

ADVOCATE

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

September 2021

Rally Day 2021

Sunday, September 12

10:15 a.m. Worship: In-Person and LiveStream

11:00 a.m. Ice Cream Social

Join us on the church lawn for some ice cream following the worship service—a treat from the Membership, Evangelism and Events Committee.

5:00 p.m. All-Church Picnic at Henson's Farm

Chris and Jen Henson have graciously offered to host our 2021 Rally Day Picnic at their home. Their home is a small farm with chickens, goats and other surprises for us to enjoy. There will be special activities for the kids and fellowship time for the adults. We will provide Box Dinners, or you can bring your own. You can sign-up for the dinners on our Facebook page or by calling Heather Hicks. Your sign-up will help in our planning. Also, please bring your own lawn chairs. In case of rain, we'll reschedule.

5:30 p.m. – Bible Presentations

Rally Day is when we present Bibles to our three-year-olds and to our fourth-graders. This year we will be presenting the Bibles at the Rally Day picnic. If your child has turned three since last September or is going into 4th Grade, please let us know by Wednesday, Sept. 8. If your child did not receive a Bible last year, and should have, also let us know. We can make sure that they get one.

Photos from the Hensons' farm, where we will enjoy boxed dinners as part of Rally Day:



Ice Cream Social!

Rally Day, September 12, 11:15 am

The Membership, Events, and Evangelism Committee is hosting an Ice Cream Social on the church lawn following the service on September 12, Rally Day. Be sure to bring the children, grandchildren, and young friends to enjoy the treats!

Our Livestream Continues

We are holding in-person services now on Sunday mornings at 10:15 am, but we will continue to livestream our worship service at the same time. An easy way to access the livestreamed 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. 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.

Veterans' Day Service

November 14

We thank each of you for your service.

On this day, we want to thank not only our members who are veterans or actively serving, but also members of their families, along with family members of veterans who are or were not members of our church.

All church members who are actively serving or veterans will be recognized during our church service and may dress in their uniforms, if they wish.

For church members who are actively serving or veterans, please send the following information to Olivia by November 5 (administrativasst@fpcw.us):

- Name
- Branch of service
- Rank
- Dates of service

We also want to recognize family members of non-church members who are or were veterans. This information will be printed in the church bulletin on Veterans' Day. Please send this information to Olivia by 11/5:

- Member name
- Family member name and relationship
- Branch of service
- Rank (if known)
- Dates of service (if known)

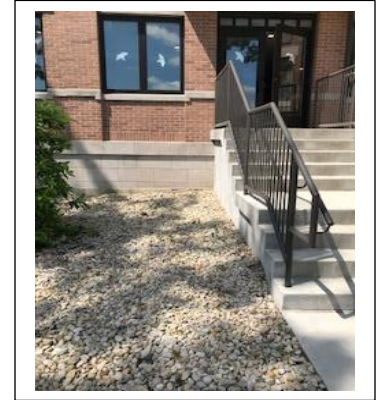
Questions? Contact Lane Hough.



Coming soon: Our Blessing Box

Last month, the deacons announced a new project, the construction of a Blessing Box, which is a miniature food pantry. It will be stocked with small packages of non-perishable foods, basic toiletries, and baby supplies. The message is “Take what you need. Leave what you can.”

Bill McCormick has begun construction of our Blessing Box, which we plan to dedicate on Rally Day, September 12. The box will be placed just to the left of the stairway that leads directly into the Gathering Room. (See photo on the right.) Talk with your family about this project and how you could participate.



For more information about the Blessing Box Ministry, see the following site: <https://columbusblessingbo.wixsite.com>

Sanctuary Flowers

Have you ever donated flowers to grace the sanctuary during the Sunday service? After the service, you can take the flowers home, or you can donate them to bring cheer to a church member who is facing challenges. That person’s deacon will deliver the flowers to him or her. A new permanent flowerpot allows the donor or deacon to easily remove the arrangement.

We have openings for flower donations in October, November, and December. You can sign up in the book located in the Gathering Area, call Olivia at the church office (614-882-3155), or email her administrativasst@fpcw.us to place your order. The cost is now **\$35.00**. Thank you!



Genealogy Club News

The Genealogy Club had its first meeting, and we now have ten members! We share information about how to get started, resources (including free resources), how to attack specific questions, organization, software (including free software), and whatever you are interested in.

The next meeting will be September 2 at 7:00 pm via Zoom. There will be a surprise.

If you are interested or just curious, and have not contacted us before, contact Bill Hitt or Ken Bonvallet.



Church Golf Outing



To be rescheduled! Watch for the announcement in Pastor Mark's daily emails.

Canoe Trip Saturday, September 18

Join us for our almost-Annual Canoe Trip! We will be leaving from the Little Miami Canoe Rental, 219 Mill Street St., Rt. 123 Morrow, Ohio (513-899-3616). This site is a further drive south for a 6-mile trip, as Little Miami is no longer doing the 8-mile trip that we had done in the past. (This is about a 1 1/2 hour drive.)

Be at the Canoe Livery by 9:30 am. The bus pickup leaves at 10:00 am. The cost for a canoe is \$17 per person; for a kayak, \$30 per person. The cost for the shuttle if bringing your own: kayaks \$16; canoes \$20.

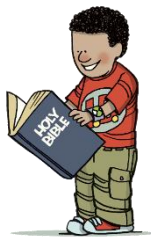
There will be a picnic lunch following. Carol O'Kane is coordinating this.

Youth Activities



Rally Day, September 12

We will be starting our Sunday school and fall programming on Sunday, September 12. We continue to strive for excellence, and therefore we are also continuing to follow CDC recommendations for health and safety at all public events. Our virtual Sunday School program will continue on YouTube. Our channel is called Discovery Den and has a handprint as the icon. Please join us for worship on Rally Day at 10:15 am as we welcome in the 2021-2022 program year. Stay afterward for the Ice Cream Social! Then join us at the home of the Hensons from 5pm-7pm for outdoor fun and a picnic. Bring your own chairs. Boxed dinners will be provided.

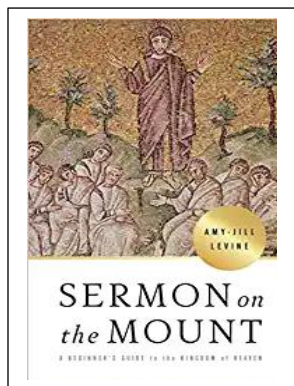


Calling All 5th-12th Graders!

Due to the CDC guidelines, we will be continuing our Sunday School Videos on Rally Day. We are inviting all our youth in 5th through 12th grades to be a part of these videos, which will be posted to our YouTube channel. We need people to read scripture, do a part of the script, teach a craft, etc. If you are willing to help out in this ministry and make a difference in the lives our youngest members, please contact Rev. Heather Hicks.

The Adult Seminar

Mondays, 4-5:00 pm, via Zoom



By acclamation of all in attendance at our last meeting, our next book will be *The Sermon on the Mount* by Amy-Jill Levine.

"Amy-Jill Levine is University Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies and Mary Jane Werthan Professor of Jewish Studies Emerita at Vanderbilt Divinity School and College of Arts and Sciences. ... She is also the coeditor of the *Jewish Annotated New Testament*." (taken from the Amazon "About the Author")

"In *Sermon on the Mount: A Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven*, Dr. Amy-Jill Levine introduces the major topics in the Sermon on the Mount, explains historical and theological contexts, and shows how the words of Jesus echo his Jewish tradition and speak forward to reach hearts and minds today." (also from Amazon)

This study will begin on Monday, August 30. Also, we will not meet on Monday, September 6, Labor Day. Everyone is welcome at these Zoom meetings, held on most Mondays, 4-5:00 pm. If interested, contact Tom Jonard.

Pike County Winter Donations, Oct. 1 - Nov. 15

The usual box for "winter donations" of scarves, hats, gloves, sox, coats, boots, etc. will be at the bottom of the stairs as you come in the back door, starting October 1. THANK YOU!!!!

And food is welcome always!

Sharon & John Davis

An Important Opportunity to Serve Others

Dear Friends,

After many years and multiple trips, we are planning to retire from collecting and delivering the church's food and clothing donations. We believe the church would like to continue these two very important missions, so both positions are open! One person/couple could take care of both.

FYI: The food pantry is in Waverly (Pike County). It is open M-F. 9-3, all year. The clothing is taken to Rehoboth (Perry County) and is open only Wed. & Fri., 9:30-12:30, and closed from Thanksgiving to the end of February. We delivered whenever we had a carload, no set days.

Hopefully, the positions will be filled by Thanksgiving. Please give it prayerful thought. It is very rewarding to help make those less fortunate than us happy. Thank You. Sharon & John Davis

Event Update

Still on hold:

Backpack Bounty
Manna Café
Vegetarian Dining Group



Reaching Out to Refugees

Our refugee family is scheduled to arrive at the Columbus airport this evening, September 2. We are praying that they are able to come this time. You might remember that their July 13 arrival was canceled at the last minute due to visa problems. Now, however, many of the Community Refugee and Immigration Services (CRIS) staff, with whom we are working, are helping to resettle Afghan refugees in other states, so our family's arrival is still not assured. Watch for updates in Pastor Mark's daily emails—and keep praying that this family has a safe journey here--as soon as possible!

Dine Out with Nine: Friday, September 10, 6:30 pm

We will be meeting at 6:30 pm on Friday, September 10, at Mimi's Cafe Restaurant on Polaris Parkway, 1428 Polaris Pkwy, 614-433-0441. The restaurant is on the north side of Polaris Pkwy just west of I-71. They have a good, moderately priced standard fare, and we will be in a separate little room. If you can attend, please contact Jim Hines or Bob Place.

On **THURSDAY**, October 14, we will be going to Cap City Diner in the Stoneridge Shopping Center (southwest corner of Morse and Hamilton Roads). More on that next month.

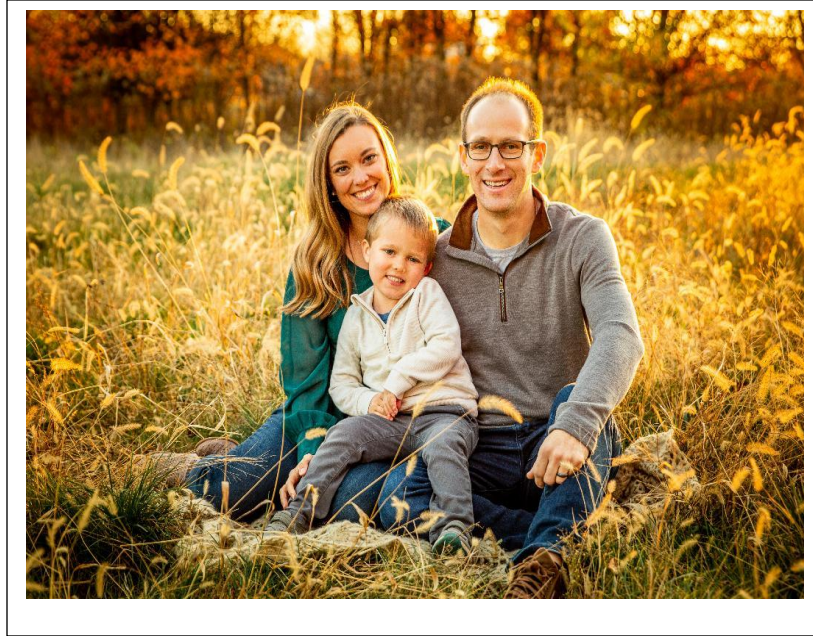


Ladies Night Out

Still planning... Watch for an announcement in Pastor Mark's daily emails.

Getting to Know You

This is part of a series of articles about our new members. However, this family is not exactly new to our church, and we are delighted to have them back!



Hello, church family! We are the Kaste family, and we officially joined the church this past year. Dan, who is originally from Chagrin Falls, is a Director of Team Engagement and Senior Software Engineer with Leading EDJE, a consulting firm in Dublin. Katie worked as an academic advisor at the University of Illinois and Ohio Dominican University before deciding to stay home full time with their 4-year-old son Andrew.

If you have been around First Presbyterian for a while, you may remember Katie (Gauen) from her middle school and high school days when she was a member of this church. After moving to Illinois for college, she stayed there to work and met Dan. They were married in 2012 and decided to move back to Ohio to be closer to family after Andrew was born.

These days, we enjoy biking, exploring local parks, vegetable gardening, and spending time with our families and friends. Andrew will be starting preschool this fall, and we have enjoyed watching him participate in soccer, swimming, and biking this year. We hope to continue to get to know more church members this year and thank you for welcoming us back!

PS: Katie is also currently serving as a Deacon!

FYI: We at First Pres. are now using all compostable cups..... coffee, & plastic type! 🙌🙌

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Activity	When	Where	What
<p>The Sunday Adult Class (Adult Seminar)</p>	<p>Mondays 4:00-5:00 p.m.</p> <p><i>(Class will not meet on Labor Day, Sept. 6)</i></p>	<p>Zoom Meetings</p> <p>-If interested contact Tom Jonard.</p>	<p><i>The Sermon on the Mount</i> by Amy-Jill Levine.</p> <p>The major topics in the Sermon on the Mount will be covered in their historical and theological contexts. See how the words of Jesus echo his Jewish tradition and speak forward to reach hearts and minds today.</p>
<p>Shelter-in-place Bible Studies</p>	<p>Tuesdays, 9:30-10:30 am</p> <p>Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Zoom Meetings</p> <p>-If interested email Pastor Gauen at pastormark@fpcw.us</p>	<p>Join us as we explore the Gospel of Mark. This was the first gospel written and thus gives us the earliest understanding of who Jesus was and what his life and his teachings were all about.</p> <p>We will continue to have two sections, Tuesday morning and Wednesday evening. Both sections will cover the same material each week.</p>
<p>4th Monday Discussion Group</p>	<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>This group meets monthly to discuss matters of faith and life. Our next gathering is on Monday, September 27, at 7:30 pm.</p>
<p>Circle 4 Women</p>	<p>3rd Thursdays, 11:00 am</p>	<p>Zoom Meeting</p> <p>-If interested, call Elaine Foley.</p>	<p>Our Presbyterian Women's group meets monthly for fellowship and Bible study. Led by Elaine Foley. Our next class will be September 16, at 11:00 a.m.</p>



Pastor's Page

Dear Friends:

*Oh, the Lord's been good to me,
And so I thank the Lord,
For giving me the things I need,
The sun, the rain, and the apple see
The Lord's been good to me.*

Many of you will recognize the above poem as the “Johnny Appleseed Song,” which has been used as a grace at mealtime at countless summer camps, retreats, and church dinners. I sang this song when I was a kid in my church youth group, and maybe because of that, I’ve always wondered who Johnny Appleseed was. Somewhere along the way, I had learned the story that a guy named Johnny Appleseed roamed about the wilderness of America, planting apple trees as a way of helping the new settlers. That was all I knew. I wasn’t even sure if he was a real person.

Then I moved to Ohio where, I learned, Johnny Appleseed really lived. That bit of news prompted me to do some research on Mr. Appleseed, since now I was in one of the states where he roamed. What I discovered in my reading about him was that his real name was John Chapman and that he spread more than apple trees on the American frontier. He also spread the gospel. He would go from house to house, settlement to settlement, telling the stories of the Bible and preaching the good news of Jesus’s love. I also learned that John Chapman was born on September 26, 1774. When I saw that September 26 falls on a Sunday this year, I thought that this would be a good time to celebrate this man of faith in worship.

So, on Sunday, September 26, I will preach on the life and ministry of Johnny Appleseed. As a way to add to the celebration, I’m inviting people to bring a donation of applesauce to the church during the month of September. You can bring the applesauce in jars, in cans, in lunch box packages, any way you’d like. You can also bring any type of applesauce: smooth, chunky, cinnamon flavored, you decide. We will display the donations in our sanctuary on the 26th and then we will take it all down to the Pike County Food Pantry—an appropriate way to celebrate this man who helped feed the settlers of Ohio—both physically and spiritually.

Yours in Christ,

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

Mark Gauwen