

ADVOCATE

First Presbyterian Church
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June 2022

In Appreciation!

On Sunday morning, May 1, our church celebrated our Music Director Earl Linhart, Organist Lyn Meyer, the choir, and the rest of our amazing music department. Earl has devoted 31 years to providing stirring music during our Sunday services and other church events. Lyn, a master of the organ (and piano), always presents polished pieces that soar and inspire. Church members Todd and Kim Wise not only play for us on some Sunday mornings, but during the pandemic, they also recorded pieces and posted them for us to enjoy on our church's Facebook page.

And we are so proud of our choir! Their talented dedication, guided by Earl and Lyn, were greatly missed during the first months of the pandemic. Sometimes, you have to lose something to fully appreciate how very much it means to you—and our church!

Thank you all! We are so glad you're back!

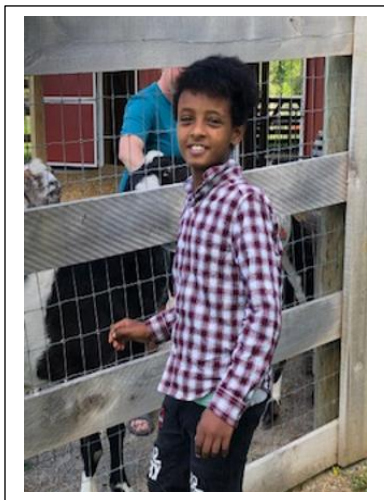


Goin' Fishin'

On Saturday morning, May 14, several members of our church's Welcome Team for our refugee family took Hayat and her son Nessri to Jen and Chris Hensons' farm to enjoy their animals, including goats and chickens. (The father, Tadesse, was sleeping that morning after working all night.) Nessri also had a chance to try his hand at fishing in the Hensons' pond. As you can see, he was quite successful, catching three fish! Looks like he had a good time!

In the middle photo, Linda Barr's grandson, Roman, whose family lives across the street from the Hensons, helps Nessri learn to cast. Also there to enjoy the warm, sunny morning were Jen and Chris Henson (of course!), Beckey and Dave Stamm, Bill Hitt (also a fisher), Kay Mackan, and Linda Barr.

We also learned that Tadesse has finally obtained his driver's license, which is a relief to all concerned!



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 takes 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 soon after each service.

New Officers for the Church

On Sunday, May 15, First Presbyterian held a Congregational Meeting to elect officers. The new Elders are Brad Gamble (serving a second term), Debby Nealer-Bice, Sherri Montieth, Marilyn Linkous, and Chris Henson. Our new Deacons are Melodi Baltzer (serving a second term), Karen Gaines, and Sharon Carlton. These new leaders will assume their duties in June.

It was noted at the meeting that there is still one Deacon position yet to be filled, and the Nominating Committee is continuing its work to fill that position. A Congregational Meeting will be called when that person is found. If you feel called by God to serve as a Deacon or you know someone in the church whom you think would make a good deacon, please let someone on the Nominating Committee know. The chair is Diana Westfall.

Thanks to our Nominating Committee for their work in finding our new leaders.

Pentecost Sunday – June 5



Pentecost is the day that the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles in Jerusalem. The occasion marked the beginning of the ministry of the Apostles, thus its designation as the “Birthday of the Church.” The liturgical color of Pentecost is red to signify the red tongues of fire that appeared above each disciple. In our church, we celebrate Pentecost by wearing the color red. So pick out a red dress, a red shirt, a red hat, or ruby-red slippers and come to church on June 5. We will also be celebrating communion on this Sunday.

Flowers for the Sanctuary

We have openings for members to donate flowers for Sunday mornings from July thru October. Please call Olivia (614-882-3155) to order flowers. To donate a planter instead, contact Mary Lee Jones so she can send a special order to our florist. The cost is \$35. Thanks!

The Presbyterian General Assembly Begins This Month

The Presbyterian Church (USA) holds a national meeting every other year, known as the General Assembly or GA. The General Assembly is made of elders and ministers from each of the Presbyteries in the United States. Two years ago, Pastor Gauert was one of the minister representatives appointed by our Presbytery to attend the GA. Because of the pandemic, the 2020 General Assembly, which was supposed to be held in person in Baltimore, was instead held via zoom. The 2022 GA was supposed to be held here in Columbus, but again because of the pandemic, this year's GA has been moved to our denominational headquarters in Louisville, and its format has been changed. The schedule for this year's GA looks like this:



Saturday June 18	Plenary Sessions Online
Sunday June 19	Opening Worship Online
June 20 – July 2	Committee Meetings in Louisville
July 5 – 9	Plenary Sessions Online

You may follow the work of the General Assembly through its website: www.ga-pcusa.org.



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.

A Note from the MEE Committee Ice Cream Social on Sunday, June 19

As the uncertainties of the COVID 19 pandemic precluded the church's ability to reserve one of the venues for the annual Outdoor Service and Pot Luck, the MEE Committee will be sponsoring an Ice Cream Social on the church lawn following the service on June 19. In the event of inclement weather, ice cream will be served in Fellowship Hall.



Update on Our Blessing Box

The Blessing Box, located on the east side of the church building, facing State Street, is a small pantry. "Take What You Need; Leave What You Can" is its simple message. Those who leave items are blessed enough to be able to do so; those who need to take items are blessed that the items are there to take.

This Deacon project seems to be successful. The box is being utilized, as it has required restocking several times throughout the week. Please consider donating to this meaningful mission to show God's love in a tangible way. Invite your children or grandchildren to suggest items and become involved. The following is a list of the most needed/used items:

- Canned food with ring pulls
- Crackers with cheese or peanut butter and other small snacks
- Non-perishable food, e.g. juice boxes, fruit cups, cans of tuna, or other protein products
- Bottled water
- Toiletries, including hand soap, shaving supplies, shampoo, tooth brushes, and toothpaste
- Personal hygiene products
- Diapers and baby wipes
- Small cans or pouches of pet food

Items can be dropped off at the church throughout the week or on Sundays. Please leave your donated items in the storage boxes under the rear entry stairs near the Pike County donations. The crates are labeled.

Matthew 25:35

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you invited me in.

Thank You
from the Pike County Food Pantry



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 to children from 3rd-12th grade. Please contact Rev. Heather Hicks for more details about the camp program.



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:

- Teacher (week 2, week 3, or week 4 of the month)
- Nursery attendant (week 2, week 3, or week 4 of the month)
- Discovery Zone elementary teachers (2)
- Discovery Zone youth leader (middle and high school) (2)
- 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



Genealogy Club News

At our last meeting, Linda Springer spoke about family heirlooms and preserving their story for our children and grandchildren. She presented a video to her grandchildren that she made, narrated, and edited that explains each piece and its personal connection to her family.

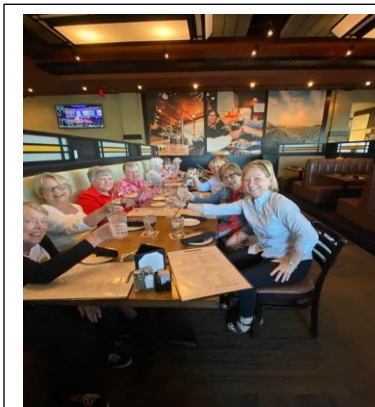
The next meeting will be **June 2 at 7:00 pm** via Zoom. Bill Hitt will present the story of a Civil War journal.

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

Dine Out with Nine: Friday, June 10, at 6:30 pm

The Dine-Out group will gather at Giammarco's Restaurant (6030 Chandler Court) at 6:30 pm on Friday, June 10. We would love to have you join us. All members and friends are welcome. We expect around 20 people. Giammarco's provides a wide range of Italian pasta favorites. Go north on Rte 3 (State St.) to Chandler Court, which is two traffic lights north of Polaris Parkway. Turn left. Register to join us by calling Jim Hines or Bob Place. See you there! Thanks, Jim and Bob

Ladies' Night Out: Tuesday, June 21, at 6:30 pm



Our restaurant for June is still TBD, but will be announced soon!

This photo shows just some of us having a great time at the May Ladies' Night Out at Matt the Millers. Plan to come in June! You'll have a great time, too!

Fabrics of Faith: Tuesday, June 28, 1-3:00 pm

Fabrics of Faith will meet on Tuesday, June 28, and then on Tuesday, July 26. All are welcome! We will be knitting, quilting, and working on whatever else someone might bring. Please feel free to join us. If you have questions, please contact Sharyl Weinberg.

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

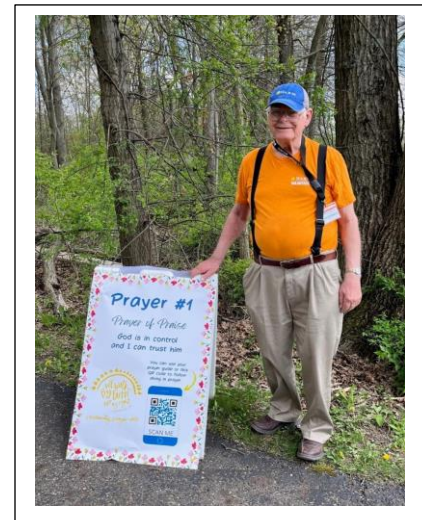


The group will meet on June 8 from 1–3 PM in the Knox Street meeting room for a workday. Anyone who is interested in quilting is welcome to join. Questions? Contact Karen Hoggarth.

Special Recognition from WARM!

Taken from the WARM (Westerville Area Resource Ministry) newsletter:

Do you know John Robbins? You really should - everybody should! Knowing John Robbins is proven to make you live longer and be generally happier - at least I think so! The picture above is John directing walkers at last weekend's terrifically fun Prayer Walk. You may have also seen John directing traffic (the car kind) at other WARM events, or if you ever volunteer on Monday mornings, you will for sure know John's work with donations in the Distribution Center. John is 82 years young and has been a WARM volunteer for a couple of decades, at least.



Congratulations to the New Graduates!

Sarah Brickersmith



In December 2021, Sarah graduated from the University of Kentucky with a bachelor's degree in sports communication and a minor in health promotion. Currently, she is living in Lexington and working with UK Athletics. However, in August, she will be moving to Tampa, Florida, to attend the University of South Florida to pursue her master's degree in sports management. She is so excited to see what Tampa has to offer her!

Jack Bates

Jack is graduating from Westerville South and will be attending Ohio Wesleyan University, where he will major in history education. He plans to continue playing football and baseball for the Bishops. Please feel free to stop by his graduation open house on May 29 at 4:00 pm!

And his dad, Tim, is retiring from teaching after 35 years of teaching and coaching!



[My, how they've grown!]

And Congratulations to the Newlyweds!

Dorothy and Gary



On May 4, Dorothy Driskell and Gary Hinzman were united in a Spiritual Commitment Wedding. It took place in our sanctuary with Mark Gauen officiating. The seven guests included Gigi Elliott and Bill Hitt. Dorothy's brother came from Colorado, plus her son and grandson were in attendance.

We wish the couple many years of joy and happiness as they travel the journey of life together.

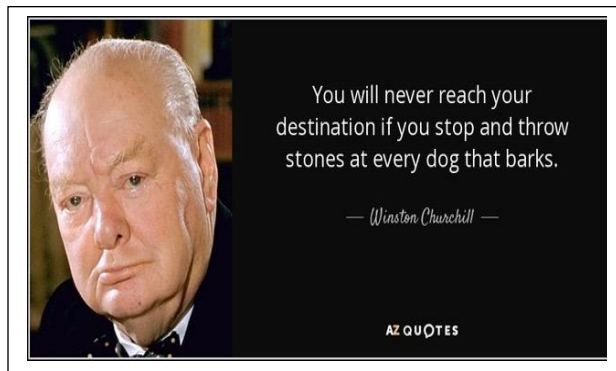
Sarah and Ivan



On March 12, Sarah Kerr married Ivan Magalhães in Jacksonville, Florida. He is from Brazil and played professional soccer but now works for Fidelity. They live in Ft Worth, Texas.

Also, proud mom Debbie Kerr will be moving in late August to Dandridge, Tennessee, east of Knoxville and near the Smokies.

Wisdom from Winston Churchill (via Olivia)



And—

- Fear is a reaction. Courage is a decision.
- Success consists of going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm.
- I'd rather argue against a hundred idiots than have one agree with me.
- Life is fraught with opportunities to keep your mouth shut.
- An appeaser is one who feeds a crocodile, hoping it will eat him last.

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. Note: We will not meet on June 7 & 8 while Pastor Gauen is on vacation.
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. This month, we will meet on June 27 to consider Chapter 8.
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 June 16 at 11:00 a.m.



Pastor's Page

Every spring First Presbyterian Church elects officers to be our servant leaders. This past May, we elected Chris Henson, Sherri Monteith, and Marilyn Linkous as new ruling Elders and Sharon Carlton and Karen Gaines as new Deacons. I ask that you surround them with your prayers as they begin their ministry in June on behalf of this congregation.

When new Elders and Deacons begin their ministries, other Elders and Deacons are ending theirs. I would like to take this time to say a few words of thanks for the dedication, energy, and creativity that these departing leaders have given to this church in the service of Christ.

Lori Lampel: Lori has served six years as Elder for Stewardship. She came on board just as we began building our addition. Lori helped to manage our building finances and our church finances during this exciting, but challenging period. Then we received a very large financial gift, and Lori was in the process of helping us to discern how we might use that gift when the pandemic hit. And with Lori's leadership we have maintained our financial stability during this pandemic and continued to give money to various mission partners in this tough time.

Linda Barr: Linda has served 6 years on the Session, the first as an Elder on the Worship Committee and then five as the Elder for Communications. In this role, she focused on editing and publishing the *Advocate*, our main source of congregational information. She added extra features to the *Advocate*, including humor, jokes, devotionals pieces, and interviews with members, which enriched our knowledge and appreciation of each other. Linda was also the point person in our "Reaching Out to Refugees" program.

Bill Hitt: Bill has been a faithful and dedicated Deacon for six years, during which he cared for his parish, keeping in touch even during the pandemic. He also was a key mover in getting the Blessing Box ministry started. Bill extended his deaconing skills to the Getus, the refugee family we are sponsoring, and he helped them get established here in Columbus.

Linda Backus: Linda has served three years as a Deacon and has been a lifeline to many in her Parish. She has gone the extra mile for several people on her list, driving them where they needed to go, bringing items to their houses, and keeping them informed of church happenings. She also serves on the Worship Committee for our church.

Wayne Springer: Wayne is a Deacon who faithfully tended to his parish list. Wayne brought a sense of humor to the deacons along with welcome insights into our ministry. Wayne also supported his wife Linda when she took on the role of Manna Café Coordinator.

While these retiring officers have now left behind their official duties, they do not leave behind their ordination as Ruling Elders and Deacons in the Presbyterian Church. And in that capacity, we will continue to draw upon their wisdom, energy, and faithfulness.

Yours in Christ, Mark