

ADVOCATE

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

February 2021



Ash Wednesday Worship **Wednesday, February 17** **7:00 p.m. Livestream**

Lent is the six-week period before Easter (April 4 this year) and traditionally has been a time of spiritual renewal and dedication within the life of the church. In the early days of the Church, the purpose of Lent was to prepare new Christians for baptism on Easter Sunday. Since we cannot meet in person, we will focus on baptism rather than ashes this year. Those who want to participate in this year's Ash Wednesday service are invited to log into the church's Facebook page on Wednesday, February 17, at 7:00 p.m. and have a bowl filled with water sitting near them as a reminder of their own baptism. If one is not baptized, the bowl of water can encourage one to consider baptism in the future.

This will be a different service from our usual applying of ashes, but like everything else during this pandemic, it will be a chance to explore another aspect of Lent in a unique way.

VIRTUAL Easter Lily Order Form

Like the poinsettias at Christmas time, the Easter lilies will also be virtual this year. You can participate by contributing **\$10** to dedicate a virtual plant in honor or memory of a loved one or friend. The money collected will again be donated to the Pike County Food Pantry, where the need continues to be great. Even though we will not have the beauty of all those lilies decorating our sanctuary (we will have a few of them), you will be able to help a worthy cause.

A list will be posted of those members who have donated and their honorees in Pastor Gauen's daily emails.

Please send the order form below and a check made out to First Presbyterian Church to the church office by Monday, March 22. (Easter is April 4.) Be sure to write "lilies" on the memo line.

I/We will donate ____ lily (lilies)

Total Cost: \$ _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Name of person(s) you wish to be remembered or honored:

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____



Congratulations to the Parents, Grandparents, and Great-Grandparents!

On December 10, Sydney Lynn Williams was born to Lauren and Trey Williams. Sydney is the great-granddaughter of Kay and Ben Bennett.

On January 9, Malcolm Elias Schubert was born to Erin and Stefan Schubert. Malcolm is the grandson of Gene and Sherri Monteith.



Please Join Us!

We are continuing to livestream our worship service at 10:15 a.m. every Sunday. And we will soon have a new sound system to improve the experience!

An easy way to access this service is to go to the church's website

(www.westervillefirstpresbyterian.org). Click on "virtual services" in the left column. On the next screen, click on the word "HERE" at the end of the first paragraph. That will take you to our Facebook page. (Note: It might be necessary to refresh the Facebook page by clicking at the top left corner of the screen.) You can also access recordings of previous services on this page. An audio recording of the worship service is placed on our website shortly after each service, and Rev. Gauen's sermon is sent in the daily emails on the following Tuesday.

In the meantime, people are welcome to come to the sanctuary during the week for individual meditation. The sanctuary will be open from 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Mondays through Wednesdays. All we ask is that you call ahead of time and schedule your visit with our church's administrative assistant, Olivia Hodorowski (614-882-3155).



Communion Sunday: February 7



February 7, the first Sunday in February, is a Communion Sunday for our church. We will be celebrating a virtual communion on that day for those who attend the service virtually, those who watch it taped later in the week on Facebook, and those who listen to it from our website. I will do the communion liturgy from the sanctuary, and all who want to participate can do so from their homes. At-home participants will need to get their own grape juice or wine and a piece of bread or a cracker. I hope that you will join us in

this virtual sacrament, and I hope that you will find your own communion with our Lord.

Pastor Gauen

Join the Zoom Coffee Hour

We will continue our Zoom Coffee Hour in February.

Each Sunday morning, Diana Westfall will post a link on Facebook for a coffee hour gathering that will start right after the worship service ends. Bring your own cup of coffee and cookies and spend 5 minutes or 30 minutes conversing with your fellow worshippers on Sunday morning.



Note: Due to the Annual Meeting and the Practice Meeting, we will not have coffee hour on Feb. 21 or Feb. 28. (However, the Practice Meeting will be like a coffee hour!)

Lenten/Easter Reflections

The Worship Committee is asking for your help. Do you have special memories or reflections on the Lenten and Easter season? Would you be willing to share these with the church community? Perhaps you have

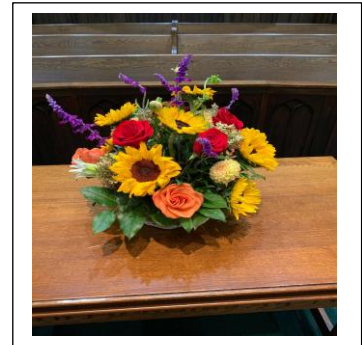
- a memory of past Lent seasons or Easters
- family traditions or practices
- reflections on a Bible verse
- meaningful or favorite music or hymns

We are hoping to share these during our weekly emails during Lent. A reflection of only half a page to a page in length would help keep us connected during this special time in the church year. Please consider sending your reflections to Olivia (administrativasst@fpcw.us) with “Easter memories” in the subject line. Thank you!

Sanctuary Flowers

Have you ever donated flowers to grace the sanctuary during the Sunday service? After the service, you can ask for the flowers to be delivered to you, or you can donate them to bring cheer to a church member who is facing challenges. Either way, it's a win-win!

We have openings in February and March. You can call Olivia at the church office or email administrativasst@fpcw.us to place your order. The cost is \$33.00. Thank you!



2021 *Per Capita* is \$37.75

Part of the glue that has held Presbyterians together for 287 years

Per capita is a set amount of money per member that congregations pay to the larger Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to share the administrative expenses of the General Assembly, Synod, and Presbytery. Congregations have been contributing *per capita* **since 1734**. This year our church will pay \$37.75 per member (*per capita*) because it is important to support our denomination and because it is the right thing to do. The 2021 *per capita* the same amount as last year.

If we are able, the Session encourages each of us to contribute the *per capita* amount for our own membership. Doing so allows the Session to use more of the church's financial resources for mission, programs, and operating expenses. To contribute the \$35.75 *per capita* amount for your membership, just write 'per capita' on your check.

Westerville Habitat Partnership (WHP) Update

WHP is very happy to report the results of our 2020 Progressive Christmas Concert. While we cannot separate the December donations to Habitat from those given because of the concert, the results are remarkable. We received over \$8700! These results are about the same as for the 2019 concert, minus the money made at Soup for Shelter.



Each of the participating churches (Church of the Master, Church of the Messiah, Central College Presbyterian, Grace Lutheran, and First Presbyterian) provided a portion of this “Grassroots” concert. However, through the work of Cody Knowles (Central College), the various pieces were woven together into a lovely Christmas covid offering,

A BIG thank you to our own church members, who once again gave so generously to the mission of providing affordable housing to deserving individuals!

Annual Meeting and Annual Report

Sunday, February 28, 2021

11:15 a.m. via Zoom

Due to the pandemic, we are going to hold the Annual Meeting for this year via Zoom. This is a new experience for us, and we are excited to try it. A link to the meeting will be sent by email to all members on Tuesday, February 23. If you do not receive this email, you may call the church office at 614-882-3155. On the 28th, members will use that link to log onto the Zoom meeting beginning at 11:00 a.m. We will seek to call the meeting to order at 11:15 a.m., although we may start later if there are technical difficulties. The meeting itself will include a review of the year past and plans for the year to come. The Annual Report is being assembled now and will be sent by email along with the meeting link.

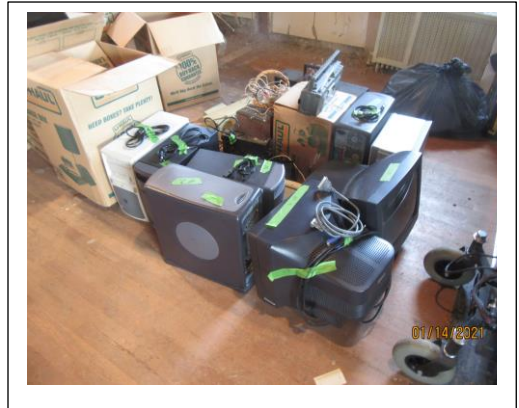
Because this is a new venture for our church, we will hold a “Practice Meeting” on Sunday, February 21 at 11:15 a.m. A link for the practice meeting will be sent to church members on Tuesday, February 16. Anyone is welcome to log into the practice meeting. If you are unfamiliar with Zoom, this will give you a chance to see how it works. And by logging in, you will help us work through some of the kinks in running a large Zoom meeting.

Update on Demolition of the Annex/Garage

The Administrative Services Committee and a group of hearty volunteers showed up on Saturday morning (Jan. 16) to help clean out the Annex and the garage. The volunteers included Marion Ackerman, Ken Bonvallet, Doug Dunlope, Tom Eshelman, Debbie and Brad Gamble, Kathy and Mark Gauen, Jim Hines, Roger Pulley, and John Robbins.

We started with a goal of trying to relocate, reuse, or recycle as much as possible and to send as little as possible to the landfill. To that end, we did the following:

- RELOCATE - Anything the church could still use was moved back into the main building, and all of the tools, equipment, and surplus materials from the garage were moved into our temporary storage pod.
- RECYCLE - As for the stuff the church no longer needed:
 - Marion Ackerman and Jim Hines made a run to the electronics recycling center on Westerville Road with old computers and electronics (no CRT style monitors accepted);
 - Brad and Debbie Gamble made a run to the electronics recycling center down on Nelson Road with the old CRT monitors;
 - Marion Ackerman took a load of cardboard to the recycling center in Sunbury;
 - Jim Hines hauled old fluorescent light bulbs to the Westerville Electric Division's offices on East Broadway.
- RE-USE - Finally, thanks to Rob Rankin, the Furniture Bank of Columbus brought its big truck to the church on Monday, Jan. 18, to pick up about three dozen child- and youth-sized chairs, a number of tables, and other miscellaneous furniture.



We were successful in not sending much to the landfill!

NEXT STEPS:

- Jan 25 – we plan to have the electrical service disconnected.
- Jan 27 – we plan to pick up our demolition permit from the City
- Feb 1 (tentative) – Altman, the company we contracted with, will start actual demolition

Putting God's Love into Action



Lent is a great time of year to take stock of your blessings as we are reminded of what Jesus did and His sacrifice for us. This past year, we have learned to appreciate our homes and are reminded that many people do not have adequate housing. Last year Westerville Habitat asked you to donate based on the number of rooms, electrical outlets, and sinks in your home. **This year we are asking you to prayerfully consider donating based on the square footage of your house.**

The average home in America is 1525 – 2435 square feet and costs \$100 - \$200/ SQ FT to build. (*Custom, luxury homes can be as much as \$200 to \$500 per square foot to build, with labor making up 40% of the cost.*) The typical three-bedroom Habitat home is 1250 square feet and costs about \$80 per square feet to build. We would LOVE your pledge of \$1 per foot, we are looking for 5 cents, 2 cents, or 1 cent per square foot. Any amount is gratefully accepted.

The money can be donated any time during Lent. Make your check out to the Westerville Habitat Partnership OR to First Presbyterian with a memo line “Habitat.” We have the potential to assist families to build strength, stability, and self-reliance as we build more homes like the one in the photo, which was built in Delaware County.

Youth Activities

Kids' Sunday School on YouTube **Sunday evenings, starting at 5:00 pm**

The Sunday School program (Discovery Den on YouTube) is a video that families can access at their leisure. New videos will be available each Sunday evening after 5:00 pm. Please join us for some fun!



Event Update

Still on hold:

Backpack Bounty
Manna Café
Vegetarian Dining Group
Reaching out to Refugees



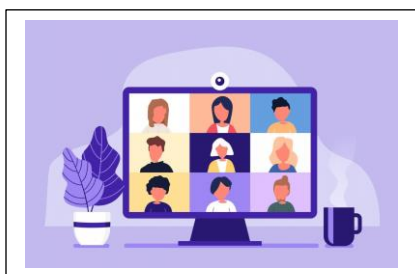
Dine Out/In with Nine: Friday, February 12, 7:00 pm

You are VERY invited to the Dine Out/In Zoom church event on Friday, February 12, at 7:00 pm. We would love to see you then since we cannot yet see you at church. Zoom is a decent option since we still cannot go to a local restaurant for our normal food and fellowship. We each handle our own food by picking up or getting delivery from our favorite restaurant OR by making our own dinner at home. If you want to be notified Of the Zoom code for this wonderful fellowship time, please email or call Bob Place or Jim Hines. Join us on Zoom at any time from 7 to 8:30 and leave when you need to. It is so good to see friends there. If you have not tried us before, please join us this time.

Zooming is easy – at 7:00 pm on February 12, click on the email link that we will send you. Then click on “Open Zoom.” It helps if you have a camera on your computer, but you do not need one. You can also attend a Zoom meeting using a smart phone.

Ladies Night/Afternoon on Zoom

Monday, February 1, 2:30 pm, and Tuesday, February 16, 7:00 pm



Now the ladies of the church have two opportunities to get together—despite the pandemic. You are welcome to attend both!

Please let Diana Westfall know that you are interested: dwestfa@gmail.com. On the day of the meeting or before, she will send you a link so you can join in via Zoom. Zoom is easy to use, but if you need some help getting started, call Heather or Diana.

Presbyterian will be the first woman to serve as U.S. House Chaplain

December 31, 2020
Service

by Mike Ferguson | Presbyterian News

Retired Rear Admiral Margaret Grun Kibben's service includes top chaplain in both Navy, Marine Corps

LOUISVILLE — Retired Rear Admiral Margaret Grun Kibben, a Presbyterian who served as chief of chaplains in the U.S. Navy and chaplain of the U.S. Marine Corps, was named Thursday by Speaker Nancy Pelosi as Chaplain of the U.S. House of Representatives.

According to a news release from Pelosi's office, Kibben is the first woman to be named House Chaplain in the 231-year history of the position. She succeeds Father Pat Conroy, who is retiring. Pelosi said Kibben's "integrity, experience and patriotism will serve the Congress and the country well as she ministers to the needs of Members."

Kibben entered active duty through the Navy's Theological Student Program. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Goucher College in Towson, Maryland; Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from Princeton Theological Seminary; and a Master's in National Security and Strategic Studies from the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island.

In her final active duty assignment in the Navy, Kibben was the Navy's 26th Chief of Chaplains. Before that, she was the 18th Chaplain of the U.S. Marine Corps. She also served as the senior chaplain in Afghanistan.

Her assignments have included the U.S. Naval Academy and Fleet Chaplain of the U.S. Third Fleet as well as chaplain positions at Marine bases at Quantico, Virginia, and Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Her personal awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit (two awards), Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal (three awards) and Navy Commendation Medal (three awards).

In 2018, she addressed the 223rd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) on the day she celebrated her 35th anniversary as a Navy chaplain. Military chaplains, she told commissioners that day, serve not only people from diverse religious traditions but also have many people in their charge who have no religious background. "Many men and women we deal with have never darkened the door of a church, a mosque or a synagogue," she said.

Nevertheless, Kibben said, chaplains are called to "care for each soul in our command and our service." She said chaplains have a unique opportunity to provide a listening ear to military personnel in need. "We have access to every space, every place and every office where people serve, and can come alongside them."

Chaplains, she said, are expected to provide spiritual nurture for people of all ranks, including senior leadership. In addition to serving as a "moral compass" for senior officers, chaplains, she said, are the only people in whom they can confide when they feel lonely or afraid.

Kibben told commissioners that when young people leave their congregations to serve in the military, they can count on chaplains to help with their spiritual needs. She encouraged those present to suggest military chaplaincy as a vocational option for people who believe they are called to ministry.

"If there is any dissonance there, forgive me, but think about it very deeply," she said. "Christ calls us to serve the people who need it most."



The prayer below, penned by an anonymous nun in the 17th century, could have been written yesterday. It will always apply to us humans, it seems.

Lord, you know better than I know myself that I am growing older. Keep me from getting talkative, and particularly from the fatal habit of thinking that I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs.

Keep my mind from the recital of endless details—give me wings to come to the point.

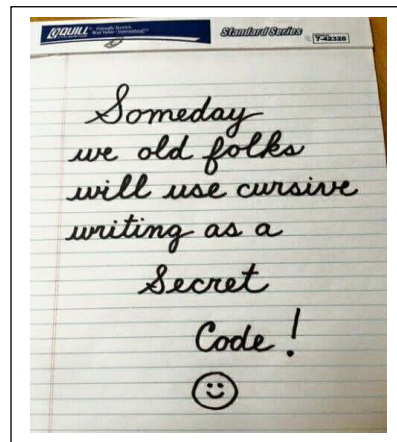
I ask for grace to listen to the tales of others' pains. But seal my lips on my own aches and pains, and my love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. Help me to endure them with patience.

I do not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility and a lessening arrogance when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally it is possible that I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet—I do not want to be a saint—some of them are so hard to live with— but a sour old wo(man) is one of the crowning works of the devil. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places, and talents in unexpected people. And may I tell them so!

Make me thoughtful, but not moody; helpful, but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all, but you know Lord, that I want a few friends at the end. Amen

And from Olivia Hodorowski:



ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Activity	When	Where	What
The Sunday Adult Class	Mondays 4:00-5:00 p.m.	Zoom Meetings -If interested contact Tom Jonard	The Sunday Adult Class, now meeting on Monday afternoons, is reading and discussing <i>Mary Magdalene Revealed</i> . This is a readable interpretation of a parallel gospel attributed to Mary Magdalene. It was popular with the Coptic church and seems to have been written about the same time as the Gospel of John. Subtitled "The Christianity We Haven't Tried Yet," it is bound to author Meggan Watterson's personal journey.
Shelter-in-place Bible Studies	Tuesdays, 9:30-10:30 am Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 p.m.	Zoom Meetings -If interested email Pastor Gauen at pastormark@fpcw.us	We begin the new year with a new study: the Book of Philippians. This book is often nicknamed "Paul's Letter of Joy." Join us for some "joy" on Tuesday mornings or Wednesday evenings. Both sections will cover the same material each week.
4th Monday Discussion Group	4 th Mondays, 7:30 – 9:00 pm	Zoom Meeting -If interested, email Pastor Gauen at pastormark@fpcw.us	This group meets monthly to discuss matters of faith and life. Our next gathering is on Monday, February 22.
Circle 4 Women	3 rd Thursdays, 11:00 am	Zoom Meeting -If interested, email Pastor Gauen at pastormark@fpcw.us or call Elaine Foley.	Our Presbyterian Women's group meets monthly for fellowship and Bible study. Led by Elaine Foley. Our next class will be on Thursday, February 18.



Pastor's Page

Dear Members and Friends of First Presbyterian Church:

“Have you gotten your vaccination shot yet?” That seems to be the question that I am hearing all the time now. Either that or its corollary: “Has your mother (or dad or another loved one) gotten her shot (or his shot) yet?” And I am hearing of more and more of our members and my neighbors answering yes to that question. I know that the rollout of the vaccine has been slow, but it is happening, and with it comes a sense of relief and expectation. Maybe we are finally emerging from this dark night of the coronavirus.

And that is what it feels like to me, that we are emerging, like a bear emerging from hibernation, we are on the edge of leaving the den of our isolation and entering the world again. But as I consider the vaccinated future, I find myself asking, what will it be like? What will be the same? What will be different? What have we learned from this ordeal?

The Season of Lent begins soon (Feb. 17 is Ash Wednesday), and with it comes a time of spiritual focus and renewal. It seems to me that makes Lent is a good time to ponder the questions of our faith, and this year those questions are bound to the questions raised over this past year. Thus, during the Sundays of Lent, I will be preaching on the theme of “Emerging in Faith,” and I will consider what we might have learned about God, ourselves, and our faith over this past year; and how that will help us as we begin to inhabit a post pandemic world.

Here are my sermon topics for Lent:

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|---------|--|
| Feb. 21 | Emerging in Faith: Ending Confinement |
| Feb. 28 | Emerging in Faith: Listening from the Silence |
| Mar. 7 | Emerging in Faith: Finding Sanctuary |
| Mar. 14 | Emerging in Faith: Welcoming the New Hospitality |
| Mar. 21 | Emerging in Faith: Engaging the World |

I know that each of us has had our own particular experience of the pandemic, and each of has our own stories to tell. The challenge for all of us is to hold our experiences up to the light of Christ and see how our stories are part of God's story. And it is that story that will frame how we go forward as we emerge from the pandemic.

Yours in Christ,

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

Mark