

# ADVOCATE

First Presbyterian Church  
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[www.westervillefirstpresbyterian.org](http://www.westervillefirstpresbyterian.org)

**November 2021**

## Getting to Know You!

Since our refugee family arrived on September 2, we have been helping them to get settled in their apartment and taking them to some of the fun (and not-so-fun) places in Columbus. On October 11, for example, a group of us visited the Columbus Zoo. In the photo below, Nessri, his mom Hayat, Becky Stamm, Kaitlin Kaste, her son Andrew, and Linda Barr enjoy lunch at the zoo on a glorious fall day.



Kay Mackan helped take them to the library to get their library cards. We've also taken them to doctors' appointments, to the Ohio Thrift Store a number of times, and to several grocery stores, including two international food stores, which are quite different from your standard Krogers! Bill McCormick and Lori Lampel also helped them get acquainted with the COTA bus system. We've been working with Community Refugee and Immigration Services (CRIS) to help Nessri get into school, which might have happened by now. (fingers crossed) The father, Tadesse, is very happy to be working every day at a factory. Hayat will probably find work, too, after Nessri is in school.

In the photo below, Bill Hitt reads with Nessri and Hayat (who can read English herself!).



Tadesse, Hayat, and Nessri are a charming family and so appreciative of our help and support. Their command of English gets better every day. Hayat is on FaceBook now!

Someone from our Welcome Team visits the family several times a week, bringing books for Nessri to read or color, more clothing and food donations, even a vacuum cleaner. Or we just sit and talk, often learning more about life in a refugee camp in the midst of a war. If you want confirmation that your life has been blessed, you should hear some of their stories. Ask Diana Westfall to share a few that Hayat told her.

If you would like to visit the family, please contact Linda Barr. We'd be glad to pair you with a team member who has already met the family and visited their apartment. You might take the family (maybe just Hayat and Nessri) to a park or out for ice cream. It doesn't have to be time- or money-consuming. You won't regret the time or effort spent!

## **More Donations to CRIS**

Because of your generous donations, we have a stockpile of goods to donate to CRIS for another refugee family. In the front of the sign-up book in the Gathering Place are two pages of additional items needed. Please check off your donations and place them on the tarp or in front of the tarp that covers the inventoried items. (We're trying to be organized about this!) Thank you!

## **Lay Leaders in Worship Needed**

### **Video Team**

We are looking for some persons to become part of our video team for worship in our sanctuary. Volunteers will be trained in using our video equipment and procedures and be mentored through their first few times of videoing.

Once trained, videographers take turns broadcasting the service on Sunday mornings and for occasional special services. We hope to have a team of six, which would mean that each videographer would work about once every four to six weeks. If you are interested, please talk to Rev. Gauen.

### **Liturgist**

Would you like to be a liturgist during Sunday morning worship? Just sign up in the Sign-Up Book in the Gathering Place. Typically, the liturgist leads the Call to Worship and reads the Opening Prayer and one or more scriptures. Occasionally, you might have additional duties. Pastor Mark provides the materials and will coach new liturgists in the process.

# Congregational Meeting

## November 7, 11:15 am

The Session of First Presbyterian Church has called a short congregational meeting for Sunday, November 7, following the worship service for the purpose of electing the audit committee. This meeting will be held in-person and members are asked to attend, and visitors are welcome to attend.

## 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 4**. 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 has a new official sign. It has received attention from passers-by, as well as church members in both donating and receiving.

Thank you for your continuing attention to this mission. Please remember that our food contributions should be non-perishable, and the containers should be easily opened. No glass, please. Also, personal hygiene products and baby and children's items would be appreciated.

## Offering Envelopes

If you would like to have a set of weekly offering envelopes for next year, please let Barbara Klingman know by contacting her by phone or email ([treasurer@fpcw.us](mailto:treasurer@fpcw.us)).

## Do You Feel Like Singing? Choir Rehearsals, Sundays at 9:15 am



Our choir is now singing during some of our Sunday worship services! Earl Linhart, our Music Director, invites you to join them. Although the choir will probably sing every other Sunday, they will have rehearsals every Sunday morning at 9:15 am.

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 become a member of our choir, which is a blessing to our church!

## Fall Clean-up Day: Saturday, December 4

The annual fall outdoor clean-up day will be Saturday **DECEMBER 4**, at 9:30AM. Bring a rake and a tarp if you have one. We'll be raking leaves and cleaning up the landscape beds. Many hands make light work!

## Pike/Perry County Donations

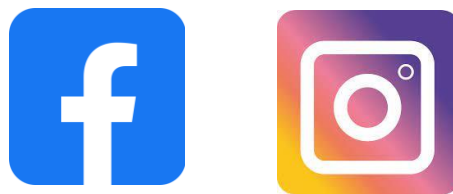
FOOD: (Pike County) Open all year  
Deliveries made when donations begin to stack up.

CLOTHING: (Perry County). **Last collection and delivery for 2021..... NOV. 7. (Sun.)**  
Because of no heat, they close for winter and reopen in March.

Thanks for your generosity!

Sharon and John Davis

## Youth News



## Social Media Update

We are now on both Facebook and Instagram! Please join or follow us on one of those platforms for information and virtual growth.

Facebook: @westervilleohiofirstpresby      Instagram: @1stpresbywesterville



## Gift Bags for the Kids

We need volunteers to deliver bags to kids each month. If you are interested, please contact Rev. Heather Hicks for dates, times, and pick-up information.



## Genealogy Club News

The Genealogy Club now has thirteen members! We have been sharing family stories (some proven and some yet to be proved), family diaries and letters, lost and found relatives, DNA test results, the possibility of joining the Mayflower Society, and overlooked resources (Google, eBay, YouTube). Two members are exploring whether they are related!

The next meeting will be **Thursday, November 4, at 7:00 pm** via Zoom.

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

## Event Update

### Still on hold:

Backpack Bounty  
Manna Café  
Vegetarian Dining Group



### Dine Out with Nine: Friday, November 12, 6:30 pm

On Friday, November 12, we'll meet at the Polaris Grill (1835 Polaris Parkway just east of the I-71 Polaris Exit, 614-431-5598). This a good quality restaurant, popular with the group in previous years, with standard and specialty items. Check their full dinner menu online. Contact Jim Hines or Bob Place for information or to say you are coming. We will be eating in their private dining room, but others will also be in the room so there is no extra charge for the location. We have a limit of 18, so we can have separate checks.

### Ladies Night Out

Ladies Night Out will take a short break and resume in January! Stay well!

**ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN**

Activity	When	Where	What
<p><b>The Sunday Adult Class</b>  (Adult Seminar)</p>	<p><b>Mondays</b> 4:00-5:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Zoom Meetings</b>  -If interested contact Tom Jonard</p>	<p><i>The Sermon on the Mount</i> 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)</p>
<p><b>Shelter-in-place Bible Studies</b></p>	<p><b>Tuesdays,</b> 9:30-10:30 am  <b>Wednesdays,</b> 7:00-8:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Zoom Meetings</b>  -If interested email Pastor Gauen at <a href="mailto:pastormark@fpcw.us">pastormark@fpcw.us</a></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.  We have two sections, Tuesday morning and Wednesday evening. Both sections will cover the same material.</p>
<p><b>4<sup>th</sup> Monday Discussion Group</b></p>	<p>4<sup>th</sup> Mondays, 7:30 – 9:00 pm</p>	<p><b>Zoom Meeting</b>  -If interested, email Pastor Gauen at <a href="mailto:pastormark@fpcw.us">pastormark@fpcw.us</a></p>	<p>We are studying the book <i>Be The Bridge: Pursuing God's Heart for Racial Reconciliation</i>. This book addresses what a church can do about racial issues. Next meeting is Nov. 29 (the fifth Monday due to the Thanksgiving holiday)</p>
<p><b>Circle 4 Women</b></p>	<p>3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays, 11:00 am</p>	<p><b>Zoom Meeting</b> -If interested, call Elaine Foley.</p>	<p>Our women's group meets monthly for fellowship and Bible study. We are studying <i>What My Grandmothers Taught Me</i> by Meryll Blair. Led by Elaine Foley. Our next class will be November 18 at 11:00 a.m.</p>



## Pastor's Page

Dear Friends:

The following prayer is found in our Presbyterian Book of Common Worship:

*O God, our Provider, you open your hand and lavish good gifts upon us. So we give you thanks. You create the beauty of the earth and stock it with abundance to sustain human life. You give us friends who share the journey of our lives; family who make us laugh with joy and dry our tears of sorrow; strangers who minister to our needs with generous kindness. You knit us into your larger family called church to encourage us in your Way. You have blessed us with the freedoms of a great nation. "Thank you" seems insufficient for all your blessings, yet we say it with all we are as an offering of gratitude for our many blessings that we name before you.*

*{Enumerate all you're thankful for; count your blessings}.*

*Though we may have seen our fortunes fall this year, we praise you for hiding our treasure in Jesus Christ our Lord, whom not even death can destroy. Though we miss those whose places sit empty at this year's table, we give you thanks for lending them to us for what time we had. For all your providence with the feast of life that you set before us, we give ourselves to you with all we are in thanks and praise. Amen.*

You will notice that in the middle of this prayer we are invited to "Enumerate all you're thankful for; count your blessings." This year, as an exercise in thanksgiving, I invite you to start on November 1 and each day write down one blessing in your life. Make a list and add a blessing each day until Thanksgiving Day. This will be helpful exercise and one that I expect that many of us do on Thanksgiving Day in one way or another, as we give thanks for family, friends, home, and country.

In addition to that first list, a list of obvious blessings, I want to invite you to write down a second list of blessings, again one per day. However, I invite you to put on this list blessings that are not so obvious. It might be an act of kindness that someone showed you the day before. Or it might be the smile of a child you saw at the store. You may have to look a bit harder for blessings to put on this list. Make a list of these sort of blessings, one per day, starting November 1 and going until Thanksgiving Day.

Then, on Thanksgiving Day, which is November 25 this year, pray the prayer above with 50 blessings that you can be thankful for.

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