

ADVOCATE

First Presbyterian Church
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November 2018



VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION

Sunday, November 11

Veteran's Day marks its 100th anniversary this year!

On Sunday, November 11, our church will pay tribute to veterans, especially our own. In three special ways, we will honor our veterans and their service to our country:

Recognition During Worship and Photos Afterward

A Potluck Lunch After Worship

A Program Following Lunch Celebrating "Patriotism in Sentiment and Song."

Before Veterans Day

The Worship Committee would like you to please email pictures of yourself or other veterans you would like to be recognized on this special day. Photos can be emailed to: philnuss@gmail.com. The committee will put together photos for a presentation *on* that day. If possible, include the veteran's military service photo and a current photo (if available). Include full name & the military branch in which they serve(d). Currently serving military can also be included. If you have only a paper copy of the photo, please put it in Phil Nussdorfer's church mailbox, and he will scan and return it.

ON Veterans Day

The Membership Committee will take individual photos before and right after church of all veterans who are present in the church library (2nd floor right off the elevator). If possible, please come about 30 minutes before worship. Veterans please wear your military uniform or something from your time in the military (shirt, hat, etc.), or in lieu of that, please wear patriotic colors. A group photo will be taken immediately right after church of all of our church veterans who are present.

A potluck lunch will be served after church. Please sign up for that for seating purposes.

Patriotic program: “Patriotism in Sentiment and Song”

Following lunch, about 12:45 pm, a presentation by Bev Etling will highlight how American patriotism began and has changed over the years since the founding of our country. This presentation is about one hour in length. We will include music and patriotic songs that have been a part of our country’s history. The audience will be invited to sing several of these songs, ones that touch our hearts as Americans.

On this special day, the Membership, Events, and Evangelism Committee hopes that everyone will find a moment to embrace the love of our country, especially the freedoms we enjoy. Please take time to thank a veteran for his/her willingness to serve. We have the right to gather together and the right to worship as a community because of the freedoms protected by our veterans and their service to our country.

Thank you!



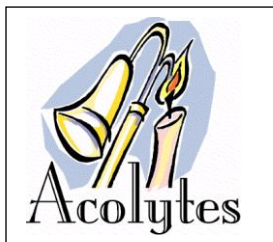
Laity Sunday 2018

November 18

At First Presbyterian Church, the Sunday before Thanksgiving, November 18 this year, is Laity Sunday, when the lay members of our congregation lead the worship service, including the sermon. This year, we have elder Matthew Borth presenting the message for this special Sunday.

Originally from Wisconsin, Matt has made himself a career in the food industry. Matt has managed several restaurants in central Ohio and now works for a company that provides fish and other products to local restaurants.

Matt is currently an elder serving on the Session of our church as co-chair of our Membership, Evangelism and Events Committee. He and his wife Julie live in Westerville and have three children: Maddie, Henry, and Reed.



Amazing Acolytes

Each Sunday morning, we begin our worship with the lighting of the worship candles by our Acolytes. Acolytes are 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th grade students who have been trained to properly light the candles on Sunday morning. If your child, or grandchild, would like to become an acolyte, please talk to Rev. Gauen.

Schedule of Events for the Upcoming Season

Sunday, Nov. 11	11:15 a.m.	Veterans' Recognition
Sunday, Nov. 18	11:15 a.m.	Laity Sunday; Matt Borth preaching
Sunday, Nov. 25	10:15 a.m.	Hanging of the Greens
Sunday, Dec. 2	10:15 a.m.	First Sunday in Advent
Saturday, Dec. 8	10:00 a.m.	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal and Kids' Advent Workshop
Sunday, Dec. 9	10:15 p.m.	Second Sunday in Advent
Sunday, Dec. 9	5:00 p.m.	Potluck and Christmas Pageant
Friday, Dec. 14	7:00 p.m.	Habitat for Humanity Concerts
Sunday, Dec. 16	10:15 a.m.	Third Sunday in Advent
Friday, Dec. 21	7:00 p.m.	Longest Night Service
Sunday, Dec. 23	10:15 a.m.	Fourth Sunday in Advent
Monday, Dec. 24	7:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Worship
Tuesday, Dec. 25		Christmas Day; office closed



Christmas Poinsettias Order Form Due Nov. 26

Beautiful red poinsettias will color our 2018 Advent joyful! You can help by contributing **\$8** to dedicate a plant in honor or memory of a loved one or friend. If you wish, you can take your plant(s) home after the Christmas Eve Service.

Please bring your order form to the church office by **Monday, Nov. 26**, with a check made out to First Presbyterian Church and marked "poinsettias." Forms are also available at the church.

I/We will donate _____ poinsettia(s)
Total Cost: \$ _____

Name: _____
Phone: _____

Name of person(s) you wish to be remembered or honored:

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____



Update on the 29 West Property

Since last spring, the Session has been looking into what we can do with the 29 West Property, also known as the Annex and as the Hannah Mayne House. (It's the blue building to the east of the church.) After considering several options, the Session narrowed them down to two choices: selling the property or keeping the property and demolishing the building eventually. Elder Jim Hines has taken the lead in helping us reach a decision, but since he has been on vacation for the last several weeks, no decisions have been made.

While the Session was considering this issue, a business expressed an interest in buying the property. In preparation for a formal offer, the Session commissioned an appraisal of the property. The appraiser set the value between \$270,000 and \$305,000, based on comparable sales and an analysis of the property. In late September, the same business made an offer to purchase the property—the building, the garage, and the land including the parking lot—for \$150,000. The Session determined that this offer was too low, and the purchase request was rejected. The business has not made another offer and, as far as the Session knows, is not planning to make one.

The Session will continue its process of discernment and will keep the congregation informed and involved in the process.



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST Saturday, November 3



The next Men's Breakfast is Saturday, November 3, beginning at 9:30 am. (Please note the change in date.) With Veterans' Day a week away, we are asking our veterans to describe their military service assignments, experiences, and lessons learned. All men are welcome. Veterans are honored.

Offering Envelopes for Next Year

If you would like to receive weekly offering envelopes for 2019, please contact Treasurer Barbara Klingman by Thursday, November 15.

Introducing Newly Appointed Deacon: Deb Gamble

This is my first time to serve as deacon. My husband Brad and I joined the church three years ago, after visiting many other churches in the area. From the very first visit, I was touched by this congregation's friendliness and by how its members regarded each other with tenderness. I grew up in Salem (near Youngstown) and moved to Columbus after Brad and I married, 25 years ago. I like to walk, read, observe nature, watch old movies, and volunteer with The Nature Conservancy (where Brad and I met). We have 3 dogs: Gordie, a corgi mix, and Lorelai and Rory, our short-haired and long-haired crazy chihuahuas. I started a new job this year with OSU's Wexner Medical Center as a clinical research assistant, helping with the regulatory part of clinical trials.

I look forward to getting to know all of you better.

Health Ministry Team Update

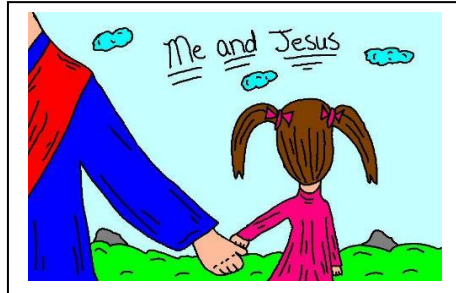
Health Ministry Team: Kim Hunt, Moderator; Bonnie Moses, Vice Moderator; Glenna Cameron, Secretary; Jack Anderson, Linda Backus, Dorothy Driskell, Marsha Duffey, Debbie Dunlope, Bill Hitt, Bernie Simpkins, Beckey Stamm, Cindy Tinkham, Barbara Willows, and Naomi Wriston.

The church's Health Ministry Team is part of the Mount Carmel Church Partnerships and hopes to do the good work of helping enhance the lives of our congregants in body, mind, and spirit. Together we can help further God's kingdom by moving his flock toward better health.

Please stop by our "rack" located on the wall by the coffee station in the fellowship area. The Health Ministry will keep it stocked with Weekly Scoop newsletters from Mount Carmel and other information that may be helpful to healthy living. Check with one of the team members if you have something to add to the rack.



Youth Groups



J.A.M.: Jesus and Me During the Sunday service

J.A.M. is a great opportunity for the children of our church to learn more about God. Sometimes it is difficult to get to church activities during the week, but attending during our Sunday worship service is sometimes easier as it comes on the weekend.

Please join us for worship at 10:15 am. We have fun bags for the children to engage in until the Children's Focus. After this time in the service, the children will be taken up to our play room for a lesson. You may pick your child(ren) up after the service.

This year, we are learning stories from the beginning to the end of the Bible in their written order. The kids have already enjoyed the well-known stories of Adam and Eve and Noah. Please bring your child(ren) to share in this fun time together.



Discovery Zone Wednesdays, starting at 5:00 pm

Discovery Zone is a wonderful place for the children of our church to practice team work and have some fun while we learn about God and all God's amazing works. This year we are learning about what it means to be part of a team, whether it's a sports team or a family team. We all have to work together.

We start our program at 5 pm by practicing for our spring musical. Then we slow down by practicing simple meditation exercises with Qigong at 5:30pm. Bible Study begins at 6pm, and we serve a hearty, healthy meal at 6:30pm which parents and guests are welcome to attend.

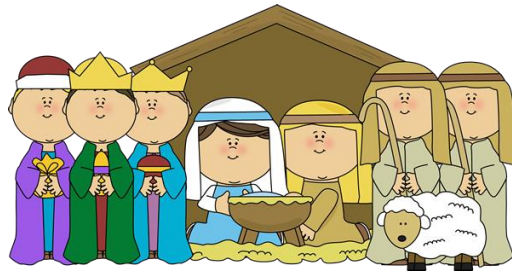
Please join us Wednesday evenings for a fun-filled time. We can't wait to see you there.

Advent Workshop and Pageant Practice

Saturday, December 8, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

It's that time of year again. Time to get ready for our Christmas pageant. We will be having a special rehearsal and workshop for the kids to get ready for the Christmas pageant and the Christmas season on December 1. Please bring your kids for pageant practice at 10am. Scripts will be given out ahead of time so if you are planning to have your child(ren) in the pageant, please contact pastor Mark, Kim Wise, or Heather Hicks.

Immediately following the practice (11:30 am), we will have lunch and a fun workshop with games, crafts, and a visit from Santa. We will conclude the day's festivities at 2pm. Please feel free to come to the workshop around 1:30pm for pictures with Santa. We look forward to seeing you and the kids!



Christmas Potluck and Pageant

Sunday, December 9, 5 p.m.

You have NEVER seen the Christmas story put forth in this way before! This year, the kids requested that the Christmas pageant have a video game theme. Come see how we've worked this out and live the Christmas story in a manner never before seen ANYWHERE!

Please join us on Sunday, December 9, at 5 p.m. We will start with a potluck meal downstairs in the fellowship hall, and we will commence the pageant in the sanctuary at 6 p.m.

Please come and support our children and youth as they bring us the Christmas story!

Confirmation for November

Sunday, November 4, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Sunday, November 18, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Confirmation class has begun. We will meet twice in November: Nov. 4 and Nov. 18. The class meets from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. in Pastor Mark's office. Confirmands should be sure to bring the Confirmation folder and a Bible to each class.



Older Adult Ministry Gathering

The Presbytery of the Scioto Valley Older Adult Ministry Network sponsored a regional conference on older adults at Worthington Presbyterian Church on October 12. About one hundred adults from across the country, including the Rev. Kristin Schutte, Janet Withers, and Bill Hitt from Westerville First Presbyterian, participated. The theme of the conference was “The Best of Times: God’s Call in the Third Thirty of Life.” The keynote address was delivered by the Rev. Ray Jones, who spoke of the importance of older adults in shaping the life of the church.

Twelve breakout workshops dealing with opportunities and problems faced by those over the age of 60 were offered.

The Rev. Rob Coberly led a workshop focused on communication with persons with Alzheimer’s disease. A session on Livable Communities was led by the director of Age Friendly Columbus, Katie White. That organization, funded by an AARP grant, is conducting a 5-year project that addresses issues such as volunteerism, transportation, social events, park placement, and others. A session that focused on social justice discussed the tensions that sometimes arise as clergy address the spiritual foundations of activity in the public arena. All in all, the conference was a day well spent!



A Note from the Worship Committee

Many thanks for the baskets donated to be used for the flower arrangements on Sunday morning. We have enough baskets now and are running out of storage space, so no more, please.

Ladies Night Out

Usually on the third Tuesday of the month

Please note that Ladies Night Out will not take place in November because of Thanksgiving. See you on Tuesday, December 18, at Rusty Bucket! All women of the church—and their friends--are welcome. We do have fun!

Friday Dine-Out Group

Friday, November 9, 6:30 pm

The Dine-Out Group will be going to **Polaris Grill** (431-5598) at 6:30 pm on Friday, November 9. The restaurant is located at 1835 Polaris Pkwy. Exit I-71(N) at Polaris and turn right as soon as possible. Turn right again quickly, and you are there. All members and friends are invited to attend, and we have a great time getting to know each other better while enjoying good food. (This restaurant often offers coupons.) Contact Jim Hines or Bob Place with questions or to say whether you will be able to come.

Fabrics of Faith

If you can knit, sew, or crochet mittens/gloves, scarves, or hats, read on! Fabrics of Faith received a very kind donation that we're going to use for a specific purpose.

Here's our plan: We'll provide yarn or fleece for you to make as many scarves, mittens, or hats as our money will buy. Do this year-round; we'll send them to Pike County or WARM each fall.

When the money is gone, we'll just keep on giving, out of our own pockets, because "it is in giving that we receive!"



The Fabrics of Faith Ministry celebrated Blanket Sunday on October 21.

Youth Fellowship in November

Friends-Giving

Sunday, November 11, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Youth in grades 6-12 are invited to joins in a Youth Group version of Thanksgiving Dinner and some fun!

There will not be Youth Fellowship on Nov. 25 due to the Thanksgiving Holiday

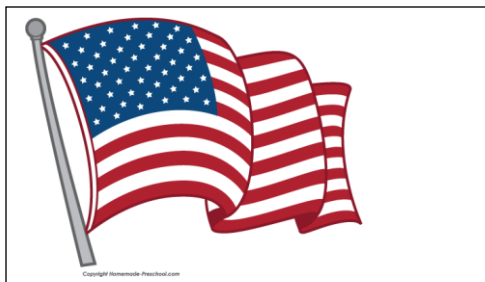
Submitted by Janet Withers in honor of our military:

FREEDOM IS NOT FREE

I watched the flag pass by one day
It fluttered in the breeze.
A young Marine saluted it,
And then he stood at ease.
I looked at him in uniform
So young, so tall, so proud,
With hair cut square and eyes alert,
He'd stand out in any crowd.
I thought how many men like him
Had fallen through the years,
How many died on foreign soil?
How many mothers' tears?
How many pilots' planes shot down?
How many died at sea?
How many foxholes were soldiers' graves?
No freedom isn't free.

I heard the sound of "Taps" one night,
When everything was still.
I listened to the bugler play
And felt a sudden chill.
I wondered just how many times
That "Taps" had meant "Amen,"
When a flag had draped a coffin
Of a brother or a friend.
I thought of all the children,
Of the mothers and the wives,
Of fathers, sons and husbands
With interrupted lives.
I thought about a graveyard
At the bottom of the sea,
Of unmarked graves in Arlington,
No, freedom isn't free.

**--Cadet Major Kelly Strong, Force Jr. ROTC
Homestead Senior High School
Homestead, Florida**



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 study 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.
4th Monday Discussion	4 th Mondays, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.	Knox Meeting Room	Be sure to join us on Monday, November 26, as we consider the life of faith in our world today.
Adult Seminar (formerly called the Library Class)	Sunday Mornings 9:00-10:00 a.m.	Knox Meeting Room	The Adult Seminar is examining Bart Ehrman's book, <u>Misquoting Jesus</u> , an overview of textual criticism of the Bible.
Circle 4 Women	3 rd Thursdays, 11:00 a.m.	Knox Meeting Room	Our Presbyterian Women’s Group meets monthly for fellowship and Bible study. Be sure to join us at our next meeting on the second Thursday of the month, November 15 (due to Thanksgiving on the third Thursday).

Meditation Videos

Life can sometimes overwhelm us, and at other times we can overwhelm ourselves. We get so busy that when someone asks us how we are, our only response is “busy.” Our culture, family, and friends have over-glorified the need to be busy to such an extent that we feel strange when we are NOT busy. As a result, we are overwhelmed, stressed out, and depressed. Our lives do not seem to hold much meaning anymore because we are flying through it so quickly.

To help all you crazy busy moms (and dads) out there, Heather Hicks has come up with several means for you to look into meditation and living in each moment through two different means. 1.) a blog and 2) a YouTube channel both called Cozy Spirit. In your very hectic lives, you can read or watch when your schedule will allow and you can also be involved in discussion on both forums.

You will find the blog at cozyspirit.blog. You will find the Videos at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3nPT7Z6PPYQr2FlzSCII5w>

Heather will provide a workshop in February on the concepts covered in the blog and in the videos to give people a chance to share their experiences, frustrations, challenges, and success stories as well as engage in some one-on-one meditation experiences. Date and time will soon be determined.



Pastor's Page

Dear Friends:

Back in 2008, the building at 29 West College Avenue went up for sale. For most of us at First Presbyterian, this was a concern because the good doctor who owned the property had allowed us to park in his lot on weekends and in the evenings. We all wondered nervously about who might buy the property and would they allow us to have the same sort of arrangement.

At least most of us thought that way. One member of our church saw the situation in a different light. This member saw the property as an opportunity to expand the ministry of the church through the extra space provided by the extra land we now owned. This visionary member saw that if we ever wanted to enlarge our church building, we would need more land than we currently had. The building was a nice bonus, but the land was essential in this person's mind. This person saw an opportunity for the church and had the means to allow the church to take advantage of the opportunity. Thanks to this generous gift, the church purchased the property. The generosity did not stop there as this person also gave money that served as the seed money to build the new addition which we are now enjoying.

Now that we have finished our building expansion we now need to decide on what to do with the 29 West property. As with all significant decisions, this one requires all of us to engage in the process of discernment—discernment as to what God would have us do. Discernment is difficult work for a congregation for there are many views and many possibilities that need to get evaluated and this takes time and effort. Yet in the end, it is the only way for a church to move forward.

I recently found a prayer by the famous Christian author, William Barclay, and I think it speaks to our situation. I invite all of us to pray this prayer in the coming weeks and months so that we may have God's guidance and blessing for our decision.

O God, you know that soon we must make a decision which is going to affect our whole church. Help us to choose rightly; and to choose the right way. Grant us your guidance, and with it grant us the humble obedience to accept it. Help us not necessarily to choose what we want to do, but what you want us to do. Grant that we may not be swayed solely by fear or by hope of gain; by the desire for an easy path or by a longing for prestige. Help us today in humble obedience to say to you, "Lord, what will you have us to do?" and then await your guidance, and accept your leading. Hear this prayer of ours and send an answer so clear that we cannot mistake it. This we ask for your love's sake! Amen.

Yours in Christ, Mark