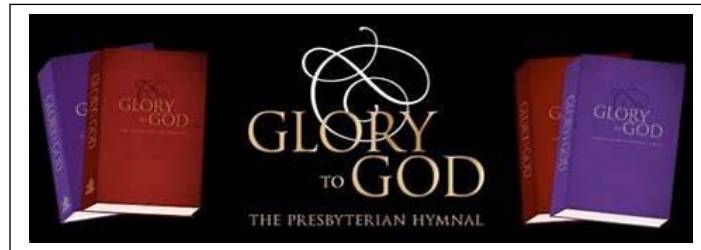


# ADVOCATE

First Presbyterian Church  
41 West College Avenue  
Westerville, Ohio 43081-2103  
614-882-3155 Phone 614-882-2421 Fax  
www.westervillefirstpresbyterian.org

**November 2019**

## **New Hymnal Dedication Sunday, November 3**



On November 3, we will introduce “Glory to God”—the new Presbyterian Hymnal—to our worship. We thank everyone who contributed to the purchase of these hymnals and to the Worship Committee for their work in acquiring them. The new hymnals have all our current favorites, as well as some favorites that were not in our old hymnals. In addition, they offer many new hymns that we will gradually introduce to the congregation over the coming months. Along with our new pew Bibles, the hymnals are exciting new additions to our worship of God.

## **Sundays in November**

- |              |                      |   |
|--------------|----------------------|---|
| <b>11/3</b>  | Communion Sunday     | “Glory to God”<br>Dedication of our new Hymnals                                       |
| <b>11/10</b> | Veterans Recognition | “Caring for the Caregiver”<br>Dedication of our Pledges for 2020                      |
| <b>11/17</b> |                      | “Then Your Light Shall Break Forth”<br>Partners in Conservation Craft Sale            |
| <b>11/24</b> | Thanksgiving Sunday  | Laity Sunday – Bill McCormick Preaches<br>Hanging of the Greens following the service |

# The Stewardship of Kindness

Mary Bricker, Outreach Committee Elder

What are those familiar sounds of fall? Leaves crunching, football games blaring, and discussions about stewardship. The Stewardship Committee is pairing with the Outreach Committee to ask you to commit to a financial gift to the church for 2020. This year, however, we are asking for more than money. We are asking for a gift of action, a gift of kindness. Your stewardship letter will contain two pledge cards: one for your financial gift and one for a commitment to giving acts of kindness.



What are these acts of kindness? Acts of kindness are small acts of generosity, from letting a car pull in front of you, to smiling at a stranger. Sure, these acts can be bigger. We have so many people in this church who engage in big acts, such as Backpack Bounty, Manna Café, and Pike County. ISN'T THAT ENOUGH? We appreciate these large acts. But sometimes, large acts can seem overwhelming for one person to do.

That is why this project is focused on SMALL acts. The purpose of the project is to ask EACH of you to commit to small acts of kindness—even if you are busy or tired or burned out. A small act could be complimenting a person for something he or she does every day. Or picking up a piece of trash. Or adding a little more to a tip for a server who may not deserve it but seems to be struggling. Or giving a hug—did you know that if you hug another person for 20 seconds, a hormone is released that helps someone feel calm, safe, and loved?

I've noticed since I started working on this project that it has increased my *awareness* of opportunities to be kind. And it has benefits for me: I feel I have done something to help others and to represent Jesus in a world where it is sometimes so hard to see his face. It also helps with perspective. I tried it at the hardware a few weeks ago, when I had a heavy load of mulch and big items. I decided to let two others go ahead of me in the line, and when I did that, I realized that it wasn't such a big deal. We were all going to get through the line and get our jobs done.

So here's how it works: We are asking you to commit to three acts of kindness each week for the coming year. If that seems like too much, remember that these are SMALL acts, acts you can easily accomplish. The pledge is for the year 2020, but since the holiday season is upon us soon, we would like you to start this commitment on Nov 15.

We would also like you to put your pledge card somewhere where it will remind you of your pledge. And we would like to hear ANONYMOUSLY about your acts of kindness, especially the small ones. You can let me know by sending me an email OR by writing down an act of kindness that you did or witnessed and putting it in the envelope that you will find on the bulletin board across from Olivia's desk. These "reports" will be kept anonymous. Submitting them will count as an act of kindness, because we know that these stories help encourage others.

The bulletin board and the *Advocate* will contain more information and inspiration to help you with this project. You can also explore some of these websites for ideas:

[www.randomactsofkindness.org](http://www.randomactsofkindness.org)

<https://www.naturalbeachliving.com/acts-of-kindness/>

<https://bucketlistjourney.net/random-acts-of-kindness-ideas-and-examples/>

<https://www.bradaronson.com/acts-of-kindness/>

Many other websites will also give you ideas. Become a RAKtivist! (Random Acts of Kindness Activist)

I will end with a quote from the Dalai Lama: “Be kind whenever possible...It is always possible.”

## **Order Your Own Bible!**

Many people have indicated an interest in ordering a personal copy of our new pew Bible. The cost of these is \$12. Large-print Bibles can be ordered for \$25. Please submit your order and payment as soon as possible. These would make a great Christmas gift.

By the way, we have placed the new large-print Bibles throughout the sanctuary, with extra ones on the table near where the ushers sit. Feel free to pick one up and take it to your pew on Sunday mornings!

## **Laity Sunday 2019 November 24**

At First Presbyterian Church, the Sunday before Thanksgiving, November 24 this year, is Laity Sunday, the Sunday during which the lay members of our congregation lead the worship service, including offering the sermon. This year, Elder Bill McCormick will present the message on this special Sunday.

Bill is a long-time member of this church and currently serves as Co-Chair of the Outreach and Mission Committee. Bill has been an active participant in Habitat for Humanity, helping to build homes here in Delaware County and around the world. Bill is still doing woodworking projects around the church and for his neighbors at Friendship Village.

# Partners in Conservation Event

**Sunday, November 17**

On Sunday, November 17, Partners in Conservation will be selling items before and after the service. The items come from Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Judy Hunt and Linda Ayers, members of our church, work with this group. Partners in Conservation (PIC) was founded in 1991 at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium by gorilla keeper Charlene Jendry and docents Judy Hoffman Bolton, Barbara DeLorme, and Jeffrey Ramsey.

PIC was started to help save the mountain gorilla, but the group found that by helping people, it can save animals. PIC approaches conservation holistically, educating local people about the importance of conservation and giving them alternative, conservation-friendly means to earn wages. PIC's fundamental belief is that by helping local populations to better their lives and thrive without poaching or deforestation, these people then are empowered and motivated to conserve wild places.

The Columbus Zoo funds PIC's operating budget, which makes it possible for all money raised by PIC to benefit both people and wildlife in Rwanda and the DRC. Jeff Ramsey is now the project manager of the program with Allison Edwards as his assistant. A volunteer committee works with them. Jeff goes to Rwanda each year to meet with our partners in Africa, see the progress of our grants, pick up ordered merchandise, and purchase extra merchandise from local artisans.

Along with the work that is done in Africa, PIC has a school program in Central Ohio that works with local teachers to present its conservation program and information about the animals and people of Rwanda and the DRC. In turn, the children earn money to donate to PIC to help the people and animals. PIC funds community development projects in Africa such as the Ubumwe Community Center for handicapped people, local schools, tree planting, and many artisan groups.



The Nyungwe Beekeeping Cooperative in Rwanda is supported by the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium and PIC. Using traditional beekeeping methods, beekeepers were accidentally starting forest fires, threatening wildlife habitats. Today, with modern equipment and training, there have been ZERO forest fires and honey production has increased--a conservation success!

# **Booklet on Volunteer and Mission Opportunities**

The Outreach Committee has compiled a booklet describing 16 opportunities for volunteering or supporting missions that have a direct or indirect connection to First Presbyterian Church. These opportunities range from joining Fabrics of Faith, to volunteering with hospice, to supporting the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Short descriptions are provided, plus contact information to find out more. You can get your free copy of the booklet at the Gathering Place or the church library (2nd floor).

Thank you to the Outreach Committee for compiling this booklet (especially Bill McCormick)!



## **Pike County Donations**

The hats-gloves-scarves-mittens-sox (handmade or purchased) collection box is ready for donations, down by the food baskets. This year, we will share the items with all three of our donation places: Pike County Food Pantry, Thornville Clothes Closet, and Rehoboth Used Clothing. We will deliver them before Thanksgiving.....so you have five weeks to fill the box. (Sun. Oct.20- Sun. Nov.24) Food and other clothing are still welcome, too!

Each of these donation places is different from the other two. Similarities are that they all are run by volunteers, they distribute these donated items free to all, and their "customers" are in need and are very appreciative of the help our congregation sends them. They all cannot thank you enough. Keep up the good work!! Thank you!!!

Sharon and John Davis



## **WARM Annual Thanksgiving Blessing- 2019**

Each Thanksgiving, Westerville Area Resource Ministry (WARM) organizes a food drive to provide Thanksgiving dinner for more than 300 Westerville area families in need. Our church, with the help of our Outreach Committee, has been a strong supporter of this worthy project since WARM started it more than two decades ago.

WARM requests delivery of the items to its warehouse between 10/29 and 11/12, so please make sure your items are at the church any time prior to 11/11. Place the items on the lower level near the south entrance, down the steps near the Pike County outreach food pantry items. A sign will be in place. Please label your bag as a WARM donation.

WARM requests purchase of nine non-perishable items (fit in one paper grocery bag and cost about \$20/bag). Donations of less than a full bag are welcome. WARM will make up individual bags from these donations. Your donations will be delivered to WARM on Tuesday, November 12, by a member of the Outreach Committee.

WARM also suggests a \$5 donation (more is welcome if one is able) to defray costs of perishable fruits and vegetables and a gift certificate to purchase meat. These monetary donations can be made by cash or check and placed in the offering plate or sent to the Church Treasurer, Barb Klingman, with appropriate designation. A single check will then be sent to WARM designated specifically for this event. WARM will allow each family to choose its meat and other items by either purchasing them from Ohio Food Banks, selecting from ongoing donations of fresh fruit and vegetables received throughout the year, and/or directly purchasing them from a supermarket with a gift certificate.

List of items for the non-perishable Thanksgiving bag:

- |                                    |                                   |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Brown sugar (1 – two-pound bag)!!! | Cranberry sauce (2 cans)          |
| Baked beans (2 – 28-ounce cans)    | Packaged turkey gravy (2 packets) |
| Mini marshmallows (1 bag)          | Chicken broth (1 – 32-ounce box)  |
| Canned yams (1 – 40-ounce can)     | Stove Top stuffing (1 box)        |
| offee (10-12 ounce can or bag)     |                                   |

Thank you for support of this worthy project!

Outreach Committee

# 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. In the meantime, many thanks to all of you who have already helped prepare communion!

**Coming in January!**  
**“Walk to Jerusalem by Easter”**  
**More details to follow!**

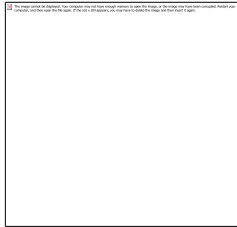
## From the Health Ministry Team: First Aid Starter Kits



The Health Ministry Team was tasked with providing a list or kit of what a First Aid Kit should include. It is important to have the right supplies handy and make sure they aren't outdated.

Keep a kit at home, in your vehicle, or anywhere you could have an issue and need some medical attention. This does not replace calling 911 when necessary, but it can be the first line of help. We will soon be providing a First Aid Starter kit, which will include a list of what a kit should include, a first aid guide, and a few samples to get your kit started. Stay tuned for more details on when this will be available.

# Youth Activities



## Discovery Zone

**Wednesdays, 5:00 pm**

Our Discovery Zone has begun. Come join us as we engage in Bible Study, fun, and a meal. The program is for children ages preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Adults are welcome to join us for dinner at 6:30pm. This year our program will feature the “Growing in Grace and Gratitude” lesson plan from the Presbyterian curriculum. We hope to see you and your kids as we learn about God and enjoy time in God’s presence.



## Jesus and Me (J.A.M)

**Sundays during the service**

Our Sunday School program for children ages kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade has also begun. On the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays for each month, we meet during worship time, after the children’s message. Please bring your child with you into the service, and we will move upstairs following the children’s message. This year, we are engaging in the *Deep Blue* Curriculum in which we are learning how to be good neighbors and community members according to God’s word.

We invite you to bring your child on the 1<sup>st</sup> (and any 5<sup>th</sup>) Sundays of the month in order to experience a full worship service, including communion on the first Sunday. We have bags of material to help the children stay engaged during the service, and we encourage you to quietly explain the parts of the service and the importance of worship in our lives (this is a part of them learning also). We look forward to seeing you and your children this year!





## **Sunday School**

**Sundays, 9:15 am**

Sunday School for adults and youth is also available starting at 9:15 on Sunday mornings. We have Adult Sunday School in our library (2<sup>nd</sup> floor by the elevator) and a class for adults with special needs starting in the Heart Room (childcare is provided in our nursery). Our middle and high school youth are invited to meet in their recently renovated classroom for Sunday School at this time also. Please join us and learn more about what it means to live as Christ calls us.



## **Kids, Youth, and Family Sign-up Sheet**

Dear families, as a church we recognize that although our children will grow into the church of tomorrow, they are also part of the church today. We want to make sure they feel that way by participating in several options for community participation and service.

For our young families, we are asking that two children sign up to greet other children each week during worship. We will need a child (and parent) at each entrance to our sanctuary to pass out the activity bags and welcome children and their families into our worship space.

Older children (3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grades) are invited to be Acolytes. Each Sunday morning, we begin our worship service with the lighting of the worship candles by our Acolytes. Acolytes must be trained to properly light the candles. If your child or grandchild, would like to become an acolyte, please talk to Rev. Gauen.

For our middle and high school youth, we are asking that they sign up to lead the children's focus or read for our opening once a month.

Our youth have so much to offer our church, and we want them to know that they are just as much a part of our community as our liturgists, elders, and ushers. Please see the sign-up book in the main lobby of the church to reserve your child's spot. (Look under the acolytes tab.) Thank you so much for being a part of our church family!



## **Pie Baking**

**Sunday, November 10, 5pm**

There is nothing sweeter than pumpkin pie on Thanksgiving. This year, we will be making pumpkin pies to share with those in need. We will meet on Sunday, November 10, at 5pm to make the pies and talk with the children and families about our church's mission and ministry to Pike County to help those less fortunate. Please come and join us!



## **Children and Youth Volunteer Training**

**Saturday, November 9, 1pm**

Rev. Heather Hicks will be hosting a training for all our volunteers and teachers wishing to work with children and youth on Saturday, November 9, at 1pm. All members wishing to volunteer for the school year must attend in person or watch the live feed on Facebook. There will be another training in the spring for our VBS volunteers. Thank you for your dedication to our young friends. We look forward to seeing you there.

# Upcoming Fun Activities



## Family Fun Night Activities

Here is a list of the upcoming activities. Please mark your calendars and join us.

November 10, 5pm- Pie Baking for Pike County

December 7, 10am-2pm- Pageant Practice and Advent Workshop (visit from Santa)

December 8, 6pm- Dinner and pageant



Our middle and high school age group also has some fun things planned for this year. Please come and join us for fun and fellowship.

November 3- Hiking and Plogging at Highbanks

November 17- Friendsgiving & Sardines

December 7- Help with Advent workshop (10am-2pm)

December 8- Help with Christmas pageant

## Staying in Touch



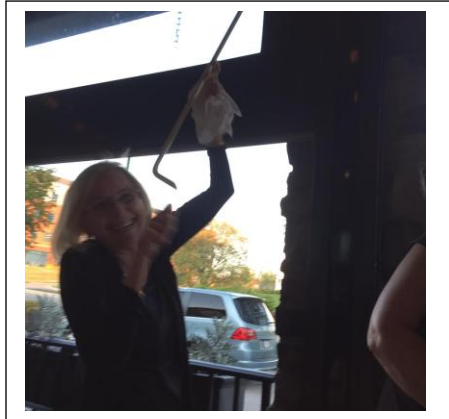
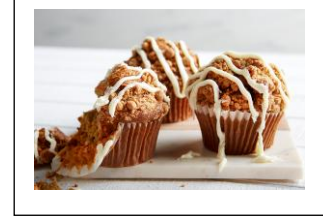
Do you have a college student or another family member who is far from home and would like to hear from church members? Please send his or her name and whatever contact information is comfortable to Linda Barr. We'll share this information in the *Advocate* so church members can send a birthday card, a short note, and so on.

# Ladies' Night Out

**Tuesday, November 19, 6:30 pm**

The November Ladies Night Out will be at Mimi's Restaurant (614-433-0441), 1428 Polaris Parkway. All women of the church and their friends are welcome. Please contact Diana Westfall to tell her you are coming.

Ladies, don't miss a good time!



Anything can happen during Ladies Night Out! Here, Diana Westfall rearranges the window coverings at the Rusty Bucket in October.



## Dine-Out Group

**Friday, November 8, 6:30 pm**

On Friday, November 8, we will gather at **6:30 pm** at the **Polaris Grill**, 1835 Polaris Pkwy (614-333-6289). Everyone is welcome. These dinners are a great chance to meet other members and get to know each other better. Polaris Grill is located on the south side of Polaris Parkway immediately east of I-71 at the Polaris exit. It has main dishes (\$17-\$34), sandwiches and salads (\$10-\$17). Check the website for the complete menu. Please let Jim Hines or Bob Place know whether you can attend.

On Friday, December 6, (this is the **FIRST** Friday in order to avoid the Habitat event on December 13!!!), we will gather at 6:30 pm at **Lucky House**, (56 East Schrock Rd. in south Westerville). More to follow next month.

# Vegetarian Dining

**Saturday, November 16, 6:00 pm**



Along with “regular” Dine with 9 groups and a Dine Out group, our church offers a dining opportunity for people who are vegetarians or who would like to see what tasty treats people eat when they don’t eat meat. One example is this spinach quiche. Delicious!

A year ago, 15 people enjoyed these gatherings: laughing, chatting, sharing dishes and ideas, and—oh, yes, eating meatless meals. We gather in Fellowship Hall on a mostly monthly basis. As of this writing, we have 22 people on the “interested-in-Vegetarian Dining” list. In all, 17 attended our last fun dinner on October 19. Our next dinner is Saturday, November 16, and you are invited!

Please note: we’re not weird (or *too* weird); we don’t expect people to forego meat for always; actually, few of us are really vegetarians. But we do enjoy the tasty and nutritious meals that result from the variety of dishes we bring and share. You will, too.... If you’re curious but not committed, that’s ok! Come to see what we’re about. So call Beckey Stamm now.

## Visitor Orientation

**Sunday, November 10, 11:30 a.m.**

If you have been visiting First Presbyterian Church and would like to learn more about our ministries for Christ, you are invited to our Visitor Orientation on Sunday, Nov. 10, at 11:30 a.m. We will gather at the back of the Sanctuary after the worship service for a get-acquainted time and a tour of our facilities. If you have questions, please contact Rev. Gauen at 614-882-3155.

## How Is Your Life Punctuated?

**G**OD

will never leave us  
nor forsake us.

This promise of scripture  
is true.

So

on earth

there is peace

in the heart that  
trusts God.

Some trust in education,

some in wealth,

some in reputation

and some in just good luck.

But security for time

and eternity

trusts in love...

God's love, in Christ Jesus.

How are the sentences of your  
life's book punctuated?

Is it only periods, commas,  
semi-colons, dashes, or question  
marks? Or are your sentences spo-  
ken to men and women and those  
who happen along your way of life,  
punctuated with a smile, a chuckle,  
a tear, a twinkle in the eye, or an  
understanding glance?

Maybe it's your heart that  
determines the punctuation marks  
in the sentences you speak. If that  
is true they will know it — they will  
feel it.

*The Bible says "Out of the  
abundance of the heart the mouth  
speaketh." (Matthew 12:34)*

Offered by Bev Etling

## Thought for the Day

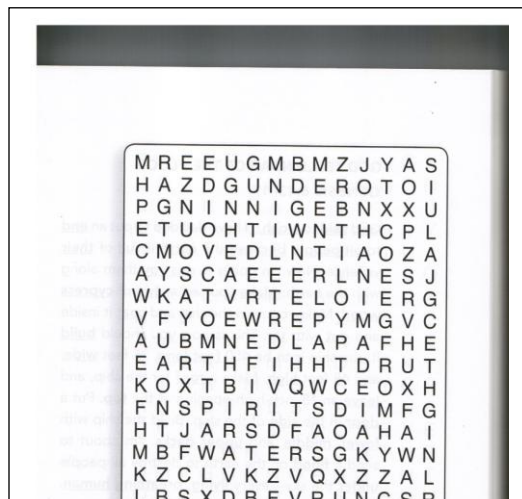
Winston Churchill famously said that "Dogs look up to man. Cats look down to man. Pigs look us straight in the eye and see an equal."

Offered by Olivia Hodorowski

Readers: please do share other poems or short articles that will help inform or uplift us! Send them to Linda Barr.

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>	<u>The Book of Matthew</u> . Join us as we explore the first book of the New Testament, where we find the Beatitudes and the Great Commission. 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>	In this class we delve into the practice of faith in our modern world. Led by Rev. Gauen. Next Class, Monday, Nov. 25.
<b>Sunday Seminar (formerly called the Library Class)</b>	Sunday Mornings 9:15-10:00 a.m.	<b>Library</b>	The Sunday Adult Class is studying 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. Please join us on November 21. Led by Elaine Foley.

## Adult Growth and Development



This page is taken from *Everything Bible Word Search*, a book of 150 puzzles related to the Bible. It's a great brain teaser. Can you find any Bible-related words on this page? (Ask Kim Hunt for the answers!)



## Pastor's Page



Dear Friends:

Last November, I was installed as the Vice-Moderator of the Presbytery of Scioto Valley. I have served in that role for the past 11 months, and now I will step up to the position of Moderator. On Tuesday, November 19, at the end of the Presbytery Meeting in Circleville, I will be installed as the next Moderator of the Presbytery of Scioto Valley. For those who might want to attend, this will take place somewhere between 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. (although, just like Session meetings, Presbytery meetings sometimes go long) at the Circleville Presbyterian Church, 134 E. Mound Street, Circleville, OH.

After I am installed, I will have the duty of moderating the four regularly scheduled Presbytery meetings in 2020, as well as any special meetings that might be called. As part of my “training,” I have already moderated a small part of each Presbytery meeting this past year, so I have some knowledge of what is required. It takes both diligent preparation before the meeting--and quick thinking during it. I’m not sure that the word “fun” describes moderating, but it is satisfying to help the Presbytery do its business.

Other duties of the moderator include installing new pastors in the Presbytery. I’ve already done this once back in July, and this is the most enjoyable part of the job. I get to meet the new pastors in the Presbytery, and I get to celebrate with them and their churches as they begin their ministry together.

My biggest commitment as Moderator will come next June when I will attend the national General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA); the Moderator automatically goes along with five other commissioners elected by the Presbytery. At GA, held in Baltimore June 20-27, 2020, I will deliberate and vote on the theological and practical matters facing the denomination. Some in our congregation have attended GA as commissioners in years past, but this will be the first time I will have this privilege.

This congregation has been very supportive of me during my year as Vice-Moderator, and I certainly ask for your continued support and prayers as I assume the position of Moderator. I know that I couldn’t do this without your support. And this time next year, I will be “retiring” as Moderator, although I will continue to serve the denomination, First Presbyterian, and Christ’s Church in whatever ways I can.

Yours in Christ,