

# ADVOCATE

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

**October 2021**

## **Our Refugee Family Arrives!**

On Thursday, September 2, we finally met the refugee family we have been awaiting since the church decided to work with the Community Refugee and Immigration Services (CRIS), nearly two years ago. Two members of the Reaching Out to Refugees team, Bill McCormick and Linda Barr, met the family as they arrived at John Glenn Airport. From the left, Hayat, Nessri, and Tadessa are originally from Eritrea, but they had been living in a refugee camp in Ethiopia for the past ten years, all of Nessri's life.

When they arrived, they had no luggage, only the clothes they were wearing and what they could carry in their backpacks.



After living in an Airbnb and quarantining for nearly two weeks, on September 16 the family moved into their apartment, just south of Morse Road, near the intersection with Cleveland Avenue. Our team was there to help with the move, including Lori Lampel, Bill Hitt, Dave and Beckey Stamm, Pastor Mark, Katie Kaste, Rob Rankin, Bill McCormick, and Linda Barr.

Since the family moved into their apartment, our team visits them several times a week, taking them shopping for clothes and food, setting up a TV, and going on other outings. CRIS, in the meantime, is working to place Nessri in school (after a health check and vaccinations) and to help Tadessa and Hayat find jobs. They are a friendly, appreciative family, whose English is fairly good and improving every day!

Here are some comments by team members who have visited the family:

“...we had a successful visit.... Lovely people. We were served tea. While Bill worked [on setting up the TV], I had a piece of bread with honey.”

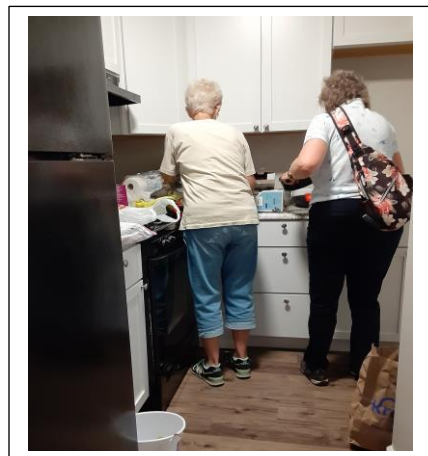
“They are really a very sweet family. They were very appreciative of everything we did for them. I was especially impressed with little Nessri. He is sharp and jumped right in to help out where he could. It was a pleasure just to be with them as they start their new life.”

“This [shopping trip with the family] was one of the best days of my life! Everyone should have this experience!”

This is a link to a Youtube video (located by Diana Westfall) to give you some idea of what life is like in the Eritrean refugee camps in Ethiopia: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=-uipWtt36T4&t=41s>


You are very welcome to join our Reaching Out to Refugees team. Please contact Paster Mark or Linda Barr for more information. The more visitors to the family, the better!

Below: On moving day, the truck from the Furniture Bank brings the basics. Lori and Beckey set up the kitchen, using our donations of dishes, pots and pans, and so on. Hayat looks through the pile of donations. Hayat, Nessri, and Linda in the apartment hallway.



# Recent Session Actions

The Session of First Presbyterian Church took several actions at the September meeting that will have an impact on our church and our community. Here is a summary of those actions:

- 1) **Refugee Relief.** As you know, our church has been working with the Community Refugee and Immigration Services (CRIS) to sponsor a refugee family from Eritrea. As we were waiting for the Getu family to arrive, the Afghan refugee crisis struck. We learned that CRIS will be responsible for resettling 250 refugees from Afghanistan here in the Columbus area. To help with this effort, the Session invites members of the church to help put together another “Welcome Kit” for an Afghan family. We did this for our Eritrean family, and the Session felt that we could do this again. In fact, our members were so generous with our first kit that we have a huge pile of surplus items in the Gathering Place that we will use to begin the next kit. Items needed will be listed on a large chart in the Gathering Place and can be brought to the church during October. Since we are just beginning our relationship with the Getu family, we will not be formally sponsoring another refugee family at this time, but this may happen in the future.
  - 2) **Kitchen Remodeling.** The Session voted to put together a task force to investigate a major remodeling of the downstairs kitchen. Elder John McElhaney will chair this task force, which will receive and review proposals for upgrading the kitchen and recommend a course of action to the Session. This will improve the usefulness—and appearance--of our kitchen in a variety of ways.
- 
- 3) **Hybrid Meeting Room.** The ongoing pandemic has pointed out the need to combine meeting in-person with on-line meetings. The Session and the Deacons have already tried holding ‘hybrid’ meetings and have struggled with inadequate technology. The Administrative Services Committee will put together a proposal for the purchase and installation of equipment to make the Knox Room capable of hosting these hybrid meetings. Once the equipment is installed, this room would be available for not only hybrid Session and Deacon meetings, but also hybrid Bible studies and committee meetings.
  - 4) **Music in Worship.** Unfortunately, covid forced us to suspend our in-person worship in March of 2020. In May of 2021, we resumed in-person worship in a simplified form. Since then, we have been gradually adding elements back into our worship service, returning it to something close to what it was two years ago. The next step in that process is adding the choir and other music. To that end, the Session authorized that work begin on forming a choir that would sing during our worship services and that instrumental music be added to our current worship experience. It will take a while to reconstitute the choir and prepare it for leading worship, but we do look forward to enjoying their anthems and other contributions to the service. (Please read the “Do You Feel Like Singing?” article later in this *Advocate*.)

# Veterans' Day Service

**Sunday, November 14**

**We thank each of you for your service.**

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

All church members who are actively serving or are veterans will be recognized during our church service on November 14 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 ([administrativasst@fpcw.us](mailto:administrativasst@fpcw.us)):

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

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

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

Please send Olivia your information by **Thursday, November 5**. Questions? Contact Lane Hough.



## 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](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. 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.



# Our Blessing Box

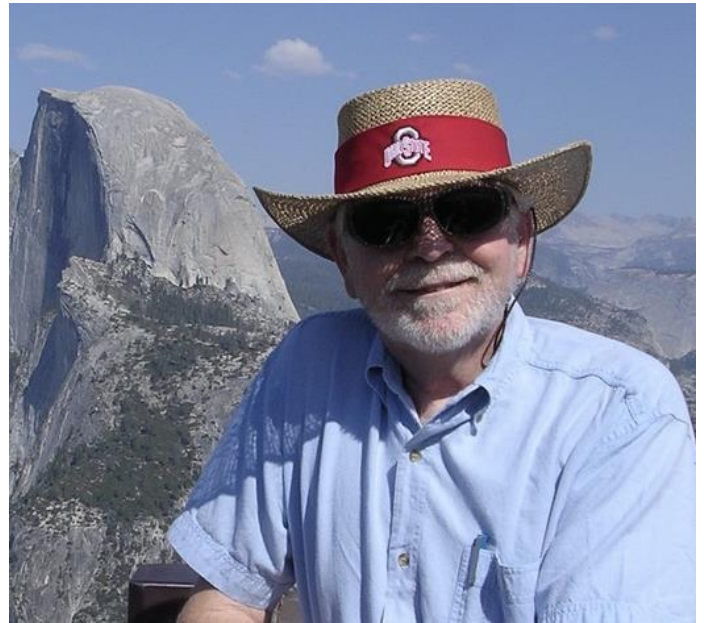
Our Blessing Box was dedicated on September 12 and is filled and ready for use. This new ministry is a way for our church family to serve those in need. The youth of the church are also invited to bring single-item donations to share with local families.

Blessing Boxes are outdoor cabinets in public places that are stocked with non-perishable food items, basic toiletries, baby supplies, and anything else that might be considered a blessing to people who find themselves in need. Items are anonymously donated and anonymously received. Suggestions for donations include soup (packets or cans), ramen noodles, tuna packets, granola bars, individual containers of cereal, beef jerky, pepperoni packets, juice boxes, mac and cheese, deodorant, baby wipes, feminine care products, toothbrushes, and travel size toiletries. Items may be placed in the Blessing Box or in the designated crate in the downstairs hallway near our south entrance.

If you are interested in assisting with maintaining and filling the Blessing Box, please reach out to your Deacon. A signup sheet for Blessing Box monitoring is also available in the book in the Gathering Place. Special thanks go to Bill McCormick, Bill Hitt, Mike Krotz, Melodi Baltzer, Kay Mackan, and the other committee members for bringing the Blessing Box to fruition. For more information regarding the Columbus Blessing Boxes, visit the website at [columbusblessingbo.wixsite.com](http://columbusblessingbo.wixsite.com).



**Celebration of Life**  
**Remembering David Cameron**  
**Sunday, October 10, 2021**  
**2:00 PM**  
**First Presbyterian Church**  
**41 W. College Avenue**  
**Westerville, OH 43081**



Yosemite National Park 2005

We hope you will join us for a special afternoon as we celebrate David's life. We'll have some wonderful music, and a few people will share memories and 'warm' stories during a short service in the church sanctuary. Afterward, we'll have a social gathering on the lawn (or in the Fellowship Hall if the weather doesn't cooperate) and a chance to catch up with each other.

When David died last year, we had a very small private service. It was outdoors, and the few family members attending sat apart from each other. There was no hugging.

We promised we would have a real celebration when it was safe for us to be together again. Although times are still uncertain, we are ready to get together with all who knew and loved David. We hope you can come and celebrate with us as we say "goodbye."

Because our grandchildren will be present, and they cannot yet receive the vaccine, the family asks that all attending wear masks in the sanctuary. For those who are not vaccinated, we hope you will attend this event virtually by watching the livestream on the church's FaceBook page.

## **Do You Feel Like Singing?**

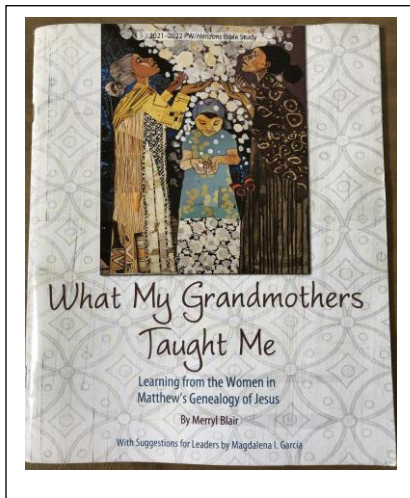
### **Choir Rehearsals begin Sunday, October 10, at 9:15 am**

As you read earlier in this *Advocate*, we are ready to add the choir back into our Sunday worship services. (Many of us are rejoicing at this news!) If you have ever considered singing in our choir, this is your opportunity. The choir will probably not sing every Sunday, and rehearsals have been moved to Sunday mornings at 9:15 am to make them more convenient.

Choir members will tell you that they look forward to practicing together and the sense of community that develops. Even if you've never sung in a choir, you are welcome to join now. After more than 18 months of silence, the congregation is definitely ready to be inspired by anthems and other hymns!

Earl Linhart, our Music Director, will help the choir get their voices back in shape. The goal is to sing during worship during Advent or sooner. So come to the first rehearsal on October 10 and join in! If you'd like to participate, but can't be there on October 10, let Olivia know, and she will notify Earl.

## **New Book for Circle 4 for Women**



Starting October 21, Circle 4 will begin studying *What My Grandmothers Taught Me* by Meryll Blair. Each month will be a different study from this Horizon study, subtitled "Learning from the women in Matthew's genealogy of Jesus." You can attend as many sessions or as few as you choose. The cost of the book is \$10.00 or \$15.00 for large print.

If you would like to participate in Circle 4 Women's Bible-based fellowship and discussion group, please contact Elaine Foley. We are continuing to meet by Zoom. We meet on the third Thursday of the month at 11am and usually have around twelve participants. This a great place to meet and get to know people and enjoy fellowship with friends.

## **Pike County Winter Donations**

### **Oct. 1-Nov. 15**

The usual box for "winter donations" of hats, scarves, gloves, sox, coats, boots, etc, will be at the bottom of the stairs as you come in the church's back door, starting Oct. 1, for delivery Nov. 15.

As usual, food is welcome always! After. Nov. 15, please make all deliveries to the church, not our home. **THANK YOU!**

Sharon and John Davis



## **Annual Crop Walk**

**Sunday, October 3, 12:30 pm**

CROP continues to fight against the challenges of disease, disaster, displacement, and other concerns that leave people hungry. Join with us as we raise funds to help neighbors near and far get the meals they need today and sustainable food security assistance for developing future food supplies. Our congregation has participated in every CROP Walk since 1985 (36 years), and we usually raise the most money of any participating church in Westerville.

CROP Hunger Walks are community-wide events sponsored by Church World Service and organized by local congregations or groups to raise funds to end hunger at home and around the world. Nationally, CWS raises about \$100,000,000 each year. We walk to remember those who struggle for their basic food and water in worldwide communities. We walk to end hunger, one step at a time, starting with you.

The 2021 CROP Walk will be held on Sunday, October 3. We hope you can support this year's Walk in whatever way makes sense to you. We soon need to tell the organizers how many people from First Presbyterian will be walking the "official" path. You can also walk on your own near or even in your house on a different day if you prefer. So far, we have Mark Gauen, Bob Place, Dave Beeman, Carol and Pat O'Kane, and Brad Gamble. There will be others.

Last year, we had only a virtual walk. This year we have several options. You may walk yourself, support an individual walker, support all our walkers, or walk on your own on another day.

Walkers will gather at 600 N. High Street in Worthington at 12:30 pm on October 3 for the north suburbs walk. There will be a short walk (1 mile) and a longer 4-mile walk. Registration is available online: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/event/columbusoh>. When you register online, indicate that you are affiliated with First Presbyterian Church in Westerville.

You are more than welcome to walk, but if you can, a financial donation to our church designated for CROP would be most helpful. Twenty-five percent of the money raised by the Westerville churches goes to WARM to further their community mission work in our area. Make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church, Westerville, and indicate CROP on the check. You may also designate support for any of the walkers or all walkers, if you wish. Please ask your friends and relatives in and out of our church to support our efforts. The more money we raise, the more poor and hungry people we can help.

I plan to walk since we will be home from Atlanta on October 1. Thank you in advance for your participation!

Bob Place



# Rally Day

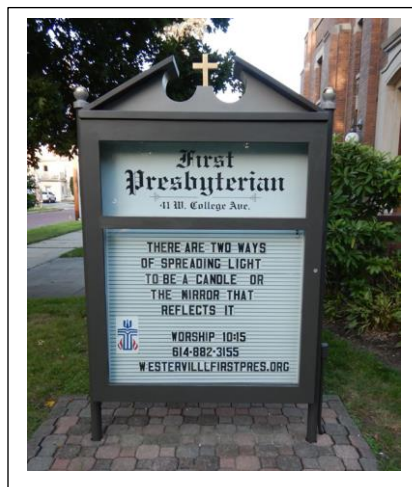
## September 12, Hensons' Farm

We had a great time at the Hensons' farm as we celebrated Rally Day, the first day of the church school year. Here are some photos to prove it!



## Looking Good!

A big thank you goes to Ken Bonvallet. He put two fresh coats of paint on our sign by the College Avenue entrance. This sign has a lot of nooks and crannies, so painting it is no simple job. Roger Pulley added the gold paint details. Thanks again, guys!





## Genealogy Club News

The Genealogy Club now has twelve 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 October 7 at 7:00 pm via Zoom. There will be another surprise.

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

## An Important Opportunity to Serve Others

Dear Friends,

After many years (we think 25?), we are planning to retire from collecting and delivering the church's food and clothing donations to Pike and Perry Counties. 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. We plan to deliver the last load for this year on Wednesday, Nov. 17, so Perry County has it before their Thanksgiving closing for the winter. After Nov. 16, please do not deliver any clothing or household items to our home, as we have no place to store it until March.

Hopefully, these 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! John and Sharon Davis

## Event Update

### Still on hold:

Backpack Bounty  
Manna Café  
Vegetarian Dining Group



### Reaching Out to Refugees

Our refugee family is here! Please see the article on the first page of this *Advocate* for details!

### Dine Out with Nine: Thursday, October 14, 6:30 pm

We will be meeting at 6:30 pm on **Thursday**, October 14, at the Cap City Diner in the Stoneridge Shopping Center (southwest corner of Morse and Hamilton Roads). If you can attend, please contact Jim Hines or Bob Place. We hope to see you there! We always have a good time!



### Ladies Night Out

We'll probably have a zoom meeting again on October 19. Watch for an announcement in Pastor Mark's daily email. It's a good opportunity to catch up with each other!

## Getting to Know You

This is part of a series of articles about our new members. A hearty welcome to Sharon and Glenn Carlton! We're very glad to have you as part of our congregation!



Sharon and Glenn have lived in Westerville for over 40 years and became members during the summer. You might say it was the “old time religion” vibe that attracted them to First Presbyterian of Westerville (e.g., ministry focused, thought-provoking messages, pastor-led Bible studies, beautiful organ music, singing from the hymnal, and welcoming members).

Next month, Sharon and Glenn will celebrate 35 years of marriage. Their blended family (four sons and two daughters) has blessed them with ten grandchildren and one great-grandson. Finally, given their backgrounds in nursing (Sharon) and psychology/counseling (Glenn), they are drawn to ministries that, at their core, center around helping others.

Pictured: Sharon, Lucky, and Glenn



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	<u>The Sermon on the Mount</u> by Amy-Jill Levine.  "In <i>Sermon on the Mount: A Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven</i> , 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." (description taken from Amazon)
<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>	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.  We have two sections, Tuesday morning and Wednesday evening. Both sections will cover the same material.
<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, October 25, at 7:30 pm.
<b>Circle 4 Women</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursdays, 11:00 am	<b>Zoom Meeting</b> -If interested, call Elaine Foley.	Our women's group meets monthly for fellowship and Bible study. We are beginning the study of <i>What My Grandmothers Taught Me</i> by Meryll Blair. Led by Elaine Foley. Our next class will be October 21, at 11:00 a.m.



## Pastor's Page

Dear Friends:

*"...and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria,  
and to the ends of the earth." – Acts 1:8*

These were last words of Jesus before he ascended into heaven. They were spoken to the disciples along with the instruction that they would soon receive the power of the Holy Spirit, which, of course, we know came on Pentecost. The disciples took these words to heart and were soon bearing witness about Jesus to the people in Jerusalem, and to the people in Judea, and to the people in Samaria and to the ends of the known world. Later generations of Christian disciples would spread the message of Jesus around the globe. All in response to these last words of Jesus.

On Sunday, October 3, we recognize the efforts of those first disciples and of those who followed as we celebrate World Communion Sunday. Celebrating World Communion Sunday helps to remind us that we are connected to Christians in all parts of the world and that despite all of our differences, we come together around Christ's table.

World Communion Sunday also reminds us that we in the church called to solve the problems that plague our world, problems that are world-wide in scope: The pandemic, global warming, hunger, racial tensions, income inequality, refugee crises, war, and many others. While we can't solve all these problems, we at First Presbyterian are working to do our part to address them, and in the process, we are also bearing witness to Christ. We will be participating in the CROP Walk this Sunday to bring attention and resources to fighting hunger. We will collect the peacemaking offering to help our world find ways to solve problems without fighting and violence. We are growing our relationship with the Getu family who are part of the world-wide refugee crisis. We continue to explore the cause and effects of racial tensions in our world. We hope and pray that in these efforts we are also sharing the love and justice of Christ.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark L. Gauen". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Mark Gauen