

ADVOCATE

First Presbyterian Church
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July 2019

Vacation Bible School June 17-21

Our journey to Mars and beyond was a wonderful success this year. We had 14 children throughout the week. We explored stories including Daniel and the Lions' Den, Queen Esther, The Good Samaritan, and more. The kids explored through the stories, music, crafts, and science experiments just how amazing God is.

We would like to say a big thank you to the 20+ adults who turned out to teach, help, cook food, and generally have a good time. We could not have done it without you. Here are some pictures from our special time.



Update on 29 West College

At the Annual Meeting of the Congregation in February, I reported that the Session had voted to keep the 29 West property (i.e. not sell it) and to raze the existing house and garage. At that time, I asked the congregation to affirm the action approved by Session. A motion was made and approved by the congregation to keep the property and raze the buildings.

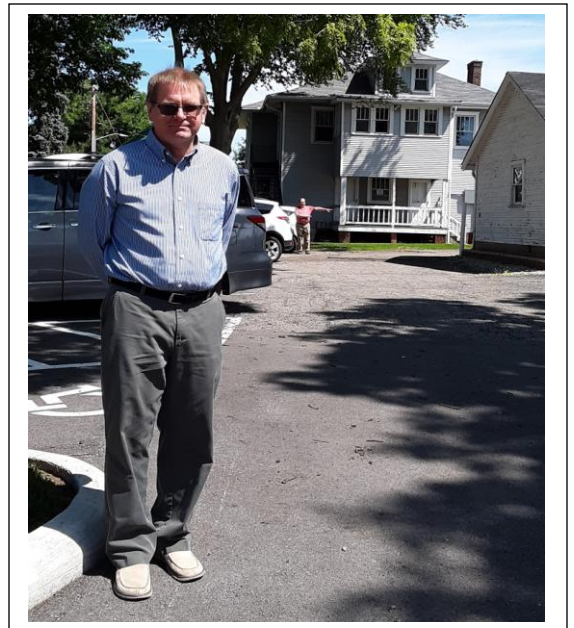
I also informed the congregation that Session had authorized Mike Etling and me to meet with the city to determine if we could reach an agreement to jointly develop a new parking lot. Mike and I met with the city three times over a period of five months and reached a verbal agreement with the city for the development of a new 38-space (a net gain of 21 spaces) parking lot. In brief, here are the terms of the agreement:

- First Presbyterian will be responsible for:
 - Razing the house and garage
 - Leasing the 29 West property to the city on a long-term basis (we're talking 20 years) for \$1 per year
- City of Westerville will be responsible for:
 - Removing the existing east parking lot (17 spaces)
 - Building a new 38-space parking lot to replace the current 17-space lot
 - Building a new underground storm water retention system (similar to what we had built under our south parking lot)
 - Installing all landscaping – including the construction of a new brick entry wall (similar to the entry to the existing city parking lot) with our church's name on it
 - Completing all maintenance, upkeep (paving repairs, etc.), and snow removal

The new parking lot will be pushed approximately 20' to the east (closer to the current city parking lot), resulting in an expansion of the green space between our building and our existing parking lot. This photo was taken in the parking lot behind the 29 W. College house. Can you see Jim Hines standing way in the background? The current parking lot to the left of Jim and Brad Gamble, where the cars are parked, will become new greenspace.

At its meeting on June 10, Session prayerfully discussed the proposed agreement and approved moving forward by a 9-0 vote (3 members were absent). Session's approval gives the City Manager the "green light" to begin the process of finalizing a written agreement, documenting our verbal discussions, and getting City Council approval.

Once we have a final written agreement, this plan will need to be formally approved by the Session, the Congregation, City Council, and the Presbytery of the Scioto Valley (since it involves a long-term lease of property). To address any questions, we are planning a congregational information meeting after church on Sunday, July 14. In the interim, you can discuss this proposal with Mike Etling or me at any time.



Thanks, Jim Hines

Ladies' Night Out

July 16, 6:30 pm



The July Ladies Night Out will be at Bru Burger, 691 N. Cleveland Ave, (614-918-8680). This restaurant offers a lot more than burgers! All women of the church—and their friends—are welcome. Please contact Diana Westfall to tell her you are coming. We do have fun!



Dine-Out Group

Friday, July 12, 6:30 pm

Dine Out friends! On Friday, July 12, we will gather at Wendell's (925 N State St. just north of Polaris Pkwy, Westerville, 614-818-0400). Everyone is welcome. From the church, take Rte 3 to just north of Polaris Parkway. Turn left toward Meijers at the light on Rte 3. Then take the first right and park behind the line of stores you just passed, near Rte 3). Wendell's has a moderately priced menu that you can view on its website. Please let Jim Hines or Bob Place know if you can attend.

JULY 26! 'Ring Our Bell'

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 volunteers pass out coupons to interested families, while others greet the children and show them how to ring the bell. This simple activity has raised community awareness of our church, not to mention providing a good social time for our members. Here, a thrilled Everett Etling rings the bell.



'Ring Our Bell' will continue each 4th Friday throughout the summer months on July 26 and August 23, 6-8 pm. If you can volunteer for a couple hours on either of those dates, please contact Jack Anderson.

Fabrics of Faith

Monday, July 15, 1:00 pm



It's time again! Fabrics of Faith will meet on July 15 for our quarterly meeting. When we meet, people do needlework, share completed projects, or watch others work. We chat and laugh and enjoy fellowship, whether working or not. It's fun!

Please join us in Fellowship Hall on July 15, 1:00 pm.

You don't have to have a project in hand; you don't have to know how to do one. We have materials; bring yourself and a smile. Please contact Beckey Stamm (Beckey_stamm@yahoo.com or 614 378-1019) for information or to say you'll be there. And men—you're invited, too!

Crop Walk

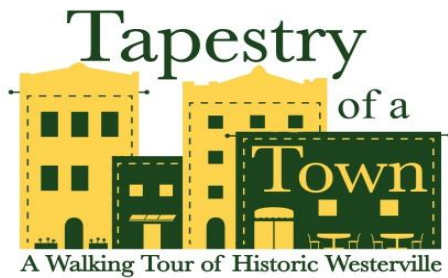
Sunday, October 13

The annual CROP walk will be on October 13 in Worthington. We are combining the Worthington and Westerville walks since Westerville is now charging us \$300 for use of a city park for the walk. More details will appear in the next *Advocates*. Last year, we once again won the Golden Sneaker award for the most money raised by an organization, and we will likely win again this year—with your help!



Communion Volunteer Opportunity

The Worship Committee is seeking volunteers to prepare and set up communion for the current church year. Our congregation celebrates communion the first Sunday of each month and an additional three to four times during Advent and Lent. The preparation and set up works best if two people, a couple or two individuals, complete the needed tasks. Please check your calendar and sign up for the date that fits your schedule. Instructions and training for first-time volunteers will be provided. There is a sign-up sheet in the notebook in the Gathering Room. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Linda Backus (262.968.3108 or backuslkb@gmail.com).



Sunday, July 28, 1-5 pm

Here's your opportunity to see some fascinating parts of Westerville! This annual tour celebrates the unique historical heritage of our town and supports a worthy cause, Habitat for Humanity. The tour visits eleven sites - seven historic Westerville buildings (churches, businesses) and four vintage private residences. It is self-guided, so you can visit some or all of the sites in any order, part walking and part driving. Your ticket includes pictures and a map of sites. Docents at each site will provide history and answer questions.

Tour sites:

Mausoleum, Otterbein Cemetery - hidden gem in Otterbein Cemetery

Central College Ellsworth Chapel, 975 S. Sunbury Rd. - used continuously for worship since 1870

St. Paul the Apostle Church, 313 N. State St. - open for tours between mass services, (approx. 2:00 - 4:15)

Pearlescent Photo, LLC, 14 N. State St. - upstairs over Asterisk, was once a ballroom

Barrel & Boar, 8 N. State St. - former movie theater and lots of other things

Stoner House, 133 S. State St. - Underground Railroad ties, also anti-saloon connection

Alkire House, 259 N. State St. - Underground Railroad site with ties to the Interurban streetcar

Private home, 85 University Ave. - wonderful view of Alum Creek

Private home, 114 W. Plum St. - neat little re-done house

Private home, 675 S. Sunbury Rd.- 1833 Ebenezer Washburn house

Private home, 27 E. College Ave. - was Foul Play Mystery Bookstore in previous life

Cost: \$15 for a ticket/souvenir booklet, if purchased ahead of time; \$18 day-of-event

All money raised goes into building homes in partnership with deserving families through Habitat of Delaware & Union Counties.

You can purchase tickets each Sunday in July at the member churches, including First Presbyterian. See Sue Ann Norton, John Cameron, or Bernie Simpkins. Or go to the Westerville Visitors & Convention Bureau, 20 W. Main St., (614-794-0401) before the tour. You can also buy tickets the day of the tour at Westerville City Hall lobby, 21 S. State St., starting at 12:45p.m. Online information and ticket sales: www.westervillehabitat.org. Facebook: www.facebook.com/westervillehabitatpartnership.

Don't miss this opportunity!



Parents Round Table

Saturday, July 27, 1:00-2:00 pm

Calling ALL parents! Come and join us for a round table discussion about our ministry and how it affects you and your children. You are your child's best teacher, and we want to help equip you with the necessary tools and skills to help your child grow to love and have faith in God. We want our program to offer opportunities for you and your child(ren) to engage with one another, build relationships, and explore the amazing gift that God has offered us in Jesus Christ. The world can be a scary place, but the church is one of very few places where your child can learn some of the coping skills necessary for dealing with the stresses of our modern world. Please join us in helping to make decisions for our program so that we can be sure to offer you the best possible resources and support systems.

We will meet on Saturday, July 27, at the church from 1:00 to 2:00 pm. Child care will be provided. If you are unable to attend, we would still appreciate our input. Please contact Rev. Heather Hicks at your convenience.



Summer Cookout and Water Play

August 3, 12 pm – 3 pm

Heather Hicks will host a cookout and water play party at her home on August 3. All families are welcome to attend. Please bring a dish to share. We will provide the meat and veggie burgers (on a separate grill). The kids can bring a change of clothes and water toys to splash and have fun. We will have water tables, squirt guns, water balloons, etc, for a day of good food and water fun.

Mark your calendars for August 3 at 12pm-3pm.

Daughters of the King

While polishing the silver with other ladies of our church, I came across a communion set marked “Daughters of the King”- 1950. The reason it caught my attention is that I have a dear friend in Albuquerque, N.M., who is a member and advocate for Daughters of the King.

I wanted to learn more about “Daughters of the King” in our church, so I asked some longtime members but found there was no knowledge of the group. One day while I was filling in for Linda Lemity, I saw a black box on a bookcase marked “Women’s Groups.” The first journal I pulled out was labelled “Daughters of the King”!!

Here are a few facts I discovered—The group in our church was formed in 1909 in the old brick church. The first president was Mrs. Briner Thomas, and the group usually met two times a month. In October of 1949, they celebrated their 40th anniversary with great joy. During their October 1950 meeting, they voted to give \$50 to the church to purchase a communion set. (There was the tie that started my search!) That same meeting, they paid \$1.75 for a bushel of apples for the Primary Dept’s Halloween party. Each month, the Daughters made 20 to 40 calls and visits to church members who might have a need or were alone. They also sent many cards and notes. Boxes were sent to Presbyterian missionaries in Morris Fork, KY., and Mena, AR. Offerings were often as small as 82 cents and heart felt, but the Daughters were able to pledge \$50 to buy a new mimeograph machine for the church and new hymnals at \$1.20 each. Many times, the Daughters sent flowers to church members’ funerals.

But sadly on April 11, 1957, after almost 50 years, the group voted to disband. The Daughters were down to nine members, with six attending the meetings. The remaining funds of \$30.09 were given to the Women’s Assoc. of the Building Fund of our church. Please think of the date; it was in the 1950’s when the new education wing was added.

My friend in Albuquerque sent me much information about the Daughters, but here are some of the highlights:

The group was founded in 1885 by Margaret J. Franklin, who envisioned the mission of the group to be the extension of Christ’s Kingdom through prayer, service and evangelism. Today the Daughters of the King are still called to that mission. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, the vision of the Daughters is to know Jesus Christ, make Him known to others, and reflect God’s love throughout the world.

They practice a Rule of Prayer and a Rule of Service and Evangelism. The Daughters are unique in that they are a lay order that takes vows to pray, be of service to others, and practice evangelism. They wear a distinct cross daily, shown here. Although the membership is mostly in the United States, there are chapters in Africa, Asia, Europe, Central America, South America, and the Caribbean Basin.



I hope you enjoyed learning about the Daughters that served our Church for 50 years and the background, works, and values of the current active members.

Dorothy E. Driskell

Help Needed for the Manna Café Project

After four years of coordinating Manna Café dinners, Glenna and John Cameron are planning to retire at the end of this calendar year. The last dinner they will oversee is on November 13. If you think you might be interested in coordinating these dinners, Glenna or John (or Sharon Davis) would be happy to talk with you.

Recipes, shopping lists, sign-up sheets, and other written suggestions are available to assist you. Hands-on experience during the August 21 and November 13 dinners this year can also be provided. Coordination of the dinners can be split up among interested parties if it is not possible for someone to undertake all four dinners in one year.

You will be very glad you decided to help with this very worthwhile church outreach!

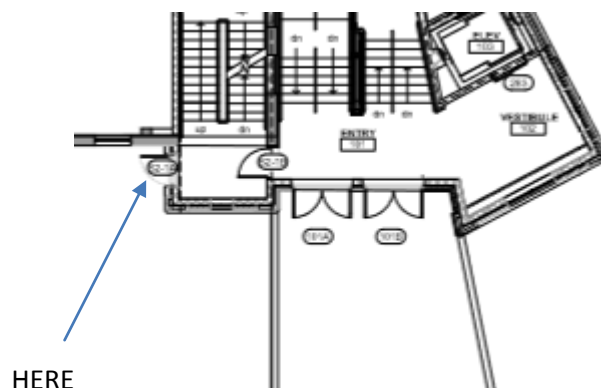
Door Locks at the South Entrance

Have you been having trouble unlocking the doors at the new south entrance?

If so, you're not alone, but we think we have the issue resolved. Without getting too deep into the mechanics of why the doors are difficult to unlock, suffice it to say that all three sets of new double doors (two at the south entrance and one at the east entrance) require more torque to turn the key than most doors. So, to make it easier for you to get in (and we DO want you to get in), we have installed a lock core on the side door at the south entrance. This is the door to the left, just around the corner from the double doors – NOT the Knox Street entrance. Both this door and the Knox Street door have a different type of locking mechanism, and both require considerably less torque to unlock.

So, if you have trouble unlocking the double doors at the south entrance, walk around the corner (less than 10') and use the single door on the side of the south entrance.

AND – for SECURITY REASONS – please DO NOT “dog” this door into an unlocked position.



Summer Fun from the Membership, Events, and Evangelism Committee

GOLF OUTING – Saturday, July 20, 10:00 am - Lunch afterward

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

The cost will be \$13.00 for 9 holes, including cart. 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.) Please sign up by July 14 so we can let the course know how many golfers to expect. Questions? Contact Lane Hough.

CLIPPERS GAME – Sunday, August 11, 4:05 pm - Huntington Park

“For it’s 1, 2, 3 Strikes You’re Out At the Old Ball Game!”

Our church membership committee will once again sponsor an afternoon out at the local Columbus Clippers baseball game on Sunday, August 11, at 4:05. The Clippers are the top minor league farm club of the Cleveland Indians, and the stadium is ranked as one of the top five minor league stadiums in the entire USA.



Please get reservations and money to Bob Place by **July 20** so he can purchase the tickets and get them to you. We will be on the first base line this year, so we will not be bothered by hot sunshine the way we were the last two years. The prices of tickets are \$10 for adults and children over 13 and \$7 for children 12 and under and seniors over 60. Last year we had 25 people attend, so it is a good opportunity to have fun with your fellow church members.



CANOE TRIP – Saturday, August 24 - Little Miami Canoe Rental

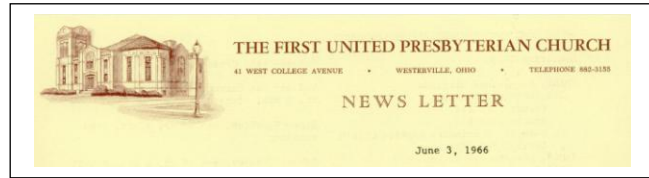
225 Corwin Rd., Oregonia, OH 45054 (513-899-3616)

This is an 8-mile trip. **Be at canoe livery by 9:30** – bus pickup leaves at 10:00 am. Livery is about a 45-minute drive from Westerville. Cost is about \$15 cash for one person’s share of a canoe & \$26 for a kayak. If you bring your own canoe or kayak, the cost for transport is \$15/canoe & \$13/kayak. A picnic lunch will be provided by the Membership and Events Committee, but please bring your own drinks. Carol O’Kane is coordinating this. Emergency contact day of: 614-204-1399

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

A Glimpse of the Past

Last Fall, Mark found about 70 issues of the *Advocate* dating from 1966 to 1989 in his files. These have been scanned and are now available on CD to be borrowed from the library. There are four copies of the CD; each has all the back issues that were found.



You can read about

- our church's struggles with civil rights and the Vietnam War in the 1960's, drugs in the 1970's, AIDS in the 1980's
- current members who joined in the 1960's
- a total church budget of \$57,000 in the 1960's
- a trip to Russia in 1988 to celebrate 1000 years of Christianity there

Classroom Antics to Rent First Presbyterian for a Week

Classroom Antics, a children's educational company, will rent the Fellowship Room, the Knox Meeting Room and the Nursery for the week of July 29 – August 2 to run computer classes for kids. Classroom Antics is a Cleveland based company that does computer-based summer camps for kids ages 7 to 13. Participants will learn computer programming, video game design, Minecraft coding, and other tech skills for a week of summer fun. The camp is open to the community and First Presbyterian children are welcome to register. Registration and fee information are available through www.classroomantics.com or at 1-800-595-3776.

Elder Assignments for 2019-2020

Jack Anderson – Membership, Evangelism & Events
Linda Barr -- Communications
Mary Bricker – Outreach
Brad Gamble – Administrative Services
Jim Hines – Administrative Services, Personnel
Lane Hough – Stewardship & Finance
Lori Lampel – Stewardship & Finance
Bill McCormick – Outreach, Nominations, Commissioner to Presbytery
Debby Nealer-Bice – Membership, Evangelism & Events
Phil Nussdorfer – Worship & Music
Diana Westfall – Worship & Music
Kim Wise – Christian Education
Janet Withers: Clerk (non-voting)

Note: The Session will not meet in July. Committees will meet only if needed.

Fall Proofing Your Home

Once again, the church's Health Ministry Team offers more suggestions to help keep us safe and healthy:

Six out of every ten falls happen at home, where we spend much of our time and tend to move around without thinking about our safety. Many of these falls could be prevented by making these simple changes:

- Remove anything that could cause you to trip or slip while walking. Clutter, small furniture, pet bowls, electrical or phone cords, and throw rugs can cause falls.
- Arrange furniture so you have plenty of room to walk freely. Also, remove items from stairs and hallways.
- Secure carpets to the floor and stairs. Use non-slip rugs, or attach rugs to the floor with double-sided tape.
- Avoid wet floors, and clean up spills right away. Use only non-skid wax on your waxed floors.
- Use non-slip items in the bathroom. Put non-slip strips or a rubber mat on the floor of your bathtub or shower.
- Make sure you have enough lighting in each room, on stairs, at entrances, and on outdoor walkways. Use light bulbs that have the highest wattage recommended for the fixture.
- Use the handrails on your stairs. When you carry something up or down the stairs, held the item in one hand and use the handrail with the other.
- Place a lamp next to your bed along with night lights in the bathroom, hallways, and kitchen. Keep a flashlight by your bed in case the power goes out and you need to get up at night.
- Stay physically active. Lower-body strength and balance can help prevent falls.



Taken from a pamphlet from the National Institute on Aging, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

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 Sunday Adult Class is on break for the summer and will resume on September 8.
4th Monday Discussion Group	4 th Mondays, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.	Rev. Gruen's office	The Tuesday Bible Study will begin a new study for the summer on Tuesday, July 9. We will be considering the "Fruits of the Spirit" as indicated by Paul in his letter to the Galatians. Come and see how love, peace, joy and more can be par of your life today.
Sunday Seminar (formerly called the Library Class)	Sunday Mornings 9:00-10:00 a.m.	Library	We will take a look at the cultural divide in our country through the book, <u>Strangers in Their Own Land</u> by Allie Hochschild. This month, the class will be held on the fifth Monday, July 29, in Rev. Gauen's office.
Circle 4 Women	3 rd Thursdays, 11:00 a.m.	Knox Meeting Room	This is our Presbyterian Women's group. We meet monthly for fellowship and Bible study. We are off for the Summer, but please join us at our next gathering on Sept. 18.

Presbytery of Scioto Valley

ANNUAL MISSION TRIP

Scioto Valley's annual Mission Work Trip for Adults is being planned for the week of October 27- November 2, working with the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) in Wilmington, NC. Our presbytery mission work team, which is limited to 25 adults, will be doing recovery and rebuilding work in response to destruction from Hurricane Florence in 2018. Applications will be available soon on the presbytery's web-site: psvonline.org.

For questions, email: Jeannie@psvonline.org



Pastor's Page

Dear Friends:

One of the best stories in the New Testament is when Jesus walks on the water. In Matthew 14, the evangelist tells the story of how the disciples went out on to the lake in a boat, leaving Jesus behind to pray. As they were out there, the wind rose. All through the night the wind blew and the waves came and the disciples held on for dear life. When morning came, they were ready to head to shore, but the wind was still coming at them so they couldn't make their way back to dry land. They were stuck out there, cold, wet, sleepless and hungry. It was in that early morning light that they first saw him, walking as if he were on a very long pier. Only he wasn't on a pier; Jesus was walking on the water. The pure shock of the sight terrified them. Jesus tried to reassure the frightened men by speaking to them. But that only served to confuse them. Who, or what, was standing out on the water? Peter looked out over the gunnel of the boat and said, "If it is really you Jesus, command me to come to you across the water." And so Jesus did as Peter asked. He commanded him to walk out on the water.

I've always wondered what went through Peter's mind when Jesus said, "Come." Did he really expect Jesus to answer his request? Did he say to himself, "Oh no! What have I gotten myself into?" Did he really believe that Jesus could make him walk on water?

I think that for many of us, life is like that moment for Peter. We pray to God for something to happen, something special, something dynamic, something new. And then when God answers our prayers and says, "Come," I think that most of us suddenly cringe and say to ourselves or to God, "Just a minute, I have to think about this," or "Maybe we could just take this a little slower God," or "I liked it better before." We hope for something from God, but when it comes, we aren't always sure we are ready.

Maybe Peter wasn't ready either, but he drew in his breath and stepped out of the boat. And even if he did have his moment of doubt, it was that very first step that counted.

Maybe we are never fully ready when God invites us to come out of the boat and step onto the water. Yet we'll never know until we actually take that first step. And when we do, we might sink, just like Peter did. But when we do sink, just like for Peter, Jesus will be there to lift us back up.

Yours in Christ,

In my duties as Vice-Moderator of the Presbytery, this month I will participate in the installation of the Rev. Janet Hufford as the new pastor at the Pataskala Presbyterian Church on July 13. I will also be chairing the meeting of the Ministry Initiatives Board on Thursday, July 11.