

ADVOCATE

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

May 2022



Sundays in May

- May 1: Music Appreciation Sunday.** We will celebrate our musicians for their gifts to our worship experience. We will also be celebrating communion on the first Sunday of May. In our sanctuary, we will continue to use the “communion kits” that worshipers can pick up when they enter the sanctuary. Those worshipping at home are invited to prepare the elements of bread and juice before the service and join in the sacrament when the time comes during the worship service.
- May 8: Mothers’ Day.** A day to honor one’s mother and all those who have been like a mother to you.
- May 15: Congregational Meeting.** Following worship on this Sunday, we will hold a congregational meeting to elect officers. Members are asked to attend; visitors are welcome to attend.
- May 22: Graduate Recognition.** We will recognize and celebrate those who have graduated from high school, college, or trade school.
- May 29: Memorial Sunday.** We will remember with the tolling of the bell those who have died since our last Memorial Day. If you would like a friend or family members mentioned on this Sunday, please send an email to pastormark@fpcw.us or call the church office at 614-882-3155.

Announcing:
A Meeting of the Congregation
Sunday, May 15, 11:00 a.m.
Immediately following the Worship Service

For the purpose of electing officers. Members are asked to attend; visitors are welcome to attend.

The meeting will be held in-person but will also be broadcast via our LiveStream. Those watching the LiveStream will be able to observe the meeting but will not be able to vote.

Our Livestream Continues

You can access our live-steamed worship service at 10:15 on Sunday mornings by going to the church's website (www.westervillefirstpresbyterian.org). Click on "Worship Options" in the left column. On the next screen, click on the word "HERE" at the end of the second 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.

Music Appreciation Sunday: May 1



Please join our congregation as we show our appreciation for Earl Linhart, Lyn Meyer, Todd and Kim Wise, our choir, and everyone else who creates the inspiring music that we are privileged to hear in our church.

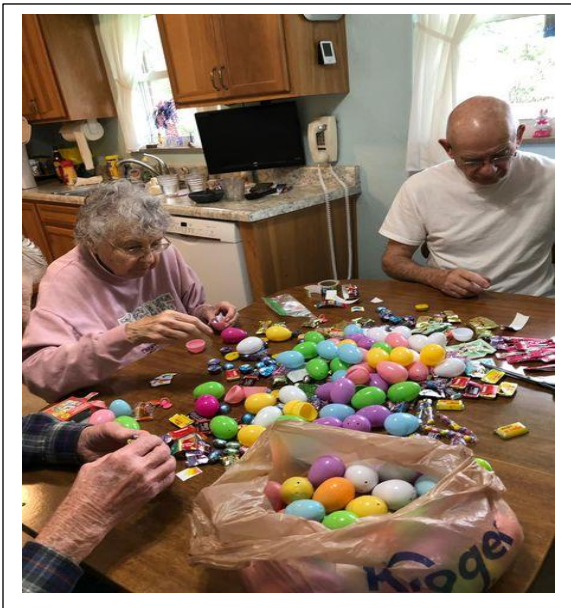
We will have a cake and punch reception in the Knox Room following the service so that you may thank these wonderful people who make every Sunday so enjoyable.

Graduate Recognition Sunday, May 22

The Christian Education Department will be recognizing our graduates on Sunday, May 22. If you or your child will be graduating from high school, trade school, college, or graduate school this year, please let us know so that we can include you, and them, in our graduation celebration. Please call the church office (614-882-3155) by Thursday, May 5, and leave the graduate's name and the graduation school.



Easter Egg Hunt



After the Easter Service on April 17, our kids enjoyed hunting Easter eggs on the church lawn. The eggs were lovingly stuffed by John and Sharon Davis, among others. A good time was had by all!

Update on Our Refugee Family

We still are maintaining contact with our family, but not as often as before now that they both are working—and on different shifts. With some support from Community Refugee and Immigration Services (CRIS), we muddled through their income tax return. Bill McCormick got their furnace to work again and took Hayat to a doctor's appointment, all on the same day. Tadesse's driver's license seems to be within reach. He failed part of his in-car driving test the first time around, but he has completed an online driving course and spent more time practicing, so he's almost ready to take the test again.

The family has started to look for a better apartment so they can move there at the end of their lease in September. Mostly, Tadesse says, they just want peace—no more shouting and occasional gun fire outside their windows. Although helping the family cope with their challenges can be frustrating at times, it's still rewarding to work with them because they are always glad to hear from us. In fact, they consider us to be their family. (I'm the mom, Hayat tells me, which might be a good thing or....)

Questions? Please contact Linda Barr (lindabarr27@yahoo.com.)

Church Scholarships Available for Coming Academic Year



Eligibility includes those enrolled in undergraduate or graduate degree programs, trade school training, continuing education, and certification programs.

First Presbyterian Church annually offers educational scholarships, funded through designated grants from previous church members. Awarded in July, the scholarships can be used for undergraduate or graduate degree programs, trade schools, continuing education, or certification opportunities. Church members and non-members who are active in the life of the church are eligible.

You can obtain an application form by emailing the chairs of the Scholarship Committee, Gene and Sherri Monteith. The application must be submitted to them by June 15 in order for the Scholarship Committee to consider candidates and make selections in early July.

A fully completed application form must be accompanied by a copy of the applicant's most recent grade transcript. While letters of recommendation are no longer required, you must submit to the Scholarship Committee a letter of not more than two pages covering the following:

- Your involvement with and participation in First Presbyterian Church
- Your education goals and academic interests
- A summary of your school and/or community activities
- An explanation of why you believe you deserve a scholarship.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact Gene or Sherri.

Youth Services



Farmers Market

The Farmers Market will be returning to the community parking lot outside our church starting May 21 from 9am-12pm! We are excited to announce that we will be offering games and other activities for children and families to participate in while their parents roam the market.

We are going to try this very special ministry each Saturday this summer, so we need volunteers who are willing to play with the children for at least a 2-hour shift during the market time. There will be two shifts each week (8:30am-10:30am & 10:30am-12:30am). Each shift will require either set up or take down.

If you are willing to help us in this unique ministry, please contact Rev. Heather Hicks for more information. A sign-up sheet is posted in our sign-up book in the Gathering Place.



CE Decorating Committee

Want to contribute to our Youth Ministry in a unique and inspiring way? Please join our decorating subcommittee. This group will be meeting to discuss how we can create space for our children that is both inviting and engaging. Help us as we connect with all five senses in a way that brings children and their families closer to God. We have three rooms to decorate, as well as a small booth in our welcome area. For more information on how to be a part of this group, please contact Rev. Heather Hicks at education@fpcw.us.

Summer Activities

- June 18 10am-3pm Zoo scavenger hunt (all ages)
- July 16 1pm-3pm Alum Creek Park play date (birth-elementary)
- July 30 Time TBD Escape Room (middle and high school youth)
- August 14 Rally Day and return of Sunday School programs
- Summer camp is also available for children from 3rd-12th grade. Please contact Rev. Heather Hicks for more details.



Teachers

Do you love working with children or youth? We are looking for volunteers to lead and teach our Jr. Worship and our Discovery Zone programs. Each of you has amazing gifts and talents that deserve to be shared with our young friends to help get them excited about God's love in their lives. We are creating leaders and opening the heart of the church to see things the way a child sees. Please prayerfully consider one of the following positions as we engage children in these extraordinary ministries:

- Worship leader (week 2 of the month)
- Worship leader (week 3 of the month)
- Worship leader (week 4 of the month)
- Nursery attendant (week 2 of the month)
- Nursery attendant (week 3 of the month)
- Nursery attendant (week 4 of the month)
- Discovery Zone elementary teacher
- Discovery Zone youth leader (middle and high school)
- Discovery Zone cooks
- Discovery Zone music
- Discovery Zone crafts

You can choose from two trainings:

- Saturday, August 6 1-3pm
- Sunday, August 7 12-2:30pm (lunch will be provided)

If you feel called and are willing to serve in any of these capacities, please contact Rev. Heather Hicks at education@fpcw.us.

Event Update

Still on hold:

Manna Café
Vegetarian Dining Group



Genealogy Club News

At our last meeting, Ken's cousin Anne-Marie in France and her husband Bruno joined us (it was midnight there). Anne-Marie and Ken are related through Ken's grandmother, who was born near Besancon, where Anne-Marie lives. She explained how she found Ken's family tree on a French website two years ago. They have corresponded since then about family mysteries, their children and grandchildren, and how holidays are celebrated. Bruno explained how he ran for local office and was required to

run as a pair with a woman.

The next meeting will be May 5 at 7:00 via Zoom. Linda Springer will speak about family heirlooms. If you are interested in our group or just curious, and have not contacted us before, contact Bill Hitt or Ken Bonvallet.

Dine Out with Nine: Friday, May 13 at 6:30

The Dine-Out group will gather at Mimi's Cafe (1428 Polaris Parkway) at 6:30 pm on Friday, May 13. All members and friends are welcome. We expect 20-30 people. Mimi's provides a wide range of American favorites and bakes its own muffins and bread. Take I 71 to Polaris Pkwy, turn left (west), and then turn right at the first light (Lyra). You can see Mimi's to your left after you turn. Then, turn left at the next 3 nearby streets and you are there. Plan to join us by calling Jim Hines or Bob Place.



Ladies' Night Out: Tuesday, May 17 at 6:30

After a very long break, we are going to dine at Matt the Miller's on May 17 at 6:30 p.m. It is located at 1436 Gemini Place. Please RSVP to Diana Westfall by May 15. All the women of the church, both members and visitors, are invited! We're looking forward to seeing everyone for great food and conversation!

Fabrics of Faith: Tuesday, May 24, 1-3:00 pm

We are a group of women who knit, quilt, and make great projects that go to people in need. Our next meeting will be on May 24 in the lower level of the church. Please join us for an enjoyable time together. If you have questions, please contact Sharyl Weinberg. We hope to see you then. Masks are optional this month.

Presbyterian 9-Patchers: Wednesday, June 8, 1-3:00 pm



The group will meet on June 8 from 1-3 PM in the Knox Street meeting room for a workday. Anyone who is interested in quilting is welcome to join. Questions? Contact Karen Hoggarth.



Fund Raiser!

May 9, 10 & 11

Minico's Italian Restaurant

1180 County Line Road 614 899 1100

www.minicositalian.com



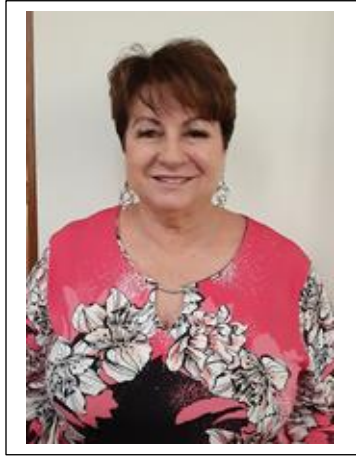
15% of your bill will be donated to Habitat

Just mention Westerville Habitat

Take out Monday - Saturday 11-8pm

Dining room open Tuesday-Saturday 4-8pm

Getting to Know You: Pamela Smith



Hi! A little about me: I was born in Ashtabula, OH, and lived there for 32 years before moving to Columbus in 1988.

My husband attended Ohio State while I worked at Riverside as an RN until my retirement this past year. In total, I was a nurse for 45 years. I have one daughter, Allison, who lives in Denver, CO.

My absolute passion and hobby is singing and dancing in my Sweet Adeline chorus. I have been doing this for the past 34 years, and I am also one of the choreographers. We sing and perform all over the Columbus area. In fact, this June 12, we are singing here in Westerville at the Alum Creek Park North Amphitheater at 6:30 pm. Come and see me!

I also adore animals, especially cats and dogs. I currently have three cats and rescue all my pets.

Since my retirement, I enjoy pickleball and water aerobics. I am really looking forward to becoming involved in the church activities here!

Note from the editor: We are delighted to report that Pam is one of a group of new members who are joining our church. In future issues of the *Advocate*, you will learn more about each of these special people!

Adult Growth and Development

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN			
Activity	When	Where	What
Monday Seminar	Mondays 4:00-5:00 p.m	Zoom Meetings -If interested contact Tom Jonard	We will be reading and discussing <i>The Difficult Words of Jesus</i> , by Vanderbilt Divinity School professor, Dr. Amy-Jill Levine. Dr. Levine explores the sayings of Jesus that puzzle us and challenge us.
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 are studying the Old Testament book of <i>Esther</i> . This is one of the great stories of ancient days, and it holds amazing relevance for us today. Both sections will cover the same material.
4th Monday Discussion Group	4 th Mondays, 7:30 – 9:00 pm	Zoom Meeting -If interested, email Pastor Gauen at pastormark@fpcw.us	We are studying <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 May 23.
Circle 4 Women	3 rd Thursdays, 11:00 am	Zoom Meeting -If interested, call Elaine Foley.	Our women's group meets monthly for fellowship and Bible study. Led by Elaine Foley. Our next class will be May 19 at 11:00 a.m.

Presbytery of Scioto Valley Anti-Racism Study: May 12, 19, and 26, 1-2:00 pm

Our Presbytery is offering an anti-racism book study and conversation over zoom. Whether you have been an ally for years or just recently opened your eyes to racial injustice, guiding our predominantly white church toward anti-racism is a daunting task. Join other members of Presbytery for a book study on *Wait - Is This Racist? A Guide to Becoming an Anti-racist Church* by Kerry Connelly, Bryana Clover, and Josh Riddick. This book guides church leaders and staff through an examination of all aspects of church life, including leadership, preaching and liturgy, music, small groups, buildings and grounds, and more, to help churches create an action plan that will take them toward not only becoming anti-racist, but also actually *doing* anti-racist work and becoming a justice-oriented organization that leans more fully into the kin-dom of God. We will meet on zoom on Thursdays, May 12, 19, and 26 from 1:00 -2:00 pm. You are

responsible for getting your own book. Register in advance for this meeting at a link on the calendar at psvonline.org.



Pastor's Page

Dear Friends:

"Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman" – I Samuel 1:16

The first chapter of the Old Testament book of I Samuel begins with the story of a woman named Hannah. Hannah didn't have any children, and she wanted so much to have a child. She was deeply depressed over her inability to conceive, and she lamented that she was likely to live out her days never having a child. The first chapter of I Samuel tells Hannah's story, and if you read it, you will discover that eventually, Hannah is blessed with a son whom she named Samuel.

There are many women today who would like to have a child, but circumstances have not allowed it to happen. It may be that such a woman cannot conceive a child, or having conceived, she cannot bring the child to term. It may be that such a woman's husband cannot conceive a child. It may be that such a woman is not married and doesn't want to conceive a child outside of marriage. It may be that such a woman does not have the economic security that she feels she needs to raise a child. There are lots of reasons why some women who want to have children do not get pregnant.

For some of them, medical science can help them have a child, and for some, their social or economic situation will change in ways that will be favorable to conceiving and bearing a child. But for many, they will not get the happy ending that Hannah got, and they will never have that child they had hoped to have.

In Hannah's day, a wife who did not bear children was considered to be tainted in some way. A woman who could not conceive a child was thought of as worthless in a society that saw a woman's primary value as that of bearing children. Some of that same stigma is present in our own society today. Not that we expect all women to bear children, but in subtle ways we put pressure on married women to have children. It might be a comment such as, "You've been married for two years now, when are you going to have children?" Sometimes it is just the way that people fawn over a pregnant woman that makes it hard for the woman who is trying to have a baby. Or it might just be sight of other mothers wheeling their baby strollers down sidewalk that sends waves of sadness over the childless woman. For these women, it is hard not to feel worthless.

What I find interesting in the story of Hannah is that she went to the temple to plead to God for a son, and while she was there, praying fervently, Eli, the priest at the temple, confronts her. Hannah retorts by telling Eli that she is not a worthless woman. She was not going to let her motherhood status determine her worth as a person. She claimed her worthiness before God even before she was blessed with a child.

With Mothers' Day approaching, I hope that we can celebrate our mothers, and the mother figures in our life. And I hope that we can also honor those women who do not have children and in so doing, affirm God's love for all of us.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Mark L. Gauer". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.