

ADVOCATE

June 2020

First Presbyterian Church
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New Officers for the Church!

Last month's *Advocate* reviewed the process for electing officers, making accommodations for the governor's stay-at-home order. The Nominating Committee had done its work and presented four candidates for both Elder and Deacon. Members were invited to make additional nominations by May 8. None was made, so the Session at its May 11 meeting voted to declare that the officers presented by the Nominating Committee were elected without opposition.

The new Elders are Mary Bricker (serving a second term), Rob Rankin, Vicki Moon, and John McElhaney. The new Deacons are Bonnie Moses (serving a second term), Anne Bates, Glenna Cameron, and Sue Zust. Congratulations to all! These new leaders will assume their duties in June.

Thanks to our Nominating Committee--Bill McCormick, Kathy Krotz, Mindy Miller, Tom Jonard, Bill Hitt, and Marilyn Hines--for their work in finding our new leaders.

Rev. Gauen "Goes" to General Assembly

When Rev. Gauen was elected as Moderator of the Presbytery of Scioto Valley, one requirement was to attend the Presbyterian national gathering, called the "General Assembly" or GA, as a delegate from our presbytery. This GA was to be held in Baltimore, MD, from Saturday, June 20, to Saturday, June 27. Mark was all set to go when the pandemic hit. The trip to Baltimore has been cancelled; however, the GA will continue in a virtual format. It will still begin on June 20 and end on June 27. And important business will still be conducted in between. But it will all be done through modern electronics. Rev. Gauen will stay at home that week and spend much of his time in front of a computer screen, listening to speeches, reading documents, and occasionally voting on important business.

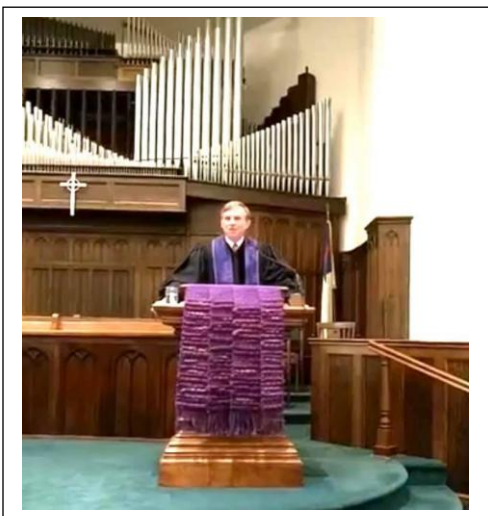
If you would like to follow the actions at GA this year, you can log onto pcusa.org/ga.

Pandemic Worship *Is* Evolving Worship

Worship is central to the Christian faith and very much a part of the life of First Presbyterian Church. However, this pandemic has forced our church and every other church to rethink and reimagine how and where and even why we do worship. The Session of First Presbyterian has been doing just that for the past two months and continues to explore the issues and the possibilities of worship in our current context.

During June, the Session decided that we will not have in-person worship in the sanctuary. While some churches may be reopening their doors in the coming month, our Session felt that we are not yet prepared to reopen properly. We need to take into account many health and safety measures before we can resume in-person worship.

When we do return to the sanctuary for worship, many things will be different. Social distancing will be required. Masks and sanitation stations, too. And the service won't be the same. We won't be passing offering plates. And we won't be greeting each other with handshakes and/or hugs. And no to the coffee hour as well. We must consider many things for when we do resume worship. Someday our familiar practices, such as coffee hour, will return, but not right away.



And then there is the streaming of the service. When we first closed down, we were just going to tape the sermon. Then Kathy Gauen offered to video Mark preaching live through our church's Facebook page. Kathy then added a children's message. Next, we added taped music, and now we've added Lyn Meyer on the organ and Heather serving as liturgist. At each step, we are learning how to do something we've never done before.

The Session has a team looking into better equipment and other platforms besides Facebook for streaming our services. We hope to add these improvements before too long. When we go back to in-person worship, we will continue to livestream the service so that those who

remain at their homes can join with those who gather in the sanctuary—one church in many places. Videoing our services now is helping us learn how to do things live so that we can do a good job recording our in-person services when we return to the sanctuary for worship.

So, for June you are invited to join the livestream of our worship on the church's Facebook page at 10:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings. A few minutes after the worship has ended, we will livestream an "Especially for Children." Both of these presentations are saved to the Facebook page so you can watch them later. We will also keep posting the audio of the services on our church's webpage, usually on Mondays, and Mark will continue to send out printed copies of his sermons by the end of the week.

We don't know when we will return to fully worshipping in the sanctuary, but when we do, we'll be ready. In the meantime, we will continue to worship God in new and different and creative ways—as Christians always have.

Contribute to the Pandemic Devotional

The Worship Committee would like to develop a Pandemic Devotional for our members, but we need your help in writing the devotions for us. You may base your devotional on a scripture or use no scripture at all. Some ideas for scriptures are:

HOPE: Psalm 23, Lamentations 3:22-23, Jeremiah 29:11,
I Corinthians 13:13, II Corinthians 9:8, I Peter 1:3

FEAR/ANXIETY: Isaiah 41:10, Matthew 6:25-31

You also could send a story, poem, or picture. A story or poem should be three or four paragraphs long. Send it as an attachment to secretary@fpcw.us. Please put “pandemic devotional” in the subject line so Olivia knows what it is. We hope to receive many submissions that we will be able to share with each other. This is an extraordinary period in our history, and you can help us develop a remembrance of this time.

Habitat Lenten Banks

Have you wondered what to do with that bank you got at church way back before Lent even started? Just like everything else in our world, that bank took a backseat to coronavirus life. Lent and Easter came and went, but the bank?

If you started it or not; if you filled it or not; if you can't find it; if you'd like to forget you ever saw that bank—WHATEVER! The point is, all contributions to the Westerville Habitat Partnership (WHP) are appreciated. It's never too late to make a donation.

Affordable housing is always needed, and building it is our mission. Checks or cash, marked WHP, can be given at any point to the church or to Bernie Simpkins. Thank you!



Sanctuary Flowers



During this time of sheltering in place, flower arrangements in the sanctuary have provided a nice backdrop for the livestreaming of the Sunday worship services. These arrangements are donated by church members, often in memory or in honor of a loved one. Some dates in July and August are available for sign-up. Call the church office to schedule your donation. The cost is \$33. After the service, you may pick up your arrangement or have the Deacons deliver it to a church

member who needs cheering up.

Event Update

(Several events/projects are still on hold, but others are back!)

Reaching out to Refugees

On hold, but we received this email from Tyler Reeve, our contact at the Community Refugee and Immigration Services (CRIS), regarding our \$5000 donation to this group:

As I mentioned on the phone, First Presbyterian's donation has ended up going toward some of the many emergency assistance requests that have come to CRIS lately - essentials like rent, utilities, food, medical expenses, etc.

The case we briefly discussed was that of a man whose legal documents were stolen from him at gunpoint at a time when he was job-hunting. We used some of your donation to pay the fees associated with replacing his green card - a necessary step for finding a new job and something he couldn't afford without help. His caseworker shared with me that he was extremely grateful when he learned that the fees were paid from a donation and told her, "I really appreciate that church! Now I have hope."

Backpack Bounty

On hold. The schools are closed now, but in the fall, we will probably continue packing backpacks of food for hungry families at Huber Ridge School. In the meantime, we welcome more contributions of nonperishable food. If you don't have a Backpack Bounty menu to guide your purchases, we always need canned vegetables and canned fruit.

Manna Café

Manna Café continues to be on hold. The organization is currently working to set guidelines and best practices for groups coming in to cook and serve a large number of people in a small space. Our next schedule meal is August 5, still a few months away.

Linda Springer

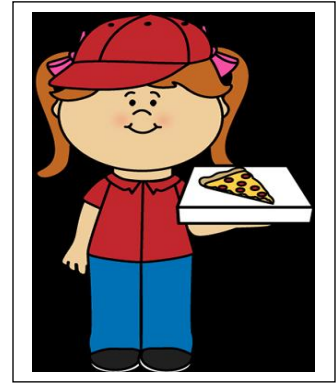
Vegetarian Dining Group

On hold. Watch for the announcement of our next dinner, folks! Remember, you don't have to be a vegetarian to enjoy the delicious food and friendly conversation at these meals. For more information, contact Beckey Stamm.

Dine in with Nine: Friday, June 12

On Friday, June 12, we will not be going out to a restaurant. Instead, we will each be ordering from our favorite restaurant and picking up our meal or having it delivered at home. Then we will have a Zoom gathering to discuss our choices and catch up with our church friends.

Zooming is easy – click on the email link that we will send to you, click on “Open Zoom,” and wait for the host to let you in. It helps if you have a camera on your computer, but you do not have to have one. You can also attend a Zoom meeting using a smart phone. Contact Jim Hines or Bob Place for help.



If you'd like to join us, please respond to Jim or Bob so they can put you on the Zoom invitation list. We will aim to start at 7 pm on the 12th.

Some local restaurant favorites are Lucky House (E. Schrock Rd.), Koble's (uptown), Mimi's (Polaris Parkway), Pasquale's Pizza (W. Schrock Rd.), Bonefish Grill (Polaris Parkway), Don Tequila (Cleveland Ave.), Minico's Italian (E. County Line Rd.), Time & Change (E. County Line Rd.), Polaris Grill (Polaris Pkwy), O'Charley's (Cleveland Ave. or Polaris Pkwy), Olive Garden (Polaris Pkwy), Wendell's (N. State St.), Rusty Bucket (E. Polaris Pkwy), Giordano's (Polaris Pkwy), Antonio's Pizza (Sunbury Rd.), Carfagna's Kitchen (Polaris Pkwy), Old Bag of Nails (uptown)—or your own choice!

Ladies' Night Out

On hold. We must wait for the chaos to clear before we set a date for our next fun evening together. Contact: [Diana Westfall](#).

Possible Summer Activities Sponsored by the MEE Committee

No dates have been set, but the committee hopes to host these popular activities:

:



JULY

***BIKING EVENT** – With longer and shorter biking courses

***MEN'S BREAKFAST *GOLF OUTING**

AUGUST



***CLIPPERS GAME**

***CANOE TRIP**

Father's Day Picnic at First Presbyterian

Sunday, June 21 at Noon

on the Church Lawn

Traditionally, First Presbyterian Church holds an outdoor worship service and picnic on Father's Day. With the pandemic, logistical issues make it difficult for us to hold an outdoor service, so we will continue to LiveStream our service at 10:15 a.m. on Facebook, with Rev. Heather Hicks preaching, and Earl Linhart and Lyn Meyer providing the music.

However, we are still going to have the picnic! The Father's Day picnic will take place on the east lawn of the church and the parking lot areas of the church. It will begin at Noon on Sunday, June 21. Picnickers will need to bring all their own "stuff": their own meal, their own beverages, their own blanket, chairs, table. The church is only going to supply the outdoor space, hand sanitizer, and access to the restrooms. Picnickers will also need to clean up their own area when they leave. Everyone is also expected to maintain social distancing and use masks when interacting with others. It is also okay to come to the church and picnic in your car, if you'd like.

To make this special event even more special, Todd and Kim Wise will share some music with us!

Additionally, if you would like to bring a canned food item for the Pike County food pantry, that would be a welcome extra.

Happy Father's Day!



Kindness in the Time of Virus, Part 2

Mary C. Bricker

This is a very sentimental time of year with graduations, celebrations of a school year completed, friends parting ways. We have become a very resourceful community, with people creating all sorts of ways to celebrate in this time of quarantine. And yet, we have become very restless. We have been stuck in our homes with (or without) our loved ones for quite a while now. We want life to be normal again. We are getting on each other's nerves. We long for vacations, trips to visit others, and meals out together.

I have heard many people describing their feelings as “blah.” “It’s like nothing matters. . . I don’t know what day it is, and I can’t go anywhere, and I don’t care anymore,” one person said.

I am here to tell you that IT matters. And YOU matter. We have all been feeling a bit this way, but you and your acts of kindness are still very important. One of the best ways to make IT matter is to do something for someone else. That person might be someone living in your home, who leaves something out for the umpteenth time. Patiently putting it away is an act of kindness. Offering kindness instead of anger is what we are called to do, even in the time of quarantine. As external restrictions are eased, we have more opportunity for kindness in the world. Perhaps the greatest kindness we can offer right now is to exercise caution, wear our masks, and be patient with the slowness of the openings out there. It is a great kindness to put someone else’s health ahead of our own desires to shop, play, and socialize. Wearing a mask is a very important way to do that.

Because we have to be patient, I urge you to try to live in the moment. Try not to think too far ahead, try to find peace in your today. Celebrate your family TODAY. Remember all the gifts that we have around us.

If you need some help with this, I am attaching a passage from Al-Anon Family Groups that may help:

JUST FOR TODAY I will try to live through this day only, and not tackle all my problems at once. I can do something for twelve hours that would appall me if I felt that I had to keep it up for a lifetime.

JUST FOR TODAY I will be happy. This assumes to be true what Abraham Lincoln said, that “Most folks are as happy as they make up their minds to be.”

JUST FOR TODAY I will adjust myself to what is, and not try to adjust everything to my own desires. I will take my “luck” as it comes and fit myself to it.

JUST FOR TODAY I will try to strengthen my mind. I will study. I will learn something useful. I will not be a mental loafer. I will read something that requires effort, thought, and concentration.



JUST FOR TODAY I will exercise my soul in three ways: I will do somebody a good turn, and not get found out; if anybody knows of it, it will not count. I will do at least two things I don't want to do – just for exercise. I will not show anyone that my feelings are hurt; they may be hurt, but today I will not show it.

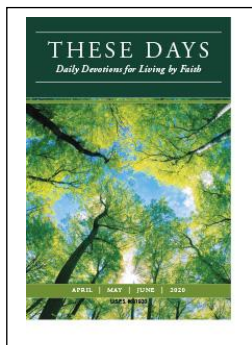
JUST FOR TODAY I will be agreeable. I will look as well as I can, dress becomingly, keep my voice low, be courteous, criticize not one bit. I won't find fault with anything, nor try to improve or regulate anybody but myself.

JUST FOR TODAY I will have a program. I may not follow it exactly but I will have it. I will save myself from two pests: hurry and indecision.

JUST FOR TODAY I will have a quiet half hour all by myself and relax. During this half hour, sometime, I will try to get a better perspective on my life.

JUST FOR TODAY I will be unafraid. Especially I will not be afraid to enjoy what is beautiful, and to believe that as I give to the world, so the world will give to me.

These Days



If you would like a copy of the *These Days* devotional book for April, May, and June, please let Pastor Mark know (pastormark@fpcw.us). He will have it sent to you. We have several copies and will mail them out until they are gone.

Virtual Garden Tour Thank You

The collecting of photos for the Virtual Garden Tour ended Monday, May 24. Thank you to the ten participants who invited us into their gardens to view the beautiful spring flowers, shrubs, and trees. A special Thank You goes to Tom Jonard for his creativity and technical talents in posting and maintaining the tour on the church web page. We hope you have enjoyed it.

Health Ministry Team

Youth Activities

Vacation Bible School

Please be advised that we have decided to cancel our VBS program this year due to the coronavirus. We will, however, have an amazing welcome-back event for EVERYONE once it is safe to do so. Please keep your eyes peeled for this fun and exciting event.

Summer Camp

Summer camps have been closed for the summer, but that does not mean that there will be nothing for the kids. Each camp will be hosting a camp program online. Please stay tuned for the dates of their release. You may have an opportunity to register online for these online programs. Please stay tuned for this information, as we do not have all the details.

Discovery Den



Heather Hicks will continue to make videos for our younger kids (ages 3-5th grade). They will be posted to YouTube via the channel called “Discovery Den.” The logo is the little green handprint shown here. We will also continue to post these to our Facebook group. The videos will be posted each week **on Thursday**. If you would like to hear certain stories, please contact Rev. Hicks, and she will try to make sure they appear in upcoming videos.

Heather is also doing several things for our middle and high-school youth. Each day there will be a “Boredom Buster” activity they can engage in at home. These will include fun things, as well as some “mission” type projects. Please keep an eye out for those ideas in the daily e-mails. We will also have a chance to meet via Zoom each Wednesday afternoon from 1--1:40pm. Our Zoom meetings may involve games and activities we can do together. We would love to touch base with your youth group member. Please keep an eye out for the Zoom code number so you can join us. This number will be posted in the daily e-mails.

Blessings to you all,
Rev. Heather Hicks

What's in Your Future?



If you are a high school senior, matriculating college student in a bachelor degree, associate degree or similar level of education, and a member of our church, it is time to think about applying for a First Presbyterian Church of Westerville Education Scholarship.

Let Rev. Gauen know that you would like an application, and he will mail one to as many families as he can. The due date for applications has been extended to Monday, June 15. If you wish to be considered for a 2020 Scholarship, the Scholarship Committee must receive all the following requirements by June 15.

- A fully completed application form (Incomplete applications will not be considered.)
- Two letters of recommendation, one academic and one personal/character
- A copy of your recent grade transcript

An application for a scholarship may be submitted every year 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 or if you have not received an application, contact Kathy Krotz.

Pike County Thrift Stores Open!

The Pike County Thrift Stores are open again! We will continue to collect and deliver nonperishable food donations and once again gather gently used clothing for Pike County. You can leave your donations at church at the doors under the portico, and they will be moved inside daily. Or you can drop them off at our home at the garage doors (if it's not raining) or on the patio at the porch.

Again..... Keep up the good work...the people in Pike County really appreciate it!

Sharon & John Davis

Updates for Church Directory?

Have you moved or changed your landline number, your cell number, or your email address? It will be a while before our church directory is updated, so let's share that information through the *Advocate*. Be assured that we will NOT include this information in the version of the *Advocate* that is posted on the church web site. Below are two changes to get us started. If you'd like to post an update of your information, please send it to Linda Barr.

Submitted by Janet Withers, whose father-in-law was Senior Pastor at this church for more than 50 years and whose daughter sometimes preached here

A Good Lesson

Name the five wealthiest people in the world.

Name the last five Heisman trophy winners.

Name the last five winners of the Miss America contest.

Name ten people who have won the Nobel or Pulitzer prize.

Name the last half-dozen Academy Award winners for best actor and actress.

Name the last decade's worth of World Series winners.

How did you do? These are no second-rate achievers. They are the best in their fields. The point is, it is hard to remember the headliners of yesterday. Their applause died, and their awards become tarnished. High achievements are forgotten. Accolades and certificates are buried with their owners.

Now, try another quiz.

List a few teachers who aided your journey through school.

Name three friends who have helped you through a difficult time.

Name five people who have taught you something worthwhile.

Think of a few people who have made you feel appreciated.

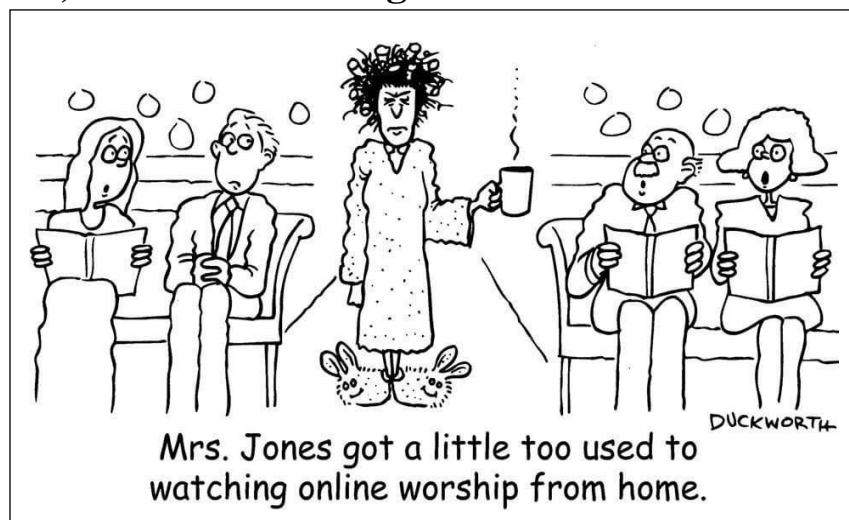
Think of five people you enjoy spending time with.

Name half a dozen heroes whose stories have inspired you.

I found the second quiz much more to my liking. This quiz says to me that the people who make a difference in our lives are not the ones with the most credentials, the most money, or the most awards. They are the ones that care. I pray they are people who are sharing the love of Christ. Bless those people who have made a difference in your life by letting them know how much they are appreciated.

Interim Pastor Gary Burnett
Parma-South Presbyterian Church, 2004

A little humor, care of Bev Etling:



Adult Growth and Development

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN			
Activity	When	Where	What
The Sunday Adult Class	<p><i>This class is suspended for the time being due to the pandemic.</i></p> <p><i>A notice will be sent out when the class can resume.</i></p>		
Shelter-in-place Bible Studies	<p>Tuesdays, 9:30-10:30 am</p> <p>Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 p.m.</p> <p>Thursdays, 1:30-2:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Zoom Meetings</p> <p>-If interested, email Pastor Gauen at pastormark@fpcw.us</p>	<p>The Books of II and III John.</p> <p>We will conduct an interactive Bible Study of these cherished books of the New Testament in three different sections.</p>
4th Monday Discussion Group	<p>4th Mondays, 7:30 – 9:00 pm</p>	<p>Zoom Meeting</p> <p>-If interested, email Pastor Gauen at pastormark@fpcw.us</p>	<p>We are looking at the formation of the Bible through the book, <i>Inspired</i>, by Rachel Held Evans. Led by Rev. Gauen. Due to the Presbyterian GA, we will meet on the third Monday, June 15, at 7:30 pm.</p>
Circle 4 Women	<p>3rd Thursdays, 11:00 am</p>	<p>Zoom Meeting</p> <p>-If interested, email Pastor Gauen at pastormark@fpcw.us or call Elaine Foley at 614-795-2202.</p>	<p>Our Presbyterian Women's group meets monthly for fellowship and Bible study. Led by Elaine Foley. Our next class will be on Thursday, June 18.</p>



Pastor's Page

Dear Friends:

Every spring, First Presbyterian Church elects officers to be our servant leaders. This past April, we elected John McElhaney, Vicki Moon, and Rob Rankin as new ruling Elders and Anne Bates, Glenna Cameron, and Sue Zust as new Deacons. They will begin their duties in June. I ask that you surround them with your prayers as they begin their ministry on behalf of this congregation, especially since they are starting under the most difficult of circumstances. As these leaders begin their terms of service, so ends the terms of three Elders and three Deacons. I would like to thank these retiring officers for their gifts of time and talent to this church.

Bill McCormick: Bill is finishing a three-year term as Elder in which he headed our Outreach Committee and our Nominating Committee. In both roles, Bill brought a keen sense of compassion for the church and for those the church serves.

Jim Hines: Jim is completing six years as Elder during which he served in many capacities. The most significant of these was as manager of our building project. In all those roles, Jim has managed to apply his deep faith to the practicalities of leading a church.

Jack Anderson: Jack had to resign as an Elder last fall because of his work, but while he was an active Elder, he helped to guide our Membership, Evangelism, and Events Committee. Jack challenged all of us to be more than we thought we could be.

Debbie Dunlope: Debbie is finishing six years as a Deacon, during which she served as Moderator. Debbie was also instrumental in creating the Health Ministry Team, which has spurred all of us to more healthy lifestyles.

Elaine Foley: Elaine has served faithfully as a Deacon, shepherding those assigned to her with love and grace. Elaine also teaches the Circle 4 Women group and will continue to do that ministry for our church. Thank you, Elaine, for your service in the work of Christ.

April Fuller: April has the distinction of being the first Deacon in my time here to give birth while actively serving. Even with that distraction, April managed to care for her parish and our entire church with consideration and dedication.

Naomi Wriston: Naomi served three years as a Deacon. During her time, she was tireless in watching over her parish and gave extra time to helping the Health Ministry Team get started.

While these seven officers have now left behind their official duties, they do not leave behind their ordination as Ruling Elders and Deacons. And in that capacity, we will continue to draw upon their wisdom, energy, and faithfulness.

Yours in Christ,

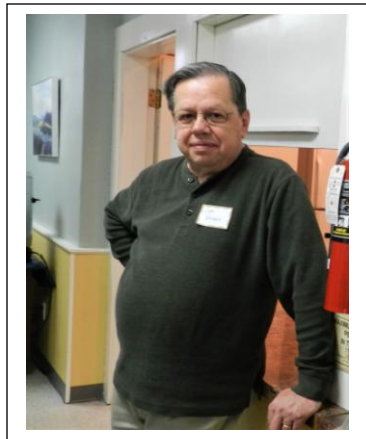
Mark

From June 20 through June 27, I will be "attending" the Presbyterian General Assembly from my office. I ask for your prayers for me, for all the commissioners to GA, for our national staff, and for our entire denomination as we do the work of Christ's church.



Bill McCormick

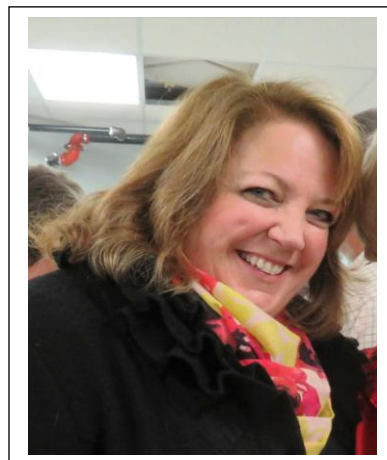
Thank
you
all!



Jim Hines



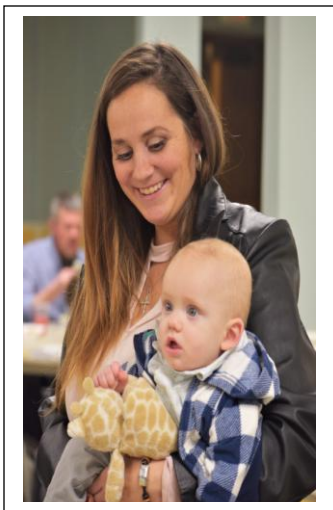
Jack Anderson



Debbie Dunlope



Naomi Wriston



April and Ryder Fuller



Elaine Foley