveying its territory. And yet, even as I strain to get a look around the next bend, I like to take a quick glance back—for one last look at that turtle or heron or eagle.

Life is much like that. We all flow down the river of life. And we are excited, and anxious, about what will be around the next bend; while at the same time, we try to get one last look at the wonderful sights we've just passed by. We flow down the river of life, excited, scared, hopeful about what lay ahead, cherishing, or trying to forget, what lay behind. For many of us, the future cannot come soon enough, and for others the past slips away too quickly. But that is the tension for us, isn't it? We are trapped in the flow of time, and we can only ride our canoe downstream.

Jesus taught us about the past and the future, but most of all, the present moment. Jesus knew that the past and the future, the beginning and the end, all belong to God. Jesus was there when all things began, and he was there at the beginning of each of our individual journeys. And he will be there when all things come to fruition, just as he will be there when we end our own trips down that river of life. But Jesus taught us that if we get too wrapped up in the past, or the future, we will miss the present. He taught that if we hold onto the past too tightly, we will strangle the moment we are in. That was the message of the story of the Prodigal Son—the past was just that, the past, and whatever had happened there would not be allowed to ruin the future.

Similarly, Jesus taught that if we reach too far into the future, we will lose our balance in the present. That was the message of the man who built big barns to store up all his earthly treasures. He died before he could enjoy his wealth. "Don't worry about tomorrow," Jesus had said, "for tomorrow will worry about itself." Too often we miss the joys of the present because we are too worried about the future.

Maybe that is why I like canoeing—it helps me to live in God's present moment. I wish I could do a better job when I'm not canoeing!

Yours in Christ,

Mark