

# ADVOCATE

First Presbyterian Church  
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Westerville, Ohio 43081-2103  
614-882-3155 Phone  
[www.westervillefirstpresbyterian.org](http://www.westervillefirstpresbyterian.org)

**March 2021**

## Church Reopening Update



The Session of our church has been constantly monitoring the pandemic and how the situation impacts the ministries and the members of our church. With the beginning of the vaccination process, the Session can see the light at the end of the tunnel. But there still is a lot of tunnel to go. Because the infection numbers are still high, and the advice from the Presbytery is still to remain cautious, the Session has decided that our church will not resume in-person, indoor activities, including worship services, through at least Easter. In looking beyond Easter, the Session will consider how the pandemic and the vaccinations are trending.

In addition, the Session formed a committee to prepare for resuming in-person activities at our church. This committee will determine what needs to be done now so that when the opportune time does come, we will be ready to resume in-person activities in our building in a safe manner.

We know that many are eager to reconnect in person in worship and fellowship. The Session is eager to have that happen, too. But, as the book of Ecclesiastes says, "There is a time for everything..." The Session will continue to work at discerning the right time for us to get back together in person.

# 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: \_\_\_\_\_*

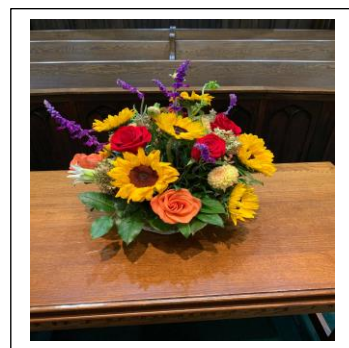
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## Sanctuary Flowers

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 April, May, and June. You can call Olivia at the church office or email [administrativasst@fpcw.us](mailto:administrativasst@fpcw.us) to place your order. The cost is \$33.00. Thank you!



## 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](http://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: March 7



March 7, the first Sunday of the month, 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 March.

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 worshipers on Sunday morning.

## Going, Going, Gone >>>>

After years of planning and months of negotiations with the City and the Uptown Review Board (mostly the URB), the Annex (aka the Hannah Mayne House, 29 West College, etc.) is gone. Demolition began on Thursday, February 4, around 9 am, and the house and its garage had been reduced to a pile of rubble by noon.

By the following Wednesday, the debris had been hauled away, and the hole had been filled and graded. Construction of the new parking lot will begin in the spring and should be done by July.

Thanks to the Administrative Services team and a group of hearty volunteers, we were able to move everything of value out of the house and garage. Habitat for Humanity salvaged all the windows, the copper plumbing, miscellaneous furniture, bulletin boards, and building supplies. The Furniture Bank of Columbus salvaged several dozen youth-sized chairs and a number of tables.





## Before and After

Now that the Annex (29 W. College) and its garage have been removed, our church is much more visible from Uptown Westerville. The first pair of pictures was taken from the city parking lot. The second pair of pictures was taken from in front of the record store on the north side of College Avenue.





As noted earlier, now that the demolition is complete and the hole filled, the next step will be installing a new parking lot. That will take place later this spring and should be done by July. For the time being, our church driveway off College Avenue is closed, but you can get to our church's south entrance by entering the city parking lot off Thomas Alley or off Knox Street. Remember that Knox Street is one-way going north.

# Elders and Deacons—What Do They Do?

March is the time that the Nominating Committee of our church begins its work of recruiting people to serve as Elders and Deacons—the servant leaders of our church. If someone from the Nominating Committee calls on you to serve as Elder or Deacon, please give it prayerful consideration, and if you feel so called, respond in the affirmative.

To help everyone understand the work of our officers, below is a summary of the responsibilities for both Elders and Deacons at First Presbyterian.



## **Basic Duties of Ruling Elders at First Presbyterian Church**

The primary responsibility of Ruling Elders at First Presbyterian Church is to provide spiritual and temporal leadership for the congregation through the work of the Session—the governing body of the church.

The following are duties required of Ruling Elders:

- Ruling Elders attend Session meetings once a month (except in July) and at other times as needed. Regular meetings are held on the second Monday of the month.
- Each Ruling Elder is assigned to chair or co-chair one or more committees of the church. Occasionally an Elder is given a special assignment not attached to a standing committee. Most committees meet on the first Monday of the month, but committees can and do set their own meeting times. Ruling Elders are expected to bring committee minutes or reports to the Session, as well as any actions required of the Session.
- Through its committees, the Session is responsible for the general welfare of the church, the ordering of worship, educating the congregation, managing the finances and the property, supervising the staff, promoting mission and outreach, welcoming new members, providing for the care and nurture of the members, and participating in the work of the Presbytery, our governing body.
- Ruling Elders recruit members for their committees and lead their committees in their work on behalf of the church. They help develop the means by which the church does the ministry of Jesus Christ through programs and policies and efficient use of the resources of money, time, and personnel.
- Ruling Elders are expected to cultivate their own relationship with Christ and use this relationship to help the Session discern God's will for the church.
- Ruling Elders contribute to the work of the Session as a whole through open and honest discussion of the issues facing the church.





## **Basic Duties of Deacons at First Presbyterian Church**

The primary duty of the Deacon is to care for the members of our church. The Deacons each have a list of about 15 to 20 households that they watch over. The Deacon stays in touch with each of these households and gives physical and spiritual support as needed. Most of a Deacon's work is done individually, in ways that suit the personality and the time constraints of each Deacon.

The Deacons also have some ministries as a group. Among the Deacons' corporate ministries are:

- Taking communion to shut-ins. Each time we serve communion, two Deacons take the elements of bread and juice to our members who cannot make it to the worship service. Many find this to be one of the most significant ministries of the Deacons.
- Organizing Helping Hands. The Deacons recruit members who are willing to help other members by giving them a ride, making a repair, or just keeping them company. The Deacons coordinate the compassion of our members with the needs of others.
- Providing funeral support. When there is a funeral at the church, the Deacons help with the greeting, ushering, and reception for the funeral.
- Sponsoring special educational events. From time to time, the Deacons sponsor special educational events for the congregation related to their ministry of caring.
- Organizing the photo directory. Every few years, the Deacons organize the production of a photo directory of the members of the church.
- Acting as Deacon of the Month. Each month, a Deacon is assigned to be the Deacon of the Month. This Deacon handles the distribution of the sanctuary flowers, gives the devotion at Deacon meetings, and attends the Session meeting that month.



## 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.

## Name and Address Directory Update

The Deacons will be reaching out to our members to ensure we have the most current information for the name and address directory. With the ongoing restrictions for Covid-19, we will not be doing a picture directory at this time. Please be ready to provide/update the following information:

- Name - including all family members
- Address
- Email address - you may provide one for each member as desired, or just one for the family
- Phone - please advise if you are giving home or cell phone, and update if you have discontinued previous numbers (some have chosen to only have cell phone). Also advise if it is an unlisted number.
- Birthday for each family member - just month and day if preferred (birth year for children would be helpful)

Our goal is to have all updated information completed by April and produce a hard copy directory sometime in late spring/early summer.

# Youth Activities

## Sunday School



We are providing a virtual Sunday school program for the children via YouTube at 5pm on Sunday evenings. Please join us for fun and a lesson. This month we will be introducing a new friend, Aelia, who will help in the fun.

## Easter Bags for Pike County



Friends and families, Pike County needs us more than ever. We invite you to put together a grocery bag for one family for the week of Easter. Bags will need to be dropped off at the church on **Palm Sunday (March 28) from 1pm-2pm**. You will drive through the parking lot, and we will retrieve the bag from your car so that we are not in direct contact. (Please put it on the passenger side.) All will be masked. Families with young children can pick up an Easter goody bag from the church during this time also. We ask that you use either paper or cloth bags as the food will be heavy.

Please include in each bag the following:

1 box of mac and cheese (please get the kind with the cheese sauce pre-made)

1 box of tuna helper and 1 can of tuna

1 family-sized can of Dinty Moore Beef Stew

1 family-sized can of Dinty Moore Chicken and Dumplin's

1 family-sized can (or 2 smaller cans) of beef raviolis

2 cans of sliced potatoes

2 cans of peas

2 cans of mixed vegetables

1 box of cereal

# Event Update

## Still on hold:

Backpack Bounty  
Manna Café  
Vegetarian Dining Group  
Reaching out to Refugees



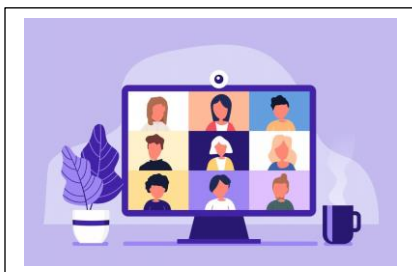
## Dine Out/In with Nine: Friday, March 12, 7:00 pm

You are invited to the Dine Out/In Zoom church event on Friday, March 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 March 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, March 1, 2:30 pm, and Tuesday, March 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](mailto: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 Diana.

## **Submitted by Janet Withers:**

When the pandemic hit, Dolly Parton pledged \$1 million to help fund a future vaccine. On her web series "Goodnight with Dolly," she read bedtime stories to homebound children.

The death toll (which included her friends, Nashville-based musician Joe Duffie and John Prine) hit 100,000, she released this song, which she co-wrote with Kent Wells. In the song's video, she says, "Be safe, be respectful, wear your mask, lead with love."

The song's lyrics includes these words.

### **WHEN LIFE IS GOOD AGAIN By Dolly Parton, 2020**

God's the reason for all things.  
You want rainbows, you get rain.  
We'll all be forever changed  
(Forever changed)

I'll sail my boat and fly my kite,  
Walk in the park, go out at night  
And hold my loved ones extra tight.  
When everything is on the mend.

I'll even drink with my old friends.  
Sing and play the mandolin.  
We'll make it through this long, dark night.  
Darkness fades when faced with light,  
And everything's gonna be alright,  
When life is good again.

## **And from Olivia Hodorowski:**

### **Just a Second**

Adam:      What is a million years like to you?  
God:        Like one second  
Adam:      What is a million dollars like to you?  
God:        Like one penny  
Adam:      Can I have a penny?  
God:        Sure, just a second.

### **Quote of the Day**

"A smile is a curve that sets everything straight."

Phyllis Diller (1917-2012)



ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN			
Activity	When	Where	What
<b>The Sunday Adult Class</b> <b>(Adult Seminar)</b>	<b>Mondays</b> 4:00-5:00 p.m.	<b>Zoom Meetings</b> -If interested contact Tom Jonard	This class, now meeting on Monday afternoons, is reading <i>Grounded</i> by Diana Butler Bass, Phd in religion. She is a columnist for the <i>Washington Post</i> and <i>NY Times</i> . As a follow up to her book <i>Christianity After Religion</i> , she writes in <i>Grounded</i> about the radical change in how people locate God in their created environment and practice faith in the global community. Contact Tom Jonard for the link.
<b>Shelter-in-place Bible Studies</b>	<b>Tuesdays,</b> 9:30-10:30 am <b>Wednesdays,</b> 7:00-8:00 p.m.	<b>Zoom Meetings</b> -If interested email Pastor Gauen at <a href="mailto:pastormark@fpcw.us">pastormark@fpcw.us</a>	For the Season of Lent, we are exploring the "I Am" statements of Jesus in the Gospel of John. Statements such as "I am the Bread of Life" and "I am the Good Shepherd" help us to understand Jesus and our relationship to him.
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Monday Discussion Group</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> Mondays, 7:30 – 9:00 pm	<b>Zoom Meeting</b> -If interested, email Pastor Gauen at <a href="mailto:pastormark@fpcw.us">pastormark@fpcw.us</a>	This group meets monthly to discuss matters of faith and life. Our next gathering is on Monday, March 22.
<b>Circle 4 Women</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursdays, 11:00 am	<b>Zoom Meeting</b> -If interested, email Pastor Gauen at <a href="mailto:pastormark@fpcw.us">pastormark@fpcw.us</a> 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, March 18.



## Pastor's Page

*"Nathaniel asked him, 'Where did you get to know me?'*

*Jesus answered, 'I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.'"* – John 1:48

Dear Friends:

On Tuesday evenings when I don't have a meeting to attend, I sometimes watch the TV show "Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist." In it, a young business woman, Zoey, can sense the inner feelings of other people. She learns of these feelings because the people around her put these inner feelings into a song, a song that only Zoey can hear.

Last Tuesday night, Zoey's team was working to solve a computer problem (the company does computer programming) when an Indian-American worker solved the problem. The rest of team congratulated him by joking about his nickname, "Slumdog," which comes from the movie, "Slumdog Millionaire." The Indian character went along with the joke, even saying that he will become a "Slumdog Billionaire." However, as Zoey watches this interaction between the people on her team, this character steps out of the scene and begins to sing a song that reveals his true feelings of hurt at the joke, which was also an insult. Like so many of the episodes in this show, it is a powerfully real moment, which then Zoey has to figure out how to handle.

There are times when I wish I had such a hidden talent. How often do the people around me hide their feelings, especially their feelings of disappointment, hurt, and fear? I would certainly find it useful if those whom I may have offended, even unintentionally, would sing to me about their feelings of hurt. I'm sure that it would make me a better pastor...and a better person, too.

Of course, that talent doesn't exist. At least, I don't have it. Jesus had a talent for reading people, however. In the Gospel of John, Nathaniel approaches Jesus, who declares, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit." Nathaniel asks Jesus, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus replies, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." Jesus "knew" Nathaniel's inner self, by just looking at him. He saw Nathaniel, just as he sees us, just as we really are.

As I've watched the TV show carefully, I have noticed that the actors tend to sing their feelings after Zoey has already noticed something about their feelings—through observing their body language, their tone of voice, the words they do speak. In other words, Zoey already has a gift for sensing the feelings of others. The songs just provide clarity for her. Maybe I can cultivate my talent of observing people as well. And maybe I can become better at just asking people how they feel and giving them a safe place to share their real feelings.

This 'Slumdog' incident does remind me that sometimes we make fun of others without even realizing it. A joke that seems funny may really hurt someone—and we'll never know it because that person does not feel empowered to share those hurts. It is a good reminder to me, and to all of us, to be sensitive to the feelings of others, even if they don't start singing to us.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Mark L. Gauer". The script is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'M' and 'G'.