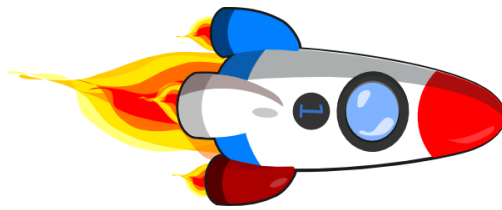


# ADVOCATE

First Presbyterian Church  
41 West College Avenue  
Westerville, Ohio 43081-2103  
614-882-3155 Phone 614-882-2421 Fax  
[www.westervillefirstpresbyterian.org](http://www.westervillefirstpresbyterian.org)

**May 2019**



## **Vacation Bible School Monday-Friday, June 17-21**

Mark your calendars and pack your bags because we are about to blast off on a new Vacation Bible School experience. We will be exploring the amazing creation of God as we perform science experiments and study the Bible together. We will learn how God made this amazing universe that we live in. Come join us the mornings of June 17-21. We welcome all children from preschool age up through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. We can use middle school and high school helpers, too. You don't want to miss out on this fun time!

### **Vacation Bible School Set up, Sunday, June 16**

We need many hands to help us make light work of our VBS set up. Please come and join us for a quick set up on Sunday, June 16 (right after church) as we prepare to welcome new and old faces to our VBS program.

## **Graduation Sunday Sunday, May 19**

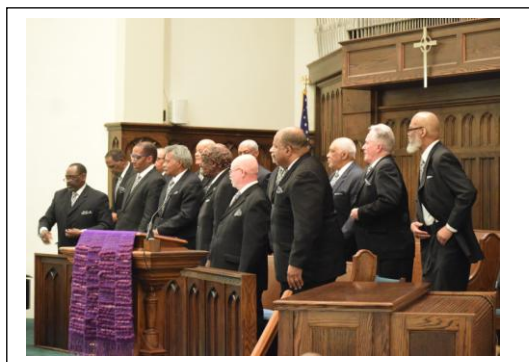
Graduation Sunday is fast approaching, and we want to be able to recognize all of our graduates (high school, college, or graduate school) on May 19 during our worship service. If you are planning to attend, please contact



Rev. Mark Gauen or Rev. Heather Hicks by Thursday, May 9, and leave the graduate's name and the graduation school. Congratulations to all our graduates!

## **Thank You, St. Paul's AME Church!** **Sunday, April 7**

The St. Paul's AME men's chorus performed an amazing and inspiring concert for us on April 7. The men's enthusiasm, energy, and faith were reflected in the power of their music. A light supper followed in Fellowship Hall, giving our members an opportunity to get to know the talented singers and others from St. Paul's who came to enjoy listening to this gifted group.



## **Special Parking Spaces**

To better accommodate members and visitors who are handicapped or have special needs, we have designated the nine parking spaces near the south entrance for use by handicapped or special needs individuals on **SUNDAY ONLY**. These spaces will be available for general use during the week.

**Note: the 2019 Women's Retreat is being rescheduled. Watch this space!**

# **WALK TO JERUSALEM**

**January 13 – April 14**



Congratulations to everyone who participated in the Walk to Jerusalem and made it such a great success. The team consisted of 42 people, covering 7849.58 miles from January 13 - April 14. Your support put us in Jerusalem just in time for Palm Sunday and Holy Week. We had people walking, biking, swimming, and doing yoga and other types of exercise to cover the mileage, which exceeded our goal of 6625 miles. Participants, you will receive a certificate of completion and a cross with a clip to put on your shoelace to remind you that

Christ always walks with us. Stay active in Christ!

Kim Hunt

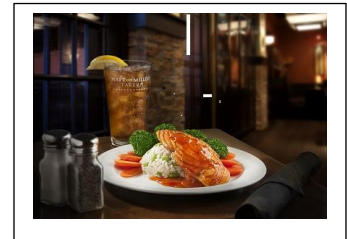
## **Welcome, Olivia!**

The Personnel Committee is pleased to welcome our new church secretary, Olivia Hodorowski. Olivia has been hired to replace Linda Lemity, who retired recently. Olivia's first day at First Presbyterian was Monday, April 29. Please stop by and welcome Olivia to the First Presbyterian family. On behalf of the Session and congregation, I'd like to thank the members of the Personnel Committee (Adele Wright, Debbie Kerr, and Mark Gordon, who offered his insight via email from Florida). They reviewed over 30 resumes and interviewed eight candidates to find the right person for this important position.

Jim Hines, Personnel Committee Chair

## **Ladies Night Out** **Tuesday, May 21, 6:30 pm**

The May Ladies Night Out will be at Matt the Miller's Tavern, 1436 Gemini Place (in front of Costco, 614-841-4430). All women of the church—and their friends--are welcome. Please contact Diana Westfall to tell her you are coming. We do have fun!



# Dorothy Driskell to Lead Torch

Dorothy Driskell, a current Deacon and active member of our church, is the president-elect of the International Association of Torch Clubs. So, what is Torch?



The torch is the ancient symbol of light and truth – the light of knowledge which bringeth understanding. The objectives of a Torch Club are to give members of different professions an opportunity to meet in the spirit of fellowship, to prevent the narrowing tendencies of specialization by developing a breath of thought and culture, and to foster the highest standards of professional ethics and civic well-being.

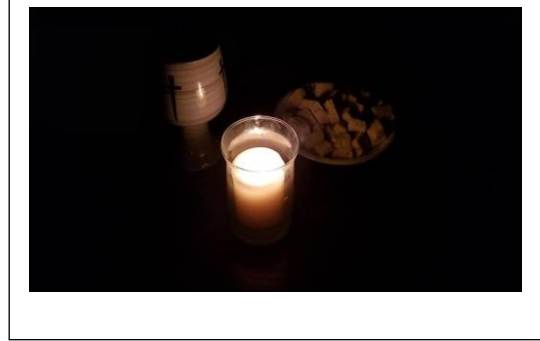
The interaction among the various professions represented in a Torch Club is a stimulating and rewarding experience. The highlight of the usual Torch Club dinner meeting is the presentation of a paper by a member of the club. The topics of these papers are as varied as the professions of the members. Examples include “The Gifted: Resiliency and Brain Plasticity,” “A Century of Chemical Warfare,” and “China: Off the Beaten Path.” Everyone participating in the meeting benefits from the wide variety of thought in the paper presented and from the lively discussion that follows and continues over dinner. It is through this sharing of knowledge and differing points of view that membership in a local Torch Club becomes a challenging experience.

The Torch Club differs from service clubs, fraternities, unions, and other professional clubs in method and purpose. It is non-profit and non-political and sponsors no causes or partisan movements.

The first Torch Club was formed and chartered in Minneapolis, MN, in 1924. Many clubs quickly followed, with the Columbus Club becoming the tenth group in 1926. Today, 70+ clubs thrive across the United States and Canada and form the International Association of Torch Clubs.

Dorothy will serve two years as president-elect of the International Clubs. Then she will be president for two years and past president for another two years. She has belonged to the Columbus Torch Club since 2008, has served as Membership Chair since 2009, and was president from 2012-2013. The Columbus Torch Club meets on the first Thursday of October through May at 5:30 PM at the Ohio State Faculty Club. Any questions? Just ask Dorothy!

## Photos from the Easter Sunrise Service and the 10:15 Service, April 21



## The Directory Update Is Available!

You can find the update to the new directory in a box on the counter of the reception desk. Please take one to add to your directory. We appreciate your patience!

# 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. It can be 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. There are 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



## **CE Summer Clean up Saturday, May 4, 10 am**

The CE team is calling everyone who is willing and able to make our church shine! Last year we were able to move into the new wing of our church just before VBS, but we are still trying to get our supply closet and rooms organized. It has also been a year since many of our toys were washed and sanitized.

Please come and help us make our youth room, nursery, and Heart Room ready to receive our young friends this year. We will meet to clean and organize on May 4, starting at 10am. Lunch will be provided for all who come to help.

# Children Sing on Sunday, May 19

The kids cannot wait to share pieces that they have been working on over the past year. Please give them your full support on **May 19**.

## What's in Your Future?

Members of our church who are high school seniors or matriculating college students in a bachelor degree, associate degree, or similar level of education: it is time to think about applying for a First Presbyterian Church of Westerville education scholarship. Scholarship applications are available in the Knox Meeting Room. Applications are due on Monday, May 20, and the scholarships will be awarded on Sunday, July 14.

To be considered for a 2019 Scholarship, you must submit all of the following requirements to the Scholarship Committee by Monday, May 20:

- A fully completed application form
- Two letters of recommendation, one academic and one personal/character
- A copy of your recent grade transcript

Please remember that all parts of an application must be received by the church by the due date. Incomplete applications will not be considered for a scholarship. An application for a scholarship may be submitted every year that you are a student, but a maximum of two annual scholarships will be awarded per applicant.

We encourage all who are considering post-high-school education to take advantage of the church's scholarship program. For further information about the program, contact Kathy Krotz.

## Youth Fellowship and Confirmation

### Youth Fellowship in May:

May 19	10:15 a.m.	Graduate Recognition Sunday
	11:30 p.m.	Mini Golf Outing—We'll meet at the church, get lunch at McDonald's, then head to the Westerville Golf Center.

### Confirmation in May:

May 5	Confirmation Sunday	
	8:45 a.m.	Youth arrive for pictures
	10:15 a.m.	Youth are confirmed in worship
	11:15 a.m.	Reception after worship

# **Give Your Child An Experience for 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. Some church camps are themed on sports, music, art, and other specialties, which only adds to their appeal. And the costs are reasonable, especially when you include the fact that 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. Let us know if you are sending your child to a 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](http://www.kirkmontcenter.com)  
Kirkmont Camp ministers to our Presbytery. It runs summer camp experiences for children from grade school through high school, many with special themes, such as horseback riding and sports. Kirkmont also offers 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](http://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 for 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](http://www.ccinoh.com)  
Camp Christian is in nearby Magnetic Springs and runs camps for youth in grade school through high school and a special camp for grandparents and grandkids. Hannah Hauff attended this camp last summer.

## **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](http://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, it holds summer camps for children in grades 3-5. Rev. Gauen and others took youth to retreats at Geneva Hills when it was run by the Presbytery.



## ***MAY 24! 'Ring Our Bell' Begins***

For the last few years, our church has offered children and families the opportunity to 'Ring Our Bell' on each Westerville Uptown Fourth Friday evening.

Some of our volunteers pass out coupons to interested families, while others greet the children and their families at our front door and show them how to ring the bell. This simple activity has proven to be effective in raising community awareness of our church, not to mention a good social time for our members.



Seeing the enthusiasm of the young bell ringers is a treat for any volunteer. Here, a thrilled Everett Etling tries out his skill at ringing the bell.



'Ring Our Bell' will continue each 4<sup>th</sup> Friday throughout the summer months:

May 24, June 28, July 26, August 23

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

If you could volunteer for a couple hours in May or on any of the summer dates, please contact Elder Jack Anderson.



## **Dine-Out Group** **Friday, May 10, 6:30 pm**

Dine Out Friends! We will be dining at Mimi's Cafe on Friday, May 10, at 6:30 pm. All members and their friends are invited. Mimi's is located at 1428 Polaris Parkway. Take Polaris Parkway west across I-71 and turn right at the first light (Lyra Drive). Take three quick left turns from Lyra and you are there. Mimi's has a general American menu. Contact Jim Hines or Bob Place to say you'll attend or ask questions.

# Adult Growth and Development

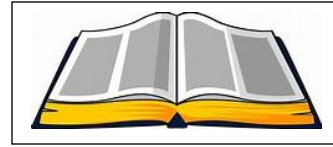
ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN			
Activity	When	Where	What
<b>Tuesday Morning Bible Study</b>	Tuesdays, 9:30-11:00 a.m.	<b>Knox Meeting Room</b>	<b>Great Prayers of the Bible</b> The Tuesday Morning Bible Study will continue to explore many of the prayers that are recorded in the scriptures. Led by Rev. Gauen in the Knox Meeting Room.
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Monday Discussion Group</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> Mondays, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.	<b>Rev. Gauen's office</b>	We are examining the cultural divide in our country through the book, <i>Strangers in Their Own Land</i> by Allie Hochschild. Next Class: Monday, May 27 at 7:30 p.m.
<b>Sunday Seminar (formerly called the Library Class)</b>	Sunday Mornings 9:00-10:00 a.m.	<b>Library</b>	The Sunday Adult Class is examining Bart Ehrman's book, <i>Misquoting Jesus</i> , an overview of textual criticism of the Bible.
<b>Circle 4 Women</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursdays, 11:00 a.m.	<b>Knox Meeting Room</b>	Our Presbyterian Women's Group meets monthly for fellowship and Bible study. <b>In May, we'll meet on the fourth Thursday</b> instead of the third Thursday. That will be May 23. Please join us!
<b>Wednesday Night Bible Study</b>	Wednesdays 7:00-8:30 pm	<b>Library</b>	<b>Great Prayers of the Bible</b> Rev. Gauen will help us take a look at some of the Great Prayers in the Bible. We'll explore how those ancient prayers can guide our own prayer life today.

## Hymnals and Bibles

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the purchase of new hymnals and Bibles for our sanctuary. We easily made our goal thanks to all of you!



## Pastor's Page



Dear Friends:

We made it to Jerusalem! That's the message from our Health Ministry Team. The Team challenged our congregation to walk to Jerusalem during Lent. And we did. We walked, swam, and did other forms of exercise and then recorded our "miles." And the total miles that all of us walked added up to more than the distance from Westerville to Jerusalem, which is 7,850 miles. Yeah for us!

And yeah for Kim Hunt, who put in the time and effort to not only add up our miles and keep us posted on how far we had traveled, but she also provided us with weekly devotionals that turned our physical exercise into a spiritual experience as well. Thanks, Kim!

All this group effort got me thinking. What if we had a Bible Reading challenge? What if members of our church decided to read the Bible each day and then record the number of verses they read? I wonder if we could read the whole Bible before Pentecost? The headline could read, "First Presbyterian Reads the Entire Bible!"

There are 31,103 verses in the Bible (depending upon the translation). If 100 of us participate, and we each read ten verses a day, we'd easily read 31,103 verses by June 9, Pentecost. Ten verses is the average length of a typical Bible story, or about half the length of an average Psalm.

It wouldn't matter what you read, only that you read and record the number of verses. If you don't know where to start, I'd suggest Luke—one of my favorites. Reading the Psalms might also be a good place to start. Or you could start with Genesis—after all, the first words of the Bible are "In the beginning..." Or maybe you could start with a book of the Bible that is not familiar to you. An interesting one might be the Book of Esther in the Old Testament.

Many in our church read the Bible regularly, and this would be a way to celebrate what they already do. But if you are not a regular Bible reader, I encourage you to take this month and a half and give it a try. Take ten minutes each day and read ten or more verses. Who knows, it might be fun! And it might just make you spiritually healthier as well.

Yours in Christ,  
Mark

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

Presbytery duties in May: The Presbytery meets on the third Tuesday in May (May 21, from 3:30-7:30 p.m. at the London PC). As vice moderator, I will be leading a seminar for new commissioners to the Presbytery before the meeting, and I will also moderate a segment of the meeting. In preparation for these activities, on April 30 I will attend the Coordinating Committee meeting that puts together the agenda for the meeting, and I will meet with the Stated Clerk to plan the New Commissioners Seminar.