

# ADVOCATE

First Presbyterian Church  
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**August 2019**



## **Blessing of the Backpacks** **Sunday, August 11, 10:15 a.m.**

School is starting, and we want all our children to begin the year right. So on Sunday, August 11, 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 during the ‘Especially for Children’ segment of the service. It’s a reminder to us of all of God’s blessings, including school. We will also bless the backpacks of our Backpack Bounty program, which begins this month.



## **8-mile Canoe Trip**

**Saturday, August 24 - Little Miami Canoe Rental**

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

**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. (See [www.littlemiamicanoe.com](http://www.littlemiamicanoe.com) for location and more information.)

## **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 and Events 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.

The deadline for getting tickets has passed, so contact Bob Place to see if it’s still possible for you to attend. 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 ticket prices 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.

## ***Save the Date! Sunday, September 8***

# **Rally Day 2019**

**10:15 a.m. - Worship**

**Bibles Presented**

**Chancel Choir Anthem**

**5:00 p.m. - All-Church Picnic**

**on the East Lawn**

# Welcome, Ryder!

On Sunday, July 14, Rev. Gauen baptized Ryder Lawrence Fuller into the Christian Church and welcomed him into our church family. The son of April and Jeff Fuller, little Ryder joins his four big brothers: Carter, Lucas, Garrett, and Mattix.



# Ladies' Night Out

## August 20, 6:30 pm

The August Ladies Night Out will be at Don Tequila Mexican Grill, 6211 Cleveland Ave, just south of the intersection of Cleveland Avenue and 270 (coupons available at their web site). 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, August 9, 6:00 pm

On Friday, August 9, we will gather at **6:00 pm** (earlier time!) at **Olive Garden**, 1250 Polaris Pkwy. Everyone is welcome. These dinners out are a great chance to meet other members and get to know each other better. This restaurant is located on the north side of Polaris Parkway as an out building. Turn right two lights west of the I-71 overpass. Olive Garden has a standard American menu and is moderately priced. Check their website for the complete menu. Please let Jim Hines or Bob Place know whether you can attend.

## *August 23! '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.

Last chance to help out! If you can volunteer on August 23, 6-8 pm, please contact Jack Anderson.



# 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 future issues of the *Advocate*. 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.

## A Note from Rev. Springer

Following the worship service on July 21, many people asked about the books by Rachel Held Evans. Here is the list, and I hope you enjoy reading them! Grace and peace, Linda Springer

*-A Year of Biblical Womanhood*

*-Faith Unraveled: How a Girl Who Knew All the Answers Learned to Ask Questions*  
(Essentially an autobiography)

*-Searching for Sunday: Living, Leaving and Finding the Church*

*-Inspired: Slaying Dragons, Walking on Water and Loving the Bible Again*



# Youth Activities



## 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.

## Jesus and Me (J.A.M) Starting September 8!

Jesus and Me is gearing up to start again on September 8. Please bring your young ones to church for worship at 10:15am on Sundays. They will be in worship with their families on the first Sunday, when we have communion. For the remaining Sundays of the month, we will head up to what we affectionately call the “Heart Room” after the children’s focus part of the service. Here, the kids will learn the inspiring Bible stories that tell about God’s amazing love, and they will engage in activities that help draw them closer to God and one another.

We provide a variety of learning styles so that each child connects in a way that is easiest for them. We also encourage the children to take on leadership roles (reading aloud, helping a struggling friend, cheering for team games, etc.) and working together (build structures, reset bowling pins for a game, or clean up when we are finished).





## 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!



## Washing Your Hands Helps Keep You Healthy!

The church's Health Ministry Team hopes all of you are having a healthy summer and protecting your skin from sun, bites, rashes, scrapes, and bacteria. This month, we want to share handwashing information since, according to the CDC, handwashing is one of the best ways to protect yourself and your family from getting sick!

You should wash your hands before eating food, before and after preparing food, before and after treating a cut or wound, after using the bathroom, after touching an animal or animal feed or waste, and any time your hands are visibly soiled.

**Technique:** Wet, lather, **scrub for 20 seconds**, rinse, dry, then turn off faucet with the paper towel. (You can judge 20 seconds by humming the "Happy Birthday" song from beginning to end twice!!!)

If you use hand sanitizers, they should contain 60% alcohol. Rub over all surfaces of hand (including fingertips, thumbs, and between fingers) until dry, which should take around **20 seconds**. But again, if hands are visibly soiled, use soap and water.

As part of your good health, we hope the summer is refreshing you physically, mentally, and spiritually!

<b>ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN</b>			
<b>Activity</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Where</b>	<b>What</b>
<b>Tuesday Morning Bible Study</b>	Tuesdays, 9:30-11:00 a.m.	<b>Knox Meeting Room</b>	Join us this summer as we explore the Biblical foundation for the Apostle's Creed. Led by Rev. Gauen.
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Monday Discussion Group</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> Mondays, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.	<b>Knox Meeting Room</b>	We are examining the cultural divide in our country through the book, <i>Strangers in Their Own Land</i> by Allie Hochschild. This month, the class will be held on the fourth Monday, August 26, in Rev. Gauen's office.
<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 on recess for the summer and will resume on September 8 with a new study on the book <i>Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others</i> , by Barbara Brown Taylor.
<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. We are off for the summer, but please join us at our next gathering on September 19.

## **Adult Growth and Development**

### **Graveside Service for Rev. Kristin Schutte**

A Graveside Service will be held for the Rev. Kristin Schutte on Thursday, August 29, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. at the Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery at 10175 Rawiga Rd., Seville, Ohio. Kristin's ashes will be buried along with her husband, Harry Schutte, as part of a military ceremony. (Harry was a veteran of the U.S. Army). Anyone is welcome to join us. Please send Rev. Gauen an email if you are planning to come and would like to carpool.



Also, thanks to everyone who helped clean out Kristin's apartment on July 8. We were able to recover Harry's ashes, and many important papers. We also salvaged her books, clothes and many other items that have been donated for others to use, which we think would have make Kristin happy.



## Pastor's Page

Dear Friends:

At the end of June, Kathy and I took a vacation to New England—traveling up to Maine and then down the coast to Cape Cod before returning back to Westerville. We drove the whole way and thanks to modern technology, we traveled the whole way guided by our GPS system on our phones. The GPS apps are such great tools for getting around. Not only do they plot out a route for you to drive, but they let you know where construction is happening, where there is an accident or traffic jam; they even let you know where the speed traps are, not that I was planning to speed, of course. GPS certainly makes traveling around the country a lot easier.

GPS can also make traveling through life a lot easier. Of course, I'm not talking about the Global Positioning System; I'm talking about the "God Positioning System." The Global Positioning System connects us with satellites circling the earth, pinpointing your exact location every moment of every day. The God Positioning System connects with Jesus Christ who knows our exact spiritual location every moment of the day. Through Jesus' teachings we know how to live; how to position ourselves in the world. Jesus not only knows where we are, but points us in the right direction so that we are always on course, destined to arrive in heaven at the right time.

I'm certainly glad that I had my GPS on my trip to New England. I am even more glad that I have my "God Positioning System" for my trip through life. I hope that you are using yours as well.

Yours in Christ,

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

Presbytery duties in August: August is a lighter month for my Presbytery duties as Vice Moderator. I will be meeting with the Coordinating Team and with the Commission on Presbytery Operations, and I will be working with the Moderator on a new Mission Statement for the Presbytery.

Some people have asked me when I will be installed as Moderator. That will happen at the November 19, 2019 Presbytery meeting, which will be held in Circleville. The meeting will begin at 3:30 p.m., but the time for the installation has not been set yet. I'll let everyone know in the November Advocate when the time is set. (Of course, anyone is welcome to attend the whole Presbytery meeting, which begins at 3:30 p.m.)